

Family Access Network Update

Winter 2019 : Volume 107



CEO Update

Welcome to the FAN Winter newsletter. I am writing this newsletter just two weeks after returning from 2 months of my Sabbatical, which was granted to me in recognition of 3 plus decades at FAN. Needless to say it was great to have a break from the daily work life, spend time with family, friends, my animals, lots of reading and not least hours in my garden. As is often said the simple things in life are sometimes what we crave the most when our lives are very busy. In particular I would like to thank Maureen Higgins and Michelle Thompson who shared higher duties while I was away, Nicole Bateman and members of the Board who supported them in that role, plus the team who ensure clients receive the best possible services.

When I prepared my update for the last newsletter it was during bushfires in the hottest Summer on record, and today it is extremely cold, just barely Winter and already record snow falls. While that is great news for those who love to ski, for those without a secure place to call home it is indeed very grim. FAN is again actively involved in the Eastern Region "Homeward Bound" campaign to help raise awareness about homelessness in the community, to be held from 11am on 30 July at Ringwood Lake.

I am delighted to advise that Rotary Club of Box Hill will be providing funding to FAN to implement a Peer Leadership Program from 1 July. The initial funding is for 12 months and subject to successful evaluation will continue for a further 2 years. This is an opportunity to build on the skills young people develop while supported at FAN to provide leadership to other young people.

Also another thank you to the Rotary Club of Box Hill, through their 2019 Community Grants Program they supplied us with funds in April to purchase a new computer which will be of great assistance to our clients.

National Volunteer Week, 30th Year, was celebrated May 19 to 26, the theme "Making a World of Difference". At Family Access Network, Volunteers have been actively involved from the very beginning of the organisation and continue throughout in roles linked to governance, mentors, lead tenants, supporting groups, gardening and maintenance and even Santa. On behalf of all who benefit from the volunteer effort contributed, thank you for the world of difference you make.

The LGBTIQ Capacity Building Project is a 12-month, DHHS funded (0.5FTE) project focusing on updating FAN's best practice report, and on building and strengthening LGBTIQ inclusivity in the youth homelessness sector. To ensure that this work is responsive to sector needs, the shape and direction will be further determined through sector consultation, and collaboration with CHP.

The worker appointed to the role, Jordi Kerr, commenced on 2 April 2019. Jordi has a background in community development and professional writing.

Again we thank StreetSmart Australia for ongoing support to FAN, this time a new grant of \$2500 to assist with material aid for our Young Mum's Group.

Please also refer to program and other updates contained within this newsletter.

Regards
Sue



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Board Update

As you know, one board member submits an article for each newsletter. For some reason I seemed to have missed my last few turns. I think this is because we have some new board members with some interesting backgrounds and profiles and these make much better reading.

Since I last wrote to you, much has happened.

Now I don't want to bore you with a whole lot of personal stuff, but I do want to share my most favourite news with you. Grandson number three is on the way!

Some of you will also remember that I'm also a part time musician (which reminds me, we *will* have another musical fundraiser this year. Stand by for that detail in due course). So with music in our family, it's little wonder that my # 3 grandson already has music in his blood.



The other news to share is that I have advised the Board that I will be retiring from FAN at this year's AGM.

I have been privileged to serve FAN as a volunteer Board member, Treasurer and Chair for 11 years. But with a few health issues in the family and my semi-retirement from the workforce, it's now time to make room for the next person.

During my corporate career, I've worked with some very large, multi-national companies. Conversely, FAN is the smallest organisation I've been associated with. Yet, despite its size, it is blessed with some of the finest individuals I've the pleasure to meet and work with. I will retire from FAN with some very fond memories.

But keep your dancing shoes close by as we will continue our annual fund raising activities for FAN

Regards

David Burlew—Secretary/Treasurer

Welcoming Jordi to the team



I'm delighted to be joining FAN as the LGBTIQ+ Capacity Building project worker. I've moved here from the GASP project in Geelong, where I was working to support LGBTIQ+ young people through social and school support, and capacity building.

I've always enjoyed working with young people, and have been working in community development with a focus on young people for eight years now. Outside of my day-job and LGBTIQ+ advocacy work, I'm also a writer of young adult fiction, and a youth literature advocate.

I've always had a strong sense of social justice, and I'm incredibly passionate about LGBTIQ+ inclusion. I'm excited at the opportunity to contribute to and share the amazing work that FAN has been doing for many years.

Children's Program

The children's program is funded through the City of Whitehorse and can assist with emotional and financial support, material aid, referrals to counselling and links to other services. The program can also assist financially with school fees/uniforms, swimming lessons, Auskick memberships and much more. If we can assist please contact Michelle at FAN on 9890 2673 so we can arrange a time to catch up.

