

Family Access Network Update

Spring 2010 • Volume 73



FAN

CEO's Update

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the spring edition of the FAN newsletter; may the sunnier skies and warmer air lift your spirits as they do mine.

This edition contains membership renewal, Annual General Meeting notification and the usual informative program and workshop updates, along with two introductions – one from Emma Sampson on the Board and the other Kate Crawshaw Client Services Manager.

The staff led portfolio model and self directed teams have been developing new projects and funding proposals, some of these relate to expanded programs for clients, particularly in areas of health and wellbeing. We look forward to successful funding outcomes.

The Eastern Diversity Group (EDG) is in the midst of a photographic project which will be launched at the FAN AGM to be held at Youth Connexions at 5pm 13 October. Associate Professor and FAN Board member Lynne Hillier will be the guest speaker, presenting *It's a grey day today: challenges to mental health and paths of resistance for same sex attracted youth*. In addition the inaugural Stephen B McLoghlin Encouragement Award will be presented on the night. I look forward to seeing you there.

The FAN Programs continue to offer diverse responses to the needs of clients through the Homeless Support Services team, workshops and skill development in The Life Skills Program offering

Driver Education, Young Mum's Group, Cooking, Welcome Home workshops a joint project with FAN's Private Rental Brokerage Program and by request from the sector an information session for workers on private rental processes and capacity building.

As mentioned in the last newsletter FAN is embracing a new staffing model and we are delighted to welcome Kate Crawshaw as Client Services Manager. Kate has been at FAN for less than a month and has hit the ground running and if she has not made herself known to you as yet I am sure she will soon. Sarah Evans commenced in mid September as the Senior Case Manager in the Homeless Support Services team. Peter Stephenson, will be returning to FAN in September in a Project role and we look forward to having him back on the team. FAN and Eastern Health – Eastern Dual Diagnosis Service are delighted to announce that John Mullane has been appointed to the Homeless Youth Dual Diagnosis Initiative (HYDDI) position, which is a regional project, involving a clinical response for client's, secondary consults and sector capacity building.

During this quarter we said goodbye to Jacqui Gabriel after three plus brilliant years as the Children and Young Families Support Worker. Jacqui provided an excellent range of programs and support to children and young families and in the past six months undertook additional responsibilities as the Acting Team Leader. On 25 August we also said farewell to Cathy Olive after four years at FAN as the Financial Administrator, a role which Cathy undertook with absolute dedication, leaving a well

developed system as her legacy. I wish them both well in their future endeavours and on behalf of the board; team, clients and sector colleagues thank them for their contribution to the work of FAN.

Please contact FAN on fan@fan.org.au if you have feedback on the newsletter or if you would like to contribute an article for the next edition.

I would like to conclude by thanking the many individuals, organisations, donors and funding bodies who support the efforts of FAN and who are acknowledged within the newsletter.

Regards,
Sue Carlile
CEO



Inside

Board Update.....	2
Counselling &	
Family Mediation.....	2
Homeless Support Services.....	3
Eastern Diversity Group.....	3
Life Skills Program.....	4
Private Rental Brokerage Program.....	4
Volunteers.....	5
Young Mums Group.....	5
Childrens Program.....	6
Useful Contacts.....	7
Annual General Meeting.....	8

Board Update

Hello – My name is Emma Sampson and I am very pleased to have recently joined the FAN board. Sue has asked me to share a little bit about myself for this newsletter, so here it goes....

Initially I trained as a community psychologist at Victoria University. "What is that?" I hear you ask! ...well, it is an area that works alongside communities to reduce inequality and build systems and structures that enable and empower communities. We believe that as individuals we belong to communities (of interest or place) and that by strengthening the connections we have to these communities, people's quality of life will be improved, and society will be a better place, especially for those who are more disadvantaged.

My research thesis examined the role of psychology in social responsibility and social action, with reference to refugee advocacy, and I was also involved for a short time at the asylum seeker resource centre, to assist some of the most marginalised people living in our community.

I have worked for 7 years myself in a community organisation in Epping, where I was responsible for establishing a volunteer resource service for Whittlesea. In this role I also oversaw the development of a locally driven community engagement

framework, which involved broad consultation with the community to document their aspirations for community participation. I was overwhelmed at people's desire to be involved, have a say and make a difference, especially those who faced many barriers to doing so.

