



**Minutes
IF Working Group on
Vulnerable and At Risk Children and Young People
9.30am – 11.30am, Friday 23rd February, 2018
Walaylup Aboriginal Cultural Centre
Fremantle**

Chair: Simone Ryan

1. Participants:

Sally Gamble (CAMHS);
Olivia Mourish (City of Cockburn);
Julie Mitchell (SMYL);
Vania Dapaz (CPFS);
Christine George (City of Fremantle);
Kerry Wadsworth (FFSN);
Alan Brown (Lakelands Senior High)
Alana Pritchard (Lakelands Senior High);
Alison Teakle (Lakelands Senior High),
Sue Kirkham (South Lake
Kim Allard (Meerilinga)
Felix Ross (City of Melville
Joan de Castro (City of Cockburn),
Antoinette Morris (Fast Track),
Judy Walls (SWMPF);
Jenni Gordon (SWMPF),
Emma Parr (PCYC - for Julie Gorman);
Jackie Newbigin (Anglicare – for Rieke Rolle)
Lisa Longman (Young Boxing Womans Project)

Apologies: Gavin Radice (WA Police); Rieke Rolle (Anglicare) Dan Mooney (WA Police); Julie Gorman (PCYC)

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

3. Brokerage Fund Applications - Discussion

a) Alana Pritchard submitted a proposal on behalf of Lakeland Senior High School to provide breakfast for students for the three days of Naplan. A similar initiative was undertaken last year, with positive results, encouraging students to come to school on these days as well as giving them the benefit of a healthy breakfast prior to the assessment. The school proposes to provide meals for approximately 109 Year 7 students and 100 Year 9's. The application submitted is \$500. The submission went to a vote and the working group unanimously **agreed** to support the application.

b) Sally reported that she currently has several young people (approximately 8) that she is working with at CAMHS that are not attending school (both primary and high school) due to a lack of resources. This is having an impact on their ability to procure basic school items such as uniforms and stationary.



Sally stated that she and several of the CAMHS staff have attempted to find funding for these items through several agencies as well as entering into discussions with the relevant schools, with no success. The meeting offered the following two approaches to resolving this issue.

- Systemic
 - Antoinette mentioned that schools receive social disadvantage funding, she will get the details of this and forward the information on. Alan said that this funding is often earmarked for school projects (e.g. homework clubs, breakfast clubs etc.) that assist vulnerable children as a whole, rather than being set aside for a particular student. Budgeting of these funds often happens at the beginning of a school year (or previous year).
 - The amount of funding that each school receives is derived using information gathered from parents at enrolment. This information is used to determine the degree of disadvantage within a particular school cohort. The information gained for each student remains the same from year 7 to year 12, regardless of possible changes in family circumstances.
 - It was suggested that school P&Cs might be able to provide some uniform support. Simone and Sally will speak to Lisa and get the details for Melville SHS P&C.
 - Alana mentioned a secondary assistance scheme that eligible parents can receive through Centrelink, this may help with some of the costs involved in schooling. Information about this can be accessed on the Lakeland Senior High website. Alana will send this through to Judy for distribution.
- Immediate Assistance
 - Sally will do a brokerage fund application to allow these kids to get back to school ASAP. The group unanimously **agreed** to support such an application.
 - Julie stated that SMYL would be able to provide \$500 towards school stationary. Sally will be in touch with Julie in this regard.

Should other IF 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. Telethon Kids – program links and research

The secretariat met with the Telethon Institute's early years team to discuss the possibility of them conducting a piece of qualitative research for the IF project. This research would look at issues such as gender, best practise, families etc. in relation to engagement with education. In addition, we are exploring the opportunity to link with the indigenous elders in the region through their 'Ngulluk Koolunga Ngullul Koort' project. In order to establish these links, we will go out and speak to their project and in return they will come and speak to us at our April meeting. It is anticipated that this process will enable us to develop vital relationships with Aboriginal elders in the region which will be of great benefit to the overall project.



