



MINUTES

MONDAY, 7th September 2009

**Held at 12.30pm in the Meeting Room of
Centacare – Mary of the Cross Centre 7 Brunswick Street Fitzroy**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairperson: Peter Wearne (YSAS). There were 27 in attendance including Danny Jeffcote (North Yarra Community Health), Vera Boston (NYCH), Centre), Dawn Stark (Bridge Withdrawal Unit), Barbara Taylor (DHS), Peter Wood (Victoria Police), Col McKinney (Victoria Police), Linda Cropley (RDNS HPP), Meghan Fitzgerald (Fitzroy Legal Service), Kasey Elmore (NRCH), Carolyn Pickett (BSL), Christine Sammut (BSL), Morgan Scholz (Victoria Police @NJC), Bernie Lane (Department of Health), Clare Lethlean (Hanover Southbank), Alison Clarke (Councillor City of Yarra), Michele Lee (Victorian Legal Aid), Jade Sinclair (NYCH Alert), Thuy Bui (SEADS), Jamie Davis (Centrelink), Pier Moro (Hep C Council), Renate Uzubalis (Reckitt Benckiser), Sophie Gale (City of Yarra), Sarah Gillett (City of Yarra).

Elyse Maurelli (BSL Coolibah Club). Elyse who has represented the BSL Coolibah Club at Forum meetings for many years has decided to resign due to a recent massive heart attack. It was decided to send Elyse some flowers and a card thanking her for her support and commitment.

2. APOLOGIES: Andrew Atkinson (Victoria Police), Ben Sacco (Dept of Education), Lucinda Franklin (Burnet Institute), Marcelle Kayrooz (Youth Projects – City Health Programs), Victor Bilous (Mary of the Cross), Maureen Chesler (DHS), Monika Schwarz (NRCH), Chris Hardy (NYCH), John Beckwith (Yarra City Business Forum) Christa Grapentin (YSAS), Arry Valastro (YSAS).

3. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting were accepted and Monika Schwarz was thanked for taking the minutes

4. GUEST SPEAKER: Thuy Bui (North Richmond Community Health), YDHF Worker of the Year spoke about 'Harm Minimisation in Vietnam'. (see Power Point presentation attached)

Sophie Gale from the City of Yarra spoke about the "City of Yarra Municipal Public Health Plan" (see Power Point presentation attached)

5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date of next SIC Working Group (suggest Tuesday 15th September at 1.30pm)

Discussion took place about the eviction policy of the Office of Housing particularly as it effects families and children if they also are evicted with the person alleged to be trafficking drugs. It was

A community based response to alcohol and other drug issues

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decided that in addition to hearing Pravin Ram the Housing Services Manager Strategic Inner Metro East at the October meeting to also write to the Minister for Housing with copies to the Attorney general and the NJC.

6. CURRENT ISSUES

- **Current drug use patterns** There were no new patterns mentioned

7. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS PRESENT

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion took place about the cost of methadone to drug users and how the cost prevented some people who wished to go on the program from doing so. It was raised that maybe the City of Yarra could assist by bringing the matter up at the Australian Local Government Conference.

The meeting requested that the Motion be presented to the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Conference by the City of Yarra to be considered and adopted by that conference and subsequently presented to the Federal government with a request for implementation.

Motion

“That medication for opioid replacement therapy (ORT) methadone and buprenorphine be provided under the Pharmaceutical benefits Scheme. Provision will be dispensed medication and subject to the PBS Safety Net as is any other medication for chronic illness” (Carried)

9. WORKER’S REPORT (No Report as EO is still on Sick Leave)

10. NEXT MEETING: - Monday, 5th October 2009 at 12.30 pm in the Meeting Room of Mary of the Cross Centre 7 Brunswick Street Fitzroy.

Guest Speaker: Pravin Ram Housing Services Manager Strategic Inner Metro East who will brief us on the Policies etc around the eviction of tenants who are trafficking drugs from their Office of Housing homes.