

Forum Flash

Date: 5 November 2010

Building Sydney Alliance

WSCF is a partner in the Sydney Alliance, a long term strategy to build a stronger voice for decision-making based on societal values rather than economic or political interest. Want to find out more about it? The district meetings are held monthly and are a good place to meet members from across faith, union and community sector. We want the Alliance to have depth & breadth and be relevant to Western Sydney - this is one place to influence its direction. You are guaranteed to come away energised and hopeful about what a small group of people can do together to build the common good!

◆ Sydney Alliance Western Sydney District Meetings in November

Parramatta Regional Meeting-Friday 5th November 12:00 midday to 02:00 pm UnitingCare / L8-126 Marsden Street, Parramatta Regional Coordinator Mary Waterford - Western Sydney Community Forum eo@wscf.org.au 0403257519

Blacktown / Mt Druitt Regional Meeting Monday November 8th 6:30 to 07:30 pm / Blacktown Youth Services Association / 15 First Ave, Blacktown Regional Coordinator Amy Williams - email: amyw@wscf.org.au ph: 9687 8937

Penrith / Nepean Regional Meeting Tues 16, 6-8 at Penrith Uniting (Cnr Evan and High St) Coordinator Evan Ellis -Email: Evan.Ellis@ccss.org.au ph: 9933 0214 /0409399505

Bankstown Regional Coordinator Neil Smith (Rev.) - Bankstown Uniting Church email: scandalon@hunterlink.net.au ph: 9644 5044

Liverpool Regional Coordinator Peter Smith (Father) - St Francis Xavier Parish Lurnea email: smithpeter@ozemail.com.au ph: 9607 8760

WSCF will once again be hosting 2 day Alliance Building Institutes in March 2011 - WSCF members have access to this training free.

Want to know even more: Amanda Tattersall, Sydney based union and community organiser, and instigator of the Sydney Alliance, has just launched an excellent new book called *Power in Coalition* (published by Allen & Unwin). The book makes a timely and welcome contribution to thinking about community development and advocacy. It discusses what it takes to build powerful Alliances with other community organisations by documenting stories of long-term coalitions from Australia, Canada and the United States. The book is useful for anyone who has spent time reflecting on what it takes to work effectively with other organisations. *Power in Coalition* presents new and sometimes unconventional lessons about what it takes to build powerful collaboration. It argues “less can be more” suggesting that smaller, tighter alliances may be more powerful for specific issue campaigns as opposed to long lists of partner organisations. It encourages coalitions to pursue agenda setting demands, and argues for the importance of multi-scaled coalitions - alliances that can work locally as well as at more centralised scales. You can find out more about the book, and order it online at www.powerincoalition.com

WSCF's AGM - 9th November 2010 9.45am for 10am start

It's AGM time again - we would love to see you at our AGM where we will be celebrating the achievements of those workers who completed the Diploma of Community Services Management, offered by WSCF in partnership with Harris Bromly Pty Ltd. Also at the AGM we will be acknowledging Noel Hiffernan' (former Regional Resource Worker/HACC DO) contributions to WSCF during his 5 years with us. Light refreshments will be provided. RSVP Debbie: 96879669

Greater Western Sydney Community Sector Service ZEST Awards

WSCF is proud to announce that we will be launching the inaugural Greater Western Sydney Community Sector Awards the week commencing 15th November. We have been fortunate to obtain sponsorship from David Borger, MP Minister for Western Sydney for this project.



Nominations will be open from the 15th November till 24th December 2010.

Who can apply:

Individuals and organisations (funded and non-funded) which focus on capacity building and advocacy and can demonstrate evidence of *Standing Up for Western Sydney*; and must be actively working within the 14 LGA of Greater Western Sydney.

There are eleven (11) Award Categories (for exceptional performance by a)

Community Leader	Youth Leader 12-25	Project within NFP agency
New worker in CS Sector	Project in Aboriginal Service	Project within a Gov. Dept
Voluntary Group/organisation	Project in Multicultural Service	Project within a Business
Inspired and Supportive Journalist		

From 15th November 2010 you will be able to access more information and the nomination form from our Awards website <http://gwsawards.org.au> or contact us at WSCF email: wscf@wscf.org.au Telephone: 02 9687 9669.

Information on a Presentation/Conversation with Frank Edwards on recruiting and Supporting Aboriginal Workers in the community Sector

Frank has a long and broad experience working in the sector as Aboriginal trainer, mediator, conflict resolution practitioner and community services assessor. His area of interest has been in training on governance, supporting management committees, being involved as an assessor for prospective Foster Parents, and recruiter of carers. The following is a summary of what he presented:

One of the major issues affecting Aboriginal workers in the sector is isolation.

Once organizations are able to recruit an Aboriginal worker, there are usually no structures in place to support his/her work and the required cultural skills within the organization. It is crucial that the Aboriginal worker has the chance to connect with existing Koori Interagencies, to be allowed to attend events such as NAIDOC week, Sorry Day, and Survival Day. Workplace culture needs to change and to be aware of Aboriginal protocols, eg Aboriginal workers need extra time to attend community events and funerals or alternate his/her roles at these events.

Potential Aboriginal workers prefer full time positions rather than part time. In terms of recruiting potential ATSI workers, one strategy is to advertise positions in the Koori Mail, use informal networking and word of mouth. Family issues could affect the performance of the Aboriginal worker. In some cases, the high level of incarceration could affect families and the performance of the worker. Another strategy is to have an ATSI advisory group to get advice and/or contract out an Aboriginal consultant. Mentoring projects are a good solution, especially when recruiting Aboriginal workers who have recently finished TAFE or University.

From a HR perspective, put emphasis on a broader description of the position (job description) and include and highlight duties that involve going out and visiting the community and other organisations. In terms of the worker's office space: invite the worker to have pictures of their family, art work or posters with aboriginal motifs. Use Aboriginal colours in promotional material (logo, brochure, business cards).

Some thoughts before delivering training to Aboriginal participants

Put up the Aboriginal flag or indigenous art work (in a visible place). Do your best to have an appropriate person available to do a Welcome to Country. If this is not possible, an Acknowledgement can be done.

- Learning principles: use round tables
- Round table: you as the trainer should be the last one in personal introductions
- Put learning outcomes in a visible place
- Use a lot of diagrams
- Learning is about reaching it out (NGAMALI GADAUMADWA GIARRUU)
- Use or bring in participant's personal experiences and knowledge and connect this to outcomes

When having a younger Aboriginal audience

- Use cultural elements in training, so that it becomes more of a cultural experience (e.g. use stories in delivery of material)
- Increase their knowledge
- Try to reconnect their audience to their networks
- Reinforce their personal knowledge

Frank finalized his presentation by responding to the questions: are things getting better?

- Funding is getting better, especially the funding to address issues raised by the 'Woodward' report. The issue is to keep these funding commitments in the longer term.
- Other interesting areas are the Aboriginal cultural awareness sessions and the interest of the NGO sector in this kind of training.
- The relevance of training that aims to challenge deeper assumptions (anti-colonization training).
- More funding opportunities for early intervention programs.

Frank Edwards gave this presentation at the September 2010 Training Directions Network meeting.

Joke Spot

Ever wonder about those people who spend \$2 apiece on those little bottles of Evian water?
Try spelling Evian backwards

For a full copy of the WSCF HACC Flash

[Click link to HACC Flash in Flash file](#)

A Stronger Voice for Western Sydney Facebook Page: <http://www.ngo.net.au/strongervoice>