



FRMP Quarterly Newsletter

April 2006

Number 3

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Welcome!

Welcome to the third edition of the FRMP Quarterly Newsletter! We're sure that workers are well and truly into the swing of 2006.

The FRMP Team continues work on some very exciting initiatives so far this year. To date, 2006 has seen the FRMP launch their first round of training packages across the sector. FRMP has also been busy developing a statewide one-day forum for the sector - hope to see many of you there on 12th May.

The uptake in brokerage applications, particularly group applications has steadily increased in the past 6 months, and a number of exciting capacity building initiatives have begun within a number of regions across the state.

FRMPs of the Month!

It has been very difficult nominating just one FRMP of the Month this edition! For this reason we have chosen THREE workers for their innovative and consistent family inclusive practice & FRMP applications! Congratulations

- Damien Nunan (Case Manager) from Brayton Youth Services;
- Meseret Abebe (Support Worker) from Footscray Youth Housing; and
- Belinda Caracatsanoudis (Youth Worker) from Mallee Accommodation & Support Program

Sector Training

The first round of training for the homelessness service sector kicked off on 22nd February 2006. "The 'F' Word and Homeless Young People: Combining Youth Centered & Family Focused approaches in Assessment and Interventions with Homeless Young People". For details on all current and future FRMP training, visit the FRMP website <http://www.frmp.org.au/>

FRMP Website Links

Link to FRMP website
<http://www.frmp.org.au/>

Download FRMP Brokerage Guidelines
www.gatewayconnect.org/frmp/docs/BrokerageGuidelinesUpdate.doc

Download FRMP Brokerage Application Form
[www.gatewayconnect.org/database/docs/BrokerageApplicationForm II.doc](http://www.gatewayconnect.org/database/docs/BrokerageApplicationFormII.doc)

Download FRMP Groupwork Application Form
[www.gatewayconnect.org/frmp/docs/applicationkit/BrokerageApplication Form - Groups.doc](http://www.gatewayconnect.org/frmp/docs/applicationkit/BrokerageApplicationForm-Groups.doc)

Access FRMP Online Directory
www.gatewayconnect.org/frmp/maps2.asp

- Eastern & Southern Metro: 21st, 22nd February & 12th April
- Grampians/Ballarat: 8th, 9th March & 27th April
- Gippsland/Sale: 19th, 20th March & 10th May
- Barwon South West/Colac: 4th, 5th April & 25th May
- Hume/Benalla: 19th, 20th April & 15th June
- Loddon Mallee/Bendigo: 2nd, 3rd May & 21st June
- North & West Metro: 17th, 18th May & 28th June

FRMP Statewide Forum

“Wanna Talk About It: Integrating Family Centred Practice within the YSAAP Service System” - 12th May 2006

This free one day statewide Forum is a FRMP funded initiative being hosted 9am to 5pm on Friday 12th May at City of Melbourne Town Hall, Swanston Street, Melbourne.

Keynote speakers include: Dr Shelley Mallett (Research Fellow, Department of Public Health, University of Melbourne), David Mackenzie (Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Social Research, Swinburne Institute of Technology), Lisa Briggs (CEO Victorian Aboriginal Health Service), John Bonnice (Senior Manager, St Lukes - Anglicare), Paul Ban (self employed & specializing in Family Conferencing).

Places are limited to 120 participants, so please register early to avoid disappointment. Look forward to seeing many of you there!

Brokerage Report

Brokerage statistics continue to reflect the continued momentum of responsiveness to the program.

