

MACUNITY

MINUTES

TUESDAY 19th October 2010.

Attendance:

Jo Kerr	Sydney ICC
Fidelma Rogers	AANSW
Karla Bishop	APM
Sharynne Freeman	Argyle Housing
Weis Schmirinya	The Benevolent Society
Birgitte Lund	Sport & Recreation
Veronica Macdonald	Unitingcare Burnside
Doris Slabb	Campbelltown Council
Angela Lonergen	Campbelltown Council
Angela Dion	The Australian Foundation for Disability
Janelle Henson	MWLP
Amber Hope	MWLP
Jane Mclvor	Sector Connect
Leo Dynevor	Muru Nanga Mai

Apologies:

Frances Jamieson - HNSW, Tamara Casey - Youth Solutions, Vanessa Kendall - Macarthur Community Options, Catherine Parker - DPC, Mathew Ferguson - DPC, Mary Mann –Burnside, Greg Squibb – Indigenous Services Officer, Centrelink.

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

Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement to country was read by Angela Lonergan.

Business Arising/General.

MacUnity Flyer handed out to attendees for perusal. Paper colour is Eucalyptus Bark.

Suggestions:

Nominate what Traditional Lands the flyer covers.

Put Flags on flyer.

Note: CSS Revised Promotional material put on table for attendees to take. This also contains details on the new 1300 number for Muru Nanga Mai plus detail on Aboriginal Awareness Course.

Website.

Registration – Question was raised on how to email news/events for circulation. Go to News & Events section, click on the relevant link i.e. Register your Event. Or click ‘Register your Event’ on the home page (right bottom) plus select which network (s) you wish to advertise to.

Still send MacUnity & Managers Network to Jane until 4th November when we will change to new system.

Suggestion: Maybe we look at front page of website for a ‘How to register your Event’. – This suggestion has been taken on board (as above).

MacUnity will receive one Newsletter per week after 4th November, with all relevant info plus links to articles/events on the website.

Better Futures.

Youth Work submission – person for approx 21 hours per week – Submitted incorporating feedback from the Network. Position aims to build and connect current Aboriginal youth

projects/activities to provide a continuum of care and resource other youth initiatives coming from the Network.

Mutually Beneficial Partnerships Program. (SC/Echidna Group).

This is about marrying main stream organisations with smaller Aboriginal organisations to create mutually beneficial support around governance and culturally competency.

If you know of any small or larger groups that this will support please let Jane know A.S.A.P.

The partnerships will be documented to develop a structure that we can use in the future.

Can still take E.O.I. (Expressions of Interest) as we had an ext. to the close of date.

Catering/Venue Costs.

MacUnity consists of approx 6 meetings a year to date Sector Connect has been funding the cost of catering and venue for each meeting. Due to funding ceasing for Sector Development we now need to see if we can have other groups/organisations willing to share this cost.

Suggestion that we have a rotating venue? This could become a problem when we have full attendance at meetings – so really our current venue is ideal in size and the cost is \$46 per meeting.

After discussion we had the following people nominate to take over the costs for one meeting each per year;

Veronica Macdonald – Burnside

Weis Schuiringa – Benevolent Society

Amber Hope – MWLP

Angela Dion – AFFORD

Angela Lonergan – Campbelltown Council.

Please liaise with Jane so that we know who will cover the December meeting.

Catering can be organised by S.C. and the relevant agency invoiced or the organisation can organise it themselves.

Sydney Water.

Sydney Water is offering a range of saving devices for Aboriginal and individuals and community - What else can we do with this offer?

Suggestion: Distribute the offer to your 'Distribution List' and let them make own decision on use.

Talk to Dept of Housing and Indigenous Housing.

Send to all 'Networks'. (SC to ask if ok to send out to Networks).

Other.

Aboriginal Community Assistance Day 1st December 2010. 'How to Pay Debts' + Other Government support available to the Aboriginal Community.

This will be held at the Civic Hall at Campbelltown City Council.

Examples of who will be on site;

RTA – To assist with queries on drivers licence, registration etc.

