

# Minutes of the Parent Services Interagency Meeting

Held: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014, 1pm - 3pm  
Council Chambers, Lamerton House



## PRESENT:

Wendy Lander	Baptist Community Services/KidsFest
Maree Walsh	Illawarra Reading Support
Julie Guy	Northcott Disability Services
Nicole Lewis	Ability Links
Debbie Vergan	Barnardos South Coast
Marlene Calleja	Warilla Neighbourhood Centre Inc.
Lisa O'Grady	Communities for Children Shellharbour
Carol Lybery	Communities for Children Shellharbour & Better Futures/Local Solutions
Aileen Gleeson	Shellharbour City Council

## APOLOGIES:

Lindi Jamieson-Brown	The Smith Family
David Green	Shellharbour City Libraries

## GOOD NEWS STORIES ☺

- ☺ One of the dads using Northcott Disability Services set up a Dad's Group.
- ☺ Food for thought: Maree of Illawarra Reading Support encountered a 24 year old who was barbecuing sausages and couldn't tell if they were cooked – just one of the problems for people with a colour perception disability that those without such a challenge may not have considered!

## INFORMATION EXCHANGE

### Ability Links

**Contact:** Katrina Vanderzwan or Nicole Lewis

**Ph:** 4229 6855

**Email:** [kvanderzwan@ssi.org.au](mailto:kvanderzwan@ssi.org.au) [nlewis@ssi.org.au](mailto:nlewis@ssi.org.au)

#### Information Exchange:

- A NSW Government funded program which started in July 2014.
- Aims to assist people with a disability to be valued and equal members of their communities.
- For people aged 9 – 64 years, otherwise no eligibility criteria, and includes people with mental illnesses (in fact their highest referrals so far have been for people with mental illness or intellectual disability).
- People can self-refer or be referred through another service.
- There are no time limits or restrictions for use of the service, and no charge for the service.
- Ability Links NSW Coordinators, called Linkers, work with people with disability, their families and carers to help them plan for their future, build on their strengths and skills, and develop networks in their own communities so they can do what they want with their lives - outside of the traditional disability service system.
- Ability Links NSW provides people with a locally based, first point of contact to support people to access support and services in their local communities. Linkers also work with local communities to help them become more welcoming and inclusive of people with disability.
- Linkers help create permanent relationships for people in the community, and can also support carers to become involved in community activities.
- Having a person with a disability in a community group can be a real education for others in the group.

- The Illawarra office is in the Illawarra Multicultural Services building in Wollongong, and the cover Helensburgh down the coast to the Victorian border.

## BaptistCare - Warilla North Community Centre

**Contact:** Manager- Wal Forrester

**Ph:** 4298 7200

**Email:** [wforrester@baptistcare.org.au](mailto:wforrester@baptistcare.org.au)

**Hours Of Operation:** Monday to Friday - 9am - 4pm

### Information Exchange:

- Supported playgroups:  
Mondays & Wednesdays 9.30am – 11.30am during School Terms at Centre  
Thursdays 9am – 11am at Mt Warrigal Public School  
Contact: Wendy Playgroup Coordinator 0411659698
- Macedonian Playgroup meets Thursdays 9.30am – 12.30pm at Centre
- Spanish Playgroup meets Fridays 9.30am – 12.30pm at Centre during School Terms.
- Breakfast Clubs:  
run Mon, Wed & Fri 7.50am – 8.45am during School Terms at Centre  
Wed & Fri 8am – 8.45am during School Terms at Mt Warrigal Public School  
Finish 12/12/2014
- Educational Tutoring- Tuesday afternoons 3:30-4:30 March to November during school terms.  
Contact: Wendy Coordinator 0411659698
- NILS, Step Up, water, gas, electricity help – all by appointment only 42987200
- Volunteers needed for tutoring & breakfast club, especially at Mt Warrigal PS. More info contact Wendy 0411659698, Volunteer Coordinator
- Christmas: Centre closed from midday 24/12/2014 & will re-open 5/1/2015

## Illawarra Reading Support

**Contact:** Maree Walsh

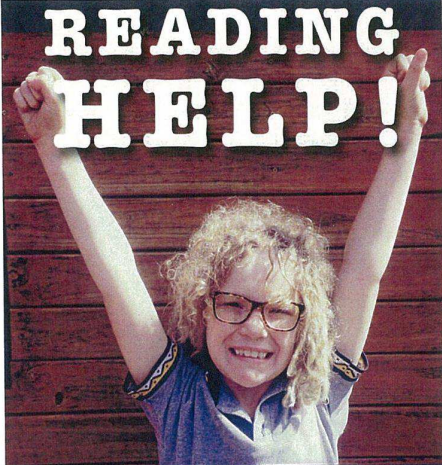
**Ph:** 0412 976950

**Email:** [info@readingsupport.com.au](mailto:info@readingsupport.com.au)

**Hours of operation:** 7am to 5pm 7 days per week

### Information Exchange:

- We now have a new brochure, designed by the mum of a boy with colour blindness.
- Still achieving great results, and receiving referrals from schools.
- We have found the 7am sessions are popular, because it doesn't interfere with after school activities and children are not tired as they often are after school.



