

MACUNITY

Minutes
Tuesday, 30 June 2009
10am – 1pm
Sector Connect
Welling Drive, Mount Annan

Attendance:

Jane McIvor	Sector Connect
Kristen Briggs	The Benevolent Society
Rebecca Whitford	Youth Solutions
Sue McMans	The Benevolent Society
Mary Mann	Uniting Care Burnside – The Drum
Hannan Abouloukme	Attorney General Department (Forum Sentencing Campbelltown Court)
Tracey Cremming	Attorney Generals Department
Samantha Madden	Marryfields Day Recovery Centre
Christine Sedgwick	Young Carers Program, Anglicare
Ivy Chen	SWS Young Carers Program – Anglicare
Silvana Baute	Northcott Disability Services
Alana Moffett	Benevolent Society CFWH – Aboriginal Women’s Health Services
Francis Jamieson	Housing NSW
Todd Williams	AES
Leah Weber	YAPA
Kate LaBasso	Campbelltown City Council
Lou Baccaella	Consultant
Patrick Vasquez	Macarthur Disability Services
Melissa Pasifiki Tonga	Campbelltown Family Support Service –NABU
Sarah Pearce	CFSS – NABU
Leo Dynevor	Muru Nanga Mai
Birgitte Lund	NSW Sports & Recreation
Jo Kerr	ICC
Denise Pritchard	Camden Council
Greg Squibb	CentreLink
Jacqui Baird	Volunteer (Sector Connect)
Cheryl Woodall	SSWAHS
Gaynor Schoenfeld	Benevolent Society (Wheely Good Fun)
Samantha Madden	Mayfields

Apologies; Alison Croal (Smith Family), Alison Wood (SWAHS), Simone Czech (DoCs), Warunee Nuij (The Smith Family), Debbie McCall (Campbelltown Council), Debbie Graham (Campbelltown Family Support Services), Andrea Hansen (DAA), Wendy Dempster (Community Memer), Carolyn Hughes (TAC), Lisa Murphy (Office of Fair Trading), Gavin Mater (AES)

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

Welcome and acknowledgement given by Leo.

Jane said the meeting was a discussion of further work in the Aboriginal community and the journey.

Patrick (Macarthur Disability Services) announced the good news that a tender for funding "HACC" Aboriginal Officer had been approved.

Minutes of 21 April meeting were distributed for those who did not receive.

The focus of this meeting is – Youth and a catch up with MacUnity.

Direction - Why are we here?
Role of MacUnity

Bridging and building the gap with Aborigines and mainstream. It is apparent that Youth Services are not utilised and there are barriers. Need to focus on young people.

Business Arising

1. Feedback from Aboriginal Experience Cultural Appreciation Course.

Those who attended agreed that it was informative and relevant. It was a good perspective of their work, experiences and very real.

An offer has been made by MacUnity to run a special course on the 5th November for the Aboriginal Experience Cultural Appreciation Course. If you are interested you need to let MacUnity know and register.

2. Mapping Network and Aboriginal Services List

Lists were distributed.

Coordination Centre (handed out) Collations distributed.

Opportunities to Bridge the Gap in Services Provision

1. Reconciliation Action Plan

- Relationships start here
- Develop relationships
- Respect
- Opportunity
- Ground fertile to start doing other work
- Would there be a benefit in doing a plan?
- What are people's feelings about this?
 - Reconciliations NSW
 - Good to get someone from the local community

- Reconciliation barometer sent out and is interesting. Important to stop Aboriginal disadvantages. Developed by Reconciliation Australia.
2. NAIDOC Week - 6 July 2009
 - Samson & Delilah (Camden Council) Narellan Cinema - 8th July.
 - Celebration of the Airds Youth Centre - 10th July.
 3. Aboriginal Resource & Pathways Website (NDS/Aboriginal Carers Consortium)
 - 'Don't duplicate partnership'
 - Official Carers Consortium (new name – Aboriginal Carers Support Network)
 - Website well worth looking at (www.nds.org.au/nsw/aboriginal.html)
 4. SWS Koori Interagency
 - Don't duplicate
 - Handed everything we had and they built on that – they have a community directory.
 5. Other opportunities
 - Healthwise – Closing the gap (1st September)
 - Face the Facts – Jane has plenty of copies of publication launched in January 2009 if anyone is interested.
 - Camden Library – "Can your Fine"– donations to Muru Nanga Mai
 - Benevolent Society – Big Book Dress-Up Party – free community event

Aboriginal Youth Services – What can MacUnity build on and address?

Going Home Video

Please note the video "GOING HOME" has not officially been launched, so cannot be presented at this meeting. To be shown at the next meeting in August.

Feedback Making Tracks Forum

Leah gave a run down on The Making Tracks Project.

It had two stages, with the aim to build access to youth services for Aboriginal young people in the Metro South West Sydney Region. Funded by the DoCS Better Futures Strategy. Stage one was a one day forum held on June 16th at UWS Bankstown organised in collaboration by The Echidna Group – Indigenous Research & Development Consultancy, and The Youth Action & Policy Association (YAPA), with the guidance of a steering committee. Stage two is a small grants program where services are required to work together in developing a project to assist them engage Aboriginal young people to their services, utilising the knowledge they gained at the forum. There is \$5000 available to each LGA, however the amount is flexible if more than one LGA are working together. The applications were originally due on July 3rd, however this date has been extended to July 17th.

Leah clarified the intention of the project and apologised for not effectively communicating with MacUnity about the project and for holding the forum on the day that MacUnity had scheduled their June meeting. She has sent information to Jane for distribution to MacUnity.

