



Family Access Network Update

September 2007 Edition

Volume 61

We welcome the joy of
springtime... birds, flowers and
a ray of sunshine.



Dear Readers,

I trust the newsletter finds all readers well and enjoying the spring weather, where Melbourne truly comes into its own as a city of all seasons, ever changing. Speaking of changes there's been a few here at FAN too. Carla Di Stefano after successfully completing her Masters Of Counselling has started new employment to pursue that direction in her career. Carla made an enormous contribution to FAN, leaving a legacy of enhanced systems and practices, achieved always from a client centered perspective.

One change inevitably has a ripple effect to others, with opportunities for promotion and recruitment of new workers to the team; as a result I congratulate on their appointments, Jemmah Drew - Team Leader and Rebecca Granata - Youth Support Worker.

In preparing for the Annual Report; reviewing service objectives and program achievements, it was determined to change the name of one key program area to Homeless Support Services, incorporating Transitional Youth Support, Private Rental Brokerage Program, Housing Establishment Fund (HEF) and Children's Program - Early Years.

The current FAN team:

Sue Carlile	Manager
Cathy Oliver	Financial Administrator
Felicity Green	Reception Administration

Carol Martyn

Life Skills & Volunteer Programs Co-ordinator

Jemmah Drew

Team Leader/ Support Worker - Homeless Support Services

Rebecca Granata

Youth Support Worker / Homeless Support Services Private Rental Brokerage Program Worker

Victoria Sobh

Children and Young Families Support Worker

Jacqui Gabriel

In the last few months the FAN team has been very active in responding to various partnership activities: the Integrated Youth Hubs resulting from Creating Connections Youth Homelessness Action Plan 2; ALSO Foundation and FAN's partnership same sex attracted pilot project "alsorts"; FAN - Melbourne University Key Centre for Women's Health state-wide research "Young Motherhood and Homelessness - An Opportunity for Change" launched at the Melbourne Town Hall in July, Dr Deb Keys will present the research findings at the FAN AGM on 17 October; another research with Melbourne University on sexual health "Making It Real" has just commenced; Resilient Kids - Wesley, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and FAN "Footsteps" program for infants under one year and mothers; plus a myriad of collaborations that underpin the Life Skills and Volunteer Programs notably the Peer Leadership Program, Girls with Attitude, Mums with Attitude to name a few.

FAN's activities in particular the Life Skills and Volunteer Programs were the primary funding goal of a Box Hill Lions Club Trivia Night held on 19 August. It was a very enjoyable night, well supported by a number of Lions Clubs in the area raising \$3,000 for FAN, which is very much appreciated.

FAN has appointed Kathy Desmond to undertake a consultancy for a project funded by DHS to write up how FAN successfully approached self-assessment and outcomes required for the Homeless Assistance Service Standards (HASS), for circulation in the broader sector as a demonstration report to enhance other services approach to HASS.

The FAN Strategic Plan 2007 - 2010 is now in place, with a summary version available for public information. The staff led Portfolio system is in its fourth year and has been successful in creating a number of new initiatives and enhancements to the services FAN offers.

Hot off the press announcement..... three years funding for the Life Skills and Volunteer Programs received from the William Buckland Foundation - FAN is delighted at this will enable both the sustainability and development of further enhancements for these very important programs.

I look forward to seeing you at the FAN Annual General Meeting -your invitation is enclosed.

Regards,

Sue Carlile
Manager



PROGRAM UPDATES

Homeless Support Service Update

Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter. There have been many changes over the last three months within our program and team, the first and for most being the resignation of Carla DiStefano - Team Leader / Support Worker in July. Carla has been an integral part of the FAN team for over 2 years, and has contributed significantly to improving work practices and systems of operation within FAN. It is with a sad goodbye that we wish her all the best with her future endeavors in her counseling career, and we would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Carla and Phil on their recent engagement. Jemmah Drew was recently appointed Team Leader / Support Worker, and we also welcome our newest team addition; Rebecca Granata as Youth Support Worker, following a two year association with FAN in various roles as locum and executive and board support. Rebecca's staff profile follows.

