



FRMP Quarterly Newsletter

October 2005

Number 1

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Relevant Links

www.frmp.org.au
Link to FRMP website

www.gatewayreconnect.org/frmp/docs/BrokerageGuidelines.doc
Download FRMP Brokerage Guidelines

www.gatewayreconnect.org/frmp/docs/BrokerageApplicationForm.doc
Download FRMP Brokerage Application Form

<http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/frmp/Resources.asp>
Access FRMP Database

Introducing the FRMP Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the FRMP Quarterly Newsletter! It certainly has been a busy 9 months! The intention of this publication is to ensure the Homelessness Service Sector is kept informed about broad program developments within FRMP. We will also include information and sector news relating to youth homelessness and family reconciliation.

Brokerage Guidelines Finalised

As a result of the consultations the FRMP held across the State we have adjusted and expanded the brokerage guidelines to accommodate to the needs identified by the homelessness sector. Please download via the Relevant Links (opposite), or FRMP website. See below for the summary of additions/expansion to the FRMP program.

The overriding objectives of brokerage are to:

- 1) Support wherever possible young people to remain/return home where appropriate;
- 2) Reconnect with family;
- 3) Support young people to resolve within themselves issues relating to family conflict/breakdown.

Brokerage interventions have been expanded to include:

- Group work (There is a group brokerage application form available on the web for this or contact FRMP);
- Interventions that may not be of a formal nature (eg counselling) but clearly support one or all three of the FRMP objectives;
- Expansion of how discretionary funds can be used (examples are listed in the brokerage guidelines)

We would like to highlight that as long as services can demonstrate how a particular intervention supports any or all of the 3 objectives of FRMP, we are more than likely to fund that intervention.

Contact Us

Mandy Baxter (Manager)

Ph: (03) 8625 4476

Mbaxter@mcm.org.au

Scott Dutton (Brokerage Contact)

Ph: (03) 8625 4479 (Mon-Thurs)

Sdutton@mcm.org.au

Angela Dupuche (Brokerage Contact)

Ph: (03) 8625 4479 (Fri)

Adupuche@mcm.org.au

Yasmin Thomas (Snr CD worker)

Contact person for Gippsland, Hume, Loddon Mallee, Metro South, Metro East regions

Tel: (03) 8625 4478

Ythomas@mcm.org.au

Shauna Lenagh (CD worker)

Contact person for Barwon, Grampians, Loddon Mallee, Metro West, Metro North regions

Tel: (03) 8625 4477

Slenagh@mcm.org.au

Examples of how brokerage has been used are listed in the updated brokerage guidelines, we encourage you to have a look at these examples and always keep in mind to contact us if you have any ideas or thoughts about brokerage but are unsure if it fits within the guidelines.

Please note, we have also updated how services and FRMP can work together to ensure funds distributed are used in a timely manner to ensure young people are getting their needs met.

Brokerage Report

Statistics for the period until September 2005:

Applications accepted	58
Service accessing funds	SAAP service – 42 Youth refuge – 14 THM - 2
Regional breakdown of services accessing funds	Southern Metro – 17 Western Metro – 15 Northern Metro – 5 Eastern Metro – 5 Hume – 8 Barwon – 5 Grampians – 2 Gippsland – 1 Loddon Mallee - 0
Interventions funded	Individual counseling – 35 Family counseling – 3 Mediation – 5 Discretionary funds – 1 Combined interventions - 14
Age of young person	14 to 16yrs – 14 17 to 19yrs – 22 20 to 22yrs – 14 23 to 25yrs - 6
Gender of young person	Female – 39 Male – 17 Not given - 2

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).

FRMP Statewide Consultations

Statewide consultations have been completed in all metropolitan and rural regions within Victoria. The FRMP Team would like to extend thanks to all workers and services that participated, some 110 workers attended across the State. Consultations enabled the mapping of current family reconciliation approaches, as well as highlighting gaps in service delivery within the Victorian HSS. They also provided us with invaluable information that will be used in developing the training that will be delivered to the sector. Please download consultation notes from our website under 'news and events'.

FRMP Consultation Actions

A number of actions resulted from the recent statewide consultations. In metropolitan areas of Melbourne a number of initiatives have been to take shape: a regional best practice/peer support network has been established for workers to come together to discuss family reconciliation; and SAAP reconciliation workers have been assisted in enhancing the visibility of their roles with Regional Homelessness Networks. In all rural and regional areas, FRMP has assisted workers in undertaking skills audits of private practitioners within their region. A database of these youth and family practitioners has been established and can be accessed on the website under 'resources'.

New FRMP Community Development Worker!

The FRMP Team would like to introduce Shauna Lenagh, the new Community Development worker replacing Linda Schwan. Linda is on maternity leave for the next 12 months after giving birth to a beautiful baby girl this month.

Sector Training

Training will be available for the homelessness service sector in early 2006. The first round of training will focus on "engagement, assessment and intervention: working with young people to reconcile with family". Watch for more details on our website.

FRMP Website

The FRMP Database can now be accessed via the website under "Resources". The directory is still in construction stage, should be viewed as a work in progress, but will be completed soon. Information will eventually be uploaded onto a map of Victoria for easy access. The database includes statewide listings of SAAP funded services, Transitional Housing Managers, SAAP Reconciliation Services, Youth & Family Private Practitioners, Family Mediation services, & Victorian Reconnect services.

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 been chosen as the external consultant evaluating the FRMP. Preliminary discussions will be about qualitatively and quantitatively measuring the success of FRMP and community capacity building initiatives. David will begin work in late October/early November 2005.

FRMP Publicity

Coming soon!!!

- FRMP Flyer for young people
- FRMP magnets
- FRMP stickers

Next Newsletter

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter 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 20th January 2006 and thereafter on a quarterly basis.