Brokerage statistics for the period January to April 2006:

Applications accepted	January - 15 February - 33 March - 38 April - 16 Total - 244
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Other Useful Links

Victorian Family Violence Prevention Networks
www.vfvpn.org.au/networks.htm

Victorian Regional Homelessness Networks
<http://net.saap.info>
xchange.net.au/

Victorian Reconnect Services
<http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/>

Victorian Office of Housing
<http://www.housing.vic.gov.au/>

Regional breakdown of services accessing funds	Southern Metro - 29 Northern Metro - 17 Western Metro - 16 Loddon Mallee - 13 Grampians - 7 Eastern Metro - 6 Gippsland - 6 Hume - 5 Barwon - 3
Interventions funded	Reconciliation - 80 Mediation - 5 Discretionary funds - 10 Groupwork interventions - 7
Cultural Identity of young person	Aboriginal / TSI - 2 Anglo Australian - 65 Chinese - 2 Dutch - 1 Irish - 1 Italian - 2 Maori - 1 New Zealand - 1 Philipino - 2 Scottish - 1 Somalian - 1 Spanish - 1 Turkish - 2 Not disclosed - 10
Time out of Home	Currently at Home - 20 1 to 12 weeks - 16 3 to 6 months - 13 6 to 12 months - 13 12 to 18 months - 7 18 to 24 months - 2 Over 2 years - 26 Not disclosed - 5

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Community Capacity Building Initiatives

A core component of the FRMP program is community capacity building. Our intention is to promote the use of family focused practice as a central feature to all intake, assessment and casework practice within the Homelessness Service System (HSS). In the last 3 months a number of partnerships continue to take shape:

Private Practitioners

An online directory of private practitioners has been developed by FRMP, and is available for workers to view via the FRMP website. This list will continue to grow as the program develops. If workers have any practitioners they would like to refer to this list, please contact FRMP.

Eastern Metropolitan Region Family Reconciliation Peer Support Group

This Group continues to meet on a quarterly basis to discuss issues relating to working within a youth centered family focused approach. The group is also an important forum for workers to share information about regional trends and concerns, as well as innovations and best practice. Next meeting is on Thursday 4th May, 930am-11am at Harrison Community Services, 1012 Little Burwood Highway, Wantirna South. For more information please contact Yasmin Thomas.

Statewide Family Violence Networkers

FRMP continues valuable collaborative work with Regional Family Violence Networkers across Victoria. These linkages have allowed FRMP to accumulate some valuable learnings about young people, family violence and homelessness, as well as accessing some valuable links to private practitioners that specialize in this area.

Group Work Developments

Within the recent FRMP Guidelines finalized in October, FRMP Brokerage Funds can now resource Groupwork. Please refer to FRMP Brokerage Guidelines, and FRMP Groupwork Application Form links opposite. The FRMP Community Development Team will be available to assist workers and services in facilitating the development of appropriate groupwork programs. Please contact Yasmin Thomas or Shauna Lenagh for more information.

FRMP Website

The FRMP Online Directory can now be accessed via the website under "Resources". For information on statewide listings of SAAP funded services, Transitional Housing Managers, SAAP Reconciliation Services, Youth & Family Private Practitioners, Family Mediation services, & Victorian Reconnect services, simply click on the appropriate region within the map of Victoria.

A reminder that the FRMP website now has an added feature for workers to give feedback about the program. Feedback can be given under the tab "Contact Us".

FRMP Evaluation

David Mackenzie has conducted a series of interviews with Youth SAAP services who have been identified as having a youth focussed, family centred framework of working with young people experiencing homelessness. These services were chosen at random. This will form part of an interim report due shortly. The interim report will also give an overview of literature as it pertains to family focused practice with young people who are experiencing homelessness.

The interim report will also give scope to how brokerage funds have been used by the SAAP sector so far.

Look out for David's presentation at the Statewide forum: "Wanna Talk About?" hosted by FRMP on the 12th May.

FRMP Publicity

Counseling flyer for Young People

In response to feedback received a number of services, FRMP is developing a flyer for young people, explaining and myth-busting the term "counseling". Young people accessing Frontyard Youth Services have been consulted throughout the process of developing and designing the content and artwork within this resource. The FRMP Team would like to thank all young people and private practitioners involved in this project. Flyers will be available soon and will be distributed by the FRMP Team and via all Regional Homelessness Networkers. For more information, contact Shauna Lenagh on 8625 4478.

Young person flyer, sticker and magnet

Participation and feedback was sought from young people accessing Frontyard Youth Services regarding the development of the FRMP flyer, sticker and magnet for young people. The FRMP Team would like to thank all participating young people and their workers in this process. If you would like additional copies of these resources please contact either Yasmin Thomas (8625 4478) or Shauna Lenagh (8625 4477).

