



FAMILY ACCESS NETWORK UPDATE

September 2009 • Volume 69

"Where flowers bloom so does hope"



Update from the Manager

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the spring edition of the FAN newsletter. You will also note attached within the newsletter are membership and board nominations forms, together with an invitation to the 28th FAN AGM to be held at The Whitehorse Room, Box Hill Town Hall 5.30pm 21 October 2009.

Dr Deb Keys, Senior Housing and Homelessness Research Officer in the Research and Social Policy Unit at Melbourne CityMission will be presenting the findings from the just completed twelve month research "Children and Homelessness" a partnership project between The Salvation Army, University of Melbourne, Melbourne CityMission, Council to Homeless Persons and FAN. The research is groundbreaking in its focus on the experiences of children, through their own words. I encourage you to come along to hear about this important research, to meet the team, clients and board at FAN and to participate in what has over the years become a memorable event.

During the last few months we have been delighted at the success of several funding submissions to support and add value to FAN's Programs and I take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge:

- Streetsmart and Youth In Philanthropy for funding to enable the development of a support group for Same Sex Attracted Transgender Intersex young people.
- City of Whitehorse for funding to enrich young peoples access to further education (copy of local article included in the newsletter).
- Lord Mayors Fund for funding to support the Children's Program – Early Years.

Please review the list of supporters acknowledged in the newsletter, their assistance makes possible the diverse and wholistic support and programs provided at FAN.

There's been a few staffing changes at FAN this year, and in this edition of the newsletter we welcome Amy Campbell, Fiona Murray and Stavrina Hadjielias to the team. Here's an update on Who's Who:

Sue Carlile

Manager

Cathy Oliver

Internal Audit & Compliance

Maureen Higgins

Finance Officer

Emily Todorov

Administration/
Executive Assistant

Rod Tresise

Team Leader / Youth
Counselling & Family Mediation

Jacqui Gabriel

Children & Young Families
Support Worker

Samuel Headberry

Private Rental Brokerage
Program Support Worker

Amy Campbell

Youth Support Worker

Fiona Murray

Youth Support Worker

Stavrina Hadjielias

Community Development
Worker – Life Skills & Volunteer
Programs

For information about general FAN services, access to best practice, research and other reports please visit the fan website on www.fan.org.au

I encourage you to read the program updates, profiles and introductions in the newsletter, as always it makes for interesting reading.

Please contact FAN on fan@fan.org.au if you have feedback on the newsletter. If you are a client, volunteer, supporter or partner agency you are most welcome to submit a contribution for the newsletter.

Regards,
Sue Carlile
MANAGER



PROGRAM UPDATES

Homeless Support Services

Welcome to our September edition; hope you are all enjoying the warmer days that are a sure sign of spring and Mother Nature showing off her colourful side.

Firstly we would like to welcome Amy Campbell and Fiona Murray to FAN's Homeless Services Team. They are both enthusiastic and bring a wealth of knowledge into the program. They are also dedicated advocates for young people and you will find they display unwavering compassion and a steadfast client focused approach. We wish them well as they embark on their careers at FAN.

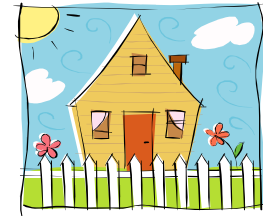
Amongst all the changes and internal transition of staff into other roles, staff members have attended numerous local and regional forums, namely the Family Violence Protection Act organised by EMR Homelessness Network, plus trainings in Children affected by child sexual assault conducted by Bravehearts.

Significant has been the contribution to the City of Whitehorse strategic planning. Particularly the Municipal Youth, Wellbeing and the Early Years consultations. FAN recognises the importance of participation in this planning process. It reinforces the partnerships formed over many years and allows us to advocate on a broader stage for youth concerns.

The last three months as you can see have been extremely busy but productive. Our preparation for FAN's AGM are proceeding, and given it is rapidly approaching, now is a good opportunity to remind you all it will be held at the Box Hill Town Hall on the 21st October. You are all cordially invited to attend. Thankyou to all of you who have been tolerant during the change over process at FAN, and to all those who have contributed in one form or another to the Annual General Meeting and Annual Report.

Introducing... Fiona Murray!

