



Combined Youth Interagency Minutes:

This meeting was held on: 7th May 2015

This meeting was chaired by: Bradley Dunn – YDO Lake Macquarie & Astrid Gearin – YDO Newcastle

The following people attended this meeting: See attachment

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land that we meet upon and pay our respect to Aboriginal Elders both past and present.

Agenda Item	Meeting Record
Key Speakers	<p>Judy Wiersma Lake Macquarie Gambling Help (Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre) Judy gave us an informative presentation about the rising rate of gambling addiction in young people and its effects.</p> <p>Gambling is a popular pastime in Australia and Australian youth are no exception with a participation rate of 70-80%. However one in every twenty young Australians will experience problems with gambling before they are 25, and a further one in six are at risk of developing gambling problems. Young people are at least five times more likely to develop gambling problems compared to the general adult population, and almost ten times more likely to be at risk. These are sobering statistics.</p> <p>Young men are much more likely to have gambling problems than young women. Amongst the young male population, international students are particularly vulnerable due to social isolation and cultural factors. One in ten male international students gambles at problematic levels.</p>

Over recent years we have seen a major shift in how people gamble. Sports and online gambling are becoming more popular, at the expense of traditional mediums such as poker machines. The boom in online gambling makes gambling much more accessible and available. The new mediums naturally draw in young people due to their strong connections with sporting culture and the internet. Taken from [Counsellor Sam's Blog](#)

- People who experience problems with gambling don't often seek help, and young people are even more reluctant than the average adult.
- A conversation now can prevent a lot of problems down the track.
- Request for services to consider asking a question about gambling in you **intake forms** not debt and other just financial stuff, and look for opportunities to engage, ask the question and start a conversation
- You may like to check out [Insight episode 2014– Youth Gambling](#)
- Gambling Help provide free and confidential support and treatment. You can call **Gambling Help** around the clock on **1800 858 858** or visit www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au for more information.

Allira Blane

Ability Links

Ability Links aims to assist people with disability to be valued and equal members of their communities and to help build a society where people with disability enjoy inclusive lives in all spheres. Ability Links works within local communities to assist people with disability, their families and carers to be valued and active members of their community. Ability Links coordinators, known as 'linkers', work with people with disability, their families and carers to plan for their future, and help people become more confident, supporting them to achieve their goals and access support and services in their community. Linkers also work alongside communities and mainstream services, supporting them to become more welcoming and inclusive.

Those who can access the support of Ability links include:

- People with disability aged from 9 to 64 years and who are generally not accessing specialist disability services.
- Carers and families of people with disability.
- A diverse range of people including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and culturally and linguistically diverse people and communities.



Phone: (02) 4905 0700 (Hunter area) or (02) 43260400 (Central Coast area)
Email: ability.links@vinnies.org.au
Post: PO Box 64, Islington, NSW 2296

Bradley Dunn
CALM - Youth Development Officer (Lake Mac)

NDIA Update

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/find-registered-service-providers> you can filter support options in this link. Once you find an appropriate service, I would call them and see if there agency provides opportunities to assist people in completing paperwork for NDIA applications, I know Samaritans including the SEICT team offer support to families and I would assume other service providers off this services

<http://www.samaritans.org.au/service/early-intervention/>

More info on the NDIA is attached inc Workshop and information session dates

Bright Minds Project

The Bright Minds Project is a youth mental health promotional strategy designed to inform and educate young people, parents and educators across Lake Macquarie and its surrounding areas. The project engages and empowers local young people to design promotional strategies aimed at reducing the stigma of mental illness and providing information that helps support youth mental health.

This strategy involves engaging a range of different means to circulate information. This includes working closely with schools through visual art projects, student directed in-school promotions, teacher resources and informative presentations to both students and teachers.

The project is facilitated by the Lake Mac YDO. If you know of any young people who have a passion for mental health and have an interest in art, music, dance, drama, video production, event management or just want to lend a hand to create new strategies to support young people please contact the YDO on 0417220520. You can follow the Bright Minds Project on facebook.



	<p><u>RYDON Conference</u> Don't forget to register to attend this years RYDON Youth Conference – Stuff That Works. This years theme is about real programs from our local area that work. You will gain hints, tips and advice on how to engage with young people an d create programming that really works. We have some great presenters this year so make sure you don't miss out! Go to www.rydon.org.au/conference to register The conference program for 2015 is attached</p>
Issues Arising	None
	12:15pm Meeting Closed.
	Please contact me by 1/06/2015 if you wish to amend the record of these minutes