

News From Western Sydney Community Forum

Forum Flash

24 October 2008

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Justice and Change - put this in your diary now!

“The impact of government contracts & accountability requirements on local service provision”
Thursday 4 December, 9:30am - 4:30 pm, UWS Campbelltown

Social Justice, Social Change Research Centre of University of Western Sydney together with Western Sydney Community Forum, Macarthur Community Forum and Illawarra Forum report on a large-scale online survey of local community service providers in Greater Western Sydney, exploring the impact of government funding and contract requirements on non-government community service provider organisations. In particular this project examines the ability of community organisations to respond to local needs and their general involvement in policy debate. It also explores new areas of impact, such as governance and structure. This seminar also reports other SJSC affiliated projects examining the impact of government contracts and associated accountability requirements on local service provision.

Flyer: [download here](#)

Western Sydney Food Forum

The Western Sydney Food Forum is alive and well and will hold its next meeting on Tuesday 5 November 2008. This forum brings together HACC-funded food services in Western Sydney (Meals On Wheels coordinators and managers) in order to support one another, discuss relevant issues and identify strategies to enhance service delivery.

Date: Tuesday, 5 November 2008 Time: 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Venue: Blacktown Meals On Wheels, Gribble Place, Blacktown

Agenda: [Download here](#)

The forum is facilitated/convened by Western Sydney Community Forum and supported by DADHC- HACC unit as well as NSW Meals On Wheels.

Please contact Rocellita at rocellital@wscf.org.au or ring 9687 6804.

FLAAG - Fairfield Local Aboriginal Action Group

Conference 12, 13 & 14 November. Register Now - don't miss out!

HAVE YOU EVER ATTENDED A CONFERENCE THAT GAVE YOU OPPORTUNITY TO DO GUIDED BUSHWALKING? HAVE YOU EVER HAD CHANCE IN A CONFERENCE TO WORK WITH ABORIGINAL ARTIST TO PAINT?

Western Sydney Community Forum actively supports the Fairfield Local Aboriginal Access Group (FLAAG), convened by Cabramatta Community Centre and Woodville Community Services. FLAAG offers cultural awareness training and workshops for members of the non-Aboriginal community and workers from agencies with Aboriginal clients.

After witnessing the formal National apology to the Stolen Generation in February we all started to think, discuss, and develop strategies on what each individual, NGO and government department can contribute positively to the National Apology. FLAAG members decided to organise an action packed Conference in November. The Conference includes great speakers, valuable workshops, bushwalking with a local Aboriginal archaeologist and Aboriginal art with a well known and respected artist and more....The Conference is open to everyone interested in exploring how to continue our journey after the formal apology.

[Click here to see the program and register for the Conference.](#)

If you are having difficulty downloading the document or registering for the conference, please contact Semra on 9687 6974 or send an e-mail to semrag@wscf.org.au

TRAINING NEEDS SURVEY EXTENDED

We need your input in this survey and it will enable us to provide training to assist you in your work in 2009. Please take the time to complete [the survey](#) as it only takes a few minutes.

Final Closing date is Friday 12 November 2008

Western Sydney Public Transport Users

www.wsptu.blogspot.com

WSCF is interested to improve our connection with public transport users to enable us to better represent their interests. To do this we have started a website blog, doing a survey and collecting the email addresses of public transport users so that we can consult on issues that may affect them. If you have a public transport issue please take the opportunity to use the blog.

North Western Sydney Transport Inquiry

WSCF worked with WESTIR and Community Resource Network to write a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Transport Needs of North Western Sydney. [The Submission can be found on the WSCF website: click here](#)

The development plans outlined for North Western Sydney in the Metro Strategy are underpinned by the transport plans. These transport plans include the development of a rail connection into the North West and the purchasing of more accessible buses for the North West T-ways. The viability of the developments is threatened if these transport plans are not realized.

Without the realization of these transport plans the development in North Western Sydney is at risk of creating communities which are vulnerable to oil and mortgage price shocks. Arranging the developments away from major urban hubs and reliant on private transport means that some people and families in these communities will be vulnerable to social exclusion and social isolation.

IPART CityRail Price Review

WSCF supported a submission by NCOSS into the IPART Inquiry into the price of CityRail fares. IPART has since made an interim report which recommends fares will increase by 7% to 30% over four years.

We will be writing a further submission commenting on the interim report and making representations saying that increases in fares should only be in line with CPI and further increases will discourage people from using the trains. We say any increase in fares should only follow increases in service standards. [For a link to the IPART interim report click here.](#)

If you are interested in participating in the CityRail Inquiry or another IPART hearing about bus fares please, contact Paul Falzon at paulf@wscf.org.au.

We would welcome any of your contributions on this topic - or you could make a comment via our Blog at www.wsptu.blogspot.com

Answers to “Which Staff Member Is?” from October 10

Currently in Poland? Dana - but she has returned!

Visiting in East Timor? Mary - but she has returned too!

Recently has moved house? Hugh (from St Marys to St Marys).

Cycling to work on National Ride to Work Day? Paul.

Is advocating for fare evaders? Rocellita **put in an appeal**.

Is getting biological / bomb threat training? Paul (but we're worried because he hasn't returned ...)

Don't forget the WSCF AGM

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

Date: Wednesday 26 November 2008.

Time: 9.30 for 10am-12 noon.

RSVP: wscf@wscf.org.au

Please join us for a celebration of our achievements and renew some connections with colleagues. 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.

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.](#)

Joke Spot

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

For a full listing of community sector news we recommend that you subscribe to [CommunityNet](#)

To subscribe to our Children and Families Services Newswire send a subscription email <http://www.servicenetwork.ngo.net.au/> or go to www.servicenetwork.ngo.net.au and [click on 'Latest News'](#)

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

Western Sydney Community Forum

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