

WOMEN'S INFORMATION SERVICE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Transcript of Interview with Rosalie Garland

Interviewee: Rosalie Garland

Interviewer: Caroline Pascoe

Date: 18th October 2017

Note : Due to a power failure Rosalie Garland's interview was recorded in two parts. This document contains the full transcript of the interview. Parts 1 and 2.

PART 1

[00:00:00]

PASCOE: This is an interview with Rosalie Garland by Caroline Pascoe with Ruth Munro recording, for the Women's Information Service (WIS) History Project at the State Library for South Australia on Wednesday the 18th of October, 2017.

Welcome Rosalie.

GARLAND: Thank you.

PASCOE: Can you give us a brief overview of when and where you were born and grew up?

GARLAND: Yes certainly. I was born at Eudunda, which is in the mid-north on the way out of, just out of the Barossa Valley on the way to Morgan. Went to --- that was in 29th April, 1948, and my father had the Holden Garage there and there was lots of mixed agriculture and I went to Eudunda Area School. My Mum was the Matron of the hospital. But in those days once you got married she couldn't work anymore. And I remember her saying to me --- my Dad said to her, "When you marry me you won't have to work anymore." And she said, "I never stopped working, but I didn't actually get paid any more."

PASCOE: How did you come to be working and volunteering for WIS? Working or volunteering. Well, you were working for WIS but ---.

GARLAND: Yes. It must have been something I always had in my heart to do and I think a lot of my mother's words rang true with everything I thought and did. And

I was the eldest of three and two little brothers and I sort of was the one that did the caring. We'd go off in the bush and look after Peter, who was eight years younger. So I did all that. And I went to live --- I married --- I went to travel at the age of eighteen and went all over Europe, to Russia and came home overland via India and Pakistan and Afghanistan. All the places you can't go now. So I was a very independent young woman and I went to live in Perth, having married a musician who was global and wonderful and went to marry --- I thought I love him and I love his music. No! Single parent. So I came back to Adelaide to be nearer my family and that was one of the things as a single parent I heard about Women's Information Service. I think I probably rang them actually and I volunteered. So it was a great connector.

PASCOE: Were you in paid work at the time?

GARLAND: No, I had a --- I came over from Perth in 1978 and with my son in my belly and my three year old. So I was a single Mum.

PASCOE: Where was WIS located at the time you volunteered?

GARLAND: Oh, it was a wonderful setting on the corner of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue. The most beautiful old building and we all had to wear headsets and link into the phones and sit in rows. We had the most wonderful meetings and I did one day a week, which I came home high as a kite. I just felt like I'd done something useful and felt really connected. Yes, it was a usefulness thing. That just was good.

PASCOE: Was there a long training process, to be a----?

GARLAND: Yes, and I loved that.

PASCOE: How was it? Tell me about that.

GARLAND: I can't remember exactly how long it went, but it was group work and we discussed things and I think we had whiteboards and writing and put things up and what would you suggest? So it was a group work type process. All women. One hundred percent women and it was very comforting and wonderful and enlightening. It felt very positive.

PASCOE: Did you feel you made friends there?

GARLAND: Yes, although we didn't have a lot of time. I mean, I did. I made connections and I felt solidarity which was wonderful. But really we didn't have enough time because we were busy. The phones didn't stop and the concepts of what was coming across the phone line was enormous. Very broad, different things from single parents and custody issues, legal issues, women's health. Lots of things about - I think I'm pregnant, I don't know what to do and I don't know what my parents are going to say and all sorts of issues. I think it was before we even had facilities for how to organise, you know, it was about contraception. Parents weren't permissive about contraceptives. So there was a really broad issue of things that were generally unspoken about in lots of families.

PASCOE: Did you find yourself giving advice to people or did you just refer them on to the relevant organisations, do you think?

