



Youth Services Forum Minutes

**Tuesday 12 November 2019
10am to 11:30am
Woollahra Council**

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Youth Services Forum
held on
Tuesday 12 November at 10:00am
Woollahra Municipal Council Chambers
536 New South Head Road
Woollahra NSW 2028

1. PRESENT & APOLOGIES

Present:	Peter Woodward	NSW Police
	Dani Saric	NSW Police
	Joshua Kizaud	NSW Police
	Kira Brandt	JewishCare
	Laura Arden	WAYS
	Jacki Maxton	Shopfront
Staff:	Rachel Bangoura	Community Development Officer
	Elina Skalkos	Work Experience Student

Apologies:

Mayor Wynne (Woollahra Council), Emma Lawon (WAYS), Rebecca Wade (Kids Giving Back), Paul Kelly (Beaches Outreach Project), Judith Schulz (Circles of Learning), Andi Smith (Kids Giving Back)

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

3. GUEST SPEAKER – Jacki Maxton (The Shopfront)

About The Shopfront

- A free legal service for homeless and disadvantaged young people.
- A joint project of the law firm Herbert Smith Freehills, Mission Australia and The Salvation Army.
- Established in 1993.

The Shopfront Clients

- Mostly aged 12–25 years, from the city and suburbs of Sydney.
- Diverse cultural backgrounds, including about 20% Indigenous people.
- Most are homeless due to abuse, neglect, family conflict and systemic issues including housing affordability, high youth unemployment rates and lack of income support.
- Referred by a range of services including: youth refuges, health centres, counsellors, outreach workers, juvenile justice officers, other legal services.
- Have difficulty accessing mainstream legal services due to their complex needs (homeless, impoverished, mental health issues, physical or intellectual disabilities).
- Need one-on-one intensive and holistic support.
- Often these clients have a problem with authority and very little trust in the system.

The Shopfront Services

- **Court representation**, mostly for young people charged with criminal offences.
- **Legal advice and assistance** about issues including criminal law, family law, fines, debts, housing, employment.
- **Help for victims of crime**, including compensation claims.
- **Social work support.**
- **Referrals** to other legal and social services.

The Shopfront also provides:

- Legal education including training, workshops, fact sheets and lecturing.
- Law Reform via advocacy and contribution to law and policy reform including involvement in committees and networks.

Compensation Claims

- As a victim of crime, youth suffering abuse are entitled to compensation.
- Clients do not necessarily need to go to court.
- No minimum claim age for claims up to 25 years of age.
- Compensation payments can go to the guardian if client is under 18 years and sometimes this can be problematic if the guardian is abusive.

The Shopfront team

- 4 lawyers, 2 legal support/admin staff, 1 paralegal/intern, 1 youth worker, 10+ volunteers.
- The Shopfront also has volunteers and placement students.

4. DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWING GUEST SPEAKER

- Age range for client referral was discussed. There is no minimum age for compensation claim.
- It was recognized by all services that there is a gap in availability of after hours support for youth which is greatly needed. The Shopfront does not provide any after hours services.
- Jacki currently has 40 – 60 clients and is grateful for the interns who assist her with the case load.
- The Shopfront is based in Darlinghurst but has clients from all over Sydney. There are many youth needing support in the Western Suburbs of Sydney who find it difficult to travel for client meetings etc so noted that this area of Sydney is in need of greater support.

5. INFORMATION SHARE AND SERVICE UPDATES

Laura Arden (WAYS)

- WAYS have just engaged 6 new staff members for their beach outreach program connecting with youth at all the eastern suburbs beaches over the summer school holidays.

Dani Saric (NSW Police ESPAC)

- Recommended the documentary film ‘The Backtrack Boys’ that can be viewed on SBS on demand.

Jacki Maxton (The Shopfront)

- If anyone is interested in trainings please contact The Shopfront.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

End of year survey was provided to all present to give feedback on the YSF and inform ideas around speaker topics for 2020.

7. NEXT MEETING – FORUM DATES FOR 2020

The following dates have been confirmed for 2020:

Tuesday 18th February

Tuesday 19th May

Tuesday 18th August

Tuesday 10th November