

Minutes

Macarthur Child & Family		
Date: 5 th April 2011	Time: 10am-12pm	Venue: Community Room Oran Park Town – Oran Park Drive, Camden
Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meaghan Beretta – Autism Spectrum Australia ▪ Michelle Urquhart – Illawarra Children’s Services ▪ Symone Perricone – Focus on New Families ▪ Jill Manahan – Early Childhood Nutritionist ▪ Margaret Hudson – Benevolent Society ▪ Paul Harkin – Benevolent Society ▪ Lily Roberts-Everett – Camden Community Connections ▪ Kerry Caligiore – Resourcing Parents ▪ Belinda Power – Resourcing Parents ▪ Mathew Ferguson – Department of Premier and Cabinet ▪ Phebe Betts – Community Links Wollondilly ▪ Corinne Woolcocks – Community Links Wollondilly ▪ Alice Schwes – Community Links Wollondilly ▪ Carmel Flavell – Community Links Wollondilly ▪ Stephanie Ingram – Learning Links ▪ Leslie Ansell – Salvation Army: Shekinah ▪ Gabriela Aguilar – Northcott ▪ Carmen Fox – MDSI ▪ Liz Mataafa – UnitingCare Burnside ▪ Gabriel Thomsen – UnitingCare Burnside ▪ Yvonne Porter – Campbelltown Family Support Service ▪ Giselle Bouma – Community Services ▪ Kate Maclean – Community Services ▪ Karen Chisnall – Sector Connect 	
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sandra Templeton – Focus on New Families ▪ Mariela Albornoz – UnitingCare Burnside ▪ Margaret O’Dea – Benevolent Society ▪ Wendy Wallis – Rosemeadow Public School ▪ Ross Wortham – Benevolent Society ▪ Karen Russell – Currans Public School ▪ Stephanie Isvik – Bridges for Learning ▪ Donna Skobla – Wingecarribee Family Support Service ▪ Stephen Chan – Community Services ▪ Larissa Memery - MDSI 	

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Strengthening Families Resourcing Parents Website

Belinda Power & Kerry Caligiore

Department of Community Services gave money to start the Strengthening Families Resourcing Parents website in 2003. The website was set-up to be user friendly and easily accessible for parents and professionals working with children and families. The website provides information about parenting education training and events that are generally targeted at parents with children 0-8 years of age. The website also has mechanisms in place to be able to search for events in the search box and also search by area. The area within our region is Macarthur & Wingecarribee.

Key sections available on the website to know about include:

- Parenting Events Calendar:
Looking for an event or activity to help with parenting? The calendar covers Sydney and has hundreds of useful events to attend
- The Noticeboard:
Use the noticeboard to post general parenting announcements, to promote your new products, learning materials or services. As long as it falls under the “parenting” umbrella it can be posted.
- Practitioners Calendar:
This is for events that are specifically focused on education professionals and parenting practitioners.
- Practitioners Directory:
The practitioner’s directory for those agencies seeking a practitioner to facilitate parenting events in their centre, or, a practitioner looking to partner with a practitioner in another agency, or, for individuals seeking out private parenting support. This directory lists practitioners from both not-for-profit and private agencies.
- Editor’s Choice Events:
This section is a pick of events that have been submitted via the website that are deemed to be interesting and/or extremely beneficial for parents to attend.
- CALD Resources Section:
Non-English speaking people can find resources in their own language. Search by topic or language. Sourcing the right information in this section can be difficult however, 35 different languages are represented in this section. This section of the website is being updated currently.

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- Newsletters:
Strengthening Families Resourcing Parents website sends out regular newsletters. One newsletter sends regular updates on parenting events and activities taking place. The other newsletter sends regular updates on practitioner events and activities taking place.

Important information to know about how to add information to the Strengthening Families Resourcing Parents Website:

- Adding an event to the website:
Adding an event is a simple process. You can upload your event information once and then if you are running it more than once or running something different you can just update your previous submissions. This enables you to just change the details that need changing and not have to re-enter every detail surrounding the event.
- Adding information to the noticeboard:
To add information to the noticeboard you can simply click on “add you notice” and follow the prompts to add your information. This information is reviewed by the website workers prior to being put on the website.

