

MANAGER'S NETWORK

Minutes

Friday 2 July 2010

ATTENDANCE:

Mark Pepping	Wingecarribee Shire Council (Chair)
Margaret Mckay	Argyle Community Housing
Lily Roberts-Everett	Camden Community Connections
Louise Pilon	Home Start Wingecarribee
Stephanie Isvik	Bridges for Learning
Gloria Bates	MTC Work Solutions MAP
Kylie Richardson	Macarthur Ozanam Centre
Judith Taylor	MDSI
Greg Duffy	Community Links Wollondilly
Jane McIvor	Sector Connect

APOLOGIES:

Barbara Dent	AES
Debbie Roberts	Youth Solutions
Sandra Templeton	Focus
Helen Byfield-Fleming	Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living
Jane Lowe	WorkVentures
Mark Populin	Wingecarribee Interchange
Catherine Parker	DPC
Regina Nagy	Traxide
Mathew Ferguson	DPC
Sue Dignan	Macarthur Legal Centre
Gay Hardwick	Wollondilly Council

Meeting opened 9.30am

Welcome to Country/Acknowledgement to Country

Discussion

- Chair for December meeting - ?
- Promotion: 'Z' Card – in the process for being developed and reported as very successful in the Wingecarribee area where a Zcard is in use advertising youth services. Some people are taking flyers for interagency meetings. Community Service Section in local newspaper, again Wingecarribee using this method to promote youth services. The new website for Sector Connect cited as an excellent way to advertise and forward information.

- New Members to Network - Question asked 'Are you training someone to be a manager? These people could be mentored onto Manager's Network. Mark Ferguson, Premier and Cabinet, 'Keep them Safe' coordinator is keen to attend, unfortunately unable to attend this meeting. It has been identified that the profile of the network needs to be raised. What has been advocated and what has been achieved needs to be identified to establish the network as successful. A review of terms of reference may be advantageous to set a platform to track Network's influence. Whether the terms of reference need to be reviewed was discussed as this has been done many times.

Questions:

- What is wanted? To effect change at a local and government level;
- Does the network help Sector Connect do the work?
- What is NCOSS doing for the region?
- How does the network want NCOSS to represent it?

Commitment is required. A suggestion was to invite NCOSS to a future meeting to discuss NCOSS' role and how it could support the network by escalating issues. Also important to have a standing agenda item "Advocacy Issues (to inform relevant peaks). There are a large number of peaks at state and federal level and so it is important to understand their individual roles. It is part of Sector Connect's role to develop these relationships and understand their roles.

Trainee manager's could be utilized to help carry out some of the work. The Regional issue's need to be identified and a process to achieve an outcome put into place. Issues are not being identified through local and government data. Publishable research needs to be undertaken but how is this to be done? Wingecarribee reported that the police forward stats on their area to Council to raise awareness of priority issues. The Region needs to identify what are the gaps in the area. Councils' Social Plans would be a good place to start. MACROC is another area to get stats as their data is updated very efficiently. DEEWR also has reliable data. Council's strategic plans utilise census data. Jane McIvor to organise a presentation by Glen Capuano from .id on interpreting the trends and issues that will be hitting the region into the future. The gaps and issues 'list' should be started from this presentation. Noted that census details are already 2 years out of date once available.

- Jane McIvor reported there is major advocacy occurring regarding Claymore redevelopment announcement. Manager Network members were not aware of this issue and discussed where help and support might be available to Jane. Members are to think about advocacy issues that can be brought to the meeting.

Issue: FACSIA fund emergency relief but over the past 8 years have never allocated funding for this even though MDSI provides emergency funding and the recipients are the most logical to receive it.

- **New agenda standing agenda item – ‘funding frustrations and issues’.**
Premiers Dept attendance will be helpful with these issues.

Issue: Families NSW are not allocating funds to adequately cover Wingecarribee. This would be an issue for FAMS rather than NCOSS. Donna and Greg have become local reps for South West for FAMS and are keen to advocate on behalf of members in the region.

- Discussion around where different issues should be taken. It depends on the issue.
- There hasn't been a great response to the group supervision initiative however this was not seen as a reflection on the idea. Attachment 1.

Question: Is it within the scope of Manager's Network to source funding for supervision?

