

**MINUTES OF MANNING VALLEY INTERAGENCY MEETING**

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013

**At:** Manning Uniting Church, Taree

**Present:** Jane O'Dwyer (MVNS), Pilar Mc Gechan (TWCR), Captain Mark Williamson (TSA), Jenny Gibson and Sarah Dodd (DHS), Kirsten Olsen (PRA), Carole Isaacs (GTCC), Sara Ison (Cuppa Chat), Jacqui Keith and Shaniane Andrew (Samaritans), Annie Dunn (Charles Sturt University), Inge Ernst (TAFE), Jayne Cumberland, Junita Vernon, Mark Norris (Smith Family), Lee Murray (CCSTD), Eve Witschge (Anglican Church), Peta Cass (Manning Great Lakes Early Intervention), Robert Cooke (MSS), Ellen Carter (St Vincent de Paul Taree), Caron Watkins (MVNS), Narelle Penman (UC), Wendy Birrell and Robyn Morrison (YMCA).

**Apologies:**

Alison Gleeson, Rev. Helen (Anglican Church)

**Time Commenced:** 1.05 pm

**Time Finished:** 2.35 pm

**Chairperson:** Caron Watkins

**Minute Taker:** Jane O'Dwyer

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>ACTION BY</u>
<p><b><u>BUSINESS ARISING</u></b></p> <p><b>1. Community Services and the media</b></p> <p><b>2. Community Connect Day</b></p> <p><b>3. IPTAAS</b></p> <p><b>4. Bridges out of Poverty</b></p>	<p>Taree Women &amp; Children's Refuge article was in the Manning River Times. Journalists interviewed staff. Staff weren't given a chance to review the article before publication as was expected and as a result it contained a couple of mistakes.</p> <p>To be held on 16 October, expressions of interest are currently out. Usual activities including hair cuts, birth certificates, sausage sizzle, entertainment and service hubs. Sleep out to be held tomorrow (8 August). Good response with 63 participants, 2012 had 40 participants.</p> <p>At the meeting with IPTAAS representatives at the May Collaborate meeting there was a definitive 'no' to any potential for lobbying in relation to the kilometres that can be travelled to access the reimbursement. Individual cases can be looked at and they encourage us to refer clients directly to them if there are exceptional circumstances. Forms have been updated and applications can be made prior to trips (advance claim). Google IPTAAS for more information and forms</p> <p>Some accommodation can be claimed if health related.</p> <p>End of week is final day for registration, so far 80 people registered. If you have registered but not paid, please forward money ASAP.</p>		

<p><b><u>Guest Speaker/s</u></b></p> <p>1. <b>Annie Dunn – Charles Sturt University</b></p> <p>2. <b>Wendy Birrell – YMCA (The Brightside Mental Health and Wellbeing Program)</b></p> <p>3. <b>Carole Isaacs (Community Development Officer GTCC) – Community Builders</b></p>	<p>Annie is the Project Officer for the Paramedic Unit at CSU. 2013 is the first year the Paramedic course has run at Port Macquarie campus. Annie is looking for work experience placements for 1<sup>st</sup> year undergraduate paramedic students in the community to gain an understanding of client groups and community service organisations. Aims to provide exposure, experience and understanding for students. Placements will be flexible and run for 1-2 weeks starting in 2014.</p> <p>Wendy is the Community Development Officer (Hunter Central Coast). The Brightside Mental Health and Wellbeing Program has been running since 2008/9 and aims to assist in the recovery of people with mental health issues through physical activity. Program aims to increase social inclusion and self esteem and improve wellness. The program runs for 60 days and includes free use of the YMCA facilities for the client. After 60 days a client can be reassessed and fee assistance may be available but 1 on 1 support is not available. Clients can self refer or can be referred through GP, mental health worker or other health professional. No formal diagnosis is required. Clients must be 16 years or over. To refer call the centre to discuss the clients needs, the client will then come in to meet the worker and a program will be developed to suit the client. Referral forms will be emailed out. The program is 1 on 1 with a trained YMCA staff member, clients may come as often as they wish.</p> <p>Community Builders is run by Dept. Family and Community Services. As part of this they fund the CDO to assist organisations to assist organisations to submit applications to the Community Builders Scheme. The scheme is currently under review, last round 80% of applications did not meet all the requirements. Continuation of funds to support the CDO to assist organisations is under review. After December 2013 will see a consultative approach, it is not clear how this will work at this stage.</p>		
<p><b><u>Standard Agenda Items</u></b></p>	<p><b>Interagency Service Reports</b></p>		
<p><b>DHS Jenny Gibson</b></p>	<p>Taking on new role of Community Services Officer based in Taree while maintaining existing role of Community Engagement Worker. Contact details remain the same. John Allsop working in Social Worker position.</p>		
<p><b>Salvation Army Captain Mark Williamson</b></p>	<p>Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Mark is filling in while Kim is on leave for 2 weeks. Been opening on a Tuesday for EAPAs. To make an appointment phone 6552 5039 or call in 9-10.30am.</p>		
<p><b>TWCR Pilar Mc Gechan</b></p>	<p>Currently full. Saturday's workers are on call. Resource Centre open from 11am-1pm. Seeking information on any programs for young boys who would benefit from</p>		

