

## FROM FARMS TO FREEWAYS

### WOMEN'S MEMORIES OF WESTERN SYDNEY

#### OUTLINE OF QUESTIONS FOR CONDUCTING ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

1. NAME
2. ADDRESS
3. DATE OF BIRTH
4. PLACE OF BIRTH
5. NATIONALITY
6. MARITAL STATUS
7. NUMBER OF CHILDREN
8. PERIOD OF RESIDENCE IN AREA
  
9. FAMILY BACKGROUND:
  - What kind of work did your father do?
  - What kind of work did your mother do?
  - Did you have brothers and sisters?
  
10. THE HOME:
  - Where did you first live in this area?
  - What type of house did you live in?  
(eg. farmhouse, house, flat, etc.)
  - What was the approximate size of the land plot?
  - Did you own or rent the house in which you lived?
  - If renting, how much rent did you pay?
  - How many people lived in the house?
  - How would you describe your house - what building materials were used in its construction, how many rooms?
  - Was there an inside bathroom and toilet?
  - Did you have gas and electricity?
  - What domestic appliances did you have?
  - Was the telephone connected to your home?
  - Was your property sewered or did you have a septic system or sanitary service?
  - Did you have a garden or much land around your house?
  - Did you have neighbours close by?

10. EDUCATION: Where did you go to school and how did you get there?  
What type of school did you attend?  
How long were you at school and what grade did you reach?  
How did you feel about school generally?  
Did you go on to tertiary education?  
What were your parents' expectations of your future?
11. CHILDREN'S EDUCATION: Where did your children attend school and how did they get there?  
What type of school did they attend?  
What grades did your children reach?  
Did any of your children go on to tertiary education?  
Were your expectations of your children's future similar to your parents' expectations of yours?
12. DAILY ROUTINE: What was the normal daily routine in your home?
13. SHOPPING AND PROVISIONS: Who did the family shopping?  
Where did you shop?  
(eg. local, Parramatta, City?)  
How did you get there?  
What are the earliest stores can you remember?  
Are any of these stores still operating today?  
Did you shop - by cash or credit?  
Which goods were delivered to the home?  
(eg. bread, milk, meat, fruit)  
What food supplies did you produce yourself?  
(eg. veg, meat, fruit, eggs, chicken)  
Do you remember any special homemade recipes?  
Did you buy from local market gardens?

- Did neighbours and members of community exchange goods on a regular basis?  
How is the shopping area today different from what it was when you grew up?  
What do you think about the changes?
14. INDUSTRY  
What type of industry grew up in the area?  
Are the early industries still in existence?
15. EMPLOYMENT:  
What sort of work did you do?  
Were you employed for a wage or salary?  
If so, approximately how much did you earn?  
How did you spend the money you earned?  
Did you have any help in the house?  
How did you feel about your working role?  
How did changes in the workplace affect you?
16. CLOTHES AND COSMETICS:  
Where did you shop for clothing?  
How did you feel about the fashions?  
Did you make clothes for yourself and/or your family?  
What cosmetics did you buy and wear?
17. CHILDBIRTH AND CHILDREARING:  
Did you want to have children when you got married?  
How old were you when you started having your family?  
Where were your children born?  
Were you able to plan the number of children you had?  
Did you practice contraception, and if so what form?  
What was your partner's role in childrearing?  
What assistance did you have with childcare?  
Did you use the extended family network?  
Did you depend on neighbors, friends and groups in the community?

18. HEALTH SERVICES: What sort of access did you have to a local doctor?  
How far was it to the nearest hospital?  
What emergency services were there?
19. ROADS AND TRANSPORT:  
What was the condition of the roads?  
What was the main mode of transport?  
Was the river used for transport?  
Were public transport services regular?  
Did you own a car?  
How did changes in roads and transportation affect your way of life?
20. FINANCE:  
Which was the nearest bank?  
Did you deposit savings in a bank account or a post office savings account?  
Did you buy goods on the hire purchase scheme?  
How was the family income managed?  
Who handled the household accounts?
21. CHURCHES:  
Were there churches close to your home?  
Do you think the church played an important role in the community?
22. RECREATION:  
How much leisure time did you and your family have?  
What did you and your family do for recreation?  
(eg. sport, cinema, craft, concerts, dancing, theatre, games, picnics, musical evenings, restaurants, etc.)
23. ORGANISATIONS:  
Were you involved in any local groups, clubs voluntary associations or auxiliaries?

24. NEWCOMERS: How did the introduction of immigrants from Europe etc. affect your life or that of the community?
25. ANIMALS: What animals did you keep and for what purpose?
26. CHANGE: After reflecting on your life during the 1940s-60s how do you feel about the change and rapid growth that has taken place in western Sydney?  
How has the changing landscape and suburbanisation of the area affected your life?  
Is it better or worse?