

News from Western Sydney Community Forum

Forum Flash

18 August 2009

What's happened to WSAAS?

Did WSCF suggest in May that we 'saved' WSAAS???? - - this was definitely a premature announcement.

The good news:

A scheme has been re-created called *Community Builders* which will provide grants for up to 3 years of funding (\$10,000 to \$100,000 pa) for new initiatives that builds strength and capacity within communities.

Our concerns:

- There is inadequate scope to build the on-going services system capacity where it is still needed eg Aboriginal services, growth areas, areas with large numbers of young people. AAS was the only place where growth has been possible in recent years (even if limited), and while the problems of short term funding were articulated strongly in the consultations and 5 years recommended, this has not been addressed.
- There will be no local input into identification of local needs and local / regional committee ranking processes are to be replaced with a centralised E.O.I process and reference panel similar to all DoCS procurement processes.
- Local Council CPO's will no longer have a role with local projects - as a sweetener they retain CPO subsidy - but this will be as a time-limited "project" funded by DoCS, rather than a partner in the process
- The new funding program will be aligned to DoCS priorities rather than disadvantage identified in local and regional areas. This narrow focus is concerning - as all DoCS programs align to *Keep Them Safe* we lose the innovation that comes from local areas developing projects to address a range of social issues that are not directly related to child protection.
- In effect there will be no decision making at the local level and no input into consideration of the needs of local communities. WSCF suggests that this type of 'top-down' centralised funding scheme is likely to fail to identify community development innovations in Western Sydney (and may be cut in a few years as a result!).

WSCF fear that this is the end of a valuable 30 year program which has birthed many of our services. We are very keen to find ways to emphasize the strengths of WSAAS and would love to have the resources to document some of the great stories.

The WSCF 2009 AGM will be a celebration of some of the extensive and innovative projects that have arisen from the scheme over the past 30 years, as one way of profiling the important role WSAAS has had in Western Sydney. Put the date in your diaries November 17th 10am to 12.30.

Meanwhile more information about the Community Builders program is to be found on www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au

Smoking Matters training available near you!

Community workers are lucky to meet with variety of people through their work that help them to improve their knowledge about human beings, various cultures, human behavior etc. We sometimes come across with some people that may need different type of assistance than what we provide. Imagine having clients that want to stop smoking and seeking for assistance from everyone around them including you.

If you knew of a strategy that could give your clients:

- An extra 10 years of life
- Improved quality of life
- An additional \$40 000 to \$220 000 over their lifetime
- An immediate boost to their confidence and sense of control over their lives

... Would you use it?

If you answered YES, the Smoking Matters program and learn how to empower your clients to quit smoking. A Training program is offered at Rooty Hill on September 2nd and 3rd - [Click here](#) to find out how or visit the ACWA/CCWT website for more information: http://www.acwa.asn.au/search_for_courseSM.php. Contact Semra on 9687 6974 if having difficulty to find the information.

Training Opportunities

RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS - Free Information Session!

Facilitated by: Miguel Ferrero

25th August 2009 (Tuesday)

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Western Sydney Community Forum

Level 4, 146 Marsden St, Parramatta

Is your organization currently using the Result Based Accountability framework? Is

your agency needing to provide written reports to funding bodies using RBA? Do you need to understand what this is all about?

This session will give you the opportunity to:

- Understand the basic concepts of Population and Performance Accountability
- Discover how to conduct an RBA assessment process, and
- See how Management Committees can benefit from understanding RBA

For further information, please contact Miguel at miguelf@wscf.org.au

TENDER TRAINING – PUTTING IDEAS INTO PRACTICE

Facilitated by : BCA National Training Group

3rd September 2009 (Thursday)

9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Western Sydney Community Forum

Level 4, 146 Marsden St, Parramatta

Cost: WSCF Member: \$25

Non member: \$50

This training will provide a hands on approach to writing tender submissions and the Facilitators encourage participants to bring a current request for funding or request for tender on the day of training.

The training content will cover:

1. Assessing your options
2. Evaluation your strengths
3. Deciding on whether to tender
4. Preparing a tender proposal
5. Meeting the expectations
6. Developing and using a tender writing toolkit
7. Quality control
8. Managing a contract
9. Developing partnerships

A popular segment in training delivered by the BCA National Training Group is the evaluation of previous tender submissions, both successful and unsuccessful. This always assists participants in developing their techniques. Trainers conduct this segment towards the end of the day once participants have become familiar with good tendering practices. The aim is not to single out a particularly good or bad example but rather work together as a group providing feedback, incorporating the skills

recently learnt.

NGO Training Providers Directory

After the success of its BLOG, the next initiative of the Training Directions Network has compiled a directory of NGO Training Providers to support the work of the community welfare sector.

The compilation of the information for the NGO Training Providers Directory has been conducted using a collaborative Wiki. The use of this technology will enable the TDN to update the information, especially, the training calendar links and to allow anyone to visit this on-line resource.

The Training Directions Networks aims to bring together training providers and interested workers in Western Sydney to discuss and identify current cross-sector strategies to meet the training needs of community based organisations.

The Directory contains contact information and web-links for Not-for-Profit NGOs who provide training and learning opportunities to the Community and Welfare sector and can be viewed at

http://www.wscf.org.au/index.php/home/learning_and_development_program

Once there, click on the relevant category of provider listed on the left hand side of the screen to find the information you need.

For further information or comments you can email Miguel Ferrero:

miguelf@wscf.org.au

Joke Spot

A woman drowned in a bowl of muesli. A strong currant pulled her in.

For a full copy of the WSCF HACC Flash

[Click link to HACC Flash in Flash file](#)