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Thursday 9 April 10:30-12:00 Relationships Australia
Thursday 14 May Forum *Play for Life* 3:30-9:00 James Cook University B1.O31
Thursday 11 June 3:30-5:00 Wuchopperen

Thursday 9 April

Facilitator: Mike Friganiotis

Notetaker: Annabel Daunt Watney

Attendance: Donna McCulloch (The Smith Family), Moniek de Kievith (TAFE QLD), Andrew McLean (Cairns Early Years Centre & Wuchopperen), Mike Friganiotis (Relationships Australia QLD), Annabel Daunt Watney (ECA FNQ Committee), Irene Goodrich (DETE), Ben Walker (Families as First Teachers & DETE), Melissa Akmentins (DETE), Dorothy Wood (JCU student and Foster Parent), Leah Stevenson (JCU student), Anita Grega (Autism QLD), Noema Mahutariki (CEYC), Shane Wallace (CEYC), Rachel Gibson (Aftercare), Ruth Crouch (Take 2), Astri Baker (Family Planning QLD),

Apologies: Reesa Sorin (JCU), Brigitte Strivens (Playgroup QLD), Chris McGibbon (TAFE QLD),

Meeting began at: 10.30am and concluded at: 12.00pm

Item	Topic/Presenter	Discussion	Action
1	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mike welcomed participants to the meeting and gave an overview of the services Relationships Australia QLD provide to the community. These include counselling,	

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	<p>Business arising from last meeting</p> <p>New Business</p>	<p>separation, support and education services. Information pamphlets were provided about the following programs: Poppers and Popstars; Rebound; Family Dispute Resolution; Relationship Counselling; Parenting Orders Program including Focus on Kids; Victims Counselling and Support Service; Children's Contact Service; Rainbow Service; Co Forward for Men</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben advised details of the "Help me from Sinking" a 2 day course to be conducted by Semann and Slattery consultancy in Cairns in May. Flyers were distributed at the meeting. An electronic version will be forwarded for people in attendance to share with wider network. • The draft schedule for the May Forum was given and Jane Bourne, CEO Gowrie QLD has confirmed as a keynote speaker. April Shipke, DETE, is yet to be confirmed as a further keynote speaker. • Donna raised suggested topics for the presentations and workshops and these included: Transitions; 100 Languages of Children; Healthy Lifestyles; Homework debate; Dads; Environment; Recycling; Well-being; Supporting Behaviour; Round table discussions on how to PLAY 4 LIFE; Children's Rights. Votes were taken to decide the top topics for the Forum. Topics not presented at the Forum will be scheduled for July to December FNECN meetings. • The Forum topics decided at the meeting are: Positive and Protective - Wellbeing 	<p>Leah Stevenson suggested she present Healthy Lifestyles at a FNECN meeting</p> <p>Astri Baker - Positive and Protective - incorporating sexuality and gender issues into play situations, a practical application</p>
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		<p>100 Languages of Children</p> <p>Play - an Indigenous perspective; Read and Play:</p> <p>Let's Read - The Smith Family early literacy initiative.</p> <p>Homework Debate - panel discussion?? Play - panel discussion?? Questions can be submitted prior to forum.</p> <p>Donna added that the minutes will be circulated to all today's participants to give feedback. Please email any response or comment to fnecn@gmail.com</p>	<p>Irene Goodrich - Reggio Emilia journey - will appeal to students</p> <p>Ben Walker - FAFT Andrew McLean Chris Hanrahan Jane Carpenter (from Brisbane)</p> <p>Donna will share Action Plan with committee by 17/4. Panel facilitated by Reesa Who on panel?? Discussion panel stopic to be finalised by Committee 17/4/15</p> <p>New email address to share. Finalised list of presenters and workshops will be shared on facebook, webpage and email group. Andrew to confirm</p>
2	<p>FNECN REPORT Network - Andrew</p> <p>Website & FaceBook Update - Andrew</p> <p>Finances - Annabel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew gave an update on future FNECN meetings and possible venues. Holding meetings at different locations gives participants the opportunity to be given an overview and tour of the service. Venues must be able to hold up to 20 participants. Please contact Andrew at info@fnecn.org if you have or know of a suitable venue • Use FB to create an event for the Forum. • Updates can be shared once members/attendees LIKE our page. We will also then be able to share resources, links and photos to those people. 	

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	Speakers and Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Business arising 	
3	Overview of Events and Partner updates	See Welcome above	
4	Q&A	N/A	
5	New Business	above	
6	Topic of the Month Foster Parenting:	<p>Dorothy Wood, JCU student and Foster Parent</p> <p>Dorothy gave an overview of her experience as a foster parent. She informed the meeting that foster parents are deemed to be volunteers (on duty 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, 52 weeks/year) and receive initial training focussing on a Child Safety perspective for 2 days. Dorothy noted there was nothing in the Early Years Learning Framework relating to foster care. She raised the idea that there is an urgent need to update the role and requirements of foster carers and she believes that it should be viewed as a profession and designated as a job with clear responsibilities and accountabilities and paid accordingly.</p> <p>Dorothy commented that as a foster parent and an advocate for children, she has to understand and know the details of legislation relating to various issues, eg, policies on suspensions and flexible learning centres for children. She works to establish links with various agencies including the specific foster agency involved, schools and various disability services. These agencies can be supportive, or not, of foster carers.</p>	

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	Child Mental Health:	<p>Rachel Gibson, Aftercare and Ruth Crouch, Take 2</p> <p>Ruth and Rachel gave an overview of the program which has a clear focus on early intervention and prevention of mental health issues for 0-18 year olds. The service is not a child safety service</p> <p>The program is funded by the Federal government and provides a service in the Cairns city area and southern corridor. Typically staff work with the individual child and whole family for 6-12 months.</p> <p>Community education services can be provided and possibly school programs for children, however the focus is on the client (child) not those who work with client children.</p> <p>Priority is given to Indigenous children, those children aged 15 years and older who are transitioning from care and the general community.</p> <p>Self referrals can be made. Referrals can also be made by those working with children who become aware of various signs which may signify the risk of mental health issues. The service is about prevention and intervention rather than a behaviour management service. The child must have a significant adult who is willing to work with the child and the service.</p>	
7	Next meeting: Forum PLAY 4 LIFE Thursday 14 May		

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	3:30-9:00 JCU B1.031		
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