

Macarthur Interagency Meeting.

Minutes of Meeting held 4th March 2010.

Sector Connect Inc.

1. Welcome and apologies

Meeting opened at 2 p.m.

Attendance Sheet:

Karen Simpson	Macarthur Disabilities Services
Jacqueline Dayes	Macarthur Disabilities Services
Emma Doukakis	IDEAS NSW
Linda Feeney	Carer Assist
Nhan Tran	Community Services
Lynn Williamson	FOCUS
Fiona Henriques	Mission Australia
Neil Rookes	Christians Against Poverty
Tarn Wehi	Christians Against Poverty- Mt Annan
Libby Williams	Christians Against Poverty – Picton
Douglas Lee	South West Tenants Service
Caroline Oliver	Lifeline
Danielle Bishop	The Benevolent Society
Chad Ritchie	Muru Nanga Mai
Breeanna Caldwell	Muru Nanga Mai
Carmel Flavell	Community Links - Wollondilly
Tracey Fehon	Community Links
Alicia Constable	Odyssey House After Care
Josephine Hundmarsh	NILS – Nagle Centre
Sharon McKinney	COMPEER Macarthur – Wingecarribe
Karen Lyall	Campbelltown Family Support
Dayna Johnston	CentreLink – Camden
Liz Tinney	The Benevolent Society – Saver Plus
Julie Longland	WSFSS
Pam McCorrison	Sector Connect

Apologies:

Trish Ceulen	Sector Connect
Kavita Pai	Commonwealth Respite Carelink Centre – SWS
Adam Ainscough	CentreLink – Campbelltown
Leo Dynevor	Muru Nanga Mai

2. **Jane McIvor** chaired the meeting in the absence of Leo Dynevor. Jane spoke on the work being done by Leo and his team – Chad Ritchie & Breeanna Caldwell.

Breeanna is the new Admin person for Muru Nanga Mai and will be at the following locations:

- Monday: 9.15 a.m. to 3.15 p.m. Minto House, 6 Evans Way, Minto.
- Tuesday: 9.15 a.m. to 3.15 p.m. Community Links, 6 Harper Close, Tahmoor.
- Wednesday & Thursday: 9.15 a.m. to 3.15 p.m.
AES Shop 1, 208 Queen Street, Campbelltown
- Friday: 9.15 a.m. to 3.15 p.m. Minto House, 6 Evans Way, Minto.

Leo's current project is: Yura Ngalaya Project – Community Support Service.

The Community Support Service will support Indigenous community members and their families by providing links and referrals to a range of mainstream and Indigenous services which may include welfare and social support, family violence, health (including drug and alcohol services), housing, childcare and legal. The role will also entail the development and fostering of relationships with other service providers through promoting access and pathways to their services within the Macarthur region. Leo will be tracking all intakes

Jane spoke of the need to address the large gaps in the Aboriginal area and that this must be done with a gentle approach. There is a need to look at the whole Youth Service Programme – must have a stronger service unit presented and need to work with mainstream. Jane requested that any group or organisation within the room that can assist please advise Breeanna and give her any contact details and leaflets.

Chad Ritchie spoke on the up-coming Aboriginal Torres Young Male Group – Starting 23/3/10 (was to be 17/3/10) – This is a 10 week programme covers the following areas;

- Mental Health
- Sexual Health
- Food
- Culture
- Exercise

3. GUEST SPEAKERS:

Tarn Wehi – Christians Against Poverty (CAP).

Tarn is based at the Reach Out Centre and has been with CAP for two years. CAP has 22 centres around Australia – 600 active clients. Tarn covers Picton, Moss Vale, Mount Annan, Macquarie Fields, Camden and to the edge of Liverpool. CAP is looking to open a centre in Liverpool.

CAP is a not for profit group which offers its service free to the community.

CAP offers:

Home visits – you call CAP on 1300 227 000 and a debt coach & support worker will visit you in your home.

An effective budget: A realistic budget is then worked out at CAP HQ by prioritising your essential bills. They will negotiate affordable payments with creditors.

CAP Account: A CAP account is set up for you so you can make a weekly or monthly payment into this to cover your debts and CAP will distribute this on your behalf.

If you are in severe debt then CAP will walk you through insolvency – helping with all the paperwork.

CAP will support you right through your repayments until you are debt free.

