

Minutes

Meeting of the SWMPF Working Group on Vulnerable and At Risk Children and Young People

**9:30am – 11:30am, Thursday 5 March, 2015
Department of Education Regional Office,
184 Hampton Road, Beaconsfield**

Interim chair: Karin Mac Arthur (SWMPF Community Partnership Broker)

Participants: Dee Skuza (Community Development Officer – Youth, City of Melville); Julie Fitzgerald (Team Leader, Responsible Parenting Services, Department for Child Protection and Family Support); Russ Eldean (Youth Liaison Officer, WA Police); Christine George (Youth Project Officer, City of Fremantle); Bobbie Mizen (Youth Outreach Officer, City of Cockburn); Denise Henden (Behaviour and Attendance Officer, Department of Education)

Apologies:

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Apologies – Paul Loseby (Manager, HeadSpace)

2. Volunteer to take minutes

Bobbie Mizen

3. Approval of (amended) minutes meeting 5 February, 2015

The minutes were approved subject to one change from Julie. She asked that it be noted that she had contacted 100 Hampton Road and that they had said they could not provide assistance with the proposed breakfast club.

4. Update on actions arising from minutes

- Karin to follow up with Ian re contacts for sporting equipment for South Lake PS.
- Karin has followed up with Anglicare re their representation on the group. The new Team Leader, Rieki Rolle, will be taking over as their representative.
- It was agreed that the proposed meetings with all the Principals would be best held in week 3 of Term 2. Karin will liaise with the Principals and organise the date and time and will then let the group know.
- The Working group's Terms of Reference have been approved by the SWMPF Leadership Group and sent to all members.

- The SWMPF webpage has been updated. This includes photos of the schools' 'working lunches'.. <http://www.swmpf.org.au/swmpf-projects/common-social-issue/>
5. **How are we travelling? Stock take on 2014 and the year ahead: Challenges and learnings, opportunities, rules of engagement for 2015**
- Before launching into stage 2 of the project, Karin suggested the working group take pause to consider why each of us is part of this group; what we are trying to achieve and what role each of us plays.
- Members had a good discussion, restating their commitment to and belief in the project; their willingness to try something different and, above all, their concerns for the kids and their future. They reviewed the four project outcomes and agreed the different approach they were adopting – while by no means guaranteed success – was a very important initiative that has the potential to yield important results.
- It was agreed that there needs to be more problem solving at a whole-of-group level, rather than just between the members working with an individual school. Also that we need to ensure we go at the schools' pace and work within their schedule, rather than our own.
- The kids really enjoyed developing their project names and logos, and it is clear the project has the potential to increase their sense of self worth. We will be encouraging the schools to use the logos to announce the various stage 1 initiatives at every opportunity, including school assemblies to promote the kids' efforts.
6. **Funding for “working lunches”**
- Members were reminded that it had been agreed to share this responsibility and to please confirm with their respective organisations that they are able to fund one working lunch (approx. \$150).
7. **Update from relevant members on stage 1 initiatives in the 3 schools**
- The members made good progress in trouble-shooting issues that have arisen in implementing the stage 1 initiatives and agreed a way forward. All is now back on track.
8. **Schedule to review responses to stage 2 questions, propose initiatives and convene meeting with all Principals**
- The stage 2 questions (one-on-one) will be asked by mid March. The working group will then collate these and discuss possible responses at our April meeting.

Karin to convene a meeting with all Principals in week 3 of Term 2 to discuss the responses to the stage 2 questions and possible initiatives. Karin will advise the working group of the date of the meeting with the Principals asap.

9. Marketing strategy – students, parents, P&Cs

This discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

10. Any other business

It was agreed that the individual working group members should be the main contacts for liaising with the Principals at their allocated school. However, Karin would provide support whenever needed on operational issues in addition to providing strategic guidance to the working group as a whole.

12. Date and venue of next meeting

9.30am, Thursday 26 March, Education Department's Regional Office, 184 Hampton Road.