In response to emerging needs, I was also involved in developing a community transport service for those facing transport disadvantage and a mentor program for newly arrived migrants and refugees. I led a small team and worked with many community volunteers in this role (what I miss most about the position!).

Then in early 2009 I took maternity leave to have a baby – and on February 17 Ava came along and changed our lives! After becoming a new mother, I have become involved in my local community (Whitehorse), by initiating and facilitating a community arts project for new mothers, starting a local playgroup and now through my involvement with FAN. I strongly believe in the importance of local communities and am committed to making the place in which I live a better place.

Since having Ava, I am currently involved in a research and advocacy capacity with the Australian Psychological Society's public interest team, addressing issues such as homelessness and refugee

mental health and wellbeing.

I joined FAN as I am keen to remain involved in the community sector, and to both learn more about the local area, issues and service responses and to hopefully use my experience to benefit FAN and the broader community. FAN struck me as an organisation with integrity, that appears to be dedicated to the clients it works with, seems like it is supportive of its staff, remains responsive to emerging issues and advocates more broadly (eg. within the homelessness sector). I am also keen to support a smaller, not for profit community based organisation, as I believe they are often the most effective at responding effectively to those in need, while being able to be flexible and innovative, yet unfortunately they often struggle for survival. FAN seems to have a strong history of involvement in the area, and to have remained a key organisation in the area, which to me shows it also must be meeting important needs, and be led by skilled, sensitive and experienced staff, including volunteers.

I look forward to meeting most of you at the AGM and getting to know you and the work you do better over the coming year – thanks for involving me!

*Emma Sampson
FAN Board Member*



Counselling & Family Mediation

FAN would like to welcome our new counsellor extraordinaire, Kate Crawshaw, to the team. She brings a raft of experience with her and most importantly is very easy to talk to!

We are currently taking referrals from young people aged 15-25 and their families.

To find out more about our counselling and family mediation services or to make an appointment please feel free to contact Kate on 9890 2673 or email any general enquiries to fan@fan.org.au.

Homeless Support Services

Spring has sprung – what a relief after such terrible winter weather. The HSS team has been busy as always supporting people throughout their tenancies with a range of different services. In the last three months 2 single young people, as well two families have been provided with housing, and we continue to look after a total of 20 young people and 15 children in our properties.

The most exciting news at the moment is the appointment of 2 new staff members who will be working alongside the HSS team to enhance the services we provide to our clients.

Firstly, we welcome Kate Crawshaw as the new client services manager. Kate will complement the HSS team by providing counselling to clients and providing services for our young families. A new dual diagnosis worker, John, will also be working closely with the HSS team to support clients who struggle with substance use, and/or mental health issues.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new staff, and express our excitement to be part of a growing and diverse Homeless Support Services team.



Well it has been an action-packed past few months for the Eastern Diversity Group crew. We've had some new faces join us which has been great and of course have enjoyed the company of our trusty regulars.

Our photography project "It's Personal" is in full swing, with members of the group madly snapping away with their cameras. We encourage everyone to join us at the FAN Annual General Meeting on October 13th to see our work on display.

We have also been watching our fair share of queer cinema and nutting out activities and workshops for the rest of the year. In the pipe-works is a health and wellbeing workshop with an esteemed guest speaker and of course lots of self pampering, a transgender focused workshop as well as a sexual health trivia afternoon with our pals at ALSO.

Of course it goes without saying that we would love to see some more new faces! If you would like to find out more about us or would like to join us please email fan@fan.org.au.

Introducing ...

Kate Crawshaw

Hi All,
I am really excited to have commenced in the NEW role of Client Services Manager at FAN! I have been in the role for four weeks now and I hope to bring not only my passion for working with young people and families, but vast experience in working in the field for the last 19 years in varying roles. Some of these include working solely with statutory clients, the homeless sector, domestic violence and therapeutic interventions. Part of my role is to run the Children's Program and Counselling and Family Mediation Program.

I look forward to meeting and working with workers within the FAN network over the next several months. And lastly and PLEASE don't hold this against me but YES I like Aussie rules and am a passionate HAWKS supporter!!!!!! I also enjoy meditation, reading, love movies and hanging with my family.



