

News from Western Sydney Community Forum

Forum Flash

8 January 2009

Save WSAAS again - WSCF campaign

The Area Assistance Scheme is one of the few mechanisms to develop innovative programs that address community disadvantage. WSAAS, as it is known in western Sydney was the original funder of many neighborhood centres, youth services and community development projects. In more recent times, as funding has become more restricted, it has been the enabler of some wonderfully effective community and cultural development initiatives. We need your success stories for our discussions with Ministers and local members. Can you write a few paragraphs for us - if you haven't the time to do this, can we interview you and write key points on your behalf. We are working with WSROC to get a meeting Linda Burney to present on the value of the program in terms of broad impact, cost effectiveness, and trailing ground breaking approaches. Contact Mary eo@wscf.org.au by Thursday 22nd if you would like your WSAAS project to be profiled.

WSCF has already written to all the State members across WS on this issue and will be continuing to keep them informed.

“The Apology one year on” Forum Thurs 19 February, 9am - 1pm

We don't know anyone who wasn't excited or emotional or hopeful when Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivered the National Apology speech last February. We believe as a sector we had some responsibilities to fulfill as much as government to have a strategy to implement after the historical event. Western Sydney Community Forum would like to provide a platform to discuss what has been done since the Apology. We are organizing a Forum on Thursday 19th February 2009, where we will have Aboriginal people and others who have involved in projects and programs and facilitate an open discussion about what has happened and what else we need to do as sector to positively contribute this historical period in Western Sydney.

[Click here to download your invitation and register](#) as we have limited places. Contact Semra on 9687 6974 after 19th January or send an e-mail to semrag@wscf.org.au for further information.

Training - The WSCF February to June 2009 Training Calendar is available now - [Click here to download](#)

WSCF is reviewing the way we deliver training to ensure that what we offer is enhancing the way you work back in the workplace. We did a comprehensive training survey last year and we will be running several focus

groups in the first part of 2009. Meanwhile we have a dynamic series of training opportunities for you in the first half of this year starting as below.

EFFECTIVE ORIENTATION, TRAINING AND MANAGEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

Facilitator: School of Volunteer Management

Please put this in your diary before the New Year break!!

Cumberland/Prospect 17th February 2009 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

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

The competency and commitment of volunteers will play a crucial role in meeting today's legislative requirements as well as quality assurance and continuous improvements requirements for not for profits. Orientation of volunteers will give volunteers the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will allow them to work productively towards the goals of your organisation. A volunteer who is well trained and managed, and therefore competent in their role, will have more reasons to continue volunteering. Orientation can also be the first step in which future needs for volunteers can be determined.

This training session will look at:

- Getting Ready to Receive Volunteers - The Workplace
- Position description
- National Standards
- Right and Responsibilities of volunteers and the organisation
- Orientation
- Clients Relations
- Privacy Policy
- Effective Training of Volunteers
- Managing and Leading Volunteers - Effective and Simple Styles of Management
- Preparing and establishing cooperative working relationships between paid staff and volunteers

[Click here for Registration](#)

AASW CO-MORBIDITY TRAINING AT WSCF ON WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

As part of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) co-morbidity project, we would like to invite you to participate in training and discussions related to working in the area of co-morbidity (mental health & alcohol / drug concerns). The training is primarily geared towards social work student supervisors of students undertaking placements in AOD (Alcohol and Other Drugs Services), task supervisors and other AOD staff.

[click here for flyer](#)

Lifelong Learning (Introduction)

Over the next few issues of the e-flash, WSCF will be discussing the idea of Lifelong Learning, its origins and driving forces. These short articles are based on literature research staff member, Miguel Ferrero carried out last year in the course of his Masters studies at Sydney University.

The concept of Lifelong Learning (LLL) has gained prominence in developed countries in response to the economic, technological, demographic and business changes experienced by these economies beginning in the 1980s and into the 1990s. Although this term (LLL) is presented as relatively new, the concept behind it is much older, having emerged in the 1920s and 1930s under the discourse of “adult education”.

There is now relative agreement about the scope of Lifelong Learning, which is defined broadly in the wider literature as “post-secondary education”. However, in its evolution from the original concept of Adult Education, a number of different perspectives have developed in terms of its fundamental aims.

Different aspects of the discussion around Lifelong Learning in will be covered in progressive e-flash issues. These will include a historical account of the concept, the main drivers of the current interest in LLL, the current debate amongst the main perspectives on LLL, and the different discourses which are fighting for control over the local and international LLL agenda. We will identify and describe the key issues affecting the Lifelong Learning framework in Australia and the contribution of the voluntary sector to the practice of LLL. But first, let’s set up some definitions and context.

Lifelong learning should be understood as an organising principles to address issues of education and training differently. These principles are that:

- a) LLL occurs throughout society and in different contexts (families, communities, workplaces),
- b) it affects the lifecycle of the individual,
- c) involves formal education and training and informal learning, and
- d) LLL can be facilitated by a broad range of agents, networks and partnership. (Kearns: 1999)

The World Initiative on Lifelong Learning (p.5: 1999) provides an interesting definition that encompasses the organising principles described above:

“Lifelong Learning is a continuously supportive process which stimulates and empowers individuals to acquire all the knowledge, values, skills and understanding they will require throughout their lifetimes and to apply them with confidence, creativity and enjoyment in all roles, circumstances, and environments”

In the next e-flash issue we will be covering the historical background of LLL. Please let me know your thoughts about this issue, specifically on how

the concept of lifelong learners applies (or doesn't apply) to your work in the sector. You can send Miguel your comments and ideas to miguelf@wscf.org.au

Interagencies List will be Updated

We hope you are back with more enthusiasm and energy to your work places after a nice Festive Season at least in Australia, sadly not globally. Some of WSCF staff are still gathering more energy before they come back to support your work and provide more resources to deliver responsive services.

As you all know Western Sydney Community Forum is committed to support your work with the most updated information and resources as much as possible. As part of one of our commitments we will be updating our Interagencies List as it's used by the service providers in our sector frequently, including people working within government departments.

We are kindly asking you to check the current Interagencies List on our website and provide us with any updated information before we upload the updated Interagencies List at the end of January 2009. Our dear colleagues who already sent us updated information do not need to send it again, be assured that all the information you've sent us have been noted and will be included in the upcoming List.

[Interagencies List](#)

Please send any update to semrag@wscf.org.au or fax to 9687 8665 by 28th of January 2009.

Wishing you a healthy, peaceful and prosperous year!