

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

Date: 1 July 2009

At: Department of Community Services, Taree 2430

Present: Lynne English (MVNS: IPW), Julie Wilson (DADHC), Lesley Walter (DADHC), Colleen McGowan (MVNS: RMW), Meg Goodsell (Youth Pathways: Mission Australia), Amanda Dempsey (Docs: Student), Derek North (LINC), Peter Stace (FSS), Kylene Ryan (Manning Valley Transport), Raylene Newell (Biripi AMS- BTH), Barbara Lawrence (M.V.R.C.S.), Christine Harris (PRA), Shynyn McClonnell (PRA), Bree Dennis (GTCC), Patricia Fredrickson (Salvation Army), Michael Porst (Centrelink), Carolyn Pickett (BCS), Sandy Brooks (HNEH MH), Amy Hogan (MSS: Manning NILS), Roz Britton (Samaritans: Disability), Ellen Carter (St Vincent De Paul), Lisa Greenwood (GTCC: Library).

Apologies: Caron Watkins (MVNS: Manager), Linda Lee (HNEH MH),

Time Commenced: 1:00

Time Finished: 2.35pm

Chairperson: Lynne English

Minute Taker: Colleen McGowan

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>ACTION BY</u>
<u>Minutes Meeting</u>	Minutes to the last meeting and agenda handed out. No correction to minutes.		Minutes Accepted
<u>Business Arising</u>	Lunch time networking – Lynne explained the reasoning behind the idea of the lunch time networking. That the idea came out of the CPR networking day that was held in May.		
<u>Standard Agenda Items</u> Interagency Project	<p>1. Interagency Project – updates. Lynne gave her final report on the Interagency Project. Key points as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project was funded by Docs Area Assistance Scheme. • The project was to conduct research to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify gaps in services - Identify poverty traps • <u>Identify gaps in Services</u> - The biggest issue identified was not so much a lack of services but knowing what services existed in the LGA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Homelessness, and Mental Health were two of 		

	<p>the biggest gaps identified by services but these services were found to exist but many services providers or their staff were unaware of them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was then decided that there was a need to look at referral pathways. - The CPR – Referrals and Networking Training day was organised as a way of addressing this issue of getting to know what services already exist and forming networks with existing services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Identify poverty traps</u> – One of the issues in relation to this seemed to be in knowing what the current capacity of services providing ER assistance was. For example, clients were being sent to MVNS at Wingham for assistance only to find that that service had no assistance left for that month. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was decided to form an ER sub-committee to share information about assistance currently available, plan for critical times; such as Christmas or holiday breaks. - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Transport Sub- Committee – continues to meet. 3. Emergency Relief – Sub –Committee – continuing to meet on a regular basis. Have put together and ER Service Directory – which is updated weekly to give an indication of where ER services currently stand with their capacity to assist clients. 4. CDAT – Is funded by NSW Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local CDAT – trying to get more people involved. - Update by Caron at next meeting. 		
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	<p>5. Sub Committee for the Services Expo to be held on 11th September has been formed. Meetings will continue over the next few months – anyone interested in attending please let Colleen know on 6553 5121. Also invitations to participate in the event will be sent out with the minutes.</p>		
<u>New Business</u>	Nil		
<u>Correspondence In</u>	Nil		
<u>Correspondence Out</u>	Nil		
<u>Guest Speaker</u>	<p>Lisa Greenwood, (GTCC: - Library) Lisa came to talk about the Community Services Directory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Community Services Directory is available in a printed format and an electronic version - Lisa is responsible for maintaining the community directory in both its printed form and in its electronic form. - Services are now able to update their own entries. - The printed version is printed annually and the information that can be included in this version is limited due to the cost of printing. - The electronic version due to the ability to continually update and add to the information listed is more up-to-date and able to contain more information than the printed version. 		
<u>Guest Speaker</u>	<p>Meg Goodsell, (Mission Australia: Youth Pathways)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth Pathways is an individualised program which works with kids who are at risk of leaving school. - The program works with kids aged 13 – 19 		

