



## COMMUNIQUE - REGIONAL CHILD AND FAMILY COMMITTEE SOUTH EAST REGION

### RCFC Meeting 1 June 2016

The most recent South East Regional Child and Family Committee (SE RCFC) meeting was held on 1 June 2016, marking the second meeting for 2016. The focus of this meeting was to consider the Committees' Overarching Principals and five Priority areas in light of a call for all committees across the state to broaden their scope to include oversight of Domestic and Family Violence Reform. Each of the five priorities were discussed:

1. Implementation of Family and Child Connect
2. Support establishment of Local Level Alliances
3. Prioritise services to high risk adults who are parents
4. Implement Transition to Independence
5. Prioritise services to high risk Adolescents

The group considered each priority and whether we have 'met our brief' and 'what we are worried about' which led to great conversations around the relevance and future of these priorities.

Tracey Ryan (Director, DCCSDS) provided an update on 'Supporting Families, Changing Futures' which outlined the progress made in implementing the child and family reform agenda, and highlights priorities for the next two years.

**Next RCFC:  
13 July, 2016  
(10am – 1pm)**

**Link: [Supporting Families Changing Futures](#)**

**Link: [www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/](http://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/)**

**Link: [www.communities.qld.gov.au/communityservices/youth](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/communityservices/youth)**

**Link: [www.premiers.qld.gov.au/](http://www.premiers.qld.gov.au/)**

**Meeting Schedule for 2016:  
13 July (10 – 1)  
24 August (10-1)  
5 October (10 – 1)  
16 November (1-4)  
TBA December**

## Strengthening the Sector – Queensland Family and Child Commission

Assistant Commissioner, Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) Andrea Lauchs met with the committee to talk about the role and activity of the QFCC. The QFCC have oversight of the Child Protection System and have responsibilities for multiple recommendations for the Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection. An overview of the work undertaken by the QFCC was provided including feedback around the recent roundtables focusing on ‘Strengthening the Sector’ held in Logan and Gold Coast during March and April 2016 and an update around oneplace [www.oneplace.org.au](http://www.oneplace.org.au) community directory and its increased functionality.

## Governance discussion

Natalie Conner, Executive Director, Department of the Premier and Cabinet joined the group and shared information around recent activity of the Reform Leaders Group (sits above the Regional Child and Family Committees and Local Level Alliances in the statewide governance structure). RLG intend to strengthen connections with RCFCs across the state and have endorsed four new priorities:

<p><b>Supporting families experiencing vulnerability</b></p>	<p><b>Improving life outcomes for children and young people in contact with the child protection system</b></p>	<p><b>Addressing the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in child protection</b></p>	<p><b>Domestic and family violence (DFV) prevention</b></p>
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Feedback is currently being sought from RCFCs across the state around how to strengthen communication processes and support effective reform implementation. Stay tuned for further updates!

## Thank you from Youth Aspirations

One of the young people involved in the Youth Aspirations initiative joined the committee to provide certificates of acknowledgment to those member agencies who sponsored the event. Thank you again to DATSIP, Kalwun, Life Without Barriers, The Benevolent Society, Mercy, Logan Metro Mental Health (Qld Health) for supporting the 12 young people to travel to Sydney with Telstra to consider a technology enabled future. We look forward to taking your Top 3 ideas forward!



## RCFC Member Updates

### The Benevolent Society –

- The Child and Family Chapter Committee (newly amalgamated structure combining Logan Beenleigh LLA, Communities for Children (C4C Advisory Board, Child Friendly Communities Consortium and Logan Together Chapter) has met twice and is finalising their TOR. LLA Coordinators are working with C4C to develop TOR in line with both program guidelines. The Chapter will be co-chaired by The Benevolent Society and Communities for Children Logan. This group will direct action groups around specific, time limited projects relating to LLA and Logan Together outcomes and will also feed up issues which cannot be addressed locally to the RCFC and Logan Together Cross Sector Leadership Table.
- The North Gold Coast Early Years Centre in collaboration with Logan Together and the Department of Education and Training is collaborating to establish an Early Years Neighbourhood Network in the Eagleby community.
- North Gold Coast Early Years Centre has started two new playgroups for vulnerable families – Jarjums at Nerang and a Young Parents Playgroup at Labrador.
- Logan-Beenleigh LLA will now move to a quarterly information sharing format which will be open for anyone to attend. This will likely also include an element of issues identification for escalation to the Child and Family Chapter Committee if not already captured through other forums.