GARLAND: No, it wasn't about giving advice. It was mainly about actively listening and hearing, but if they asked questions about what can we --- what is there available to me, then we researched it, had to leave the phone and go and look through the books and look through the stuff and give references. Like if it was a legal one we had to give several lawyers that we knew who would be good for women, because other women had said that to us, but we gave three. So we're not doing direct. Same with medicos. We'd refer to Women's Health Centres and other women's agencies, or sometimes it was about education and TAFE courses for women. So it depended. It wasn't about giving actual advice, just saying this is what's available and listening to - actively listening to what they were really asking. And often there were tears, so you just had to wait.

[00:05:42]

PASCOE: So, give us a flavour of what it would be like doing a shift. You did a half day shift, did you, or ---?

GARLAND: Yes, it was. I think I'd get there at nine in the morning and I think I did it until one. I think we had a coffee break in between. I think there were quite a few plants in the beautiful office that got a fair bit of coffee poured on them (laugh).

PASCOE: As the phone rang before you'd finished, you mean?

GARLAND: Or the coffee had gone cold.

PASCOE: Were there many answering the phone at that time?

GARLAND: Well, I have a sense that there was a group of maybe at least seven. And some would be paid workers and some would be volunteers. And sometimes, I mean, I'm visualising the setup of that beautiful old building with wooden tables and we all had our own little section's space, so it was - and really, you just got so involved with what the calls were. And I don't think there were very many gaps in between. You'd get up and have a quick --- you know, and someone else would have to pick the phone up if you weren't there. But it was very cooperative. That was one of the best things about it. It was very cooperative.

PASCOE: Can you remember the names of any of your other workers or volunteers while you were there?

GARLAND: Yes, I'm not brilliant on names at this age now, but I do --- Carmel O'Loughlin had very recently become the Coordinator. And then Liz Ahern was one of them and Jo Wilmott was the Aboriginal worker and I don't remember the Greek women's worker. I think we had a Greek and Italian worker too. And I'm sorry I don't recall either of their names.

PASCOE: That's fine. Was Carmel the Coordinator or the Manager?

GARLAND: Yes. Yes. At that time, yes.

PASCOE: Have you got memories of special days that you had there? Anything that stands out in your memory of helping women or empowering women?

GARLAND: I think every day was like that. That's what I loved about it. I mean if I didn't have a deep and meaningful call I would have actually been quite disappointed and I never was (laugh). IT was really --- I mean people crying and you just staying there, waiting and being there for them and then you have to think about, what does she need, what is it she needs? And sometimes it was direct. They'd start off by asking for information on something in particular, so you'd give that and then you'd actively listen and see what else is going on. And sometimes it's a wonderful debrief for everybody. And you'd come off the phone

exhausted an hour and a --- we had to record our timing and it was quite frequent there would be sixty minute calls.

PASCOE: And there was no limit on the time that you were allowed to spend with the women?

GARLAND: No, No. I don't recall that.

PASCOE: Did men ever ring?

GARLAND: I would be very suspicious if I heard a male voice. No, I honestly don't think I did. If it might have been maybe a lawyer confirming something or other, but then I'd hand that over to somebody else. The wonderful thing was, after you'd had a heavy call, because everyone could observe, that, oh wow, she's been there for a while, there was a debrief time. You know, do you need to talk about that, do you need a bit of space, do you need, you know, there was a sense of definite women supporting women. That's the bottom line of it and it was great.

PASCOE: Did women try and help you while you were on the phone by passing notes to you or if they overheard something that they thought might help?

GARLAND: It might have happened. Yeah, yeah no.

PASCOE: But not regularly.

GARLAND: To be really honest most of them were actually on the phones. And the other thing was there were younger women. I mean I would have been in my early thirties and there were some, I remember there was one young woman who I recognised from Eudunda who would have been, I would have been out of school, but I knew of her family and it was wonderful to meet her there. I can't recall her name now. So that made me feel really proud that there were two of us from a small country town like that who'd volunteered our services.

PASCOE: How did you --- how long were you there, Rosalie?

