

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

Date: 1/5//13		At: Community Services, Victoria Street, Taree 2430	
Present: Caron Watkins (MVNS), John Allsop (Centrelink), Pauline Smith (Financial Counsellor), Kirsten Olsen (Richmond PRA), Liz Whale (IPTAAS Coordinator HNEAHS), Margo Roland (Service Manager Health Transport Unit), Jenny Hadfield (MVCATG), Adele Hayne (Cancer Council NSW), Judith Conning (Social Worker Oncology MRRH)			
Apologies: Robyn Garry, Helga Smith, Steve Bromhead			
Time Commenced: 1.20pm		Time Finished: 2.45pm	
Chairperson: Caron Watkins		Minute Taker: Caron Watkins	
TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	ACTION BY
<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>			
IPTAAS – lobbying in relation to reduction of kilometres required for people to claim for specialist health treatment	<p>Thanks to Jenny Hadfield for organising todays guests.</p> <p>Caron explained prior discussions around issues for clients accessing IPTAAS in the Taree region. With a 100km limit it excludes many people from being able to claim travel to Port Macquarie for treatment and seeking reimbursement.</p> <p>Liz provided an overview of the IPTAAS scheme and also provided information at various points where the scheme may be able to be flexible eg if someone had recently moved here and wanted to return to and finalise treatment with a specialist they had been seeing in eg Sydney.</p> <p>One important bit of information regarding IPTAAS claims is that they need to be submitted asap as there is already approx 28 day wait,</p>		

	<p>and if forms are not filled in correctly or signed by appropriate people it will hold it up further</p> <p>It is also important to advise clients to get their forms filled in when they visit their GP as this can be another hold up and it is best if they can take it with them to the specialist. It is too late for them to claim AFTER their treatment if they haven't kept any evidence etc.</p> <p>It is also important for clients to know that even if they are having sporadic but ongoing treatment, they can write a letter requesting reimbursement for 1st trip – IPTAAS will be flexible where possible.</p> <p>Cumulative trips – exceed 200km in one week.</p> <p>IPTAAS also provides assistance for accommodation at commercial and private accommodation.</p> <p>Exceptional circumstances may allow someone to claim on a fortnightly basis.</p> <p>Advance payments can also be made in certain circumstances – however, some paperwork still needs to be submitted. Please ensure clients retain receipts.</p> <p>Lack of GP awareness and support for promoting this program to clients was also raised. Caron mentioned that she had spoken to the workers from Medicare Local about this at the last Interagency meeting and this would be one avenue to get more GP's on board. Media promotion would also be ideal</p> <p>There is plenty of promotional material available from the Tamworth office – just give them a call</p>	<p>Continue to raise with Medicare Local</p> <p>Provide more information via email</p>	<p>Caron</p> <p>Caron</p>
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	<p>Judith raised the issue around the radiotherapy unit being in Port Macquarie where people either need an escort to drive them to appointments, OR need to stay the week as they can't drive.</p> <p>Where to from here? Margo advise that it is very unlikely that Health will consider any changes to the kilometre rates without solid evidence of unmet need. Services are often guilty of not referring clients because they will assume that they will not get assistance.</p> <p>Don't forget that Community Transport also have runs to Port Macquarie and Newcastle on a regular basis for health treatments and can usually fit extras.</p> <p>MVNS in conjunction with Community Transport will be publishing a transport resource in the near future.</p>	<p>NB that the Cancer council has cars and volunteer drivers that may be able to assist. The hospital also has a patient transport bus.</p> <p>Services need to be more aware of referring anyway, or providing data about people who don't meet the criteria because they fall just short of the kilometre rate.</p>	
Lobbying and liaising with local real estates about rental properties and off peak hot water systems	Held over for future meeting		
<u>BUSINESS ARISING</u>			
	Put over to future meetings		
<u>STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS</u>	Nil this month		

<u>Correspondence In</u>	Nil		
<u>Correspondence Out</u>	Nil		
<u>NEXT MEETING</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will be 4th September, 1pm- Interact Room – Greater Taree City Library, 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 		