Life skills Program

Anyone aged between 15-25yrs is welcome to join our workshops!

Current Programs:

- Driver's Education – Getting your Learners
- Cooking classes – Learn to cook healthy, cheap and easy foods
- EDG – Same Sex Attracted Transgender Intersex support group – Every Wednesday from 4-6pm
- Young Mums Group – Every Tuesday from 1-3pm
- Welcome Home / Private Rental Brokerage program – Want to know all about private rental and how to successfully get you a property? Then this is a workshop for you – Runs at the end of each month.
- New Workshop!
We are pleased to present our newest workshop: *Beating the Private Rental Blues*.

This workshop is specific to workers who support young people aged between 15- 25 years access private rental. We want to help workers gain knowledge and as much confidence to assist a young person in securing private rental erasing the stigma of young people unable to take responsibility or maintain properties as well as to eliminate exploitation by raising awareness of tenant rights.

Call Stavrina or Sam to secure your spot in the workshop on 9890 2673

For more information about any of our workshops or to book a place, please call Stavrina on 9890 2673 or email fan@fan.org.au

Private Rental Brokerage Program

We've had a very busy 3 months which kept us nicely distracted from the chill of the seemingly endless winter. Continual support is being provided to young people in establishing and sustaining private rental properties. We achieve this by working with young people in conjunction with their landlord to ensure that the transition from Homeless Support Services to private rental accommodation is as smooth as possible.

We also help young people through providing material aid starter packs, which have proved integral to the creating a sense of belonging for the young person. We also ensuring that any private rental property that is at risk is sustained through the appropriate allocation of funds and working with the young persona and landlord to identify the issues that led to tenancy being in jeopardy.

The increasingly popular 'Welcome Home' workshop is being held on a bi-monthly basis and we have begun to see the results that this interactive learning environment provides. Feedback from the young people in attendance has indicated that the workshop is providing them with essential skills that support them in gaining private rental accommodation.

The 'Breaking the Cycle over Breakfast' initiative was held in August with representatives from Barry Plant in Glen Waverly in attendance. Discussions have taken place about FAN PRBP meeting with the director of Barry Plant Franchising to promote the benefits of its program on a state wide level.

This result highlights the importance of this initiative and the

benefits it provides to the PRBP and the young people it supports.

We are also happy to announce the establishment of a new workshop aimed at supporting case managers support the young people they work with. This new workshop will be held on the 1st of September 2010. It is already booked out! But don't be alarmed, we are aiming to run this workshop in a bi-monthly basis to ensure that it supports the skill development of engaging with the private rental market of case managers within the Eastern region.

If you are interested in either of the above workshops, please do not hesitate to contact Stavrina Hadjielias or Samuel Headberry on 03 9890 2673.

Finally, the PRBP would like to congratulate Kate Crawshaw on her successful appointment as Client Services Manager and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours at FAN. We have no doubt that Kate brings much insight and work experience that will benefit FAN and the PRBP over the years to come.

*Samuel Headberry
Private Rental Brokerage
Program Worker*



Volunteer Program

Interested in helping out young people aged between 15-25 years who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness?

This is an opportunity for you to break the cycle of marginalising young people creating an environment that is a safe and supportive not matter what age, race, religion or sexual orientation one might identify as.

Positions open:

Lead Tenant

Same Sex Attracted Intersex Transgender Shared Property. We are currently looking for a same sex attracted, transgender intersex (SSATI) person to become a voluntary, live in, Lead Tenant.

This voluntary role is rent free, with no utility bills. Share in a

comfortable 3 bedroom SSATI tailored response property located in Mont Albert, close to Eastern freeway and public transport.

The Lead Tenant is a valued member of the team who is required to role model every day living conditions in a shared accommodation environment and is ideally suited to someone whom is either working or studying and has an interest in making a difference to the lives of SSATI young people.

You would be sharing with two young people who are experiencing homelessness and other challenges. The young people receive a case managed response from FAN Youth Support Workers, therefore the Lead Tenant is not expected to take



on the role of staff, but support a stable and safe environment where regular training and support will be provided.

