

Forum Flash – Sept 25th , 2008

News from Western Sydney Community Forum

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WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH WSAAS?

Western Sydney Community Forum is dismayed to note that the Area Assistance Scheme (AAS) has also been caught up in the net of the Child Protection Inquiry and future allocations are dependent on the recommendations of the Inquiry. Only capital and one year projects with clear exit strategies will be considered.

We are calling on all community organisations to write to their local politicians outlining your concerns and how this issue is affecting your community, we ask that community organisations cc their letters to wscf@wscf.org.au – you can use our sample letter as a suggested guideline. [Download the letter here.](#)

WELCOME ROCELLITA!

WSCF is welcoming Rocellita Lacsina to the Regional Resource team. She will be focusing on Food Services, Community Transport and multicultural issues in the Cumberland-Prospect and Nepean areas.

Rocellita has a wealth of experience in the fields of community development, settlement services and HACC. She was Services Development Manager (Acting) at Baulkham Hills Shire Council- Hills Community Care prior to joining WSCF.



Rocellita will be working with Noel Hiffernan and the regional resource team.

You can contact Rocellita on Ph 9687 6804 or rocellitai@wscf.org.au

WSCF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Venue: Western Sydney Community Forum, Level 4 146 Marsden St, Parramatta

Date: Wednesday November 26th

Time: 10am-12 noon.

RSVP: wscf@wscf.org.au

Professor [Peter Shergold](#) of the UNSW Centre for Social Impact (where Cheryl Kernot has just joined the staff) will be addressing us and speaking about how the Social Impact centre will champion the cause of local small organisations. Please join us for a celebration of our achievements and renew some connections with colleagues.

If you are not a current financial member, why not join up today? For a low fee of \$38.50 for community organisations you get the lobbying power of WSCF, vote and stand for nomination at the AGM and access to discounted training. [Click here for more information.](#)

CSGP

Learn about how CSGP will affect youth services - Rey Reodica, EO at YAPA and Damian Cooper, Manager of Mountains Youth Support Team (MYST) present their views. To see the video click on: www.youtube.com/forumflash

Bus Fares Review 2009

Western Sydney Community Forum is seeking your input into the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal's ([IPART](#)) bus fare enquiry for 2009.

IPART will set maximum fares for Sydney metropolitan buses (including Sydney Buses and private operators) and outer-metropolitan buses (including bus services in the Blue Mountains, Wollongong, the Central Coast and Hunter regions).

For the Sydney metropolitan area, IPART will set the maximum fare for bus only and bus and ferry Travelpasses. IPART will not consider Travelpasses with a rail component as these will be set as part of IPART's 2008 rail fare review. Travelpasses

do not operate in Western Sydney. IPART will not set or recommend the availability or percentage discount applied to pensioner or student concession tickets or determine the cost of the Pensioner Excursion Ticket.

To commence the review process, IPART requested a fare proposal from the Ministry of Transport. The fare proposal is available from IPART's website <http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/transport/bus-home.asp> and is explained in more detail below.

IPART is now seeking submissions to inform its decisions. Submissions are due by close of business on Friday 3 October 2008. In November, IPART will hold a public meeting in November and WSCF is encouraging interested community organisations and members of the public to attend.

Summary of Ministry of Transport's Proposals:

- Single bus fares should increase by 5.45 per cent (this is between 10 cents and 30 cents a ticket depending on how far you are travelling)
- Traveltens should remain at a 20 per cent discount to the cost of ten single tickets – this means increases of 80 cents for Blue Traveltens, \$1.60 for Brown, Red and Green Traveltens and \$2.40 for Orange Traveltens.
- T-Way 10s (ten bus trips on the Liverpool to Parramatta Transitway and the North West Transitway) should be set at a 20 per cent discount compared to ten single T-Way tickets – for most T-Way 10s this will mean a small price reduction but the 3-5 section ticket would go up by 10 cents.
- Weekly Travelpasses should increase by between \$2 and \$6 – for Travelpasses without a rail component this is a percentage increase of between 6 and 18 per cent.

