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Number 12

Family Reconciliation Mediation Program Newsletter



Melbourne Citymission
Building Inclusive Communities

Welcome

Welcome to the FRMP Quarterly Newsletter!

The purpose of this newsletter is to share news and developments within FRMP as well as a forum to support youth centred, family inclusive practice within the youth homelessness sector.

Since our last newsletter in May, FRMP has funded a total of 66 family reconciliation interventions with young people in the homelessness service system. To access a full brokerage report click on the attached link for FRMP's latest six monthly report:

http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Six_Month_Report%20Jan-June%202008.pdf

FRMP is also involved in a range of capacity building activities within the homelessness service sector – please refer to our information in the newsletter or check out www.frmp.org.au for more info!

Keep Warm, the FRMP Team (Amy, Steve & Yin)

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Overview of FRMP Brokerage

FRMP provides brokerage for young people (15-25) in the youth homelessness system to access;

- Family Mediation,
- Family Counselling,
- Individual Counselling,
- Group work Projects, and
- Discretionary costs required to support the above interventions.

FRMP provides brokerage for young people with the aim of;

- Supporting wherever possible and appropriate for young people to return home,
- Reconnecting with family, and/or
- Resolving issues within themselves issues relating to family conflict/breakdown.

For more information about FRMP Brokerage, please contact Yin, Brokerage Liaison Worker at FRMP on 8625 4479.

A recent example of feedback from a FRMP funded intervention includes;

The mediation was completed and went well. Everyone participated and clear expectations and plans were developed. Both the young person and her parents remain committed to building their relationship and keeping in touch.
St Lukes Anglicare



For more information about FRMP – call us on 8625 4444 or check out our website at www.frmp.org.au



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That is what learning is. You suddenly understand something you've understood all your life, but in a new way.

Doris Lessing

Professional Development

Upcoming Forums

“Worker Self-care: a Strengths Based Perspective”

A professional development forum in the Hume Region for workers in the youth homelessness sector. This interactive day will focus on self-care practices for workers and the development of a self-care plan.

What Professional Development Forum; Worker Self-Care: a Strengths Based Perspective
Where Benalla
When 10am – 2:30pm
21st August 2008
Contact Steve at FRMP on 8625 4478

“Youth Centred Family Focussed Interventions – what does it take?” LEVEL 2 (Advanced)

Family centred work within youth homelessness can be a complex process and often challenges our assumptions that underpin our practice. This one-day training workshop will explore family focused interventions in working with young people experiencing homelessness at an advanced level.

What Training workshop
Where Melbourne
When 21st October 2008
Contact Steve at FRMP on 8625 4478 or check out our website www.frmp.org.au to download a registration form.

“An Afternoon with FRMP”

A professional development forum in the for workers in the youth homelessness sector exploring an element of family inclusive practice, the next forum will be in the Barwon South West Region.

What Professional Development Forum
Where Barwon South West – TBC
When TBC
Contact Amy at FRMP on 8625 4477

Sector Events

Housing & Homelessness Service Expo: Working Towards Working Together

An expo primarily for service providers, students and volunteers working with people experiencing homelessness. There will also be parallel programs of presentations highlighting innovative practice.

Where Moonee Valley Racecourse, Moonee Ponds, Melbourne

When 10am – 3pm; Friday 15th August 2008

Contact For more information about the expo, contact Gavin Bussenschutt, Doutta Galla Community Health Service on 8327 1700.



For more information about FRMP – call us on 8625 4444 or check out our website at www.frmp.org.au



“I Want to Live Here” – Film Competition

Many young people are feeling 'fenced out' as the housing market worsens. How can there be a housing crisis when apartments and blocks of land can be seen empty throughout the city?

There must be more to the story than meets the eye. Earthsharing invites you to make a film that addresses the growing affordability and housing crisis (up to three minutes in length).

The 'I Want to Live Here' myth buster film competition is designed to encourage storytellers to explore the myths, personal stories and effects surrounding housing and land issues in their area.

The top three films will be shown at an official screening and the winner announced in early December. The winner will also receive a \$3000 cash prize. Entries close Friday 3rd October 2008. For more information check out <http://iwanttolivehere.org.au/home>

Peer Support Groups

FRMP supports these groups that meet on a quarterly basis to discuss issues relating to working with young people using a family inclusive approach. These groups are a forum for workers to share information about regional trends, raise issues that impact on practice as well as providing peer support and sharing best practice in the sector.

FRMP is currently establishing a North & West Region Family Reconciliation Peer Support Group - see below for more info!

FRMP is also scoping the potential for the viability and interest in Family Reconciliation Peer Support Group's in regional areas and will be consulting with Regional Networkers shortly!

Eastern Region

Next Meeting 21st August 2008
Time 10am – 11:30am
Where Anchor Community Care; 7-9 John Street, Lilydale
Speaker Constable Sally Jensen, Youth Liaison Officer - Lilydale Police Station
Contact Amy at FRMP on 8625 4477 for more information

Southern Region

Next Meeting 18th September 2008
Time 10am – 11:30am
Where Moira; 920 Nepean Highway, Moorabbin
Speaker Robert Coller, Family Therapist - YFC
Contact Amy at FRMP on 8625 4477 for more information



North & West Region

Next Meeting 19th August 2008
Time 10am – 11:30am
Where TBC
Speaker TBC
Contact Steve at FRMP on 8625 4478 for more information

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Family Reconciliation Mediation Program (FRMP)

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Creating Connections

Spotlight on Hume Region*

As most workers in the Youth Homelessness Sector will be aware, the second stage of the Youth Homelessness Action Plan (YHAP2) has been rolled out across Victoria through *Creating Connections*.

The Hume Region model has been designed around existing relationships and services. This model acknowledges the scope for:

- Strengthening some of these services and relationships and for the establishment of new services and relationships,
- Utilising the Primary Care Partnership designated geographic areas and networks as a focal point, and
- Each 'Hub' has a key agency at the centre of communication and service delivery.

The Hume model is unique in its delivery of *Creating Connections* as participating agencies collectively provide most of the services targeted by YHAP2 and Hub Agencies provide all direct service delivery. This model allows for sharing of local knowledge, a focus on best practice, as well as strengthening partnerships and working relationships.

*Information in this section is from a Hume Region powerpoint presentation

News Items

"Young People At Risk" July Parity Edition

Amy Carson, FRMP's Community Development Worker has recently contributed an article to the latest *Parity* edition highlighting the importance of relation centred practice within the youth homelessness sector.

The article, "Keeping Relation Centred Practice on the Youth Homelessness Agenda" provides a space for reflection on casework practice as it highlights the importance of family and relation centred practice in youth homelessness.

For more information about the article, please contact Amy at FRMP on 8625 4477 or for information about *Parity* check out the Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) website www.chp.org.au

"Which Way Home? A New Approach to Homelessness" White Paper – Release Date September 2008

The Federal Government will be releasing a *White Paper* following the submissions made to the *Green Paper* in September 2008. This important document will set the direction for the Government's plan of action in homelessness to 2020. Keep your eyes on the FAHCSIA website for more information and updates on this important policy direction

www.fahcsia.gov.au

Future Newsletters

FRMP's next quarterly newsletter is due out in early November 2008. If you would like to contribute or have any suggestions, please feel free to contact Amy at FRMP on 8625 4477.

For more information about FRMP – call us on 8625 4444 or check out our website at www.frmp.org.au