For more information or to apply for this position please call Stavrina on 9890 2673 or email enquiries to fan@fan.org.au

Young Mums Group

Its spring time!

What's on in September...

7th – Paper Mache

Let's get messy with glue, newspapers, and paint. Design your own paper mache from animals, picture frames to flower pots. It's a great activity for both mums and children to work together and have fun doing it!

14th – Making Friendship Bracelets

Learn how to make your own colourful threaded bracelets to keep for yourself and to give to people as a symbolism of your friendship and how special they are to you.

21st – You are my sunshine

Chose (not choose) a photo of you and your child/ren and turn it into a blossoming flower frame, perfect to display in your home or to give as a gift to friends or family.

28th – Games Day

Let's enjoy the day with some games to play including Connect Four, Guess Who, and Snakes and Ladders! Who's game?!

Young Mums Group is on every Tuesday, 1-3pm at FAN.

Any mum aged 15-25 is welcome. No RSVP needed - you can simply show up!

Phone Stavrina or Kate on 9890 2673 for more information.



Lauren Smith

YOUNG PERSON OF THE MONTH

Lauren Smith has used great determination and the love for her daughter to overcome hardship and make the most of her life. It is this strength and spirit that has led her to be named as the next Whitehorse Young Person of the Month.

Lauren, 22, was nominated for the award by the Box Hill-based Family Access Network, which provides services and responds to the diverse needs of homeless and at risk young people and young families.

A single mother of a young daughter, Lauren is considered an excellent role model for other young people as she succeeds in the face of much adversity over the past two years.

In particular, Lauren is currently assisting the Family Access Network with its holistic health portfolio as a client member representative.

Lauren is keenly pursuing her education and is studying to be a childcare worker through Swinburne University of Technology.

Her nomination states: "Lauren exemplifies strength, maturity, resilience and optimism, and has achieved many personal positive outcomes despite the challenges she has faced in her life."

Source: Whitehorse Leader, July 2010

FAN would like to congratulate Lauren Smith on her recent City Of Whitehorse Young Person of the Month Award.

Youth Support Worker, Amy Campbell nominated Lauren:

"I nominated Lauren for the young person of month award because she has shown such patience, resilience and focus in the face of much adversity in her life and continues to be a positive and healthy role model to her daughter Leah. In my opinion she deserved some acknowledgement of the personal achievements she has made to date."

Childrens Program Early Years

Hi I'm Kate Crawshaw, the new Childrens Program Worker and Client Services Manager.

The childrens program will be running a swimming program in October 2010. This means lots of fun splashin around .

Anyone aged 15-25 that is interested for their children to learn swimming, or needs information or support with their child/children please contact me at on 9890 2673.

Thank you to our wonderful supporters

{also}

Alfred Felton Bequest
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation - Youth in Philanthropy
William Buckland Foundation
The Alannah & Madeline Foundation
Orcadia Foundation—Derek & Caroline Young
Department of Human Services - Office of Housing
Ringwood Magistrates Court
City of Whitehorse
Youth Connexions
City of Maroondah
Uniting Care Harrison
Reach Out for Kids
Salvation Army, EastCare
Eastern Emergency Relief
Streetsmart Australia
St Peter's Anglican Church, Box Hill
St Peter's Mothers Union, Box Hill
Box Hill Lions Club
Nunawading Rotary Club
St Dominc's Church, East Camberwell
Olive Clark
Margaret Ogilvie
Carmella Cassar

If you would like to support FAN and the great work we do, email fan@fan.org.au or phone Emily on 9890 2673.

Useful Contacts

If you are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, phone
1800 925 955

to speak directly with a housing and support worker in the Eastern Region.

You can also contact your closest office directly Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm for assistance:

Wesley Mission, Ringwood
9879 5344

Harrison Community Services,
Wantirna - 9887 1055

Anchor Incorporated, Lilydale
9760 6400

Community Housing Ltd, Box Hill
9856 0000

Eastcare Housing, Hawthorn
9851 7888

After hours 10pm-9am please contact St Kilda Crisis Service on 1800 627 727.

If you are escaping domestic violence please call 1800 015 188, 24 hours, 7 days a week.

