

Meeting minutes

Meeting details:

Title:	Wide bay Burnett Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Human Services Network
Date:	Thursday 20 th November 2008
Start time:	10:25am
Venue:	Biggenden Memorial Hall
Chairperson:	Shelly Howden/Clowry Kennell
Minute taker:	Shelly Howden

Attendees:

Name	Position title and workgroup
Shane Nelson	Kahwun Wooga
Mayleah Bemrose	DEEWR
Brenda Williams	Centrelink
James Briggs	Qld Health
Ara Harathunian	Indigenous Wellbeing Centre
Veronica Parsons	Aboriginal Health
Shelly Howden	Department of Communities - ATSIP
Clowry Kennell	Department of Communities - ATSIP
Reg Jia	Department of Communities - IRLO
Cindy Singho	Wide Bay Institute of Tafe

Apologies:

Name	Position title and workgroup
Manny Hegarty	Regional Director ATSIP
Delphine Howden	Kalang Elders
Selina Hill	BMRG
Diane Healey	DEEWR
Joe Eggmosses	Maryborough

Review and accept previous minutes:

Discussion	Outcome
Previous minutes reviewed	Followed up on actions from previous minutes (see discussion items)

Discussion items:

Item/item number	Discussion and conclusions	Action item	Person responsible	Due date
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies		All	
2	It was requested that a profile of each of the working groups (RPAC and RMCN, HSNSJG) be emailed to all so that everyone can have an understanding of the core business of each of the groups along with the Indigenous representatives contact details.	Shelly to distribute this information via email	Shelly	5 ^{-12.08}
3	Clowry provided an update from the Wide Bay Burnett Human Services Working Group meeting that was held			

	<p>in Gympie 19th November 2008. Updates included the WBBHSWG portal that is available on the net is currently being updated and this is hoped to be completed by February. There is also a link on there to the WBBATSIHSN information including member's details. Pro forma passed around at the meeting to obtain current information from our members to complete this update.</p> <p>Additional information that we could include on the portal is the minutes from our meetings and the representatives that we have for RMCN, RPAC and the WBBHSNWG</p>			
4	<p>Issues raised regarding Indigenous workers within Government Departments include: being kept on contract work or CDEP instead of paid employment, access to resources including work cars to attend meetings and mobile phones especially when out of office and travelling on the road (OH&S) issue.</p>	<p>Discuss this issue further with Manny to work out best way to progress action</p>	Shelly	
5	<p>Representatives sought to attend RPAC. Ara sought clarification from the group as to whether the representative needed to be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander as he is happy to represent the group. All members were happy for Ara to be the RPAC representative due to his Indigenous community involvement and family ties to the Aboriginal community. Also looked at TOR's and under point 2 it does leave it open for Non-Indigenous representatives.</p> <p><i>May comprise of members of the network or other human services representatives to address specific matters, undertake specific tasks or represent specific groups.</i></p> <p>Ara also requested additional information regarding RPAC and it was suggested that Shelly send an email to all members outlining roles of RMCN and RPAC and the representatives that we have attending these meetings.</p>	<p>Shelly to f/up on profile of RMCN and RPAC.</p> <p>**Shelly spoke to Shelley Jackson regarding this information, she advised that they are developing a profile and will send within the next couple of weeks.**</p>	<p>Ara</p> <p>Shelly</p>	
6	<p>Welcome to Country Format. Clowry advised if we do have in the region a set generic Welcome To Country</p>	<p>James Briggs to email Clowry Welcome to County</p>	Clowry	

