

 Human Services Community Services	<h1>KEEP THEM SAFE</h1> <h2>Child Protection Advisory Group</h2> <h3>Minutes</h3>	
		Meeting Date:
		30 June 2010
Meeting Location:	Meeting Time:	
Meetings Room G1 & G2 , Community Services Head Office, Ashfield	11:00 am – 1:00 pm	
Attending Members:		
<p>NSW Minister for Community Services Linda Burney (Chair), Gillian Calvert (Deputy Chair), Danielle Domanski (CREATE), Emeritus Professor Jacqueline Goodnow (Macquarie University), Andrew McCallum (ACWA), Rita Fenech on behalf of Sue O'Connor (FPSN), Adrienne Vella on behalf of Kate Lee (ASU), Alison Peters (NCOSS), Bill Pritchard (AbSec), Rey Reodica (YAPA), Steve Turner (PSA), Sue Richards (Family Services), Brian Smith (LCSA), Jennifer Mason (Human Services), Annette Gallard (Community Services), Elizabeth Callister (DET), Cathrine Lynch (NSW Health).</p>		
Also in attendance:		
<p>Anne Campbell (Community Services), Linda Mallett (Community Services), Anne-Maree Sabellico (Community Services), Leigh McLaughlin (Office of the Minister for Community Services), Geoff Taylor (Office of the Minister for Community Services), Nazli Munir (Department of Premier and Cabinet), Deb Gavan (Department of Premier and Cabinet), Toni Allan and Kathy Karatasas (Secretariat).</p>		
Apologies:		
<p>Dr Judith Cashmore (University of Sydney), Vicki D'Adam (Department of Premier and Cabinet), Carolyn Hodge (COTA).</p>		
Minutes:		
Agenda #	Item discussed	Action by
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>The Minister welcomed presenters at the meeting, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samantha Taylor (Human Services), to present on the NGO Capacity/Workforce Development paper (Item 3). • Nazli Munir (Department of Premier and Cabinet) to present on the Training and Change Management Phase 3 (Item 4) and address issues raised through Cross-Agency Implementation Update (Item 5), and • Linda Mallett (Community Services) to present on the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children (Item 6) and Vulnerable 9-15s project (Item 7) <p>The Minister noted apologies and congratulated Judi Cashmore in her absence on recognition in the Queen's Birthday awards for her work in child protection.</p> <p>The Minister also advised that former member Carolyn Hodge had left COTA to take up a position with the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, and a replacement from COTA was expected to join the Group at the next meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes and actions from previous meeting</p> <p>Minutes from the previous meetings were circulated and endorsed out of</p>	

	<p>session. Actions arising from the April meeting have been completed, with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPAG information updated on Community Services' website • A progress report on Community Services culture change scheduled for the August meeting • Members views on governance and area leadership for NGO Capacity Building and Workforce Development provided directly to the Department of Human Services • Community Services and NCOSS have met to discuss the development of broad contracting and procurement principles. • A draft client communications strategy prepared by Sue Richards (FamS) has been provided to, and will continue to be developed by, the Department of Premier and Cabinet. 	