	mentoring from a male. Currently nothing available.		
<b>Migrant Settlement Project Jane O'Dwyer</b>	Interpreter Workshop running in Taree on 14 August and 15 August in Port Macquarie. Multicultural Carers Week event will be held on 17 October. Looking for CALD participants.		
<b>MVNS Caron Watkins</b>	MVNS will stop providing EAPA at the end of September due to the onerous nature of providing this service. The only significant outcome of a 2 yr review was a \$20 increase in the vouchers plus additional paper work. Hoping the government will be forced to look at the current system.		
<b>Samaritans Youth Service Jacqui Keith</b>	Providing Youth Crisis Accommodation and Outreach is full. Demand for brokerage is exceeding available funds.		
<b>PRA Kirsten Olsen</b>	PRA have a new pamphlet for distribution.		
<b>Samaritans Tenancy Support Service Shaniane Andrews</b>	Aims to keep people in tenancies and avoid homelessness. Assists families with children under 18 yrs. Currently involved in Housing Providers Forum. Received Innovation funding, this will fund a consultant to look at the refuge and how it is currently being run.		
<b>Taree TAFE Sara Ison</b>	Community Welfare student currently doing work placement with PRA.		
<b>Taree TAFE Inga Ernst and Jayne Cumberland</b>	Community Welfare students currently doing work placement under Kylie Atkinson. Looking Mental area of suicide prevention and setting up information hubs.		
<b>Taree TAFE Juanita Vernon</b>	Community Welfare student doing work placement with Carole Isaacs. Working on Community Connect day, coordinating TAFE students. Night Shift – Website is running as of last week. All money has been spent on swags (50) and crisis packs. There was enough for 200 crisis packs but not 200 swags.		
<b>Taree TAFE Eve Witschge</b>	Community welfare student doing work placement at the Blue Cross Anglican Church. Looking into development of a community garden at the church to provide food for clients. The TAFE agricultural section maybe able to provide some assistance with the set up. Also concerned about the number of couch surfers at TAFE.		
<b>GTCC - CDO Carole Isaacs</b>	Seniors Week funding applications currently on line. MSDAC is looking to map interagencies top 3 priorities of emerging issues in the GTCC area to provide a snap shot.		
<b>Smith Family – Saver Plus Program Mark Norris</b>	Saver Plus Program is a financial savings program which encourages people to get into savings mode. Program rewards participants up to \$500 to be spent on educational materials/resources with matched savings. Participants must attend financial management workshops. Currently spaces available.		

<b>Mission Australia – Father Support Worker Lee Murray</b>	Located in the Five Star Family Day Care. Lee encourages fathers to engage with their kids (0-12yrs) and be positive role models. Available Tuesday's 10-12. Also involved with local Autism Support Group.		
<b>Manning Great Lakes Early Intervention Peta Cass</b>	My Time Group – support group for parents/carers of children with a disability or chronic medical condition.		
<b>Manning Support Services Robert Cooke</b>	Currently 10 funded programs which are doing well. Had 2 vacancies, Family worker position has been accepted, Counselling position interview is next week. Men and Family relationships – have been working in senior primary and high schools running programs on anti-bullying, self-esteem and healthy relationships. NILS – Taree and Hastings, trying to amalgamate but will run the same. Recently ran 2 excursions. 1) Bus load of elderly Taree clients were taken to Shoal Bay for a 2 night trip. 2) Port Macquarie clients went on a day trip to a working cattle station. Had lunch at Bent on Food and received a fruit/veg box and a meat tray.		
<b>ST Vincent de Paul Taree</b>	More clients but insufficient funds. People returning after 3/4yrs without needing assistance. Closed on Wednesdays.		
<b>Manning Uniting Church Narelle Penman</b>	The Cundletown Church is to be used as a community facility. Have been given timeframe of 2 years to make self sufficient. Started to establish a community garden which can be used by groups. Garden aims to assist with breaking poverty cycle along with financial counselling and cooking classes. The fencing is up, raised beds are currently being made and will be wheelchair accessible. Looking for volunteers to assist with initial heavy work. There is no ongoing monetary support for the garden.		
<b><u>NEW BUSINESS</u></b>			
<b><u>CORRESPONDENCE OUT</u></b>			
<b><u>CORRESPONDENCE IN</u></b>			
<b><u>NEXT MEETING</u></b>	<b>Next meeting will be 2 October 2013, 1pm-2.30pm</b> <b>Venue: Manning Uniting Church</b> Enquiries: Manning Valley Neighbourhood Services Inc. PH: 6553 5121, Email <a href="mailto:mvns@mvns.org.au">mvns@mvns.org.au</a> Interagency minutes can also be downloaded from MVNS Website: <a href="http://www.mvns.org.au">www.mvns.org.au</a>		