If you are interested in participating and supporting our submission, or writing your own, you can contact Paul Falzon paulf@wscf.org.au or Hugh Worrall hughw@wscf.org.au by October 3rd.

LET US KNOW YOUR TRAINING NEEDS 2009

Western Sydney Community Forum is looking for your input into its training calendar for 2009. Firstly we will be doing two 6-month calendars (Feb-Jun and Jul-Nov). This will allow us to be more flexible in what we schedule and avoid duplication in the sector.

The training survey has a different format this year. We want to tailor the program to focus on the specific competencies needed to work in the community sector.

We need your input in this survey and it will enable us to provide training to assist you in your work in 2009.

[To participate click here.](#)

Please complete the survey by **Friday 10th October 2008**

EFFECTIVE ORIENTATION, TRAINING & MANAGEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

The competency and commitment of volunteers play a crucial role in meeting today's legislative requirements as well as quality assurance and continuous improvements requirements for not for profits. This training will give volunteers and managers the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will allow them to work productively towards the goals of the organisation

Facilitator: School of Volunteer Management

Date: 14 October 2008, 9:30am – 4:30 pm

Venue: Western Sydney Community Forum Level 4, 146 Marsden St, Parramatta

Register your interest today, as places are limited

Key contact: Miguel Ferrero

Email: miguelf@wscf.org.au

Telephone: 9687-9742

Closing date for registration 6 October 2008

CREATING A NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT AND THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR

WSCF in partnership with ACOSS / NCOSS has organised a Western Sydney Consultation on the proposed National Compact between the Government and the

Community Sector. The event will be held on Monday September 29th in the Nirimba Room at Blacktown Council 9.00am - 1.00pm.

“Through participation in Not-for-Profit organisations, many Australians also make significant contributions to our civic life, which builds a stronger Australian democracy”.

As we know, the Not-for-Profit Sector is a vital part of Australia’s civic, social, economic and environmental life. The Sector provides a broad range of services and opportunities to Australians, including essential community services, culture and recreation, representation and advocacy. It is therefore important that the Not-for-Profit Sector is well supported and able to work in partnership with the Government to build social inclusion and improve the lives of Australians. Crucial to this is the development and maintenance of strong and positive relationships between the Sector and the Commonwealth Government.

The Not-for-Profit Sector and the Commonwealth Government are exploring ways to develop a new and stronger relationship with each other, based on partnership and respect. It has been proposed that this could be done through the development of a National Compact.

The Sector and the Government want to know what you think about the proposal to develop a National compact. We want to know what you think the value of a compact is, what a compact should focus on, and what should be in one. Come and tell us your views.

Registration

Places are limited so register as soon as possible. To register email compact@acoss.org.au or contact Amy 02 9310 6203

Go to: www.acoss.org.au to download your copy of the consultation discussion paper today.

UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Facilitator: Sarah Stewart

Date: 27 October 2008, 9:00am – 4:00 pm

Venue: Western Sydney Community Forum Level 4, 146 Marsden St, Parramatta

Your contact: Miguel Ferrero.

Email: miguelf@wscf.org.au Telephone: 9687-9742

The NSW Institute of Psychiatry & Western Sydney Community Forum invites you to attend this free introductory training session. This module has been developed by the Australian Network for promotion, prevention and early intervention for Mental Health (Auseinet) to introduce participants to the principles and concepts underpinning mental health promotion, prevention of mental ill-health and early intervention and their relevance and applicability to a range of work settings.

The workshop will cover:

- Concepts of positive mental health
- Influences on mental health
- Benefits of promotion and prevention
- Status of the evidence
- Overview of mental health promotion, prevention of ill-health and early intervention
- Applications to clinical and community settings
- Examples of evidence-based interventions

To register your interest in attending the workshop, please contact:

Key contact: Miguel Ferrero

Email: miguelf@wscf.org.au

Telephone: 9687-9742

Closing date for registration **13 October, 2008**

[For a full WSCF staff list with contacts, click here.](#)

Western Sydney Community Forum

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