There is also a CAP Money Course offered – this course is designed to help you set up your own budget and teach you to control money and not money control you. Details for this is also available by contacting 1300 227 000.

Liz Tinney – The Benevolent Society – Saver Plus Programme.

The Saver Plus Programme is a \$1 for \$1 match which has been funded by the ANZ bank and the Federal Government for six (6) years.

Saver Plus is piloting a change at the moment where clients make one deposit a month (up to max of \$50 per month) for a period of 10 months – over 80% of participants completed the programme and reached goal of \$1,000.

Over 70% of clients are now saving the same or more after 2 – 3 years.

Liz said they are leading the world with this programme - very simple to show ideas that do work.

Liz said March is a great time to encourage people to start the programme as they reap the benefits in time for 'Back to School' purchases.

Steps are:

- Join the programme – save for 10 months.
- Attend 4 x 2 1/2 hour sessions = 10 hours
- These cover credit/debt - small amounts/large amounts
- Awareness and control.
- At the end you will have your account with savings – matched funds go to education of self or children.

With this programme you go from 'have not's to have' – 'Bills not paid to bills paid'. You can participate only once in this programme.

Eligibility – Parents with children at school, individuals on low income, pensioner card holders, health card holders

Liz has said she is available to go anywhere as she is 'FREE'! – so please refer any clients to her.

4. Information Share:

Jane McIvor – Sector Connect

Letter from NRMA in regard to grants available \$500 to \$5,000, Jane passed the letter around so people could take details of the web link so they could follow up.

CDSC Grants – Funding round about to open – information session on the 30/3/2010 – check website as this has only just been sent to the clubs.

There has been very poor attendance at sessions so we need as many people as possible to attend.

Training Calendar: Handed our copy around for people to check.

Dates to remember 9/3/10 – Community Conflict Resolution.

17/3/10 – Free info sessions at Wests.

Caroline Oliver – Life Line Macarthur 4645 7200. oliverc@lifelinemacarthur.org.au

Free financial counselling service (wait list is approx 1 week)
Life Line telephone counselling
Emergency Welfare assistance
Bereaved by Suicide Support Group
Suicide Prevention Projects
Corporate & Community Training

Sharon McKinney – Coordinator. Compeer Macarthur – Wingecarribee. 4627 9180 or mobile 0437 491 591. compeermacarthur@svdpwgong.org.au

Compeer is an award-winning friendship program that links volunteers in a one-to-one friendship with a person living with a mental illness. Compeer recruits, screens, trains and supports volunteers throughout a 12 month friendship commitment. Volunteers give a minimum of 4 hours per month to spend social time with their 'friend'. Activities such as having a cuppa and a chat, seeing a movie, going bushwalking etc. are just some of the outings that our friendship matches participate in.

Individuals living with a mental illness need to be referred by their current health professional or case worker. The referring agent also makes a commitment to stay connected with the client and Compeer throughout the 12 month friendship and be available for clinical assistance as, or if, required. Clients need to be over the age of 18 years and stable in their illness.

Tracey Fehon & Carmel Flavell – Community Links, Wollondilly. 4647 4550

Deal with families in crisis – risk of breakdown
Special needs family office for 0 – 12 area – have office at Currans Hill.
Youth Work Team & Community Development Team – we have a staff of approx. 20 for Wollondilly LGA.
Dr Steve Walker – Workshops
April – Challenging Behaviour Workshops – Wollondilly (Tahmoor Health Clinic)
S.I.B. Works 8 – 17 yrs Junction Works – Currans Hill, Tahmoor in May.

Emma Doukakis – IDEAS NSW – 1800 029 904. emmadoukakis@ideas.org.au

Ideas are providing individual advocacy for people with disabilities in the Macarthur area. Our advocacy is a free service.
Referrals can be made by people with disability carers, family members or service providers. For more information contact IDEAS on 1800 029 904

Julie Longland – WSFSS (Warragamba) 4774 2245 wsfss@bigpond.com

Planning groups for Term 3 & 4.
If anyone has a group/workshop they would like to run, I would like to discuss it further – open to new ideas and suggestions.

Karen Lyall – Campbelltown Family Support. 4628 7233 karen.lyall@camfss.ngo.org.au

Provide casework, run group programs: Scope/Families NSW, CALD, Arabic speaking, vulnerable families, Generalist, Youth, and Adolescent (parents are clients).
Also have NABU (Aboriginal team) – NABU intake currently closed but other programs currently available.