5. Outcome 2 – Families Update

This outcome looks to connect families with education through strengthening relationships between schools and family support agencies. The secretariat held a meeting with Kerry and Vania to develop a plan for this outcome.

-The idea going forward is to look into conducting the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire with students. The results of these questionnaires will serve as a catalyst for the schools to link back to family. It is anticipated that families will be linked into the work of the FFSN who will build relationships and link families into appropriate services where needed.

-FFSN will contact schools and talk to staff and chaplains about the services and assistance they can provide.

-The assessment will also be useful in evaluating how students are tracking over time.

Action

-Judy/Kerry to meet with the relevant principals and support staff to develop a framework for this process..

-Kerry and her team to go out to the schools and build relationships / deliver information sessions.

6. Outcome 4 – Fast Track

This outcome looks to re-engage students who have become disengaged from education.

Antoinette from Fast Track spoke about her program. She informed us that Fast Track forms part of the Department of Education and was set up to serve students with complex issues (e.g. mental health). They offer flexible programs that are individually managed for students. Program eligibility starts at sixteen, but they do sometimes make exceptions for younger students. They have approximately 80 kids registered at any one time.

Simone spoke about a new initiative that will be running under the IF Project as part of Outcome 4. The program has been specifically designed for 14-17 year olds at North Lake's Fast Track program who have been disengaged from the education system for 12 months or more. The collaborative program will involve a series of interactive sessions run over 6 weeks to 15-20 students, facilitated by Headspace Fremantle, Sexual Health Quarters, Palmerston Association, the Young Boxing Woman Project, and Youth Legal Service. This program will be run twice during the year to cover all students. The program was designed in collaboration with the teachers at Fast Track so that it meets Curriculum Council outcomes and can be counted towards students' graduation requirements or Tafe course outcomes.

7. Updates – Youth Ambassador Group

Felix asked the group for clarity on the Youth Ambassador Group. He questioned whether the working group wanted an ambassador group made up of students involved in the IF project or youth selected from reference groups that already existed more broadly in the region. Simone suggested that part of the purpose of the group would be to build leadership skills in the participants and should preferably be made up of IF project youth. The group would probably only meet twice a year (at the end of each semester) to discuss the project and provide us with feedback.



Transition Program

The programme will be run again in terms 3 and 4. Lakelands Senior High will participate and potentially Melville Senior High School. The project will be run with The Young Boxing Woman's Project, SHQ as well as Headspace who will be a new inclusion.

Resilience Building program

Simone reported that the Idea Hunterz and the Rocketeers are up and running. There are currently 25 Rocketeers (17 from last year and 8 new students). The sessions are divided into two with approximately 13 students in each session. They are going to be building go-carts this term in conjunction with SMYL students who are assisting with the construction of the parts. Bunnings vouchers that have been donated to SPS will be used to purchase the materials. The Ideas Hunterz have approximately 14 participants and this group will be facilitated by Jess from Palmerston. Simone is in the process of training her up on the program.

Hilton Primary School -the program here has not started yet but it is anticipated that it will be run as a breakfast club out of the Hilton PCYC beginning in term 3. The program will make use of the Drum Beat program that is a resilience building computer program. Maintaining involvement of the school will be important, as our overall objective is to increase school attendance.

8. Any other business

-Alana reported that they will be holding a Mental Health Day at LSH on the 13th November, with guest speakers and activities available. They will be holding a planning meeting on the 14th March at 8:30am for any agencies that would like to attend.

-Emma reported on the PCYC holiday program. They had 20 kids attending daily over the three week period with 53 kids registered in total. Eleven new kids attended PCYC and 11 Aboriginal kids were part of the program.

-Jenni posed the question regarding the use of the Walaylup Aboriginal Cultural Centre as a permanent working group venue. It was decided that whilst this was a good idea, every one meeting a quarter should be held in Cockburn.

9. Next meeting – Friday 23 March, 9.30-11.30am venue to be announced.