



## -Minutes-

*Newcastle Youth Interagency 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013;*  
**SAMARITIANS-32 Bruncker Rd, Broadmeadow**

**Attendees:** Therese Janissen, Juliette Cooper **NYASL**, Laura Rogers, Jacob Bleckinsop, Paige Wilson **Ability links**, Peter Digiralamo, Charli Wells Alison Fitzgibbon **Wesley Mission**, **Tess Rendoth The Loft**. Lisa Smith **Allambi**, Lisa Ronneberg **ACON**, Megan Budge, Jennifer King **Canteen**, Matt Garrett, Jackie Pace **Relationships Aust**, Byron Williams **Headspace**, Andrea Odelii **Student**, Kylie Magin **WEA Recharge**, Michael Laurie, Jo Mills, Tim Waters **Youth On Track**, Deborah Greentree, Vicki Merritt, Jenny Carr **Birra-Li**, Melanie Clark **VOCAL**, Phil Evans **Advanced Drug Solutions**

**Apologies:** Megan Lowndes **Red Cross**, Claire Swan **FPA**, Kurt Greenwood **YLO Police**. Deborah Greentree **Careerlinks**

### **Relationships Australia Service Overview Matt Garrett and Jackie Pace**

See attachments and website for further details

<http://nsw.relationships.com.au/en.aspx>

### **Ability Links Service Overview – Laura Rogers**

Ability Links is a community based initiative operating as a special works of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Our aim is to create social integration and engagement for people with disabilities, their families and carers in the local community.

We aim to provide people with assistance and information to help build and foster relationships to link people with their community. Part of our role will also be to educate the wider community about disability and how the community can benefit from engaging with people experiencing disability.

People can self-refer or be referred to by someone they know whether that be a family member, friend, workmate or staff member. By calling the number attached on the flyer.

See Attachments:

Also included a copy of the BBQ launch invite for the Newcastle office Please let us know if you can attend by contacting the Newcastle Team leader Thea Kane – 0429 647 970 or [thea.kane@vinnies.oeg.au](mailto:thea.kane@vinnies.oeg.au)

## ACON Service overview & SAFE Place Project-Lisa Ronneberg

### :: ACON Hunter

ACON Hunter flier is attached.

We are very happy to show you around our office so that you are familiar with our space and staff. If you are passing by please drop in.

Sexual Health Clinic fliers are attached.

Information about ACON can also be found on our fantastic website:

[www.acon.org.au](http://www.acon.org.au)

### :: Safe Place



The Safe Place Program was launched in 1991 as a Gay and Lesbian community response to street-based homophobic violence, it was part of the then Whistle Project.

Safe Places provided refuge for victims of street-based homophobic violence during a time where mobile phones weren't around and physical violence was a daily occurrence for gays and lesbians in NSW.

Since 1991, street-based violence motivated by prejudice has significantly reduced. The most common reports to ACON's Anti-Violence Project (AVP) now relate to harassment from neighbours, domestic violence and street-based verbal harassment, therefore, whilst the original objective of Safe Place is out-dated it does provide an opportunity for the AVP to positively engage with LGBTI communities at a local level.

Though reports have greatly reduced, physical assault against our communities is certainly still a reality across NSW. Safe Places create a sense of safety, connection and inclusivity to LGBTI communities.

It is more likely that LGBTI people will feel more comfortable and safe in an area that publically demonstrates support.

Safe Places include services, shops, cafés, and other businesses which are welcoming, supportive and actively engaged with the LGBTI community.

It's a big rainbow these days and this program is all about inclusivity and celebration.

#### Safe Place members:

- Welcome sexuality, gender diverse, and intersex people
- Publically demonstrate support for LGBTI communities
- Actively promote a prejudice and discrimination free space

#### Safe Place Charter

- All Safe Places receive a charter that must be publically displayed. This charter is a set of principles that underpin the entire program and form the basis of the application process each Safe Place candidate completes.

- The Safe Place Charter can be found **here - LGBTI Safe Place Charter (PDF 397KB)**
- To become a Safe Place, an application is completed. The application is simple but we created it to make sure that Safe Places are committed to being welcoming and safe to all in the LGBTI communities.
- **The AVP supports those organisations needing help to improve.**
- A Safe Place sticker, Safe Place Charter, and relevant ACON information is displayed to identify the Safe Place as being part of and engaged with LGBTI communities. Safe Places have the option to be part of an online map as well.
- Each Safe Place is audited annually.

### Want to be an LGBTI Safe Place?

- If your business or service is interested in participating in the Safe Place Program, you can complete the **Safe Place Application Checklist**
- Once you have applied to become a Safe Place, ACON's Anti-Violence Project will review your application and make contact.

<http://www.acon.org.au/safeplace>

### :: Ending HIV



**Everything has changed. We can end HIV.**

Ending HIV is ACON's current campaign. The Ending HIV website is a very informative and interactive tool that workers can use to increase their knowledge around HIV, and also use when working with their clients ensuring they have the correct information about HIV, HIV Prevention, and risk reduction.

In the "Tool Box" there are access points to a map of NSW to find out where to get HIV tests, Sexual Health Clinics, where to access condoms. There is also a great tool for people to submit their contact details and they will be reminded of getting a Sexual Health check.

There are a couple of short videos on the website, one explains the campaign and the current state of HIV in NSW, the other is targeting gay men about testing.

<http://endinghiv.org.au/>

## **Wear it Purple Day- Thankyou all for being so involved**

See photo attached



Wear it Purple Day is about showing rainbow young people that they are supported, celebrated and respected exactly as they are. It's about raising awareness in your school, workplace, uni, or general community that rainbow young people face challenges that they shouldn't, and it won't be tolerated.

Through the public outpouring of support, we want rainbow young people everywhere to know that their support-base is far greater than they could have anticipated. As more purple is seen yearly at school, in workplaces, on the streets and online, we are saying to rainbow young people everywhere: you are not alone.

## **Sector updates.**

### **The Loft:**

**As we all know-The Loft is closing; There will be a 'Bon Voyage' event, tentatively booked for Friday November 1<sup>st</sup>, confirmation & further details to come.**

### **Family Planning NSW**

**Youth Drop In** – every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon for 12pm to 5.30pm. Workers welcome to attend with clients. 384 Hunter Street Newcastle (just up from Civic station). Please call FPNSW for any concerns regarding clients reproductive and sexual health needs. We will always endeavour to accommodate the needs of your clients.

**Condom credit card** – free and confidential for young people. Entitles holders to a pack which contains 6 condoms, 2 pkts lube and safer sex information. Can return as many times as required. Free STI check offered when card is full. FPNSW Hunter centre looking for partners to supply CCC to their clients. Contact Susan Guest on 4929 4485

### **CDAT Conference**- please see attached

**Requested by Karin Anseline** *Course Coordinator Mental Health & Alcohol & Other Drugs TAFE*