

# MacUnity

**Minutes**  
**Tuesday 15 December 2009**  
**Sector Connect**  
**351 Welling Drive Mt Annan**

## **ATTENDENCE:**

Amanda Baxter	HNSW – Learning & Employment
Rebecca Whitford	Youth Solutions
Alison Croall	HNSW – Human Services
Lisa Murphy	World Vision Australia
Leo Dynevor	Mur Nanga Mai
Mary Mann	Uniting Care Burnside
Regina Nagy	Traxside
Kristen Briggs	The Benevolent Society
Tony Scholes	Liverpool City Council
Denise Pritchard	Camden Council
Kim McCausland	W.I.L.M.A
Alana Moffett	Bensoc ALIHS
Leanne Hunter	AG
Wies Schuilnga	Benevolent Society
Jane McIvor	Sector Connect
Jeanne Duffy	Sector Connect

## **APOLOGIES:**

Greg Squibb	Centrelink
Carolyn Hughes	TAC
Kelly Watson	AGD – Forum Sentencing
Frances Jamieson	HNSW
Debbie McCall	Campbelltown Council
Jo Kerr	ICC
Birgitte Lund	Sport & Rec
Silvana Baute	Northcott
Warunee Nuij	Smith Family
Patricia Ceulen	Sector Connect

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

## **Welcome to Country/Acknowledgement to Country**

- Discussion regarding what is to be presented to MYSN February planning day. Decided that Aboriginal Youth Services only be presented at the March meeting. Minuted in General Business.

## Opening Discussion

- TAFE and the Community Services training package consultation – discussion was held regarding the difficulties faced by Aboriginal youth in mainstream TAFE education. Points of discussion focused on disadvantaged youth finding the formality of TAFE a challenge. Suggestions raised to deal with this issue included: The necessity for achievable outcomes to build self confidence; flexibility around timing and numbers; an open day to introduce aboriginal to TAFE; a Koori friendly environment with a support worker; TAFE needs to be user friendly; career focus in years 10, 11 and 12 with alternate opportunities for kids not at school; that there is no aboriginal profile at Campbelltown TAFE.

It was pointed out that there is no incentive for some kids and that not all kids come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

MTC at Minto in conjunction with Youth Connections are running an 8 week transition program.

Mark Egan at Liverpool runs the youth council and was suggested as a source of information in this area. It was also suggested that UWS might be a good point of contact as they have 15 aboriginal people completing doctorates. Also an invitation should be extended to aboriginal teachers at TAFE to raise their issues.

## Koori Flow Update

- Leo Dynevor reported that there are 3 barbeques being held this week to bring the focus back on to youth centres at Airds, Tahmoor and Narellan. There are 8 workshops starting in February and Mythology Day on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of February and cultural awareness for aboriginal youth.

Leo reported that there is a good feeling generally and the Camden High is on board. Youth workers reported that the kids know the events are on.

They are looking for as many opportunities as possible with a performance in NAIDOC and Youth Week.

It was suggested that there are opportunities for women only dancers, Y'andellora, already i.e. W.I.L.M.A.

Community participation and Elder communication are seen as some of the biggest issues for involving the community.

## General Business

- Indigenous games are open to all children between 5 and 12 but would like indigenous kids to participate.
- Jane McIvor reported that a new board had been appointed to Muru Nanga Mai. They now have 3 workers Leo, Chad and Donna with the CSS program – referral service – in the setup phase.

- Accidentally Counselling training will be run in March 2010 with up to 16 places available. TAFE will be facilitating the training and it will be open to the indigenous community and then offered across the sector. There was some discussion regarding the level of training required with the suggestion that there could be entry level and the level 2 more involved training. Support for attendees was suggested and whether or not combined male/female groups would be an issue.
- World Vision will be running a Youth Leadership public speaking program over 8 weeks in 2 hour sessions and are looking for an Aboriginal facilitator. After discussion it was suggested that they draw on local resources. It was pointed out that St Pats and St Gregs catholic schools both have aboriginal populations.
- Midnight Basketball had 76 players with session 2 just finishing. It will continue next year, 2010, when school resumes. It was queried whether or not a bus might be available for transport. This looked likely through Volunteering Macarthur.

Part of the program is 'No Jump – No Workshop' for at risk youth. The participants were surveyed as to what type of workshops they would like and asked for 'Cultural Awareness'. There was general discussion as to how this might be provided. It was suggested that kids facilitating to kids with guidance from workers might be the best approach. This could be a great opportunity for the aboriginal kids to step up as the traditional land owners. The current breakdown of participants is 70% Islanders, 10% Aboriginal and 20% Mainstream. Suggested that World Vision might be able to incorporate their structure re the public speaking program. 'Rhett' suggested as ideal to get involved in this. The strong kids at Thomas Riddell and Ambarvale would be good to get involved. Commonalities should be targeted between the groups.

- Needs of Aboriginal Youth/Relationships and Connections

Question posed: What do we want to tell MYSN we need for Aboriginal Youth?

Rather than present to MYSN it was suggested that engaging them would be a more successful approach. Major gaps in youth services need to be addressed – funding doesn't guarantee that aboriginal needs are met.

Stonequarry suggested as a great place for a youth service. The Land Council should utilise. 'Robyn' to be contacted regarding expectations for the youth.

Campbelltown Youth Services funding sought before Christmas should be finalised in March.

Chad Ritchie (Muru Nanga Mai), Sarah (Campbelltown Family Support), Leo Dynevor (MacUnity) suggested to attend to engage MYSN.

The Koori Flow project the first time some MYSN members had ever heard of MacUnity. Suggested that a spot analysis approach be adopted for engaging MYSN. Specific information that should be included: how to work together; background to MacUnity; what are the youth issues (not necessarily what the parents perceive); how to bridge the gaps and meet the needs.

The aim is to provide training for established workers, to access aboriginal youth and then to work better with aboriginal workers so as not to duplicate or miss issues.

Questions arising: How do we set up a sustainable dialogue with the kids? It was suggested that the results of last year's 'Uni' visit be utilised. It was reported that it was an excellent day but there was no follow up. 'Ron' to be contacted for feedback. Juvenile Justice could be an avenue to explore. Perhaps workers could get feedback from the kids (Community Restorative Centre).

If these needs have already been identified then the February meeting was suggested as an information share. Bring all available information to the meeting.

Re MYSN step 1- tell them about MacUnity

Step 2- Bring together what we already know, identify and contact people involved in both or known to either with interest and or opportunity.

Be clear on the dream- Space for Aboriginal kids and a Youth Worker.

It was noted that Wollondilly does not have a youth space let alone an aboriginal youth space. Lack of support from council's is a big issue.

Chad's role is targeting children from 0 to 17 which will require him engaging the community. Most funding for youth is 12 to 25 groups. It was suggested that maybe next year Community Builders might be an option for funding

There is lots of 'stuff' going on but it is not well coordinated. Funding is focusing on mainstream with minority group an afterthought.

Jane McIvor is to contact the Land Council to discuss how we can work together. Issues from both sides should be brought to the table.

- February Meeting

Consolidate what is already known re consultation for you people, projects that are already out there, comparisons between consultations with youth.

Next meeting

17 February 2010

10am – 1pm

Eaglevale Leisure Centre (library)

Cnr Feldspar Road & Emerald Drive

Eaglevale