

**MINUTES
EMERGENCY RELIEF AGENCIES FORUM**

**EMERGENCY RELIEF FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING held on the 3rd November 2010
(Meeting held City West Lotteries House, West Perth)**

Item 1 Attendance

Present:

Doreen Rossiter	Leeming Hampers
Ron Baker	DCP
Katherine Morison	St Vincent De Paul
Bridget Little	CARAD
Julie Fraser	FAHCSIA
Loreta Williams	St Vincent de Paul
Johanna Notley	Yanchep Emergency Food
Joy Smith	The Salvation Army
Jan Iwanow	St Patricks Community Support Centre
Bill Cosentino	Creditcare
Katya Cunjak	Centrecare
Jenny Lydon	The Salvation Army Perth
Julie Abela	The Salvation Army
Bruce Panten	FAHCSIA
Kira Meadus	Ngaanyatjarra Council
Lucy Reynolds	Lotterywest
Pauline Edwards	Lotterywest
Zeljva Prodawdic	MSCWA
Rory Richie	WACOSS
Aditi Varma	WACOSS
Carley Meyers	WACOSS

Apologies:

Halina Szunejko	WA Association of Polish Women
Bernie Fisher	WACOSSS
Uta Conway	FAHCSIA
Brian Niedzwiecki	St Vincent De Paul
Joanna Harper	Anglicare
Sharon Patterson	PMH

Chair: Bill Cosentino

Minutes: WACOSS (Carley Meyers)

Item 2 Minutes of the October Forum

Amendments:

CARAD: Provides homework support, English language support and case management for people with more complex needs. There are 3 PT paid staff and many volunteers.

St Patricks Community Support Centre: does not work with young people.

The Gosnells Community Legal Centre presentation from the October meeting was left out of the minutes in error - GCLC is a not-for-profit, non-government, community based organisation that offers free, confidential, non-judgemental information and advice and

assistance to low income earners. Services offered include Child Support & Family Law Legal Service, Community Legal Education, Financial Counselling Service, Domestic Violence Legal Service, Volunteer Legal Service, FDR Legal Service, FDR & Community Mediation Service, Tenancy Service, Welfare Rights & Community Advocates Service.

Motion: The minutes from the ER Forum held on 06 October 2010 are accepted with amendments noted.

Moved: Bill Cosentino **Seconded:** Carley Meyers

Minutes Accepted.

Item 3 Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Item 4 Add em' Up

Warren Bretag presented an online presentation via phone link-up from the Northern Territory of a new budgeting tool called Add em' Up. Interested services can contact Warren direct on 04 2787 7786 or go to the website at www.addemup.com.au. Attached to these minutes is a short PowerPoint presentation and a Press Release on Add em' Up.

Item 5 WACOSS Pre Budget Submission Update

Sue Ash CEO WACOSS gave the group an update of the WACOSS Pre Budget Submission which is available on the WACOSS website. The submission identifies eight key priorities and an update on the Economic Audit Committee, which has put out two reports resulting from the consultation.

Item 7 WACOSS ER Update

Bernie was unable to attend the forum and advise there was no significant updates from WACOSS.

Item 8 Essential Services Update

Misty Hayden has left WACOSS and Rory Richie introduced Aditi Varma, who has taken over the position of Senior Policy Officer Utilities, at WACOSS

Item 9 Information sharing

CARAD

Bridget advised that the fundraising event held on the 25th October with Patrick McGorry as guest speaker was well attended.

FaHCSIA

Julie said that Uta Conway would like to know if anyone has been contacted for 'research purposes'? Please let Uta know if you have.

DCP

Ron Barker advised that there will be a consultation forum for funded Financial Counselling services on 24th November. Registration is at 8.30 for a 9 am start, and goes until 3 pm. It will be held at the Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service building, 211 Royal St East Perth. Lunch will be provided. Stanley Tse is moving on from DCP and HUGS and Tracy Glass will be acting in the role.

Lotterywest

Lucy Reynolds updated the group on the latest ER funding round. There were 100 applications for ER approved to a total of \$3.6 million. This was up \$400 thousand from last year's round, An extra \$1.2 million has been committed over the next two years to the community services sector. Successful ER funding applicants are not published on website.

St Vincent De Paul

Katherine advised that the Christmas hamper list now open.

St Patricks Community Support Centre

Jan said that the SPCSP now takes appointments for ER due to increase in client demand. The Christmas hamper list is open.

Salvation Army

Jenny Lydon advised that their financial counselling service is booked to capacity. The Perth Community Support Service is also able to apply for white good for clients through the Wearne Trust. Jenny says that they get many applications from the larger agencies but is mentioning this service as she would like to see more of the smaller agencies accessing this resource.

Joy said that their Christmas list is open. People must bring their benefit card to register. The Migrant Settlement Program is also operating. The Freedom Day Bike Ride is on 20th November.

Uniting Care West

They are very busy and turning away over a 100 people per week seeking emergency relief.

Item 9 Next Forum Meeting

Christmas Forum is on 1st December. Please come along for our end of year wrap up, yummy drinks and nibbles, and laughs with friends!

The Christmas Forum will take place on 1st December 2010 at City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth.

Chair: TBA

Enquiries: Bernie Fisher at WACOSS 9420 7222 or bernie@wacoss.org.au