



## **FRMP CONSULTATION WITH HORSHAM** **20th JULY 2005**

### **1. Welcome**

Introduction and role in agency  
What do you want from today?

### **2. History of the FRMP and summary of Youth Homelessness Action Plan (YHAP) First Stage Report, & Project i Research**

### **3. Introduction of the Family Reconciliation and Mediation Program (FRMP) FRMP Team and their roles**

- Mandy Baxter – Manager
- Scott Dutton – Family Mediator & contact person for brokerage
- Yasmin Thomas – Senior Community Development Worker
- Linda Schwan – Community Development Worker

#### **Overview of 3 Program objectives:**

- a) To support the homelessness sector to assist young people, where possible and appropriate, to return home or to reconcile with family / significant others. Reconciliation options include:
  - semi therapeutic interventions, such as counseling to assist a young person to 'make sense of' their experience of homelessness and family breakdown'. These services will be brokered from existing local services and accredited private practitioners where possible.
  - Up to 10 sessions / \$150 per session
- b) To provide a front-end family mediation service. Within metropolitan Melbourne, Scott Dutton will provide this service. In rural Victoria, local services will be utilised, or where gaps in service provision exist, services will be brokered-in.
- c) To establish pilot programs to support those young people who have experienced episodes of chronic / longer- term homelessness. This objective relates to the first two objectives, and will come from the first year's learnings.

#### 4. Reconciliation

##### *Question*

A key reconciliation intervention often involves keeping a young person connected to their community. Sometimes the significant person in a young person's life is not a family member or a parent. Would FRMP support reconciliation interventions involving a young person and key adult that is not a family member or parent?

FRMP acknowledges that it is very important for young people to feel connected in the bigger world. FRMP also recognizes that young people form strong bonds with people other than their family. FRMP shall pass this query on to the Department and aim to address in our interim guidelines.

#### 5. Mediation

Definition displayed on overhead for comment

#### 6. Brokerage

- Mediation, reconciliation, discretionary funding
- 10 sessions, up to \$150 per session
- Not counseling between partners, but rather young person and their family. However can be linked to intergenerational patterns that exist between young person and how they were parented
- 20 agencies have accessed money to-date
- family therapy, mediation, individual counseling

#### Examples of successful reconciliation applications

##### *Example 1*

- **Service accessing brokerage:** Youth Refuge
- **Funding requested:** Reconciliation – individual counseling
- **Details of young person:** 17 year old male living in a refuge. Requesting individual counseling around issues of grief and loss, and assistance with relationship with father and stepmother.
- **Gaps in services:** *No services available*
- **Own provider / assistance:** *Worker has own contact to provide counseling*
- **Funds used for:** *Assessment & then family counseling with specialist*
- **Sessions requested:** *10 (3 for assessment)*
- **Cost:** *\$150 / session*

*Example 2*

- **Service accessing brokerage:** Youth Refuge
- **Funding requested:** Reconciliation – individual counseling
- **Details of young person:** 16 year old female living in a refuge. Requesting individual counseling to assist with dealing with issues related to her family, including trauma, protective services involvement, relationships with her siblings, refugee & CLD considerations.
- **Gaps in services:** *No services currently available*
- **Own provider / assistance:** *Worker has own contact to provide counseling*
- **Funds used for:** *Individual and family counseling*
- **Sessions requested:** 10
- **Cost:** \$150 / session

**Examples of discretionary funding**

- A rural youth refuge identified that they have access to a bush house, to be utilized by young people and their families working toward family reconciliation. Specialists, including family mediators, family therapists and individual counselors visit the young person and their family whilst staying at the house. The only cost that cannot be financed over these couple of days is food for the young person and their family. FRMP agrees that as the family are engaging in a reconciliation process, discretionary funds may be accessed to cover these costs.
- costs of a translator to assist in counseling session
- babysitting provided for the children of young parents attending counseling

**7. How can you / your agency use this money to maintain or improve what you are currently doing with particular clients?**

- Cherie is currently the only mediator in the Horsham region. Perhaps brokerage money that is available will encourage other professionals to undertake mediations and/or mediation training within the region.
- Brokerage will allow workers to utilize private practitioners known to them.

**8. Actions within the Grampians region to support the enhancement of reconciliation work?**

With regard to question 4 and whether FRMP could support reconciliation interventions involving a young person and key adult that is not a family member or parent, will be forwarded to the Department for consideration, and aimed to be addressed in our interim guidelines.

## **9. Training Needs**

Registered Training Organizations will deliver a consolidated training package within context young person and family centered approach

*Suggestions for training:*

- ❑ Accredited and recognized. Perhaps put together with other components that can be attributed to a Diploma
- ❑ Once every month or six weeks
- ❑ Focused and relevant to worker area of expertise
- ❑ Not just restricted to SAAP, but across programs – FRMP could contribute some money to the training, but other services able to attend eg D & A, JPET, Innovations and Family Services

*Themes*

- ❑ Koori families
- ❑ Mental health
- ❑ Mediation training
- ❑ Intergenerational family work

## **10. Website**

All information available online

## **11. Publicity Material**

- ❑ Stickers, posters, fridge magnets & a young person flyer are currently being developed
  
- ❑ A comprehensive Directory will be available on the FRMP website in the near future, detailing the location of: SAAP agencies, SAAP funded reconciliation workers, Reconnect workers, and practitioners such as counselors and psychologists