- Sector Connect website is going live from the 1st week of August and launched at the AGM in October. There will be full access for the period up until the 28 October after which sections will be sealed to financial members only. The Web designer has been contracted to keep Sector Connect high on the google list. Virtual back office support will be available with not for profit pricing. Insurance, law, admin, bookkeeping/finance office supplies etc will be offered as preferred suppliers for NFP. It is important the pricing and structure of this service is properly researched prior to commencement. Jane currently talking to KMPG and United Way about sourcing a business analysis pro bono as SC was unsuccessful in the Back Office Project under Community Builders.
- State Election Campaigning – the full document has been emailed to the network. Jane McIvor wants to prioritise the 'redevelopment and housing' (state level). She suggested it would be more effective to 'hammer' a few issues rather than spreading thin over many.
- Associations and Incorporations Act – Changes to the Act – be aware that there are new penalties which might result in small unfunded groups being liable for more than they realise. An education campaign is coming. Changes effective from July 2010. See attached 2.
- Potential Guest Speaker: Joseph Ferrer, Dept of Partnership and Planning, Culling tenders for Government. Not a formal format but rather a personal experience. All in attendance agreed this would be beneficial.
- Marsden's (Law Firm) – offering to give free phone advice to Sector Connect financial members. Jane McIvor has been developing a relationship with Marsden's and is hoping to be able to offer a Community Service rate for legal services and package services to make them more relevant to the NFP sector.
- Presentations to Managers Network: Jane to organise the following:

August - .id
October: Joseph Ferrer/NCOSS
December – Marsden's

- Morning Expo suggested – 'Corporates' could present to Community Services.
- Community Builders – Area Assistance Scheme still haven't announced recipients for 10/11. Wingecarribee is now a part of the area it covers so it has become very competitive from this year on. A priority list for funding is being developed by Community Services. The 7 local councils and Sector Connect have been requested to identify priority issues for the 10/11 funding round. The Managers Network had a discussion regarding identified priorities. Mark Pepping (Wingecarribee Council) and Jane McIvor (Sector Connect) will feed this information back to Community Services. Priority areas identified:

Child development/early literacy;

- Early access to early services/early intervention;
- People unaware of or not accessing services within an area;
- Parents not having skills
- Doctor awareness – need to advocate to health professionals, a coordinated approach is necessary to promote child and family services. Services are often available, but there a short term planning issues and referral agencies aren't always aware what's available. Suggested that Community Builders might be able to facilitate some type of coordinated effort.

Coordinated approach to service provision across a number of target areas

Councils/Churches etc are underutilized re facility provision. Kazcare is an example of trying to turn this around. Community Builders and other funders tend to cause splinter groups that are only funding for a couple of year. A better idea would be to build on what is already out there. Build on what's currently available rather than continuous start new projects. There should be a proper evaluation by Government at the end of a project with services picked up where necessary.

Advocacy required at a state level to have services picked up.

The lack of adequate funding across all target groups with client needs increasing due to major development, migration from Fairfield to Campbelltown to Wingecarribee, large pockets of disadvantage and redevelopment CALD women are starting to seek services as they realise they are available to them. Collaborative planning is essential please fill in attached 3.

Housing support for clients and workers:

The homeless people coming through refuges come with quite different issues currently e.g. private rental. 6 outreach houses are unavailable for priority

housing which has a 12 month wait list for approval. Housing issues are numerous and a community development approach that works collaboratively across the whole housing system.

Food Security

There are major issues of food insecurity in this region leading to numerous other social and health issues. A strong community development approach is required that could include increasing community gardens, healthy eating, low cost meals, parent education and other incentives

Youth Services:

In Camden there are major gaps in youth services across the region. There are also no services specific to 0-5yrs. Lack of resources for elderly residents making them become invisible is another issue. There is a stereotypical attitude towards the area.

Wingecarribee Council has given some attention to the 5-12 years and promotes the Youth connect bus fortnightly. They are the only council in the region not to have a designated child and family worker.

- **Issue:** not enough funding but people needs increasing in droves as there is an obvious migration from Fairfield to Campbelltown to Wingecarribee. CALD women are starting to seek services as they realise they are available to them. Collaborative planning is essential please fill in attached 3.

Managers Network members to complete:

- Member Information handout (attachment 3)
- Meetings attended (attachment 4) to improve efficiency and sharing of information across the numerous meetings we need to attend

Meeting Closed 11.55

Next meeting: 27 August 2010
9.30am - 12noon
Campbelltown Catholic Club
20-22 Camden Road
Campbelltown NSW 2560

Rotating Chair: Debbie Roberts – unable to attend