Project Management Group Update

The Triple P program is about to roll-out a large media campaign in May. Information about Triple P will go out in a number of media forms including print media and radio. An 1800 number will be available for people to call to find out where Triple P training is running. Therefore, agencies are encouraged to run Triple P sessions between May-September.

Additionally, a Triple P Practitioners Development Day will be held on the 5th May 2011. As well as Indigenous Triple P Training Accreditation being held on the 20th May 2011.

Barriers to Service Provision

Discussion was had around the lack of facilities available within Council areas. In particular, availability of appropriate venues that can accommodate large groups and has childcare facilities is largely unavailable. The costs associated with hiring venues can also be a large barrier to service delivery.

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Many services have approached Council in regards to venue hire and availability of venues but are yet to have any positive outcomes from this. Specifically, some organisations have had dealings with Council in which they have had to fill out an EOI form to use the venues for next year; while venues remain unused this year. Also Council facilities are regularly leased on a year by year basis so there is no security for service providers. Additionally, some services have looked into brokerage with private rental facilities with little success.

Furthermore, the cost of providing childcare when running groups is becoming a barrier to service provision. It was discussed that to run a 6-8 week course and provide childcare can incur huge costs for services that can prohibit the running of the course.

All MDSI playgroups are currently full and have waiting lists.

Funding Opportunities in Macarthur & Wingecarribee

- CDSE grants are now open until the 6th May 2011. Grants are available for up to \$5000. Discussion was had that Macarthur Child & Family Interagency could put in an application around the priority area of children's nutrition, health and obesity. Community Links Wollondilly, Benevolent Society, CFSS, & SSWAHS would meet outside the Interagency to further discuss this and put in an application.
- Our Community Grants are available.
- Paul Newman Grants are available – Karen to follow-up to see when this funding round opens.

Training Needs Across Macarthur & Wingecarribee

Organisations expressed an interest in having training available in becoming a child safe organisation – Karen to follow-up

Mental Health in Children training:

The group discussed what they would like to know about in regards to Mental Health in Children training which is coming up on the 29th June 2011. The group identified that they would like to know about:

- Attachment disorders
- Dealing with children who have witnessed domestic violence
- Recognizing signs for early intervention
- Medication
- ADHD
- ODD

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Project Updates

Camden 4 Children Action Group

The Camden 4 Children Action Group is holding a Family Fun Day event on the 22nd May 2011 in celebration of National Families Week. This event will be held at Kirkham Oval and a number of activities will be provided for children aged 0-12 years and their families.

In preparation of this event the Camden 4 Children Action Group are holding a FREE Importance of Play workshop on the 13th April 2011 for services to attend and learn more about the importance of play.

Keep Them Safe Issues

The question was raised regarding whether referrals were happening between services. Some services expressed it being hard for new services that don't have a great understanding of the services available to make referrals. It was discussed that HSNET is available to use to make referrals and is in the process of being re-vamped to be more user friendly. There will be the opportunity to provide feedback to HSNET regarding the re-vamp of their website.

Additionally, all Councils have service directories available to help new services gain an understanding of services available to refer to.

Furthermore, a Macarthur Child & Family Member Organisation Form is available on the Sector Connect website until the 30th June 2011 for services to fill out and develop a service directory for services involved in the Families NSW network. Follow the link to access this form:

<http://www.sectorconnect.org.au/fnswmemberorganisationinformationform>

The Keep Them Safe Implementation Plan has been finalized. This plan is based on the 238 recommendations from the KTS workshops held in Macarthur and Fairfield in 2010. As part of this implementation plan, information provision workshops will be held which address:

- Chapter 16A
- The mandatory reporter guide

Additionally issues around competitive tendering were raised and will be reviewed.

