

INNER SYDNEY VOICE

THE DELI PLAYGROUP GRADUATION DAY!



Inner Sydney
Regional Council

PLUS:

What do parking officers think of their job?
There are people who still want a metro
Dementia

How does your council rank?

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has been producing indexes of disadvantage for 39 years. These of course cover the whole of a Local Government Area (LGA), and there can be pockets of both disadvantage and advantage within each area.

The lowest figure is the most disadvantaged...the higher is more advantaged

The 6 Inner City councils (with other council areas for comparison)	2006 INDEX OF DISADVANTAGE
Bre w a m i n a	764.6
Fairfield	876.1
Aub u m	922.1
Botany Bay	962.3
Rockdale	992.5
M a r i c k v i l l e	1007.2
Sydney	1026.9
Randwick	1045.0
Canada Bay	1076.5
Waverley	1082.2
Leichhardt	1083.8
Woollahra	1121.7
M o s m a n	1130.1
K u - r i n g - g a i	1143.3

These indexes rank geographic areas across Australia by combining information collected in the Census (2006). There are four different indexes, each representing a slightly different concept.

Starting in 1971, they have been developed, modified and improved at each census.

Below are the four indexes. They are combined to give a figure for comparison with other areas. These indexes summarise a range of information about the economic and social resources of people and households within an area.

DISADVANTAGE	It only includes measures of relative disadvantage
ADVANTAGE AND DISADVANTAGE	This index also accesses a range of information, but includes both relative advantage and disadvantage
ECONOMIC RESOURCES	Here the index focuses on the general level of access to economic resources
EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION	This focuses on the general level of education and occupation-related skills of people in the area

INDEX OF ECONOMIC RESOURCES

RELATIVE POVERTY

- % People with stated annual household equivalised income between \$13,000 and \$20,799
- % one parent families with dependent offspring only
- % Occupied private dwellings with no car
- % Households renting from Government or Community organisations
- % Households paying rent less than \$120 per week
- % People aged 15 years and over who are unemployed
- % Households who are lone person households
- % Occupied private dwellings requiring one or more extra bedrooms (Canadian standard)

RELATIVE WEALTH

- % Households owning dwelling they occupy (without a mortgage)
- % Dwellings with at least one person who is the owner of an unincorporated enterprise
- % Households paying mortgage greater than \$2120 per week
- % Households owning dwelling (with a mortgage)
- % Households paying rent greater than \$250 per week
- % People with stated annual household equivalised income greater than \$52,000
- % Occupied private dwellings with four or more bedrooms

All the other three indexes have as many variables that are factored in.

INNER SYDNEY REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF MANAGEMENT – 2009/10

In the last issue of Inner Sydney Voice we could only inform you of who had been elected to the Board, but had no details of who the office bearers would be. Of course this was resolved shortly after the AGM but unfortunately by then Inner Sydney Voice had already gone to the printer.

Details of the Board for the coming year are:

HELEN CAMPBELL	C HAIR
JACQUI SWINBURNE	DEPUTY C HAIR
ANNIE PARKINSON	SEC RETARY
ANNA HARTREE	TREASURER
VIVIENNE PUSEY	BOARD MEMBER
KATE FITZGERALD	BOARD MEMBER
BILL POPE	BOARD MEMBER

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From the Archives..... Back

Off the Streets was the magazine of the Community Youth Support Scheme (CYSS) In June 1980 it concentrated on surviving the dole.

Well the New Year has been left way behind us and we are firmly into 2010 and a very busy time it has been. Not only for me but for everyone I talk to. I feel a definite sense of nostalgia for the times when all of January and a good part of February was, if not quiet, at least was guaranteed to provide a somewhat leisurely introduction to the New Year. Now January seems to begin at a fast pace and that just continues to increase as the year wears on.

This year Regional Council is planning to continue with the very informative and constructive key stakeholder consultations and to maybe extend them to all parts of the organisation. We are also planning to hold a forum together with the Redfern/Waterloo Authority (RWA) to up-date NGOs in the area about what is happening in Redfern/Waterloo and why and, more importantly, for the RWA to receive our input into their future plans. See page 9 for full details about the forum.

This edition of Inner Sydney Voice contains articles on a wide range of topics. With our aim of bringing you issues of common interest we have included an

informative article on Dementia, information about a new project called PLACE, what might be happening with the Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) and up-dates on Keep Them Safe and on the proposed Regulations for the new Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

Elsewhere in the magazine we bid a fond but very sad farewell to Terry Murphy on his retirement. Terry was a member of our Board for almost 20 years, eight of them as President and was Regional Council's first Life Member. Our good wishes for the future go to Terry as well as a heartfelt thank you for all the years of hard work and commitment.

We follow up two organisations that were having big problems towards the end of last year to see how things are with them now and we meet up with The Deli Women and Children's Centre. In other pages you will find some thoughts about the hot topic of Homelessness, an interesting article about parking and many other items that we hope you find interesting and perhaps useful.

Pam Marsh

Terry Murphy is the longest serving Chair of the Board of Inner Sydney Regional Council. He has been involved in Regional Council since the beginning. Just before the last Annual General Meeting he privately said that he didn't think he would stand again. Terry had been on the Board for 20 years, with 8 years as Chair He is the one and only Life member of Regional Council.

In 2007 we featured Terry in an article about Erskineville, where he has lived in the same house all his life, with (when he was young) one bedroom for the six boys, one for the three girls and the last for the parents. He now lives there with one of his sisters.

Terry was on the first Labour Council for the then new City of South Sydney, and remained a councillor for 17 years (1979- 1986). He is proud of what they did, particularly the small parks and street trees that are such a part of the character now of Erskineville.

He has been actively involved in supporting many other community organisations. He has also been on the Board of South Sydney Community Transport and Newtown Neighbourhood Centre for over 10 years each. At the 30th anniversary celebrations of South Sydney Community



Transport in November 2009, Terry was made a Life Member of the organisation in recognition of his active support and role as Chairperson for 10 years. There are many other campaigns that Terry was involved in around particularly housing and social issues.

The energy and commitment that Terry Murphy shows has been an inspiration to many of us working and living in the inner city. We wish him well, and Regional Council will not be the same without him.

Child protection reform update

The second phase of reform under NSW Government's Child Protection System Reform called Keep Them Safe (KTS) has commenced with the announcement of a support line for non-government organisations NGO mandatory reporters, expansion of earlier intervention services, Family Referral Services and Staying Home Leaving Violence, as well as the NGO Capacity Building and Workforce Development Consultation and the Keep Them Safe Evaluation Framework.

KTS Support Line

The NSW Government has established a telephone support line to assist mandatory reporters in NGOs (including non-government schools) and general practitioners in determining whether a matter meets the "risk of significant harm" threshold (please see previous issue of *Inner Sydney Voice*). The KTS Support Line (Support Line) assists with appropriate referral pathways for cases that fall below the threshold, details for referral services and other queries about the changes under KTS.

The Support Line operates 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays). The phone number is 1800 772 479.

The Support Line will operate for six months and it will be reviewed at the end of this period.

Family Referral Services

Three NGOs have been awarded a tender to pilot Family Referral Services (FRS) in Dubbo, Newcastle and Mt Druitt. The FRS are created to support families at risk who fall below the mandatory reporting threshold but require support before their problems reach crisis point. Community Services will still deal with the most serious cases. Involvement with the services is voluntary for families who need to link in with

local Commonwealth, State or Local Government funded services to receive the help they need.