Other Sector News

Events & Useful Links

Northern Region Youth Homelessness Forum

Tuesday 12 May 9.15 - 1.00 pm
Seminar Rm. 5 Global Learning Centre
1079 Pascoe Vale Rd Broadmeadows

Supported by the Northern Region Youth Homelessness Network and the Northern Metropolitan Region Youth Affairs Network, this forum will include presentations by Deb Tsorbaris, CEO, Council to Homeless Persons, Donna Bennett, Convenor of NRYHN, Dr. Shelley Mallet (Project i) and Peter Lake, OOH.

A panel of young people will also share their experiences of accessing homelessness accommodation and support services in the Northern Metropolitan Region.

RSVP: Donna Bennett or Bronwyn Williams 9380 1403 or hopest@infoxchange.net.au

Victorian Housing Week - 7th May

National Family Week - 15th-21st May
Families Australia
www.familiesaustralia.org.au/families_week/main.html

Aboriginal Reconciliation Week - 27th May - 3rd June

World Refugee Day - 20th June
www.worldrefugeeday.org.au/
www.australiaforunhcr.org.au/

Australian Drug Foundation

This website provides a comprehensive database of multilingual drug and alcohol information in Victoria. This site lists over 670 resources in 50 community languages and also features a multicultural drug and alcohol service directory and the latest prevention research relating to culturally and linguistically diverse communities and drugs and alcohol.

<http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au/multicultural>

Box Hill Community Arts Centre's new programs are now available on the web. Check out www.whithorse.vic.gov.au/bhcac
Adult, Youth and Children's courses for Term 1 - starting first week of February 2006

Youth Central

This website www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au contains much youth focused news and information about activities in particular areas.

Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse

A national resource on issues of domestic violence and family violence.

<http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/>

Migrant Information Centre - Eastern Melbourne

Free and Confidential Family Support Services for Migrants and Refugees

333 Mitcham Road, Mitcham ph:98731666

Paying Attention To Self (PATS) is a group for young people aged 12-18 who have a parent with mental health problems. It's run by an adolescent whose parent has mental health problems and a health professional. The groups meet weekly for 8 weeks. For more information on groups within your region contact

http://www.rch.org.au/pats/contact.cfm?doc_id=7091

Journeys Program - Mackillop Family Services (info attached).

The Journeys program works with young people aged 13 to 17 years of age. The program aims to assist young people living in out of home care, young people at risk of being placed in out of home care and young people living in the broader community who are struggling with difficult life issues (i.e. drug & alcohol use, grief & loss, relationship difficulties etc). The Journeys program works with a maximum of 30 young people during any 6 month program. Further Info: Phone: 9376 3555 Email: journeys@mackillop.org.au Website: www.mackillop.org.au

Youth Week 2006 - Youth Mental Health: Listen Up - Schools Invited to Register their attendance.

The Launch of the Campaign is to be held at Melbourne's Federation Square during Youth Week on April 4th, 2006 ORYGEN Youth Health, beyondblue and The Butterfly Foundation are working to put together a Festival Day. This is an opportunity for students to engage with the issues surrounding mental health in a fun, informative and entertaining forum. Schools are invited to register their attendance in bringing a group/class of students to the Festival Day. This day will target students in years 9-12. There are no costs associated with attending the event and it is open to all secondary schools across Victoria. To ensure that students have the opportunity to benefit most from the day, schools need to nominate which session they wish to attend (ie, morning or afternoon session). Further details about the Festival Day will be distributed to schools that have registered their interest. For more information contact Bella Burns 9342 3777, bella.burns@mh.org.au.

Have Your Say On Future For Rural Youth

Why do young people leave the country? Why do they stay? Why do they return? What steps can be taken to increase the number of young people in our rural towns and communities?

These are just some of the questions to be explored by the Parliamentary

Rural and Regional Services and Development Committee during its new Inquiry into Retaining Young People in rural Towns and Communities.

