

Notes from the Aged Task Force Meeting 14th February 2006

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 16th May 2006, 9.30am, at Healthy Cities Illawarra, 63 Auburn Street, Wollongong. RSVP on 42265000

**Other Meeting Dates: Tuesday 15th August 2006
 Tuesday 14th November 2006**

Welcome to the first addition of the “Aged Task Force Meeting Notes” for 2006. The Aged Task Force has held its first meeting for 2006 and while attendance was down it was a fruitful discussion to progress ideas which had been generated during 2005.

Meeting Attendance

The meeting was chaired by Frank Wallner, present were Norm Melvin, Nancie Melvin, Pauline Milton, Joni Braham (Dept. Ageing, Disability and Home Care -DADHC)

Apologies were received from Peter Hutten, Reg Lobb & Pam Hennen

Members were welcomed including Joni, who has recently been appointed into a regional strategic planning role with DADHC. Frank explained that he was attending until a replacement for Karen Tavener-Smith (who has returned to her job with the Area Health Service) is appointed, which should be within the next month.

Photographic Library



The “Time of Our Lives” photographic library exhibition is now available for use during Seniors Week. Anyone involved in community groups who would like to contribute to seniors week is encouraged to borrow the resource. The photographs can be booked by contacting Healthy Cities Illawarra on 4226 5000. An Area Health service in South Australia sent a copy of ‘Time of our Lives’ calendar they produced as a result of hearing about our initiative.

Action: Frank will contact the WIN Entertainment Centre, who has been very keen to host the exhibition again, and try to book it during Seniors Week.

- Norm will ask Sarah if she would like to display the exhibition at Council during Seniors week

Seniors and Banking

No further work in this area is planned, given the poor response of the banking sector to the issue.

Mobile Phones and Seniors

This project was discussed and it was recommended that appropriately trained youth could act as tutors for older people and a short training course could be developed. The course should cover basic mobile phone operations such as making/receiving calls, sending/receiving text, checking for messages, adding and retrieving names from directory. Advanced operations were of little interest to older people.

Action: - Norm to check if a course like this is proceeding through the Wollongong Youth Centre.

- New worker can progress this in conjunction with Taskforce members if no other organisation is running such course.

Oral Health: Dental chairs and lights delivered

In early February three dental chairs and lights were delivered to Anglicare Chesalon Woonona, Unanderra Care Services and Woonona Nursing Home by JB dental. A media release has been prepared and will be released soon to publicise this achievement. The media release also acknowledges the funding provided by **Dapto Leagues, Wollongong Ex Services Club and Collegians** under the Clubs NSW Community Support Expenditure Scheme.

It was suggested that if funds became available, a project be developed to provide electric toothbrushes to older persons. This should also include educational information for the relatives/carers of older people about the advantages of electric toothbrushes for older persons. This could be developed in conjunction with the Oral Hygiene Assessment Tool or DVD which was presented at the previous meeting.

Action: Frank to review possible funding sources for this project and Project officer to pursue development of an oral health initiative in conjunction with Taskforce members.

Grief and Cemetary Visits

There was discussion about the ways in which the Aged Taskforce might be able to work to address the need for older people to deal with grief and also visit the gravesites of loved ones. Transport is the primary difficulty as well as the need for a support person if there is limited mobility.

One suggestion was, seeking sponsorship or funding to provide a mini bus on one or two significant dates through the year eg. Mothers or Fathers Day. Another possible option could be a taxi voucher system which could potentially be sponsored. Possible sponsors could be Foundations, Funeral companies, transport operators. The issue needs to be further considered and developed and it was suggested that the new worker should contact the Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council and develop strategies after further information is collected.

Action: - New worker to obtain further information on this issue and consider how this may be progressed

Other Business

Joni spoke about her position with DADHC and her previous experience as a member of the Ministerial Advisory committee on Ageing. She reported that they are an influential body and produce a range of resources and materials which could be of useful to the Taskforce, and also guest speakers who would be available.

Action: Joni will forward relevant information for distribution to the Aged Taskforce.

Two recent media releases were tabled from the Federal Dept. of Ageing. This led to discussion about the adequacy of care of older persons in hospitals and how best to deal with this. There is a complaints mechanism which people should be encouraged to use when warranted, but many families fear complaining.

Interested in joining the taskforce?

Is there an issue you would like to raise? The Aged Task Force has open membership and always welcomes new members. Meeting dates for 2006 are: Tuesday 9th May, Tuesday 8th August and Tuesday 14th November.

Our aims are:

- To have a taskforce that is broadly representative of all stakeholders, including older people, aged care service providers, government and non-government agencies.
- To provide a forum for the exchange of information between service providers, older people and those with an interest in matters which affect older adults.
- To increase community awareness and response about the issues which affect the health and well being of older people in the Illawarra.
- To listen to the needs and concerns of the older community and prioritise and develop strategies to address them.
- To advocate for the best possible level of service provision for older people.

Aged Task Force Review of Mailing Details

Do you still want to receive information about ATF activities?

If you wish to continue receiving correspondence.....do nothing!!! If you wish to be removed from the mailing list or have a new address please inform us by calling **(02) 4226 5000**.