

Collaborative Networking in QLD

With two NAYSS providers funded through phase 1 and a further provider funded through phase 2 in the Brisbane and nearby Toowoomba regions in QLD the opportunity for collaboration was evident. These three providers now meet regularly every three to four months. They have invited the Queensland Program for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT) to participate in these regular meetings as they share the same clientele and the three NAYSS providers also identified that they do quite a bit of work in partnership with QPASTT. There are several aspects to this network that make it more than a simple information sharing mechanism, including:

- the meetings are held at each others services or bases
- they focus on identifying trends and brainstorming WHY things might be happening
- the services share good practice such as hearing from those who have already established homework groups about what works and how best to ensure such programs are successful which has helped other members who are just beginning to explore this strategy
- they also incorporate a lunch which allows opportunities to build rapport further between staff

Services that participate identify this network as important for two key reasons: “it validates what we do” and “it is a community of shared interests”. In addition, the network opens opportunities for joint initiatives such as camps and other joint funding initiatives. Clearly this collaborative group provides for both mentoring and peer support between NAYSS providers in a particular region as well as involving another key stakeholder in that process. The group are currently considering expanding the network in future.