



**FAMILY RECONCILIATION
MEDIATION PROGRAM**



Melbourne Citymission
Building Inclusive Communities

FRMP Quarterly Newsletter

February 2008

Number 10

In This Issue

- Welcome!
- Professional Development
- FRMP Resources
- FRMP Website
- Brokerage Report
- Community Capacity Building Initiatives
- Other Sector News
- Future Newsletters

Welcome!

Welcome to the tenth edition of the FRMP Quarterly Newsletter!

Since our last newsletter in November 2007, FRMP has funded a total of 60 family reconciliation interventions for young people. See breakdown of these interventions within our brokerage statistics below.

Hot Off The Press! For a copy of Melbourne Citymission's FRMP Groupwork Project Report please refer to our updates in Community Capacity Building Initiatives listed within this Newsletter.

Hope you're all enjoying the sunshine!

Kind regards, the FRMP Team!

Professional Development

An Afternoon with FRMP - Mildura, Loddon Mallee Region. 6th March 2008 2 - 4pm FRMP will be hosting a Professional Development Forum as part of the LOMA Forum in Mildura (5th - 7th March 2008). Further details will be listed soon on the FRMP website www.frmp.org.au

FRMP will also be hosting further Professional Development Forums across Victoria in 2008 - further details coming soon!

Youth Centred Family Focused Interventions - What does it take? Melbourne - 6th March 2008

Facilitated by Sarah Marrinan and hosted by FRMP

The value of engaging with families and significant others of young people who are our clients has been well established through research. However, family centred work within youth homelessness can be a complex process and often challenges the assumptions that underpin our practice. The workshop will explore family focused interventions and those who have experienced homelessness for longer period of time. For more information contact Mandy Baxter, FRMP on (03) 8625 4476 or download on the registration form at <http://www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Flyer and registration form 2008.doc>

FRMP Resources

"Working With Young People and Families" - Melbourne Citymission's FRMP Info Kit

The FRMP Info Kit was developed as a result of FRMP consultations with the SAAP

FRMP Website Links

Link to FRMP website

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

Download FRMP Brokerage Guidelines

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

Download FRMP Brokerage Application Form for Individuals

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

field. Workers expressed a wish to have a resource that could assist them to promote family focused work to their clients. The kit is intended to act as a resource for workers as well as clients.

“Moving Towards Hope” DVD - a joint project between St Luke’s and the Family Reconciliation & Mediation Program

This DVD highlights the struggles of youth homelessness, exploring a family-inclusive approach, and reveals stories of hope through the eyes of young people, parents and workers. The DVD includes interviews of young people, parents and workers on their respective journeys as they seek to explore the challenges, aspirations and learning that arise from their personal experiences of youth homelessness.

FRMP Community Development workers are happy to attend a staff meeting to screen the DVD and discuss ways the Info Kit could be used. If this interests, or if you haven’t received a copy of either the Info Kit or DVD please contact Amy Carson on (03) 8625 4477 or acarson@mcm.org.au

Development of FRMP Resources

FRMP will be developing new and existing resources for the sector and young people regarding the program and the interventions available to young people and their families. These resources will also include culturally appropriate resources for Indigenous young people and young people from CLD backgrounds.

If you and / or your agency would like to be involved in the development of these resources, please contact Amy Carson (03) 8625 4477.

FRMP Website

For up-to-date information about brokerage, private practitioners, resources 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”.

Brokerage Report

[Brokerage statistics for period November 2007 to January 2008](#)

Applications approved	November - 20 December - 18 January - 22 Total - 60
Services accessing funds	SAAP service - 41 Youth refuge/crisis - 9 THM - 1 Other - 9

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/Request%20for%20additional%20sessions%20with%20counsellor.doc>

Download FRMP Invoicing Guidelines and Requirements

www.gatewayreconnect.org/database/uploads/Invoicing%20requirements.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