The NGOs will trial two service delivery models over 12 months: a telephone referral service and an augmented referral service that can make face-to-face referrals, offer case management, and use brokerage funding to supplement client access to support services.

UnitingCare Children, Young People, and Families will pilot an augmented FRS with an Indigenous focus in Dubbo. The Benevolent Society will pilot an augmented FRS in Newcastle, and Relationships Australia (NSW) will pilot a telephone FRS in Mount Druitt. The NSW Government has allocated \$3.6 million for the pilot projects of \$38 million allocated funding for roll-out of FRS.

Staying Home Leaving Violence

Staying Home Leaving Violence, one of the NSW Government's key programs responding to domestic violence, will be expanded to 10 new communities, taking the total number of sites to 18 across NSW.

This works in an integrated way to ensure the removal of the perpetrator from the family home so that women and children can remain safely where they are. It provides a range of other supports for victims such as improving the home's security and changing the locks.

Staying Home Leaving Violence currently operates in Bega, Blacktown, Campbelltown, Eastern Sydney, Moree, Newcastle and Wyong. The program will roll out in Shoalhaven, Redfern, Kempsey, Penrith, Wollongong, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Fairfield, Liverpool, Dubbo and it is currently being developed in Walgett. Each new location will receive \$450,000 over three years.

NGO Capacity Building and Workforce Development Consultation

NGO Capacity Building and Workforce Development Consultation brings together several projects currently in train which contribute to workforce development, support and capacity building of the of the non-government sector.

Community Services has developed a discussion paper which presents a conceptual framework to guide these processes. It focuses on six areas: Developing partnerships between NGOs and Government to support collaboration and planning; Aligning practice and services to outcomes; Reducing administrative burden to promote sector effectiveness and efficiency; Measuring outcomes and performance; Strengthening governance, management and leadership capacity; Building a workforce with the right skills.

KPMG is conducting a range of consultations with stakeholders in relation to the key areas which will inform further development of the plan. The consultation will take shape as a short online questionnaire, an opportunity for direct email responses to the discussion paper; and targeted workshops for key representative groups including specific consultations with Aboriginal and CALD groups.

KTS Evaluation Framework

KTS includes a commitment to evaluate the various stages of the implementation process under KTS over five years and the effects of the new child protection system on outcomes for children, young people and their families.

*Enis Jusufspahic
Hacc Development Officer,
Inner Sydney Regional Council*

Dementia and Home and Community Care

Dementia is the leading single cause of disability for people over 65 years of age. In 2009 there were approximately 245,000 people with dementia in Australia. This is expected to increase 4.6 times by mid century to 1.13 million people. “Estimates suggest the number of people with dementia under the age of 65 will rise from about 9,990 in 2005 to 14,220 in 2020.” (Alt Beatty, 2007).

Dementia is “syndrome due to disease of the brain in which there is disturbance of multiple higher functions, including memory, thinking, orientation, comprehension, calculation, learning capacity, language, and judgment (WHO).” It does not affect consciousness. The impairments of cognitive function are commonly accompanied, and occasionally preceded, by deterioration in emotional control, social behaviour, or motivation. Symptoms may include: memory loss, language difficulties, difficulty with understanding, disorientation, changes in mood, behaviour or personality, hallucinations or delusions and wandering behaviours. (World Health Organization)

Alzheimer’s disease is the most common type of dementia affecting more than 50% of all people with dementia, vascular dementia causes around 20 % of cases. Other types of dementia include frontal lobe dementia,

Pick’s disease, Lewy Body disease and alcohol-related dementia. People may also develop dementia in relation to other conditions such as Huntington’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, Down syndrome and HIV/AIDS.

Current trends and projections

The above graph shows the projected number of people with dementia in NSW and nationally in 2030 and 2050 compared with 2010. The blue line represents NSW and the red line shows national trends.

Dementia is one of the fastest growing public health issues overtaking coronary heart disease in its total wellbeing cost by 2023. “By the 2060s, spending on dementia is set to outstrip that of any other health condition. It is projected to be \$83 billion (in 2006-07 dollars), and will represent around 11.0% of the entire health and residential aged care sector spending.” (Access Economics, 2009)

According to a 2008 Access Economics Report in 2008, 37.4% of people with dementia did not receive any support, 18.2% received HACC services, 3.2% received Community Aged Care Packages (CACP), 1.5% received Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) packages, and 39.7% live in residential care.

Dementia and Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

In order to access support and care people from CALD backgrounds who have dementia may require services, information and support provided in a language other than English.

In 2009, 14.23% of people with dementia spoke a non-English (CALD) language at home. However, the number of new cases of dementia of people who speak a CALD language at home is expected to increase 4 times by 2050 which represents a very significant increase in the future demand for culturally appropriate dementia care providers.

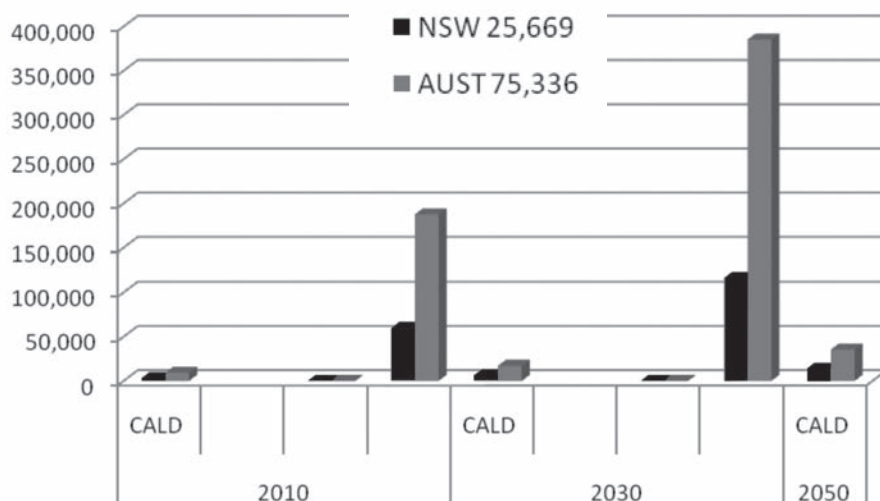
Dementia in regional and rural areas – faster ageing of regional Australia

By 2050, the number of people with dementia outside of capital cities will increase 34% faster than the number of people with dementia living in capital cities. The faster rate of increase in rural and regional Australia has a significant impact on service delivery planning.

People with Dementia and Behaviours of Concern

Behaviours of concern include behaviours that are “disruptive, aggressive or socially unacceptable such that the person has difficulty in the home, community and in accessing mainstream services. They may include resistance to care, agitation, distress, restlessness, wandering, inappropriate sexual behaviour, inappropriate toileting practices, social withdrawal and/or verbal or physical aggression.” (Alt Beatty, 2007, p 63)

Behaviours need to be seen within a “whole person” context, including consideration of each person’s personal history, physical or social factors beyond the person’s, carer’s or worker’s control and may not be a direct



consequence of dementia. Some of these behaviors may be addressed by thorough case planning and developing specific strategies, “whereas others are going to require ongoing, episodic assistance when the behaviour is heightened”. (Alt Beatty, 2007)

People with Younger Onset Dementia

People with younger onset dementia are 65 years of age and under, primarily 45 – 64. It is estimated that people with younger onset dementia account for 10% of all dementia cases in Australia. People with younger onset dementia are more likely than older people to have dementias that are not age related such as vascular, frontotemporal and alcohol related dementia. They are generally active, mobile and physically capable. Younger people with dementia do not tend to search for services in the “aged” services sector as they and their carers do not identify with this group. (Alt Beatty, 2007)

Intellectual disability and dementia

People with Down syndrome have been found to have a dementia prevalence rate of between 20 and 55% in those aged 50 to 59 compared with a rate of 1% for the rest of the population. Whilst adults with cognitive difficulties without Down syndrome display an increased prevalence of Alzheimer-type neuropathology after the age of 65. The number of adults with developmental disabilities age 60 and older now living in the United States is expected to increase by 48% by 2025 based on 1995 figures.

