

Minutes

MYSN Meeting

Date: 2nd March 2011

Time: 10am-4pm

Venue: Eagle Vale Leisure Centre, Eagle Vale

Attendees

- Brian Milford – Youth Connections
- Tracy Dunn – Break Through Mentoring
- Erin Hoffman – MDSI
- Kate Dixon – Campbelltown City Council
- Chye Toole – Campbelltown City Council
- Jodie Grundy – Camden Council
- Birgitte Lund – Sport & Recreation
- Maria-Elena Urrea – Community Services
- Michelle Williams – Wingecarribee Shire Council
- Deborah Hulks – UnitingCare Burnside
- Susan Chapman – UnitingCare Burnside
- Larissa Emslie – MTC – Youth Connections
- Wayne Briggs – Campbelltown Family Support Service
- Lily Roberts-Everett – Camden Community Connections
- Tamara Casey – Youth Solutions
- Sally Berry – Youth Solutions
- Rachelle Barber – Wollondilly Shire Council
- Veronica Macdonald – UnitingCare Burnside
- Donna Bevan – Connect Consulting
- Cath Brennan – Connect Consulting
- Patricia Kelly – Mission Australia
- Caroline Esho – Mission Australia
- Sue Purnell – Macarthur Disability Services
- Karen Chisnall – Sector Connect

Apologies

- Warunee Nuij – Learning for Life
- Regina Nagy – Traxside
- Debbie – Youth Solutions
- Mark Scambray
- Jonothan Christley – TAFE
- Ashley Searle – Northcott Disability Services

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

- Sally Berry – Youth Solutions
- Birgitte Lund – Sport & Recreation

Minutes

Background Information on MYSN Planning Day , Sector Connects Role & the Youth Services Model Development Project

Karen Chisnall – Sector Connect & Cath Brennan – Connect Consulting

Purpose of the MYSN Planning Day:

- To incorporate an issue based focus into MYSN meetings and focus on action planning to address identified issues.
- Develop an 18 month Action Plan for the Macarthur Youth Services Network.
- To determine the pro forma for the MYSN meeting agendas to make meetings more beneficial for people to attend and to become more actively involved in the network.

MYSN Background:

- Macarthur Youth Services Network (MYSN) provides the opportunity for Youth Services to connect, exchange information, ideas, work collaboratively on projects and identify issues of concern for young people from Campbelltown, Camden, Wollondilly and Wingecarribee local government areas (LGAs).

MYSN Role:

- To improve connections, communication and relationships between workers and agencies to improve outcomes for young people
- To enhance collaborative work practices
- To identify and improve mainstream services to more effectively engage young people

MYSN Membership:

- Membership is open for all government, non-government and not for profit organisations that work with youth aged 10-25 years.
- MYSN meetings rotate across the four local government areas of Campbelltown, Camden, Wollondilly and Wingecarribee.
- Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month from 10am-12pm

Sector Connects Role in MYSN:

- Sector Connect is the peak representative body for Macarthur & Wingecarribee and serves the non-government sector of Macarthur & Wingecarribee.

MYSN Facilitation by Sector Connect:

- Sector Connect facilitates the Macarthur Youth Services Network by providing key administration support to the network.

Minutes

Youth Services Model Development Project

- Aim is to deliver improved outcomes for young people in Macarthur and Wingecarribee through enhanced planning and coordination of youth service systems.

Sector Connect is looking to support the growth of service systems in Campbelltown, Camden, Wollondilly and Wingecarribee LGAs

Key areas to facilitate integrated services for young people in the region

- Enhancing service access for young people
- Enhancing the coordination and integration of service systems

Key Findings of the YSMD Project Stage 1 report

12 – 17 years	27,082
18-24 years	25,330
TOTAL 12 – 24 years	52,412

Projected youth populations to 2031 is likely to see Campbelltown, Wollondilly and Wingecarribee remain stable while Camden is projected to see a sharp growth almost trebling current levels

Key Issues Identified in Stage 1 Report

- Isolation & Transport
- Housing & Accommodation
- Education, Training and Employment
- Youth Health
- Youth & Justice

