

**Restorative Community Network Meeting
Wednesday 28 June 2017**

Riley Room, Pilgrim House, Northbourne Ave, Canberra

12.15 pm – 1.45 pm

Summary:

- John Braithwaite chaired the meeting and introduced several speakers who could provide some feedback about tangible outcomes from RCN workshops over the past year, including 'Restorative ANU', the 'Peace Education Program' for women in the AMC prison and the new hospital being built out at University of Canberra shaping up to be a 'Restorative Hospital'.
- It was agreed that the harnessing of good will and harmonious creative, problem-solving relationships needed to be embedded in a focused function of reporting baselines and subsequent outcomes to measure success. Grass roots social movement with some support from government.
- The ACT Law Reform Advisory Council launched an Issues Paper on 'Canberra as a Restorative City'. Submissions are due 25th August. Network members both individually and collectively were encouraged to make submissions.
- Following the talks, funding and governance options were considered for continuing the operations of the Restorative Communities Network and working towards the naming of Canberra as a 'Restorative City'.
- One network member suggested the idea of joining local community councils to have localized opportunities for greater influence & broaden the learning network.

Structure and governance

- Overall agreement was that we would set up an unincorporated association as at least a temporary measure to continue the work of the network. This will facilitate the continuation of the network following the ceasing of administrative support by the ACT government, but will not require the type of investment of time and resources required for establishing an incorporated association, although this may be an option in the future.
- As the unincorporated association could not have its own bank account, the funds need to be managed through the account of an institution associated with the network. ANU volunteers to do this in the first instance and collect some start-up funds, with the intention that this role be taken up by another institution in a year or two.
- Association to be governed by a committee of volunteers for now. Volunteers were: Dymphna Lowrey, Fiona Tito Wheatland, Holly Northam, Alison Brook, Codie Bell, Kate Milner, Maggie Drejer-White, Stefan Carillo, John Braithwaite, {Shawn van der Linden, Cheryl Condon

- Possible structure going forward, an unincorporated association under the auspices of the ANU or another institution (and this could be on a rotating basis) with a funded position, along the same model as ALRAC which currently sits in the ANU College of Law and has a [part] time funded administrative position.

Functions of network

- Functions of the network need to be more clearly delineated, but at their heart involve:
 - being a learning community and a network of support for those engaged in restorative practice (primarily at present through continuing to have theme specific workshops);
 - developing strategies to incorporate a restorative approach into new sectors and supporting different initiatives and ongoing restorative programs and projects across the ACT;
 - advocacy for Canberra as a restorative city;
 - develop strategies to engage with indigenous and Torres strait islander community in the ACT;
- It was suggested the network (through the governance group) could develop Terms of Reference, group definition and purpose and mission statement.

Ideas for future workshops

Different organization in the network will take it in turns to organise/host events, keep the network informed about workshops and write up summaries of outcomes.

- Restorative practices and treaty making processes in the ACT
- Restorative practice and sexual violence on university campuses (Universities Australia)
- Gillian Triggs Seminar (plus orientation for other universities in Canberra on restorative approaches) ANU & UC
- Restorative practice and education (Charlie Morrice)
- Restorative practices in the workplace (Cheryl Condon?)
- Restorative practices training (led by Terry O'Connell organised through the Conflict Mediation Service)
- Restorative practice and infant health and young children (Judy McCallum)
- Restorative Practice and Child Protection / Transition from out of home care; Elders (led by Relationships Australia)

Ideas for fundraising

- Make individual submissions and a group submission to ALRAC asking for a position to be funded as per ALRAC funding model
- Crowdsourcing
- Engage with philanthropic organisations
- Provision of funding from ACT Government for a 'Restorative Engagement Coordinator', event related provisioning will be sought by the RCN. Funding to also employ someone to continue the corporate memory

Website

- Committee to decide on particulars of funding website, could also be included in budget bid in 2018-19. Duties of 'Restorative Engagement Coordinator' and location to be considered.
- RCN website can be the site where RCN is defined, members can upload profiles, networking and communication can be augmented. Ideas for workshops can also be posted here

Next steps

- Send a call to members of network asking for initial funding, particularly to support website development
- Send a call for members to send their profiles to include on the website
- Governance group to hold first meeting to plan program for the rest of the year

NEXT MEETING: Informal gathering – get to know your network members

**Last Monday of the month
Monday 31st July 2017
at ANU Fellows Café at 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm**

Attachments

Attachment A: In attendance/apologies

Attachment B: Agenda for meeting 28th June 2017

Attachment C: ACT Law Reform Issues paper "Canberra – A restorative city"