



FRMP Quarterly Newsletter

May 2007

Number 7

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Welcome!

Welcome to the seventh edition of the FRMP Quarterly Newsletter!

Again, the past 3 months has been a busy period, with FRMP supporting 99 young people in total. See breakdown of these interventions within our brokerage statistics below.

National Families Week is being held from Sunday 13th May to Saturday 19th May 2007. To coincide with this, FRMP is hosting a number of exciting events. See professional development details below.

A number of regional community development initiatives continue to be supported. See our Capacity Building Initiatives report below.

Stay Warm, the FRMP Team!

Professional Development

“Youth Centred Family Focussed Interventions - What Does It Take?” 15th May 2007, Melbourne

An overwhelming response was received from SAAP workers wishing to attend this training. Apologies to those workers who were not able to register. FRMP will be assessing the success of this training, and evaluating how this professional development may be able to be provided again during the second half of 2007. For information relating to this workshop, please refer to the SAAP Training Calendar <http://hnb.dhs.vic.gov.au/ooh/ne5ninte.nsf/childdocs/-DABB793C4B375F1BCA2571330009C35E-824F5677B0B205FBCA2571370019101C>

“Wanna Talk About It Too?: Further Integrating Family Centred Practice Within The YSAAP Service Sysytem” 18th May 2007, Melbourne

As a follow up to last year’s hugely successful event, FRMP is pleased to confirm the date for the second annual statewide forum this May. This free event is a FRMP funded initiative being hosted 830am-430pm on Friday 18th May at Jasper Hotel, 489 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. Places are filling quickly, so please download a registration form from the FRMP website <http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/FRMP Forum Registration form.pdf>

FRMP Website

For up-to-date information about brokerage, private practitioners, and sector news and events visit the FRMP website. A reminder that the FRMP website has an added feature for workers to give feedback about the program. Feedback can be given under the tab “Contact Us”.

FRMP Website Links

Link to FRMP website

<http://www.frmp.org.au/>

Download FRMP Brokerage Guidelines

[http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Brokerage Guidelines 2006.doc](http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Brokerage%20Guidelines%202006.doc)

Access FRMP Online Database of Counsellors

www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/WEBSITE%20PP%20-%20Counsellors%20-%20Area.xls

Access FRMP Online Database of Mediators

www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/WEBSITE%20PP%20-%20Mediators%20-%20Area.xls

FRMP Evaluation

Many of you would be aware that all of the Youth Homelessness Action Plan (YHAP) Stage 1 initiatives are currently being externally evaluated by Thomson Goodall Associates. Whilst this evaluation is being undertaken, both the FRMP & YEETI programs have received approval for interim funding until December 2007. The outcomes of this evaluation process will be made accessible as soon as they are available.

FRMP Publicity Material Counselling flyer for Young People

In response to feedback received a number of services, FRMP has developed a flyer for young people about "counselling". Young people accessing Frontyard Youth Services were consulted throughout the process of developing and designing the content and artwork within this resource. For more copies or information, contact Yasmin Thomas (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. If you would like additional copies of these resources please contact either Yasmin Thomas (8625 4478).

Youth Employment Education & Training Initiative (YEETI)



YEETI has secured interim funding until December 31st 2007 whilst the Thomson Goodall Associates external evaluation is completed. YEETI has been allocated a specific amount of money for this funding period. This funding will be distributed within 2 funding rounds - round 10 and round 11. Funding formulas have been established in order to assist young people in the most effective possible ways.

The following are dates for Round 10 of YEETI funding:

Round opens	30th April
Round closes	5pm 8th June
Responses/ feedback to be given	25th June
Payments rolled out	From 1st July

For copies of Guidelines, Application Forms and details of funding caps, please refer to the YEETI website www.yeeti.org.au For further information contact Susan Slattery, YEETI Administrator on (03) 9680 8233.

Brokerage Update

Services should now be aware that due to the Thomson Goodall Associates external evaluation of YHAP 1 initiatives, interim funding for FRMP has been approved until December 2007. As a result, the FRMP program will be closely calculating the amount of Brokerage funding available to the sector during this 6-month period. Specific funding formulas and guidelines will be articulated to the sector in the coming weeks. FRMP will ensure that practices relating to these processes are as transparent as possible.