Homeless Support Services

Preventing Homelessness with Early Intervention

Whilst some issues may seem small and meaningless, if left unchecked, these can turn into bigger challenges which could place your housing at risk. Addressing issues when they arise such as: family conflict, debt, legal issues, mental health issues and substance abuse could be the difference between you maintaining your current housing or having to access a homelessness support service like FAN.

Accessing support and guidance from family/friends can be a great first step but also accessing professional supports to address these issues can be invaluable. If you are unsure of which services would be appropriate for you, you can search local services on google or contact your local government youth services team who will provide you with the appropriate information and referrals. Simply google your suburb to find out which local government you fall under and then search for youth services in that area. By accessing the appropriate services and addressing these issues early, you may be able to prevent ever needing to access homeless support services.

Life Skills Program

Young Mums Group (YMG)

The YMG was established in 1997 and has been running continuously since then, predominantly funded through City of Whitehorse grants. Due to the increasing numbers of young families presenting to FAN, and the age of the young families being very different from the mainstream community, it became evident that young families were missing out on important social and parenting connections, which led to the establishment of the group.

YMG provides a safe space for young mothers to meet weekly with its core purpose to enable them to develop friendships, self-esteem and connectedness; this is achieved through peer interaction and participation in the weekly planned activities.

The YMG is held at the Mitcham Family Centre of a Tuesday 12pm—2pm. If you are interested in joining or would like more information you can contact the office on 9890 2673



A big Thank you to the St Peter's Mothers Union Box Hill for holding a Mothers Day luncheon for our young mums. It was a great day had by all

Eastern Diversity Group

EDG is a social support group for young people aged 15-25 years who identify as part of the LGBTIQ community.

There have been some exciting activities for EDG in term 2 including an afternoon at Darkzone (playing laser tag, arcade games and virtual reality games), a trip to the cinema and craft activities – decorating your own mugs and painting a masterpiece on your very own canvas. The calendar for term 3 will be on FAN's website very soon so make sure you check it out to see what new activities will be coming up.

We meet every Thursday from 3pm to 5pm, in the back space at Youth ConneXions, Level 2 Box Hill Centro.

There's always food and friendly faces so give us a call on 9890 2673 and ask about EDG if you'd like to come along!

IDAHOBIT Day

FAN participated in IDAHOBIT celebrations on May 17th 2019 in order to assist with raising awareness of homophobia, transphobia and biphobia experienced by LGBTIQ young people. It was a great success.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



We need your HELP!

You never know who might be interested in giving back to their community so it's worth spreading the word; we would like to bring to your attention the current Volunteer Vacancies;

LEAD TENANT

FAN is currently seeking to engage a Lead Tenants aged 21 or over to assist us to support three young people in a shared living house. This is a voluntary live-in position that involves a 12 month commitment in exchange for rent free accommodation. You will have your own bedroom and bathroom.

The Lead Tenant is required, in liaison with the agency, to ensure that house rules are maintained. The Lead Tenant is not a professional support role but rather a positive role model living in a shared property. The Lead Tenant would pay for their own food and cleaning products, utility bills are approx. \$27.00 per week.

Ideally suited to someone who is interested in, or actively studying, in the Human Services Field. This position offers ongoing training and support. The purpose of the position is to act as a role model for young people to help them to live and share in independent accommodation.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Volunteer at Family Access

Network please call the office on 9890 2673 and speak to the Team Leader.

CHILD PLAY SUPERVISORS

Child Play Supervisors engage in a range of child friendly, age appropriate activities with children while their parents attend appointments, meet with Support Workers or participate in workshops attached to various FAN Programs.

VOLUNTEER MENTORS

The aim of the Volunteer Mentor is to act as a neutral and consistent role model and provide friendship and support (on a one to one basis) to a young person between the ages of 15-25 years. Mentors and young people meet on a weekly basis – at a time and place that is mutually agreed - and engage in a range of low cost activities that build positive adult relationships and community connection.

Creating Connections Private Rental Brokerage Program

Homelessness Prevention Week

Whether a young person is looking for an existing share house, going to rent a new house with friends or looking for a house to live on their own early planning is essential in making this process easier: Some things you can do or think about when looking for rental accommodation include:

Thinking about whether you can afford to live on your own or are you going to look for shared accommodation and ensuring you are looking for properties within your budget
Having all your documents ready i.e. introduction letter, proof of income and rental references

Thinking about who you want to live with and what is desirable in a housemate
What areas are close to study/work/social networks and how accessible is transport in those areas

If you have a pet whether the property allows pets

These tips can make this process easier and ensures that you are organised and have all the information needed when looking and applying for rental properties. If you need to look for a place to live thinking about these things early and planning for the move can make all the difference.

For more information you can contact the contact the Private Rental Brokerage Worker at FAN on 9890 2673.