There is no cure, however supportive treatment may include cholinesterase inhibitors, medications for the psychiatric and behavioral symptom management, and ongoing education and support to family and care providers.

Often, the person with Down syndrome lives with an elderly parent or sibling who has advocated and cared for their child/sibling all of their lives and are now faced with multiple issues and concerns as the their loved one with Down Syndrome ages. It is essential that the care provider create a care plan that is realistic, appropriate, and will meet the needs of both the individual, his/her family and the care providers.

In terms of planning for future long-term care needs please see the Aging, Disability and Home Care part of NSW Human Services Department’s (ADHC) Planning Ahead Kit available at the Agency’s website. Please refer to Health Dementia Guidelines at <http://health.gov.au/dementia> the Alzheimer Society of Canada Ethical Guidelines on Decision Making at <http://www.alzheimer.ca/english/care/ethics-decision.htm>

HACC Interface with NSW Health regarding dementia services

Your local Dementia Advisory Service is able to promote local awareness of dementia, provide information, education, and support, and link people to assessment and support services. The Eastern Sydney and City of Sydney Dementia Advisory Service can be contacted on (02) 8382 1988.

NSW Health runs programs designed to improve transitions of care between home and hospital known as the Aged Care Services Emergency Team and the Transitional Aged Care Program which can be contacted on (02) 8382 1111. The Transitional Behavioral Assessment and Intervention Services unit (T-Basis) is designed for transitional care of older persons with behavioral and psychological disturbances related to dementia. You can contact the T-BASIS intake team on (02) 6767 8450.

Inner and Eastern Sydney HACC agencies should discuss the need for an At Risk Interagency to identify local assistance for people with earlier onset dementia and people with dementia who show behaviours of concern.

Dementia care highlights the need for a flexible, coordinated response between community care and the health care systems as the client’s needs change (increase or decrease). In order to provide the continuum of care for people with dementia Community Care providers need to be aware of NSW Health dementia services, and NSW Health needs to be aware of Community Care services available to clients prior and post admission to hospital.

Conclusion

Projections tell us that in the near future more dementia specific services are required for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and aboriginal people – people with younger onset dementia, people with intellectual disability and dementia, as well as people with dementia and behaviors of concern.

The NSW Dementia Action Plan 2007–2009 tasks NSW Health in partnership with ADHC with developing a Dementia Services Planning Framework – a part of Area Health Service and ADHC regional HACC planning processes – in consultation with Area Health Services and ADHC Regions which puts in place mechanisms to enable multidisciplinary assessment in early intervention and to identify mechanisms for improved coordination of dementia service planning and delivery. The projections together with the identified groups serve as focus for HACC triennial service system planning 2010 -2012.

Enis Jusufspahic
HACC Development Officer
Inner Sydney Regional Council

Making a difference in the community

The PLACE Project (Partners in Learning and Community Enterprise) is about finding creative place based solutions to address barriers to employment and community engagement for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in three of the most disadvantaged areas in Sydney: the communities of Redfern/Waterloo, Marrickville and Woolloomooloo.

The Project was funded and commenced some trial activities last year and November 2009 a Steering Committee was established. Steering Committee partners include: Inner Sydney Regional Council, TAFE NSW, Sydney Institute, Housing NSW, Redfern /Waterloo Authority, City of Sydney Council, Marrickville Council, University of Sydney, St Vincent's Homelessness Unit, South Sydney Youth Services, homelessness services and other local community and health organisations.

In each of the three areas targeted a local PLACE worker will work with local community organisations (there are too many to list) to develop a series of outreach programs in response to the needs and interests of their community. These courses will engage people on real projects that are happening in their area such as landscaping parks and playgrounds, building community gardens, painting and decorating local community venues, developing community contracting services and building new community enterprises.



The three communities are very different and are bringing many exciting ideas for future projects. In Woolloomooloo a group of homeless people have already formed Underbridge Productions to make a film consisting of stories about the area and to develop new web based enterprises. Marrickville is focussing on textile projects with women

from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and setting up urban food growing and green skill initiatives. Redfern /Waterloo has the leadership of the Learning Employment and Enterprise group based in The Factory and is pioneering projects that skill up local social housing tenants to work with contractors to Housing NSW.

"This is a project that seeks to collaborate rather than compete for funding and projects" said PLACE Coordinator Amanda Buckland. "We are lucky to be working with all the locally based agencies that have great knowledge and really good ideas of what will work in their communities. It is wonderful to have a three year funding structure to allow us all to build enterprises and support existing initiatives to be sustainable into the future."



If you are interested in any of the programs, courses, mentoring opportunities and enterprise ideas please contact Amanda Buckland on 9217 3083, or email amanda.buckland@tafensw.edu.au. We will have a website set up soon so you can find out about how the PLACE Project is progressing and we will keep you posted in this magazine.



Solander Landscaping Project



The PLACE Project is funded under the Innovations Funding Program from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) for the period July 2009- June 2012

*Amanda Buckland
Coordinator,
PLACE Project, TAFE NSW*



*Marrickville Playgroup
Facilitation classes*

Community Engagement and Mentoring graduates



Thinking about homelessness

Homelessness in the particular case of families is as complex and destructive as in any other group and can have many causes, including:

- Escape from domestic violence
- Unemployment
- Unmanageable increase in rent /mortgage payments and lack of alternative affordable rental accommodation. This is frequently due to real estate agents/landlords preferring families with no children. It should also be noted that this is not restricted to severely disadvantaged families but also to families with wages coming in and bond money put aside who find that the rents asked are just too high or their

applications are unsuccessful because they have children

- One or both parents in jail. This can mean the loss of the family's main income, or the loss of the children's main or only carer. This together with the accompanying trauma, grief and stigma often results in disruption, financial difficulties and social isolation quickly escalating into homelessness.
- Relationship breakdown resulting in desertion of the family by the main or only breadwinner.
- Elderly people, often full time carers of grandchildren, unable to meet rent/mortgage/general housing costs.

Everyone is talking about homelessness. It is the hot topic of the moment, which is great, but doesn't mean we shouldn't talk about the issues, particularly if we disagree with the present focus.

I should start by applauding what the federal government is doing and also what they are trying to do. For a worker in the field it is wonderfully refreshing to have a government in power that is prepared to go beyond paying lip service to the idea of effectively helping people who are homeless, but are prepared to consult and plan and then to put those plans into action.

Having said that I have to admit that I have some real concerns about the very strong, almost exclusive emphasis on housing "rough sleepers" and singles which seems to have developed, based, I think, on the American model of "Common Ground". This focus whilst a worthy one, is eclipsing almost altogether the many other adults, young people and children who are homeless, and in my world children and young people in this damaging situation need assistance, support and access to stable housing urgently – before even more damage is done. However, when I voice these concerns the reply is always the same: "we have to start somewhere". Yes we do have to start somewhere, but I can't see why the somewhere has to be in one narrow area and not spread a little further across our homeless population.