	<p>years who are at risk of leaving school before year 12.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is able to provide assistance with assessment tasks. - Is funded to deliver a minimum of 6 X 1hr sessions; however, the project workers will follow client for as long as necessary. - Project workers maintain regular contact with client every; every couple of weeks - Project workers work closely with and often refer to other organisations as necessary such as Drug & Alcohol, Mental Health and Counsellors. - A large part of their work load includes suspensions, truancies, learning problems and bullying. <p><u>An example Case</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young person referred by Centrelink - Recently moved to the area - Socially isolated - Project worker built up a rapport with young person - Talked about incidental friends – taking opportunities to speak to and befriend those persons you may meet say whilst standing in line at the canteen etc. - Young person was interested in doing a course through OTEN. - Project worker talked to the person about considering a course on campus at TAFE – to better reduce social isolation and allow more opportunity to meet people. - Also encouraged person to join the PCYC. - Young person made good progress. 		
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<u>SERVICE REPORTS</u>			
DADHC (Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care) – Julie & Lesley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julie and Lesley are case managers for DADHC. • They work with people with an intellectual disability. • 0-6 years classed as a global delay but for those over 6 years there needs to be a diagnosis of intellectual disability to meet the DADHC criteria. • The question was asked if a person could qualify if they had a dual diagnosis – Julie & Lesley were not sure – will look into this & respond at a later time. • The referral pathway to access services is by contacting the referral line 1300 364 563 • The client is assessed before direct services are provided. • They have a range of professionals including Speech Therapists and Occupational Therapists and there is a local support co-ordinator. 		
GTCC: Youth Development Officer - Bree Dennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing focus on advocacy and lobbying through groups such as the Regional Youth Development Officers Network, Mid North Coast Youth Workers Forum and the Youth Action and Policy Association. • They recently received funds through the MV Liquor Consultative Committee to assist with hosting a roaming forum throughout NSW schools which focuses on binge drinking behaviours and their consequences. • They have also submitted a CDSE funding application to further assist with the same. • They are currently working with the Mental Health School Link Coordinator and Community Health to plan and organise. Tentatively planned for 1-3 September. • They have received \$8,000 to host the Battle of the Bands in partnership with Great Lakes Youth Home Base Youth Services. This year they will be partnering with 		

	Old Bar Festival – the event will be held on October 3.		
Salvation Army – Patricia Fredrickson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just back from holidays • Client numbers continues to be high • No Telstra vouchers • Trialling fruit and vegetables – arrangement with Solomons and Meat – arrangement with McGraths Meats 		
PRA (Psychiatric Rehabilitation Assessment) – Shanyn McConnell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shanyn is the local co-ordinator. • Position Vacant at PRA – currently understaffed; putting pressure on staff. • HASI in the home & resource and recovery services • 		
(BCS) Caroline Pickett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project has been in operation 12 months • Covers Taree, Great Lakes, and Gloucester • HAC funded • Target group mainly Elderly • 		
Centrelink – Michael Porst	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Assistance claim is now an on-line claim • Employment services have changed; Campbell Page has closed and been replaced by Job Find Australia which is located opposite BBQ's Galore in Albert Street. • There is a more considerate approach to unemployed – giving them more options then before, before penalising them. • For students the Earn or Learn program has started for those under 21 years of age who have not completed year 12. • Same sex relationships are now expected to inform Centrelink of their circumstances and are now treated the same as heterosexual relationships. • CDEP – a program for indigenous work for wage has ended. • Change over to mainstream Job Services Australia 		

	<p>(previously known as Job Network) such as Wesley & TIDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Employ Connect from Kempsey and Forster now have a presence in Taree. • 		
<p>M.V.R.C.S. (Manning Valley Respite Carer Service) – Barbara Lawrence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service provides respite care for persons 0-65 years with an intellectual or physical disability. • The service has received lots more referrals for younger people. • Provide respite for close family. • Need more volunteers. • 		
<p>HNEH AHS Mental Health – Sandy Brooks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking Drama – no word – • Michael Paulson looking to put on a band night in Mental Health week – question if it could be linked to battle of the bands – will suggest he contact Bree Dennis re this. • Running bereavement workshops – full one day workshop in September • Cost \$15 for members & \$30 for non-members of NALAG • Hoping to put on more Mental Health First Aid courses • Indigenous – no one trained to run these within MH but Sharon Freebody from Carer Assist has – so please refer to her • 	refer back to Caron	
<p>POOP's (Pets Of Older Persons) – Sandy Brooks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covers Manning and Great Lakes • Support and care for pets of older people • If for some reason the person is not able to look after their pet – a trained, vetted person comes in to assist such as walking dogs etc. • Service provides hospital & respite/foster care for persons who need this service, however, the person must be registered with POOP's prior to needing this 		