Three Key Messages

- Cost and accessibility of venues is a barrier being experienced by a number of services
- Transition in supported playgroups is an issue for services particularly for short-term models of supported playgroups
- Increase in emerging communities in the Camden LGA

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Items without Notice

It was identified that the Macarthur Child & Family Interagency needs to promote culturally sensitive practice within the network. To address this it was suggested that CALD issues needs to be a standing agenda item on the Macarthur Child & Family Interagency and discussion should take place around awareness of cultural practices in service delivery.

A number of services expressed an interest in being involved in a CALD working group. Services, who were interested in being involved, included: UnitingCare Burnside, Campbelltown Family Support Service, and Camden Community Connections. It was suggested that MDSI should be invited to be involved in this group also.

1. Information Share

The group shared information about services and upcoming events verbally. This information was not recorded in the minutes, however completed information share forms are attached as follows

Learning Links

Diagnosis Support Program: available to families with a child 0-6 with a new diagnosis or with concerns about their child's development. There is no waiting list.

Triple P running. 3 seminars will start from the 15th June 2011 at Camden Civic Centre.

Workshops Calendar available on our website: www.learninglinks.org.au

New PaCC Program! Parents as Case Coordinators. See website for training for staff to run this or email singram@learninglinks.org.au

Northcott Disability Services

Northcott Disability Services Macarthur Office OPEN DAY is being held on Thursday 28th April 2011 from 10am-1pm. Northcott Disability Services is situated at 3 Chamberlain Street, Campbelltown. Parking is available at DFO on Queen Street, Campbelltown.

Early Childhood Nutritionist/ Dietitian

Newly funded nutrition and dietetic service for children aged 0-5 years and their families/carers in Macarthur and Wingecarribee regions. This is a permanent/full-time position which is based at Rosemeadow Community Health Centre. The initial focus of this project will be to consult with families and early childhood organisations and services working with children aged 0-5 years to identify priority nutrition issues and service gaps in Macarthur and Wingecarribee.

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Autism Spectrum Australia (ASPECT)

Early Childhood Development Program

Providing early screening for children aged 0-6 years showing early signs of an autism spectrum disorder or developmental delay. Referrals to come from childcare/preschool staff, GPs, community health nurses, allied health staff. Following referral and screening, up to 15 intervention sessions will be provided within the family home and childcare/preschool setting as required. Transition support into other services is also provided.

Focus on New Families

Focus on New Families is continuing to offer home visiting to new mum's or mum's with other children (but the mum has to have a child 1 year and under). Focus now has 20 new trained volunteers which gives us a total of 60 Focus Volunteers.

Campbelltown Family Support Service

Triple P starting on the 18th May 2011 with a venue to be confirmed. Dads group at topshots and more details will be made available. CFSS is planning some new workshops including a workshop on homelessness which will include access to forms, information from Housing NSW and access to computers to search for rental properties.

The Benevolent Society

Due to funding changes for Families NSW next 3 year strategic plan changes have occurred to Volunteer Home Visiting and the Young Parents Program.

- Volunteer Home Visiting will cease in Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly from 30th June 2011.
- Foundations for Young Parents will continue in Campbelltown; however this service will be reduced from 3 workers to 1. The Young Parents group will continue at Macarthur Square on Thursdays from 2pm-4pm.

Community Links Wollondilly

Sibworks: Therapeutic support group for siblings aged 8-12 years of a young person with a disability. Runs at Tahmoor Community Centre every fortnight on a Monday. This group starts back on the 9th May 2011 and runs from 3:30pm-5pm. For further information contact Corinne on 4647 4550.

Challenging Behaviour Workshops: for parents/carers of children with challenging behaviour. Starts 5th May 2011 and runs until 23rd June 2011 from 10am-12pm on a Thursday. The group meets at 70 Topham Road, Smeaton Grange.

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Next Meeting

Date: 14th June

Venue: Kazcare Educational Facilities – Corner Centennial and Kirkham Roads,
Bowral

Time: 10am-12pm

RSVP: familiesnsw@sectorconnect.org.au