

MacUnity Minutes.

Tuesday 18th October 2011.

Attendance:

Annette Finnerman	MDS	Cheryl-Ann Reading	AMIHS
Natasha West	SSWAHS	Cheryl Paradella	YWCA
Stacey Lewis SSWAHS	Bulundidi Gudaga	Ellana Doolan	Catholic Care
Bobbi Brodie	FACS	Janelle Henson	MWLP
Amber Hope	MWLP	Greg Squibb	Centrelink
Alanas Janackovski	Catholic Care	Brian Milford	MTC Work Solutions
Danny Satin	MTC Work Solutions	Debbie McCall	FACS
Tina Britton	Wollondilly Council	Angela Lonergan Council	Campbelltown
Sharynne Freeman	Argyle Housing	Anne Dixon	YWCA NSW
Ricky Lyons	NSW Sport & Rec.	Christina Fosh	YWCA NSW
Kate Angelucci	Youth Solutions	Joshur Bell	MNM
Leo Dynevor	MNM	Jane Mclvor	Sector Connect
Pam McCorriston	Sector Connect (Vol)		

Apologies:

Fiona Devine	Camden Council	Lily Roberts-Everett	CCC
Jonathan Christley	TAFE	Mathew Ferguson	DPC

MacUnity aims to adopt the use of the Aboriginal process as best we can when conducting meetings. The minutes hope to reflect this process.

Meeting opened at 10.15 a.m.

Acknowledgement to Country:

Acknowledgement to country was given by Ricky Lyons

Jane followed with a discussion on what MacUnity was about and why it formed.

Information share of new projects/information:

Anne Dixon – YWCA advised on an Aboriginal Women's Wellbeing Program being run at Rosemeadow – this is all about healthy living. Any questions you can call Anne on 0433135043.

Ricky Lyons – Sport & Rec – Spoke about the Constitutional Reform. Report was due at end of September.

Protest held in Bankstown area on N.T. Intervention and Income Management, this was a bit of a test and it will become stronger and come to this area. This reform is going to cause a lot more problems to low income Aboriginal families.

Greg Squibb – Centrelink – Centrelink will be getting a staff member who will have all the information on this reform and should be able to attend forums/meetings.

Greg also advised on a new mentoring program that is running.

'REAL DEADLY' runs from 6am to 8am for kids,

Venue: Airs Bradbury Central, Riverside Drive, Airs.

Programme runs on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Real Deadly aims to provide mentorship to young Aboriginal people, to help them improve their current lifestyles and provide some guidance for a positive future.

Objectives include;

- Build strong independent pathways toward vocational outcomes
- Reduce reoffending & offending in our youth
- Promote cultural awareness
- Promote community involvement
- Identify & develop strong leadership

- Build self confidence
- Support local families
- Provide positive mentors & ambassadors
- Be self-sustained
- Increased quality of life

When this programme opened we had 6 kids on the Monday and by the Wednesday we had 30 – word of mouth works.

Joshua Bell from Muru Nanga Mai came up with the name and he is so committed he even drives to Camden to pick up kids.

The people involved in the running of the programme all volunteer their time and this shows how dedicated they are to making a difference.

The programme is supported by local services i.e. AES, Juvenile Justice, Centrelink, Unitingcare Burnside, TAFE and many others.

More details on the mentoring side will be coming out shortly. Need service providers who have buses to help out. If the kids have supportive parents that can assist with car-pooling this would be great. Anyone with transport solutions please talk to Greg.

Suggestion was made that PCYC have buses – but they need drivers.

For more information please contact Greg 0427902578 or David 0406314636

Sharynne Freeman – Argyle Housing: Advised about a free video, Consumer Traders & Tenant's Tribunal. This is an excellent video to assist Aboriginal people on how to access services.

Angela Lonergan – CCC – Koori Toastmasters has been running now for approx. 1 – 1 1/2 years – 6 sessions once a fortnight but you can continue to go.

Opening of Gabun Gujaaja Reserve at Rosemeadow will take place on 29th October 10.30 a.m. to 1pm – has Art effect special area.

3 Day workshop - Healing Days Thurawal (Medical Service)

- Local Connections to Work (LCTW) if you have not got a space at Centrelink office you should look at doing so. Muru Nanga Mai & Volunteering Macarthur has found this very beneficial. Greg Squibb would be happy to organise to get services on board.
- Mygunyah Camden Aboriginal Residents Group – ‘Make It Our Business’ next meeting 27th October at 3p.m. Camden Town Farm.

Annette Finneran – MDS: Annette spoke on her visit to the Elders Olympics 10 year anniversary in Kempsey. She said it was such an insight – Loud/proud/colours with 250 Elders and 17 teams taking place it is now her project to try and bring this to Macarthur for next year.

Leo Dynevor – MNM: Leo opened his presentation with an outline of his family life – where he came from and what he believes in.

Leo has been with MNM over 2 years and his feelings are very strong on all about creating a better life as he says ‘Come from nothing to be someone to do something’. He spoke about his own 4 children and how he does not want them to have the same dramas as he has had.

Leo’s presentation & open discussion with the attendees covered:

SELF DETERMINATION IN THE LOCAL ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

Empowerment

Opportunity

Choices/Environment

*Education

Society/Systems

*Family Support

Role Models

ID – Pride (must reinforce with your kids/family)

Aboriginal Workers Support

Mainstream Organisations Support

Leo handed out a Flyer with significant Aboriginal dates 2011.

Strategies For Service Providers To Support Self Determination

The first step is to connect and build relationships with the community and so it is essential that service providers are involved in significant events where possible.

Comps

Community Gatherings

Cultural Awareness

Aboriginal Events Working Group

Significant Aboriginal Events – (celebrate with Community involvement – talk about it)

Youth Tournaments (S & R Model)

Lead Agency to run events would be helpful

SC – Managers Network (i.e. write letters to managers explaining the need for staff to be involved in events/meetings etc.)

Issues:

Problems with bosses/managers not allowing time for workers to go out to events etc. (see note above re letters)

Suggestion: Jane & Leo meet with bosses to try and break down barriers.

Suggestion: Workers – look at RDO/Sick days to attend – walk together – celebrate together.

Suggestion: Look at broadening the council group services to come on board and link up.

Suggestion: Maybe a lead agency take one day each and run a celebration for that specific date that way it would be cheaper to do and each agency would own their own project.

Suggestion: Good project to watch is The Aurora Project – Inspiration.

Note: Catering was done by Kallico Catering, an Aboriginal organisation – owned by Daryll & Nene Brown.

Kallico cater for all sorts of meetings/functions and have done work in the following areas;

Indigenous/mainstream

CBA

Corporate Express

AFL

City companies

PACE – Blacktown

Kallico also have a restaurant and take –a-way they also have a 14 seat bus for hire.

Contact details are: Telephone 02 96250046

Fax: 02096250045

www.kallicocatering@bigpond.com.au

Next meeting:

Venue: Muru Nanga Mai
161 Wickfield Circuit
Ambarvale

Time: 10am – 1pm