



FAN

Family Access Network Update

December 2008

Volume 66



Merry Christmas & Best Wishes from FAN!



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the summer edition of the FAN newsletter. The Annual General Meeting on 15th October provided an opportunity to hear from David McKenzie on the twelve month process and outcomes from the National Youth Inquiry "Australia's Homeless Youth", to be entertained by the participants of the Life Skills Program – Singing Group comprising: Allison, Jess and Alex, be inspired by Abe Nouk's speech and cd recorded through the Life Skills Program – Songwriting Group, and acknowledge the achievements of Stacy Palmer, Illaria Starlit and Melinda Steur the 2008 recipients of the Rhys Fox Award.

The following Board was elected by the members:

Chairperson:

Michael Smith

Deputy Chairperson:

Helen Killmier

Secretary/public officer:

Colin Bellis

Treasurer:

David Burlew

Ordinary Members:

Lynne Hillier

Helen Buckingham

Sue Carlile (Manager / ex officio)

Congratulations to Board, the staff team, volunteers and young people for a very successful night and for the participation of members and other interested individuals/organisations.

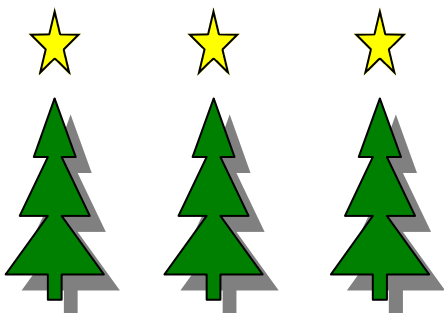
The Annual Report provides a comprehensive overview of the past year, available on request from the office in hard copy or electronically from the website. The website, redeveloped over recent months, went live on 27

November please check it out on www.fan.org.au

The QICSA review from 11 – 13 November, involved considerable work from the team and in particular the Internal Contacts Jemmah McKie and Victoria Sobh – with significant input also from Felicity Green. Practice reflection and continuous quality improvement is embedded at FAN: the external review confirms and supports the value of work we do.

FAN continues to contribute to and participate in areas of sector enhancement, sector reform and research in a number of ways, current activities include:

- Participation in consultations and submission to the Vulnerable Youth Framework.
- Presentation at the Inaugural Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) Victorian Conference 19 November.





- Best Practice demonstration report on the alsorts Same Sex Attracted Transgender Intersex (SSATI) pilot, in partnership with The ALSO Foundation. The project, partly funded by DHS, supports sector replication of the model in some or all of the elements. A launch date has yet to be confirmed by DHS and CHP; however an electronic version may be requested from FAN directly. FAN is seeking to involve SSATI young people in a project to complete the design and artwork of the report. Graphic design, art or advertising expertise is required. If anyone is interested please contact either myself or Jemmah McKie.
- FAN's Staff Induction and Orientation Framework to support smaller organisations. Since April, 16 organisations have applied for and received a copy.
- The Children In Homelessness Research with The Salvation Army, Council to Homeless Persons, and Melbourne City Mission is about to commence the interviewing process. The project is anticipated to run over the next twelve months.
- Other research projects conducted in partnership during the current and previous years are available on request or via the website.

I encourage you to read in more detail, within the body of the newsletter, the activities of FAN's programs as reported by the dedicated FAN team.

I am delighted to announce the Alfred Felton Bequest has confirmed an additional three years funding to FAN's Children's Program – Early Years. The Program has gone from strength to strength and in the last year alone supported 117 children, 98 young families and 19 young pregnant women. FAN is encouraged by and anticipates an emphasis on early intervention and prevention focus of the White Paper on Homelessness; which will support the priorities of the Children's Program and also FAN's recently developed Youth Counseling and Family Mediation.