Cross Regional Strategies

- Planning & Coordination
- Program Development
- Funding & Service Agreements
- Knowledge Base
- Communication & Promotion

How can you be involved

- Attend MYSN and / or WYN meetings
- Contribute to discussions at meetings & on Sector Connect Forums
- Forward information that can be distributed through Sector Connect Newsletters
- Provide your expertise on specific issues
- Take the time to get to know other services
- Explore opportunities for sustainable partnerships

Minutes

MYSN Priority Issues

See attached report for further information regarding identification of priority issues. People were given the opportunity to identify three key issues. The issues which were identified as most important after this activity for MYSN to work on are as follows:

- Crime & Safety
- Mental Health
- Communication & Participation
- Transport

Crime & Safety

Objective <i>"Why"</i>	- Help young people feel safe - Challenge the perception of young people within the wider community - Reduce crime
Outcome <i>"What will it look like?"</i>	Increased service availability "out of hours" and at "high risk" times Increased collaboration between services Participation of young people
Strategy <i>"What"</i>	-Making Midnight Basketball part of MYSN to be sustainable for all regions -Macarthur Square strategy -Understanding of crime stats and crime issues -Developing relationships with police, young people and community through MYSN -Lobbying for programs for young people
Timeframe <i>"When"</i>	
Participating Partners <i>"Who?"</i>	Camden Community Connections Macarthur Diversity Services Camden Council Campbelltown Council Wollondilly Council Sport & Recreation

Minutes

Communication & Participation	
Objective "Why"	"Give young people a voice to be seen, heard and valued because young people actually know what they want, how they want it and when they want it" Provide opportunities to empower young people
Outcome "What will it look like?"	Young people are actively involved in MYSN More diverse agencies participating in the network Better communication between services in the network
Strategy "What"	-Inventory of resources -Utilising existing youth advisory groups -Youth forum/expo day -Social networking sites -Positive youth stories on agenda -Promoting MYSN through local media -Encouraging other agencies to participate in MYSN
Timeframe "When"	
Participating Partners "Who?"	YSMDP Wollondilly Council Camden Council Macarthur Diversity Services Campbelltown Council Burnside
Mental Health	
Objective "Why"	To improve service delivery to young people
Outcome "What will it look like?"	Young people are more aware of mental health services Greater access by young people at mental health services Greater collaboration General promotion of wellbeing and promotion of early intervention
Strategy "What"	-Mental First Aid Training -Mapping of services wanting to collaborate -Mental Health Promotion Network on agenda -Youth forums
Timeframe "When"	
Participating Partners "Who?"	Traxside? Camden Community Connections Mission Australia Youth Solutions Sport & Recreation

Minutes

Transport	
Objective "Why"	Increased participation in activities and services by young people Creating opportunities for young people
Outcome "What will it look like?"	More accessible and affordable transport available to young people Sustainable transport system developed
Strategy "What"	- Inventory of resources - Lobbying local and state - Learning from other areas - Making existing resources user friendly/safe - Transporting young people from rural areas to Campbelltown
Timeframe "When"	
Participating Partners "Who?"	Community Services YSMDP Wollondilly Council Campbelltown Council

How do we progress?

- One person from participating partners to finalise action plan for each issue and report back to MYSN at next meeting
- Cath to develop a template for the action plan
- Project Champions to report on monthly basis to MYSN
- Project Champions:
 - Macarthur Diversity Services – Crime & Safety
 - Campbelltown Council – Transport
 - YSMDP – Communication & Participation
 - Camden Community Connections – Mental Health

Next Meeting	Meeting Date	
	Wednesday 30 th March 2011 <u>Venue:</u> MDSI – Level 2, Centre Court Building, 101 Queen Street, Campbelltown <u>Time:</u> 10am-12pm	

Minutes

Priority Issues for Youth Services

The following information is from the MYSN planning day, in which people were given the opportunity to explain why they have identified three key issues from the priority issues list presented as being most important to focus on for service provision for youth services. This information was the basis for the rest of the planning day.

PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) young people, not engaging with mainstream support & recreational services.
 - CALD youth are strongly represented in Campbelltown (demographics)
 - May not engage in mainstream activity due to : not being permitted, parents & guardians do not trust influences outside of their cultural community; feeling they will not be understood; do not trust confidentiality; (or understand it) or their issues will be acted on in a way they are uncomfortable with; inexperience with going outside their cultural community.
- Youth Advisory Group and committees of services are working well e.g. Youth solutions youth advisory group
- Services need to re-think and go back to the basics of youth consultations and actually ask young people what they want and actually support them to get involved in their local communities and youth services. Engaging well with young people that can access services. Access to services in more outlying villages. Outreach to centralized towns works well.
- Youth Participation in planning and advocacy. Working well
 - YAC in each LGA either in place or being created
 - Burnside youth reference group
 - Burnside evaluation of programs after each program by service users
 - Youth solutions, youth volunteers need to improve
 - Should be part of all programs
 - Need to access social networking to allow other forms of participation.

Is it Regional & LGA Based Issue?

Regional & Local

Role of MYSN

MYSN work in partnership to develop effective outreach strategies for more isolated villages to engage young people who may not otherwise have an opportunity.

MYSN can continue to support services and provide information through guest speaker etc. to workers about active youth engagement. Services need to work with other services for a collaborative approach when running programs, youth events etc. MYSN needs to share information on what everyone is doing and develop papers to address issues on safety and boundaries.

Minutes

REFERRAL MECHANISM

Issues

No real local Drug & Alcohol treatment services for people under 18.

Referrals - Don't know how well it happens? Dependent on individual and personal relationships

Information on what services are providing long term case management for at risk young people in the LGA's after 1st July 2011.

Why a priority?

- Lots of young people with Drug & Alcohol problems with nowhere to go.
- Clearer understanding of referral processes of programs would enable workers to be able to identify areas of programs that would best suit the needs of the young people.
- Lots of activities/services and better referrals would get more young people into them.
- Funding changes from CSGP to IEPP in different services that currently do long term (6-12 months) case management. Have made it unclear as to what services will still be offering and where to refer.

Is it Regional or LGA Issue?

Regional

LGA Specific

Unclear at this point

Role of MYSN?

Host a "Market stall" day or other options of presentation to MYSN attendees to have information on referral criteria to clarify what programs can or can't do.

Online service update as to what services will be changing.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Issues:

Health and wellbeing particularly Drug & Alcohol issues

Sexual Health workshop

Sexual health clinics

Drug and Alcohol Workshops

Love bites – relationship workshop, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault

What needs to be improved?

Counseling services and other forms of treatment services for 12-18 yrs

- Local, accessible, free

More workshops to run across schools especially sexual assault and domestic violence workshop. This requires interagency involvement and workers are struggling to confirm more than one workshop due to time or approval constraints. Access to services by all young people

Improve mental health and wellbeing in young people

Minutes

Why a priority?

Alcohol abuse and related issues are increasing. Improvement of treatment services or referral options is needed as they are very limited/non-existent.

It is a massive issue- more mental health issues in young people than, those affected in car accidents.

Needs to be a priority because information is lacking in regards to sexual health, and Drug & Alcohol. Regardless of workshops young people still have misconceptions.

Is it Regional or LGA Issue?

Regional issue

Role of MYSN

Is the network actually going to be proactive in addressing the issues?

Need more advocacy

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Issues:

Need money to increase support for programs targeted at young people.

Youth workers are so under resourced and often burn out.

Relevancy of programs for young people.

Ensuring the collaboration of young people in program development is noted? How is this being done?

What needs to be improved?

More money is needed for youth programs/service to assist in service provision e.g.

Need more youth workers

Provide a policy framework for service delivery

Current reforms to the industry will improve service delivery

Participation of young people in program development ensures future planning is on trade, needs based and community driven.

Effective surveys that: meet young people where they are (physically, mentally and emotionally),

Allow young people to communicate via different means (so as not to alienate young people with literacy issues etc.)

Information collated & a response made, that young recognize their contribution toward.

Programs devised that genuinely reflect young people's identified needs and wants.

