

YDHF STRATEGIC PLANNING 2011-2012 – FINAL PROCESS

In December 2010 the YDHF conducted a Strategic Planning Workshop at the Mary of the Cross Centre in Fitzroy. A broad range of agencies were represented including ANEX, Family Drug Support, Victoria Police, YSAS, Department of Health, City of Yarra, Nexus, North Richmond Community Health, North Yarra Community Health, Neighbourhood Justice Centre, VAADA, Centcare and Fitzroy Legal Service. The aim of the workshop was to:

- map out the 'core business' of the Forum in terms of 'deliverables' under various funding agreements
- identify the future direction of the Forum including identifying the key issues the Forum should address
- identify key agencies and community groups for more effective engagement and communication and explore avenues/opportunities to enhance this process

The following list reflects discussion about future goals and objectives for YDHF. It was acknowledged that these range from those that could be *immediately* implemented to those that are more *aspirational*. Some of these dot points have also been raised in previous reports under the heading 'EMERGING ISSUES' and have been incorporated into the following list. In order to complete the Strategic Planning process,

On March 30th 2011 the final phase of the process was conducted at the Mary of the Cross Centre in Fitzroy whereby participants from the December workshop were asked to return and identify specific, action oriented outcomes for the YDHF for 2011-2012.

In summary, under each of the following headings the group decided that (*in addition to the work already conducted by the forum*):

Objective 1 *Community Education* - to achieve the Strategic Directions as identified during the Strategic Planning Workshop the YDHF include:

- broaden its communication strategy and identify more specific audiences, including exploring new groups to disseminate information to. Whilst many stakeholders have specific and episodic needs, the forum should consider a more targeted education response in certain circumstances. The YDHF can also 'value add' to existing community based education and awareness approaches being adopted by other agencies that are focused on specific drug issues
- the YDHF should broaden methods of communication to include more approaches that utilise audio visual, IT strategies and social networking. The types of strategies that the forum should adopt include the use of AV to record the Community Forums and then post on the YDHF website and disseminate via websites such as Youtube. The forum should also engage other ways of disseminating information such as Facebook, a Blog and Twitter on the YDHF website – explore opportunities to secure pro bono assistance in development - an improved website might reach a broader audiences
- advocate for and encourage community debate in order to increase understanding and awareness of the issues related to injecting drug use. The forum should actively promote approaches that seek to reduce drug related harm particularly for those most vulnerable and this should include programs that are not established but are supported by evidence such as the need for Needle Syringe Programs and Supervised Injecting facilities

Objective 2 *Coordinating and Networking* - to achieve the Strategic Directions as identified during the Strategic Planning Workshop the YDHF should:

- the YDHF should use the resources of the forum membership to develop a speakers' bank that will reside on the YDHF Website and will be accessible to the community. The speakers' bank will provided details of the members' qualifications, experience, preferred topic and availability. The speakers' bank information should be widely disseminated to a broad range of agencies and institutions e.g. Rotary Clubs etc.

-the forum should look at developing a strategy to more closely monitor drug trends at the local level and respond accordingly, in particular explore methods to disseminate this information through existing YDHF resources – e.g. website

Objective 3 - *Advocacy* - to achieve the Strategic Directions for as identified during the Strategic Planning Workshop The YDHF should :

-maintain its status as the lead agency advocating for the introduction of a SIF in Melbourne – the forum should look for further opportunities to promote the concept of a SIF including engaging with groups/agencies that may not traditionally have been supporters – the forum should maintain the current approach which involves non-confrontational methods

-the forum should expand the selection criteria for the Worker of the Year award to include nominations from people working in other health related fields such as mental health practitioners working with clients who are also experiencing drug and alcohol issues

Objective 4 - *Service Delivery and Improvement* - to achieve the Strategic Directions for as identified during the Strategic Planning Workshop The YDHF should :

-the forum role is to raise the issues that highlight the 'space' that exists in service delivery particularly to those that are most vulnerable and at risk such as post-release prisoners and others that are caught in the criminal justice system due to their drug dependency issues

-the forum should work with existing services such as 'Connect' to identify gaps in services – supporting and advocating for service delivery and improvement in existing services

-the forum should provide an opportunity for members to explore how their agencies and others services can provide more responsive, reflective and assessment driven services