<p>3.</p>	<p>NGO Capacity Building and Workforce Development Implementation Plan</p> <p>Sam Taylor updated members on the outcome of last month's discussions, which provided input into the draft NGO Capacity Building and Workforce Development Implementation Plan developed by KPMG. Subsequent discussions with KTS peak organisations had identified ways to progress this plan and coordinate a range of various NGO capacity-building strategies already underway, including discussion within the Forum of Non-Government Agencies (FONGA). Brian Smith (LCSA) had also submitted a range of ideas on the local application of plan elements</p> <p>The public sector's Justice and Human Services CEO's forum (JHSCEOs) will examine the plan in coming weeks, and the immediate challenge is determine how the public sector can best change itself in the way it works with NGOs. Ms Taylor indicated that the project had been funded for design but not implementation, and obtaining funding was another challenge currently being investigated by Treasury and the Department of Premier and Cabinet.</p> <p>Andrew McCallum (ACWA) indicated there were a number of initiatives underway, and many seemed to operate in parallel. Jenny Mason (Human Services) illustrated this with reference to the Social and Community Services Award, due to be renegotiated in the immediate future.</p> <p>Jacqueline Goodnow (Macquarie University) said she would like to see the plan build the capacity of NGOs to conduct their own evaluations of programs, and it was agreed that she would hold discussions with Brian Smith, given the LCSA's strong experience in this area.</p> <p>Brian Smith said he had compared the KPMG plan to the Results-Based Community Planning undertaken by LCSA and it had met many of the same requirements. The plan was really a way of giving communities a say in what was going on, and better integrating existing services.</p> <p>Ms Calvert proposed that Michael White from the Australian Centre for Child Protection be invited to address the CPAG on building workforce capability.</p>	<p>Jacqueline Goodnow to discuss NGO program evaluation capacity with Sue Richards (FaMS) and Brian Smith, (LCSA).</p> <p>Michael White be invited to address CPAG on building workforce capability</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Training and Change Management Phase Three</p> <p>Nazli Munir (DPC) provided a brief background of the KTS Training and Change Management Program, consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase One - the Regional Engagement Tour auspiced by the ACWA and the non-government sector, along with the TAFE-led statewide information sessions for 23,000 mandatory reporters. • Phase Two – greater focus on the non-government sector with specialised information sessions for around 10,000 mandatory reporters, including early childhood workers, focusing on the Mandatory Reporter Guide and information exchange under Chapter 16A. 	

	<p>However these two phases were still the tip of the iceberg and more activity was required. As a result the Department of Premier and Cabinet was currently looking at Phase Three, which would focus on change management. The majority of this would need to be locally based to ensure the coordination of various workers in the sector, such as school principals and NGO workers. DPC was currently working to develop a plan in this area. Nazli confirmed the plan would be presented to CPAG for further discussion.</p> <p>Sue Richards (FAMS) supported the need for this Phase Three focus, indicating that anecdotal evidence from the regions suggested staff had the relevant information required but were seeking more assistance on how they could best work together across agency boundaries.</p> <p>Alison Peters (NCOSS) said it was critical to ensure the sector was clear on what was <i>changing</i>. Supporting this argument, Deputy Chair Gillian Calvert encouraged clarity and specificity via a common language and close relationships.</p> <p>Alison also raised the issue of access, citing the difficulties for teachers and early childhood workers who are unable to attend information sessions or briefings during business hours when they are responsible for children. Members supported these concerns and it was agreed that any such sessions would need to be available in the evenings or on weekends to accommodate these responsibilities.</p>	<p>DPC to present Phase Three Plan to future CPAG meeting for discussion.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Cross Agency Implementation Update</p> <p>The Cross-Agency Implementation Update is dealt with on a by-exception basis, with the report circulated in advance of meetings and only relevant issues or concerns raised.</p> <p>No issues were raised at this meeting.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children</p> <p>Linda Mallett (Community Services) advised that the three-year National Framework released in 2009 incorporated many of the directions contained within Keep Them Safe.</p> <p>Gillian Calvert (Deputy Chair) pointed out that a common assessment framework had been discussed at the last meeting of the National Framework’s task force, which asked jurisdictions to identify trial sites where a common assessment framework might be utilised. Concerns have been expressed about funding for implementation, with Linda Mallett indicating that NSW may seek some federal funding for training and implementation. Ms Calvert said a prototype Common Assessment Referral Framework would require the development of training materials and websites, and it could be expected that a funding request to this end would be made to Commonwealth Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services, Jenny Macklin.