I'm excited to begin my role at FAN this year and I hope I bring my passion for working with young people and some experience from my previous youth work in outdoor education, homelessness outreach and the disability sector. As I settle in and continue to navigate the cultural norms of Melbourne, there are several things that I ask you to please not hold against me. These include; a. my grandfather was once the head brewer at 'xxxx' (if you look at the label the next time you drink a bottle of 'xxxx,' you can see the building where my mum grew up next to the factory.) b. I do not engage with football of any code, and so feel no emotional response to the success or probable failure of the Brisbane Lions. I'm looking forward to learning plenty at FAN, and have been encouraged by the support shown to me so far.



Young Mums Group

Whats on...

6 October

Making dream catchers

American Indians believed dream catchers worked and so do we, come in and make your very own magical dream catchers for you and with your children. You can take them home hang them in your bedrooms and have some really nice and magical dreams.

13 October

Barbeque in the Park

Spring is in the air! Come along and have a fulfilled afternoon down at Box Hill Park (Station Street) together with a yummy sausage sizzle, face painting and lots more. Hope to see you there.

20 October

Tie dying

This is an educational and fun activity for children to learn about the colour wheel order while creating Tie Dye spirals and boosting self esteem with some Rainbow Colour Therapy! I'm sure parents will love it too, please bring along a piece of clothing, preferably white or close to.

27 October

Birthday Celebrations

Today we will have some yummy chocolate cake for the Birthday week. Come along and help celebrate those who had their very special day in October.



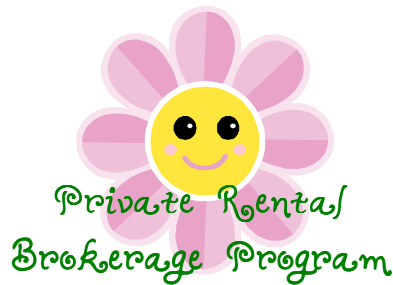
Children's Program - Early Years

The Children's Program – Early Years continues to provide services to young pregnant / parenting families and accompanying children, including brokerage and equipment, secondary consultations to workers, support and resources to young parents both individually and through group work. This experience has shown that the capacity to be responsive and creative has contributed to timely and innovative practice and services fostered through alternative funding streams.

The program is about to become very busy with some very exciting parent/child driven programs and workshops over the next couple of months, such as swimming lessons for parents and accompanying children, outings and day trips. As well as these, a therapeutic program is currently underway in response to young parents affected by childhood abuse. The participation and involvement from young families and accompanying children has shown the need for such programs.

Partnerships with other health and homelessness services have been strengthened through various collaborative programs and workshops delivered to improve the lives of young families and accompanying children within the Eastern Metropolitan Region. Providing therapeutic interventions

such as group work, teamed with our commitment to working with other service providers in a joint effort to best support young families and accompanying children has harnessed positive outcomes.



The Private Rental Brokerage Program is committed to supporting young people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness in the Eastern Region access private Rental accommodation. The PRBP achieves this by working across four Local Government Areas within the Inner Eastern Region, including The Cities of Whitehorse, Boroondara, Monash and Manningham, by building partnerships and community connectedness.

It has been a real challenge to live up to service provided by the previous PRBP worker Victoria Sobh, yet with dedication and support from the Homeless Support Service Team, my transition into the PRBP role has been a success.

Over the past 3 months, 6 young people referred to the PRBP have managed to access and sustain private

rental accommodation through the use of brokerage funds and starter packs. This added to the existing clients in which were being supported by Victoria prior to her departure, displays the success of the PRBP and its need within the Eastern Region.

I look forward to supporting young people within the eastern region access and maintain Private rental accommodation over the coming months by building partnerships with local real estate agents, existing youth service providers and private landlords.

Watch this Space

Over the coming months, the PRBP will be providing a workshop aimed at supporting young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the Eastern Region access Private Rental Accommodation reminiscent of a prior FAN workshop named 'A home of my own'. Stay tuned for more updates.....



NEWSFLASH!

COMMUNITY GROUPS CASH BOOST FROM COUNCIL

More than 100 community groups shared in \$760,000 of cash grants through Whitehorse City Council's annual Community Grants program.

Also approved was \$262,000 of discount support for hall hire and free tipping at Council's Waste Transfer and Recycling Centre for community-based groups.

Council received more than 220 applications for a grant this year and, as always, aimed to help as many community groups within the budget allowance as possible.

Young people at risk of homelessness are one of the main beneficiaries of this year's Community Grants program.