Committee chairman, Ben Hardman, has called on all interested Victorians, particularly those living in rural towns and communities, to make a submission to the committee's new inquiry. "For a long time now, the trend has been for youth to move away from regional areas to the city. We want to explore the reasons for this trend and develop strategies to ensure young people have an opportunity to live in rural towns and communities. Young people are the future of rural Victoria." Mr Hardman said the inquiry would focus on identifying and examining factors that influence young people in deciding whether to live in rural communities.

The committee will advertise across the state for submissions. The closing date for submissions is Friday 28th April. The committee will also be holding public hearings in Melbourne and across Victoria. Submissions will be used in preparing a report to Parliament with recommendations on supporting and encouraging young people to remain in or return to their rural communities.

For more info: or to obtain a copy of the terms of reference and a guide to making submissions go to www.parliament.vic.gov.au/rrsdc/, e-mail: rrsdc@parliament.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 787 202 or 03 9651 3580.

New Journal: Boyhood Studies. Call for papers.

Thymos: The Journal of Boyhood Studies is a new peer-reviewed journal is based in The Netherlands. It aims to 'offer an interdisciplinary platform for the study of boys' lives'.

'The journal has an explicit international focus, and we especially welcome contributions from outside the Euro-American field. The scholarly study of boys and boyhood has matured considerably in recent years, most notably at the intersection of masculinity studies and childhood/youth studies. The subject, politics and cultures of "the boy" amount to large subdomains of gender and life phase studies. However, the multiplexity of boys' lived experiences seems to resist any disciplinary confinement. Hence we welcome critical discussions ranging through the humanities, anthropology, history, bioethics, and the psychological and social sciences.'

Proposals and manuscripts received before May 1, 2006 will be considered for the inaugural issue. For more info: <http://www.boyhoodstudies.com>
Source: ESA-Youth, YARN

2006 Mental Health Conference Registrations Open
Date: 26 April 2006 - 28 April 2006

The VICSERV & Richmond Fellowship ASPAC 2006 Mental Health Conference is pleased to announce that registrations are now open. VICSERV and Richmond Fellowship Asia Pacific (ASPAC) have joined forces to present an international Psychosocial Rehabilitation Conference for mental health service providers, mental health consumers, carers and families, government officials, academics, students and the media.

The 2006 Partnerships Toward Recovery Conference invites delegates from across the whole Asia Pacific region to not only attend, but have the opportunity to showcase, present and discuss community mental health partnerships in all their possibilities at local, regional, national, global and transcultural levels. This Mental Health Conference will include keynote addresses, a range of presentations, interactive workshops, and panel discussions that also address the sub-themes of:

- Partnerships That work
- Innovation & Research
- Human Rights, Politics & Policy

Early bird registrations close on March 24.

For more info: or to register, go to <http://partnerships2006-rfv.vicserv.org.au/>

Source: Partnerships Towards Recovery

Six Degrees: Young People's Stories of Mental Health and Substance Use

Six degrees is a project about young people and their stories. Stories about how their mental health has been impacted by their connection to their family, communities and how services have either allowed them to get help that they need or made it difficult for them to move forward with their life (due to continuing problems with mental health or drug and alcohol problems).

Sarah Joy is facilitating this project as part of the 2005 National Youth Roundtable Health, Connections and Well-being team. It will result in the production of a collection of narratives about young people's experience (across Australia) of mental health and substance abuse issues and the kind of assistance they got during this time. This will not only give young people an opportunity to have their voice heard and also to increase the ability of young people to consult with government. After each of the four thematic sections (connection to family, community, barriers to accessing services and successful treatment), Sarah will include recommendations about how young people can have their voice heard by government.

The project is called 'Six Degrees' because these issues are not issues that just 'happen to someone else', they are part of our lives and that of many young people that we all know.