</p> <p>Linda Mallett said the Commonwealth was aiming for clearance of the National Standards for OOHC standard by December 2010, and a draft paper would be issued shortly by the Commonwealth for comment. She said NSW had some concerns about the standard of consultation with children and young people, or with ATSI communities.</p> <p>Ms Mallett said there was a similar debate around quality of standards, with concerns as to how they would dovetail with NSW’s existing standards. The key concern was the best way to ensure they did not result in any diminution of NSW’s standards. Ms Mallett advised that these issues were still open to debate, and she was confident that NSW would end up doing well.</p> <p>Andrew McCallum (ACWA) said ACWA wanted accreditation to be a minimum standard across the nation, and identified the lack of accreditation by some NSW organisations – including Community Services - as a significant problem. He said that a failure to act would create a new group of “forgotten Australians”, but the Commonwealth had some power in the areas of</p>	<p>A joint communiqué issued by the Taskforce is to be included in the CPAG Minutes</p>

	<p>education, priority housing and income support.</p> <p>Alison Peters (NCOSS) said income support was a difficult issue, which appeared to be somewhat contradictory to <i>Keep Them Safe</i> objectives around building resiliency for individuals to manage their own lives. Ms Mallett said it would be worth examining the evaluations from the Northern Territory program.</p> <p>Leigh McLaughlin (Minister's Office) said it appeared that at some point the Commonwealth may impose income management on NSW, and it would be worth developing a position on how it should be implemented in NSW if so imposed.</p> <p>Deputy Chair Gillian Calvert requested a briefing paper on income management be prepared and presented to members for discussion at the next meeting (11 August).</p>	<p>Briefing paper on income management to be prepared and issue added to August Meeting Agenda</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Vulnerable 9-15s Project</p> <p>Linda Mallett (Community Services) advised members that the extension of Brighter Futures to include 9-14-year-olds had been renamed the Vulnerable 9-15s project at the recommendation of the Working Group. The changed name prevented the creation of a gap for young people over 14 but not yet of age to enter youth refuges, who require young people to be 16 and older. She presented a detailed update on the project, outlined in Agenda Paper Tab 7.</p> <p>She said it was hoped that project funding models would be completed shortly, along with discussion of potential site selection, which was expected to be finalised by the keep Them Safe Senior Officers Group.</p> <p>Danielle Domanski (CREATE) raised the sector's concerns at the lack of funding for the project. Ms Mallett advised that there was a certain tension between finalising the models while developing a strong business case for the NSW Treasury, which would be required within a very short time frame.</p> <p>Jacqueline Goodnow asked the scope for involving young people in the process, and was advised by Rey Reodica (YAPA) that funding for consultation with young people was received last year but was dependent on models to present to them.</p> <p>Ms Calvert asked Linda Mallett to report back to the next CPAG meeting on how it was proposed to involve children and young people in the development process.</p>	<p>Linda Mallett to report back to August CPAG meeting on plans to involve children and young people in the project.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>NSW State Budget and <i>Keep Them Safe</i></p> <p>The Minister outlined the \$1.67 billion Community Services budget for 2010/11, a seven per cent increase of \$107 million on last year.</p> <p>This included \$105.2 million in 2010-11 as part of the \$750 million, five-year whole-of-government <i>Keep Them Safe</i> budget.</p> <p>Highlights of the Budget included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$51.9 million increase in out-of-home care funding to help improve life outcomes for children in care and assist the transfer of OOHC services to the NGO sector. This funding includes \$6.2 million to reduce the number of children going into care for extended periods through extra family supervision services combined with shorter term court orders where appropriate and \$4.5 million for family restoration and support services so children who have been removed have the best chance to rejoin their family. • A total of \$47 million for community development and support services that build communities – this includes an additional \$10 million to enhance social inclusion services that strengthen communities experiencing disadvantage. • \$127.1 million to provide accommodation and support services to 	

