



**Minutes
IF Working Group on
Vulnerable and At Risk Children and Young People
9.30am – 11.30am, Friday 1st December, 2017
Walaylup Aboriginal Cultural Centre
Fremantle**

Chair: Simone Ryan

1. Participants: Joan de Castro (City of Cockburn), Judy Walls (SWMPF); Julie Gorman (PCYC); Sally Gamble (CAMHS); Ben Tanner (City of Cockburn); Julie Mitchell (SMYL); Vania Dapaz (CPFS); Jenni Gordon (SWMPF), Sophie Doy (City of Fremantle); Kerry Wadsworth (FFSN); Cynthia Becher (DSS); Dan Mooney (WA Police); Alana Pritchard (Lakelands Senior High); Alison Teakle (Lakelands Senior High), Kim Allard (Meerilinga)

Apologies: Felix Ross (City of Melville); Alex Kepes (Access Housing); Gavin Radice (WA Police); Rieke Rolle (Anglicare)

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

3. Brokerage Fund Applications - Discussion

Julie Gorman submitted a proposal on behalf of the Fremantle PCYC to provide a three week school holiday program for the youth who regularly attend the PCYC. The application is for \$6084.00. The working group unanimously supported this application (**see electronic version attached**) and it will now be sent off to the sub-committee for final approval. Julie Gorman thanked everybody for their support.

The following suggestions and offers of support regarding the holiday programme were made:

- Julie Mitchel offered to make several hairdressing students available for an activity.
- Sally offered to volunteer for a week.
- Judy suggested that the program contact Kearah Ronan, Miss NAIDOC 2017, to speak to the kids as a mentoring opportunity.
- Julie Gorman requested some assistance with life-skills activities.
- Vania suggested that Julie be in contact with the Body Shop who have been very generous in donating time and products to another project that she knows of.
- Sally has footy contacts if they are needed.

A discussion took place on the current status of the brokerage fund. It is estimated that there will be a remainder of \$64 000 left in the fund after the PCYC application goes through.



Alana mentioned that next year LLSHS would be putting in an application to the brokerage fund to support the Mental Health Day that they will be running in 2018.

Should other SWMPF members wish to make application to the Brokerage Fund, they can do so at any monthly meeting, and if possible provide an electronic copy of their application to Judy and Simone prior to the meeting. Applications will be attached to the minutes.

4. Fremantle Foundation – Grant discussion

The Fremantle Foundation has generously donated \$12 500 to the IF Project. The only condition that has been placed on this money is that we agree, as a working group, on how it is used. This money will sit outside of the brokerage fund and as such the disbursement rules set out for the fund do not apply. We are very grateful to the Fremantle Foundation for their support.

Judy outlined two possible ideas that have come forth. The first of these is a request for assistance that came into the SWMPF from Jason Shapcott at Caralee Community School. They are looking for support for their homework club via a 0.2 FTE for the AIEO from Melville High School to support the homework club at Caralee as well as other activities in 2018. Judy has subsequently requested more information from Jason but it has not been forthcoming.

Alana said that if we were to support the request from Caralee it might be setting a precedent to fund homework programmes, which is something that most other schools (including Lakelands Senior High) traditionally fund themselves.

The second option would be to use the funds for operational and staffing costs of the IF Project itself. As people know, the SWMPF received, at the last minute, only a fraction of our funding requirements from the Department of Communities, leaving the backbone in a precarious financial position. The backbone strongly supports the IF Project and where possible we have managed to get services into the project on a pro bono basis (for example, data analysis, trade marking, branding and marketing). In this instance, the Fremantle Foundation money would be used to support the backbone for the IF project.

There was then a call for additional ideas, or for a period of time to be provided for members to consider other options. The concern was raised that the next meeting would not be until late February 2018, which was considered too long to wait to respond to Fremantle Foundation.

Julie Mitchell said that she supported the funds going to the backbone, without which the IF Project would be under strain. Joan de Castro agreed with this sentiment and the Chair put it to a vote. It was unanimously agreed that the funds should be used to support the backbone and in turn the IF project. Judy thanked everybody for the vote of confidence in the work of the backbone.

Action: Judy to inform Fremantle Foundation of the decision made by the working group for the use of its grant.



5. Youth Ambassadors Group

Sophie provided the following update on the group. Felix is waiting to get details of students who have graduated from Caralee CS and are attending Melville High School so that they can go back to talk to the Ideas Hunterz at Caralee.

Action

- Simone to follow up with Felix.

6. Updates - Transition Program

Alana reported that they currently have an amazing group of students involved in the transition programme and she has received several positive e-mails from staff about the students' progress. The Change Champions had the opportunity to accompany the Y6 students around the school during orientation day. This is usually an opportunity afforded to school councillors. They did an excellent job.

Alana was pleased to report that next year the Change Champions program will form part of the time-table, rather than having students being pulled from class to participate. Judy said that this is a great acknowledgement of all the hard work that Simone, Alana and Alison have done on the project, and the value that the school places on the initiative.

Action

- Alana to send testimonials from staff and stories about the experience from Change Champions through to Judy.

- Resilience Building program

Simone reported that the kids had a successful outing to the bowling club this week and she has already received an e-mail from the club asking if it can become an annual event.

End of the year functions will take place on Thursday at 10:30am-12:30pm at South Lake PS and 2:00pm – 3:00pm at Caralee, everybody is welcome.

Joan mentioned that Cockburn would be happy to contribute funds towards food for the South Lake party.

Julie Mitchell mentioned that if we want to build a cubby for the kids at Caralee, she has students at SMYL who could do it as part of their community projects requirement. Materials for this could be bought through funding from the brokerage fund.

A pilot program has begun at Hilton Primary school, with 4 sessions being undertaken in 2017. They are getting a new principal in 2018, which may have an impact on the program. Simone will connect with him in the new year.

Lakeland Senior High School will also be getting a new principal in 2018.

The idea of getting principals/deputy principals together from the various schools to share their experiences of the program, and assist in the more tricky issues such as selecting students to participate.



5. Any other business

- Julie Gorman mentioned that the Fremantle PCYC would be happy to provide a venue for workshops etc., any organisations interested should be in contact with her.
- Alana mentioned a Christmas music concert and BBQ at Lakelands Senior High which will be taking place on the 5th December between 5:00-8:00pm.
- Sally informed us that there has been a huge improvement in the uptake of mental health services for indigenous adolescents in the Fremantle area as a result of her and her teams work.
- Joan mentioned that there will be skate clinics in the Cockburn area for 6-12 year olds. She will send out the details.
- Sophie spoke about the Arise Project that has seen 4 disengaged youth involved in designing their own street wear. This project has included learning the creative as well as business side of the process. It was discussed whether these young people could provide design input for any future program initiatives?

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

8. Next meeting – Friday 23 February, 9.30-11.30am venue to be announced.