

# Minutes

Macarthur Child & Family Interagency		
<b>Date:</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	<b>Time:</b> 2pm-4pm	<b>Venue:</b> UnitingCare Burnside – 6-8 Iolanthe Street, Campbelltown
<b>Attendees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sue Lachlan – Nagle Centre</li> <li>▪ Natalie Russell – UnitingCare Burnside</li> <li>▪ Mayra Bohocki – UnitingCare Burnside</li> <li>▪ Tara Chaudhuy – UnitingCare Burnside</li> <li>▪ Margaret O’Dea – Benevolent Society</li> <li>▪ Sandra Templeton – Focus on New Families</li> <li>▪ Mariela Albornoz – UnitingCare Burnside</li> <li>▪ Steve Chan – Family &amp; Community Services</li> <li>▪ Wendy Manuell – Benevolent Society</li> <li>▪ Sheryl Amann – Mission Australia</li> <li>▪ Debbie McCall – Family &amp; Community Services</li> <li>▪ Bobbi Brodie – Family &amp; Community Services</li> <li>▪ Julie Vinson-Radmore – Macarthur Local Health Network</li> <li>▪ Phebe Betts – Community Links Wollondilly</li> <li>▪ Wendy Wallis – Rosemeadow Public School</li> <li>▪ Janet Kingston – YWCA NSW</li> <li>▪ Larissa Memery – MDSI</li> <li>▪ Karen Chisnall – Sector Connect</li> </ul>	
<b>Apologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stephanie Isvik – Bridges 4 Learning</li> <li>▪ Yvonne Porter – Campbelltown Family Support Service</li> <li>▪ Lily Roberts-Everett – Camden Community Connections</li> <li>▪ Michelle Urquhart – Illawarra Children’s Services</li> <li>▪ Fiona Devine – Camden Council</li> <li>▪ Karen Russell – Currans Public School</li> <li>▪ Leanne Franklin – Northcott Disability Services</li> <li>▪ Wendy Den – Wingecarribee Family Support Service</li> <li>▪ Matthew Ferguson – Department of Premier and Cabinet</li> <li>▪ Jill Manahan – Community Health</li> </ul>	
<b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Moved: Phebe Betts – Community Links Wollondilly</li> <li>- Seconded: Sandra Templeton – Focus on New Families</li> </ul>		

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## Presentation: UnitingCare Burnside Brighter Futures Team

### Gabriel Thomsen

#### What is Brighter Futures?

Brighter Futures is the final step before entering the child protection system. The Brighter Futures team consists of case workers and early childhood facilitators who conduct home visits, parent education sessions, and playgroups and provide assistance for families to get into playgroups and childcare.

Brighter Futures support families dealing with:

- Lack of extended family
- Domestic violence issues
- Drug and alcohol issues
- Mental health issues
- Children with challenging behaviours
- Parents with intellectual disabilities/learning difficulties

#### Referrals

Referrals from Family and Community Services come through the helpline mostly. Most referrals come directly from the community and other services. Family information is held with Family and Community Services to record how many visits and parenting programs the families engage in.

To refer a family to Brighter Futures you need to call UnitingCare Burnside and refer them to the program.

If a family is not eligible for Brighter Futures the team will try to help the family with any issues they may be experiencing or refer them onto appropriate agencies in other areas.

#### Eligibility Criteria

The family must have a child less than 9 years of age. The program runs for 18 months to 2 years. Priority is given to families with children under 5 years of age.

Checking is undertaken by Family & Community Services regarding the family prior to starting in the program.

## Business Arising from Previous Minutes

### Macarthur Child & Family Interagency Work Plan 2011/12 Endorsement

A final copy of the Macarthur Child & Family Interagency Work Plan 2011/12 was presented to the group. The group endorsed the 2011/12 plan and the group will continue to work to achieve the outcomes of the plan in 2011/12.

To see an endorsed copy of the Macarthur Child & Family Interagency Work Plan 2011/12 please follow the link:

[www.sectorconnect.org.au/macarthurchildandfamilyinteragencyresources](http://www.sectorconnect.org.au/macarthurchildandfamilyinteragencyresources)

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## Reflective Practice Sessions 2011/12

Reflective practice sessions were identified as an action in the Macarthur Child & Family Interagency Work Plan 2011/12. Possible topic areas were discussed at the August Interagency meeting. The topic areas that the Interagency identified as key topics to focus on include:

- Identifying collaboration opportunities
- Working effectively with CALD & ATSI communities
- How to improve access to information for families

The Interagency identified that they would like to participate in two reflective practice sessions per year which would run for 3-4 hours per session. The group also discussed holding the reflective practice sessions in April and October 2012.

The interagency was consulted regarding which topic they would like to focus on for the first reflective practice session in April 2012. The group discussed the three possible topics and decided that "Identifying collaboration opportunities" would be the most appropriate topic to focus on at the first reflective practice session.