- Do you know a young person, aged 18-25, that has had experience with mental health and drug and alcohol problems?
 - Do you think that this young person would be interested in sharing their story (either anonymously or by telling just their first name and where they come from)?
 - If so, please ask them to write about their experiences (approx. 200-300 words) in the following areas*:
 - Connection to family- whether being connected (or not) to family made a positive difference to their ability to deal with mental health and drug and alcohol problems
 - Connection to community- whether being connected (or not) to community made a positive difference to their ability to deal with mental health and drug and alcohol problems
 - Barriers to accessing services- whether services were available to help deal with mental health and drug and alcohol problems. Some barriers may include, difficulty getting to services (ie transport), lack of services, no youth services, cost, staff, etc
 - Successful treatment - what made the service helpful in dealing with mental health and drug and alcohol problems (individual factors, well-trained staff, youth specific services, support from family or community)
- * Stories can be in the form of poems, artwork, written work, etc!
- For more info: please contact Sarah Joy on sjjoy@bigpond.net.au or phone 0413694533 or post stories to PO Box 281 Enmore NSW 2042
Source: Sarah Joy, National Youth Roundtable

Training

Making Stepfamilies work: A popular six week course for couples
May & June, Doncaster & Vermont South, Melbourne
Stepfamily Association of Victoria Inc
www.stepfamily.org.au

Group Therapy with Adolescents

26th April 2006

Eastern Health, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service

Community Seminar Program 2006

Ms Hannah Schotten

Occupational Therapist, Eastern Health CAMHS

Registration 8.30am, commences 8.40am & concludes 10.00am

Venue: Maroondah Federation Estate, Room 5, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood

Cost: \$10 inc. GST. Payment is required on the day. Please bring

correct money. We are unable to accept cheques or provide change.
Prior registration is not required.

Forums & Conferences 2006

"Wanna Talk About It: Integrating Family Centred Practice within the YSAAP Service System"

12th May 2006
Melbourne Town Hall
9am - 5pm

National Policy Conference: Empowering Individuals & Families in the Human Services

Explore public policy for an agenda of empowerment for individuals & families in disability, aged care, youth, education, indigenous communities etc.

16th - 17th May 2006
Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre - Preston, Melbourne
<http://www.partnerships.org.au/PolicyConference2006.htm>

9th Biennial International Paediatric and Child Health Nurses Conference

Early detection of children/families at risk; Interventions for children/families exhibiting early signs of distress; & coping skills for healthcare workers

Hotel Sofitel, Melbourne
17th - 19th May 2006
<http://www.ngttravel.com.au/acpchn2006/>

Strengthening Practice: The First National Australian College for Child and Family Protection Practitioners Professional Development Conference

Working with vulnerable people; Maintaining professional focus; Education & training; Service evaluation Quality Improvement; and Ethical practice developments.

Brighton Beach, Sydney
21st - 23rd May 2006
<http://www.croccs.org.au>

5th International Conference on Drugs and Young People

The theme for the *5th International Conference on Drugs & Young People* is the culture and context of young peoples' drug use across various settings. Some of these settings include - bars and clubs - workplaces and schools - public spaces - juvenile justice settings - the web - sports settings.

AJC Convention Centre, Randwick, NSW Australia
24th - 26th May 2006
<http://www.adf.org.au/browse.asp?ContainerID=5dyp>

Law, Religion & Social Change Conference

Focuses on: development of competent children; how families, schools, communities, & cultural context influence young people's development; Re-examine early childhood practices & approaches
Canberra, ACT

25th - 27th May 2006

<http://lawrsss.anu.edu.au/conference.html>

Parenting Imperatives II - 2nd National Parenting Conference

Issues covered include: involving fathers; supporting parents (eg: who have experienced domestic violence, fleeing their country as refugees; managing children & young people's aggression

25th - 27th May 2006

Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide

www.cyh.com/parentingconference/invitation.htm

Agency Practice Forum - 11th July 2006

Presented by the Victorian Homelessness Networks

AEU, Abbotsford, Melbourne

Future Newsletters

If you would like to contribute articles or other relevant information to this newsletter please contact Yasmin Thomas, Senior Community Development Worker directly on 8625 4478 or email ythomas@mcm.org.au The next edition will be published on Friday 21st July 2006 and thereafter on a quarterly basis.