We would also like to bring your attention to FAN's unanimous decision with renaming the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) response to 'Homeless Support Services'. We believe this will more accurately reflect the work undertaken by Support Workers and the scope of interventions sourced beyond those provided through SAAP.

For the year ending June 30, 2007, the Homeless Support Services has assisted in total of 102 young people within the Eastern Metropolitan Region and 62 accompanying children, which represents almost 20% increase from the previous year for case managed responses. Of the 102 young people presenting to FAN requiring support family / relationship breakdown continues to be the predominant reason for homelessness, and 48% of clients assisted presented as a family unit, while 52% presented as single.

The *alsorts* house is currently being reviewed and remodeled. EastCare Housing Services has recently become involved further enhancing the commitment to integrating the response within the transitional housing and support service system. The success of the project to date has been exceptional, with a total of 7 young people coming through the project. This has been the first of its kind in Victoria, and as has always been the view that it becomes rolled out in order to better meet the needs of SSATI young people presenting as homeless within wider Victoria.. We would like to thank our client Leanne Torpey for meeting with the Housing Minister, Richard Wynne in August.

The Private Rental Brokerage Program

The Private Rental Brokerage Program is now in its sixth month of operation to assist and equip young homeless people to access and maintain private rental accommodation as a long-term option. FAN's Private Rental Brokerage Program provides services across the Cities of Whitehorse, Boroondara, Monash and Manningham. The development and implementation of the program has certainly been a rewarding challenge and some great learning's have come out of the program thus far. The development of collaborative working relationships with existing homelessness services, real estate agents and specialist services is coming together and the promotion of the Program in the youth sector has been well received. We are hopeful that the promotion of the Private Rental Brokerage Program will reach the Indigenous and cultural and linguistically diverse young people who are homeless. FAN is very pleased with the achievements of the program delivery up to now and is looking forward to expanding the program within the community.



The Children's Program – Early Years

The Children's Program - Early Years is now in its second year and continues to directly benefit the accompanying children of FAN clients by reducing the risk of behavioural, psychological and social dysfunction through the promotion of improved health, well-being and community connectedness. The Children's Program - Early Years provided assistance to 92 children and 77 young families within the last financial year through the intervention of one on one work with children/young families, group work and brokerage assistance for child-care related needs.

Our newly developed 'Family Time' session ran fortnight during YMG has been highly successful and well received by all young mums. It involves parent/child activities and educational workshops that focus on enhancing individual parenting skills, children's self-esteem and general well-being through strength-based activities and positive interactions with their peers.



FAN, together with Resilient Kids and Eastern CAMHS, have developed an infant (12 months and under) and mother therapeutic group for women who have experienced family violence, named the *New Footsteps Group*. The aims of this group are to assist families who have experienced violence and to develop the mother-infant attachment. The program is set to being in early October, and referrals are now being taken (please contact Jacqui at FAN for further information).

Life Skills Program Update

Young Mums Group:

The Young Mum's Group is open to mothers aged between 15-25 years and their accompanying children and is held every Tuesday at FAN from 1-3pm. Those who've attended in the past have said it's a great place to meet women of a similar age and their children learn to interact with others.

There's a range of activities each month and these are decided on and run by the group and the Calendar of Events is available from the office.

Mums With Attitude:

This pilot program started in early August with 7 inspirational women and is due to finish mid September. As mothers, the women identified that it can sometimes be easy to believe what others tell them and sometimes there may be a stigma attached to being mothers at such a young age. This workshop celebrates motherhood and explores the journey of what they are told and the impact this can have on mothers and children, to letting go of the past, understanding emotions and different types of communication and focusing on change. Mum's With Attitude is in partnership with Cara and REFS.

Walking Group for Women:

This is a new initiative just for women and is a great opportunity to get some exercise and meet new people at the same time. The group meets at FAN every Wednesday morning at 10am and children in strollers are also welcome. We go at the pace of the slowest walker, so wear flat shoes for comfortable walking and bring some money for a coffee.

Carol Martyn, Co-ordinator, Life Skills Program



The Volunteer Program Update

Volunteers are an integral part of FAN's services and are recruited to offer a range of roles and support and their participation offer a link into the broader community for young people, young families and children, who are frequently experiencing social isolation.



