

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

Date: 5 May 2010

At: Community Services, Victoria Street, Taree 2430

Present: Caron Watkins (MVNS), Ellen Carter (SV), Peter Stace (FSS), Barbara Lawrence (Manning Valley Respite Care Service), Jenny Gibson (Centrelink), Shynyn McConnell (PRA), Bernadette Sexton (MVNS), Nathan Paff (Samaritans Foundation), Sharon Freeman (Housing NSW), John Macvean (GL Manning Community Options), Pilar McGechan (MDEA), Grant Soreslsen (Community Services), June Ryan (NILS), Amy Hogan (NILS), Peter Glencross (Catholic Care), Patricia Frederickson (HNE Health)

Apologies:

Adrienne Greene, Hannah Stanley, Fiona Holmes

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>BUSINESS ARISING</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State Debt Recovery Office – Work Development Order – MVNS not heard back re. application. Caron to follow-up. Work development orders appropriate for people with fines to work off. 2. Interagency Terms of Reference and Questionnaire Follow up next meeting 		<p style="text-align: center;">Caron</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Caron</p>
<u>Standard Agenda Items</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emergency Relief Sub Committee – meets quarterly <p>St Vincent De Paul Taree – Ellen Carter away for three months ER assistance will continue in Ellen’s absence. One EAPA book left. Bills getting larger and many new clients not seen previously using service</p>		

	<p>Samaritans Taree – Lyn Powell undertaking ER duties. Two EAPA books available</p> <p>MVNS – Foodbank, food/fuel assistance available. No Telstra available. MVNS to distribute basic ER food parcels from Cottage Marjorie St Taree Thursdays 10am -12pm</p> <p>2. CDAT – Next meeting 3 June at GTCC Library 10.30am MVNS working on Celia Lashly workshops. Day and night workshops to be held. Caron to email re date/time/venue</p> <p>Request for more members to attend CDAT meetings</p>	Follow up	Caron
<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	Hypothetical case studies carried forward to next meeting		Caron
<u>Correspondence In</u>	Nil		
<u>Correspondence Out</u>	Nil		
<u>GUEST SPEAKER</u>	Mission Australia - Youth Connections speaker ?		
<u>SERVICE REPORTS</u>			
Family Support Services Peter Stace	<p>FSS currently restructuring Family worker program funded through Community Service, Families NSW , CSGG 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>Almost half clients are new clients Increase in clients experiencing mortgage stress Increase in clients who are not receiving Centrelink benefit Amount of spending /clients more than this time last year\$15,000 over what distributed Don Clarke will be undertaking ER in Ellen’s absence</p>		

<p>Great Lakes Community Options John McVeen</p>	<p>HAC funded covers Manning Valley, Gloucester, Karuah to Johns River regions Co-working with financial counsellor Increase in housing issues Existing waiting list but open for referrals Community Options provides short term case management – 3 months</p>		
<p>Peter Glencross Fathers & Parenting Co-ordinator Catholic Care</p>	<p>Mainstream activity centre for dads and kids, after school dads support group, fathers events Drop-in centre at Catholic Care office, possibly evenings/Saturdays Peter will distribute info at a later date</p>		
<p>Centrelink Jenny Gibson Community Engagement Officer (CEO)</p>	<p>CEO focus on customers/community groups dealing with homelessness Busy visiting agencies to find out what gaps exist in service and what issues services/clients experience with Centrelink Weekly payment available for people at risk or are homeless July 2010 – changes for customers enable clients to lodge forms on line or on phone, enables workers spend more time on case management Jenny has asked Interagency members to contact Centrelink re. free internet service in the community Each site employs a Community Engagement Officer</p>		
<p>No Interest Loans (NILS) Amy Hogan (Taree,</p>	<p>Great Lakes offices opening at Bridgepoint Towers Tuncurry Part-time service Low income loans for whitegoods and medical equip.</p>		

<p>Gloucester, Hastings)</p> <p>June Ryan (Great Lakes)</p>	<p>Aim to minimise poverty cycle Max loan amount \$1000 Clients can have savings Clients can use service multiple times once paid off loan Eligibility: low income/Centrelink benefit, live in LGA 6 months + Over 18years of age Clients need to afford payment – max. loan period 18 months</p>		
<p>Salvation Army/MRRH</p> <p>Patricia Frederickson</p>	<p>Lyn Powell undertaking ER service until someone employed.</p> <p>Patricia indicated social work Dpt at Manning Hospital – Taree Rural Referral Hospital open to community referrals. Hours of work Mon-Fri 8.30am- 4.30pm</p>		
<p>Manning Valley Respite Service</p> <p>Barbara Lawrence</p>	<p>Provide individual support, respite and leisure services from 0-65years for children and adults with intellectual/physical disability</p> <p>Always looking for volunteers</p>		
<p>Manning District Emergency Accommodation (Lyn's Place)</p> <p>Pilar McGechan</p>	<p>New Manager commences employment 31 May 2010</p> <p>MDEA provides short term (6 weeks) accommodation, units stay 6 months. No vacancies at moment</p> <p>Groups currently run: Mum's & Bubs Wednesday 10.30am Tuesday/Wednesday after school program Holiday programs</p>		
<p>Housing NSW</p> <p>Sharon Freeman</p>	<p>Sharon role to assist tenants to maintain tenancy in particular tenants dealing with d&a, mental health and carers about to be evicted, child protection. Co-ordinate links with homecare, home</p>		

	<p>modification organisations.</p> <p>Multitude of issues dealing with lots of mental health issues and d&a.</p> <p>Accord still happening</p> <p>Presently Sharon attending meetings to introduce her self to services and establish priority of needs.</p>		
<p>PRA Shayn McConnell</p>	<p>Non clinical voluntary program for clients diagnosed with a mental health illness. Client range from 16 – frail aged. PRA provides support for clients in home eg. cleaning, cooking – each program individualised includes TAFE support, employment and social programs.</p>		
<p>Community Services Grant Sorensen</p>	<p>Community Services major role in “Keeping them Safe” – NSW Government’s response to Wood Commission</p> <p>Increase focus on NGO sector supporting children at risk. Will be running 2 day training “identifying and responding to risk of harm”</p> <p>Interested in attending training first preference for Community Service funded organisations then non Community Service funded organisations.</p> <p>Presentation at other interagency meeting co-presenting background to changes to “KTS” and case work</p> <p>Other community services HSNET Govt run website providing a list of services in local LGA. NGO support line 1800 772 479 (KTS support line) - Support line only running for 6 months</p>		

	<p>Brighter Futures referrals made by ringing KTS helpline. Referrals – balance has changed to 60% community</p> <p>Services Grants program review:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focuses on community development 2. Family support 		
<p>Samaritans Foundation Nathan Paff</p>	<p>Overview of Homelessness Actions Plan. Samaritans focus on families with children who have tenancy but tenancy in jeopardy. Includes both public /private tenants</p> <p>Samaritans establishing a local committee to look at housing issues.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Target 350 individuals from Great Lakes to Coffs Harbour</p>		
<p>MVNS Caron Watkins</p>	<p>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</p>		
<p><u>NEXT MEETING</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will be 1pm 2nd June 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 		