I am only one of many to have raised the vexed issue of homeless families and the effects of homelessness on both the adults and the children in such families. However, at present little attention is paid either to providing the long term resources and support needed to assist such families to permanently escape homelessness or to their children who can be permanently damaged by living in such an environment.

Relatively few resources are made available to work

with the children of homeless families although from my observation they are frequently:

- Damaged and traumatised by the crisis or series of crises that led to their family being homeless
- Have behavioural and developmental problems
- Exposed to domestic violence, substance abuse and breakdown of parental relationships
- In the care of a parent/guardian with limited living and coping skills. Under stress the effect of this heightens and children may then receive inadequate care or be subject to abuse
- Likely to become homeless themselves when older if homelessness continues too long, in the same way that domestic violence, child abuse and involvement with the criminal justice system becomes generational.

Far too many Supported Accommodation & Assistance Program (SAAP) and other services working with homeless families are not funded for a child support worker or equivalent. This is not only difficult to understand in the current climate of "taking responsibility for child abuse" but can also result in damaged children or children at risk of damage not being identified and/or not receiving appropriate remedial care.

So I come back to my original questions of why is there no real focus on homeless families and their children. How long do the children of homeless families have to wait before they are given appropriate and adequate support? What permanent damage is being done to these children who are, after all, supposed to be the future of our country? And how long do their families have to wait before the resources are available to properly and effectively help them to escape from the homelessness trap and all the chaos and isolation this brings in its train.

A year ago we wrote about the superb range of activities developed over five sites in the Inner city and Eastern suburbs by WAYS. In March 2009 they were informed that their federal funding for employment services to young people would end. The contract had gone to two other firms, one Australian and the other overseas.

WAYS was successful in getting young people into employment because they understood their customers. As a result they could use some of that Federal money to develop a range of other youth support activities. All that funding has now gone. 2/3rd of their budget had disappeared at a stroke.



WAYS Youth Services

When we talked to Russell King he was involved in a Youth Forum on Cyber Bullying. 12 high Schools had sent 10 students each. The panel had a cyber bullying expert, the Police (who were excellent) and included the Mayors of Waverley and Woollahra. The Forum broke up into discussion workshops,

at a second campus, possibly at Maroubra. Some of their kids are sent from the very services that took away the Federal employment contracts. Bondi Junction has become the training centre for the organization plus health clinics and a place where young people come to hang out and seek help with all manner of concerns.

MATE, WHEN THE BUSHFIRE COMES YOU DIVE INTO THE BURROW TO WAIT IT OUT. AFTER IT HAS PASSED YOU CLIMB OUT, SHAKE YOURSELF AND SEE WHAT'S LEFT".

Russell King, CEO of WAYS Youth Services

Russell King thinks that youth mental health is one of the major issues at the moment. He believes that, of course, there is a role for medical based services, but on the whole community organisations can do it better and cheaper. Youth will come to a community group, but often need to be strongly encouraged to attend a hospital based agency. This area points to the need to ensure that partnerships and collaboration really work for young people to promote easy access and early intervention. WAYS still has young people coming through the doors, for a whole variety of reasons.

This feels like the saga of many community organisations. They build up skills and creative services which are knocked down at the whim of bureaucrats who have an agenda that conflicts with the creative freedom needed by vital, living locally based organisations.

Inner Sydney Voice asked Russell King how things were going –

“We are on the nose with the Federal Government. We objected to losing our funding and campaigned to get it restored. Despite that, we applied again this year for Jobs Funding 2 and got nothing. The number of community organisations getting funded seems to drop each year. We just have to get used to Federal funding being cyclical. We will keep trying and meanwhile keep our skills intact.”

which all presented their findings at the end of the session. This is just one of the ongoing activities that WAYS has – on funding of a lightly oiled rag.

Youth Unemployment continues to be getting worse: 30+% in eastern Sydney, up to 50% in the west. This is far from the figures from Centrelink of increases from 11% to 17-19% this year. So the new system under Labour is not working.

At their HQ in Bondi they still have their school, now registered and is a member of the independent schools of NSW! It is so successful that they are looking

The Deli - women and childrens centre

The Centre is a converted house, and shop, with a large group room, kitchen, offices and a magnificent play area out the back.

Predominately funded by Community Services through the Community Services Grant Program (CSGP) they are constantly raising grants (often small) from other sources to fund particular programs or activities.

The Deli has just celebrated 30 years of service to the residents of the Botany and Randwick Council areas. They will assist women and children from anywhere, but most come from those areas. The Centre started in an old deli, and as the sign was still out the front it just got called that from then on. They moved to their new premises having formally adopted this nickname.

The Centre sees itself as having two streams, one CHILDREN'S SERVICES, and the other THERAPEUTIC SERVICES. Each is equally important, and they complement each other.

Inner Sydney Voice talked to Vicki Johnston, the Manager, about the role of the centre, and some of its main activities.

"We accept that healing is a journey. It can take weeks, months or years, and we continue to support families on that journey until they don't require our services any longer. Some of the families are highly traumatised and their journey may not be smooth, often with highs and lows, however the Centre continues to reach out to them.



Therapeutic services

If we look at the counselling services first, they have three prongs – counselling, casework and group activities.

Counselling

Counselling is a major plank of the Deli's work. Professional counsellors will provide one-on-one counselling free of charge, for as long as the woman needs it. These are private and confidential sessions. Therapeutic staff are qualified domestic violence specialists with extensive experience in the field. Counsellors can also offer generalist counselling to women in the Botany Local Government Area.

Casework

Many families have complex or a multitude of issues and problems. Often the only way to deal with these is through detailed supportive casework. Casework services include assessment, referrals, advocacy and provision of information. Advocacy might include direct contact with agencies about services, accommodation, or money.

Group activities

These groups are educational and/or therapeutic groups covering topics such as Domestic Violence, Self Esteem, Self Empowerment, Welcoming Women into the Workforce, and Time Out. The Time Out group, for example, meets on Wednesdays, where each session has a different discussion topic, and offers the opportunity to put into practice new ways of relaxing and relating.

All of the groups offer free childminding in the playgroup area at the back of the building.

Children's services

Children's services is the other major arm of the Deli's services.

The team has qualified Early Childhood staff with extensive experience. They see their task as a preventative and early intervention service with a focus on strengthening and supporting families. The support includes individual parenting information, family support, child development knowledge, assistance with accessing appropriate community resources and parenting groups such as Triple P, 1,2,3 Magic & Emotion Coaching, Language Development, School Readiness and Creative Play.

Playgroup

Much of the support is through the Playgroup that meets on Monday to Wednesday from 10 - 11.30am. Here parents, grandparents and carers can enjoy a variety of activities with their child in a safe and fun environment. All activities are planned to encourage children's physical, language, social, emotional, cognitive and creative skills.

You can see in the photos (on these pages and on the front cover) that the playgroup area is colourful and very well equipped. The children are clearly enjoying themselves.

The centre's philosophy

Vicki Johnston is clear that her job is to maintain the centre's high philosophy in providing skilled services that directly meet the needs of those who visit the centre. She believes that there are two aspects to attracting those who need support. There is the soft introduction which

might be through the open days, attending a group such as Time Out, or of course the Playgroup. The other introduction is for those who are traumatised, and come in desperation, or are referred from elsewhere. Vicki put it very simply: Holistic support means that we aim for the client not to be retraumatised by having to access several agencies.