Download FRMP Brokerage Application Form for Individuals
www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/2006%20Brokerage%20Application%20Form%20-%20Individual.doc

Download FRMP Brokerage Application Form for Groupwork
www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/2006%20Brokerage%20Application%20Form%20-%20Groups.doc

Download FRMP Request Form for Additional Sessions
<http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Ranee%20-%20Request%20for%20Additional%20sessions%20with%20counselor.doc>

Download FRMP Invoicing Guidelines and Requirements
www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Invoicing%20requirements.doc

Brokerage Report

Brokerage statistics for period February to April 2007:

Applications accepted	February - 39 March - 35 April - 25 Total - 99
Service accessing funds	SAAP service - 87 Youth refuge / crisis - 10 THM - 2
Regional breakdown of services accessing funds	Southern Metro - 23 Western Metro - 22 Eastern Metro - 15 Loddon Mallee - 13 Northern Metro - 11 Hume - 10 Barwon - 4 Grampians - 1
Interventions funded	Reconciliation - 91 Discretionary funds - 4 Mediation - 4 Groupwork - 3
Gender of young person	Female - 59 Male - 40
Age of young person	<14 years - 1 15-17 years - 42 18-19 years - 16 20-24 years - 39 25 years - 1
Cultural Identity of young person	Australian - 75 Aboriginal / Torres Strait Islander - 2 Other - 22
Time out of Home	Currently at Home - 10 1 to 12 weeks - 26 3 to 6 months - 14 6 to 12 months - 15 12 to 18 months - 8 18 to 24 months - 3 Over 2 years - 19 Not disclosed - 4

**Download FRMP
Interim Update
Report for
Individuals**

[www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Interim%20update%20report%20\(FRMP\).doc](http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Interim%20update%20report%20(FRMP).doc)

**Download FRMP
Final Feedback
Form for
Individuals**

www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Brokerage%20Final%20Feedback.doc

**Download FRMP
Feedback Form
for Groupwork
(young person)**

www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Groupwork%20Participant%20Feedback.doc

**Download FRMP
Feedback Form
for Groupwork
(worker)**

www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Groupwork%20Worker%20Feedback.doc

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:

FRMP Information Kit

This resource has been developed for workers to assist in the process of talking with young people about their family. Under the umbrella of family reconciliation, there is a range of options for addressing the family issues arising from young people becoming homeless. This kit aims to define and discuss family inclusive practice and provide examples of best practice so workers have an array of therapeutic intervention options to assist young people who may be in a variety of circumstances.

This resource will be provided to all youth homelessness services across Victoria. For more information please contact Yasmin Thomas (03) 86254478

DVD "Moving towards Hope"

This DVD, a joint Project between St Lukes and Melbourne City Mission's FRMP Program highlights the struggles of youth homelessness, explores a family-inclusive approach, and reveals stories of hope through the eyes of young people, parents and workers.

The DVD will be proudly launched at the FRMP "Wanna Talk About It Too?" Forum on 18th May 2007.

Private Practitioners

An online directory of private practitioners (psychologists and counsellors screened by FRMP) has been developed 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 psychologists and counsellors they would like to refer to this list, please contact the FRMP Team. The directory can be accessed via <http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/WEBSITE%20PP%20-%20Counsellors%20-%20Area.xls>

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 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 24th February, 930am-1130am at Youth Substance Abuse Service, 953 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill

For more information please contact Yasmin Thomas on (03) 8625 4478 ythomas@mcm.org.au or visit the frmp website.

Other Useful Links

Victorian SAAP Reconciliation Workers

<http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/frmp/resources/pdf/SAAP%20Reconciliation%20Services.pdf>

Victorian Family Mediation Services Victorian Office of Housing

<http://www.housing.vic.gov.au/>

Victorian Reconnect Services

<http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/frmp/resources/pdf/Reconnect%20Providers%20in%20Victoria.pdf>

Victorian Family Violence Prevention Networks

www.vfvpn.org.au/networks.htm

Victorian Regional Homelessness Networks

<http://net.saap.info/xchange.net.au/>

Victorian Office of Housing

<http://www.housing.vic.gov.au/>

Group Work Developments

Within the 2006 FRMP Guidelines, FRMP Brokerage Funds can now be accessed by SAAP & THM services to resource Groupwork programs. Please refer to FRMP Brokerage Guidelines, and FRMP Groupwork Application Form via link www.gatewayreconnect.org/frmp/ApplicationKit.asp 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 (03) 8625 4478 for more information.

Other Sector News

Events & Useful Links

Funding For Youth Homelessness Services Extended

An extra \$85 million will be committed to extend the Australian Government's highly successful Reconnect program for a further 4 years, Minister for Community Services, Senator Nigel Scullion announced today.

The Reconnect program serves as the primary early intervention response to youth homelessness. The program is currently delivered by 100 service providers around Australia, and be continued following findings which showed the program to be very effective.