**Act for Kids** – supported the biennial South Queensland ‘Engaging Father Figures Symposium’ alongside DVPC and the Gold Coast Suns. Symposium offers practical tips and advice for professionals working in clinical and community settings to help men be the best fathers and partners they can be. LLA Update – focus of recent meeting was about revisiting purpose and direction of the Goast Coast LLA in 2016. Key elements of this discussions included:

- Enhancing Relationships and Networking through streamlined communications (such as a GC LLA website)
- Developing a SHARED Vision Statement
- Consolidating Membership
- Gaps and Barriers – utilising the expertise of frontline staff and existing GC network meetings to identify gaps and barriers. LLA Coordinator shared a gaps and barriers template designed for frontline staff to encourage conversations.
- Developing Action Plans – local level solutions and issues to escalate to RCFC
- Evaluations – how do we know what’s working?
- Result-Based Accountability Framework – using a model to guide practice and discussion to achieve moving from talk to action quickly



**DVPC** - The establishment of the Specialist DV Taskforce at QPS on the Gold Coast has resulted in bi-weekly Triage Meetings with the DVPC DVIR Manager, detectives and staff from the QPS Taskforce, representatives from Probation and Parole and Child Safety. The Triage Meetings are refining information sharing practices, increasing understanding of the each other’s processes and practice, and improving innovation in developing responses to escalating and high risk situations. The establishment of the Taskforce has also seen an increase in more respondents being charged with criminal offences (particularly assault) along with their Breaches of Domestic Violence Orders, which can have a significant impact on DVPC clients, both positively and in terms of increasing risk.

**DJAG** – A certificate 2 course is currently being facilitated at Logan Probation and Parole via a partnership with Department of Human Services, TAFE Queensland and Department of Education and Training. The program targets 17 – 30 year old offenders who are not currently engaged in employment services. 12 participants were identified as suitable with 9 participants currently engaged in the program. This program is in addition to other employment readiness and training activities undertaken at our offices.

**YFS Intensive Family Support** - Beneficial collaborations include: working with Browns Plains and Stones Corner Child Safety Service Centre's have led to fantastic outcomes for our families and helped generate change, PCPP role has value added to our risk assessments, navigating the child protection system and positive outcomes for our families and close collaboration with Family and Child Connect service especially in relation to supporting families on our wait list.

**WAVVS** new activities and projects include:

- New Refuge and Accommodation Partnership: MOU with Mangrove housing to provide supported accommodation, interim refuge and transitional housing for WAVSS Redlands clients.
- New Service Outreach Hub: - Shared Service Partnership and MOU for our South Moreton Bay Islands (SMBI) Service Outreach Hub: A service partnership model with core agencies working in shared office space to provide regular weekly services on the Islands to the SMBI communities through rostered outreach positioning at the Bay Island Community Service Centre (BICS) Macleay Island. Supported by Redland City Council and auspiced by WAVSS.
- Newly-funded project with the Department of Employment and Training Children and Family Programs (Early Childhood and Community Engagement) working in partnership with participating local refuge/s and Logan Together to provide immediate crisis and counselling responses alternative connection points, and supported referral pathways within refuge and as a conduit out of refuge for children who resettle into our local community/region.

**Department of Education –**

- Abecedarian Training conducted in March and April for Early Childhood teachers and agencies in Logan and Northern Gold Coast. Coaching to embed the strategies will be offered to selected early childhood services for the remainder of the year. Another round of training will be provided in the second half of the year.
- Increasing Kindergarten Attendance The region is focusing on targeted schools/communities in Logan to analyse: Kindergarten attendance patterns; barriers to attendance and the development of community response plans in order to increase the enrolment of indigenous children in Kindergarten. This includes a partnership with Training as one of the barriers to enrolment is the lack of indigenous workers in childcare centres and the need to tailor the training package to the needs of the student. The following schools/neighbourhoods are the focus of this work: Crestmead, Marsden, Mabel Pk, Woodridge, Woodridge Nth.
- AEDC results were released nationally on Monday 7 March. We encourage all community partners to examine both school and community AEDC data when planning support for families and children. See an example of Community level data available. This data can be refined further to a SA2 level (similar to suburb data).

**Mercy Community Services promotional activities include:**

- FaCC is communicating regularly with Uniting Care Communities to facilitate the smooth transition of families from FaCC to UCC IFS, now contracting arrangements are in place for UCC to take the overload of referrals for the Browns Plains area.
- Local services have been consistently approaching FaCC to present the model to their working groups. This has included local childcare centres, further schools in the area, indigenous health services, local DV Refuge and the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre.
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**Life Without Barriers:**

- During April 2016 69 referrals were received and 68 clients commenced service. 41 clients commenced service with TIS, 27 clients commenced service for brokerage support, 3 clients were referred to the 'Check-In Call facilitated by the CREATE Foundation, 14 young people were not eligible for service but were provided with information and referral advice. Since commencement more than 600 referrals for support have been received for young people.

## Family Support Service System Plan

The project undertaken by the committee focusing on the Family Support Service System Plan (FSSSP) sits across each of the committee's three overarching priorities. The aim of the FSSSP is to describe the characteristics of the local community, analyse response to community need and inform local planning around service delivery to vulnerable children and families. The FSSSP aims to provide information to assist in improving service delivery and inform future investment across intensive, tertiary, secondary and/or targeted family support services and an opportunity for identification and implementation of local solutions.

Copies of the final draft FSSSP were provided to members on 1 June 2016 and at this meeting it was agreed that members will workshop the FSSSP contents at the next RCFC.