The year ends with the announcement of the departure of two very special people at FAN: Rebecca Granata Support Worker and Felicity Green Reception/ Administration and Executive Assistant to shores beyond Australia. Rebecca or Beck as we know her came to FAN in 2005 as a student on placement. Since then she has undertaken many roles as locum, board minute taker and in the last year as a fulltime Youth Support Worker, including participation in the SSATI Best Practice Report and the Portfolio. Felicity came to FAN in early 2007 as

a Trainee, she was so successful that the Traineeship led to fulltime work, which was reviewed and upgraded to include an Executive Assistant role in early 2008 and as a result Felicity has been a significant support to me. On behalf of the Board, team and clients I extend our deepest appreciation for their contribution and commitment and wish them safe travel and fantastic times in their world wide wandering.

I am pleased to advise two very successful appointments to the staff team: Emily Todorov commenced at FAN this week as the Reception/ Administration and Executive Assistant and Mollie Kerby Youth Support Worker; Mollie is well known to FAN in her locum and short term project roles since April. Congratulations to both and welcome to the team.

On behalf of the board and team I thank you for the contribution you have made to FAN over the past year and I wish you and your family a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Regards,

Sue Carlile
MANAGER



PROGRAM UPDATES

Homeless Support Services

Welcome to our December edition; hope you are all enjoying the warmer days and a few drops of rain in anticipation for the festive season.

Firstly we would like to farewell an integral member of the Homeless Support Services – Rebecca Granata, who after almost three years with FAN in various positions is leaving the team in mid December to travel and work overseas. She has been an amazing advocate for many young people, at all times displaying unwavering compassion and steadfast client focused approach. We wish her well in her future endeavours and to officially welcome aboard Mollie as a permanent Youth Support Worker.

The last three months have been extremely jam packed. FAN's AGM was held on 15th October and was an all round success. FAN also successfully undertook the QICSA accreditation in November and a special thankyou to Apryl, Matt and Jess for participating in the client group interviews. Your assistance was greatly appreciated. We are extremely proud to announce that the outcome of the review was overwhelmingly positive. Amongst all this, staff members have attended

numerous local and regional conferences and trainings, namely the CAMHS conference organised by Eastern Health, and The Homeless Conference, facilitated by CHP. Various staff also participated at the Eastern Region Worker Self Care Day at Federation Estate.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish every one of our supporters and clients a very happy Christmas and safe New Year in 2009. Should you wish to donate any non-perishable items for client Christmas hampers please contact Reception.

Private Rental Brokerage Program

The Creating Connections Team and other services from the EMR participated at the Indigenous Healing Expo in October for program promotion within the Indigenous community. It is anticipated further collaborations will be made with the Indigenous communities to increase the opportunities for Indigenous young people to access services offered through the initiative.



A Breaking the Cycle over Breakfast will take place on Thursday 11 December for Real Estate Agents within the Eastern Region to build networking pathways with the program and address the barriers that young people and young parents experience in accessing private rental. It will be held at 8.30am at Denises Café, 50 Railway Parade Ringwood East. Please call Victoria for more details.



Counselling & Family Mediation

Building upon peer group networks and referral pathways has been the aim of the program since its inception in July 08. FAN has become a member of the Whitehorse-Manningham Local Working Group, which has a particular emphasis on practice and "grassroots" issues relating to children, young people and families. For referrals or enquiries please contact Jemmah McKie.



Children's Program - Early Years

In late November FAN, in partnership with ROK, held a successful and interactive Family Day at Box Hill park. The day was created in a safe and age appropriate environment to foster the parent / child relationship and encouraging children's opportunities to participate in therapeutic play while supporting young parents in their parenting role.

Recently FAN partnered with Connections, Whitehorse Community Health and Reach Out for Kids (ROK) to form an Eastern Region Postnatal Depression (PND) Working Group. The group strives to ensure that women affected by PND, their infants and other family members are given every opportunity to achieve optimal health and wellbeing as quickly as possible. For further information on child related issues or future workshops please contact Jacqui Gabriel.