	<p>format. James Briggs has advised that he has seen templates for 3 different versions but these are not from the local area.</p> <p>This is something we can look at with the TOWG's. Shane advised that the Maryborough Elders are currently looking at this as well.</p>	<p>Templates</p>		
7	<p>Lack of Indigenous Mental Health workers within the region. Clowry advised that mental health was a big issue raised at the Wide Bay Burnett Human Services Working Group meeting in Gympie and that a Mental Health issues committee has been formed. Clowry was nominated by Manny Hegarty as a representative on the Mental Health Issues Committee. Clowry will be meeting with Nola McKinnon from Queensland Alliance and Louise Judd from the South Burnett Community Development Program. Currently there is some work in the development of programs for people with mental health issues, middle aged area and young people with mental illness and they are seeking input as there is a current issue in regards to engaging people and the community with mental health programs. Clowry will pass our concerns onto Nola and Louise and report back at next meeting.</p> <p>Also current funding available from DSQ, up to \$50000, applications close 28th November.</p> <p>Head Space also conducting workshops with youth within the region.</p>	<p>Clowry is seeking feedback in regards to mental health issues as a representative on the Mental Health Issues committee.</p> <p>Shelly to f/up on how many Indigenous mental health workers we have in the region with Qld Health.</p> <p>Clowry to meet with Nola McKinnon and Louise Judd and report back at the next WBBATSIHSN.</p>		

8	<p>Clowry will seek further information regarding Indigenous traineeships in mental health. Julie Gee also meeting with Qld health next week – looking at traineeships for Indigenous workers in hospitals. Julie also advised that she will take the Indigenous Mental Health concerns to her meeting next week for discussion with Warren Locke.</p> <p>Julie Gee also advised that there is a Cert 3 in Aged Care Program funded through DEIR and delivered by the Maisie Kaufmann Learning Centre. For further information please ph the Maisie Kaufmann Learning Centre on ph: 07 41213364.</p>		Clowry Julie	
9	<p>Shane Nelson spoke about the letters of support that have been sought to provide support to Chrissy Young as the Indigenous Student support worker at USQ. Encouraged the group to provide letters of support for this much needed position. Letters of support have already been provided by Shane Nelson and the Department of Communities (ATSIP). External students are accessing support services at the Fraser coast campus but they are not counted in stats from Fraser Coast, they are counted in stats from Toowoomba as they are external students.</p>	Encourage letters of support to be written for Chrissy Young as the Indigenous student support officer at USQ Fraser Coast.	Shane	
10	<p>Development of the Wide Bay Burnett Youth Homelessness Reference Group. The group will be facilitated through the Wide Bay Burnett Human Services Working Group. Clowry Kennell is the elected Indigenous representative for this Reference Group. Support for the formation of the Wide Bay Burnett Youth Homelessness Reference Group has been received from the Honourable Lindy Nelson-Carr MP, the Honourable Margaret Keech MP, the Honourable Rod Welford MP, the Honourable Judy Spence MP and the Honourable Rocert Schwarten MP. Clowry to provide further updates over the next few months regarding the development of the reference group.</p>	Clowry to keep us posted on any developments as they arise	Clowry	
11	<p>Aged Care rose as an issue, also men's issues in regards to aged care.</p> <p>Cindy mentioned the need for an</p>	Feed information into the Wide Bay Burnett Ageing Strategy		

	<p>Aged care facility in the region as no where for our old people to go; only place that has this facility is located in Cherbourg.</p> <p>Wide Bay does have an Aged care Strategy and information can be fed into that to assist with voicing concerns from the group.</p>			
12	<p>Issues rose between lack of communication between the Maryborough Mental Health Unit and Indigenous Health workers. A recent incident saw a young Aboriginal girl transferred from Hervey Bay to Maryborough. She was placed in the Mental Health unit however this was not communicated to the Indigenous Health workers in Maryborough. Through word of mouth they heard the young girl was in there and advised the Mental Health unit to contact them when she arrived. This did not occur and the young girl was sent to Bundaberg, she escaped after being there within the first couple of minutes. Recommend that communication strategy be developed between the Mental Health Unit and Indigenous Mental Health workers in the region to advise of new patients so that culturally appropriate support can be given.</p>	<p>Communication Strategy to be progressed</p>	<p>Reg Veronica Parsons All</p>	
13	<p>Education – ITAS funding. Parents need to ask the school how much ITAS funding that they are receiving so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are receiving adequate support. What is happening in the region is that parents are changing schools so that their children are going to a school in the region that does have the Indigenous numbers of 20 or more students to access support.</p>		<p>May</p>	
14	<p>Meeting closed 12:40pm</p>			

General business:

Agenda items for next meeting:	TBA
Next meeting:	TBA February – Wide Bay Tafe?