Taree - Forster CLSD Program meeting

28th February 2024 – First Steps Count Child and Community Centre, 4 Myall Ave, Taree

MINUTES

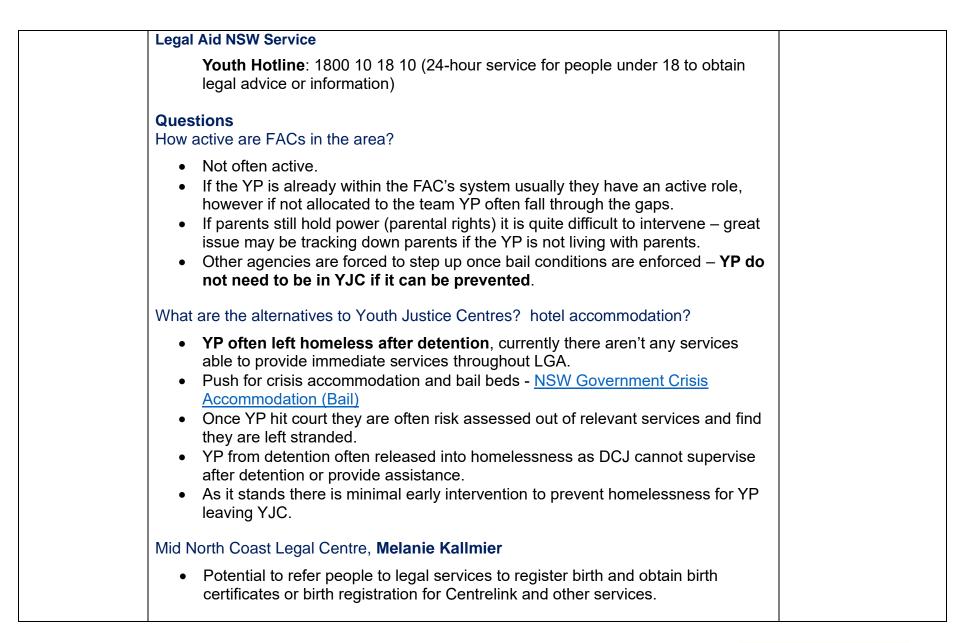
- Present:Hannah Dixon (Regional Coordinator, MVNS), Emma McGuire (Mid-Coast Tenants Advice and Advocacy Services), Cindi
Ulstrup (Services Australia), Melanie Kallmier (Mid-North Coast Legal Centre), Meggie Molony (Mid-North Coast Legal Centre),
Kylie Naylor (Youth Justice), Ron Dennison (Legal Aid NSW), Chloe Harrison (Legal Aid NSW), Anne Cregan (Gilbert + Tobin
Law), Louise Spittles (Youth Drug & Alcohol NSW Health), Lindsay Hobson (Samaritans), (Services NSW)
- Apologies: Craig Partridge (Wesley Mission), Sarah McFadden (Wesley Mission) and Tenille Harris (MSS), Seema Sanghi (Legal Aid NSW)

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
1. Opening	Melanie acknowledged the meeting took place on the lands of the Biripai people and welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. Purpose of today's meeting	 To discuss issues raised at previous meeting about young people (YP): To gain a better understanding of what services are available in the region to support young people who are in contact with the police and the justice system YP on bail and attending school YP involved in domestic and family violence Diversionary activities available in the region / barriers to accessing them Treatment of YP in court 	
3. Guest speakers	 Legal Aid NSW, Chloe Harrison Early invention / holistic treatment is a specific focus for Legal Aid and successful stakeholder partnerships are needed to achieve this. The best way to achieve early intervention is the use of referral to services relevant for YP and their social / legal / well-being needs. 	



 Legal Aid offer free legal advice to YP under 18 for both civil and criminal matters. Legal Aid Youth Hotline 1800 10 18 should be used when in custody for YP to obtain free legal advice and to gain an understanding of their legal rights. Legal Aid does offer custodial visitation for YP in YJC's. Diversionary programs are not available to all YP as reflected by legislation, needs to be diverted to other social services diversionary programs. Drop-in centres – not in enough areas, therefore not accessible for YP and once entered the justice system it is usually too late. How can we prevent YP returning to court?
YP issues in court
 Court support Translation – e.g. making sure they understand their legal rights the legal matter that is unfolding.
Children's Court Process
 Interviewed by authorities (many children do not understand their rights relating to being arrested and remaining silent or requesting legal advice) Recent issue – YP 14 years old was left homeless – bail requested an address, but a residential address could not be provided, therefore they were detained in custody due to the residence condition as imposed by their bail conditions. Services had failed (unable to provide emergency accommodation), the Magistrate failed to comprehend the risk of homelessness. As a result, this person was held unnecessarily in custody. Bail conditions including curfew or attending school – often breached as these conditions may limit them from going to school or even wanting to attend.
Local contact: a. Port Macquarie: 02 5525 1600