"Two thirds of young people reported an improved relationship with their family at the end of their support period with Reconnect," Senator Scullion said.

http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/Minister5.nsf/content/reconnect_23apr07.htm

National Youth Commission into Youth Homelessness (NYC)

The National Youth Commission into Youth Homelessness is an independent community inquiry, the first since the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission inquiry in 1989 headed by Brian Burdekin. Progress has been made over the past 20 years but despite improved services and innovation homelessness remains a major social problem. Recent trends in the housing market and the increasing number of young people involved with the Care and Protection system indicate that youth homelessness could well worsen over the next 20 years.

The NYC inquiry will provide a process for all stakeholders to provide evidence about the issue and ideas for action. Youth homelessness is a community issue, the NYC inquiry seeks wide community involvement in constructing solutions and a bipartisan resolve to make a difference for homeless young Australians. Individual and organisations with knowledge and ideas about the issue of youth homelessness can be a part of the solution by contributing to the National Youth Commission into Youth Homelessness. TH NYC is especially interested to obtain the views of homeless young people.

Make a written submission online before June 15th. Visit www.nyc.net.au

Mental Health Services

A new report, Mental health services in Australia 2004-05, released this week by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows that 10.8% of all encounters with general practitioners (GPs) in 2004-05 were for the management of mental health problems -equivalent to an average of one such encounter for every two Australians.

The report describes many aspects of mental health-related services in Australia

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including their provision, where they were accessed, and the resources used in their delivery.

The report states that in 2005-06, Medicare funded over two million psychiatrist services, an average of 98.6 per 1,000 people in Australia, at a cost to the Government of \$221 million.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2007/mr20070427.cfm>

National Families Week - 13th / 19th May 2007

Each year, tens of thousands of people and hundreds of organisations celebrate National Families Week - Australia's annual celebration of families.

National Families Week is timed to coincide with the United Nations International Day of Families on 15 May. This day is observed by the United Nations to mark the importance that the international community places on families as the most fundamental units of society, as well as to draw attention to the plight of families in many parts of the world.

Source: SNAICC

Refugee Week 2007 - 17-24 June

The Refugee Council of Australia is encouraging organisations around Australia to celebrate Refugee Week 2007 from Sunday, June 17 to Saturday, June 24. This date coincides with the celebration of World Refugee Day on June 20 and offers greater opportunities for creating awareness of local, national and international issues affecting refugees.

The recommended theme for Refugee Week in Australia is "The Voices of Young Refugees". This theme is a local adaptation of the UNHCR's focus for World Refugee Day, which will be on the unheard voices of refugee children. The Australian theme broadens the focus to teenagers and young adults as well and gives plenty of scope for highlighting the experiences, talents, contributions and voices of young refugees.

Source: CMYI

Would you like to receive information about national homelessness advocacy, policy and research issues? The Australian Federation of Homelessness Organizations (AFHO) publishes a national weekly bulletin. To subscribe visit their website www.afho.org.au

Email: Men's Health and Wellbeing E Bulletin - Free monthly men's health and wellbeing bulletin

Forums & Conferences 2006

Forum: Understanding And Responding To Primary Homelessness

The Council to Homeless Persons invites you to attend the Launch of the April "Gimme Shelter" edition of Parity and to a Forum entitled Understanding and Responding to Primary Homelessness on Friday 11th May, 9am to 12.30pm at the Melbourne Town Hall. To register visit

www.chp.org.au/public_news/results.chtml?filename_num=00151

Their Lives Our Work

The Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia in collaboration with PeakCare Qld Inc are proud to co-host the biennial practice symposium at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, from 15 to 17 May 2007.

Expressions of Interest are called for practitioners across Australia to showcase their program relevant to the following areas:

- Early Intervention

- Domestic and Family Violence
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health
- Loss and Grief

Register your interest

to Peter Melrose at PeakCare Qld (email pmelrose@peakcare.com.au) by submitting the following details:

- o Program name
- o Presenters name
- o Session name
- o Brief responses to 3 questions (see details in leaflet)
- o Contact details

Please ensure these details are submitted by 10 February 2007.

The symposium theme challenges delegates to explore the diverse and complex needs of children, young people and their families and how best to meet these needs in the contemporary context.

This is a not to be missed practice development opportunity for those working with children, young people and families with complex needs.

The leaflet with more details for the Expression of Interest is available for download below.

Contact Name: Loretta O'Brien

Contact Phone: (07) 3368 1050

Website: www.theirlivesourwork.com.au/

Brochure: <http://networking.snaicc.asn.au/news/items/2007/01/132461-upload-00001.pdf>

Wanna Talk About It Too?: Further Integration of Family Centred Practice Within The YSAAP Service System

A free one day statewide forum for YSAAP funded agencies and homelessness services that are working within young people and their families.

