



Co-operative Newsletter

April 2008

Welcome to the Co-operative Newsletter for April 2008. It has been a very interesting few months at the Co-operative office with much happening concerning the Co-operative's future, organising workshops, answering enquiries from families and services, participating in a number of forums raising issues and needs of families and people who have a disability and raising awareness within the community by media releases and talking with community leaders and organisations.

The Co-operative Board is working hard to change the attitude of government departments to obtain on going funding for the Community Development Program. However, everyone who supports the concept of the program need to express their views to their local MP so we can get them to take positive action for the Co-operative.

The newsletter can now be found on our website www.fip.org.au under the News page. If you have access to the Internet and do not need to receive a paper copy of the Newsletter, please let me know and we can both help the environment

Happy Reading

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Co-operative News

What's happening with our funding?

Hopefully you are aware of the funding crisis that the Co-operative is facing concerning the lack of on-going funding for the Co-operative's Community Development Program. Funding through the Area Health Service has ceased and advice through the Parliamentary Secretary for Health is that "at this time there are no funds available to support further funding of Families in Partnership". A similar response was given by the Acting Regional Director of DADHC Metro South in that "while DADHC does not currently have funding available to meet your request, your proposal will be considered in future planning processes."

Without additional funding the Community Development Program will cease from the middle of August 2008. The Board of the Co-operative considers that this will effectively **stop the operation of services to families and local services** that it currently provides and a considerable rethink on where the future of the Co-operative can be.

Community support has been sought through the local Media and representations to all four local Members of Parliament by the Board, Co-operative members and our community supporters. On the 9th May Co-operative Board members will be meeting with representatives from DADHC to discuss our situation with them.

In addition we have written to the State Minister for Disabilities seeking her support and hopefully arrange a meeting to put our case before her in the near future.

Again we call upon everyone's support in advocating to their local Member of Parliament to request they turn their support of local families into hard dollars for the continuation of local services provided by the Co-operative.

Co-operative's Website

Just a reminder about the Co-operative's Website that has become a very useful tool in communicating with many families and local services. Having a presence on the web enables more people to find out about the Co-operative and use the information provided to support their families. Through the web we have had a number of families contact us on a range of issues including the Aspergers Support Group, Advocacy Training, support in dealing with issues at their local school, and where to get assistance with respite and local health services.

Thanks to our local webmaster, the site is regularly updated and includes links to other services and local community organisations. Subject to further funding, we hope to expand the site to allow more information to be displayed and access to the resources of the Co-operative.

Check it out on www.fip.org.au

Advocacy Workshops

The workshops held in conjunction with MDS Ltd and Equalis Training proved very successful with 25 carers and community members participating over the four weeks. People were able to better understand their role as an advocate and how best they could deal with a number of situations where advocacy improved the outcome for their family member.

Feedback from participants was very positive and I know they enjoyed themselves from the laughter and discussions I heard when I attended the final workshop session. People were keen to complete the assessment part of the workshops that enabled them to receive a Statement of Attainment that is recognised nationally. I have been advised that all participants have passed their assessment – well done!!

Ideas for future workshops have been put forward and we will be working with MDS to see how this can be achieved in the near future.

Case Management

Case management is a collaborative process of assessment, planning, facilitation and advocacy for options and services to meet an individual's health needs through communication and available resources to promote quality cost effective outcomes. (C.M.S.A. 2004)

The definition of case management notes the focus upon the meeting of a client's health needs. Within the Australian context, case management can be placed within a social model of health. This framework allows for the client and case manager to work on the various aspects of the client's life that influence the client's health.

A social model of health is described as: A conceptual framework within which improvement in health and well-being are achieved by directing efforts towards addressing the social and environmental determinants of health, in tandem with biological and medical factors. (Department of Human Services (Vic.), 2002, p. 42)

First and foremost **Case Management** is a service delivery approach now widely adopted across diverse settings in the human services and health sectors.

The best practices in **Case Management** require organisational arrangements to support service delivery, staff who have been trained for the approach and its application to the particular practice setting and strategies to ensure that the organization can be responsive to evidence from practice and advocate for systemic and policy change to support service delivery.

