

COMMUNIQUE

Regional Child and Family Committee

South East Region

RCFC Meeting 13 July 2016



Farewell Sam Patterson

This month we farewell Sam from the role as secretariat for the SE RCFC and acknowledge her contribution to the committee. Sam has now moved to the Queensland Family and Child Commission.

Secretariat support for the committee is now provided by Jo Clark-Jones E: jo.clark-jones@communities.qld.gov.au P: 3287 8551

When a Child is Missing

Remembering Tiahliegh – A report into Queensland's children Missing from out-of-home care

The Queensland Family and Child Commission was tasked to undertake a whole-of-government systems review of the arrangements in place for responding to children missing from out-of-home care. They were also asked to consider whether all Government agencies worked together effectively in response. The report can be found here:

(<http://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/For%20professionals/when-a-child-is-missing-report.pdf>)

An implementation group has been established to examine how we can progress the recommendations from the report in South East region

Child Protection Week

Child Protection Week is **4-10 September** this year.

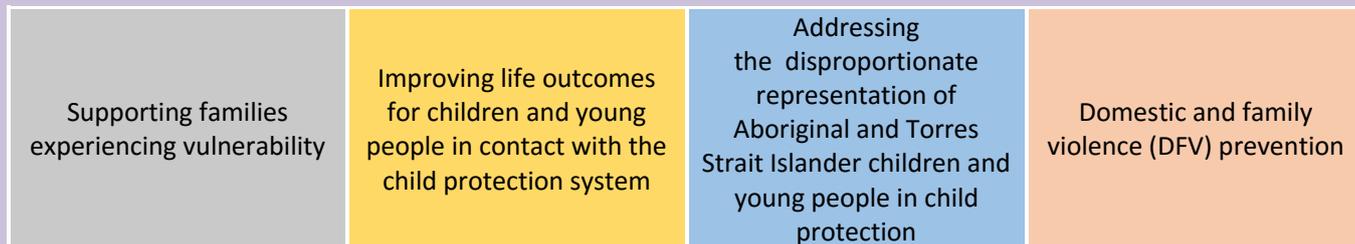
There are many activities and events on and all the information can be found here: www.childprotectionweek.org.au



Child Protection Reform Leaders Group

Natalie Conner, Executive Director, Department of the Premier and Cabinet led a group discussion about how the Reform Leaders Group's (RLG) priorities align with the priorities of the SE RCFC.

The RLG priorities are:



SE RCFC priorities are:



With the expansion of the responsibilities of the RCFC to include domestic and family violence prevention discussion took place about the priorities of the

Domestic and Family Violence Executive Group:



A presentation about the integrated response will be given at the 24 August meeting of the RCFC.

Towards an action plan for vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families

A workshop was held on 25 July with RCFC members to answer the following questions:

- What do you feel are the perceived barriers and/or risks for your sector that could prevent executive government achieving transformation change?
- What is the most impactful and radical action executive government can take to achieve transformational change?

Additionally, members were able to provide a response out-of-session. Feedback was amalgamated and provided to the team undertaking the development of a submission in DCCSDS central office. Feedback was very positive stating South East provided ideas not previously raised and they asked us to pass on their **thanks to everyone who participated**. Information gained in this process will be distributed to members for their information.

Review of structure of SE RCFC

If an effort to ensure we are maximising the work done by the RCFC we talked about what is **working well** and what we are **worried about** regarding the structure and governance of the committee.

Q: How we can improve commitment and membership of the committee?

A: The original intent of the RCFC was that CEO level would attend but this seems impractical. Rather than consistently sending proxies perhaps agencies should re-evaluate who is best placed to attend and contribute thereby ensuring best outcomes. Members need to have capacity to speak for their agency.

Q: Do you feel you have a strong relationship with your agency LLA representative?

A: Members believe they generally have strong relationships with their LLA representative (many are members of both RCFC and LLAs)

Q: What are we committed to achieving as a Committee?

A:

- Genuine collaboration on reform priorities
- Resource collaboration for pilots and trials etc.
- Networking and awareness of what is going on in our patch
- Development of processes to obtain best outcomes for children and families and avoid duplication at the regional level



Additional questions were distributed out-of-session. Answers to these questions will be circulated with papers and time allocated on the August agenda for discussion.

RCFC Member updates

Youth Justice Brisbane North and Gold Coast, Department of Justice and Attorney General

Brisbane North and Gold Coast Youth Justice activity has focused on High Risk Adolescents and are involved in a working party in relation to this. They have maintained a strong focus on working with Education to ensure appropriate educational and work skills access.