The Family Access Network (FAN) received a \$5,000 cash grant that will go towards helping young people at risk of homelessness to find employment or go back to school.

FAN was established in Whitehorse in 1981 to provide support to young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The young people helped by FAN are in the 15 to 25 year age group with around fifty per cent of those assisted

also being young parents or single mothers.

FAN helped case-manage more than a hundred people last year. They receive funding from the Department of Human Services for the homeless side of their work, but rely on funding and grants from elsewhere for education, training and counselling.

The Council community grant will assist FAN to help young people with education, training or employment goals. The grant money will be specifically used to purchase uniforms, books, transport tickets, stationery and course related fees.

The grant recipients were chosen by a panel of five Whitehorse City Councillors. Some of the other recipients include the Nunawading Toy Library, the Victorian Continence Resource Centre, Mitcham Community House Family Violence Program and the Box Hill Hospital Cancer Support Group.



I am very honoured to accept this position at FAN as Youth Support Worker. It has been over a month since my first day here and I could not have imagined then that I would feel so settled, supported and valued here today. On a personal note, already I have shared a private joke, an exhausted chat, a silly mood and many enthusiastic discussions with my colleagues but in a professional capacity it is clear that your value is acknowledged, your experience drawn from and your contribution respected. I studied Psychology at uni whereby I found that I

generally gravitated to the human services and community field in work placements etc and became quite intricately involved in organisations such as the Sacred Heart Mission in St Kilda and coordinated programs at Atherton Gardens, the Fitzroy high rises. I think now, the common element was that I was drawn to and interested in people's stories. In the office I share a room with the other new support worker Fiona and we are currently doing our best to rival the belief that Sam and Jacqui's office is the coolest

and the most fun. Lately we have been measuring this by how often our neighbouring colleagues querying "what's going on in there, are you two having a party?" and how frequently Rod telling us to keep it down. So come in and you can be the judge, I love a good chat and am looking forward to gradually meeting the FAN client base, so please come in and say hi .



Life Skills Program

Just a quick update... Stavrina here, as the new Life Skills Worker my job is to maintain, resume, and develop new programs to best assist young people (primarily homeless or at risk of homelessness). In saying that, programs that have been maintained:

- Young Mums Group which is, every Tuesday from 1-3pm, 15-25 year age group. For mothers with or without accompanying children, as well as expecting mothers. Everyone is welcome. Light lunch is provided and fun activities for both the mothers and children.

Programs that will resume at FAN include:

- Drivers Ed program
- Cooking program
- Money Matters (budgeting)

Commencement date to these workshops is yet to be finalised. However, you will be informed in due course.

Programs that are in development:

- Private Rental Brokerage Program (finding, maintaining and sustaining a private rental property.)
- Same Sex Attracted support group.

And many more (with my creative mind and finger-tips) within the coming year.

Please feel free to call up and enquire about any of these programs!

“ A big hello from your new Community Development Worker! My name is Stavrina (yes a weird and wonderful name) and I am happy to say I have been part of the FAN team for six weeks now. It has been both exciting and challenging for me where my new role is one that I have not experienced before. I am in the process of completing my Bachelor Degree in Youth Work and my previous work experiences have been involved in Case Management and Intensive Case Management in the Homelessness sector. My new role at FAN involves being the Volunteer and Life Skills program worker, and I hope to offer a new, fresh and creative perspective where I can bring the best out of young people and those who are willing to help.

A little more about me...food is the big love of my life, I'm addicted to coffee, I can drive and listen to music all day, every day (especially during the summer time!) and I finally found a sport that I really enjoy doing which can be both fun and destructive...boxing.

Volunteer Program

Starting out at FAN I found myself mostly answering phone calls to people enquiring about volunteering and wanting get involved which is fantastic! Our Volunteer program is a great way to get involved and participate within the community and to guide young people to achieving to their best ability.

The volunteer program involves becoming a Mentor, Volunteer Support Team member, Child Play

Supervisor or a Lead Tenant for clients aged between 15-25 years, are a student/family or Same Sex Attracted, Transgender and Intersex young people who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.

Interested in becoming a Volunteer? Why not start here at FAN, we welcome and encourage all potential candidates.

