



# The Wollondilly Interagency

The Wollondilly Network of Community Service Agencies.

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Minutes of Wollondilly Interagency Meeting  
12<sup>th</sup> August 2010, at Wollondilly Shire Council- Gallery Room,  
62-64 Menangle St, Picton

**Opened** at 2pm

## **PRESENT**

Bob Lester

Libby Williams

Cathy Chopping

Fiona Devine

Sana Al-Ahmar

Patricia Ceulen

Josephine Hindmarsh

Julie Longland

Susan Mayer

Leza Oliver

Wollondilly Shire Council

Christians Against Poverty Wollondilly Care

Centrelink

Wollondilly Shire Council

MDSI

Sector Connect

Macarthur NILS

WSFSS

CLW

Community Justice Centre

## **APOLOGIES**

Jacqueline Watson

Lynne Burgoyne

Jaci Dayes

Carol Mackay

Deby Loyd

Child Support Agency

ADHC Bowral

MDS

MDSI

Uniting Care Burnside – Brighter Futures

## **Amendments**

Sana Al-Ahmar attended the July 8th the meeting.

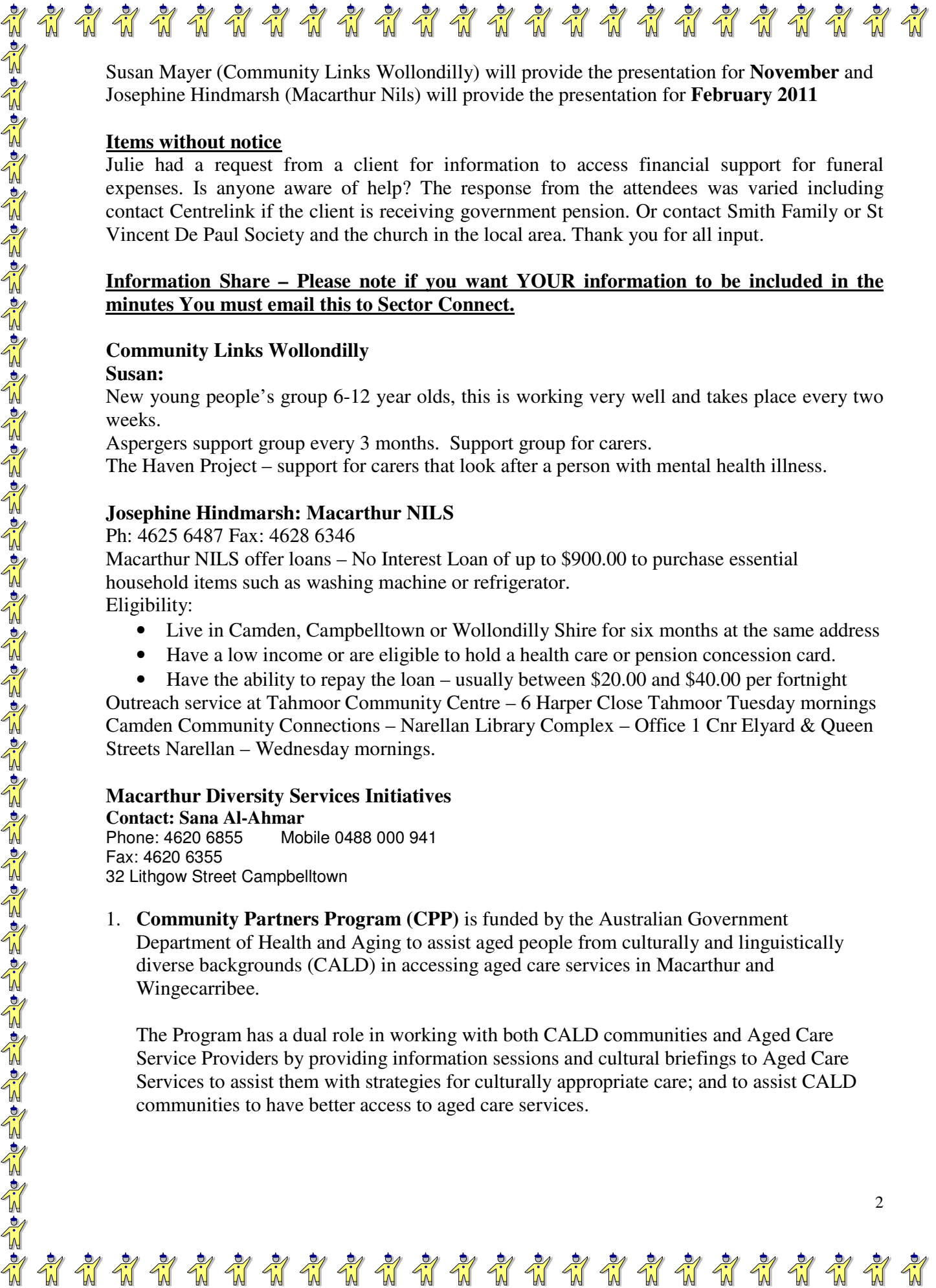
## **Guest Speaker**

Sana Al-Ahmar gave a presentation on Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative (MDSI). The mission is to assist disadvantaged and marginalized people across the Macarthur area. A copy of the presentation and “welcome” sign will go out with the minutes. Main areas of concern identified include lack of public transport and isolated small pockets of CALD people. Sana and Carol work together on the Aged Care service program and this covers Campbelltown, Camden, Wollondilly and Wingecarribee.

Thank you Sana for this presentation with only having a few days to prepare.

## **Future Guest Speakers**

Deby Loyd (Uniting Care Burnside – Brighter Futures) will provide the presentation in **October**



