

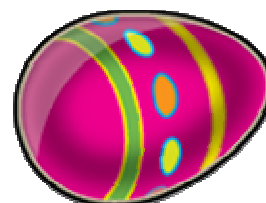


Family Access Network Update

March 2008 Edition

Volume 63

Wishing you a safe and wonderful
Easter from the FANtastic Team



Dear Readers,

On behalf of the FAN team, I extend best wishes for a prosperous 2008, we look forward to another year of providing a range of services for young people and accompanying children, developing new projects through the staff led portfolios, collaboration within the broader sector in partnership and research; furthering the FAN strategic plan objectives; and consolidating our systems in preparation for Homeless Assistance Service Standards (HASS) Accreditation. I think we can safely say it will be another busy and productive year.

As noted in the December newsletter DHS provided funding to FAN to demonstrate how FAN successfully approached self-assessment and outcomes required for the Homeless Assistance Service Standards (HASS), for circulation in the broader sector to enhance other services approach to HASS. The final report prepared by Kathy Desmond, "Creating a Culture of Quality" is now available on the Council to Homeless Persons and DHS websites, alongside other sector driven guides, policies and tools to support the application of HASS. Limited hard copies are also available at FAN directly. If you require further information about accessing the electronic or hard copy please enquire through fan@fan.org.au.

FAN was successful in a submission Best Practice demonstration report on the introduction of the alsorts Same Sex Attracted Transgender Intersex (SSATI) pilot, in partnership with the ALSO Foundation.

The project report to demonstrate the systems changes at FAN through audits, review of documentation, practices and policies, organisation wide training and induction, in addition to tracking the development of the partnership and transitional youth support model. It is anticipated the report will be finalised within the next three months, and will be available to the sector to support replication of the model in some or all of the elements.

Research has become a regular activity at FAN in recent years. In 2007 the "Opportunity For Change - Young Mothers and Homelessness" was launched, limited hard copies are available; "Making it Real" Sexual Health research is nearing completion and FAN is about to embark in research on "Children and Homelessness". All research projects go through a rigorous ethics process, are statewide, in partnership with Dr Deb Keys, Melbourne University and other service providers, and in terms of the current research the peak body, Council to Homeless Persons. Contribution to innovation, best practice and research is underpinned by FAN's Strategic Plan, which supports practice reflection as well as offering young people an opportunity to contribute to the broader service system through their own voice.

Partnership activities: Creating Connections Youth Homelessness Action Plan 2; ALSO Foundation and FAN's partnership same sex attracted pilot project "*alsorts*"; Resilient Kids - Wesley, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and FAN "*footsteps*" program for infants under one year and mothers; plus a range of collaborations in the Life Skills and Volunteer Programs notably the Peer Leadership Program, Driver Education Program and many more. The staff led Portfolios are fully in swing for 2008 and if past years are anything to go by there will be some new and exciting developments ahead. The various FAN programs are reported more fully within the newsletter.

An opportunity for leadership is currently available on the FAN Board of Governance; more details are included in the newsletter.

Regards,

Sue Carlile
Manager



PROGRAM UPDATES

Homeless Support Service Update

Welcome to the first edition of FAN's Newsletter for 2008. The year has started off full steam ahead, and as you read ahead we are proud to announce the various workshops tailored for young people over the next couple of months. We are equally proud to announce that FAN's report on Creating a Culture of Quality is now complete and available on Council to Homeless Persons website www.chp.org.au under HASS Industry Standards and Accreditation.

The Creating Connections Education Employment Pathway's (CCEEP - formally the Youth Employment Education and Training Initiative) is now available. Brokerage funds are to be used to ensure young people accessing homelessness assistance programs are provided with the opportunity to participate in education, employment and training options.

The HSS team had a wonderful opportunity to liaise and network with other services that operate within an inclusive practice at the Rainbow Conversation Human Rights Conference held in conjunction with Midsumma and the 1st Asia Pacific Outgames in January. Delegates from across Australian and the Asia Pacific region had the opportunity to discuss and advocate on issues of relevance to the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Intersex Queer (GLBTIQ) community, with a focus on all people having rights to freedom, security and equality.

We would like to congratulate two young mum's - Candice and Apryl - on the safe delivery of their children - Rhianna and Lucas. Both mums and bubs are doing well and as we welcome the new arrivals into FAN. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Erin McLoney in being the joint recipient of the 2008 Whitehorse Young Citizen of

The Year Award, and also a big congratulation to Melinda and Sara on their selection as joint recipients for the Ray Peowrie Encouragement Award for 2008 offered through the Lion's Club of Box Hill. We here at FAN are constantly amazed at young people's achievements and community contributions, and look forward to a productive year ahead.



The Private Rental Brokerage Program

The Private Rental Brokerage Program in collaboration with FAN's Life Skills Program has developed a *Cooking on a Budget Workshop* for young people in the City of Whitehorse. The 5 week program commences on the 5th March and is offered to all young people either in transitional housing and/or exiting into the private rental market. This workshop includes great tips on how to stretch your money further while making meals more interesting. Developing and delivering various workshops for young people in the inner and outer eastern regions is a strong focus over the next couple of months, with an aim to assist young people to develop the necessary skills to access and maintain independent accommodation in the private rental sector.

