

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

Date: 4 th November 2009	At: Department of Community Services, Taree 2430
Present: Ellen Carter (St Vincent De Paul), Caron Watkins (MVNS), Shaniane Andrews (Samaritans), Barbra Lawrence (MV Respite) Cathy Braiding (Centrelink), Sandy Bowden (Community Options), Carol Morton (Community Options), Chris Cassar (Catholic Care – PHAMS), Carol Williams (Catholic Care – PHAMS), Kaye Wilson (Centrelink), Amy Hogan (NILS- MSS), Sara Ison (Cuppa Chat and company) Shanyn McConnell (PRA), Lyn Schneider (RMW – MVNS), Robert Cooke (MSS)	
Apologies: Bernadette Sexton, Ros Britton,	
Time Commenced: 1:05pm	Time Finished: 2.35pm
Chairperson: Caron Watkins	Minute Taker: Caron Watkins

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>ACTION BY</u>
<u>Minutes Meeting</u>			
<u>Business Arising</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the last meeting Sandy advised that there would be a Clinical Nurse Consultant available at ER 3 days a week –what 3 days are they? 	Follow up with Sandy	Caron
<u>Standard Agenda Items</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Sub Committee – looking to have a follow up meeting of Transport sub committee early in the new year along with a meeting of service providers who indicated interest around transport sharing Emergency Relief – current updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A directory containing information about all current ER service 		Caron

	<p>providers and the services they provide has been circulated to all interagency members and will be updated regularly. It is IMPORTANT that if you are providing direct service delivery to vulnerable clients that you make yourself aware of what is available locally via this register and refer clients appropriately.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MVNS – is now providing a much broader range of emergency relief – a flier has also been circulated advising of what is available. This service is now called Manning Valley Cooperative Living Program (MVCLP). For more flyers please contact MVNS on 6553 5121 • Uniting Care – a letter was read out outlining an Appeal being coordinated by Manning Uniting Church to provide gifts at Christmas in partnership with Target. Requests for specific gifts can be made via Rev Narelle Penman 65523850 <p>3. CDAT – Next meeting tomorrow is a planning session – all welcome. Service providers are also encouraged to provide information about this committee to their clients and other community members who may be interested in being involved.</p>		MVNS
<u>New Business</u>	<p><u>Venue for December meeting</u> – Caron asked those present whether they would prefer to leave next meeting at same time and place or have something more social for the last meeting of the year and hold it a bit later.</p> <p><u>Interagency Project Report</u> – this report resulting from the Interagency project coordinated through Manning Valley Neighbourhood Services over the past 2 years has been finalised and circulated to all members. Caron pointed out that while it had been</p>	Agreed that email would be sent to all members asking what they would prefer and go with most preferred response	Caron

	<p>preferable that strategies were developed throughout the time frame of the project as an action research method, it was not possible to address or progress all of the issues and strategies identified. However we now have some definite issues and gaps identified and ideally we could address them in partnership or via some other funding over the next couple of years.</p> <p>Some of the issues identified for future action are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing affordability and homelessness (interestingly Samaritans have some funding to carry out some research into this locally – more information to come) • Information dissemination regarding available services (CPR service providers day and community services expo have been delivered, however there needs to be ongoing strategies around this) • Collaboration for wholistic emergency relief provision (ER interagency addressing many of the issues) • Healthy lifestyle and nutrition programs • Transport – affordability, planning etc (ongoing through transport interagency, issues to be kept on agenda and addressed collaboratively) • Domestic violence – monitoring effectiveness of outreach services and lobbying for supplementary programs (active DV monitoring committee and MVNS willing to look at other avenues for funding community development initiatives in partnership with other service providers) • School retention programs • Legal services – advocacy and action to progress provision of a CLC on MNC – being addressed through a Newcastle service along with provision of Legal Assistance via MSS • Maintenance and enhancement of existing networking forums eg MV Interagency (Caron pointed out the pitfall of one service 		
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	<p>having total responsibility for this and had hoped that the Interagency project would have eventuated in a more cohesive and collaborative approach to the facilitation and monitoring of MVI. This is one area for ongoing work and investigation of options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing provision of sector wide workshops and training for services and personnel – MVNS also willing to assist with identifying and providing training when time and funding allows. Also happy to collaborate with government bodies to ensure a more comprehensive and affordable range of training available (eg DOCS) 		
<u>Correspondence In</u>	Nil		
<u>Correspondence Out</u>	Nil		
<u>SERVICE REPORTS</u>			
MVNS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Relief changes – Manning Valley Cooperative Living Program – flier outlining services available and guidelines for assessment has been circulated • Emergency Relief service providers list • Area Assistance Scheme Interagency project now available on website • www.mvns.org.au 		
Cuppa Chat and Company – Sarah Ison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides life skills, social skills and education • 5.30pm – 7pm 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at Amber House • Well attended 		
PRA – HASI and R&R – Shany McConnell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target group – diagnosed mental illness in home and community • Open for referrals • No waiting list • Partner with DOH and HNEAHS 		

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MVNS – Regional Migrant Worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyn Schneider introduced herself as new worker in the role • Background in the education department • Aware of systems in schools which prevents them from attending interagency and therefore remain unaware of services available 		
NILS – Amy Hogan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiting list – nil in Taree • 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 & be at least 18 yo • Can reapply 6 months after fully repaying loan 		
MV respite Care - Barbra Lawrence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabilities – 0-65 year olds • Physical and psychological • Social support • New program for under 12's • Ph: 65527374 		
Cathy Braiding and Kaye Wilson - Centrelink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with vulnerable customers eg young people leaving home, DV Victims • Clients working on a regular basis can do reporting over the phone 		
Community Options – Sandy Bowden and Carol Morton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target group – frail and disabled • Have a waiting list but try not to turn anyone away • Changes in guidelines- taking a while to filter through into service delivery • Primarily case management with linkages and referrals • Looking to increasing staffing levels • Streamlining referral system • Case loads are time limited 		

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>ACTION BY</u>
Manning Support Services – Bob Cooke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking at coordinating ASIST training for local workers – if you are interested please ring Bob Cooke on 6551 5665 or manager@manningssupportservices.org.au It is a 2 day workshop and will cost around \$150 per person 		
PHAMS – Chris Cassar and Carol Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and assist people with serious mental illness. Don't have to be diagnosed Referral forms from services are important 		
St Vincent de Paul (Taree) – Ellen Carter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inundated with clients needing electricity payments due to increase in rates Jack Green is proving to be very uncooperative when advocacy required 		
MV Respite Care – Barbra Lawrence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0-65 year olds Have started a new program called 'teen time' for school students with a disability and with parents who are working or studying 		
Samaritans – Shaniane Andrews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth and Brokerage service – individuals and families facing homelessness Refuge presently full Shaniane will be facilitating a 7 hour per week research project into homelessness in the Manning Looking at a forum for service providers before the end of the year and a forum early next year for homeless people 		
<u>NEXT MEETING</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting will be Wednesday 2nd December at 3pm at the Bean Bar Taree followed by drinks and nibbles 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 		