

EMR Family Reconciliation Peer Support Group
Thursday 21st August 2008
Venue: Anchor Community Care

Topic	Discussion
1. Introductions	Amy Carson, FRMP; Eliza Todd, Harrison Community Services; Frances Cucuzzella, Anchor Community Care, Yin Zhang, FRMP; Amelia Harris, Anchor Community Care; Ren, Anchor Community Care; Tia Harris, Jenny's Place; Jane Healey, Wesley Crisis Centre; Sally Jensen, Lilydale Police Station; Rebecca Dawson, Maroondah Half Way House; Bronte Allen, Connections - Starting Out; Rhianna Perkin, WEAC; Maribeth Yarosh, Jenny's Place; Molly, FAN
2. Apologies	Jen Nield, Harrison Community Services; Tim Leszkiewicz, Harrison Community Services; Richard Lough, Eastern Health
3. Previous Minutes	Previous minutes received by all and passed.
4. New Business	A few new workers came along to the Peer Support Group - Welcome!
5. Presentation	<p>Cons Sally Jensen - Youth Liaison Officer, Lilydale Police Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sally provided the history of the position of Youth Resource Officer • Information notes about her presentation were distributed • Sally talked about the issues young people have and the four major ones being bullying, cyber crime, property damage and road safety • Discussed a few programs that are running that are responsive to these four major issues; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Car Torque 3777: a 10-week program for young people to get to know about cars. - Parent Advice Letters: a courteous letter sent to parents informing them that their children have been seen out late at night - Police & Aboriginal Liaison Committee: aiming to rebuild the connection between the Police and Aboriginal community • Discussed the responsibilities Police have in response to the 'missing persons', as well as the challenges they are faced with in searching for a missing person • Sally pointed out that often parents report their children missing when they are actually staying with their school mates or friends' places • Police do not have the power to enter a premise and search for a missing person if the premise owner refuses. However, if there is any safety concern (substance abuse or mental health issue), police can enter without a warrant.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police also refer young people to a various youth support programs or services such as Child FIRST and Reconnect
6. Case Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tia provided a case study of an 18-year-old female client staying at Jenny’s Place. She felt quite stressed at home and the parents were not supportive. She also has a younger brother. Eventually she chose to leave home and ended up at Jenny’s Place. During her time at the refuge, the workers were working on an exit plan with her and identified that the best place to exit was back home. It was also identified that she was experiencing anger management issues. She was later referred to see a counsellor and went to the first session but missed the second one. The counsellor went for a leave and she has not seen the counsellor any more. She still struggles with these issues and is increasing the medication for depression. The worker wants to find a way out for her, especially to reconcile with her parents. • Frances suggested that some work needs to be done with the parents and it is better to work with a family as a whole as parents need to also claim responsibility in the situation. Both sides need to hear each other. • Tia said the young person did work out a list of what she wanted to do for her and she claims she still wants to go home. • Amy suggested that a FRMP application could be made to source a private practitioner in the local region to help the young person to work out the issues and Frances suggested that Michele Hughes could be a good choice. • Workers agreed on the view that family inclusive practice should be started at intake stage and need to be a revisited theme during the course of working with young people.
7. Resources, Training, Agency & Sector Updates	<p>Amy - FRMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming training on SAAP Calendar, “Youth Centred Family Focussed Interventions; what does it take?” Level 2, Tues 21 October 2008 - contact FRMP for more information or check out FRMP website • The first meeting of Southern Peer Support Group was held in June and there was good attendance and positive feedback. <p>Ren - Anchor Community Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Winter Sleep-Out is organised by Shire of Yarra Range on 29 August in Lilydale. It aims at inviting young people in the Yarra Ranges to help arise awareness of youth homelessness by taking part in a winter sleep out - flyers distributed. • There will be a Community Wellbeing Day on 20th November 2008 in Lilydale and varies

	wellbeing activities have been planned for that day.
8. Next Meeting	<p>A few ideas were suggested for the next meeting; a preference is given to the suggestion to invite Richard Lough at Eastern Health to talk about his role. Amy to contact Richard to check availability.</p> <p>10am - 11.30am Thursday 13th November 2008 Harrison Community Services</p>