The Children's Program – Early Years

The Children's Program-Early Years continues to deliver a number therapeutic interventions tailored to the needs of young parents and their accompanying children. FAN is currently delivering a

build on water skills and survival, bonding and attachment.

FAN is also looking at offering sessions in baby massage classes for mothers and infants up to 12 months with a professional baby Massage Therapist. The classes include baby massage techniques, a show bag, oils, hand made soap and informative handouts for parents to continue bonding with their bubs through massage at home.

The development of a parenting education group is currently underway which will hopefully commence in April. This series has a focus on up-skilling young parents with issues such as supporting and implementing appropriate child behaviour while providing information and resources on child development. Referrals are now being taken, please contact Jacqui at FAN for further information.

Life Skills Program Update

Young Mums Group:

The Group meets weekly every Tuesday between 1-3pm and is open to all pregnant and/or parenting women aged 15-25 years including accompanying children up to school age. In partnership with FAN's Children and Young Families Support Worker, some great activities are planned for the coming months, including a guest speaker who will chat about safe sleeping techniques for babies and toddlers; making hand/foot moulds that capture the ages of children and creative pizza and piñata sessions. All are welcome so please contact the office for this month Calendar of Events.



What's new for 2008?

Young Dads Group

Expressions of interest are now being taken by men aged between 15-25 years who would like to be involved in a Young Dads Group. FAN will soon be running this group in partnership with local service providers and in the meantime ideas and suggestions are welcomed by young dads.

Budgeting Workshop

Have you ever wanted to buy a mobile phone and didn't understand the fine print and found yourself locked in a contract you can't get out of? Interest free loans seen on TV for furniture sometimes seem like a great idea, but what's the catch? Creditors can phone about overdue payments and sometimes there doesn't seem to be enough money at the end of the week. These are some of the every day examples that form part of this low key, informative workshop that uses realistic cases. Further information will be provided shortly.

Singing Group

Have you always wanted to sing with a likeminded group of people but didn't know where to start? Expressions of interest are currently being taken from clients who would like to be involved in an informal singing group, so regardless of your skill level we encourage you to give this a try. If you happen to play a musical instrument, you're welcome to register your interest too. Depending on the number of clients who respond, further information will then be sent to you.

Driver Education Program

In July this year several significant changes will be introduced to the driver licensing system and as a result workshops are currently being designed that support young people in achieving Learners permits, 120 hours driving experience and Probationary licenses. Further information is to follow.



Carol Martyn, Co-ordinator, Life Skills Program

The Volunteer Program Update

The year started with a BBQ in January for all Volunteers and young people attached to the Program and was a fantastic opportunity for the group to come together on an informal basis. A special thank you to Troy Harris for the use of his gas cylinder and cooking skills, as was appreciated by all!



A number of Volunteers are coming to the end of their 3 month probationary period and the Co-ordinator will be meeting individually to discuss their future involvement in the Program. This is a timely reminder to congratulate all Volunteers who have successfully completed their probation and we officially welcome you as part of the team.

Volunteers were encouraged to give their input during February's Support Meeting about proposed changes to the Program and it was encouraging to note such enthusiasm and support from the team. More information on these proposed changes will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

Vacancies have been listed for Mentors, Child Play Supervisors and a female Lead Tenant and the Co-ordinator is in the process of interviewing for these positions, with next Volunteer Induction Training is scheduled for April.

Please contact the Co-ordinator if you would like more information on how you might be able to contribute as a volunteer with FAN. This is a great opportunity for you to meet and learn from some inspirational clients and volunteers and has often lead to career paths within the industry.

Carol Martyn, Co-ordinator, Volunteer Program

Opportunity for Leadership

An opportunity exists to join and support the activities of a dynamic and best practice cutting edge organisation, providing services for: homeless young people, including same sex attracted transgender and intersex young people, pregnant and parenting young women, young families and children.

Family Access Network (FAN) commenced in 1981, is located in Box Hill, with strong links across the eastern suburbs. Services currently offered:

- ◆ Housing and case managed support
- ◆ "alsorts" same sex attracted transgender and intersex project in partnership with the ALSO Foundation
- ◆ Private Rental Brokerage Program
- ◆ Children's Program - Early Years
- ◆ Life Skills Program
- ◆ Volunteer Program
- ◆ Sector enhancement and opportunities for enrichment for young people are also fostered through: research, conference presentations, best practice projects, pilots, partnership projects and programs, peer leadership, young people as ambassadors and other projects as identified through data and needs analysis consistent with FAN's strategic directions.

The FAN board is comprised of a diverse group of community members, a vacancy currently exists for a person with financial knowledge, awareness of governance and good business practice; and who shares the vision of equity and inclusion for young people.

Please contact Sue Carlile, Manager on 9890 2673 for further information.

