

MANAGERS NETWORK

Minutes Friday 26 February 2010

ATTENDANCE:

Eileen Huxtable	Camden Community Connections
Kylie Richardson	St Vincent de Paul
Debbie Roberts	Youth Solutions
Lee Rowell	CLW
Mark Pepping	Wingecarribee Shire Council
Mark Poplin	IWI
Sharon Mestern	Odyssey House McGrath Foundation
Gloria Bates	MAP – MTC Work Solutions
Kim McCausland	W.I.L.M.A
Eric Rode	RDA Sydney
Jane McIvor	Sector Connect (Director)
Jeanne Duffy	Sector Connect (Minutes)

APOLOGIES:

Debbie Graham	Campbelltown Family Support
Stephanie Isvik	Bridges For Learning
Kate McInerney	Catholic Care
Peter Presdee	Nagle Centre
Judith Taylor	MDSI
Paul Harkin	Ben Soc
Kylie Richardson	St Vincent de Paul

Chair Person: Kim McCausland

Welcome to Country/Acknowledgement to Country

Introduction:

Jane McIvor chaired the meeting in the absence of Kim McCausland. Jane updated the meeting re strategic issues in the area:

Reduction of red tape at the Government Level

Actions Agreed For Short Term Implementation;

- 1 *Tendering/Selection*
 - 1.1 *reduce information required from NGOs in tendering process – where information has already been collected by agencies through tendering or monitoring processes, including external QI (e.g. ISO9000)*

- 1.2 *develop and apply standard questions across all agencies for NGO tenders on capability/management/financial viability*
- 1.3 *introduce word limits on tenders*
- 1.4 *introduce e-tendering (optional), and ensure information requested in tenders does not compromised the e-process*

- 2 *Contract Management (including Acquittal/Monitoring)*
 - 2.1 *introduce common thresholds for audit requirements and consolidated audits supported by project based income and expenditure statements, and harmonise those thresholds with the Associations Incorporations 2009 Act*
 - 2.2 *accept audited statements from all professional accounting or auditing bodies that meet Australian auditing standards*
 - 2.3 *implement mutual recognition of other agencies (and external QI) monitoring activities for core capabilities*
 - 2.4 *standardise insurance requirements in funding agreements*
 - 2.5 *Introduce (optional) standard chart of accounts (reflecting outcome of COAG project).*

'Contribution of Non For Profit Sector'

Produced by the Productivity Commission and seen as an excellent resource. Publication available either in hard copy or PDF from www.pc.gov.au or phone 03 9653 2244 / email maps@pc.gov.au

Preparation for State Elections

In preparation for State Elections NCOSS in partnership with the regional forums and state peaks are currently developing a state election campaign to advocate for some of the significant gaps within the sector. It will be produced in 3 formats (PR version to very detailed) and can be used by any services to present needs to local MPs. The aim is to influence policy across all the parties by using local / regional specific examples to support broad election needs. It is important for the campaign to focus on a few key issues relevant to the region rather than taking too much on and getting nowhere. Jane is to check with NCOSS when information will be released to be presented at the next meeting.

Associations and Corporations Act

NCOSS has been representing the NGO sector in advocating for changes that may negatively impact services. There is concern for smaller groups as a more business style approach is being adopted. There are harsh penalties including imprisonment for non compliance. NCOSS / PIAC tried to work in conjunction with Industrial Relations to develop training but Industrial Relations are keen to run their own training. NCOSS / PIAC are however developing 'fact sheets' that will be circulated through Sector Connect's networks when available. Funded NGOs will probably already meet the compliance rules through their funding requirements but if organisations have small community groups e.g. sport, art, support etc in their area it is vital these services receive all factsheets and information.

Jobs Australia

Jobs Australia is running seminars regarding the new Fair Work Act. Sector Connect has negotiated one to be held in Campbelltown on 18 May 2010. Implementation of the various changes is to occur from now to July 2011. A 'fact sheet' would be helpful. Some changes include reduced redundancy packages and no yearly increments. ASU is fighting a wage case in Court to increase the SACS Award. The network is to keep an eye on this issue.