Centrelink, Ombudsman, State Debt Authority (Fines and new scheme how to pay them off)

Suggestion: Should Tap into Community Events – 'Naidoc Week'.

No other general business/information from last meeting.

Relationship between MacUnity & Aboriginal Jobs Compact.

Discussion around what MacUnity's relationship + role is in relation to the Aboriginal Jobs Compact. Important we are clear to avoid duplication across the networks + to achieve mutual gain.

Not all members of MacUnity attend both meetings but some do.

Fidelma stated MacUnity is the appropriate forum to discuss barriers to employment. A two way flow of information and links is important to both groups.

The Aboriginal Jobs Compact Steering Committee has developed an Action Plan which has four key result areas. These are:

- Structures & Planning - establishing the Steering Committee, membership, meetings, secretariat etc

- Building the Aboriginal Workforce - strengthening the service delivery system to ensure that the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal jobseekers are able to be met, matching people to opportunities and opportunities to people;
- Business Engagement - working with business to ensure that Aboriginal people are able to take up the opportunities that are available and that the needs of business for skilled labour are met;
- Barriers & Challenges - identifying and reducing or eliminating barriers to Aboriginal engagement, aspirations, education, training and employment both within the outside the employment and education systems.

Barriers & Challenges.

It was agreed MacUnity could support the network by looking at particular barriers to employment.

Barriers to Employment will become a standing agenda item for MacUnity to be used by the Jobs Compact when necessary.

Wies Schuiringa (Benevolent Society) was keen to look at sporting opportunities as a potential partner to provide a soft entry draw card for people to provide pre employment ideas. Birgitte from Sport & Rec was supportive of this as it can provide a soft entry point for Aboriginal people into job training and education too. It is important that the Jobs Services Australia (JSAs) is involved in this.

Action: Janelle (MWLP) to provide Fidelma and Birgitte with a list of the PAGES meetings organised by Centrelink. Sport and Rec. to arrange to attend a meeting to promote the courses they have to offer. Fidelma also to organise for Sport and Rec to attend the Aboriginal Jobs Compact Steering Committee to discuss the above approach.

MTC Work Solutions offered some funds to run camps and some soft entry type of support at the last meeting of MacUnity but have not heard anymore since – to be followed up.

Sport & Recreation are funded – would be good to organize a referral service for coaches. Could that be part of the Jobs Compact? Ricky will be going to Macquarie Fields and Links meetings so maybe he could mention.

People that are trained coaches through Sport & Rec. – How do we use them and their new skills more effectively as there are numerous projects paying external coaches for activities?

Contact with local coach of the course. Can we get a copy of names/coaches? Birgitte said to contact her or Ricky if a coach is required and she will use the list held by Sport & Rec. to match.

Australian Sports Commission has names of some people that have ticked the box to do work for others.

Question: Anything else that MacUnity can do to help Sport & Recreation?

Follow up on getting information through to other meetings.

Minto Employment Group – is through Minto Access.

Workshop – Aim to

– Recap on member's role in MacUnity

_ Develop a collaborative approach to Aboriginal Youth Support.

Sheets handed out with 6 questions and attendees split into groups of 3 to discuss and note down responses.

Sheets collected at end of allocated time and responses will be listed for next meeting.

Suggestion: That this sheet be sent out to the whole MacUnity membership for completion by members not present.

Collaborative Approach to Aboriginal Youth Support – Scenarios.

As time had run out this will be held over until next meeting.

Other Business.

Amber from MWLP left some business cards & leaflets – anyone wanting to use their website please send info to her by email.

Angela Lonergan – Fishers Ghost Festival – wanting groups to march with the Aboriginal community. Wear T/Shirts in colours of Red, Black or Yellow – show a sense of unity.

Aboriginal Advisory Staff will have a float and the Aboriginal community have been invited to walk with them.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 14th December 2010.

10am – 1pm

Eaglevale Leisure Centre (Library)

Cnr. Feldspar Rd & Emerald Drive, Eaglevale.