The Whole Package (Engage Grant)

The Whole Package is a program developed by FAN to address the issues of employability and wellbeing amongst young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and/or disadvantage within the LGBTIQ (Lesbian Gay Bi Transgender Intersex Questioning) community. The program aims to break the cycle of disadvantage by assisting young people with the skills needed to effectively obtain and sustain employment. These skills are often a natural part of development, such as developing a sense of self, resilience and teamwork but if a young person has been isolated from their community and has experienced transience at a young age these invaluable skills can often be missed.

Already this year FAN has offered workshops including:

- Yoga to address mindfulness and stress management
- Art Therapy

Term 2 has seen the return of WorkingOUT, an LGBTIQ specific employment services provider. The topics covered by these workshops include:

- Identifying career goals and pathways
- Appropriate presentation in the workplace
- One on one support to create/update resumes
- One on one support to learn how to write a cover letter
- Interview techniques

Appropriate ways of addressing bullying/harassment in the workplace
More workshops will be provided in term 3 and 4.

If you are aged from 15-25 years, identify as part of the LGBTIQ community and would like to get involved, please call the office on 9890 2673 or email Clinton at cmcdonald@fan.org.au.



Our AGM is being held on 2nd
October at 3.30pm

We would love to see you
there!

More information to come



Put on your walking shoes and join us on
July 30 to help raise awareness of
homelessness in our community.



Tuesday 30th July 2019
11.00am - 1.00pm
Ringwood Lake
Find us near the soundshell
Music and Free BBQ lunch
Coffee Cart



BYO

Water bottle and Umbrella (just in case)

Donation of non-perishable food for those experiencing homelessness

Housing Ends Homelessness

Please register online at

<https://homewardboundwalk2019.eventbrite.com.au>

Enquiries 0419 363 261 www.ehn.org.au

IVCAL

PROVIDING EDUCATION PATHWAYS FOR YOUNG MOTHERS

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN FAMILY ACCESS NETWORK,
GATEWAY LLEN AND BOX HILL INSTITUTE

IVCAL is a new and innovative approach to learning at Box Hill Tafe.

Offered at foundation, intermediate and senior VCAL levels, IVCAL can be completed 100% online or as a combination of online and class time.

Specifically relevant to young parents, IVCAL can be tailored to each students needs.

The partnership provides young parents already accessing FAN's services to re-engage in an educational program in a flexible, supportive and non-traditional environment through an online model developed by Box Hill Hill Tafe.

If you are interested or want more information contact Michelle at Family Access Network on 9890 2673





Anglican Parish of Box Hill	Allan Rogerson
Austbrokers Countrywide (Staff)	Brett Philipp and Band (5 Shades of Grey)
Australian Government DHS (Staff)	Carmel, Georgia and Christina Theodoris
Canterbury Council of Churches	Colin Bellis
City of Whitehorse	Darren Zappa of Red IT
Department of Health and Human Services	David Burlew and Band (Max Zero)
Department of Health & Human Services (Youth Affairs)	David MacKenzie
Eastern Relief	Debby Blakey
Family Planning	Irene Kay
Good 360	Liz Toffoletti
Kevcom	Paul Linossier
Kogo	Richard Scott
Lions Club of Box Hill	Students of Thornbury High School
Melbourne Inclusive Church	
Melbourne Women's Fund	
Orcadia Foundation - Caroline and Derek Young	
PostNet Hawthorn	
Ringwood Magistrates Court	
Rotary Club of Box Hill	
Salvocare Eastern	
Share the Dignity	
St Dominic's Parish, East Camberwell	
St Kilda Mums	
St Peter's Mothers Union, Box Hill	
StreetSmart	
The Allanah and Madeline Foundation	
Youth ConneXions—Whitehorse City Council	

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

W: www.fan.org.au



Useful Contact Numbers

Housing Assistance		
Eastern Region Opening Doors		1800 825 955
Melbourne City Mission Youth Support		9614 3688
Crisis Counselling		
Lifeline – 24hrs		13 11 14
Suicide Helpline- 24hrs		1300 651 251
Kids Help Line – 24hrs		1800 551 800
Mens Line		1300 789 978
Parentline		13 22 89
Sexual Assault		
Eastern CASA		9895 3281
Sexual Assault Crisis Line		1800 806 292
Health		
Family Planning Victoria		9257 0100
Maternal & Child Health line		13 22 29
Nurse On Call – 24hrs		1300 60 60 24
Domestic Violence		
Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre		1800 015 188
Eastern Domestic Violence Service (EDVOS)		9259 4200
Child Abuse		
Child Protection Crisis Line		13 12 78
Child Abuse Prevention Services		1800 688 009
Legal Aid		
Eastern Community Legal Centre	Box Hill	9285 4822
	Boronia	9762 6235
Alcohol & Drugs		
Direct Line 24hrs		1800 888 236
Youth Substance Abuse Services – 24hrs		1800 458 685
Eastern Drug & Alcohol Services		1300 650 705
Sexuality & Gender Identity		
Gay and Lesbian Switchboard		9663 2939
Transgender Victoria		9517 6613