Griffith UNIVERSITY
Queensland, Australia

Coal women

Project worksheet

Project name	Coal women		
Project location	Queensland—Bowen Basin coal fields; Brisbane		
Client	Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU)		
State date	2008	**Completion date**	2010 (book published)

Senior staff involved

Associate Professor Georgina Murray, Co-chief Investigator (Griffith University)
Professor David Peetz, Co-chief Investigator (Griffith University)

Project description

This project was phase two of a broader study on women in Queensland's coal mining, giving a voice to the State's women coal miners and the wives, daughters, mothers and sisters of coal miners, and to help them articulate their place in the history of Australian work.

Services provided

- 107 interviews of 133 miners and their spouses (106 women and 27 men); data coded and analysed
- A commercially published book – 'Women of the Coal Rushes' (2010, University of New South Wales Press)
- Gains from the study:
  - Public awareness around the issues facing women associated with the coal mining industry, and sympathy towards their and the Union's positions
  - An awareness of the stresses for both sexes working in a largely deregulated environment, with 12-14 hour shifts becoming the norm
  - Collection of historical industry-specific photographs and documents
  - A greater understanding of, and support by the client, for its women members and potential members

Project relevance

This project has led to the award of a competitive, nationally funded Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage grants (plus in-kind and partner contributions from the CFMEU), concluded in 2013, looking at the recurring theme of the Coal Women Project around the norm and the effects of 12-14 hour shifts. Visit the project's website for further information: https://www.griffith.edu.au/work-organisation-wellbeing/research/projects/the-relationship-between-working-arrangements-and-wellbeing

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