Last financial year the Centre saw 841 individuals, many attended on multiple occasions.

"We have a ball, at our special events - International Women's Day and Harmony Day in March 2010 are just two examples".

New people are brought along by friends, and find that the Centre can provide them with

much needed help. International Women's Day features the presentation of the Heffron Woman of the Year Award. Our local member for the seat of Heffron is the Premier, Kristina Keneally, who presents the award, after which participants are offered pampering and relaxing activities. Harmony Day showcases some of the 70 different cultures that access our services and it helps break down the walls of misunderstanding between cultures. Each culture, that wants to participate, can set up a market stall to serve international food, organise craft activities and invite performers from their own traditions.

Many who visit the centre will tell the staff....'oh, my sister (or my neighbour) is experiencing such and such, I wonder if you can help?' This is exactly what we encourage.



The Centre presents a warm, friendly and safe environment for clients. The extensive security system in place supports this and gives great confidence and a sense of security to those who visit. Visitors and clients are screened and access to the centre is restricted to ensure the safety of staff and clients.

There are many other services linked with the Centre. South East Neighbourhood Centre

(SENC) uses this centre for language classes. Many who attend go on to use services both here and at SENC. The Deli has links with Sydney Multicultural Community Services and the mental health units at The Prince of Wales Hospital and the Royal Hospital for Women. We are a major partner in LOVE BITES, an early intervention violence prevention program for year 10 students that discusses sexual

assault, domestic violence and what a respectful relationship looks like. The underlying theme is the prevention of violence; while community awareness through song, posters and radio backs up the message.”

So, the Deli is a hive of activity providing a vital service to Botany and Randwick residents. Thank you for inviting Inner Sydney Voice to report on your superb work.



FORUM

INNER SYDNEY REGIONAL COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO A FORUM WITH THE REDFERN/WATERLOO AUTHORITY TO BE HELD AT 3.30PM ON THURSDAY, 20TH MAY IN THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS EXCELLENCE 180 GEORGE STREET, REDFERN

The Forum is aimed at bringing all NGOs and interested residents located in the Redfern/Waterloo area together to hear what is happening in our area, what is planned for the area and, most importantly, to provide input and ideas for future planning and to discuss and try to resolve any problems or concerns that may be raised.

This is an opportunity to meet with the Chief Executive Officer and the staff of the RWA and to share your knowledge and ideas for the area.

Refreshments will be served.

For catering purposes please let us know if you are able to attend –
call **Amylea** on **9698 7690** or email **reception@innersydneyrcsd.org.au**

What do parking inspectors think of their job?

Parking officers are a pet hate of many of us in Sydney. They make our lives miserable, and seem to be always lurking round the corner just waiting to slap a large fine on us and ruin the day. The number of parking officers within local councils has grown dramatically over the last decade, along with the increase in restricted parking and many more parking meters. So let us find out what they think about their work.

Perhaps we need to reassess how we react to these local government officers. For instance, how many of us have parked illegally to race into a shop or café (for less than a minute!) and then are pleased we got away with it, or got very annoyed when we find a ticket on the windscreen? How many shop owners used to park all day outside their shop? How do residents in the side streets feel when parking outside their houses is used by commuters or workers in shops and offices in the main street? Is the 15 minute free parking (used by some councils) followed by steep hourly rate and the threat of fines a fairer way of managing limited parking spaces than the previous free-for-all?

What is of interest is that many parking officers felt that they were under continuous pressure to raise revenue for their council, while actual and threatened violence was a major reality in their work. The report summarised below goes into more detail of a range of other issues.

The United Services Union (USU) represents workers in NSW Local Government. In 2009 it published a report **'Moving-on for safety'** with a detailed analysis of 254 responses to a safety survey of NSW Local Government rangers and parking patrol officers.

Of the 254 responses

- 76% male and 24% female
- 94.2% worked full time
- 36.8% had 'Special Constable' status
- 19.5% spoke a language other than English at home
- 3.2% were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 81.2% were members of the USU.

The executive Summary listed these areas:

- Diversity within councils in approaches, support, technology, training and demographics.
- **Parking officers provide benefit to the community, but it is not understood. So there needs to be an increase in public education.**
- They meet dangerous and risky situations, and assaults are increasing.
- Councils have been given increased responsibilities with parking and recently in dealing with anti-social behaviour.
- It can be dangerous to send officers out alone. Councils have a duty of care for their staff.
- **Need less focus on revenue raising!**
- Training, equipment and counselling all need to be improved
- Legislation and police backup should be reassessed.
- By increasing protection for officers then the costs of insurance premiums, workers compensation and litigation will all be reduced.

Below we look at the types of Violent and Aggressive behaviours experienced:

	Responses	% of 252 responses
Major physical assault	29	11.5%
Minor Physical Assault	107	42.5%
Threatening or intimidating behaviour	206	81.7%
Verbal threats of violence	197	78.2%
Verbal abuse	247	98%

The community benefits of their work were summarised (in the report) as:

The parking officers help provide fair use of limited parking, keeping the public safe on the roads and encouraging turnover of traffic.

Some officers mentioned particularly their role in school zones where they can avoid traffic chaos, bottle-neck traffic and jams at busy intersections. Many of the parking officers felt that providing fair use of limited parking was a valuable role, but...

"Councils are putting pressure on staff to raise more revenue by issuing fines, so that the officer has no discretion." To this was added the request that councils should provide more free parking, not more meters.

So should we be more sympathetic to the parking officer when next we get one of his or her nasty tickets?

Metro for Sydney - not dead, just resting

When the metro rail project was deferred or abandoned (depending on your view) in late February, there was much rejoicing in the community, the media, and even within parts of government.

In other quarters, there was anger, disappointment and the not-unfamiliar sense of an opportunity lost.

But metro was not just the latest flawed idea for a transport project. Of all of the public transport projects promised and not delivered in recent years - and there have been many of them - metro has the greatest potential to change the way Sydney works, to shift Sydneysiders' thinking on travel, and to give the city a fighting chance to grow sustainably.

The true potential and importance of metro rail was never really understood or explained, so it's hardly surprising that most people know little, and care less, about this lost opportunity. So what was it all about, and why should we lament it?

Was metro really such a dumb idea?

Metro rail is based on fast and frequent rail services, typically in tunnels, using single-deck trains with wide doors for fast loading and unloading. Sydney Metro was to complement the existing rail network, which caters mainly for long-haul, peak-period trips, and buses and light rail (trams), which are important for local trips.

Initially there was to be a line beneath the Sydney city centre, with seven stations between Rozelle and Central Railway ('CBD Metro'). This would be the core of a wider network, with the first extension being 'West Metro' continuing from Central to Westmead, with at least a further eleven stations. Other lines would

later be added to the north west, the south east, the northern beaches, and so on.

Stations were to be in town centres; at key interchanges with other transport services; at regionally important health or education sites, and in major growth centres. For example, the metro would liberate the enormous employment and residential potential of Sydney Olympic Park, which is effectively quarantined until serious weekday public transport capacity can be provided

Metro would bring rail services to all the major universities and hospitals in inner Sydney, reduce travel times from bus-dependent areas dramatically, and put more jobs within greater reach of more people.

