

## News from Western Sydney Community Forum

# Forum Flash

20 February 2009

## Western Sydney has once again led a vigorous campaign to save the Area Assistance Scheme

Your letters about WSAAS and the CSGP program have poured into local members' offices and to Linda Burney. Linked with the LSCA campaign, we have made a significant impact. Cabinet is meeting next Monday and we expect some announcements about the implementation of the Child Protection Inquiry to follow. We are confident that we have made the point that prevention and real early intervention must not be lost in the plan. Mary Waterford, EO of WSCF and Sharon Fingland from WSROC are meeting with David Borger, Minister for Western Sydney, next Tuesday - we will be keeping you posted. Meanwhile if you haven't written your letter about the importance of the scheme, it is not too late. If you have and would like to send a letter to the Premier that would be very useful too.

## Community Garden Workers' Meeting

Western Sydney Community Forum is inviting all interested stake holders to discuss the needs of the Community Garden Workers in Western Sydney. This meeting might be an opportunity to address the issues that have been raised in various meetings by the workers. We would like to support the workers to have better functioned Community Gardens in the region. Please pass the word on to community garden coordinators your area.

The meeting will be held at the Western Sydney Community Forum; **Level 4, 146 Marsden Street, Parramatta on 25 February between 10 am and 12:30pm.**

Contact Semra Guler Semra Guler on 9687 6974 or send an e-mail to [semrag@wscf.org.au](mailto:semrag@wscf.org.au) if you are interested and after more information or to RSVP.

## We Need Motivated Public Transport Users

WSCF is looking for people to help form a foundation committee for a Western Sydney public transport users association. We need people who are:

- Regular public transport users
- Live or work in Western Sydney
- Are skilled and motivated to create the new governance committee

We are looking for people from across all of Western Sydney.

We are not looking for representatives of agencies or organisations, and we are not looking for community workers, unless they are also Western Sydney public transport users who want to represent themselves (in that case they would be terrific).

As soon as practical, we will be creating local groups to work on local 'issues'. We will then try to build a set of transport recommendations that are important for all of Western Sydney.

We are looking to create an organisation that is devoted solely to looking after the interests of Western Sydney public transport users.

If you have an interest in this, or want to recommend someone, please contact Hugh (Ph: 9633 5068, [hughw@wscf.org.au](mailto:hughw@wscf.org.au) ) or Paul (Ph: 9687 8937, [paulf@wscf.org.au](mailto:paulf@wscf.org.au) )

## HACC Flash

- **DADHC Regional Director James Christian to speak at the next Western Sydney Regional HACC Forum**

A friendly reminder to mark these details in your calendar for the next Western Sydney Regional HACC (Home And Community Care) Forum:

Wednesday, 4 March 2009 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Max Webber Library, Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown

For more details, please ring Noel Hiffernan at 9687 5263 or email [noelh@wscf.org.au](mailto:noelh@wscf.org.au)

- **Get the latest at the Western Sydney HACC CEOs Forum**

An excellent venue to liaise with fellow HACC Service Managers/ Executive Officers and talk about issues of the day.

The next meeting will be held on: Wednesday, 18 March 2009, 10:00 am- 12 pm at WSCF Office (Level 4, 146 Marsden St, Parramatta).

Christine Regan from NCOS will present an over view of HACC and Disability issues and workforce issues.

Please register your attendance with Noel Hiffernan at 9687 5263 or email [noelh@wscf.org.au](mailto:noelh@wscf.org.au)

- **“Unmet needs” Working Party**

If you'd like to work with a group in documenting continued unmet needs in the region (related to older persons and people with disability), as well as matching

them with funding sources, please express your interest to Noel Hiffernan.

- **A note from Hawkesbury Community Care Forum**

The Hawkesbury Community Care Forum would like to invite and encourage the participation of disability services in its Forum meetings. The 2009 calendar of meetings may be found at the WSCF HACC webpage:

[http://www.wscf.org.au/index.php/home/hacc\\_home\\_and\\_community\\_care](http://www.wscf.org.au/index.php/home/hacc_home_and_community_care)

- **HACC Forums Flash**

The HACC Forums Flash is a great way to get updated on HACC happenings in the Cumberland-Prospect and Nepean regions. Do download your copy from:

[http://www.wscf.org.au/index.php/home/hacc\\_home\\_and\\_community\\_care](http://www.wscf.org.au/index.php/home/hacc_home_and_community_care)

## **Training-**

### **1. INTRODUCTION TO ABCD - ASSET BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Facilitator: Amanda Howard & Kylie Frazer

Cumberland/Prospect

4<sup>th</sup> March 2009

9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Western Sydney Community Forum

Level 4, 146 Marsden St, Parramatta

Putting Assets Based Community Development into Practice

In recent years Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) has emerged as a practical and powerful perspective for grass roots community development that builds strong local connections, effectively mobilises communities and achieves a range of outcomes where community members are the drivers for change, working alongside community workers.

This workshop will take you through the fundamental ideas underpinning ABCD, a range of tools you can use in starting a community development project using this approach, and some hands on thinking and participation in ABCD practice.

Key Learning Goals

- Develop a clear understanding of ABCD practice approach in working with families & communities (inc: ABCD's strengths focused perspective holding that communities that get stronger pay attention to local strengths & assets and use these to build relationships and address local & broader issues).
- Develop a clear understanding of the theoretical and practice context of ABCD within the broader area of community development and strengths based practice.

Target Audience:

Community development and other workers wanting to gain a deeper understanding of ABCD and put it into practice as well as those working with families who use community capacity building as part of their work.

Training registration form can be downloaded from our website:

[http://www.wscf.org.au/index.php/home/training\\_calendar](http://www.wscf.org.au/index.php/home/training_calendar)

For more information please ring Dana Rosinski on 02 9687 6112

## 2. MAKING GREAT INTERAGENCIES, NETWORKS AND FORUMS

Facilitated by: Semra Guler and Miguel Ferrero

Cumberland/Prospect

4<sup>th</sup> March 2009

2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Western Sydney Community Forum

Level 4, 146 Marsden St, Parramatta

Interagencies, networks and forums are meetings that are comprised of representatives from a range of local service providers. When they work, they are really useful as community development tools to identify, advocate and act on common issues of concern. This workshop will give you tips and techniques to help you get the most out of the interagencies you convene, chair or participate in.

During this presentation participants will have the opportunity to:

- Understand the function and role of Interagencies
- Define what is networking and what it involves
- Find out how to maintain and to enhance the role of an interagency

### Joke Spot

Dijon vu - the same mustard as before