

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

**Date:** 6/11/13

**At:** Uniting Church Albert Street Taree 2430

**Present:** Caron Watkins (MVNS), Carole Isaacs (GTCC), Jessica Robinson (Goodstart Early Learning Centre), Pauline Smith (Financial Counsellor), Marg Brien (Goodstart Early Learning Centre), Carol Morton (GL COPS), Helga Smit (Catholic Care), Christine Love (Dundaloo Support Services), Jo Fischer (Wesley Dalmar OOH), David Norling (Manning Aboriginal Working Party), Narelle Penman (Uniting Church), Suzanne Kelly (New Horizons), Jo Paton (MVNS), Kylie Atkinson (RAMHP/Mental Health), Alina Llumanovic (CLSD/FLPN), Sara Ison (Benevolent Society PHAMS), Susan Livermore (Benevolent Society – FRS)

**Apologies:** Rachel Hartley, Robyn Ballard, Sheryl Tester, Bec Ligt, Beth Fuller, Kim Lawrence, Lisa Kennerley

**Time Commenced:** 1.05pm

**Time Finished:** 3pm

**Chairperson:** Caron Watkins

**Minute Taker:** Caron Watkins

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>ACTION BY</u>
<b><u>NEW BUSINESS</u></b>			
<b>Bridges Out of Poverty follow up</b>	<p>Caron explained that given the amount of feedback from people wanting to continue to progress ideas and strategies from the training, that the Collaborate meeting provides an opportunity to do this. The only problem is that the next meeting now, won't be until March 2014. Caron would like someone else to take on this role.</p> <p>Each person was asked to provide a perspective of what they believe they 'got out' of the training and which areas they believe we could look at as a group. There is a lot of potential for organisations to put in place ideas and strategies identified for providing case work, however, this meeting would focus on identifying avenues for better collaboration amongst workers and services and what partnerships can be developed to address gaps and identify opportunities.</p> <p>Benefits and insights from the training included:</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identifying language barriers</li> <li>- The value of talking to service groups about what we do</li> <li>- P67 of the workbook – Developing a Bridges community</li> <li>- The importance of planning strategically</li> <li>- Engagement with services, workers and clients and how that can be facilitated</li> <li>- Identifying the middle class barriers in approaching clients and their issues</li> <li>- The complexity of issues surrounding a client before we even get to their issues</li> <li>- Funding – looking at a collaborative approach esp for services with similar service delivery targets</li> <li>- The need to see differences in services delivered and where</li> <li>- How best to deliver a program and who to?</li> <li>- Services need to be broken down to a really basic level</li> <li>- Raised awareness of the intrinsic differences within middle class and poverty as models</li> <li>- Observing the gaps</li> <li>- Focus is on being a part of each community</li> <li>- That we need to be aware that as workers we don't mistakenly believe that we need to 'fix' people or change their class structure but that it is about workers being aware of how their values and judgements fit within the client/worker framework</li> <li>- Language – identified as a major issue to be aware of as a worker</li> <li>- Literacy and how it affects many aspects of a persons ability to cope</li> <li>- Eg Health literacy and clients not being aware of what questions to ask</li> <li>- That as workers we can offer choices, and that clients HAVE choices</li> </ul>		
<b>OTHER OBSERVATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Other observations included that within collaboration needs to be a similar sense of strategic direction, and matching the needs to that.</li> <li>- As workers we need to challenge media and community perceptions on social issues</li> </ul>		
<b>WHAT NEXT?</b>	Who can lead a process which can encompass the Bridges concepts and lead to better collaboration within our local area. Caron won't be available to facilitate but happy to be involved. Others happy to also be involved.	Kylie agreed to do some follow up and Chair	

		future meetings. Caron will continue to provide secretariat role	
<b><u>BUSINESS ARISING</u></b>			
<b><u>STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS</u></b>	Nil this month		
<b><u>Correspondence In</u></b>	Nil		
<b><u>Correspondence Out</u></b>	Nil		
<b><u>NEXT MEETING</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Next meeting will be 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014, 1pm- Uniting Church Albert Street Taree</b></li> <li>• 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></li> </ul>		