The public debate about metro tended to focus on the CBD Metro, but it was only when the wider network was in place that the real benefits would be seen.

Private companies were keen to build and invest in the project. The West Metro was on the path to Commonwealth funding.

Metro: not so much a rail line; more a way of life

Metro offers a transport 'product' which is different from anything we have in Sydney. How?

- Metro was planned with a customer focus. The starting point for all design of trains, stations, interchanges, ticketing, and so on was to make the experience of travelling as 'seamless' and enjoyable as possible, rather than a challenge.
- Because services are so frequent, timetables aren't required - passengers turn up knowing there will be a train within a few minutes, and that they'll arrive on time. Each line has its own tunnel, so 'network delay' is a thing of the past.

- Because metro runs underground, by-passing traffic snarls, travel times can be cut dramatically, especially where buses and cars are the main alternative.
- Because metro systems are highly-automated (with driverless trains, in many cases, and automated ticketing) they are reliable, and can operate around the clock (and at weekends) without cost penalties.
- Because metro services tend to be run by the private sector, to strict performance standards, better service levels can be achieved, and the Government can offset operating risk and cost.

But more broadly, metro is about giving the city a chance to grow sustainably. In summary, the argument goes like this:

- Sydney's population is growing, whether we like it or not. We can manage it, through birth control, decentralisation, and immigration policy, but we can't stop it; net result: urban congestion.
- Work trips are now more disparate, though still heavily concentrated in the CBD, and therefore don't always fit radial road and rail networks. But that's not the whole problem.
- More people, more households, greater car ownership and changing lifestyles mean more trips for family gatherings, education, health, recreational shopping, and social life in general. Why else are the roads busier with private cars at weekends than during the week?
- Urban sprawl is still happening, but is balanced by inner urban concentration, as land is recycled for more intensive use - not just in the traditional housing areas but where industries have moved out near

main roads, in old employment areas, and on river foreshores. These are rarely near rail lines, and buses are expected to take up the slack - competing for road space with increasing numbers of cars, and clogging city centres.

- If the city is to accommodate additional people without completely choking (literally and figuratively), alternative ways of moving around need to match the flexibility and convenience of the car - at least for some trips. Buses and trams can do this, but are still dependent on finding space at the surface. Metro can deliver reliable and fast travel, while being hip enough for inner urban lifestyles.
- Metro, properly done, can stimulate urban renewal to celebrate and support mass transit (for example, the Leichhardt station was to be in a run-down retail and parking area off Parramatta Road). Town centres and new housing areas can be made more pedestrian- and bike-friendly. Urban land can be used more effectively.

In essence, metro, more than other transport modes, is an agent of renewal and sustainable urban life.

So why did it provoke such ire?

Metro is an urban phenomenon - it's for big cities with high-density inner areas, widely-spread travel destinations, and a savvy travelling public. Perhaps that's why Sydneysiders, that most suburban of breeds, failed to understand its potential. Or maybe the polities and the media haven't quite caught up with the public, and still think we are in the 1970s.

Sydney's metro proposals did attract more than their fair share

of detractors: some had valid concerns, others less so.

Building a new rail system is expensive and causes disruption. But any assessment of these impacts has to consider long-term benefits, and whether a bit of short-term pain is actually well worth it. This is still a foreign concept to Sydney, and, hence, to its media and politicians.

In many ways, regardless of the value and validity of the idea, metro as a concept was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Patience with the Government's serial promise-breaking was already running out when metro rail was suggested as an alternative to the North West Rail Link to Rouse Hill in 2008. To a frustrated public the logic was lacking; why should this new idea replace a long-standing commitment to extend the current and familiar rail network?

When Nathan Rees arbitrarily truncated the NW Metro to Rozelle in November 2008 to save money, it created the need for a bus interchange at what had been a relatively minor station on the line, (and opened 'line to nowhere' argument).

Without a real public discussion of the direct benefits to the city, a spooked Kristina Keneally eventually caved in, announcing in February this year that work on the CBD Metro (and, by inference West Metro) would be stopped - to be replaced by delayed construction of rail to Rouse Hill, and a light rail extension to Dulwich Hill. Oh, and yet more buses.

What needs to happen?

Metro is not dead. The need is too great, and it's too good an idea for that to be possible.

Strategic planning for the region's future should reflect not just what we can get away with or afford

this week or this year, but where we want to be in 10, 20 or 50 years. Investment in more (diesel) buses, tokenistic light rail schemes elbowing their way through city traffic, and further band-aids for the existing rail system may help the system cope for a while.

Planning and resourcing of infrastructure needs to be elevated from the popular press and the focus group, to a more consistent, rational and long-term view of what the issues are and how they could be addressed.

The NSW Government has said that it will protect the underground corridor for the first stages of the metro network through legislation. This is a good start, but key station sites need to be safeguarded though planning controls and, if necessary, acquired, so that the future network can do its job effectively, and not merely be squeezed in around other development.

Metro needs a firm commitment of funds in forward estimates to rebuild the shattered confidence of potential private sector investors.

The name 'metro' would, however, probably have to go - tainted as it now is. 'Fast Underground' may deliver a catchy acronym to suit Sydney.

So, to sum up...

The Sydney Morning Herald recently reported, (in the small print) that of the world's major cities, only Sydney and Melbourne, plus four American cities, don't have a metro-style rail system. Melbourne is already moving towards metro-style operation of its rail system.

So, before we crow too loudly about stopping the 'metro madness', let's understand what we're giving up, and consider whether, after all, the real madness lies elsewhere.

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If you enjoyed reading Inner Sydney Voice and you like to hear about what is happening with social issues that impact on the Inner Sydney Region, you might like to subscribe and have the journal posted out to you.

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About Inner Sydney Regional Council (Regional Council)

Regional Council is a not for profit organisation working in the local government areas of Botany, Leichhardt, Randwick, City of Sydney, Waverley and Woollahra to provide information, advocacy, support and community development to community agencies and local communities.

Regional Council maintains a research library for the use of community organisations and individuals, supports and advocates for organisations and groups in our region and disseminates information through Inner Sydney Voice, brochures, and electronically via the website and e-newsletters. We believe that providing accurate relevant information leads to empowerment and community development.

Inner Sydney Voice is published three times each year and is funded jointly by Community Services, Department of Human Services, the City of Sydney and by members and subscribers.

Other Regional Council services include

- Home and Community Care (HACC) Development Officer, Inner Sydney. Funded by Ageing, Disability & Home Care (ADHC), Department of Human Services, NSW, this project assists HACC funded services and service users by providing information and resources, identifying training needs, representing the views of services, and assisting with planning and co-ordination of service delivery.
- Central Sydney North Tenant Participation Resource Service (TPRS), funded by Housing NSW, Department of Community Services, provides social housing tenants with information, advice and the opportunity to actively participate in their community and in resolving issues related to their housing. Tenants are offered with a range of training focusing on improving social networking and life skills while opening up employment and further education possibilities.

REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Please contact the office for information about Regional Council and for an application for membership. Phone: 9698 7690.

**Inner Sydney
Regional Council**



**for Social
Development Inc.**

Community Services Grants Program

The Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) peaks (NCOSS, LCSA, NSW Family Services, Youth Action and Policy Association and the Local Government & Shires Association) have been seeking additional funding for CSGP for many years without success despite support from both the Minister for Community Services and senior departmental staff. A new approach is clearly needed.