GARLAND: I am really vague on that. I did several years as a volunteer once a week and I remember all this by the ages of my children, cos because Ben was quite young and I knew Virginia was probably about ten when I left and she would have been six, so at least four years. But I also went to do --- and then I did a time

when one of the Greek workers was on maternity leave and I did paid work for probably a year there. Then I used to do some work at Adelaide Women's Community Health Centre too. On the Women's Helpline there, the Country Women's Line. So it was very much the same things, but these were mostly health issues. And I actually, I think on all of what happened in the Women's Information Switchboard was often domestic violence and abuse calls and sometimes sexual abuse and sometimes really worried about contraception issues. So pretty deep stuff. And legal issues.

[00:11:13]

PASCOE: Legal. What about accommodation?

GARLAND: Yes, now that we had good resources for that too.

PASCOE: Did you? What sort of resources did you have?

GARLAND: Well, we had places for women's rescue shelters and women's and children's places in domestic violence and I know, they never were labelled, but I remember when my kids grew up I always used to give all their toys and things to these places and they were gratefully received. So you didn't really know where they were because they were kept, only the women were allowed to know. That was on lists that you could only give to a woman. Safety houses.

PASCOE: So you worked for a few years, volunteered for a few years, then you had paid work. Did you go back to volunteering after that or did you move on to another service?

GARLAND: I was actually doing social work then. I was studying full time, so I actually, with two kids had to work at the weekends at the Maritime Museum. Very different. Selling books and tickets to go to the museum in Port Adelaide. So different.

PASCOE: Did you think that it changed over time? You were talking about the various things, domestic abuse and accommodation, legal, contraception, that sort of thing. Did you notice a change over the years you were there, or was it pretty constant?

GARLAND: Well, when I look back now I feel that we probably had better resources back then. I hate to say that but I don't know whether that's me being old and grumpy, but we were able ---.

PASCOE: Can you think of an example of that?

GARLAND: Well, I'm not sure what resources there are for, like the Domestic Violence Helpline. You can talk about it but whether they've got somewhere for you to go. Whether there's a safety house where only women and children can be, I don't know any more. I know several of them were shut down.

PASCOE: It's interesting for me to hear you say that you always had accommodation available for women, because that isn't the case now unfortunately.

GARLAND: No, that's a horrible thing. Yes. And I know that the --- I did one of my social work projects was working at the Children's Hospital and it was child sexual abuse and I was interviewing little children in the playroom and I learnt that if you got them before eight years of age they could get better because they believed they could get better, if you could keep them safe. And yYou weren't allowed to ask a leading question and the police were watching through the glass, filming and watching through the glass panel and they were in a playroom and they built a big castle and they'd play with toy animals and people and you'd see them bury this person in there and all you could say is, "Tell me about that." "That's so and so and he did---." And they'd tell you what happened and they'd bash the castle and smash it with spades or there was a big gorilla there and he had very purposeful snips at a certain part of his body where the children had got him with the scissors. You'd just say, "Tell me about that. Why are you doing that to the gorilla?" Blah. Blah. Blah.

PASCOE: And this is when you were working at the hospital, did you say?

GARLAND: Yes, it was just part of my social work training.

PASCOE: Can you remember anything from, I know it's a long time ago, from the Women's Information Switchboard any particular day or particular problem that's stayed in your mind over the years?

GARLAND: Quite a lot of domestic violence issues. Women crying about that and how to keep their children safe. That was big. And another one, I mean it just came to my mind as I was walking down the street here, we used to do handovers for divorced and separation, where the Mum really wanted the children to see their Dad, but she didn't want to have anything to do with him. And so we'd do handovers for weekends and I remember coming in one time and volunteering for that too. And it happened to be on the Saturday that the Christmas Pageant was on, so the children were out the front and watching the Christmas Pageant with my ten year old daughter looking after them and Dad had to come to the Women's Information Switchboard and I had to do the handover. That really does, my children were involved with that one too. They didn't know about what the purpose was, but they thought they were all there for watching the Christmas Pageant.

[00:15:47]

PASCOE: And the mother was able to stay away and not confront the father?

