

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

Date: 7 July 2010

At: Community Services, Victoria Street, Taree 2430

Present: Caron Watkins (MVNS), Ellen Carter (SV), Peter Stace (FSS), Cathy Braiding (Centrelink), Felicity Nicholson (PRA), Bernadette Sexton (MVNS), Nathan Paff (Samaritans), Luke Shearston (Hunter Community Legal Centre), Annette Wilson (Taree Family Relationship Centre), Cassandra Brown (Family Law Pathways Network), Pilar McGechan (MDEA), Gayle Halloran (MDEA), Patricia Frederickson (HNE Health), Deborah Gates (Catholic Care – Brighter Futures), Lyn Schneider (MVNS), Bradley Fishpool (Jobfind Centre Taree), Stewart Scott-Irving (GTC Old Bar), Narelle Penman (Uniting Church), Bree Dennis (GTCC), Jenni McLeish (Salvation Army), Sandy Brooks (HNE Mental Health), Judy Hodgkinson (CCC)

Apologies:

Barbara Lawrence, Adrienne Greene, Hannah Stanley, Fiona Holmes, Ros Britton, Sharon Freeman

Time Commenced: 1.10pm

Time Finished: 2.35pm

Chairperson: Caron Watkins

Minute Taker: Bernadette Sexton

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>ACTION BY</u>
<u>BUSINESS ARISING</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State Debt Recovery Office – Work Development Order – MVNS received approval for the pilot. As yet they have not any requests. Various criteria apply – 5 specific categories - can work off through a process at \$30/hr. Contact MVNS and Caron will email paperwork/guidelines and ensure clients qualify. Referee to undertake followup/supervision of placement MVNS will see if they can find contacts for work. Pilot program only, program ends June 2011 2. Homelessness Funding – Salvation Army ER case worker will be working with housing re. financial housing stress relocation reports (rent arrears/mortgage stress/ 		

	<p>need to have tenancy) Worker to be employed at Port Macquarie. Old Bar southern most area to be covered. Worker to be employed within the next two weeks. More info at later date</p> <p>3. Interagency Terms of Reference and Questionnaire Follow up next meeting</p>		
<u>Standard Agenda Items</u>	<p>1. Emergency Relief Sub Committee – will now meet only twice a year unless there are special circumstances – June and December</p> <p>2. CDAT – Next meeting 5 August at GTCC Library 10.30am MVNS working on Celia Lashlie workshops. Day and night workshops to be held. Request for more members to attend CDAT meetings</p>		
<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	<p>Hypothetical case studies carried forward to next meeting</p> <p>Community Legal Service – Outreach Kempsey & Port Macquarie</p> <p>Bree Dennis – Youth Information & Referral Centre Address: 93 Victoria St Taree (Opp Fish Fish Fish) Ph: 65525715 Hrs of Operation: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Community members and young people invited to drop in for information. Welcome all services – info sessions to be organised in future. Council restructuring and relocated 6 new workers. No longer a presence at PCYC</p> <p>Street Beat Bus – Day patrols Monday & Friday 9am-3pm. Aims to support young people around the CBD who are missing school regularly. Support young people to re-engage back into school</p>		Caron

	<p>Street Beat Bus – Friday & Saturday nights 6pm-11pm Transport home for under 18yrs Ph: 0408367369</p> <p>Woombarra Wunngan Youth Service – aboriginal adolescent support program (12-18yrs). Offers following programs: Friday night activities Get Fit Outreach Holiday Activities</p> <p>FIG (Families First Children & Families) Taree every 3rd month – email: (GET FROM CARON)</p> <p>Community Homeless Connect Meeting Next Meeting Tuesday 20 July 10am Anglican Church Taree</p> <p>Tax Help 2010 Offices: Wingham, CRS, Marjorie St Taree Eligibility: <\$40,000. Bookings call: 65535121 (MVNS office Wingham)</p>		
<u>Correspondence In</u>	Nil		
<u>Correspondence Out</u>	Nil		
<u>SERVICE REPORTS</u>			
Family Support Services Peter Stace	<p>FSS currently restructuring - New Team Leader: Bob Cooke Waiting list still exists FSS Outreach worker at Gloucester/Forster LGA FSS work with families one to one or groupwork</p>		
St Vincent De Paul – (Taree) Ellen Carter	<p>Recently returned from leave. Increase in clients presenting with medical and electricity bills</p>		