In late 2009, the Minister for Community Services, the Hon. Linda Burney, MP, met with CSGP peaks to discuss a proposal to “realign” CSGP. The peaks agreed that the proposal had merit and warranted further discussion and earlier this year Community Services issued a communiqué outlining the proposal. It should be noted that this is a proposal only and no decisions have yet been made.

The proposal is to separate CSGP funded services into two streams:

- Services with outcomes to do with “community strengthening”; and
- Services provided directly to children, young people and families.

Community Strengthening

It is proposed that “community strengthening” services, e.g. neighbourhood centres, would move to the Community Builders Program (formerly Area Assistance Scheme) managed by the Communities and Early Years Division of Community Services. Importantly, the Community Builders Program would include a state-wide, renewable component comprised of the relevant CSGP services with their existing funding transferred. No new funding is currently available to CSGP services but the Minister will continue to seek additional funding.

Children, Young People and Families

Services in the “children, young people and families” stream, e.g. family support services, are more closely linked to the child protection system. Additional funding might be available to them as part of the Keep Them Safe plan. The Government will be providing additional funding for:

- More Brighter Futures places
- Intensive family preservation services and additional funding for prevention
- Early intervention services to support clients referred by the new Family Referral Services

To be eligible for this funding, CSGP services would need to move to service models that align with Keep Them Safe outcomes and agree to enter into performance based contracting.

Benefits of the Proposal

NCOSS believes that there are significant potential benefits to this proposal. The diverse nature of CSGP services and organisations has made it difficult to develop a strong case for increased funding, with meaningful statistics and outcomes. Dividing the Program into two streams would clearly articulate to decision-makers the roles of different parts of the current Program.

The recognition of the importance of “community strengthening” is welcome, reversing the 2008 decision to move CSGP to the child protection budget. Many believed that this decision put those organisations not funded for direct service provision at risk despite their contribution to child protection through community strengthening.

For organisations providing direct services to children, young people and families, a close alignment with the Keep Them Safe plan

places them within an area whose importance is recognised by government, receives significant media and community attention and is comparatively well funded.

Risk of the Proposal

Clearly the major concern is that the proposal guarantees no additional funding. The change could simply lead to the need for two strong campaigns for additional funding as opposed to a single campaign. The current CSGP campaign, however, has made MPs well aware that they have neighbourhood centres, family support services, etc in their electorates and this can be used to build funding campaigns for both parts of CSGP

There is also a risk that those organisations involved with community strengthening will be placed into an area less well recognised, lacks media and other attention and could remain a lower funding priority compared to child protection.

Organisations aligning themselves with the Keep Them Safe plan, may be concerned that their core business will need to change to achieve evidence-based service models. It is not the stated intention of Community Services or the Minister to radically change the services already in existence. Rather, it is expected that most services will identify their services as aligning to particular service models or only alter them minimally to do so.

Continued p.18

Here we go again....

Consultation on the Regulations for the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 has now ended. This assessment is largely taken from the Council of Community Service of NSW (NCOSS) submission late in February 2010.

ISV reported on this Act in Issue 113 Autumn 2009, but it seems so important to many organisations that here we are giving an update.

You will remember that basically this act covers a lot of Associations (37,000 approx) mostly sporting associations. Within this number 6,400 of these are categorised by NCOSS as non-government human services associations.

The Act was passed in 2009, but left a lot of detail to the Regulations. These have to be published before the Act comes into effect in 2010. The consultation period for the regulations has now closed, but the final regulations have not yet been made public.

The rest of the article details NCOSS's doubts about the regulations:

Rules of existing Associations

If your Association was incorporated under the 1984 Act you can keep your present rules. The problem is that if you want to make the slightest change, then you will probably have to change your whole constitution to fit the new model rules.

Corporations Act of 2001

Why can't provisions of the Corporations Act just be stated, where necessary? Instead there is this wonderful statement 'Provide for the application of certain provisions of the Corporations Act 2001 of the Commonwealth to associations...' These should be stated – in plain English.

Jail terms

In the Act, but not in the regulations! Is this because the Crimes Act covers them? If so say it. Inner Sydney Voice discusses this below, because one of the major concerns we have heard is that members of Boards will be scared off.

Two issues that won't go away – Financial reporting and Board membership

Financial reporting

Regulation 7 (1) details gross receipts and assets that determine whether you are a Tier 1 or Tier 2 organisation. Tier 1 will be over \$200,000 in receipts and \$500,000 in assets. This is clarified by saying assets do not include 'real property' (whatever that means) or assets capable of depreciation (we suppose including office equipment, vehicles, mobile phones). Basically the regulations are much tougher on bigger organisations.

NCOSS has a number of problems with this:

- The definition of small (Tier 2) should be made consistent with the NSW Government funding agencies guidelines
- The gross receipts (that activates your association being in Tier 1 in the regulations) is the same figure as suggested in the "Review of the Associations Incorporation Act 1984, Consultation Paper, April 2003". Shouldn't the threshold be upped after 7 years, and what happens in the future as gross receipts increase?

from page 17

Some organisations may feel they do not fit with either of the proposed streams. It is unlikely that there will be many organisations funded under CSGP in this category. However, if your organisation is in this situation you should contact NCOSS or your relevant peak. It is more likely that organisations will fit into both streams and it is expected that it will be possible to apply for both funding streams.

Overall

It seems that the opportunities of the proposal outweigh the potential risks. The opportunity for renewed community development (community strengthening) and the opportunity to enhance the child protection end of CSGP through alignment to Keep Them Safe funding provides the best opportunity for increased

funding. To continue to campaign for increasing funding for CSGP without any changes to the Program has a very low chance of success.

Meanwhile NCOSS and the other CSGP peaks will continue to press for additional funding for all CSGP funded organisations.

With thanks to Dev Mukherjee and NCOSS

Board membership

The concern here is the same as when the new Act was in draft form, and has not been helped by the new regulations. Basically a number of Board members have said that they will have to reconsider their standing or election if the punishments and penalties are made harsher.

Model constitution

Don't you just hate them! They are all purpose. They seem to lose anything that might be individual and relevant to the non-government sector.

About half to NCOSS's submission is about the model constitution. So just don't ever change your constitution or you are up for headache and heart ache.

Membership for instance has to be 'natural persons', but many associations have other associations, NSW government and Federal agencies etc...as their members. Membership and paying their dues (unfinancial members) is another contentious issue. They cease to be members if they are three months in arrears, yet Rule 32 states that unfinancial members are eligible to vote at

general meetings on payment of outstanding monies. This seems to be contradictory.

Rule 11 – Disciplining of members. This rule appears to imply that a complaint can only proceed if the member 'persistently and willfully' refuses, neglects or acts. This does not take account of a single but serious breach. NCOSS is concerned that many organisations have vexatious complaints (as par for the course) in an organisation that has conflict within the Board. Maybe 'vexatious complaints' can be assessed and dealt with responsibly. The resolution of disputes within the membership (or Board) is of crucial importance. The draft regulations stipulate that disputes are to be referred to Community Justice Centres (CJC). Well, rural groups don't have access to them. Many organisations have developed their own conflict resolution mechanisms and would quite like to continue with a successful process they have used before.

Then we find that the Board can have a maximum of seven members. Added to this is the proposal that if a member of the Board is not present for three consecutive meetings (without

consent!) then they are removed from the Board, and presumably can't stand at the next election. In this era of video conferencing, emails, and web vision would it not be possible for Board members to be present – but not in person? When an organisation holds a General Meeting the quorum is 5. The regulation states: 'Five members present in person constitute a quorum.' NCOSS, quite rightly, has questioned all of these quirks in the proposed regulations.

