

**MANNING VALLEY INTERAGENCY
MINUTES OF MANNING VALLEY INTERAGENCY MEETING**

Date: 7 April 2010	At: Community Services, Victoria Street, Taree 2430
Present: Caron Watkins (MVNS), Ellen Carter (SV), Lea Dawson (Wesley Uniting Employment), Peter Stace (FSS), Lyn Schneider (MVNS), Patricia Frederickson (Salvation Army/MRRH), Barbara Lawrence (Manning Valley Respite Care Service), Tanya Keogh (CPADFV), Cath Braiding (Centrelink), Shanyyn McConnell (PRA), Bernadette Sexton (MVNS), Barbara Fell (CRS Australia) Carolyn Pickett (BCS- Care Centre), Jo Newman (GL Manning Community Options), Amy Hogan (NILS),	
Apologies: Sandy Brooks, Patricia Fredrickson, Sandy Bowden, Jenny Hadfield, Cathy Braiding,	
Time Commenced: 1.05pm	Time Finished: 2.15pm
Chairperson: Caron Watkins	Minute Taker: Bernadette Sexton

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>ACTION BY</u>
<u>Minutes Meeting</u>			
<u>Business Arising</u>	<p>1.Samaritans Homelessness Project – research has been carried out resulting in the facilitation of a Homeless Connect Expo to be held later in the year in Taree. Meeting next week. Samaritans have also received the HAP (Homelessness Action Plan Funding) which provides specific funding to retain housing</p> <p>Invitation extended to local community & workers to attend Homelessness Connect Day meeting at the Anglican Church (Blue Cross) 10am Tuesday 13/4/10</p> <p>2.State Debt Recovery – work and development orders for community groups –</p>	Follow up	Caron

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manning Valley Neighbourhood Services has applied to provide this. Passed first stage – work in progress. • Investigating shared volunteers work development orders. • Issues - supervision • MVNS to keep up to date <p>3. Interagency Terms of Reference & Questionnaire Carried forward to next meeting</p> <p>4. Invite to Local Members Carried forward to next meeting</p>		
<u>Standard Agenda Items</u>	<p>1. Emergency Relief Sub Committee – meets quarterly MVNS to distribute basis ER packaged from the Cottage Marjorie St Taree Thursdays 10-12pm St Vincent De Paul Taree – limited electricity vouchers, no Telstra Samaritans Taree – limited electricity vouchers, no Telstra</p> <p>2. CDAT – Next meeting 6 May at GTCC Library 10.30am</p> <p>Focus in July on guest Speaker Celia Lashlie from New Zealand. Two sessions to be held: all day workers session and 1.5hr night session for parents/workers</p> <p>Request for more members to attend CDAT meetings</p>		
<u>New Business</u>	Hypothetical case studies to be compiled for discussion at next meeting		Caron
<u>Correspondence In</u>	Nil		

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<u>Correspondence Out</u>	Nil		
<u>Guest Speaker</u>	Nil this month		
<u>SERVICE REPORTS</u>			
Family Support Services Peter Stace	Busy – lots of clients Group work wound down due to school holidays Still vacancies in ADHD program		
St Vincent De Paul – (Taree) Ellen Carter	Busy as ever Of 25 clients seen/week, 6/7 are new clients Many clients have never contacted service before Lots of clients seeking assistance with medical expenses		
Great Lakes Community Options Jo Newman	Client focus – elderly/disabled Waiting list down Case management/setting goals/linking others		
Mid North Coast Regional Migrant Worker - MVNS Lyn Schneider	<p>Queries of visas – 309 visa (marriage Australian person) No longer waiting period of two years if need to leave partner. Domestic violence provision see Dpt of Immigration Website</p> <p>Taree Women’s Multicultural group looking for new members. Meets Mondays 11-1pm. For further details contact Lyn’s Place ph: 65510011</p> <p>Freedom from Fear 31 May – 11June Celebrating refugee’s stories. Local resident from Uganda & Burmese refugees to participate in opening. Art works to be displayed in shopfronts, gallery, Miravac, retailers. local government agencies.</p>		

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Centrelink Cathy Braiding	<p>Always busy Centrelink 'homelessness/or at risk of homelessness, Centrelink put an indicator on files Recent changes to youth allowance'Changes to scholarships – relocation/start up scholarships 1st July changes to parental income test – changes to young people eligibility criteria Refer to Centrelink website Jobs expo invitation at Port Macquarie – seeking expressions of interest. See email forwarded from Caron</p>		
No Interest Loans (NILS) Amy Hogan	<p>Change of intake process Low income loans for fridges, washing machines, medical equipment Aim to minimise poverty cycle NILS funding from grants successfully applied for No waiting list, clients obtain intake forms and ring back once Max loan amount \$1000 Clients can have savings Clients can use service multiple times once paid off lean Eligibility: low income/Centrelink benefit Over 18years of age and lived in LGA for 6 months Clients need to afford payment – max. loan period 18 months</p>		
Salvation Army/MRRH Patricia Frederickson	<p>Increase in electricity vouchers Patricia also working at the hospital, noted the importance of agencies networking</p>		

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Manning Valley Respite Service Barbara Lawrence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New program 9-12yrs has now started\Group of 21 children • Focus ADHD and autistic children • Always looking for volunteers 		
Wesley Uniting Employment Lea Dawson	<p>Early school leavers – stream 4 most disadvantaged No vocational issues Getting lots of early school leavers – still required to attend school 25hrs/week Gained disability management and support services contracts</p>		
CPADFV Tanya Keogh	<p>Working hours Monday to Thursday DV incidents list received Monday DV liaison officer Lachlan Gunn (Kristy on holidays) Service available in Gloucester 1st & 3rd Thursday month DV/sexual assault victims compensation solicitor Peter Kelso</p> <p>“Mountain & Sea Transport – provides emergency transport for disadvantaged and isolated women and children seeking to escape domestic violence Contact Kylie/Gemma Hastings Women’s Refuge 65832155</p>		
PRA Shayn McKonnell	<p>4 workers 15 clients each HASI funding Working with people Monday to Friday 8.30am 5pm Service full – 15 packages Resource and recovery linking clients with mainstream activities</p>		

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BCS Care Centre Caroline Picket	Located in old Centrelink building HASS program covers Great Lakes, Taree Gloucester LGA Focus welfare checks, majority of clients diagnosed with dementia Busy workload		
CRS Australia Barbara Fell	Located in Albert St Taree ph: 65926800 Vocational rehabilitation/disability managements New system allows direct registration to service easier Anyone of working age able to work 8-14hrs/week experiencing a disability eligible to use service		
MVNS Caron Watkins	Women's wellness group commencing 30/4/10 at Cottage Marjorie Street. Focus women on housing estate 10.30am – 1pm, educational aspects, nutrition and cooking. Limit 10		
<u>NEXT MEETING</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will be 1pm 5th May 2010 at Department of Community Services, Victoria Street, Taree • Enquiries: Manning Valley Neighbourhood Services Inc. PH: 6553 5121, Email mvns@mvns.org.au • Interagency minutes can also be downloaded from MVNS Website: www.mvns.org.au 		