HNE Mental Health – Sandy Brooks	<p>Mental Health Week 10- 17 October 2010 Activities to be held through this week 12 October – Stalls, activities, info booths at Uniting Church Taree, courtyard. eg. belly dancing, fun activities</p> <p>Mental Health First Aid running 23 & 30 August 2010</p> <p>NALAG & Mental Health – Working with Children Workshop. Sandy to confirm date. Possible venue Club Taree. Sandy to provide more info closer to date</p>		Sandy
Salvation Army Jenni McLeish	<p>New worker still learning processes. Open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 10am – 1pm</p>		
GTCC Youth Services Bree Dennis	<p>MYSS Interagency meeting 9 September. Grant Sorensen (Community Services) guest speaker</p> <p>8 December – Keeping Them Safe training to be run in Taree</p>		
Uniting Church Narelle Penman	<p>Demand for welfare services “skyrocketed” Uniting Church seeking funding for ER. No self referral. Have been assisting with medical, transport, accommodation. Increase in demand from local community members using Uniting Church services – biggest day Fridays</p>		
HNE Health Patricia Frederickson	<p>Lots of complex clients - busy</p>		
Psychiatric Rehabilitation Australia (PRA) Felicity Nicholson	<p>Some places in R&R program still available. HASI – no vacancies Referral Welcome</p>		
Manning District Emergency	<p>Gayle Halloran new manager commenced. Restructuring currently being undertaken</p>		

Accommodation (Lyn's Place) Gayle Halloran Pilar McGechan	MDEA to close for 3 weeks. Services to be informed of closer via email from manager Service open day to be organised at end of restructuring Pilar McGechan appointed as new worker		Gayle
CTC Old Bar Stewart Scott-Irving	Attended judicial commission at Wallaby Point and Forster. Magistrates, dealing with legal matter, repeat offenders, Youth		
Jobfind Centre Taree Bradly Fishpool	Stream 1 – 4. Youth Service 15-17 Stream 4 – multiple barriers, eg methadone, problems with accommodation, family Can register Youth at Risk/Homeless. Jobfind can pay for temporary accommodation. Clients don't have to be registered with Centrelink Location: Albert St Taree PH: 65511700		
Migrant Settlement Project Lyn Schneider	Program refunded. Referral service for 'new Arrivals (residents for up to 5 years). Change of title for worker. No longer known as Regional Migrant Worker – will be Migrant Settlement Project Worker in keeping with Federal funding requirements/specifications. Participate in Monday Women's group Taree and every 2 nd Friday multicultural group at Port Macquarie Freedom From Fear photo exhibition held at Taree great success. Taree last regional area. Two new stories from Taree joined exhibition. Local support was great, lots of public access (coffee shops, art gallery, CBD Bank). A similarly structured exhibition will be held in Sydney.		
Samaritans Foundation Nathan Paff	Overview of Homelessness Action Plan. Samaritans focus on families with children who have tenancy but tenancy in jeopardy. Includes both public /private tenants. Complex model Taree/Forster 4 families /month		

<p>Youth Refuge</p>	<p>Samaritans establishing a local committee to look at housing issues.</p> <p>Project has limitations – NOT crisis service Individual service providers to be approached to undertake case plan funded by Samaritans. ie. Wages via a brokered service co-ordinated by Samaritans. Case plan ongoing for up to 6 months with tenants</p> <p>Samaritans in process of inviting local community to participate in program. Meeting to be held Blue Cross 22/7/10.</p> <p>Taree/Forster brokerage seeing lots of single men. Much of budget spent on accommodation. Youth refuge numbers down</p>		
<p>Centrelink Cathy Braiding</p>	<p>Work with most vulnerable community, people in crisis, DV, youth not living at home.</p> <p>Changes to Youth Allowance & Parental income test more generous. (refer to internet re changes.</p> <p>Informed Centrelink, Marjorie St Cottage Bushland available for faxing/internet access Monday, Wednesday & Thursday am.</p> <p>If customers registered with Centrelink access available to download info from Cottage also.</p>		
<p>Family Laws Relationship Centre Cassandra Brown</p>	<p>Aim – to bridge gap between families who have been separated. Service Area – Taree to Kempsey Service guidelines to be expanded on at next Interagency Meeting</p>		
<p>Hunter Community Legal Centre Luke Shearston</p>	<p>Legal outreach service every 2nd Thursday at Manning Support Services Provide dispute mediation Not Means tested – linked with mediation services. Arrangements for vulnerable people assisted mediation.</p>		

	<p>Power imbalance issues can be with client or phone assistance as required.</p> <p>Other services – community legal education, not a lot interest in family law</p> <p>Willing to work with organisations re. info sessions for workers regarding community legal education</p> <p>Family Law interest will forward updated details</p> <p>Advice via Taree Family Relationships (have to be a clients to be referred)</p> <p>General Advice Phone Number: 40409121 (Mon, Wed, Fri)</p>		
<p>MVNS Caron Watkins</p>	<p>Celia Lashlie – 20/21 July at Taree</p>		
<p>Guest Speaker Brighter Futures- Catholic Care Deborah Gates</p>	<p>Undergoing transition with new Director and Service Manager recently appointed.</p> <p>2 ways of referral</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Self referral/Community referral 2. Community Service referral <p>Referrals check through Community Services check to make sure no report or what level (if any)</p> <p>Families/high risk clients usually handled by Community Services workers</p> <p>60% of referral from community</p> <p>Once referral received takes approximately 1 month turnaround</p>		
<p><u>NEXT MEETING</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will be 1pm 4th August 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 		