All voting must be given 'personally'. A large number of organisations have found that proxy, or postal voting, has been useful in involving as many of the membership as possible. The suspicion is that the instructions for Local Councils about the attendance of councillors at meetings have just been dumped into the model constitution.

We await the final regulations with trepidation.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

A resident of Leichhardt posed this question–

I am redoing my kitchen. Demolishing the old kitchen, including the floor tiles, has meant there is waste neatly stacked outside my house in the lane. Leichhardt Council, on my request, sent a worker to check on the pile. He congratulated me on how neat it was. However he wouldn't take any of it, as there

was concrete rubble and tiles. He said I would be better off getting a commercial rubbish remover for about \$80. Council, I should say, would have charged \$55 if there was no building waste.

I do understand that they don't take building waste. But just up the road rubbish is left scattered around (not outside any house and often behind industrial buildings) and after about a month the council picks it all up as part of road cleaning.

So I, as a responsible local citizen,



can't pay to get my neat package of waste taken away, while up the road some inconsiderate resident dumps stuff and gets it taken away for free.

Is this fair?

ECHO has moved... and then moved

Discussions and dealing with unexpected details continue as ECHO begins life in the new premises

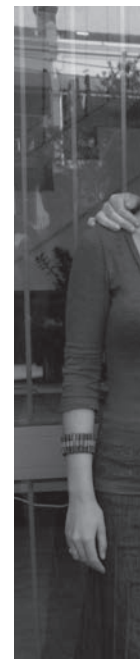
Inner Sydney Voice asked ECHO for an update on our move to new premises over the Christmas period and how we are with settling into our new accommodation at Shop 4, 1 Spring St, Bondi Junction.

Some may remember on 17 November 2009, Waverley Council ordered all Boot Factory tenants close their services to the public with two days notice and relocate to new premises in 14 days, in other words we had to vacate the Boot Factory by 2 December 2009.

The move was stressful to say the least. We were trying to run our services, handle enquiries and educate clients and the general community about where we were going and why we were moving. We spent the next two weeks packing, working around boxes and negotiating with Council for the best outcome possible. On 2 December we were ready to move into the new premises allocated to us but Council had not finalised getting them ready. So we had to have two moves.

We first occupied a small office in Council's library administration section for about two weeks. This housed five desks, some basic IT and filing requirements and no privacy. The library administration team helped us as much as possible and were very welcoming. .

On 11 December 2009 our new premises were ready. Council had assisted with removalists, covered the cost for basic cabling and office fit out and had commenced negotiations regarding various in-house groups and services which no longer had a place to operate since there was no longer sufficient space.



The next two weeks of December was about informing clients and the public where we had moved to, gearing up for our Christmas closure and unpacking. We still have a few boxes to unpack and we have given ourselves until Easter to do this.

A new layout brings its own issues

Our premises at the Boot Factory had small offices for each program which were soundproofed, open plan meeting and kitchen spaces, and a room for meetings and group activities. The new premises have two levels (a mezzanine and ground floor). It is all open plan but thankfully Council agreed to erect a small Manager's office which can be used for confidential meetings, although the Manager has to vacate the office for this to be possible.

Air flow is terrible – the Manager needs to wear a jumper in the middle of summer due to the extreme cold of the air conditioner whilst the Neighbour Aid team



has little to no air flow and as the air conditioner does not flow into their room they are often working in a hot and stuffy space. We are all waiting expectantly for winter when the Manager will be working in bathers due to the heat!!

We are unable to hold our art class, women's exercise class and onsite planning days for staff and the



Management Committee in our new premises. Our groups have been relocated to the Waverley/Woollahra Arts Centre until the end of our lease in November 2011 while planning days are now held in the Waverley library at the community room hire rate.

Many would remember the ECHO daily book stall in the courtyard of the Boot Factory. This was a great activity providing three key outcomes: fundraising dollars for ECHO to put into our services, a soft entry point to our services for potential clients nervous about asking for help – they would come and buy a book and we could talk with them about what we do often leading to them being involved with the centre. The third outcome was that our dedicated book stall volunteer found a sense of belonging, purpose and training through managing the Book Stall.

At this stage we have been unable to run the book stall in the new premises as Council is not keen on us using the courtyard. They have offered that we may have one stall, set up as per their directions and that they receive a percentage of the fundraising dollars. This is still being looked at and we are working out if we can put the book stall inside the office instead. And yes our book stall volunteer is still with us and his duties are being redesigned – but he still asks on a daily basis when his book stall will be back.

Our Lease: commercial or not?

ECHO's new premises are zoned commercial. It had been vacant for about two to three years before we moved in and Council has allowed us to carry over our lease from the Boot Factory to the new premises with a subsidised rent. Our lease expires in November 2011.

A growing concern is that during discussions with Council there have been references to ECHO now having to pay commercial rates for services which we were never required to do whilst at the Boot Factory. It is uncertain at this stage that if ECHO renegotiates with Waverley Council to continue to rent the new premises they may require a commercial rate. This matter has not been discussed to date and has only been raised in meetings as a concern.

So now moving on

ECHO has outstanding matters to be resolved with Waverley Council in terms of getting the building right to meet our needs. There is still the matter of Council naming all the Boot Factory tenants as being "obstructionist

and difficult". We disagree with this and it needs to be addressed. Negotiations about the lease need to be undertaken to determine if the building will be a commercial or a community property with subsidised rent. But for now we are carrying on with our business of helping the community of Waverley LGA and working through those outstanding matters as best we can.

Our 2010 Planning Day will be in May providing new opportunities for staff, volunteers and clients. Services and groups are running well. Reviews are still happening and bringing us into a period of improved governance and compliance.

I believe this move has potential – albeit at this stage only until November 2011 when our lease expires. I think our working relationships with Waverley Council can be fostered for the advantage of all parties and the community. I think the layout, although it is not ideal, can work and will be more effective once we have disposed of unwanted items and packed everything away.

So now it is time to move on for the sake of the Waverley community who rely on ECHO to help them in their daily lives, and for the sake of our funding bodies.

My thanks to all those organisations and peak bodies that expressed support to ECHO through this stressful and disruptive process. Your help was most appreciated.

*Zoë Jack, Manager
ECHO Neighbourhood Centre*

From the archives

When you look at the Inner Sydney Regional Council archives (and information boxes) there are many magazines from organisations that have long since disappeared. Here is the front page from OFF THE STREETS published in June 1980.

Community Youth Support Scheme (CYSS)

groups were set up across the nation. They were funded by a former version of the Federal Education, Employment, and Work Place Relations Department. They were local organisations to assist unemployed youth. Some ran largely as employment agencies, others as skill development organisations, and others as social and support centres. They morphed into SkillShare under the early Hawke Government with a far greater focus on vocational training. Some local CYSS projects joined the Job Network which has now become Job Services Australia. So there are elements of the CYSS network that still continue, and provide valuable services to unemployed youth.

This 1980 issue covered topics such as:

- Young people, either individually or as groups, were then not allowed to apply for NSW Housing Department accommodation.
- There were reports from the CYSSTERN (clever!) covering the projects in Lismore, Liverpool, Holbrook, Orange and Bathurst.
- The key theme of this issue in 1980 was how to survive on the dole.