	<p>service. This is because of consent issues – a person who is already unwell may be deemed unable to give informed consent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers look after dogs in their home whilst cats are kept in their own home to be cared for. • Volunteers are vetted and are required to undergo police checks. They will be issued with an identity ID. • More volunteers are needed. • To enquire about the service Ph: 0428 746 836. • Re a previous enquiry about the availability of Free De-sexing. This service is available through Manning Vets in Commerce Street in conjunction with RSPCA. • 		
Biripi AMS – Raylene Newell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a new position • It involves case management for members of the ‘Stolen Generation’, family and descendents • Involves goal setting and assisting clients with daily activities, referrals to services etc • Raylene is currently putting together a resource kit. • Raylene will attend training with Link Up. • 		
FSS(Family Support Services) – Peter Stace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 on 1 family work and group work • Groups are mainly around parenting and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women’s group - Young Mum’s Group - Supported Playgroup - Healthy Living Group • Most of the groups are currently full • Running Domestic Violence program which involves working with both victims and perpetrators. This program has been popular and there is a waiting list. • 		
Manning Support Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loans for household items and medical equipment 		

<p>NILS (No Interest Loans Scheme) – Amy Hogan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loans to low income earners. • Loans up to \$1,000 • Client repays the cost of the item only – repayments over 18months • Minimum repayment of \$10 per week, repayments made through Centrepay • Must live in the LGA of Great Lakes, Taree or Gloucester. • Waiting List – from intake to interview is currently 4-6 weeks • 		
<p>Samaritans – Roz Britton</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samaritans is the Charity arm of the Anglican Church • Emergency Relief Service on Wednesday – provides food and household and personal items • This service is not a funded service but rather relies on the donations of parishioners • They have three group homes • Have received funding for 2 new programs for disabled persons aged up to 65 years. • 		
<p>LINC (Love In the Name of Christ) – Derek North</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide services including housekeeping, shopping, assistance getting to appointments, as well as providing purely social participation opportunities including taking clients out to concerts etc or just providing companionship if required. • Target group is 18 – 90 year olds. • Fee free service • Referrals have dropped off recently. • There are LINC teams in Old Bar, Taree and Wingham and soon to be 2 teams in Forster • Run a men’s only club for older men – who enjoy activities such as making toy truck and planes etc • Currently organising a Wednesday Gallivanting Morning 		

	<p>– the idea being that they will pick up client and take them to various activities including Canasta and handcrafts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six LINC affiliates – just had first state meeting. 		
St Vincent de Paul (Taree) – Ellen Carter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Vincent de Paul is the charity arm of the Catholic Church • Service provides Emergency Relief • Service area covers from Upper Lansdowne to Nabic and to the River – the other side of the river is covered by St Vincent de Paul Wingham. • ER Service operates Mon, Wed & Fri. Ph: 6551 0143 and leave a message. • They don't normally take referrals unless the person is with you and can put their details in person • St Vincent de Paul provides more than ER; they also visit people in their homes and run second-hand shop. • They are struggling with a lack of volunteers. • 		
MVNS (Manning Valley Neighbourhood Services) Regional Migrant Worker – Colleen McGowan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Migrant Worker Project – Just been refunded for 12 months to 30 June 2010 • Project is funded by the Department of Immigration & Citizenship, Settlement Grants Program • Services covers, Taree, Great Lakes, Gloucester and Hastings LGA's • Service provides casework, referrals to mainstream services, client advocacy, information on local services etc to assist newly arrived migrants to settle in Australia. • 		
<u>NEXT MEETING</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will be Wednesday 5th August at 1pm (12.30 for networking) • Enquiries: Manning Valley Neighbourhood Services Inc. PH: 6553 5121, Email mvns@mvns.org.au Web: www.mvns.org.au 		

