

**Family Group Conferencing Network**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2006**  
**2:30 – 4:00 pm**  
**Venue: Melbourne Citymission 19 King Street Melbourne**

**FGC Network Minutes**

**1. Attendance**

Ranee Cornell: MCM, Trish Westhead: MCM, Margaret Brittain: Glastonbury Family Services, Nigel Polak: Ringwood Family Relationship Centre, Paul Ban: Private practitioner/consultant

**Chair:** Paul Ban

**Minutes:** Trish Westhead

**2. Apologies**

**3. Business Arising**

**3.1 Resources Pertaining to FGC**

Margaret Brittain tabled some resources that Glastonbury has produced on FGC.

Nigel tabled copies of the Family Group Conferencing competency requirements produced by the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council for the proposed accreditation scheme for Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners under the Family Law Act 1975.

(Electronic copies with these minutes and see: [http://www.cshisc.com.au/load\\_page.asp?ID=75](http://www.cshisc.com.au/load_page.asp?ID=75) )

**Action: The network to bring to the next meeting resources pertaining to Family Group Conferencing. E.g. training opportunities, examples of how FGC models are used within different settings etc.**

**3.2 Central Coordination**

- Nigel posted minute from previous meeting on VARJ website.

**Action: Minutes of this meeting to be forwarded to Nigel for correction, distribution (with Margaret Brittain on leave) and posting.**

**3.3 New Zealand Family Group Conference “Coming Home” Conference**

- Feedback from conference very positive. Ironically, gave a chance for the Victorian conveners to meet and talk.
- Marg Brittain met Patricia Kiely who works for Burnside Uniting Care in NSW. Patricia has designed a training course on FGC for the Department in NSW (see minutes on training).

## 4. New Business

4.1 Is MCM a member of VARJ (Victorian Association for Restorative Justice)?

Action: **Need to check so that MCM staff can attend the seminars offered by VARJ.**

## 5. Standing items

### 5.1 Training

Lengthy discussion around training:

- Document on competency measurements for FGC tabled at the meeting. (See 3.1 above.) These competencies could be used in training new conveners.
- Family Relationship Centres are interested in FGC training. Each Family Relationship Centre developing its own set of family interventions.
- There are currently no minimum qualifications required to train for FGC.
- Elective competence of three units:
  - Strengths
  - Preparation
  - Running of a FGC
- Patricia Keily's training is accredited in NSW. She has devised a course for 16 participants over 4 days. The participants run an actual FGC.
- Question raised as to who would be interested in the training. The new Aboriginal Family Decision Makers would be ideal candidates. Marg Brittain advised that she would undertake the training and felt that other conveners currently working in the field would also be interested. Possibly, also, staff from MCM who have attended the one-day introductory session offered by Paul.
- Discussion of possible SAAP training offered at three levels:
  - Introduction
  - One-day seminar
  - 4 day full training.

Action:

- **Members of the network to identify people who may be interested in the training and bring this information to next meeting.**
- **Marg Brittain to contact Patricia Keily to find out estimated cost per person and to obtain course outline.**
- **Members of the network to read the competency document and feedback for next meeting.**
- **Members of the network to make inquiries regarding the current state of play of FGC in Victoria and report next meeting.**

Meeting Closed at 4:00 pm

**Next meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007  
2.00-4.00pm  
Melbourne City Mission, 19 King Street, Melbourne CBD**