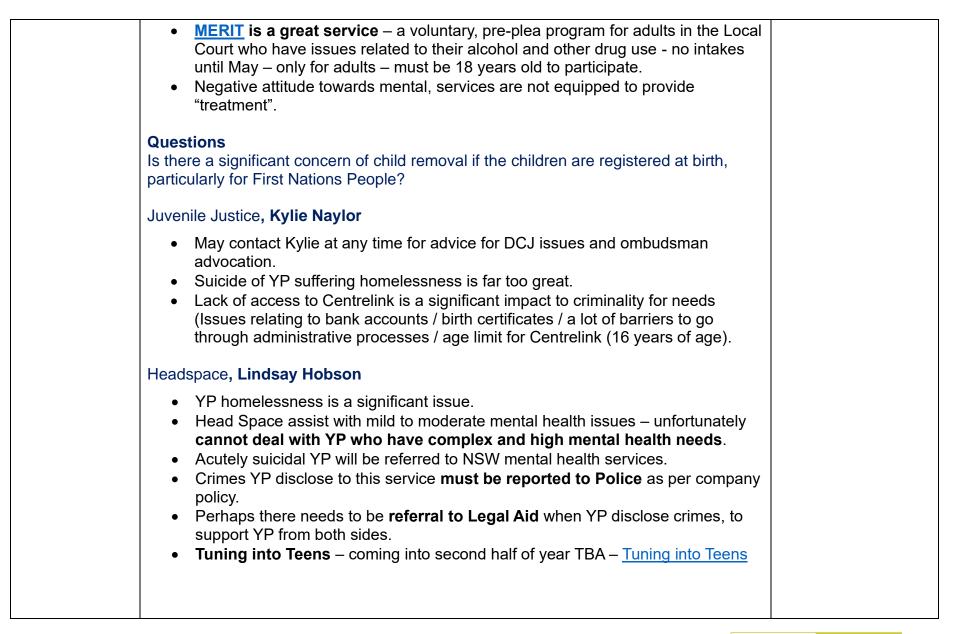






Services Australia, Cindi Ulstrup	Can we connect YP
 General Misconception – can be registered for Medicare but not registered at birth as each are through two separate government bodies at various levels, which are not followed up by any government agency. a. Medicare is run through Federal Government. b. Centrelink is also run through Federal Government. c. Births, Deaths and Marriages is run at State level. 	with services (MNCLC / Legal Aid / G+T Law) to make Ombudsman complaints and help them advocate for themselves (regarding treatment from NSW Health, YJC's and alike government services)? Minister has statutory responsibility to YP to make sure they are not homeless when released from NSW Health services – can this be a systemic change? (G&T happy to work
 <u>Enrolling Your Baby in Medicare</u> – Cindi has advised there is a loophole, parents can claim Centrelink by filling out various parts of the document given at the hospital but may not be registered for Medicare. Food bank does serves 180 people per day at the Uniting Church 	
Questions Is there an opportunity for YP to work at the Uniting Church soup kitchen and/or BBQ?	
Could services periodically attend the food bank to promote local services to the community?	
 Youth Drug & Alcohol Services, Louise Spittles YP being released into homelessness from hospital discharge. 	with Legal Aid and MNCLC to pursue civil action against Minister - Anne Cregan)
 Gaps have widened around YP rather than closed – their needs are more complex than ever. Greatest trend is YP who are starving – not being fed or do not have access to financial services including Centrelink (may be correlated to Birth Certificate issues). There are no Youth Health services – specifically health-based services including GP, vaccinations, sexual-health checks, all specific to YP in this region. 	, une oregan)







	MidCoast Tenancy, Emma McGuire	
	 YP with criminal record can they obtain tenancy? – usually not checked but still could impact application, most problematic factor are issues or debts relating to previous tenancies. Share house issue disputes can impact possibility of obtaining tenancy. No age limit to become a tenant, however, must have a certain capacity to enter into tenancy agreements. Ending 'No Grounds Eviction' Reform <u>Template Letter</u> <u>Ending 'No Grounds' Eviction Summary</u> MSS, Tenille Harris MSS Family Services Flyer 	
4. Arising challenges?	 Proposed changes to bail laws for YP - <u>Tougher Bail Laws for YP & 'Post &</u> <u>Boast' Offence NSW</u> 	
5. Partnership actions	 Birth certificate update: Birth Certificate Day to be held in Forster at Tobwobba, 4th April 2024 10:30 – 2:30pm. My community Directory - My Community Directory - Mid Coast Antenatal Program (Reach out to Manning Base) follow up to register the birth / obtain birth certificate (2 months from the birth) – at the time of home visit. 	
	4. Pulteney Street Youth Services will be turned into a Youth Space	
	• Not open yet but coming soon! Details TBA 5. Is it possible to have the Court List days for Taree & Forster changed to help services attend the courts and provide services / information?	
7. Next meeting	29 May 2024 – Venue TBA	