Key Note Speakers include: The Hon Alastair Nicholson (Honorary Professorial Research Fellow Former Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia), Professor Doreen Rosenthal (Director & Professor, Key Centre For Women's Health In Society), and Dr Guy Johnson (Research Associate, Centre for Applied Social Research, RMIT)

Guest Speakers include: workers from SAAP services as well as a range of allied service sectors, including family support services & psychologists working with our sector.

This is a free forum and is strictly limited to 120 places. To book, please fill in the registration form and email to ythomas@mcm.org.au or fax to (03) 8625 4460. For more information call Yasmin on (03) 8625 4478

Date: 830am - 430pm, Friday 18th May 2007

Venue: Jasper Hotel, 489 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

National conference: Australian college of child and family protection practitioners

Date: 20 - 22 May 2007

You are invited to attend the second national conference for the Australian College for Child and Family Protection Practitioners in Melbourne.

As a developing professional organisation, the college is truly multidisciplinary and aims to contribute to the debate on child and family preservation whilst

striving for excellence in practice. As such, the conference provides a valuable forum for discussing the issues which are shaping contemporary practice and career landscapes. The conference reflects these dual aims with presentations by informative and stimulating speakers as well as skills transfer workshops. Key leaders in the field of child and family work have pledged their continued support and the Melbourne based organising committee are enthusiastic about putting together an exciting and challenging event.

Themes The conference theme "Borders and Bridges" reflects the broad contexts of Australian child and family practice. Diverse state data collection systems and differences in risk and safety assessment supply the foundation of a lack of systematic planning. Workforce roles are similar but skills and qualifications are not truly comparable. Different levels of non-government and government services across the three tiers of government add to the complexity. The ACCFPP aims to build bridges between agencies and professions to minimise the impacts of poverty and mental illness on Australian families and children.

Who should attend?

Workers from across the government and non-government child and family support services sectors;

Professionals interested in the health and wellbeing of Australian children;

Professionals interested in sharing information on the delivery of child and family protection services, workforce, research, policy development and service reviews.

In addition to plenary sessions featuring a range of keynote and invited speakers, the program will include a number of breakout sessions and workshops, making the event suitable for managers and service providers alike.

Abstracts are due by 31 December 2006

Where: Victoria Hotel, Little Collins St, Melbourne

For more info: Source: ACCFP

Communities in Control Conference 2007 - From Advocacy to Policy: Communities Driving Change, Moonee Ponds, Vic, 4-5 June 2007

Cultural Diversity in Ageing 2007 National Conference, Melbourne, Vic, 7-8 June 2007

15th Biennial Conference of the Australasian Human Development Association, Sydney, NSW, 5-8 July 2007

Unpacking the Suitcase - Maintaining the Wellbeing of Newly Arrived Young People Conference, The conference which is designed to encourage discussion, explore the issues that affect newly arrived young people, is hosted by South Eastern Region Migrant Resource Centre

Effective Responses to Youth at Risk: Understanding Relationships Among Child Protection, Health, Housing, Education and Crime, Gold Coast, Qld 2-3 August 2007

Moving Forward Together - Enhancing The Wellbeing of People and Communities Through Action Research and Action Learning, Adelaide, SA, 9-10 August 2007

17th Annual The Mental Health Services Conference - Looking Toward Excellence in Mental Health Care in 2020, Melbourne, 4-7 September 2007

European Mediation Conference 2007, Vienna, Austria, 28029
September 2007

Honoring the Child, Honoring Equity 7 - Transforming Connections: Local and Global Possibilities, Melbourne, Vic, 15-17 November 2007

NSW, Sydney, 12 December: Training Course - **Sexual assault- responding to the crisis**. Participants will learn about Acute Stress Disorder, PTSD and how to assist clients to deal with the impacts of sexual assault. Registration form available at: www.nswrapecrisis.com.au/LatestNews/Training-Sexual_Assault-Oct2006.htm

Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference 2008

THE 10th AIFS Conference - a major conference with international keynote speakers, aimed at researchers, academics, policy makers, governments, and community organisations - will be held from 16-18 July 2008 in Melbourne. Further details and a call for papers will be announced on aifs-alert and on the AIFS website.

Training

Victorian SAAP Training Calendar

For a copy of the latest Homelessness Assistance and Community Housing Training Calendar, July - December 2006, download:

<http://hnb.dhs.vic.gov.au/ooh/ne5ninte.nsf/childdocs/-DABB793C4B375F1BCA2571330009C35E-824F5677B0B205FBCA2571370019101C?open>

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 Wednesday 1st August 2007 and thereafter on a quarterly basis.