

November 2008  
Number 13

# Family Reconciliation Mediation Program Newsletter



Melbourne Citymission  
Building Inclusive Communities

## Welcome

Welcome to the FRMP Quarterly Newsletter!

The FRMP Quarterly Newsletter aims to share news and developments within FRMP as well as providing a forum to support youth centred, family inclusive practice within the youth homelessness sector.

Since our last newsletter in August, FRMP has funded a total of 62 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](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](http://www.frmp.org.au) for more info!

Warm Regards, the FRMP Team

### Contents

Welcome	1
Overview of FRMP Brokerage	1
Professional Development Forums	2
Sector Events	2
Peer Support Groups	3
Creating Connections	4
News Items	4
Future Newsletter	4

## 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 intervention assisted the young person to have better communication (with her sister) and an overall improved relationship with her family.  
Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service*



FAMILY RECONCILIATION  
MEDIATION PROGRAM

For more information about FRMP – call us on 8625 4444 or check out our website at [www.frmp.org.au](http://www.frmp.org.au)



Melbourne Citymission  
Building Inclusive Communities

## Professional Development Forums

### Upcoming Forums

As part of FRMP's annual regional Professional Development Forum Series, FRMP will host workshops over the next month in the Barwon South West and Gippsland Regions. In addition, a workshop will also be held in Melbourne – see below for more info!

All the Professional Development Forums are **FREE** for workers in the housing and homelessness sector and aim to support workers engaged with young people and their families.

#### **“Worker Self Care & Reflection: a strengths based perspective”**

This interactive day facilitated by Steve Phillis, St Luke's will focus on self-care practices for workers and the development of a self-care plan. Participants will also have the opportunity to evaluate their own roles and consider the notion of 'helping relationships' within current work with young people and/or families.

**What** Professional Development Forum  
**Where** Geelong – Barwon Region  
**When** 10:00am – 2:30pm (lunch and refreshments included)  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
**Contact** Amy at FRMP on 8625 4477

#### **“Self Care in the Workplace”**

In conjunction with the Gippsland Homelessness Networker, Chris Beal, FRMP will host a professional development forum in Gippsland to examine self care strategies in relation to change. Participants will have the opportunity to develop a personal self care plan. The workshop will be facilitated by Shirley Millard who uses a creative and interactive approach. The workshop will be followed by Networker organised activities and a social event.

**What** Professional Development Forum  
**Where** Sale – Gippsland Region  
**When** 10:00am – 2:30pm (lunch and refreshments included)  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
**Contact** Amy at FRMP on 8625 4477 or Chris Beal, Gippsland Homelessness Networker to RSVP on 5132 3021

#### **“Understanding and Supporting Young People who have Experienced Violence in their Families”**

This interactive afternoon workshop will be facilitated by Marcus Andrews, Counsellor at Life Supports. Marcus will explore patterns and behaviours that are common in families where there is violence. Marcus will share intervention techniques that provide possibilities for practice with young people and their families.

**What** Professional Development Forum - Melbourne  
**Where** Level 4, Queen Victoria Women's Centre; 210 Lonsdale St, Melbourne  
**When** 2:00pm – 4:00pm (afternoon tea provided)  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008  
**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](http://www.frmp.org.au)

## Sector Events



### "All the Way Home" Council to the Homeless Persons (CHP)

The inaugural Victorian Homelessness Conference is in November, at this Conference, policy, program, service and practice issues will be discussed. The Conference will have two main themes; the forthcoming Australian Government White Paper on Homelessness and the development of a Victorian Homelessness Plan. An interim program has been finalised - for more info check out [www.chp.org.au](http://www.chp.org.au)

**Where** The Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre,  
Cnr of Bell Street and St Georges Road, Preston

**When** Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008

**Contact** For more information about the Conference, contact CHP on 9419 8699

## Peer Support Groups

FRMP supports Family Reconciliation Peer Support Groups that meet on a quarterly basis to discuss issues relating to working with young people and families in 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 within the sector.

FRMP has established these Peer Support Groups in all the Metropolitan Regions of Victoria and 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** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008

**Time** 10:00am – 11:30am

**Where** Harrison Community Services; 1012 Little Burwood Highway (Knox Shopping Centre), Wantirna South

**Speaker** Larisa Freiverts, Meridian Program, Anglicare

**Contact** Amy at FRMP on 8625 4477 for more information

### Southern Region

**Next Meeting** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2008

**Time** 10:00am – 11:30am

**Where** Family Mediation Centre; Level 4, 1001 Nepean Highway, Moorabbin

**Speaker** John Ravesi, Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner, Family Mediation Centre

**Contact** Amy at FRMP on 8625 4477 for more information

### North & West Region

**Next Meeting** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008

**Time** 2:00 – 3:30pm

**Where** Hope Street Youth Refuge

**Speaker** Kaye Rigby, Catchment Youth Services & Steph Russell, Step Ahead – Melbourne Citymission

**Contact** Amy at FRMP on 8625 4477 for more information





Melbourne Citymission  
Building Inclusive Communities

### Family Reconciliation Mediation Program (FRMP)

Contact Us  
(03) 8625 4444

Mandy Baxter, Manager  
mbaxter@mcm.org.au

Amy Carson, Team Leader  
acarson@mcm.org.au

Yin Zhang, Brokerage Liaison  
Worker  
frmpbrokerage@mcm.org.au

## Creating Connections

### Spotlight on the North & West Metropolitan Region

Creating Connections in the North & West Metropolitan Regions has been established with a number of Agencies throughout the region taking on different components of the initiative. The Agencies involved include Melbourne Citymission, St Vincent de Paul and Salvation Army.

One of the initiatives that has been established by Creating Connections has been the Youth Homelessness Alliance Northern (YHAN) which has created a centralised referral tool. YHAN has weekly meetings with service providers to pool resources and ensure an appropriate and timely response to young people in need of housing and support services. FRMP has also been a part of the YHAN and has supported family inclusive practice continuing to be considered when working with young people.

## News Items

### Youth and Family Response Project (YFRP) – Funds Available!!

Melbourne Citymission has recently received a grant of funds through the Office of Youth for the Youth and Family Response Project (YFRP). This project will enable young people and their families to access therapeutic interventions such as family mediation, family counselling, individual counselling and family group conferencing to assist young people remain engaged with family and/or significant others and to prevent disconnection and homelessness.

The YFRP covers the outer North and West municipalities of Hume, Hobsons Bay, Brimbank, Wyndham, Melton and Moorabool. The YFRP can be accessed by a range of workers engaged with young people including school welfare co-ordinators, Reconnect workers, outreach workers and other youth specific workers.

For more information about the YFRP or to receive a copy of the guidelines and application form, please contact Yin, Brokerage Liaison Worker on 8625 4479.

### Counting the Homeless, 2006

Chamberlain and MacKenzie recently released a report by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on data from the 2006 Census pertaining to people experiencing homelessness.

Their research found that the number of homeless youth aged 12 to 18 years decreased from 22,600 in 2001 to 17,891 in 2006, a decrease of 21%. For a full copy of the report, check out

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/2050.02006?OpenDocument>



FAMILY RECONCILIATION  
MEDIATION PROGRAM

## Future Newsletters

FRMP's next quarterly newsletter is due out in early February 2009. 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](http://www.frmp.org.au)