For further information about any of our services and programs, please give us a call on 9890 2673, email us at fan@fan.org.au or check out www.fan.org.au



FAN would like to thank the following supporters and funding bodies

Alfred Felton Bequest
Lord Mayor's Fund
William Buckland Foundation
The ALSO Foundation
The Alannah and Madeline Foundation
Orcadia Foundation — Derek and Caroline Young
Department of Human Services / Office of Housing
City of Whitehorse
St Peter's Anglican Church
St Peter's Mothers Union, Box Hill
City of Maroondah
Streetsmart Australia
Lions Club, Box Hill
Olive Clark
CEEP—Uniting Care Harrison Community Services
Dorothy Christian

Notice of Annual General Meeting

You are invited to attend Family Access Network Inc's Annual General Meeting



Date: Wednesday 21st October 2009

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: Box Hill Town Hall—The Whitehorse Room
1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill
Melways Ref 47 E9

Light refreshments will be served

RSVP: Before Monday 12th October for catering purposes
on 9890 2673 or fan@fan.org.au

Guest Speaker: Dr Deborah Keys, the Senior Housing and Homelessness Research Officer
in the Research and Social Policy Unit at Melbourne Citymission.

Important Contacts...

Immediate housing assistance

Eastern Region Front Door 1300 558 484
Melbourne Youth Support 9614 3688

Crisis Counselling

Lifeline 24hrs 13 11 14
Suicide Helpline 1300 651 251
Kids Help Line 24hrs 1800 551 800
Men's Line 24hrs 1300 789 978
Parentline 24hrs 13 22 89

Sexual Assault

Eastern CASA 9870 7330
Sexual Assault Line A/H 9349 1766

Health

Family Planning Victoria 9257 0100
Maternal & Child Health A/H 13 22 29

Domestic Violence

Womens DV Crisis Service 1800 015 188

Child Abuse

Child Protection Crisis Line 24hrs 13 12 78

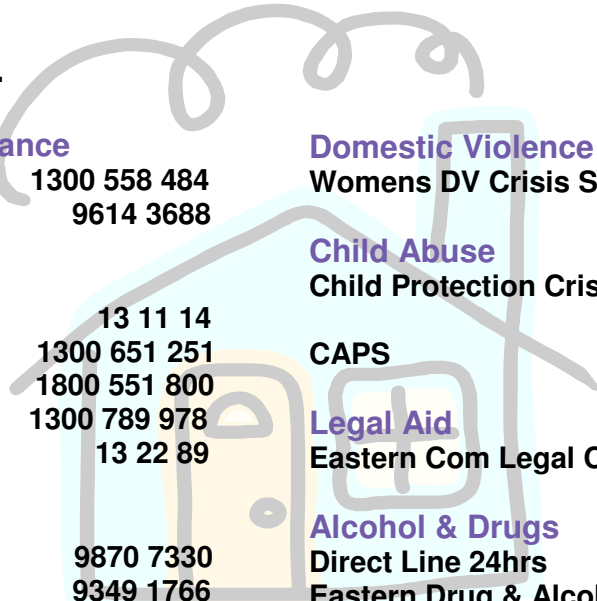
CAPS 1800 688 009

Legal Aid

Eastern Com Legal Centre 9877 5777

Alcohol & Drugs

Direct Line 24hrs 1800 888 236
Eastern Drug & Alcohol Service



NEWS

FAST FACT | The Family Access Network was established in Box Hill in 1981.



Natalie, with daughter Astryd, has benefited from guidance from the network. Picture: MITCH BEAR N10WH101

Network gets helping hand

WHITEHORSE Council is helping reduce risk for homeless youth.

A council grant of \$5000 has helped prop up the Family Access Network to enable it to continue its work to aid the area's youth who are at risk of homelessness.

Whitehorse Mayor Helen Harris said the Box Hill-based organisation helped its clients find employment

or encouraged them to go back to school.

The council's money will go to the education and training of the 100 clients the network has between the ages of 15 and 25. Half of the clients are single parents.

"We are happy to support the great work FAN does, which has helped many young people in Whitehorse," Cr Harris said.

She said the council received 220 applications for community grants this year and, "as always, aimed to help as many community groups within the budget allowance as possible".

She said the council dished out more than \$760,000 in community grants, with a panel of five councillors nutting out the details of the grants each year.

NEWSFLASH!

Family Access Network Update

If undeliverable please return to
Family Access Network Inc
PO Box 141
BOX HILL VIC 3128