## Family Fun Day Coordination 2012

At the August Macarthur Child & Family Interagency meeting coordination of family fun day events was discussed by the group. It was identified that the Macarthur Child & Family Interagency could be the platform to better coordinate family fun day events across the region. As a result, family fun day coordination will be a standing agenda item at Macarthur Child & Family Interagency meetings where members can discuss any events they have coming up and fill out a short form listing all the key details regarding the event.

This information will be provided to the Families NSW Facilitator who will update a calendar of events with all the relevant information after each meeting. This information will be made available to Interagency members via the Families NSW website.

The aim of this calendar is to enable service providers to gain a better picture of when events are coming up across the region in an effort to reduce duplication of events and increase collaboration opportunities between agencies.

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## General Business

### Macarthur Child & Family Interagency Meetings 2012

Meeting dates for 2012, possible venues and topic areas were discussed by the group. Meeting dates for 2012 and possible topic areas are as follows:

- 7<sup>th</sup> February: Early literacy
- 3<sup>rd</sup> April: Identifying collaboration opportunities
- 5<sup>th</sup> June: Transition to School
- 7<sup>th</sup> August: Integrated service delivery
- 9<sup>th</sup> October: How to improve access to information for families
- 4<sup>th</sup> December: TBC

Meeting venues for 2012 will be confirmed and the information will be available on the Macarthur Child & Family Interagency page:

[www.sectorconnect.org.au/macarthurchildandfamilyinteragency](http://www.sectorconnect.org.au/macarthurchildandfamilyinteragency)

## Standing Agenda Items

### Project Management Group Update

- The playgroup manual working group is in the process of finalizing the playgroup manual they have been working on.
- The Triple P Support Project is still going.
- Community hubs is going to tender soon. The sites identified are Claymore and Villawood.
- ACYFS: Deadly Tots Flip Chart for South Western Sydney is in the process of being developed, as well as an Aboriginal child services directory.

### Barriers to Service Provision

Waiting lists for case management are extremely long. Some services waiting lists are up to a year long. Similarly, respite services have waiting lists to get onto their actual waiting lists.

Services also identified that trying to source case management for clients dealing with mental health issues has been difficult. Services have contacted the mental health team to refer clients but have been told that case management is unavailable. Instead the service must refer the client to a GP or psychiatrist. Services have been told that mental health only has case management available for young people and Aboriginal clients. The interagency discussed this issue and it was identified that the mental health team should have case management available.

Action: Julie to follow-up with the mental health team to find out whom the contact is for case management or if the case management services are currently full.

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## New Funding Opportunities

Wollondilly Interagency T.I.P.S – “Tips & Ideas for Professional Submissions”  
Wollondilly Interagency is hosting a funding information sessions for services providers. This information session is being held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011 from 2pm-4pm at Tahmoor Community Centre (6 Harper Close, Tahmoor).

### NIB Foundation

Supports programs aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of all Australians. For more information follow the link: [www.nibfoundation.com.au](http://www.nibfoundation.com.au)

### The Mercy Foundation

Grants are available that focus on ending homelessness. For more information follow the link: [www.mercyfoundation.com.au](http://www.mercyfoundation.com.au)

### Local Community Campaigns

Grants are available for programs that promote better Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. For more information follow the link:  
[www.livelonger.health.gov.au/grant-funding/grant-guidelines.html](http://www.livelonger.health.gov.au/grant-funding/grant-guidelines.html)

### Community Building Partnership Program

Grants are available to build and improve community facilities in their local area. For more information follow the link: [www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au](http://www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au)

## Project Updates

### Camden 4 Children Action Group

The Camden 4 Children Action Group is currently in the process of reviewing their strategic plan. Additionally, the group is seeking feedback regarding the Camden Kids website and looking into the role of Sector Connect and how the two can work more closely together.

### CALD Working Group

The CALD working group recently met with Council workers from Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly to discuss the possibility of holding a Macarthur wide cultural celebration. It was identified that the three Councils were already doing some really positive things for the CALD community within their respective local government areas. As a result, the group will be meeting to revise their action plan and review their goals to look at how they can better support the positive things already happening across the region.

The CALD working group will be meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011 from 2:30pm-3:30pm at Sector Connect (351 Welling Drive, Mount Annan).

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## Macarthur Child & Family Interagency Bottle Exchange Project

The Macarthur Child & Family Interagency Bottle Exchange Project working group recently received funding from the Campbelltown CDSE committee. The project is addressing oral hygiene issues in young children and the importance of weaning children off bottles by 12 months of age. The project will be holding a stall at 3 community events in the Campbelltown region and 1 community event in the Wollondilly region.

The group is in the process of organizing the final details for the community events the project will be involved in and sourcing all the resources for the stalls.

## Information Share

The group shared information about services and upcoming events verbally. This information was not recorded in the minutes

## Next Meeting

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Venue: 161 Wickfield Circuit, Ambarvale

Time: 10am-12pm

RSVP: [familiesnsw@sectorconnect.org.au](mailto:familiesnsw@sectorconnect.org.au)