Is it Regional or LGA Issue?

Regional issue

State issue

Role of MYSN

Need to lobby as a network to increase the number of youth workers to support services to increase service delivery.

Minutes

Generic implementation of processes that ensure the involvement of youth is Regional/LGA forums

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

Issues:

What is working well and what needs to be improved – networking between existing services. More services and increased access for young people.

Why a priority?

High numbers of youth are homeless in Macarthur area.

Is it Regional or LGA Issue?

Both

Role of MYSN

- More representation of youth
- Increased access to accommodation services for young people.

RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

Issues:

Sharing of resources across programs & facilities - Ability to do this cost effectively however also financially supporting programs/facilities.
Interagency borrowing of materials working well. But more resources needed especially funding needs to be available. New ideas being postponed or dismissed due to lack of funding.

Why a priority?

Without it we are unable to come up with new and exciting activities for young people that are relevant.

Is it Regional or LGA Issue?

LGA

Role of MYSN

- Source more funding

PLANNING AND COORDINATION

Issues:

Establishment of Government and Non-Government sector Partnerships.
Keep the momentum to strengthen partnerships to avoid duplication of services.
Services outreaching to other LGA's.
Need to communicate and address issues within each LGA
Need to recognize the entire Macarthur area including Wingecarribee

Minutes

Strong partnerships that exist between services.

What needs to be improved?

Access and equity

Understanding of restrictions/barriers

Why a priority?

To improve service provision to young people

It is an integral part or process in program development.

Is it Regional or LGA Issue?

Regional/State

Both

Role of MYSN

- Leadership and planning coordination
- More communication about “issues” that arise
- More coordinated response
- More communication

COMMUNICATION (Between services, promoting to young people)

Issues:

There is number of working groups across Campbelltown LGA however, I think that there is the need for clear communication between MYSN and all the other youth working groups/networks to be able to have a better understanding of who is working in what. Outcome “Improve working together in collaboration” to access/engage more young people across the LGA.

Working well:

- Council websites
- Different service websites
- Social networking by some services

Communication is required to address all other issues in more collaborated approach.

As some services are more expert in particular areas.

Lots of services/programs but young people don't know about them.

Young people are moving much faster than services with social media etc. – services getting left behind

What needs to be improved?

Centralized location for info

Improve communication between services

Work more collaboratively.

Why a priority?

Particularly between services is crucial to them being able to promote to young people that may attend or need that service

Minutes

More outcomes can be achieved when there is a great opportunity to share resources, time and workers skills.

Is it Regional or LGA Issue?

Regional & LGA

Role of MYSN

- Training
- Setting up calendar on Sector Connect website
- Sector Connect Training on website
- Regularly discuss options for communications and working together
- Engage schools to access website and attend MYSN. This assists with promotion & dissemination of information to young people
- Be a platform for collaboration
- Work for collaborative funding opportunities instead of competitive tendering

TRANSPORT

Issues:

- More outreach – going to isolated areas & running services/programs on site that young people are able to access.
- Young people unable to access services due to lack of transport, cost, infrequency
- Programs that are able to transport young people.
- Programs that are geographically accessible for young people.
- How to support young people to go from A to B
- Limited resources and capacity
- Affordable and accessible public transport
- Services are not regular – less frequent on weekends.
- Concessions rates not available on weekends/or after school hours
- Busways privately owned and expensive
- Not enough outreach services going out to the young people
- Services that have buses
- Some sharing of buses
- Limited access to services, 2 hours wait does not coordinate to youth access to opportunities
- Models from other areas
- More effective modes of transport – safer & reliable

What needs to be improved?

- Increase transport options – affordable & accessible.
- Driver learner programs for young people that are disadvantaged
- Young people need to access services and connect socially
- Great sharing of resources
- Improve coordination of transport services private/public

Minutes

- Engage with SW Transport person to focus on youth strategies
- Needs to improve public transport
- Access to services. Participation of range of opportunities, education, development

Why a priority?

- Young people not accessing services due to transport cost
- To reduce isolation and create opportunity

Is it Regional or LGA Issue?