Linda Feeney – Carer Assist. 4620 5255. linda@carerassist.org.au

Providing information, education, advocacy and support for people who care for someone with a mental illness – including support groups.

Karen Simpson – Macarthur Disability Services. 4621 8400.

Have given out and emailed calendars – also one to be attached to the minutes.
Will tailor packages to suit client needs – cover the Winger-carribee, Macarthur, Liverpool, and Fairfield areas.

Alicia Constable – Odyssey House After Care Campbelltown. 4628 8806.

Clients must be 18 years and over
Deal with drug/alcohol and gambling problems.
Detox service
Residential service
8 week relapse course
One on one counselling
2 x groups a week – guest speaker on after care.

Libby Williams – CAP Picton. 1300 227 000 (Client) 0411 266 262 (Agencies).

Libby.williams@capaust.org

CAP Money course is free to anyone, whether you have debt or not. It is a course aimed at educating people to manage their money by creating a personal budget & coaching them to use it.

The next course being run is at PICTON C3 CHURCH, Unit 12, 15 Henry Street, Picton. (Picton Business Park) starting Monday 15th, 22nd & 29th March 2010, from 7.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.
Bookings are essential – Call Libby on 0411 266 262 or go to www.capmoney.org
Tarn Wehi did a full presentation early in meeting.

Danielle Bishop – First Five Years Volunteer Home Visit Programme – The Benevolent Society. 4233 3777.

danielleb@bensoc.org.au

margareth@bensoc.org.au

kristenb@bensoc.org.au

We are currently training up some new volunteers who will be available around May, June 2010 to volunteer with families in the Campbelltown, Wollondilly & Camden areas with children 0 – 5 years. To make a referral contact 'The Benevolent Society' to speak with Danielle Bishop, Margaret Hudson or Kristen Briggs.

Josephine Hindmarsh – Macarthur NILS – Nagle Centre. 4625 6487.

We have been operating now 10 years.
Work with clients and arrange for them to pay off their loan at \$20 to \$30 per fortnight through Centrelink payments.
We are also in partnership with Sydney Water – small jobs such as water tanks etc.

Lynn Williamson – Focus on New Families. 4628 1182.

Provide support and help to families with children 0 – 12 months old.
Getting good volunteers through and our next training session starts in August.

Fiona Henriques – Mission Australia. henriquesf@missionaustralia.com.au

Counsellor: 4620 0152

Financial Counsellors: 4620 0201.

There are two (2) financial counsellors and one (1) general counsellor, dealing with depression, financial hardship, relationship issues and any other life challenges.

Will provide pamphlets next week.

Jacqi Dayes – Macarthur Disabilities Service. 4621 8400. jacid@mdservices.com.au

2010 Publications have been released and emailed to **service** providers. Please advise if you are yet to receive these.

These documents, plus the new HACC Brochure will be available on MDS website shortly.

Douglas Lee – South West Sydney Tenants Advice Service. 47628 1678.

douglas.lee@clc.net.au

South West Tenants & Advocacy Service =

1. We provide free tenancy advice to both private and public or community housing tenants in Macarthur and Fairfield – Liverpool regions.
2. We provide free community legal education seminars to tenants, community groups and community workers.

Telephone: 4628 1678 Address: 317 Queen St. Campbelltown. (opposite McDonalds)

Kavita Pai – Commonwealth Respite & Carelink Centre (South West Sydney)

(Not present at meeting but sent apology & info share)

(Auspice by Anglicare) **Telephone: 1800 052 222 Email: kpai@anglicare.org.au**

(SWS) CRCC continues to provide short term & emergency respite to carers of people with;

- Frailties due to age
- Age related issues such as dementia, arthritis etc.
- Disabilities
- Chronic illnesses
- Palliative illnesses
- Mental health issues including autism
- Acquired brain injury.

Carelink is an information provider. Anyone can call Carelink for info on aged and disability services in the region. If there are new programs or telephone numbers have changed, service providers are urged to please inform Carelink 1800 052 222.

Young carers are a special target group of CRCC.

Meeting closed at 3.55pm

**Next Meeting:
3rd June 2010. 1p.m.
Sector Connect
351 Welling Drive,
Mount Annan NSW 2567**