	<p>people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless under the National Affordable Housing Agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Commonwealth funding of \$27.8 million for programs under National Partnership Agreements - this will include an additional \$5.3 million to improve the rate of preschool attendance, \$19.6 million to build and operate the Aboriginal child and family centres. • \$60.2 million to deliver Brighter Futures services to more than 4,550 families to provide ongoing tailored support to vulnerable families. • \$1.9 million to support Forgotten Australians – to provide enhanced counselling and support services and to help care leavers to access Community Services records about their time in care. • \$1.4 million for disaster welfare assistance to families and communities that experience natural and other disasters. <p>Annette Gallard (Community Services) advised that Expressions of Interest had closed for the Aboriginal Child and Family Centres in Ballina, Campbelltown and Blacktown and work was currently underway with local implementation committees in other locations such as Gunnedah and Walgett. The Minister praised the concept for going beyond a child care centre to a genuine family centre in which parents could find support.</p> <p>The Minister reminded members that there was a more detailed Budget briefing, particularly in relation to <i>Keep Them Safe</i>, scheduled for 29 July.</p> <p>Alison Peters (NCOSS) advised members that the NCOSS analysis of the State Budget could be found on the NCOSS website (www.ncoss.org.au).</p> <p>At the request of the Deputy Chair, Cathrine Lynch (NSW Health) advised that health funding around <i>Keep Them Safe</i> had been detailed in the handouts provided at the stakeholder’s briefing, while Elizabeth Callister (Department of Education and Training) advised there was no additional KTS funding for Education in the Budget. However she said her Department was continuing work on OOHC pathways.</p> <p>Brian Smith (LCSA) welcomed the movement of community strengthening funding into the Community Development area was a significant achievement. He praised the Minister for achieving this transfer and asked that it be formally noted that the enhancement of this component of CSGP-funded programs is something no other Minister has even dared to attempt.</p> <p>The Minister responded that it had been a joy to see the way in which the sector had conducted itself and lobbied to achieve the goal. She also commended the Caucus for its support.</p>	
9.	<p>Other Business</p> <p>Cross Sector Forum Update</p> <p>Danielle Domanski (CREATE) reported back to members on the outcome of the Cross Sector Forum held on Friday 25 June. Some 60 participants had attended, including representatives from DPC, Community Services, NSW Health, Police and the Child Wellbeing Units. Good direct feedback had been provided on panels at the Forum, and the most robust discussion had occurred around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSGP reform • Capacity issues for NGOs, particularly in regard to caseloads, waiting lists and changes across the sector • Brighter Futures 9-14s (now Vulnerable 9-15s Project) • The future of OOHC and the transfer of case management • The secondment of child protection caseworkers to Family Referral 	

	<p>Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the results of the Boston Consulting Group review's of OOHC sits alongside Keep Them Safe • The fact that there was not bipartisan support for Keep Them Safe, and questions over what would happen to the program should there be a change of government at the next state election (March 2011). <p>Annette Gallard (Community Services) advised that the issue of seconding caseworkers to Family Referral Services was still open. Community Services was supportive of the idea but needed more clarity on the nature of the work these officers would undertake.</p> <p>She said a separate working group set up to discuss OOHC Contracting reform had conducted one meeting already and were holding another shortly.</p> <p>Deputy Chair Gillian Calvert asked whether consideration had been given to how responses could be provided back to the initiating attendees at the Cross Sector Forum. Ms Domanski advised that member and agency contact lists were provided to members and contact could be made quickly. Ms Calvert requested that Community Services prepare and provide some responses to those making inquiries at the Forum, and "close the loops".</p> <p>ACWA Conference</p> <p>Andrew McCallum sought to promote the upcoming ACWA Conference "Building a Child Friendly Australia: responding to Vulnerable Families". He expressed disappointment at Community Services failure to sponsor the conference, which will be held at Darling Harbour. Mr MacCallum indicated that 655 registrations had been received and ACWA's goal was for 800 attendees. He said there were six good international keynote speakers and a myriad of national keynotes.</p> <p>New Publication</p> <p>Deputy Chair Gillian Calvert reminded members that the Centre for Child Protection had just released a new book <i>Working With Vulnerable Families: A Partnership Approach</i>, edited by Fiona Arney & Dorothy Scott and published by Cambridge University Press. She encouraged all members to purchase the book for their libraries.</p>	<p>Community Services to provide responses to issues raised at the forum to attendees.</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>10.00am – 12.00pm Wednesday 11 August 2010</p> <p>Community Services Meeting Rooms G1 & G2</p> <p>4-6 Cavill Ave Ashfield</p>	