LGA, Regional

Role of MYSN

- Services being more collaborative – getting together in one location.
- Identify possible solutions to addressing need.
- Advocacy
- Funding opportunities and increased collaborative practice.
- To find out possibilities and ways of working together.
- Collaborative use.
- Engage with SW Transport
- Leadership
- Advocate for increased subsidies for young people with disabilities, living in rural and isolated areas.
- Need to include Wingecarribee in advocacy for improved service provision.
- Act as a lobby and advocate
- Youth transport schemes
- Initiatives – work collaboratively

RECREATIONAL & SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Issues:

- Need to run when young people need them to, not just in schools hours i.e. after schools hours
- Lack of collaboration of services to offer more recreational and social activities

What needs to be improved?

- Build rapport, leading young people to case work where real change can be made.
- Take young people off the streets
- Open doors to offer more recreational & social work life skills programs.
- Build positive social networks
- To improve working together partnership/collaborative

Why a priority?

- Great need for young people to have opportunities to socialize
- More effective programs, more manpower, combined funding

Minutes

Is it Regional or LGA Issue?

Regional

Role of MYSN

- Forming more partnerships, applying for funding as a partnership

WORKER DEVELOPMENT

Issues:

- Better personal development and training opportunities for workers.
- The isolation of youth support workers in Camden especially in relation to predicted expansion.
- How realistic are collaboration and partnership in a funding context that is competitive?
- Imminent population explosion in Camden area.
- Networking service participation and support with worker development – inter agencies and networks are working well

What needs to be improved?

- Needs to be more youth specific opportunities to access training, workshops etc. This will allow for up skilling of workers at a local level and regular information to be communicated as it becomes available.

Why a priority?

- Workers up skilling and being fresh with changing young people.

Is it Regional or LGA Issue?

Everywhere

LGA but relative to the regional networks/agencies because of partnerships, flow out etc.

Role of MYSN

- Seek possible new training options.
- Facilitate worker training days/workshop – get YAPA out here or get trainers to run training within the youth field.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Issues:

- Youth unemployment
- Mentoring programs available
- Youth specific JSAs available (and operating) need for more services.
- Better collaboration between organisations
- Youth unemployment rates are high. Break the cycle of generational unemployment.
- Young people to make and feel as though they are contributing to society

Minutes

- Increase in schooling age-young people forced to stay in some form of education.
- Disengaged from classes
- Tafe age increased to 17yrs
- Limited opportunities in the Wingecarribee resulting in very low youth population after 18 yrs
- The need for young people to stay within their family regions and balance access with regional demographics
- Several alternative programs required to address needs of young people that have/or at risk of disengaging from educational/employment particularly, legislation re: school leaving age.
- More young people out of school and unemployed and not prepared for employment. More youth specific services required.

Is it Regional or LGA Issue?

Both regional and within LGA

Role of MYSN

- Develop partnerships and projects across relevant agencies
- Needs to play a more active role in all areas of Wingecarribee
- More services work collaboratively
- Pool resources and staff

CRIME AND SAFETY

Issues:

- Family violence
- Police presence in high crime areas.
- Education awareness of the impact on community safety
- Lack of services offering out of hours programs for young people – weekends & Thursday nights
- The low number of appropriately trained workers in Camden, LGA.
- Perception of young people in public space.
- Improve young people's perception of safety

What needs to be improved?

- Increase AVO's being seen in programs working with young people.
- Increase community, and school education re: violence
- Midnight basketball, youth outreach, elders patrols
- Out of hours activity
- Educational Component

Why a priority?

- To create a safer community and reduce crime related issues.

Minutes

- Naturally concerning given anticipated growth of Camden LGA
- Youth crime rates in area
- Perception by others that it is a massive issue
- Get kids on a negative cycle that once in is hard to break
- Young people should feel safe in their community and be regarded as safe in the community

Is it Regional or LGA Issue?

- Both
- Regional

Role of MYSN

- Collaborative programs delivered across the regions.
- Info sharing
- Develop projects to address issue and make more links between people and wider community
- Group projects
- Lobbying and advocacy to perceive young people positively