Regional breakdown of services accessing funds	Western Metro - 14 Northern Metro - 12 Southern Metro - 11 Eastern Metro - 9 Loddon Mallee - 6 Gippsland - 2 Barwon South West - 2 Hume - 2 Grampians - 1
Interventions (includes multiple interventions)	Family Mediation - 7 Family Counselling/Therapy - 6 Family Group Conferencing - 1 Individual Counselling - 47 Discretionary Funding - 6 Group work - 0
Gender of young person	Female - 39 Male - 21
Age of young person*	14-16 - 10 17-19 - 19 20-22 - 18 23-25 - 12
* one young person was thirteen years old	
Cultural identity of young person	Australian - 51 Indigenous - 3 CLD - 6
Time out of home	Currently at home - 8 1 to 12 weeks - 14 3 to 6 months - 9 6 to 12 months - 4 12 to 18 months - 4 18 to 24 months - 1 Over 2 years - 20

Community Capacity Building Initiatives

A core component of the FRMP program is community capacity building. Our intention is to promote youth centred family inclusive 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 Groupwork Developments

FRMP Brokerage Funds can be accessed by SAAP & THM services to resource Groupwork programs. Please refer to FRMP Brokerage Guidelines, and FRMP

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

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

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 Amy Carson on (03) 8625 4477 for more information.

The FRMP Team recently completed a report on Groupwork that provides a resource for workers considering running Groupwork programs. This report will be released shortly - check out FRMP's website for further details.

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 Amy Carson on (03) 8625 4477.

DVD "Moving Towards Hope"

This DVD, a joint Project between St Lukes and Melbourne Citymission'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. This DVD will be shared across SAAP services around Victoria in the coming weeks. The FRMP team would be happy to attend a staff meeting or visit your agency to screen the DVD! Please contact Amy Carson on (03) 8625 4477.

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 inclusive 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 14th February, 9:30 - 11:00am at Harrison Community Services, 1012 Little Burwood Highway, Wantirna South. For more information please contact Amy Carson on (03) 8625 4477.

Family Group Conferencing Network

This group meets quarterly to discuss issues and emerging themes related to Family Group Conferencing. If you are interested in this intervention and would like to participate in this network contact Mandy Baxter on (03) 8625 4476.

Other Useful Links

Victorian SAAP Reconciliation Workers

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

Victorian Office of Housing

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

Victorian Reconnect Services

<http://www.gatewayreconnect.org>

Victorian Regional Homelessness Networks

<http://net.saap.infoxchange.net.au/>

Victorian Office of Housing

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

Other Sector News

Forums

FADNET (Family Alcohol and Drug Network) Seminar, "Supporting non-using adolescents: tools and strategies", MacKillop Family Services, Wednesday 20th February 2008. For more information see attached link:
<http://www.youth.infoxchange.net.au/news/items/2008/01/191302-upload-00001.doc>

Useful Links & Resources

STEP AHEAD LIVING SKILLS COURSES

Step Ahead is a personal growth course designed for young people between the ages of 16 & 25, who are currently living in, or about to make the next step into independent living. Step Ahead Living Skills course has been designed to bridge the gap between crisis and transitional housing. The course gives participants the opportunity to develop a range of life skills, ranging from the challenges of shared living and effective communication, to managing bill payments.

Step Ahead Living Skills covers the following topics:

- Team Building and Personal Challenges
- Housing, Shared Living and Communication
- Budgeting, Benefits and Bills
- Fire Safety and First Aid Training
- Cooking and Nutrition
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Healthy Relationships

Step Ahead Living Skills program is the ideal opportunity for young people to learn life-changing skills in a fun and supportive environment.

Contact Lisa O'Brien Step Ahead Team Leader on 8486 2122 for details of course dates, times and referral forms.

DOIN' TIME

The following is an extract from a letter written by one of the young men in the Youth Unit at Port Phillip Prison:

My name is Christopher, and I am writing to you from inside Port Philip Prison. I am located in the Prison's Youth Unit, which is called Penhyn. I have written to inform you of a program that we run here. It involves us running a small business called "Doin' Time", where we produce T-shirts for sale and all profits go directly towards nominated charities. We enthusiastically support children's charities, in particular the Royal Children's Hospital. This year we have also chosen to support White Lion and Kids Under Cover. The program has run for three years, and last year it raised approximately \$27,000. Every year we hope to exceed the previous year's record.

