

## Taree - Forster CLSD Program meeting

29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – First Steps Count Child and Community Centre, 4 Myall Ave, Taree

### MINUTES

**Present:** Kate Darnell (Forster/Taree Regional Coordinator, MVNS), Kate Halliday (Legal Aide NSW) Emma Mcguire (Mid Coast TAAS) Cindi Ulstrup (Services Australia) Steve Davis (Forster Neighbourhood Centre) Ronald Dennison (Legal Aide NSW PM) Gary Thomas (Disability Advocacy) Ron Khatker (Disability Advocacy) Tania Slack-Smith (Biripi - Executive Health & Wellbeing)

**Apologies:** Caron Watkins (Manager MVNS), Anne Cregan and Michelle Hannon (Gilbert + Tobin Law), Craig Partridge (Wesley Mission) Suzanne Rowe (Samaritans)

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
<b>1. Opening and Welcomes</b>	Kate H acknowledged the meeting took place on the lands of the Biripai people and welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
<b>2. Intro and Purpose of today's meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to form positive and informed action providing legal support for the Youth of our region.</li><li>• Connect with those who have attended to link in with services/opportunities.</li><li>• Introduce/Welcome Tania Slack-Smith Youth on Track Program Coordinator</li><li>• Discuss Upcoming Events</li></ul>	
<b>3. Kate Halliday (Legal Aide NSW)</b>	Kate H recognised and thanked Jane O'Dwyer for her positive and invaluable contribution as CLSD Regional Coordinator. Kate acknowledge Jane's fine efforts in establishing such strong networks and successful events. Thanks Jane!	

<p><b>4. Introductions from other service providers</b></p>	<p><b>Gary Thomas Regional Manager Disability Advocacy –</b></p> <p>Non-Legal supporting legal arenas. DA support people to represent themselves – anyone who identifies as disability experienced unfair treatment/discrimination. People accessing support has nearly doubled.</p> <p>Main issues coming to the area are –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DSP (disability support pension) issues.</li> <li>• Support gathering evidence/tools to be successful.</li> <li>• There’s been an increase in NDIS.</li> <li>• Escalation pathways are blocked.</li> <li>• Work with kids in primary and high school experience unfair treatment in school environment (school and parents help parties understand each other)</li> <li>• Identified a struggle to get involved with Education – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A brief discussion of best ways to entice schools was had. Including bringing Career Quip</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Emma Mid Coast Tenants Advice and Advocacy service</b></p> <p>Supports private and public housing.  Land lease communities advice information and referral tribunal support including support people to represent themselves.  Duty Advocacy program – attend Taree, Kempsey and PM tribunals to support tenants that show up. Small team with one full time advocate</p> <p>Includes - Termination. Repairs and bonds back  Doesn’t get involved in neighbour disputes.</p>	<p>Kate H suggested improving connection with perhaps bringing birth certificates into a schools.</p>
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**Ron Aboriginal Field Officer Legal Aide NSW Port Macquarie –**

Local List Days at Forster  
Crime report/support Taree, PM, Kempsey  
District Court and Civil Team

**Homelessness is a priority now.**

They provide links with other teams for assistance including discrimination and family. Early Intervention and Specialist Teams

Special Indigenous List – running out of Port Macquarie – any family court issue gets easier community services.

Matters that come from Mid North Coast area moved to PM for more support.

Crime team comes down every Tuesday in Taree  
Civil – Phone advice clinic (Taree)  
Forster –support in Forster once a month

Family Solicitors – come to Taree to First Steps Count every second Tuesday and provide 45minute meetings.

**Steve Davis Forster Neighbourhood Centre –**

- Central Hub keen to get more services there
- Legal Aide attends once a month.
- WDV CAS attending once a month.
- Emergency Relief
- Home and Place
- DCJ Family Support Worker
- Standard NILs Loans
- Numbers of people of requiring support have doubled - nearly tripled.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Obvious community gap of services and people in need</li> </ul> <p>Conversation – lack of increase in payment and Financial Abuse. Warm Referrals to carers gateway</p> <p><b>Cindi Ulstrup – Services Australia Community Engagement Officer</b> Promotion and Education Homelessness Family and Domestic Violence Mental Health and Financial Literacy Promotional Education – Link and support services</p> <p>Kate H discussed income support options for young people including juvenile special provisions.</p> <p><b>Community Hub</b> every second and forth Fridays 9:30-11:30am – Wesley Uniting Hall/Red Dove Café 8:30am Sausage Sizzle Services NSW, Services Australia, Indigenous Specialist Officer Home in Place Samaritans various rotating groups Emma McGuire provides Tenancy mthly Care Finder</p> <p>Keen to get message to up people eligible of pension/payment – that they can begin this process before Super runs out.</p>	<p>CLSD to help with promoting and ensuring the Hub is more widely promoted.</p>
<p><b>Tania – Youth on Track</b></p>	<p>Kate D Welcomed Tania and thanked her for her time.</p> <p>Tania Shared –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Biripi on board to deliver Youth on Track</b> // Currently in the design and develop phase right through to assessment, intake and what intervention looks like</li> <li>- Soft referrals from community – the criteria is around anyone one at risk including early intervention</li> </ul>	

- Meeting with Youth Justice once a fortnight
- Youth Justice will case manage high risk end.

**Program Design** – Group activities for youth with culture focus and connection. Disconnection with family – youth sitting in out of home care space is a high priority.

**Early Intervention** – Engaging with schools (already happening social and emotional wellbeing)

**Engagement Participation Peer Building Goals** Relationship and trust building based on individual priorities oversight and support in Taree and Forster. Intake and information and prioritisation. Continuum of service delivery offering.

**Activities** – Music, Boxing, certificate courses, volunteer and mentoring programs skill building, housing security and safe tenancy

- Supporting Youth with cognitive impairment and cultural safe way
- Pathways for formal assessment and wrap around support and multiple diagnosis.
- Children still in school – safe support to continue attending school.
- Utilise what’s on the ground. Build volunteer and mentoring support – trauma training for staff.

Are accepting referrals outside of youth justice. Not officially intaking but can take referrals link to existing youth groups and help stabilise for the now.

	<p>New financial year – previous referral will be explored. Police are still making referrals.</p> <p><b>Ryan Anderson – will be the lead of Youth on Track Recruit another person in the new financial year.</b></p> <p>Positive to get basic health, dental and Aboriginal health practitioners including an Aboriginal Psychologist</p> <p>Youth Justice – Intro to children’s court/visiting magistrate from Sydney (Aunty Gail to connect)</p>	
	<p>How kids can access income support often there is a birth certificate barrier – important that the full four pages of the application are uploaded.</p> <p>Statewide issue – six-week check-up – asking if you registered – Unregistered? What’s the best messaging? Cindi educating the at the hospital.</p> <p>Legal Aide has been investigating fee waiver – fee waiver eligibility. Still have some available to be issued before the end of June.</p>	<p>Kate D to link with community health nurses – as best point of contact and request/reminder that birth certificates are completed/registered/explore best messaging.</p> <p>Ronald D – following up birth certificates being issues at Port Macquarie Hub.</p> <p>Kate H to confirm how many we have to contribute.</p>