Keep Them Safe

KTS was introduced on 27 January 2010 and overall the network was not clear on how it was being implemented and their respective roles. The NGO Capacity Building Project has not yet been introduced and limited funding has been rolled out to the NGO sector despite an increase in referrals due to the changes to significant harm indicators. The government Child Wellbeing Units (in particular the Police) have been contacting local NGOs to get information on where to refer. It seems that referring agents don't know what agencies are available. HSNet is being used to provide information but this has not been widely promoted through the network.

It was suggested that anyone contacted for referrals should keep stats particularly if they aren't part of the 'child and family' network. Jane is willing to feedback this information to the Peak KTS Forum "Keeping Accountable" that involves senior officers of KTS in the discussions.

It also looks as though CSGP will be split with family and children's services going under KTS and Community Strengthening services going under Community Builders. There are serious concerns about the lack of funds in community strengthening and prevention. Rationale for this split is to be clearer about the role of the organisations and to more accurately measure the impact of these services.

It was suggested that a strong database for reporting across regions is required. Other issues include the time it takes to be involved in such major changes and advocate appropriately and that Aboriginal women with children removed has increase with virtually no service referral prior now.

Sector Connect Training

A copy of the Sector Connect Training Calendar was circulated [Sector Connect Training Calendar](#)

Kim McCausland took over the chair

Chairperson

The role of the chairperson was discussed. The chairperson is required to meet with Jane McIvor approximately 2 weeks prior to the meeting to make the agenda.

Chair Allocation:	April	no volunteers
	June	Mark Pepping Wingecarribee Shire Council
	August	Debbie Roberts Youth Solutions
	October	Sharon Mestern Odyssey House
	December	TBC

Collaborative Planning

After discussion it was suggested that a 'Z' Card would be a more efficient way of marketing the 'Manger's Network' rather than a pamphlet. Jane to look at developing one for easy promotion of the network

Eric Rode suggested using funding providers to forward information to NGO's.

Members of the committee need to chase up any contacts they might have including the following:

- Housing
- Macarthur Disability Services
- Anglicare
- Harmony House
- Mental Health Promotion Network
- Dept Premier & Cabinet – Keep them safe Coordinator
- Macarthur Legal Centre
- SWARTA
- Argyle Housing

Cross Collaborative Meeting Feedback

General discussion on the following:

- Jane suggested that people attending other meetings and networks could report back to the Manager's Network. This will prevent the over burden of too many meetings to attend. Jane will circulate a template for Managers to list meetings they attend.
- There was discussion regarding resource sharing for Managers. Membership of Sector Connect was also discussed.
- NCOSS are currently attempting to develop a document explaining what makes up the community sector in a simple format for lobbying. TBA.
- It was suggested that rather than joining a host of organisations to get support e.g. Management Support On-line that Managers should make use of each other's expertise and knowledge. She also suggested mapping successful services on governance, then on groups, then human resources. Jane to look at a template to do this.
- A template to be developed for Managers to find out what information people have to share and their areas of expertise to be circulated. Examples include redundancy information, succession plans etc.
- Eric Rode pointed out that sometimes it can be difficult for Managers to go to their Management Committees for support.
- It was suggested the role of a Manager should include Sales and Marketing but that philosophies of an organisation can influence management style.
- With new Health reforms there is a possibility that a lot of small organisations will disappear. Small groups uniting under one umbrella was suggested.

- The problem of not being able to access the head of some larger organisation, even from within the organisation itself this can be an issue. In any other forum the heads are accessible.

Templates and documents to be developed to begin increased collaborative support and work practices to be presented at the April meeting.

Meeting Closed 12.00

Next meeting: 30 April 2010
9.30am-12noon
Sector Connect,
351 Welling Drive
Mount Annan
with a peer support meeting 12noon – 2pm for any participants
that are interested.

Rotating Chair: No volunteers for April only