

Forum Flash

19 March 2009

WSCF is looking to establish a.....
Managers' Peer Support Network



The idea....

Are you in a management/supervisory role?

Is this a new role and/or do you feel a bit detached from the whole and would like some peer support?

Are you looking for likeminded people to network with and have some discussion about issues?

As the Operations Manager of WSCF (Nancy Nicholson) this is something I am looking for and so I thought I would put it out there to see if anyone else out there is interested in being involved in a Peer Support Network (PSN)

The purpose of the Managers' PSN would be to provide:

- the opportunity for those working in a management/supervisory capacity to share experiences and issues specific to their role in a constructive and confidential environment; plus
- the opportunity to network and share ideas and resources with colleagues in a similar field.

The plan is to meet 3 or 4 times a year and we can vary the location.

I recommend we hold the first one here at WSCF from 11.00am - 1.30pm (lunch provided).

Proposed date for 1st Managers PSN: Wednesday 15th April

If you are interested in participating, please [click here](#)

Promote your NFP Organisation for FREE

MTC Work Solutions are offering to print a number of FREE bookmarks for 30 different not-for-profit (NFP) organisations in Western Sydney as a project they are undertaking for the "work for the dole" scheme.

These bookmarks will be printed with a picture of a scene/landmark in the Parramatta area on one side. Your organisation name and brief description of your services will be featured on the reverse. These book marks will be generally

distributed at libraries, information centres, etc.

[For a sample, click here.](#)

If you are interested in taking up this offer, [please complete and return the attached form](#) to Debbie by faxing to 9687 8665 or e-mailing wscf@wscf.org.au by Monday 30 March.

Bus Users Need to Poo Too!

The Liverpool Transport Taskforce is currently responding to community pressure by advocating for a toilet for bus interchange passengers. This campaign is vital for the people who travel to Liverpool and access the bus interchange for a variety of reasons.

As there is a large distance from the Cityrail toilets (and no guaranteed entry), for passengers from the Interstate and Country Bus Terminals, our evidence suggests that as many as 8,000 people per day using the interchange need to poo. We need to start respecting bus travelers and they need access to toilet and change facilities. We need to convince local council, Cityrail and the Ministry of Transport that now is the best time for installing the toilets as the Interchange concourse is being replaced, saving thousands of dollars of costs!

Send your letter of support to:

Bus Users Need to Poo Too
Western Sydney Community Forum
PO Box 208
Parramatta NSW 2150

We already have the support of the Liverpool Council Access Committee, Community 2168 Action Group, Heckenberg Over 50's Club, Combined Superannuates Association of NSW - Miller Branch, Liverpool Seniors Network, and the Liverpool Transport Taskforce. We will use these letters at meetings with the stakeholders.

For More information please contact paulf@wscf.org.au or 9687 8937. DoCS have responded to the Wood Special inquiry into Child Protection with an agreement to implement almost all of the recommendations. NSW Treasury will be allocating \$230 million to this over the next five years. This is good news.

Training

INTRODUCTION TO THE NSW INTERAGENCY PROTOCOL FOR RESPONDING TO ABUSE OF OLDER PEOPLE

FREE SESSION

Facilitator: Miguel Ferrero

Date: 11th March 2009 Time: 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Venue: Western Sydney Community Forum
Level 4, 146 Marsden St, Parramatta

The NSW Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care has recently produced a training program and package to support the Implementation of the NSW Interagency Protocol for Responding to Abuse of Older People. This session is an introduction to the new Interagency Protocol, and consists of two workshops, covering the following topics:

Workshop 1: Identifying and Responding to Abuse of Older People (morning)

Target group: Open

Topics:

- What is Abuse of Older People?
- Issues for frontline staff in identifying abuse
- How to respond appropriately to abuse situations.

Workshop 2: Implementing the Interagency Protocol in Agencies and Areas (afternoon)

Target group: Supervisors, team leaders and senior staff who have responsibilities in policy, procedures and referral pathways for community care agencies.