A primary focus across youth justice is around reducing remands in custody – this is particularly relevant to dual order clients as at any one time 20% of young people in detention are on Child Safety orders. They would like to advocate for a Child Safety Officer to be based at each centre to ensure the appropriate focus is given to their needs both in detention and in transition to the community.

MERCY COMMUNITY SERVICES – FAMILY AND CHILD CONNECT – BROWNS PLAINS/BEAUDESERT

The FaCC program is progressing smoothly. Whilst referrals are being received consistently there is no clear pattern in referrers or areas to target. This month saw a particular rise in Health referrals into the service although there had been no formal promotion to local health providers recently. With the change in PCPP from July, we will be re-engaging all the schools in the area for another round of promotion and further progress initial work with local police stations.

The Benevolent Society

Logan-Beenleigh LLA

FaCC Logan has continued to play a lead role in facilitating and supporting the work of the multiple collaborative spaces addressing issues for children and families across Logan. The Logan-Beenleigh Local Level Alliance reconvened on 26 May to review the current amalgamated structure.

Family Support Collective

The Family Support Collective has now finalised Terms of Reference, membership, consent and referral forms.

Child and Family Chapter Committee

The newly amalgamated Child and Family Chapter Committee (Logan-Beenleigh LLA + Communities for Children Advisory Committee + Child Friendly Communities Consortium + Logan Together Child and Family Chapter) has had three meetings in this quarter and has finalised their Terms of Reference which were developed by a convening group including the 3 Logan LLA Coordinators and a representative from C4C. This amalgamated group will now focus on prioritising the work of multiple project action groups, the creation of which have been informed by scoping workshops carried out last year through both Logan Together and the Logan-Beenleigh LLA.

Professional Conversations

In this quarter, FaCC Logan organised and co-facilitated a “professional conversation” with the Workforce Council between members of the Early Childhood Education and Care sector and the Family Support sector. This conversation provided these professionals with an opportunity to identify common goals despite different ways of working and to explore opportunities for collaboration and partnerships. Feedback from the event was very positive with all participants indicating an interest in holding another, similar event.

Bayside LLA

Bayside LLA undertook a ‘Health Check’ in June which assessed how members felt the LLA is performing to date. This agenda item was explored specifically in relation to the 7 Outcomes identified in the FaCC Practice Guidelines.

WAVSS Logan and WAVSS Across The Redlands

Closer case consultation with WAVSS Child Counselling team providing an immediate referral pathway and cushion of support with integrated response for young people currently connected with Youth Justice and Victims Assist.

Extended case collaboration with Bravehearts to deliver shared client responses for children and families with current and presenting matters of childhood sexual abuse.

WAVSS Logan’s new Safety Upgrades program funded by Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services commenced on 1 April 2016, and has been well utilised in its first quarter providing safer and more secure responses for more than ten families (women and children) in Logan/Beenleigh who can now remain in their homes due to these extra supports.

We have new responses in Redlands Courts (Cleveland and Wynnum) working in partnership with DVConnect training male Court Assistants to work closely with Respondents at Court, and to provide stronger referral pathways after Court into the WAVSS/YFS Responsible Men Perpetrator Intervention Program (PIP) in the Redlands.

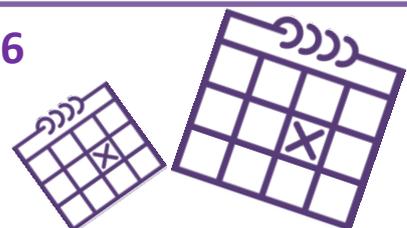
Both WAVSS Logan and WAVSS Across The Redlands staff team are set to undertake the ‘Brain Training’ education program in the coming months.

Project continuing: WAVSS new project funded by the Department of Education and Training, Children and Family Programs (Early Childhood and Community Engagement) continues this month - working in partnership with Logan Together and participating local refuges to share immediate crisis and counselling responses for children and their mothers while in refuge, and as a conduit out of refuge should they choose to resettle into the local region.

The next meeting of the SE RCFC is at **10am on 24 August 2016**

The remaining meetings for the year are:

- 10am – 1pm 5 October 2016
- 1pm – 4pm 16 November 2016



The venue for these meetings is **Level 1 SER Regional Conference Room 100 George St Beenleigh**