GARLAND: Mother was watching them there until the Pageant was over and Dad came and took them home after that.

PASCOE: Was that unusual that you actually came face to face with one of the clients that you were speaking to on the phone?

GARLAND: Yeah. That was a one off. Yes. And I think, probably the Pageant made that much easier that it was just a transition and we just had a hug and that was, yeah, I do recall just because my kids were involved too, but they didn't know anything about the stories. Confidentiality was such a big issue. I think that's probably one of the reasons I forget detail, because it was so important to be confidential. You didn't record names. You didn't record anything. If the person needed a phone number you took that and got a first name or something, but it put the power on the woman, so that she got the choices about what she was doing, but if there was follow up required we always followed up and we always gave resources and gave them open choice.

PASCOE: There so what --- there'd be women who had to go to Court. Did you help in any way for women going to Court?

GARLAND: I did once, yes.

PASCOE: What happened with that?

GARLAND: It was a son who was murdered. It was very, very difficult.

PASCOE: Her son was murdered.

GARLAND: Yes. That was really, I saw her through the whole court system and went with her --- I accompanied her. That was only a one off. A good many years ago.

PASCOE: So she'd rung you and she'd said that she'd had this awful incident that her son was murdered and she needed help ---.

GARLAND: I don't know that I actually was the one that took that phone call, because I'm sure I'd remember that. It was about facilitating the court procedure and being part of the support person for that woman and volunteering to be part of the court. It was a really long session. I think we had to go several days and that's a one off for me. I know other women did it as what they did, but for me it was only a one thing. And it was, she just needed it desperately. And I was ---

PASCOE: So other women in WIS were, they went.

GARLAND: Yes, yes. I'm sure they did at different times, yes. I wasn't aware of how it was organised because, I mean you only volunteered, you only had that little group of people that you saw. It was only when we had some big group meetings when we all got together, and sometimes we had meals and shared things but it was, and because we were so keen on our confidentiality and we were very loyal about that, we didn't explore details of cases, only to debrief after you'd been speaking to people, you know, if you just needed a little bit of space afterwards before the next phone rang.

PASCOE: But you didn't talk and you never talked about names. So even though you collected statistics, you said about the time spent, did you collect postcodes or did you know where the calls were coming from?

GARLAND: I'm not even sure. Yes, I think so. Area, yeah. I think we did. Yes, Yes.

PASCOE: So you found the area?

GARLAND: Yes.

PASCOE: Did you have country callers?

GARLAND: Yes. I was on the Country Women's Health Line. Yes, I'm sure there were country callers. Yeah , I think we called them back because it would have been much more expensive for them to have called us, so we said do you mind if you give us your number and we will call you back. I'm not absolutely certain on that but it was written documentation of certain degree of statistics that we had to loyally do without making things overt about who the person was, disclosing identity. But if somebody needed really professional follow up or we invited them to ring again and we gave them three professionals. We had volunteer lawyers who used to come into the Switchboard. I think it might have been a Wednesday and they were women lawyers only and they would be available for --- we often referred them to ring on a certain day to get the women lawyers. That was one of the things that was a constant.

[00:20:09]

PASCOE: If they came to the door, if anyone came to the door on the Wednesday, would you bring them in, give them a cup of tea and get them to talk to the lawyer. That wouldn't be out of the ordinary?

GARLAND: Yes, yes. Cup of tea and a cup of coffee was always on the go, yes.

PASCOE: So people could come to the door, could they?

GARLAND: Yes. There was a loungey sort of area, comfortable loungey little area near the entrance with comfortable chairs and little coffee tables and people could go over one to one.

PASCOE: You have painted the picture of coming in for your shift and being very busy, call after call, for the four hours ---.

GARLAND: That's my recall, yeah.

PASCOE: How many roughly, I mean it's a bit hard to pin you to this, but would there be two or three people that came in on every shift or would there be fewer or more?

