

**MINUTES
EMERGENCY RELIEF AGENCIES FORUM**

**EMERGENCY RELIEF FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING held on the 6th October 2010
(Meeting held City West Lotteries House, West Perth)**

Item 1 Attendance

Present:

Doreen Rossiter	Leeming Hampers
Ron Baker	DCP
Halina Szunejko	WA Association of Polish Women
Brian Niedzwieck	St Vincent de Paul Society
Bridget Little	CARAD
Julie Fraser	FAHCSIA
Loreta Williams	St Vincent de Paul
Clarissa Harp	Jacaranda Community Centre
Vanessa Vencatasamy	Jacaranda Community Centre
Johanna Notley	Yanchep Emergency Food
Carley Meyers	WACOSS
Joy Smith	The Salvation Army
Jan Iwanow	St Patricks Community Support Centre
Lee James	Mission Australia
Bill Cosentino	Credicare
Donna Taylor-Cole	Anglicare
Katya Cunjak	Centrecare
Manelka Perera	Gosnells Community Legal Centre

Apologies:

Bernie Fisher	WACOSSS
Stanley Tse	DCP
Uta Conway	FAHCSIA
Susan Pope	Centrecare
Julie Abela	Salvation Army
Lyndsey Fitzgerald	Jacaranda Community Centre
Raymond Cleo	Wesley Mission Fremantle
Bill Toon	Big Issue

Chair: Brian Niedzwiecki

Minutes: WACOSS (Carley Meyers)

Item 2 Minutes of the September Forum

Amendments:

Motion: The minutes from the ER Forum held on 1st September 2010 are accepted as a true account of the meeting.

Correction: ER Reports are due to FAHCSIA 13th August not 31st August as written

Moved: Doreen Rossiter **Seconded:** Ron Baker

Item 3 Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Item 4 Agency Presentations

Each agency presented a short overview of their organisation's services and answered questions from the group.

St Patricks Community Support Centre

Jan explained that St Pats works with young people, but not with families i.e. people with a dependent child/ren. They provide ER but do not have a financial counsellor on site.

Uniting Care

Bill said that Credit Care have three financial counsellors on site (5 Aberdeen St, West Perth) and see clients by appointment only. They provide ER and services are State wide.

The Salvation Army

Joy outlined the numerous services the Salvos have, including ER. The ER service is by appointment only. For further information refer to the Salvos website or contact The Salvation Army on 137258.

Centrecare Mirrabooka

Katya said that Centrecare at Mirrabooka do not distribute ER but they do provide tenancy support and assist with tenancy issues.

WA Association of Polish Women

Halina said her organisation will take referrals for overdue accounts metro wide. She can also give food vouchers of \$25.

Jacaranda Community Centre

Jacaranda now have five financial counsellors (3 full time and 2 part time). They have limited food vouchers and administer the AlintaCare scheme.

CARAD

Bridget explained how they are working with refugees and detainees awaiting protection visas. They have volunteers who assist the three program streams. There is one English Language and two Homework Support workers and three Critical Case Management workers for asylum seekers and three General Support workers for migrants and detainees.

Yanchep Emergency Food

Johanna explained how they are a voluntary group who receive no funding. All the food is donated and they rely on a group of volunteers to distribute the food. Calls for assistance are taken through the Yanchep Community Centre on 9561 2039.

St Vincent de Paul

Brain outlined SDVP's numerous services, which include ER and Financial Counselling. He suggested that people can refer to their website for further details, or contact St Vincent de Paul on 1300 794 054.

Mission Australia

Lee said that their organisation also had numerous services and suggested people access their website for further details, or contact Mission Australia on 131124.

Item 6 WACOSS ER Update

Carley gave a brief update of the ER training being carried out by WACOSS, and notified that at the November ER Forum there would be a short presentation by Warren Bretag on a new budgeting tool called 'add em up'.

Item 7 Essential Services Update

Brian (SDVP) and Vanessa (Jacaranda) gave the Essential Services update for September 2010:

Alinta Care	132 applications 94 approved 38 rejected
Power Assist	200 applications 105 approved 95 rejected

Item 8 Information Sharing

CARAD

There will be a fundraising event 25th October at 6.30 pm. Patrick McGorry: Mental Health and Refugees. For more information contact Bridget on 08 9227 7322

FaHCSIA

Julie notified the group of a service called 'SaverPlus' 1300 610355 www.anz.com/saverplus

WA Association of Polish Women

'Have a Go' Day is on 3rd November at Burswood. Contact the Department of Sport and Recreation for further information.

Department for Child Protection

Ron said that there is a consultation forum for funded financial counsellor services on 24th November. Registration is at 8.30 for a 9 am start, and goes until 3 pm. It will be held in the Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service building, 211 Royal St East Perth. Lunch will be provided.

FaHCSIA

Amended note from previous minutes – Reports were due on 13th August. Julie asked agencies to please note that FaHCSIA do not require an audited acquittal if their ER funding is less than 80K, or between 80 and 200K. Only those agencies receiving over 200K are required to do audited acquittals.

Funding for seven more financial counsellors has been approved for the metro area. Priority is for income management clients.

Item 9 Next Forum Meeting

The next Forum will take place on 3rd November 2010 at City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth.

Chair: TBA

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