The principles that underpin **Case Management** are individualised service delivery based on comprehensive assessment that is used to develop a case or service plan. The plan is developed in collaboration with the client and reflects their choices and preferences for the service arrangements being developed. The goal is to empower the client and ensure that they are involved in all aspects of the planning and service arrangement in a dynamic way.

The **Case Manager** coordinates the process, consulting informal carers and key service providers to ensure that the plan is developed appropriately, clearly contracted and monitored for effective and financially accountable service provision based on specified and desired outcomes. The case manager and the

organization are expected to maintain quality in service provision for individual clients and the wider target population.

In clinical settings the case manager may also provide specialist services to address particular needs of the client.

Case Managers provide the coordinating and specialist activities that flow from the particular setting, program and client population. However it is usual to identify the following process as core to **Case Management**: screening, assessment/risk management, care planning, implementing service arrangement, monitoring/evaluation and advocacy.

Source www.cmsa.org.au The Case Management Society of Australia

Case Management Services in Macarthur

Macarthur Community Options	4620 1409
The Junction Works	9606 9628
DADHC – Community Support Team	4645 6000
Northcott (Society)	9600 3924

Sibling Support Service

The Junction Works is an organisation that provides a range of community services and disability services across the Liverpool and Macarthur regions. It has recently been successful with a tender from DADHC to provide a Sibling Support Service for children and young people aged 8 to 17 years who have a brother or sister with a disability.

The aim of the project is to help siblings identify and use positive strategies for living with brothers/sisters who have a disability. It aims to deliver activities that focus on supporting siblings though:

- Support and Mentoring groups
- Drop in Centre activities – initially at Tallowood Community Centre in Rosemeadow
- Individual counselling
- Family Fun day
- Sibling retreats
- A Broth's and Sista's chat line

My understanding is the program has been funded for three years with an evaluation for possible ongoing funding and expansion into other regions of NSW. Contact for program is Marianna Zardo at TJW on 4624 8333 or 0409 049 353

Siblings Websites

www.sibs.org.au A website that has useful sibling's factsheets and links to other siblings websites.

www.siblink.org.au A website for primary school aged siblings. This website has games, information and gives a chance to share your thoughts and find out how other siblings feel.

www.yourshout.org.au A website for teenage siblings. You can share your thoughts, chat with other siblings, read stories and find out about services that can help you.

www.siblingsaustralia.org.au This organisation supports siblings from around Australia. They have lots of useful information on their website.

Also check out sites dealing with **Young Carers**.

And contact Gay Hardwick at Wollondilly Shire Council 4677 1100 about their recently launched “Young Carers Kits”

Federal Funding for OOSH Services to support Teenagers

The Department of Families Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs – what a mouthful – has announced that they will be calling for Expression of Interest from services to provide Out of School Hours services to high school aged children 12 to 18 years who have a disability.

They said this Extra Support for Children with Disability Program was an element of the Disability Assistance package announced in June 2007 and will seek to address an identified gap in services to provide outside school hours care for teenagers with a disability.

The Expression of Interest process is expected to open on 1st May and close on the 31st May with information available on their website concerning guidelines and application forms etc www.fahcsia.gov.au from the 1st May

Comment

The need for OOSH services for teenagers has been identified in many planning documents and workshops held with families over the years. Myrtle Cottage, based at Ingleburn has strongly advocated for this need and will be placing an Expression of Interest to the Department.

The Co-operative has been working with Myrtle Cottage on this issue and encourages all other Macarthur services to support their application and consider forming partnerships with Myrtle Cottage. Their contact number is **9605 4666**

OOSH services can include Before School Care, After School Care and Vacation Care. Discussions with the Department of Education by Myrtle Cottage indicates that students currently receiving transport to their school can use this to allow them to go between school and the proposed OOSH service at Myrtle Cottage

Iemma Government gives children with autism a \$6 million boost

Press Release: 28 March 2008

Premier Morris Iemma today announced the State’s biggest expansion of early intervention services for children with autism, including an autism-specific child-care centre in Western Sydney. The \$6 million package would give children with autism and their families the best possible start in life.

