



**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 12.30 pm at  
Mary of the Cross Centre, 7 Brunswick St, Fitzroy**

## **1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND ATTENDANCE**

Peter Wearne Chairperson welcomed people to the Forum and asked them to introduce themselves. A total of 30 people attended the meeting including:

Peter Wearne (YSAS), Danny Jeffcote (North Yarra Community Health), Elyse Maurelli (BSL Coolibah Club), Barbara Taylor (DHS), Monica Schwartz (NRCHC), Norman Vella ( Good Shepherd Youth and Family Service), Marita Delany (NJC), Pier Moro (HepC Victoria), Vera Boston (North Yarra Community Health), Maureen Chesler (DHS), Clare Lethlean (Hanover Southbank), Nicola Cowling (ANEX), Victor Bilous (Mary of the Cross), Nobuko Kawashima (Yarra Community Housing), Morgan Scholz (City of Yarra), Horace Wansborough (YSAS), Alexa Ridgway (City of Melbourne), Carolyn Pickett (BSL), Julie Borninkhof (Melbourne GP Network), Belinda McNair (DHS), Jade Sinclair ALERT Innerspace), Amanda Olle (Good Shepherd Youth and Family Service), Christa Grapentin (YSAS), Michelle Ridley (Youth Projects), Nerida Webster (Youth Projects), Sarah Batty (Turning Point), Kate Waters (Maribyrnong City Council), Alison Clarke (City of Yarra), Janice Miller (Wise Employment Specialist Ex-offender Program).

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Joe Morris (Executive Officer)

## **2. APOLOGIES**

Bobbi Cheetham (The Wellington Centre), Peter Seiz (Victoria Police), John Beckwith (Yarra City Business Forum), Bernadette Lane (DHS), Chantel Churches (VAADA), Chris Hardy (NYCH), Anna McDonald (Yarra Centrelink), Penelope Robinson (City of Maribyrnong)

## **3. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

## **4. GUEST SPEAKER**

1. Guest Speakers – Horace Wansborough from YSAS spoke about the various drug objects he picked up in a 6 week period in his role as an Outreach Worker around the City of Yarra. You can see Horace's presentation attached **and** Alexa Wridgeway from Melbourne City Council spoke about and demonstrate their Grogger on line game which is about safely crossing Flinders Street if you are drunk. She explained that the game is based on a popular on line game Frogger and that permission was obtained to do that. She informed us that the basic game cost council\$7,000 and that to that date the site has had 150,000 hits and at the moment there is no evidence to say that people's behaviour has been modified by the game. Grogger can be accessed at [www.grogger.com.au](http://www.grogger.com.au)

## **5. REPORTS**

### **Executive Committee**

- **Medically Supervised Injecting Centre – Sub Committee.**

The first meeting was on the 9<sup>th</sup> December with the main point coming out that we needed to develop a Position Statement.

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*A community based response to alcohol and other drug issues*

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- **Executive Committee Nominations**  
Information seeking nominations for positions on the Executive has been sent out and close on the 20<sup>th</sup> February
- **Worker of the Year Award 2009**  
Information has gone out and nominations close on the 24<sup>th</sup> February
- **City of Yarra Grant**  
An annual grant of \$20,000 + CPI 2009 – 2011 has been made to the Forum which insures the Executive Officer position for 3 ½ days per week plus costs. The DHS grant covers 2 ½ days plus costs until July 2011.
- **AER Foundation Grant**  
We received a grant of \$10,900 to cover costs associated with the Forum from Jan – June 2009.)
- **Drinking Alcohol in a Public Place Community Forum**  
The forum is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March and information will be going out this week

#### **Closure of 24hr NSP in St Kilda –**

- Letter received back from Minister Neville and Minister Andrews. Minister Andrews in response to our suggestion about the installation of syringe vending machines stated that the advice had been noted and that *'Improving access to sterile injecting equipment as a public health intervention in the prevention of blood borne virus infections will be referred to the (Viral Health) Taskforce as a priority issue'*.

## **6. CURRENT ISSUES**

### **Current Drug Patterns**

- NYCH there was a drop in numbers before Christmas
- NYCH the Federal government money given out meant that some users didn't meet pharmacotherapy appointments and were taken off the program and then had difficulty getting back on the program when they had spent their money.
- NRCHC The Police presence has been high around the estate causing some users to inject as soon as they pick up needles from the NSP.
- An increase in aggressive behaviour which seems to be associated with increased use of Xanax.
- Some Pharmacist were encouraging their clients to use the Federal money to pay debts for Pharmacotherapy.

## **7. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Barbara Taylor DHS has been tracking down pharmacies that can issue pharmacotherapy in the fire disaster areas.
- The Office of Housing phoned tenants over 80 to see how they were coping during the heat wave
- Heroin production in South East Asia is up 17%
- Hep C training on the 27<sup>th</sup> February

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

- **March 31<sup>st</sup> Community Forum – YDHF Oration; AGM & Presentation of the 'Worker of the Year Award 2009'.**

## **9. WORKERS REPORT**

- The worker's report was tabled and accepted. Joe made comment that the 3 papers recently produced and one yet to be finalised would have an important impact on the AOD sector over the next few years. The Papers are 'A new blueprint for alcohol and other drug treatment services 2009 – 2013'; 'Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan 2008 – 2013' and 'Review of the Mental health Act 1986'. (copies of the Review discussion paper were available at the meeting).

## **10. NEXT MEETING**

**Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2008 at 12.30 pm in the**

**Meeting Room of Mary of the Cross Centre 7 Brunswick Street Fitzroy.**

**Guest Speaker - Paul Dietze, Burnet Institute, will make a presentation on Intranasal Naloxone research for people who have overdosed and its potential for non-health professional usage.**