Susan Mayer (Community Links Wollondilly) will provide the presentation for **November** and Josephine Hindmarsh (Macarthur Nils) will provide the presentation for **February 2011**

**Items without notice**

Julie had a request from a client for information to access financial support for funeral expenses. Is anyone aware of help? The response from the attendees was varied including contact Centrelink if the client is receiving government pension. Or contact Smith Family or St Vincent De Paul Society and the church in the local area. Thank you for all input.

**Information Share – Please note if you want YOUR information to be included in the minutes You must email this to Sector Connect.**

**Community Links Wollondilly**

**Susan:**

New young people's group 6-12 year olds, this is working very well and takes place every two weeks.

Aspergers support group every 3 months. Support group for carers.

The Haven Project – support for carers that look after a person with mental health illness.

**Josephine Hindmarsh: Macarthur NILS**

Ph: 4625 6487 Fax: 4628 6346

Macarthur NILS offer loans – No Interest Loan of up to \$900.00 to purchase essential household items such as washing machine or refrigerator.

**Eligibility:**

- Live in Camden, Campbelltown or Wollondilly Shire for six months at the same address
- Have a low income or are eligible to hold a health care or pension concession card.
- Have the ability to repay the loan – usually between \$20.00 and \$40.00 per fortnight

Outreach service at Tahmoor Community Centre – 6 Harper Close Tahmoor Tuesday mornings

Camden Community Connections – Narellan Library Complex – Office 1 Cnr Elyard & Queen Streets Narellan – Wednesday mornings.