"The number of children diagnosed with autism in NSW is on the rise and that’s why we are delivering these intensive early intervention services to help these kids get the best start in life," Mr Iemma said. "Research tells us that no single approach works for all children with autism and that’s why we’re delivering a range of services to pre-school aged children and their families.

"We know that the earlier we intervene in a child’s life, the bigger the difference we can make to help them reach their full potential. "About 300 children a year under six are diagnosed with autism. Many already receive support, but without access to new and expanded services many kids could suffer significant long-term social problems."

Mr Iemma said the new services would provide direct support to at least 660 children aged between two and six years during the next four years. The services include:

- •\$1.24 million for a child-care centre in Western Sydney to help children with autism attend mainstream schools without the use of an aid;

- • \$2 million for the rollout of 20-week targeted programs for preschool aged children;
- • \$2 million to provide centre-based and home-based services by special education teachers and therapists;
- • \$500,000 for the University of Newcastle to provide training to front line staff who work in early childhood intervention services; and
- • \$200,000 for the rollout of a DVD and manual to help families of a young child immediately following their diagnosis of autism.

"The \$1.2 million AEIOU child-care centre in Western Sydney is based on centres operating in Queensland, which have proven results helping children with autism attend mainstream schools," Mr Lemma said. "More than 70 per cent of children in the AEIOU program in Queensland have successfully moved into mainstream schools, the majority requiring little or no support.

"The AEIOU service will also provide much needed support for families, with the program providing respite allowing a child's parents, carers or guardians to take a break from the day-to-day challenges of raising a child with autism."

Comment

The Co-operative receives an increasing number of calls concerning assistance for families and local services. A number of new initiatives and resources are happening for children on the Autism Spectrum and their families across the State and the Co-operative is advocating for Macarthur to receive its share.

More information will be posted on our website and future newsletters as details come to hand. Or contact the Coordinator for more details.

Companion Card coming for carers

Story from the Sunday Herald 20th April

THEY were young and in love and just weeks from their wedding when disaster struck. An eight-centimetre brain tumour put successful real estate agent and property developer Warren Hayes into hospital for 446 days and threatened to take his life.

Doctors urged his family to switch off his life support. When his condition improved slightly, they said he should spend his life in a nursing home. But his devoted fiancée, Tania, then just 22, would have none of it. She was determined to ensure the man she loved made the most of his life - even if that life was far removed from the one they had imagined together. They married and had a son - Josh, now three.

Mr Hayes, now 40, is in a wheelchair and has limited speech. His wife is his full-time carer and is this year's Sir Roden Cutler Charities Carer of the Year. As well as being dedicated to her husband, she is committed to raising the profile of carers.

She will join Disability Services Minister Kristina Keneally today to launch the State Government's new Companion Card, giving 25,000 carers of severely and profoundly disabled people free public transport and access to attractions and events for the price of a single ticket.

"The card recognises that a carer is indispensable to a person with a profound or severe disability and gives them equal access to services and facilities like everyone else," she said. "The NSW Government will provide the card to people who always or usually require the assistance of a carer in their daily lives, with eligibility based on the needs of a person with a disability.

"The card will be free, it won't be means tested and we estimate it will make it easier for about 25,000 people in NSW to better access the community, everyday services and events. In addition to public buses and trains, we believe there will be strong support for the card from the private sector, particularly entertainment and sporting businesses."

The Government will urge companies to allow two-for-one tickets to films, concerts and sporting events as part of the \$2 million campaign. In the meantime, the card will allow single-ticket access to attractions such as Taronga Zoo.

Premier Morris Iemma said carers were the community's unsung heroes. "Carers are the backbone of a caring community - and it's only fitting for the Government to help in this way," he said.

Source lcarty@fairfaxmedia.com.au

Comment

Enquires through DADHC indicate that the concept of the Card is in the early stages of planning and further announcements will be made over coming months