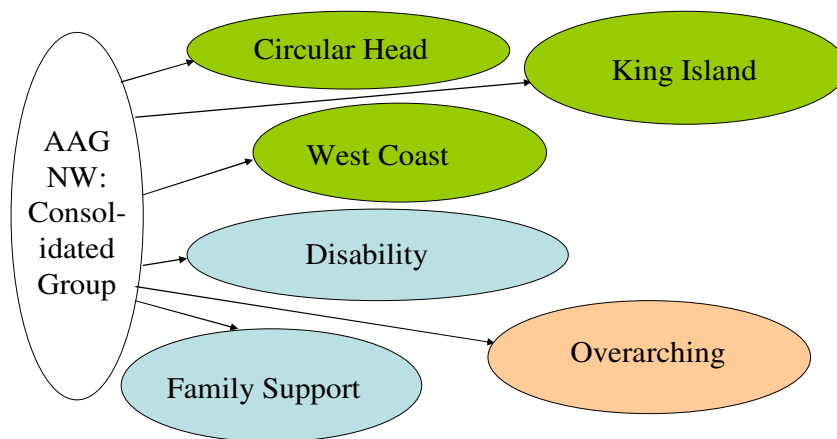


# What the North West Area Advisory Group (AAG-NW) has done: Update for October 2010

## Structure

The NW AAG has reviewed its operation over the last twelve months. A survey of members showed overwhelming support for smaller working groups. Some members wanted groups based on location (such as West Coast), others by the type of service (such as Disability). More detailed results of the survey are available on this website.

## Suggested Model for Working Groups



The September meeting decided on a range of smaller working groups:

- **3 place-based groups**
  - Circular Head;
  - King Island; and
  - West Coast
- **2 like-service groups**
  - Disability;
  - Family Support
- **1 overarching group**
  - To continue work on transport and communication/ mentoring issues.

The Working Groups will progress actions from the Area Plan. At times, Working Groups may invite people with specialist knowledge to help with particular Actions from the Plan. It is possible that some members will choose to be involved in more than one group. For example a member may wish to be part of both the West Coast and Family Support Working Groups.

## **Transport**

AAG - NW has given members the opportunity to comment on possible changes to the laws regulating community and public transport. Frank van Ravels and Emma Fitzpatrick from the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DEIR) spoke to members on 14 October in Devonport. Likely changes are:

- Large Passenger Vehicles will be those manufactured with a seating capacity of 10 or more and community transport vehicles in this range will require Operator Accreditation.
- Ancillary Certificates will not generally be required for non commercial transport.
- Voluntary accreditation will be considered to assist community organisations wishing to improve their systems.

Further information is available at the DEIR website:

[http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/miscellaneous/passenger\\_transport\\_legislation\\_review](http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/miscellaneous/passenger_transport_legislation_review)

## **Working Group Updates**

The three place based working groups continue to meet. This month we will focus on the West Coast Working Group.

### **West Coast Rural Youth – “What is there where you live” Project**

A placed based project was agreed to for the West Coast as a result of the meeting in June of the Area Advisory Group. The West Coast Service Provider’s forum established a Youth committee who developed the West Coast Youth Project initiative to identify and address gaps in services for youth on the West Coast

A collaborative partnership has been formed between the Community Partnership Team North West – DCYFS, Healthwest, Health Promotion, West Coast Council, Rosebery Community House, Zeehan Neighbourhood House and more recently Anglicare Tasmania.

The West Coast Youth project aims to:

- gain an understanding of the challenges faced by rural youth living on the West Coast;
- enhance community benefits through more effective service delivery to youth;

- provide the opportunity for youth and service providers to participate in the project at a local level;
- provide greater collaboration across youth, community sector organisations and all spheres of government;
- improve communication and trust between all stakeholders; and
- enhance capacity to develop and sustain networks on the West Coast.

The first round of consultations covering housing and relationships occurred between 13<sup>th</sup> July and 17<sup>th</sup> August encompassing a total of thirty four (34) West Coast students and three (3) students who have moved from the West Coast to study at Hellyer College. Further consultation is occurring with further Hellyer College students.

Six (6) West Coast youth have shown an interest in being part of the West Coast Youth Committee, it is our hope that a multi-generational decision making structure will develop.

A second round of consultations is being completed as this report is written. Questions will relate to gaps in services around jobs and recreation.

The following potential collaborative partnerships and projects have been identified as part of the research process to date:

- for a collaborative partnership with Anglicare and West Coast Council to educate and engage students in an e-counselling service;
- For a WC rural Youth advisory committee to participate in planning and decision-making at a council level on issues affecting them and their communities.
- To broker a collaborative partnership between Hellyer College, west coast secondary schools to provide a transition program enabling west coast students to travel up to Hellyer prior to completing Yr 10 to experience life at Hellyer College.
- To broker a collaborative partnership to develop a “buddy” system to enable a more stable transition from the West Cost to Hellyer.

A three stage plan identifying potential funding sources has been developed, with applications submitted.

## **Are you interested?**

If you have something to say about the AAG and its work please talk to Julie Fraser at Speak Out on (phone) 6431 9333 and Michelle Haddon from Advocacy Tasmania on (phone) 6441 0201. They will talk to us about how best to involve you.

Over the next year we want to speak to clients about other projects. When we have the full list of topics we will ask clients for more help.