Our aim is to not only gain practical experience in the running of a small business, but to also develop our personal skills so as to reduce the risk of re-offending. This program's ultimate goal is to assist us in becoming positive and productive members of the community. The program is a source of pride for us, and the feeling we get from raising funds and donating to worthy causes is indescribable.

The Doin' Time Team would like to know if you would be interested in getting

Contact Us

Mandy Baxter
Manager

T (03) 8625 4476

mbaxter@mcm.org.au

Amy Carson
Community
Development
Worker

T (03) 8625 4477

acarson@mcm.org.au

Brokerage Liaison
Worker

T (03) 8625 4479

behind us and to help us promote and sell our T-shirts, as well buy them. If so, it would be gratefully appreciated by everyone involved. We have a website that I invite you to take a look at: www.servingtime.org. Please have a look for more details on the program. We have also enclosed a T-shirt for you as a sample. If you

require any further information please contact Anne Hooker, Youth Development Officer, Port Phillip Prison on PH: 9217 7109. If you check out the website you can order and pay online.

Source: Anne L. Hooker

Grants

Grants of up to \$2000 are available to young people supported by their local council or not for profit community organization during National Youth Week 5th-13th April 2008. Visit www.grants.dpcd.vic.gov.au for more information, grant guidelines, and application forms. Applications close 16th November 2007.

Blueprint for responding to homelessness

The Victorian peak body for homelessness services has released [an Australian Blueprint to Reduce and Eliminate Homelessness](#). The Council for Homeless Person's report calls for investment in and review of the national homelessness support system and government systems that "fail to prevent homelessness".

Source: AFHO

Odyssey House Victoria's Counting the Kids Brokerage Fund

This federally funded brokerage fund is available in Victoria to create opportunities and provide material resources to children whose lives are impacted by parental drug or alcohol problems. Grants of up to \$4000 per child are available for products and services that will enhance children's wellbeing by addressing specific needs in their lives. Whatever they may need, be it music lessons, dental work, counselling, sports equipment or some extra tutoring, the Counting the Kids Brokerage Fund is here to help. Applications are open throughout the year and assessed on a two monthly basis. Contact 9420 7626 or visit www.odyssey.org.au/brokerage for more information.

Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations

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

Conferences

"Towards a healthy community: Advancing social wellbeing in our community" February 21 & 22 2008, Warrnambool, South West Victoria

Towards a healthy community is a 2-day conference being held to celebrate the role and contributions of non-government, not-for-profit organisations in South West Victoria in helping to create a healthy community. Conference speakers will focus upon such issues around alcohol & drug addiction, family violence, mental health and disability as well as issues such as barriers to accessing services, the benefits of collaboration between providers in all sectors.

"Parents, Families and Carers: Our Place in the Human Services, Our Agenda for Change"

Sydney, NSW, 17-18 March 2008. For more info visit www.civilsociety.org.au

5th National Homelessness Conference

Homelessness Australia will host our fifth National Conference in Adelaide 22-23 May, 2008. For information visit www.afho.org.au

“Ethical Responsiveness: The third national conference for the Australian College for Child and Family Protection Practitioners”, 23 - 25 May 2008, Adelaide

Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference 2008

Professor Alan Hayes, Director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies invites you to attend the 10th Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference, Families Through Life, to be held in Melbourne between 9th-11th July 2008.

AIFS is currently calling for the submission of abstracts for papers to be considered for inclusion in the conference. The closing date for submissions is 15 February 2008.

Information about the call for papers, the conference themes, keynote speakers, registration, and much more can be found on the Conference website www.aifscconference08.com

Future Newsletters

If you would like to contribute articles or other relevant information to this newsletter please contact Amy Carson on 8625 4477 or email acarson@mcm.org.au The next edition will be published in early May 2008 and thereafter on a quarterly basis.