GARLAND: Oh, there was always somebody and my sense was there seemed to be younger women. It was central Adelaide; it was very accessible, on North terrace, Kintore Avenue corner. There were people coming and going, but my sense of it is I only got a glimpse of it because I was busy on the phones. So it was --- I would love to do a one to one, but more often than not my role was on the phones. And that, I loved that, too. I went home feeling exhausted but really good. Yeah and yeah - Useful.

PASCOE: Were you unable, but sometimes, there must have been times when you couldn't help women. Can you remember any of those times or any of the reasons for your not being able to help them?

GARLAND: I honestly don't ever remember a hang-up. I don't remember a phone going down slap. I don't ever remember any of that. I think we had pretty good training about giving just active listening and finding out and exploring and asking, not leading questions but gently, and open questions.

PASCOE: So this would be before you had internet there or, did you have internet?

GARLAND: No internet for me, no.

PASCOE: No internet?

GARLAND: No, no.

PASCOE: So what were your resources then?

GARLAND: It was booklets of all of the legal aid support, booklets of flapping great big things of different areas of requirements. So a lot of filing. (laugh)

PASCOE: The phone book. Did you use the phone book?

GARLAND: Yes, yes. All of that was printed out in bigger print so that we could have access to it. It was very thoroughly done. The people that did all of our information were, some people just did that and some people did phones and some people did face to face.

PASCOE: Some of the volunteers maybe, or paid staff, they collated information for you?

GARLAND: Yes, yes.

PASCOE: Because now of course we have databases of community information so that we can look with the internet. We can look up accommodation or disabilities or something like that. But you didn't have that?

GARLAND: No, all that was hand printed in big folders in lots and lots of silvery drawers that you pulled out and you'd have to ask a person, do you mind holding on while I go and research - have a look for you? And explain that --- or sometimes there'd be someone else who did the filing, say what are you after and they'd overhear the call and they'd come out with the resources to it. It just depends on how busy everyone was. It was very cooperative.

PASCOE: So this is like a cabinet you might say with cards in under a filing system. So you'd look under "L"?

GARLAND: Yes. Not necessarily cards, but I think they were sort of ---. I do remember flipping through with my hands but they were big drawers of information. I think it was printed and made larger so that it was easier for us to access and, there was a whole wall was cabinets. And it was all local, nothing was interstate. It was all local Adelaide accessible. People who actually put their hand up to be supportive to us or we'd research them. That's not what I did. I only took calls, but the management did lots and lots of behind the scenes stuff to put it out there about what women's needs might be and what women's requirements were. I think they linked very well with health and law and domestic violence resources. The links were brilliant.

PASCOE: So that would have been a large part of the Manager and her assistants' work? It seems like.

GARLAND: Yes. That's something I didn't know much about. Sometimes we'd have talks about this is what's going on and this is---. That's how I found out about the Women's Health Centres. There's one at Elizabeth was very, very active and the TAFE Women's Studies courses were just so useful for those people from all of those areas and I mean it was very rich resources and they came and had meetings and joined to enlighten each other about what there was. So it was a very ---.

[00:25:26]

PASCOE: So where were you when the internet came in then? Were you still at WIS or not?

GARLAND: No, no. I was way into I was working in palliative care actually. I'm definitely a deep end person. (laugh)

PASCOE: We will talk now about WIS and the community. Did you ever get out into the community? Do you remember any talks that were given or any ways that was---

GARLAND: Only in the Women's Switchboard building really. And then we'd have an annual sort of get together for a celebration and thanking you for being a volunteer and that sort of thing and I remember them joyously. All women, fully female and it felt wonderful and comfortable.

PASCOE: Did they give you something for your time? Did they ---

GARLAND: I think they gave us meals, fed us. A Christmas thing.

PASCOE: At the gatherings?

GARLAND: No, I don't think we had presents or anything. No, no, not that I recall.

PASCOE: But you had a Christmas celebration?

GARLAND: Yes, yes, yes. Or end of year one and thank you for your service and it was wonderful. Good feel.

