

MANAGER'S NETWORK

Minutes

Friday 29 October 2010

ATTENDANCE:

Jane McIvor	Sector Connect
Jeanne Duffy	Sector Connect
Gloria Bates	MTC
Debbie Wilson	Wingecarribee Council
Jane Lowe	Work Ventures
Angela Lonergan	Campbelltown Council
Kylie Richardson	Macarthur Ozanam Centre
Mark Populin	Wingecarribee Interchange
Judith Taylor	MDSI
Geraldine Dean	Youth Solutions
Brendan Flynn	Odyssey House

APOLOGIES:

Debbie Roberts	Youth Solutions
Mark Pepping	Wingecarribee Council
Sharon Mestern	Odyssey House
Susan Chapman	Burnside
Helen Byfield-Flemming	Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living
Sandra Templeton	FOCUS
Greg Duffy	Community Links Wollondilly
Wies Schuiringa	Benevolent Society
Yvonne Porter	Campbelltown Family Support

Meeting opened 9.30am

Welcome to Country/Acknowledgement to Country

1 NCOSS Presentation

Jane McIvor introduced Catherine Mahony from NCOSS who delivered a presentation on NCOSS' role. The report can be found at www.sectorconnect.org.au/mndocs (internal documents)

Discussion arising:

- SC, on behalf of the Managers Network, will send a formal request to NCOSS to run a sector specific seminar on the new Associations Incorporations Act 2009 - Department of Fair Trading running their own seminars and only funded NCOSS for a few but it does not address the specific needs of the sector.
- FONGA tries to coordinate peaks across major issues. There is a Compact between FONGA and the NSW Government (Working Together for NSW). FONGA Priorities for 2010 were:

- Profile of the Sector
 - Workforce and the Sector
 - Improving Access and Quality
 - Working with Aboriginal Communities
 - Social Inclusion
- Measurement of service delivery- Evidence based research should be enough to evaluate service delivery. Quality assurance should be enough.
 - There is a changing landscape – Competitive rather than collaborative.
 - Service providers look for the better deal when becoming members of peaks. Peaks can't force peaks like National Disability Services (NDS) to join FONGA / NCOSS therefore ADHC not connected as well across the sector or region. It is not NCOSS' role to coerce organisation to join.
 - Division of disability and Community services as NDS has large amounts of funding to work specifically with disability and aged.
 - The Government wants to deal with fewer providers- this means more money to less players with services cut out.
 - Generic funding policy from NCOSS – Tendering process promotes client ownership.
 - There is strength in the collective – Agencies need to work collaboratively
 - Election Strategy - 'Vote 1 Fairness NSW' platform
- Social Justice
 - Public and politicians understand importance of issue
- Resourcing, forming and building relationships.
 - There is a wealth of data held by the Government. Funding data could be used for the sector instead of employing consultants to do additional research.
 - Sector Connect's relationship with the peaks:
 - Whole areas not represented by peaks
 - Some peaks have no funding
 - Sector Connect's relationship is vital to NCOSS.
 - Sector Connect feeds what is happening in the area up the chain
 - Sector Connect is a member of FONGA
 - Regional Peaks get together quarterly chaired by NCOSS
 - There are 90 peak organisations in NSW
 - Politicians need to be approached with solutions
 - Recent hardline approach to funding with Communities NSW and FaHCSIA taking money back and not allowing roll over as previously allowed.
 - Could this become a trend?

2 Information Share

2.1 Marsdens (Law Group)

Coming to the December meeting and presenting to the group

2.2 Parliamentary sitting on Future Food Forum

2.3 Homelessness

2.4 CALD funding progressively diminishing

2.5 Campbelltown Family Support Xmas Party

Team building opportunity. The suggestion is for Sector Connect to work with a different provider each year to provide a celebration for the sector. Campbelltown Family Support suggested the idea and is hosting this year in the guise of a Xmas party. The network was really supportive of the concept but suggested that a function around Australia Day / early January in the form of a less expensive picnic would be preferred by the network as too much happening this time of year. SC to feed this back to Family Support

2.6 Housing Meeting in Airds

Issues were raised including:

- high Aboriginal resident numbers
- Grief, loss, stress with relocation and redevelopment
- How do we engage the community in the process of redevelopment and then tell them they have to move out of the area.
- People staying/people leaving need support
- Airds/Bradbury have a high Aboriginal population and need Aboriginal specific help
- There are benefits to community involvement as they are dealt with honestly
- Claymore has a plan – February set to release
- 18 month lead time helps with resistance
- Under occupancy and over 65 will be moving currently to free up housing.

2.7 Funding issues

MDSI reported that all grants finish at the end of financial year and the agency doesn't know what is going to happen yet. Sector Connect reported that they had 2 area assistance grants finish this year but is trying to establish business relationship to help bolster funds.

2.8 Community Builders

Funding due to open soon. Funds available: up to \$300,000 over 3 years. Last year a lot of money went to Western Sydney not South West Sydney. Closing date 8 December. Information sessions 2.00pm Campbelltown Interagency. Other sessions and Aboriginal specific sessions to follow. Must be a new service. Will consider same service/project in a different area.

Meeting Closed 12.00

Next meeting: 17 December 2010
Sector Connect
351 Welling Drive
Mt Annan