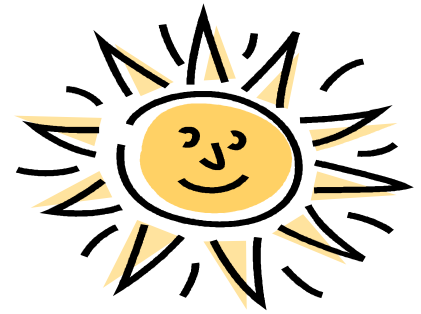
Lifeskills Program

It's been a busy 3 months within the Lifeskills Program with a total of 7 workshops being delivered. These included:

- The Young Mothers Group
- Peer Leadership group
- Singing group
- Christmas card making group
- Song writing group
- Christmas carol group; and
- Community Kitchen

The weekly Young Mum's Group has been extremely successful as the number of mums is rapidly growing and opportunities for mums to re-establish positive social support has led mothers to further partake in day trips and outings, external to FAN. The Young Mum's Group fosters children's opportunities to participate in safe play environments and support young mothers in their parenting role as well as offering peer group interaction and social connections.

The Peer Leadership Program recently underwent a review and now provides further opportunities for client focussed outcomes and the results are noticeable in terms of clients undertaking roles of Peer Support in Young Mum's Group and FAN's recent Family Fun Day plus the organising of songs for client Christmas Party. A cooking



program is also in the early stages of development which focuses on preparing and cooking child appropriate food from babies to toddlers and will have significant input in terms of co-facilitation by clients. We take this opportunity to congratulate both Jess and Alli for their significant contributions and support.

Young people who attended the Singing and Song Writing Workshops were provided with further opportunities to perform at public events including FAN's AGM, school assembly and CALD cultural events comprising of several hundred peers and one client registered her song with Australian Performing Rights and has been short listed for the new series of Australia's Got Talent. Due to the high level of interest generated there's scope to provide a range of therapeutic workshops to further foster young people's talents and interests.

Congratulations go out to Kirsten and Daniel who recently attended the Driver Education Program and successfully obtained their Learners.



Volunteer Program

Volunteers continue to provide a range of additional support to FAN. We take this opportunity to thank both Sam and Lynne for the participation in the accreditation process, time and feedback. Special thanks also goes to Jana who has assisted FAN on numerous occasions by providing support to accompanying children thereby enabling a number of clients to attend workshops. FAN currently has 11 volunteers attached to the program. Five are attached to the Volunteer Support Team, four are Mentors and one is a Lead Tenant. The Lead Tenant continues to provide support and role modelling.

Volunteers are in the process of updating First Aid Certificates with training conducted at FAN over the course of the next two weeks. There's scope to utilise skill base of staff in order to provide volunteers with a range of additional client focussed training sessions and this is currently being explored.

Current vacancies include Volunteer Support Teams, Child Play Supervisors, Mentors and Drivers. Please direct all enquiries to Carol Martyn.



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & a safe and happy new year!!!





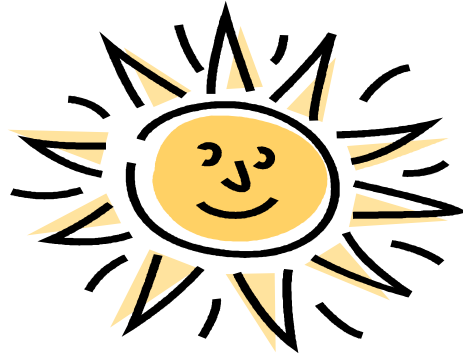
THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING CONTIBUTORS

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- The ALSO Foundation
- City of Whitehorse
- St George Bank Foundation
- The William Buckland Foundation
- The Alfred Felton Trust
- Rotary Club of Box Hill
- Whitehorse Community Chest—Mrs E. McRae
- Olive Clark
- Helen Killmier
- Mr & Mrs I & T Mahlsted
- Robert Leydon
- Allan Rogerson
- Paul Linossier
- Lynne Hillier
- City of Maroondah
- Reach Out for Kids
- Lord Mayor’s Charitable Fund
- Caroline & Derek Young—Orcadia Foundation
- St. Peter’s Anglican Church
- W.N Moresby
- Australian Brokers Countrywide
- Helen Buckingham





Family Access Network Update

If undeliverable please return to
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