Meet the new Board of Governance Members

Chris Payne

Growing up in Queensland, I moved to Melbourne after marrying a Melbourne girl (Heather) in 1991. After living in Abbotsford for several years we moved to Heidelberg and although we have moved three times Heidelberg is our home. We have two children and we are all far too involved in local sport, Church and School.

After studying Environmental Health Science in Brisbane I worked for two years as an Assistant Manager of a Function Centre. I then traveled to Central Queensland where I worked as an Environmental Health Officer for four years. After that period I returned to Brisbane to study Theology and moved to Melbourne in 1991. Completing my studies I worked for the Uniting Church in Australia in the area of Youth Work and Community Development. After four years I moved to a regional Youth Work training and consultancy position.

In 1999 I took a job share position at Nillumbik Shire Council as Youth Development Officer. When I left Nillumbik in 2006, I was the Coordinator Community Planning and Development and had held a number of positions in Youth and Family Services. Moving to the City of Boroondara in 2006 I took up the position of Health and Well-being Planning Officer. My current position is as Team Leader Community Renewal (Bayswater North) at Maroondah City Council.

Since 1999, I have completed a Grad Dip in Business Administration and I am currently completing a Masters in Social Science. During this period I have also worked for Lifeworks as a pre-Marriage Educator and a group facilitator for 'Men Changing Behaviours' and 'First Time Dads'.

Participation on the FAN Board allows me to learn and grow and to make a contribution to an agency that is doing significant work with young people and their children. I am impressed by the work of FAN and by Sue and the members of the team that I have met.

Helen Buckingham: Helen is married to Ian, and has two adult children Lisa and Nicholas. Helen qualified as a history and politics teacher and worked in the Government education system before having children. She returned to work in the private sector and gained post graduate qualifications in careers counselling - working for the next 12 years as a careers counsellor at Presbyterian Ladies College, Burwood.

Helen's community involvement includes serving on the Board of Box Hill Hospital (1994-96) and being elected as a Councillor in the City of Whitehorse in 1997 and again in 2000. She served a term as Mayor in 1998-99 and was the Labor Candidate for Deakin in 2001. In September 2002 Helen became the Labor candidate for Koonung Province and was elected on 30 November 2002. Helen retired from Parliament at the 2006 election. During this time, Helen was a member of the Parliamentary Education and Training Committee. Helen also chaired the Government Inquiry into the review of Body Corporate Laws, culminating in the approval of the Owner Operators Act 2006.

Helen's interests include:

- Health
- Education
- Local Government

Education and Qualifications: Preston Girls High 1965-69. University High, 1970. BA, Dip.Ed 1974 (LaTrobe University). Grad Dip Careers 1992 (Deakin University). Australian Institute of Company Directors Diploma, 1998 (University of NSW).

Parliamentary Service: Elected MLC for Koonung November 2002.retired 2006

Parliamentary Party Positions Co-convener Women's Caucus Committee, Member of the Education Caucus Committee

Previous Occupation: Teacher of History & Politics, Pascoe Vale Girls High School 1975-82; Mt Scopus College 1985-87; Presbyterian Ladies College as teacher 1987-91, Presbyterian Ladies College as Careers Counsellor 1991-2002.

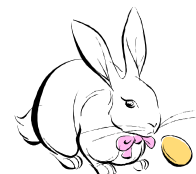
Local Government Service: Councillor March 1997-January 2003, Mayor 1998-99, City of Whitehorse.

Memberships: Board of Box Hill Hospital 1991-95; Monash University Dept of Physiology, Animal Ethics Committee 1995-2000; Board of the Whitehorse Manningham Library Corporation 1997-2001; Australian Association of Careers Counsellors since 1992; Box Hill Central Rotary Club 1997-2000; Victorian Women's Planning Network 1998-2002; Municipal Association of Victoria, Women's Steering Committee 1998-2002; Municipal Association of Victoria, Professional Development Committee 2001-03, Parliamentary Education and Training Committee, 2002-2006.

I joined FAN because I wanted to continue to contribute to the community.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS

- ◆ Alfred Felton Bequest
- ◆ Anglicare, Box Hill
- ◆ Box Hill Lions Club
- ◆ Canterbury Council of Churches
- ◆ Caroline and Derek Young - Orcadia Foundation
- ◆ City of Whitehorse
- ◆ Department of Human Services
- ◆ Highfield Road Uniting Tennis Club
- ◆ Lords Mayors Charitable Fund
- ◆ Lord Mayors Youth in Philanthropy Program
- ◆ Margaret Ogilvie - Disadvantaged Youth Fund
- ◆ Olive Clark
- ◆ Rizzo's Bedding
- ◆ Rotary Club of Box Hill
- ◆ Renee Moss
- ◆ Lyn Jerram
- ◆ St Dominic's Parish, Camberwell
- ◆ St George Bank Foundation
- ◆ St Peter's Anglican Church
- ◆ William Buckland Foundation





Family Access Network Update

If undeliverable please return to
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