PASCOE: They did have outreach days. They had field days and particularly in country areas. They'd go to a country show or something like that, in the early days. I'm not sure if that was after the time you were there, but you weren't involved in that?

GARLAND: No. I do remember there was something at Clare. But I no --- I didn't because I had little kids on my own so I ---. No, that was a good ---. And then they had Information Services and I mean they probably jointly set up the Women's Country Health Service too. They were very closely linked with what they did.

PASCOE: You worked for a few of those organisations. You've mentioned a few of them now. Were they involved in any getting together, did they come together with Women's Information Service to ---?

GARLAND: I think the resources pretty well came from Women's Information Service. I mean the health ones clearly came from within the health professions and lots of them were about abortion and I remember one awful, awful situation where somebody had been raped and the man was in jail and he had HIV and I remember as a social worker outside, and I wouldn't have known any of this if I hadn't worked in Women's Switchboard and Women's Health, I knew that, and he'd sexually abused his daughter and I had to take the daughter to the Women's Information Service for tests for HIV.

PASCOE: You took them to the Women's Information Service?

GARLAND: No, to Women's Health Service.

PASCOE: Women's Health Service. OK.

GARLAND: And I wouldn't have known that had I not worked at Women's Information Service. I would not have known that this is what I needed to do to follow up. This was a palliative care issue and the wife was dying and ooh ---. The repercussions were that the young daughter ---. All of these resources were so rich for resources that I knew that I needed to get her seen and thank goodness she was alright. And so was the son. The son had also been raped by him. So, no HIV. Phew! But we had to wait for six weeks and it was a long, long, long haul of -- -. So all of this came from the resources that these women learnt about.

PASCOE: You have talked about how --- what you got from working at WIS and how you changed and I'm thinking about this young pregnant woman who came from Perth as a single mother and offered to volunteer. I mean you probably had enough to do but you volunteered at ---.

[Interview interrupted by power problem]

[00:29:07]

End of Part 1 Recording

PART 2

[00:00:00]

PASCOE: We've had a power cut there, so we'll start again, Rosalie. Not from the beginning but just where we were up to. I'm just imagining this young pregnant woman coming from Perth with her child and a single mother and what do you do but come to volunteer your time and effort into working for Women's Information Switchboard. That was a big effort from you, but can you tell me what you got from it?

GARLAND: It was exactly what I needed. I needed to be with intelligent women who were survivors of, and had positive attitudes towards women and had enough to give. Had plenty to give out as well. It was a really useful, wonderful environment to be in and it was an enabling experience.

PASCOE: Do you think it changed your life and the trajectory of your life?

GARLAND: Oh it gave me, I didn't feel alone, I felt courage and support so, yes, clearly it did, it did. Somewhere along the line there I absolutely learnt that if something had gone really bad the best revenge is to lead a good life. I used to say that every time I got the opportunity that was appropriate in a conversation I was having with some woman when they disclosed something really big and I'd hear them sigh and then they'd cry and she said, "You're right." It's about timing, if you can assess whether they've got the strength to hear something or they just want to tell. That was a great learning experience.

PASCOE: So your --- the whole thought behind your efforts there seems to be empowerment of women and giving them knowledge so that they can have power to make a choice.

GARLAND: Exactly and I think that was one of our bottom lines. I absolutely remember knowledge is power. That was something we'd use and say and it is. And that's pretty well what set it up, basically. Having knowledge and information. Information is power.

PASCOE: WIS held several phone-ins on women's issues such as domestic violence and women and housing and parental stress and women with disability. Did you participate in or organise any? Can you remember any of that?

GARLAND: I did. Yes. I remember it was a weekend one and I did a whole day (laugh) and I'm not sure whether it was, which of the issues it was. It wasn't housing. It was, might have been DV actually. Yes. I did sit in on one of those.

PASCOE: Did you have many calls?

GARLAND: Yes. There wasn't too many dull moments. No. Constant. Big.

PASCOE: Do you think things have changed?

