

Southern Region Family Reconciliation Peer Support Group
Thursday 25th September 2008
Venue: Moira; 920 Nepean Highway, Moorabbin

Topic	Discussion
1. Introductions	Amy Carson, FRMP - Melbourne Citymission; Yin Zhang, FRMP - Melbourne Citymission; Robert Collier, Youth for Christ; Sandra Roldan, WAYSS; Mark Stephenson, WAYSS; John Ravesi, Family Mediation Centre; Paula James, Connections; Dorothy Rose, Hanover; Tuba Atak, Hanover; Laura Egan (student), SDYS - Moira; Jill Ingleby, SDYS - Moira; Michelle Hazendonk, SDYS - Moira; Frances Butare, Youthlinx
2. Apologies	Jane Smith, Moira; Tim Strange, Fusion Youth Housing; Katie Mills, Connections
3. Previous Minutes	Passed. Correction: Paula James is from Connections instead of Reconnect
4. Guest Speaker	<p>Robert Collier, Youth for Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Collier spoke about his role as the family reconciliation worker in the southern region. The position is SAAP-funded and supports young people from 15-25 using a family-inclusive therapeutic approach. • He takes referrals from a variety of places such as intake workers, housing workers and schools. He is currently supervising a student placement and has the capacity to take more referrals. • As a family therapist, when Robert is working with a young person, he does not look at the young person individually rather he views a young person in a systemic view. He will explore the young person's family, trying to find out how the young person is influenced by his/her family, history, background, culture, etc. • At the intake stage, Robert begins a discussion and starts at creating equity rather than distinguishing the roles as counsellor and young person. He recognises that young people are experts in their own life. • He encourages young people to think about the positive parts of their families and tries to incorporate these into their current situation with their families. • Robert also gives young people the permission for an 'out' whenever they want. • Robert is also organising a 'Sailing Program' in conjunction with EACH Wilderness Therapy where he organises for a group of young people to be involved in a sailing activity. Contact Robert directly to refer a young person to this program on 9807 4900.
5. Case Study	Paula from Connections raised a case study about a family with a Cook Islander background. The father is abusive towards the young person and at times, physically violent. However, he believes this

	<p>is their culture and does not appear to want to change. Roberts suggested contacting a Domestic Violence service to get advice and that it would be useful to try and speak to a social worker with a Cook Islander background and see if they can engage the family. It was also suggested that if the young person is being physically harmed that a referral back to Child Protection is made.</p>
<p>6. Resources, Training, Agency & Sector Updates</p>	<p><u>Amy - FRMP</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming training on SAAP Calendar, “Youth Centred Family Focussed Interventions; what does it take? - Level 2” Tuesday 21st October 2008 - contact Steve at FRMP for more information on 8625 4478 or download a registration form from the FRMP website www.frmp.org.au • FRMP is going to host a Professional Development Forum in the CBD in mid November. It will be a 2-hour afternoon session. FRMP will be sending out the flyer shortly. <p><u>Mark - WAYSS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WAYSS has a new program Step Ahead, which offers long-term (12 months) transitional housing for young people aged 16-18 in Doveton in the City of Casey. Mark will provide intensive case support to those young people living in the property and keep in daily contact with them. Some referrals came from the City of Casey and now there is a vacancy for one female and two males. Young people involved in the program are expected to engage in employment, education and training as well as attend independent living skills workshops. For referrals, Mark can be contacted at 9791 5692 and young people will first stay in the refuge for minimum two weeks for an assessment. <p><u>Robert - Youth For Christ</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russell Armstrong, the housing worker at YFC, resigned and a housing worker is being recruited at the moment. • The funding for Youth Justice Program at YFC ceased. • Wilderness Therapy will start from 11 November to 18 November. Contact Robert directly to make a referral - see above. <p><u>John - Family Mediation Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FMC will be running Mediation Training (Level 1 & 2) early next year. <p><u>Paula - Connection</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection is losing the Adolescent Community Program and as a result they will be losing one team leader and some workers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is new program, Clean Slate funded through Youth Justice; it has a strong focus on self-development and goal setting and will write reports for young people who are going to court. <p><u>Jill & Michelle - Southern Direction Youth Service</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDYS has been successful in tendering for the Youth Justice Pathways program and will be based in Dandenong.
7. Next Meeting	<p>When: 10am - 11.30am, Thursday 11th December 2008 Where: Family Mediation Centre; Level 4, 1001 Nepean Highway, Moorabbin Guest speaker: John Ravesi, Family Mediation Centre</p>