Topics:

- Overview of the Interagency Protocol
- Principles for response
- Roles of community care and government agencies
- Policy and procedural requirements for community care agencies.

Please make sure to complete our [registration form](#)

For more information please ring Dana Rosinski 9687 6112 or Email: danar@wscf.org.au

Close The Gap



Oxfam is asking for support from organisations to address the Indigenous health crisis. Western Sydney Community Forum believes that it's extremely important for Western Sydney community organisations to support Close The Gap campaign as the largest population of Aboriginal people in NSW reside and work in Western Sydney.

Your support is vital to address the Indigenous health crisis

National **Close the Gap** Day is on Thursday 2 April this year. Over 130,000 Australians and many hundreds of organisations have so far pledged their support

to Close the Gap. This has enabled substantial gains in funding and commitments by government to end the Indigenous health crisis. Celebrate this achievement and ensure governments meet this commitment by organising your own small-scale event in your workplace (or school, home, church or community hall).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life expectancy is 17 years less than other Australians. In 2008, the Council of Australian Governments took a substantial step to Close the Gap by announcing \$1.6 billion in additional health funding.

These events are about bringing people together who are concerned about the Indigenous health crisis.

Information about National Close the Gap Day is currently available on the Oxfam website. <http://www.oxfam.org.au> . At this website you can:

- Register your NCTGD event
- Order resources (posters, brochures, t-shirts, DVDs)
- Get a DIY media pack
- Upload and share photos and videos from events

Please feel free to contact Semra on 9687 6974 or send e-mail to semrag@wscf.org.au if you would like any further information.

Western Sydney Community Forum Staff is Celebrating Cultural Diversity.

It's very important for CALD workers to feel to be accepted in main stream organisations. There are policies such as EEO, EAPS, and Multicultural Action Plans etc, however it's up to the board, management and team members to apply the policies in the daily interactions. It's also important for main stream workers to be exposed the cultural information regularly otherwise everything will stay on papers, shelves, websites. WSCF has a good balance of documents and daily interactions. As part of it we've decided to organise "Cultural Lunch" once a month and exchange information on the significant days.

We had a great time last month to celebrate Chinese New Year and learn about the year of Ox.

This month's significant celebration is **Newroz**. **Newroz** is celebrated by Kurds, Iranians and Afghans traditionally. According to the Kurdish myth **Newroz** celebrates the rescue of the Kurds from a tyrant (Dehak), and it is seen as another way of demonstrating support for the Kurdish cause in modern days. The celebration also coincides with the spring equinox which falls on 21st March. It also the day that UN declared as **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**. The most important reason to celebrate **Newroz** is related to Kurdish identity for the majority of Kurds, mostly in Turkey and Syria as those countries banned celebrations until recently. During the celebrations, people gather together and

dance, jump across a fire to welcome the spring; people wear coloured clothes and flags of green, yellow and red, the colours of the Kurdish people are waved.

If you want to join Kurdish community in Western Sydney to celebrate [Newroz](#) this weekend please contact Semra on 9687 6974 or send an e-mail to semrag@wscf.org.au

HACC Flash

We're saying "well done!" to community care forums in Cumberland Prospect and Nepean for great efforts in the past quarter. There have been productive and well-attended forum meetings, where continuing issues on services for older people and persons with disability are discussed, and updated information are shared.

WSCF's recent "Orientation to HACC" training session and the Western Sydney Regional Community Care Forum were both well-attended and generated over-all good feedback. The quarterly Community Care CEOs/Manager's Forum was most informative, with Christine Regan of NCOS giving updates on reforms and developments happening at state and national levels.

The working group for Respite Availability Monitoring Tool for CP-Nepean has also had a fruitful first meeting. We're hoping to trial an online Availability Form for non-packaged respite services by June 2009.

Registrations for the upcoming "Safe food handling for food service volunteers and new workers" training on 24 March has also been good.

For more information on WSCF's Community Care-related activities and role, please [click here](#) for the latest WS HACC Forums Flash, or visit our HACC webpage: http://www.wscf.org.au/index.php/home/hacc_home_and_community_care

Joke Spot

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.