The range of Volunteers include Mentors who are linked one-on-one with a young person and meet for a minimum of 2 hours a week at a time and place that is convenient with both parties. Where possible the aim is to link up Volunteer Mentors who have similar backgrounds, with clients. Similarly some Mentors have certain skills or talents they would like to share with young people, such as computer, cooking or music skills. Mentors and clients organise activities that cost little or no money and have a focus on friendship and sharing experiences.

Volunteer roles extend to Lead Tenants who live in the supported accommodation houses and Child Play Supervisors are available to spend time with clients' children at FAN's offices while their parents attend appointments, workshops or go for interviews.

FAN is currently seeking a female Lead Tenant for a Box Hill property and Volunteer Mentors. For more information please contact the Co-ordinator.

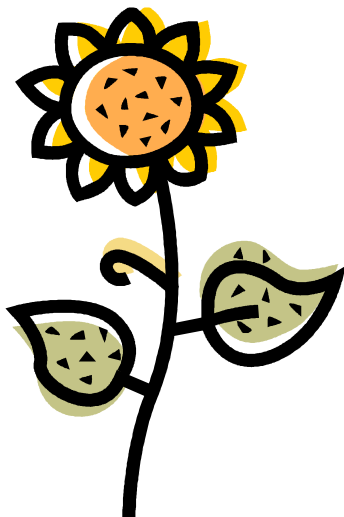
Carol Martyn, Co-ordinator, Volunteer Programs

Welcome New Staff

New Homeless Support Service Worker

Hello all my name is Beck Granata and I'm the new Support Worker here at FAN. I was delighted to be given the opportunity to work in such an organisation and as previously mentioned I have been working on and off here for the last two years.

My first taste of FAN was back in 2005 when I began my first student placement. My duties were to coordinate the Youth Health Promotion Day which some of you may remember. The day was a great success and from there I was offered a locum role as a Youth Support Worker which was a great opportunity and my first real taste of being a Youth Worker. From here I decided I really should finish off my Degree even though I loved my job so I went back to Uni. While studying I completed my second placement and had the incredible opportunity to work with the team at Visionary Images Arts Studio, I ended up Volunteering as a Youth Support Worker for just under a year. In between all this I've also done work for DHS doing Access Visits which was great experience and will finally finish off my Bachelor of Social Science/Youth Studies in about 6 weeks WOO HOO! Well that's all from me, have a great day.



THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS

- Alfred Felton Bequest
- Anglicare, Box Hill
- Box Hill Lions Club
- Canterbury Council of Churches
- Caroline and Derek Youth -
- Orcadia Foundation
- City of Whitehorse
- David Tolstrup and Countrywide Tolstrup
- Financial Services
- Highfield Road Uniting Tennis Club
- Inger Rice Foundation
- Lords Mayors Charitable Fund
- Lord Mayors Youth in Philanthropy Program
- Maragret Ogilvie - Disadvantaged Youth Fund
- Mr & Mrs Fred Fahey
- Mr & Mrs Ted Long
- Ms Rhona Leigh
- Manvella Ciflea
- Nance Moresby
- Olive Clark
- Percy Baxter Fund
- Playback Theatre
- Rizzo's Bedding
- Robert Leydon
- Rotary Club of Box Hill
- St Dominic's Parish, Camberwell





Family Access Network Annual General Meeting Notice

Nice of Annual General Meeting



You are invited to FAN'S Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday 17th October 2007

Venue: Box Hill Town Hall– The Whitehorse Room

Address: 1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill 312
(Mel Ways Ref 47 E9)

Time: 5.30pm

Speaker:

Deb Keys, Melbourne University Key Centre for Women's Health in Society will speak on "Opportunity for Change: Young Motherhood and Homelessness 2007" a report from the Becoming a Mother Project, a state-wide project in partnership with Family Access Network.

RSVP BY: 6th October 2007 to Family Access Network on 9890 2673
or fan@fan.org.au (for catering arrangements)





Family Access Network Update

If undeliverable please return to
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