

Every month FSG holds an unmet needs forum. If anyone would like to attend this meeting please contact vickib@fsg.org.au or alisonb@fsg.org.au to RSVP. Below are the minutes from the FEBRUARY 2010 meeting for your interest.

FSG Australia Unmet Needs Forum 11th FEBRUARY 2010

Present: Vicki Batten; Tracey Moffat; Annette Osborne; Nina Patel; Dianne Perrin; Cheryl Levi; Kylie Honeyman; Andrea Morris; James Hurtley; Kellie Jones; Kim West

Issue	Unmet Need	Further info/ Possible reason for being unmet	Possible Solution(s)
REVIEW: Parents seeking accommodation for their aging children	Often parents/families have the capacity to purchase a house for their son or daughter but they are 'nervous' about sharing the house with 2 or 3 others		SEE JANUARY MINUTES
REVIEW Young People in danger of becoming Homeless	Young people turning 18 who have been under the protection of Child Safety but do not 'qualify' for assistance under Disability Services.		SEE JANUARY MINUTES
Work program for young men	There are young men currently accessing supported accommodation who, whilst they have a clear need for that support, have the capacity to contribute to their community by engaging in paid work. The opportunities to do so, however are very limited.	Often these young men are unable to commit to regular hours and may need 'breaks' from their employment. This is not an easy 'need' to sell to prospective employees. However, whilst they are on the job they are very capable and productive.	Some discussions have taken place between ON Q and Artius and FSG Australia which may result in some exciting solutions for people in this situation- watch this space!
Preparing for the 'rest of my life'	Respite may lead into day activities and then to community activities and maybe into learning opportunities but this is not all the preparation people need to live their lives more independently	It is often the personal relationships that get in the way of independent living. Services can 'match' people around interests and personalities but there needs to be a lot more thought put into helping people live together. Just helping people understand what it means to not live with their family is	Supported Accommodation funding needs to have a small component for each 'place' (as people are now referred to under new reporting) which allows for some ongoing assistance to manage this new phase in their lives. To offer an 'in Home' coaching program which would cover all of these aspects it would cost as little as \$150 week –

		enormous and very little time is actually put into this very important step. Then the issues around moving into a house with others; sharing some parts of a house; managing other people's moods and feelings etc.	that would be a trainer working with 2-4 individuals for 2 hrs a week- all that would be required. It would certainly result in less 'break downs' in relationships which result in people having to move.
Social Activities for people with a disability in the Beaudesert region	Currently FSGA operate a YO Beau social activities for children which is often their only opportunity to enjoy planned activities out of school and offers some respite for families. Many of these children are nearing or have already reached 18 and there are no options for them to move out of YO Beau and into more age appropriate social activities	The social issues in this region are well documented with relinquishments clearly on the rise and still there are very limited options for respite and/connectedness. There is an issue around transport which would need to be addressed even if there were plenty of options for accessing community activities.	FSGA is attempting to bring together volunteers in the region to assist with transport and evening activities for over 18's but as our Community Connectors program operates from Coomera this is proving to be a slow process- it is important that we are attending local activities in order to recruit. The ideal solution is to have a paid community linker in the region working under Community Connector guidelines. The advantages of paying someone to recruit and support volunteers to operate social activities/respite as opposed to funding these programs outright, are obvious.
Needs of 'young' people living in aged care who are not able/eligible to be considered for YPRIAC funding	ESIAC funding has made it possible for some of these young people to access the community but there are limitations which seem to have given with one hand and then taken away with another .	Whilst the funding covers the wages of a carer to take the person out, the cost of getting to where they want to go and doing what they want to do often prohibits the 'outing' occurring. These costs may be transport; a ticket to attend a concert or in some cases, the cost of a cup of coffee. More serious restrictions are the lack of a wheelchair	FSGA Staff currently give from their wages to fund children's camps which are not funded. A donations allocation committee has been formed to now discuss the possibility of these donations extending to some of these needs. The obvious solution is, if government are going to fund the outings (which is much needed and I am sure much appreciated) then it should be

		to actually go out!	cognisant of the fact that there are barriers to the desired outcomes.
Respite for children with High Medical needs	Currently the only way some families can get a 'rest' from the very demanding job of caring for a child with high medical needs is to have them admitted in as a 'social admission' into a hospital	The cost of this must be horrendous. The concern around this is that it is not appropriate for the child. Just because a child has high medical needs does this preclude them from having a holiday where they can meet other children and perhaps have some 'fun'?	ORANA children's respite house offers a holiday for children with a disability. Currently Orana is not funded sufficiently to provide care for children with high medical needs AND it is not open all year due to insufficient funding to keep it open. It would make good sense to utilise the times it is NOT currently open by funding those periods at a rate which would allow the appointment of 1 medical nurse and 2 other well trained DSE's which would allow a holiday (and respite for the carer/family) for 2-3 children with high medical needs. HAS to be a better solution than hospital?
			NEXT MEETING MARCH 11th 2pm at 16 RAILWAY STREET - ALL interested people welcome.