

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

<b>Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010</b>	<b>At: Community Services, Victoria Street, Taree 2430</b>
<b>Present:</b> Caron Watkins (MVNS), Lyn Schneider (MVNS), Jane O'Dwyer (Volunteer Connection), Gabbie Beckley (Smith Family), Ellen Carter (SV), Amanda Fettell (Student), Jennifer Cahill (TCHC), Peter Webster (PTLALC), Rosie Herberte (MSS/MFRS), Amy Hogan (NILS), Cathy Braiding (Centrelink), Sandy Bowden (CO), Robyn Taaffe (Nova), Karen Slayter (TIDE), Patricia Fredrickson (Salvation Army/MRRH), Shanyn McConnell(PRA), Kayla Thompson (PRA)	
<b>Apologies:</b> Sandy Brooks, Fiona Holmes, Tanya Keogh, Bernadette Sexton, Kay Wilson.	
<b>Time Commenced:</b> 1pm	<b>Time Finished:</b> 2.35pm
<b>Chairperson:</b> Caron Watkins	<b>Minute Taker:</b> Lyn Schneider

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>ACTION BY</u>
<b><u>Minutes Meeting</u></b>			
<b><u>Business Arising</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Samaritans Homelessness Project – discussion deferred until someone from Samaritans present</li> </ul>		
<b><u>Standard Agenda Items</u></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transport Sub Committee – no meeting since last Interagency</li> <li>2. Emergency Relief Sub Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> March</li> <li>3. CDAT – Next meeting next meeting 4<sup>th</sup> March – discussing guest speaker for June/July. Two sessions planned for service providers/teachers and Parents.</li> </ol>	<b>Meeting to be held</b>	<b>Caron</b>  <b>Caron</b>
<b><u>New Business</u></b>	State Debt Recovery – work and development orders for community groups	Further details required	<b>Jane O'Dwyer</b>

<b><u>Correspondence In</u></b>	Tabled included a reply from Tanya Plibersek (Minister) in relation to Housing funds being diverted to Education		
<b><u>Correspondence Out</u></b>	Nil		
<b><u>SERVICE REPORTS</u></b>			
<b><u>Guest Speaker</u></b>	<p>Hannah Stanley – Community Health and Nutrition. Hannah has a Health Science Degree, she is a local who has been working overseas and most recently in Perth. Her work in Perth was Health Promotion working on preventative community development. This included working with a nutrition team addressing healthy eating healthy weight habits of migrants, Aboriginal people, low SES communities. Work to establish farmers markets, food security – access and availability. Part of a coalition of food banks, schools, health practitioners, council, health and well being plans and state and local marketing.</p> <p>Worked on a fruit and veg project with a group of local schools to increase the consumption of fruit and veg in school aged children.</p> <p>Hannah is living in the local area again and is looking for work in the area.</p>		
<b>MVNS</b>	<p>Caron questioned future focus for Interagency, discussed the update of database of agencies. Is interagency meeting the needs of those attending and those unable to attend? Most indicated it was a good forum for sharing information.</p> <p>Emergency Relief - MVNS have food and petrol vouchers available</p>		
<b>St Vincent De Paul – (Taree) Ellen Carter</b>	<p>Very busy – 47 people recently, half people are new clients, No EPAS or Telstra remaining. 108 hampers distributed over Christmas. Electricity rate increase has caused major problems. Large increase in number of fathers requesting support as they have their children visiting to extended time during the holidays.</p> <p>General discussion was held concerning Christmas 2010 and how to assist fathers prior to the time when the children arrive.</p>		

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<b>Smith Family – Gabby)</b>	Gabby outlined the new Saver Plus program that is operating just in Taree. Applicants must have some paid employment. Money is for education expenses. Must attend training once a week for 4 weeks. Brochures distributed.		
<b>Salvation Army – (Taree) Patricia</b>	<p>Very busy from now only those with Centrelink Referrals can be provided with assistance. They currently very short on EPAS and have been told there are no more available, or Telstra assistance. Furniture and household items can and have been provided free to those requiring assistance.</p> <p>Patricia has completed Social Work Degree and is currently working part time as a social worker at the hospital.</p>		
<b>NILS – Amy Hogan</b>	<p>Target – people on low incomes  Medical appliances and white goods  18 months to repay loan (\$10 fortnight, \$100 - \$1000)  Cover Gloucester, Taree and Forster)  Must have fixed address for 6 months min &amp; be at least 18 yo  Can reapply 6 months after fully repaying loan  NAB is looking at launching a program.</p>		
<b>Karen - TIDE</b>	Referral service for Indigenous people, no age limit – brochures distributed		
<b>Cathy - Centrelink</b>	Sarah works 1 day a week at Taree and 2 days a week at Forster, working with a number of young people with 'unreasonable to live at home allowance. Intensive work with young people at risk (age 15-18), homelessness big problem being addressed – training for staff.		

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<b>Robyn - NOVA</b>	Nova provide employment for people with disabilities, transition to work (2 years), post school. Mental health/intellectual/physical disabilities all supported. From March the cap on provision of service will be lifted.		
<b>Sandy – Community Options</b>	Great Lakes and Manning – disabilities and elderly. There are 4 new staff working on the existing waiting list. Provide case management – referral in short term.		
<b>Rosie Herbert - MSS</b>	Providing support for men and family, adolescent boys to be addressed, keen to speak with guest speaker CDAT are planning on bringing to area. Looking at running a drop in centre at cottage looking at mornings or evenings to engage people and particularly boys and fathers from the housing estates.		
<b>Jenny Cahill – Clinical Nurse Consultant – Drug and Alcohol</b>	Provide service through community health, are currently overwhelmed with clients. The Clinic in High Street is referred to as “the Cottage” so beware of any confusion with the Cottage in Marjorie Street. Case management for 60 clients providing counselling; detox; hospital; rehab. Alcohol remains a major issue in this area however there is also a high level of illicit drug use. They can provide training for any NGO’s who have clients with abuse problems. Intake Line number is 1300 662263.		
<b>PRA – Shannon &amp; Kayla</b>	PRA accepts clients with diagnosed mental health issues. Program offers living skills; shopping; cleaning; contact; social interaction – goal based. Resource & Recovery		

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<b>Regional Migrant Worker - Lyn</b>	Outlined the Freedom from Fear exhibition featuring photo stories of refugees. Asked that if anyone knew of any local refugees who might be interested in sharing their story to contact MVNS. Also advised that the next issue of the Multicultural Messenger will be produced in March.		
<b>Dragonboat club</b>	Caron advised that the Dragonboat club are having a regatta and organisations are able to participate. Cost is about \$25 per person. Caron will distribute additional information.		
<b>Sharing Session</b>	Suggested that at future meetings someone be invited to share a 'case study' of a client or group of client.		
<b><u>NEXT MEETING</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Next meeting will be 1pm</b></li> <li>• <b>3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 at Department of Community Services, Victoria Street, Taree followed by</b></li> <li>• <b>Emergency Relief Interagency</b></li> <li>• Enquiries: Manning Valley Neighbourhood Services Inc. PH: 6553 5121, Email <a href="mailto:mvns@mvns.org.au">mvns@mvns.org.au</a></li> <li>• Interagency minutes can also be downloaded from MVNS Website: <a href="http://www.mvns.org.au">www.mvns.org.au</a></li> </ul>		