**READING HELP!**

If your child is struggling with reading.. there is **HELP!**

**Maree Walsh**  
is a certified  
**Irlen Screener**

*It has changed our child's life, he is so much happier and confident now that we have discovered he needs lensed glasses that assist him with reading. Before, the words were sliding down the page and now they are still. He is catching up so fast and achieving what we knew he is capable of. (Beth, Mother)*

**TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More**

**PHONE: 0412 976 950**  
EMAIL: [info@readingsupport.com.au](mailto:info@readingsupport.com.au)

## **Northcott Disability Services - Illawarra EarlyStart Early Intervention Program**

**Contact:** Oak Flats Office

**Ph:** 4256 7600

**Email:** [oakflats@northcott.com.au](mailto:oakflats@northcott.com.au)

**Website:** <https://www.northcott.com.au/>

**Hours Of Operation:** 8:30 – 4:30 Mon-Thurs

### **Information Exchange:**

The Northcott Early Childhood and Family Support Service (NECAFS) provides support to families who have a child with a diagnosed disability. The service aims to promote the inclusion of children with disabilities into mainstream services and the wider community

We are currently taking referrals for family support, case management and transition to work.

### **Services:**

- providing support through home and community visits with families
- locating suitable therapy services, playgroups, child care centres and schools
- finding parent education and support groups
- sourcing information about child development, educational resources and how to assist the child's learning through play
- Playgroup at Albion Park Rail Schools as Community Centre, Albion Park Rail Public School.
- Inclusive outings are still going well, with some great support in the community, for example Greater Union Cinema Shellharbour are very supportive.

### **Eligibility**

Families with a child with a diagnosed disability aged 0-8 years who live in the Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama local government areas.

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## **Communities for Children – Barnardos Australia**

**Contact:** Lisa O'Grady & Carol Lymbery

**Ph:** 4295 4168

**Email:** [clymbery@barnardos.org.au](mailto:clymbery@barnardos.org.au)

**Hours Of Operation:** 9am – 5pm Mon-Fri

### **Information Exchange:**

- In collaboration with our Community Partners, this programme provides a range of projects for families with children aged 1 to 12 years in the Shellharbour Region. Our programmes aim to strengthen parenting confidence, build connections in the community and create pathways for education and employment.
- Communities for Children Shellharbour has been refunded for a further 5 years, with a transition/planning period until 30/6/2015. Currently in the process of developing a Strategic Plan, and will form an advisory committee shortly.
- We are coordinating an educator's forum on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014 to introduce participants to the DEC Transition to School Statement and also to help inform planning for Communities for Children Shellharbour.
- The Department of Education and Communities have recently released their Transition to School Statement – see website <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/what-we-offer/regulation-and-accreditation/early-childhood-education-care/funding/funding-projects/transition-to-school>

## **Barnardos South Coast - BEYHSS Program**

**Contact:** Debbie Vergan

**Ph:** 4275 8575, 0431 737859

**Email:** [dvergan@barnardos.org.au](mailto:dvergan@barnardos.org.au)

**Hours of Operation:** Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

### **Information Exchange:**

- The program will be finishing in 2015, so only urgent referrals are being taken now.
  - Program will roll over into some kind of early intervention program.
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## **Warilla Neighbourhood Centre Inc.**

**Contact:** Marlene Calleja

**Ph:** 4296 3433

**Email:** [community@wncwarilla.ngo.org.au](mailto:community@wncwarilla.ngo.org.au)

**Hours Of Operation:** Mon-Thurs 9am – 4pm

Fri – 9am – 12pm

### **Information Exchange:**

- Illawarra Legal Centre: Monday & Wednesday 12.30 – 4pm, appointments through Legal Centre
  - Marlene will attend Opal Card for Seniors/Concession on 4<sup>th</sup> December to discuss issues.
  - Legal Aid Thursdays 9.30am – 12.30pm – no appointments
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## **The Smith Family**

**Contact:** Lindi Jamieson-Brown

**Ph:** 0427 439 234

**Email:** [Lindi.Jamieson-Brown@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:Lindi.Jamieson-Brown@thesmithfamily.com.au)

**Hours Of Operation:** Mon – Tues 8.30am-4.30pm

### **Information Exchange:**

- SAVER PLUS assists families with \$500 for education expenses.
- The funds can be used to purchase computers, internet, school costs, after school activities, tuition and more.
- We would like to let families know that might benefit from this support that we will be closing recruitment on 31 December, 2014 until further notice.
- Enquire by sending an SMS with first name and YES to 0427 439 234 or call 1300 610 355.
- Eligibility: 18 yrs+, Centrelink Card, Income, child at school or studying yourself

### **Next Meeting:**

**The next meeting will be held at Lamerton House,  
Shellharbour City Council, Council Chambers  
1pm-3pm  
Wednesday 11th February 2015**

### **Meeting dates for 2015:**

11th February 2015

13th May 2015

12th August 2015

11th November 2015

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