

**MINUTES  
EMERGENCY RELIEF AGENCIES FORUM**

**EMERGENCY RELIEF FORUM  
MINUTES OF MEETING held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011  
(Meeting held City West Lotteries House, West Perth)**

**Item 1 Attendance**

**Present:**

Joy Smith	The Salvation Army Perth
Angela Robinson	City of Melville
Jenny Lydon	The Salvation Army Perth
June Brown	FCAWA
Mira Chalklen	KEMH
Phil Swan	Second Harvest
Doreen Rossiter	Leeming Hampers
Manelka Perera	GCLC
Loreta Williams	St Vincent de Paul
Kate White	ST Vincent De Paul
Tewin Siripatanakulkajorn	The Australian Asian Association of WA
Jean Chalmers	Swan Emergency Accommodation
Katya Cunjak	Centrecare
Sandra Geedera	Social Policy Research Centre
Lyndsey Fitzgerald	Jacaranda
Johanna Notley	Yanchep Emergency Food
Zeljka Prodanovic	MCSWA
Halina Szunejko	WA Association of Polish Women
Bill Toon	The Big Issue
Jerry Lee Hill	Kwinana Early Years
Bruce Lovatt	Uniting Care West

**Apologies:**

Jan Ivenhoe	St Pats
Iris Bennett	JewishCare WA
Brian Niedzwiedzki	SVDP
Bridget Little	CARAD

**Chair:** Bernie Fisher

**Minutes:** Carley Meyers

**Item 2 Minutes of the December Forum 2010**

**Amendments:** Nil

**Motion:** The December minutes be accepted.

**Moved:** Bill Toon **Seconded:** Halina Szunejko

Minutes Accepted.

**Item 3 Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

#### **Item 4 WACOSS - Directions for 2011**

Sue Ash, CEO, WACOSS asked if she could do a short presentation to the Forum as she wanted to advise them personally that she will be leaving WACOSS on 31<sup>st</sup> March to take up the position of CEO UnitingCare West from 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Sue discussed the upcoming CHOGM meeting in Perth in October and explained how WACOSS will host a 'Commonwealth Peoples Forum'. In March people will have an opportunity to put forward issues which will then go out for regional and international discussions prior to the event.

Sue explained how they were finalising negotiations with the State Government to improve Not for Profit salary levels.

Before she left Sue introduced new WACOSS Social Policy staff Amelia Brancato (Essential Services Coordinator) Kimberley Kammerman (Vulnerable People) and Kim Loveridge (Social Policy Support).

#### **Item 5 Tariff & Concession Framework Review**

Aditi Varma, WACOSS Senior Policy Officer Essential Services, addressed the Forum in regard to the Tariff and Concession Framework Review that is to take place soon. As part of the review WACOSS, in partnership with the Office of Energy, are examining alternative electricity tariff structures (such as block rates) with consideration as to how such structures can benefit vulnerable groups on low incomes, including the aged, disabled, large families, etc. A number of regional public consultation forums over the next few weeks to gather input into for the review.

The Issues paper will be available on the review will be on both the WACOSS and Office of Energy websites by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

No recommendations to the review will be put forward by WACOSS until this process has been finalised.

#### **Item 7 WACOSS ER Update**

Bernie advised that the WACOSS ER Conference registrations will be sent out in the next few weeks and will also be available on the WACOSS website.

The New WACOSS website ([www.wacoss.org.au](http://www.wacoss.org.au)) is up and running. To access Emergency Relief on the website select Sector Development on the top of the Home Page and then go to the second link down, which is Emergency Relief. Related ER links are listed on the left, including a bulletin board.

#### **Item 8 Agency Information**

##### **St Vincent de Paul**

Kate White advised that she is the Manager of Support Services at SVDP and has responsibility for volunteers, training, membership the Call Centre and Conference development. Over Christmas they provided 1300 hampers.

In reply to a question Kate explained that SDVP don't cover every suburb. She will email a list of suburbs covered/not covered to Bernie for distribution to the ER network. They do assist with furniture and whitegoods.

A client must be seen by a case manager first and how quickly this happens will depend on the size and location of the Conference. One in every four clients that approach SVDP cannot be assisted.

#### **Centrecare Mirrabooka**

Katya said that they assist clients to stay in private rental. Referrals are welcome, phone 94400400.

#### **FAHCSIA**

Uta said that half yearly data reports are due. Services must return Smart forms electronically.

#### **Salvation Army**

Joy Smith advised that Back to School Assist (Kmart Vouchers) are available. Jenny said that they were booked up two weeks in advance for Financial Counselling and Emergency Relief assistance. The Salvos assisted with over 1000 hampers over the Christmas period.

#### **WA Association of Polish Women**

Halina Szunejko reminded everyone that 8<sup>th</sup> March is the Centenary of International Women's Day.

#### **Financial Counselling Hotline**

June said that the overflow with work beyond their capacity. They are no longer able to answer recorded messages within 24 hours and at present are about two days behind.

#### **Swan Emergency Accommodation**

Jean said that they accept ER walk-ins. They also deliver money management education called 'Money Business'. Dreambuilders Church at 3 Marion St Midland is offering ER once a month - 92747929.

#### **GCLC**

Manelka pointed out that the Anglicare 'Supporting Families' program that was operating in their area is now finished.

#### **UntingCare Credicare**

Bruce explained that they have three Financial Counsellors and will be opening an office in Freemantle at the end of February in the old Wescare location. There will be a Financial Counsellor and they will provide ER however they only have the capacity to assist about one in every three clients.

#### **Kwinana Early Years' Service**

Jerry Lee advised that they have a Family Support Counsellor who can provide hampers, hygiene packs, advocacy, assistance with the back to school program and referral to other services. They do low level case management and walk-in's and take appointments from people in the Kwinana area.

### **Item 9 Chairpersons for the Forum during 2011**

Bernie asked if he could compile a list of volunteers to Chair ER Forums this year. Jenny Lydon, Lyndsey Fitzgerald and Kate White volunteered.

Kate White from SDVP volunteered for the March Forum.

**The next ER Forum will take place on 2nd March 2011 at City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth.**

**Chair: Kate White**

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