**Macarthur Diversity Services Initiatives**

**Contact: Sana Al-Ahmar**

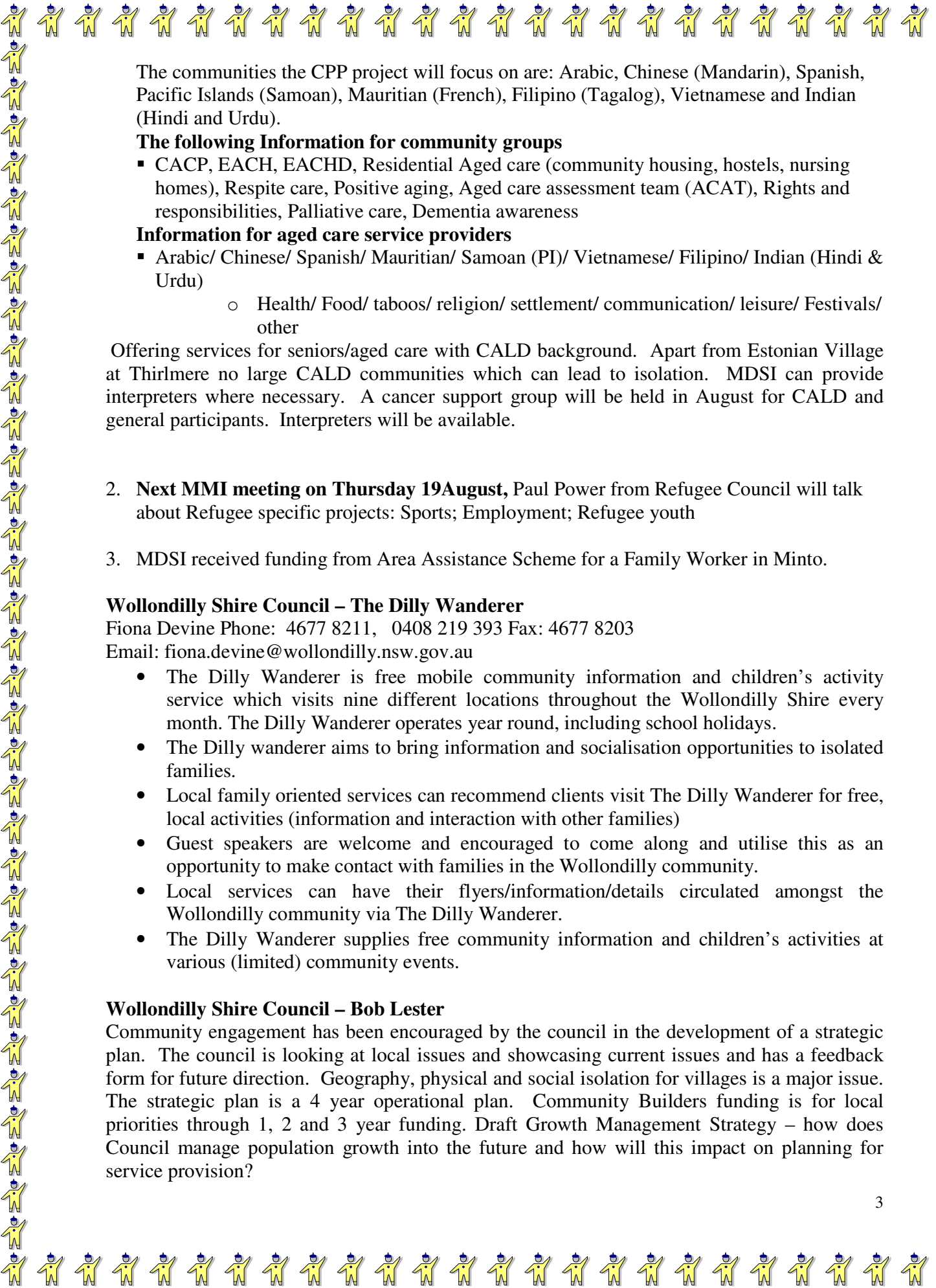
Phone: 4620 6855 Mobile 0488 000 941

Fax: 4620 6355

32 Lithgow Street Campbelltown

1. **Community Partners Program (CPP)** is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aging to assist aged people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) in accessing aged care services in Macarthur and Wingecarribee.

The Program has a dual role in working with both CALD communities and Aged Care Service Providers by providing information sessions and cultural briefings to Aged Care Services to assist them with strategies for culturally appropriate care; and to assist CALD communities to have better access to aged care services.



The communities the CPP project will focus on are: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Spanish, Pacific Islands (Samoan), Mauritian (French), Filipino (Tagalog), Vietnamese and Indian (Hindi and Urdu).

**The following Information for community groups**

- CACP, EACH, EACHD, Residential Aged care (community housing, hostels, nursing homes), Respite care, Positive aging, Aged care assessment team (ACAT), Rights and responsibilities, Palliative care, Dementia awareness

**Information for aged care service providers**

- Arabic/ Chinese/ Spanish/ Mauritian/ Samoan (PI)/ Vietnamese/ Filipino/ Indian (Hindi & Urdu)
  - Health/ Food/ taboos/ religion/ settlement/ communication/ leisure/ Festivals/ other

Offering services for seniors/aged care with CALD background. Apart from Estonian Village at Thirlmere no large CALD communities which can lead to isolation. MDSI can provide interpreters where necessary. A cancer support group will be held in August for CALD and general participants. Interpreters will be available.