If you are requiring assistance and support with domestic violence, and you live in the Eastern Region please call Eastern Domestic Violence on 9259 4200.

Other useful numbers include:

Eastern Drug & Alcohol Service
1800 888 236

Lifeline 24hrs
13 11 14

Parentline 24hrs
13 22 89

Sexual Assault A/H
9349 1766

Are you young, Same Sex Attracted, Transgender or Intersex and experiencing or at risk of homelessness?

If the answer is YES then FAN can help!

The Alsorts program is a case managed transitional support initiative for SSATI young people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. It provides a holistic response to the needs of clients including access to transitional accommodation, linkages to FAN's Life Skills and Volunteer Programs, outreach services, brokerage for employment/education needs and/or counselling/family reconciliation and a social support group - EDG.

We are also pleased to announce our latest offering - SSATI HEF. 'What's that?' you say. Well provides homelessness support services specifically for SSATI young people through the provision of one-off funding. It is available to cover the cost of flexible accommodation for a young person who is in a housing crisis and are working towards securing suitable, sustainable and safe housing.

SSATI HEF may also be used for full or partial provision of the following:

- crisis accommodation
- private rental in advance
- private rental arrears
- private rental bonds
- storage costs
- removal expenses
- essential furniture if needed

What is the eligibility criteria?

Young people aged 15 –25 years old who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and identify as Same Sex Attracted, Transgender or Intersex.

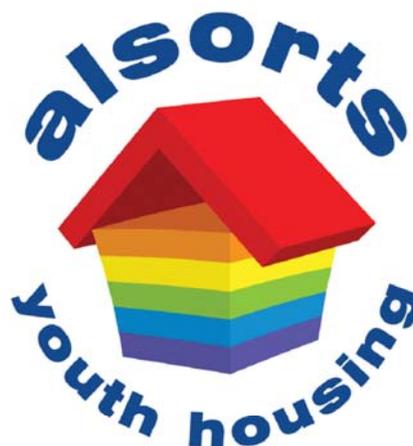
How much is available?

The amount available is dependant on client need and can be organised in conjunction with the HEF coordinator at Family Access Network.

How do I find out more?

For more information about our services for SSATI young people you can phone 9890 2673 or email fan@fan.org.au.

To apply for SSATI HEF and speak to a worker please ask to speak to either Sam or Stavrina.



~NOTICE OF~ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Family Access Network invites **you** to attend our 2010 Annual General Meeting



Date: October 13th

Time: 5pm

Light refreshments will be served

Venue: Youth Connexions

Suite 2, Level 4, Box Hill Central Main Street, Box Hill
(Lift access from Box Hill Centro next to Stadium Sports & Reject Shop or directly from the Bus terminal)

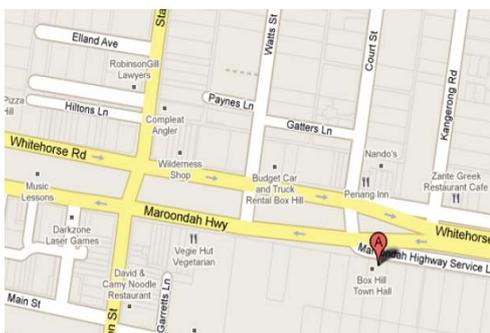
Parking: If you're driving to Centro Box Hill, access the carparks via Station Street or Carrington Road. (Melways Reference: Page 47 D9)

RSVP: By Friday 8th October to Emily on 9890 2673 or fan@fan.org.au

Guest Speaker: Associate Professor Lynne Hillier "It's a grey day today" - challenges to mental health and paths of resistance for same sex attracted youth.

Associate Professor Lynne Hillier is a social psychologist, Vic Health Fellow and Principal Research Fellow at the Australian Research Centre in Sex Health & Society (ARCSHS). Her research over the last 16 years has focused on the marginalisation of young people, particularly same sex attracted youth, their sexual health and wellbeing. Lynne has also been on the FAN Board since 2006.

If you would like to sign up to our mailing list, please email fan@fan.org.au



Contact Us

Visit us: 1030 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill

Mail: PO BOX 141, Box Hill, VIC 3128

P: (03) 9890 2673

F: (03) 9890 9919

E: fan@fan.org.au

www.fan.org.au