The group discussed that the forum was good for networking, but some services weren't there. The eight services that were there may have got something out of it.

YAPA is looking at employing a project officer for a small grants project (2-3 months). This will be an admin role. It was discussed by the group if the position could be filled by an aboriginal.

Mapping of existing youth services and how Aboriginal friendly they are.

- Agencies in Macarthur regional, meeting this Thursday at Campbelltown Council
- What are the services available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in Macarthur
 - How do we get engagement?
 - Break down the barriers and engage young people
- Leo to email everyone a list of the youth services in the region. Aboriginal Women's Health Service needs to be added to the list. Leo to get details. Accommodation missing, ie. Picton St Vincent de Paul – 12-24 year olds – supported housing. Others – Stepping Stones, Harold House and DoCs (have to be under the care of DoC's to get in)
- Are young people happy to use, are they accommodating the needs of young people? Sometimes not happy because of the rules etc. Need to get them in and then direct to services before they get to the point of needing accommodation.
- How to move forward? It is an ongoing problem and process – how do we get started?
- Lou said in Youth Services some are doing well and others are lacking.
- Safety is an issue – do the kids feel comfortable, are the services adequately equipped.
- Are they open to all users, so one group is not intimidated by another.
- There is tension between other groups, ie. community.
- Needs to be more user friendly for youth.
- Soft entry points – not many aboriginal people using.
- Develop and make attractive to aboriginal young people.
- What is the best approach? ie; service provision
- Need their own space
- Services don't ask young people what they want or need. (ie. Midnight basketball – huge attendance)

- Benevolent Society – Youth starts to segregate at 12 to 13 years old; issues need to be dealt with earlier, not in high school where they are already influenced by peers.
- 3 – 6 years repair breakdown and segregations.
- Aboriginal Specific, not just working for mainstream – see both sides. Space to identify their own culture, before they integrate with other cultures. Need culture first for stability, then integrate.
- There are lots of gaps, community build up support, but keep getting knocked down. Result of mainstream service being involved.

Aboriginal Youth need –

- . stability
- . own culture
- . rebuild trust
- . the more pushed the more they will pull away

Own area;

- . Control and create that space – a home away from home. Then we can provide them the services.

WILMA has more drop-in now, but it took a lot of work. Even as a mainstream service, they had to be patient, not always going to follow the rules. Need to be flexible.

Get it on the Agenda

Mainstream needs to be doing something about it – bringing in aboriginal community and accommodate their needs. “WORK WITH THEM”.

Discussion Groups – gaps/barriers to engagement

1. Youth - Their needs

- Ask young people what they want – without empty promises
- Own space – Housing NSW – models in other areas eg. Miller
 - Central
 - Campbelltown
 - Land Council
- Leadership and direction
- Safety- Create safe aboriginal Youth space
- Space
- Confidentiality
- Acknowledgement of issues – shared memories
- Understanding family structure with Aboriginal family households

- Safe transport (services to provide)
- Own Koori space – locations Airds, Rosemeadow etc.

2. Gaps/Barriers/needs

- Importance of consults within Aboriginal workers
- Cultural shyness
- Mens business and women's business still applies to Aboriginal youth
- Make identified positions
- Specific days – aboriginal youth
- Housing NSW
- Partnerships
- Events
- National indigenous cadets (register on as employer)
- Look to fill staff vacancies by advertising in places such as Koori Network
- Promote their services more throughout the Aboriginal community
- Include annual strategic planning
- Start thinking about aboriginal young people as a part of their client group
- Design programs to be specifically cohesive
- Work in partnership with aboriginal services
- Makes services more user friendly (indigenous) flexible
- Cultural learning from staff and youth
- Aboriginal specific Youth services, eg. CYS
- Issues with mentors eg. Men/families
- Need leadership and direction
- Informal opportunities
- ATSI positions in main service
- National indigenous Cadet program, info needed to be sent out
- Limited strategic planning in youth services – increase to address population including ATSI specific needs.
- Education – high turnover of staff
- Ownership up
- Promote mainstream projects
- If work not done with young people will go backwards
- Find and engage ATSI worker for advice (but don't know everything) understand family structure and affects of community.
- Understand Cultural issues
- Youth services consistently engage (whole family)
- open honest – develop trust and respect

3. Potential areas for better engagement

- Run activities that are Aboriginal cultural activities NOT ONLY for aboriginal youth (eg. Art and dance and storytelling)
- Partnerships/networks (ATSI Community re: Young people)
- Look at what other ATSI areas are doing for youth
- Services to engage with community (engage with elders, aboriginal networks, get involved in celebrations) need consistency,
- ATSI Advisory Group (better use of in organisation)
- DoCS funding body to be accountable

- Respect of ATSI protocols and roles
- Nabu Youth Council (DAA)
- Funding engagements – service specs/data/stats
- Make youth services accountable
- Make ATS Youth a priority – engagement, relationships, roles of management, education
- Advertise ATSI networks (not only ATSI specific) recurrent/ongoing – management role would drive
- Work as ATSI Community
- Funded for ATSI – performance indicators
- Use ATSI specific units of govt.
- more than 1 advisory group
- funding engagements – service specs/data/stats
- funded for ATSI performance indicators, use ATSI specific units of govt.
- Develop skills/experience of young people and showcase
- Use of events – promote/encourage participation (organisations/community) eg. Croc Fest, Disco)

Discussion for next agenda

- Youth services
- What do we need to tell?
- Youth services
- Small groups to discuss.

Next Meeting;

Tuesday 27 October 2009
 10.00 am to 1.00 pm
 Eaglevale Leisure Centre (library)
 Emerald Drive
 Eaglevale