2. **Next MMI meeting on Thursday 19 August**, Paul Power from Refugee Council will talk about Refugee specific projects: Sports; Employment; Refugee youth

3. MDSI received funding from Area Assistance Scheme for a Family Worker in Minto.

**Wollondilly Shire Council – The Dilly Wanderer**

Fiona Devine Phone: 4677 8211, 0408 219 393 Fax: 4677 8203

Email: [fiona.devine@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fiona.devine@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au)

- The Dilly Wanderer is free mobile community information and children's activity service which visits nine different locations throughout the Wollondilly Shire every month. The Dilly Wanderer operates year round, including school holidays.
- The Dilly wanderer aims to bring information and socialisation opportunities to isolated families.
- Local family oriented services can recommend clients visit The Dilly Wanderer for free, local activities (information and interaction with other families)
- Guest speakers are welcome and encouraged to come along and utilise this as an opportunity to make contact with families in the Wollondilly community.
- Local services can have their flyers/information/details circulated amongst the Wollondilly community via The Dilly Wanderer.
- The Dilly Wanderer supplies free community information and children's activities at various (limited) community events.

**Wollondilly Shire Council – Bob Lester**

Community engagement has been encouraged by the council in the development of a strategic plan. The council is looking at local issues and showcasing current issues and has a feedback form for future direction. Geography, physical and social isolation for villages is a major issue. The strategic plan is a 4 year operational plan. Community Builders funding is for local priorities through 1, 2 and 3 year funding. Draft Growth Management Strategy – how does Council manage population growth into the future and how will this impact on planning for service provision?



**MDS – Jaci Dayes**

HACC disabilities Services Directory and brochures are now available Please see MDS website to download a copy. Information packages are also available from the website.

**Centrelink - Kathy Chopping**

Centrelink are looking to promote community engagement re homelessness. Is there an issue? They are talking to agencies to get there perspective. There is a rental crisis with low income earners being forced out of the market. They are keen to identify the gaps in services. Males over 35 are the most vulnerable when it comes to homelessness however older females are often “hidden” statistics and this is increasing dramatically. The investigation doesn’t cover Wingecarribee.

**Centrelink – Kathy Maher**

Centrelink is aiming to have 70% of customers online. No one will be forced to use computer access however it will be the preferred method. Wollondilly Council is an agency for Centrelink. Services are urged to offer computer access where possible.

**Wollondilly Care: Libby Williams**

Food drive response has been excellent and now Wollondilly Care has many food parcels to distribute to families across the Wollondilly area. Some warm winter jackets, wet weather jackets and polo tops are also available for distribution.

Able to provide assistance with Emergency utilities, food parcels, Wollondilly NILS and counselling by appointments.

**CAP:** for people requiring debt consolidation with unsecured loans. Includes how to develop a budget. Contact ph: 1300 227 000 or email [PictonNSW@capaust.org](mailto:PictonNSW@capaust.org) Currently 20 families from Wollondilly are on their way to be debt free! Please contact Libby if you have Clients that would benefit from services listed.

**WSFSS – Julie**

Leanne Franklin has left the Neighbourhood Centre and so the role is currently being supported by existing workers for the time being.

The Community Safety Group is proposing a backyard pool safety information day. At the present time this will take place in mid November.

**Community Justice Centres – Campbelltown**

**Contact:** Leza Oliver Phone: 1800 990 777 (free call)

Part of Justice and Attorney General Office: Provide free mediation and conflict management services to help people resolve their own disputes. This could be used for neighbor disputes, separation (only if NO children are involved and NO DV history), division of property or money issues for small businesses. The service is free confidential, voluntary, timely and easy to use. Interpreters are available. As of Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August, agreements reached in mediation are now up held in a court of law.



**Sector Connect: Trish**

This is Trish's last day with Sector Connect. Karen the Families NSW Facilitator will be the facilitators for all the Interagencies now. Thank to all for your support over my time in this role. Sector Connect is preparing for the introduction of their new website which will offer members organizations the opportunity to have a webpage to advertise their agency for a \$200 annual fee. Smaller agencies currently without websites will particularly benefit from this opportunity. Sector Connect will have AGM and website launch on 28<sup>th</sup> October at Camden Civic Centre. Manager's Network meets bi-monthly and is a unique opportunity for managers to network on a range of issues. Managers in attendance were asked to consider attendance and promote the meeting to other managers across the sector.

Meeting Closed: 4.00pm.

*Next meeting*  
*Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2010*  
*Wollondilly Shire Council*  
*Menangle Street Picton*