GARLAND: It's hard to say in this era now. I think the election of Trump has made me stop and think that we've actually gone backwards. Globally. But it makes me very, very proud of South Australia because South Australia was quite, was out there in those things and we named it and did it and I think it was probably the result of having Don Dunstan as the Premier. He was so many years ahead of his time and people were thinking differently and I'm sure having the free education system too for university, which I actually missed out on the second time. I got it for teaching but I didn't get it for social work. I think that was really a great thing for women particularly.

PASCOE: That they were able to go to university and not pay?

GARLAND: Yes. I was the first female in my family that's ever been to university. Teachers, I had a great aunt who was a headmistress of Adelaide High. How she did it would have been incredibly difficult, but she did. Bless her! It was very, and they'd had segregated schools so the women could only do girls' schools and so things have moved, things have absolutely moved.

[00:04:15]

PASCOE: Do you think there is still a role for the Women's Information Service as it is now?

GARLAND: Absolutely. I think probably more and I think, as a social worker, I see it as eye to eye, face to face, knee to knee, but if you can't have that and you can't

have an appointment and get to someone, then to be listened to, actively listened to on the phone and be understood and heard and believed and when that's all come out then offer something that's useful to the person is absolutely appropriate and it's personal and it's real and I think there's nothing better than that. I think with technology typing and putting it on phones it's not quite the same thing.

PASCOE: An automated phone call and press button one.

GARLAND: It's a real person.

PASCOE: How did you manage to market it? How did you manage to get the message out there that you were available and the phone number? Do you remember?

GARLAND: I'm vaguely thinking. That's something that you'd have to ask some of the people that were full time employees there, because that's the area that they did. I suspect ABC might have helped a bit. You know how they put Lifeline on after distressing things. I've got a feeling we had very local ABC. In fact, one of the things we also did was make films in South Australia for ABC and I was actually in a single parents' group filmed in the ABC thing for about nine weeks and there was a couple of guys in it too. It wasn't only---. But I reckon I got that through Women's Information Services, being a single parents' group and discussing that on television, Australia wide. That was the same era.

PASCOE: Did the parliamentarians, any of them, the Minister for Women, if there was such a thing then, or the Premier, did they pay any attention to the Women's Information Switchboard, do you think?

GARLAND: I think the women running it were very good at getting that to happen. Yes. I do remember going to some formalising. It was something I didn't really take a lot of notice of. I didn't do the polie thing then. I'm much more political now than I was back then. I think that probably inspired me being part of politics and they did, they absolutely did. I'm sure Carmel O'Loughlin was very political and did get things brought up and I think they had things mentioned in Parliament. And I mean South Australia was quite leading edge, being the first one

to suggest women go to Parliament and women had the vote even though New Zealand did it.

PASCOE: It's been wonderful talking to you, Rosalie. Is there anything that you'd like to bring up? Anything that we've missed perhaps?

GARLAND: It was a very reciprocal process. I gave out and I felt exhausted but by golly I got just as much back. And it was enlightening and I felt connected which is what I needed because I didn't know very many people in Adelaide. I'd grown up in a country town so I didn't have ---it was a really positive network and since then I've never changed being highly political, highly feminist, highly, you can see me wearing my purple. It made me who I am. And it made my daughter who she is too. She managed to get a lot of that.

PASCOE: It's a wonderful note to finish on.

GARLAND: And actually ----

PASCOE: Thank you very much for a delightful conversation, Rosalie. Were you going to say something else, sorry?

GARLAND: I will say I was a bit double standard when I gave my children sex education things because I said to my daughter, "Don't do anything you don't want to do." And I said to my, and she got it, yeah, also a shoe box full of condoms to give to all her friends, and I said to my son at the same age, probably around fifteen, "Don't do anything she doesn't want to do." And he said to me, "Mum, what do you think I am. A horrible, horrible person?" And I went "Success!" And he's a good man. He's a good man story. So that's helpful.

PASCOE: Excellent. Thank you very much Rosalie for talking to us today. Thank you.

[00:08:43]

END OF INTERVIEW