

BMCI –Terms of Reference

Blue Mountains Community Interagency (BMCI) is a member-based forum established by Mountains Community Resource Network, the peak body and voice of community organisations within the Blue Mountains. MCRN's Mission is to work with funded and unfunded groups and disadvantaged communities developing social justice collaborative networks and infrastructure; and to represent the Mountains on local and regional projects.

Role and Function of BMCI:

The value of BMCI (as perceived by current members) is that it is: a cross-sectoral, generalist forum – open to both specialist and generalist services – enabling managers and workers to identify services, new programs, changes in direction, ways to address issues arising for the sector, and opportunities for partnerships.

Blue Mountains Community Interagency (BMCI) provides:

- a forum for member organisations to come together, network, share information, and discuss sector-wide issues;
- a mechanism for working together collaboratively on identified issues (eg issues-based working groups, time-limited Special Interest Groups);
- a forum to foster action on social justice and positive social change;
- an opportunity to forge partnerships and engage in strategic alliances;
- a forum to bring together government and non-government organisations;
- (proposed future implementation of) a member forum on MCRN's website for the discussion of 'hot topics', and the establishment of web-based forums for Special Interest Groups;
- a 'space' for members to identify opportunities for growth and development.

'Business Rules':

- BMCI meets on the last Tuesday of every month (except December); 9:30am-11:30am, at the Santa Maria Centre - off Mary Street, Lawson (unless otherwise advised).
- Refreshments are catered by MCRN.
- No quorum is necessary for BMCI; however, if there are less than 5 attendees at any given meeting, the meeting will be postponed and the Agenda held over until the next month.
- A Standing Item on the Agenda is an opportunity for interagency Info-share; as this is a critical benefit to BMCI members, any member unable to attend a BMCI meeting is required to submit a (short) written report prior to the meeting which can be distributed/read.
- There will be three (3) issues-based specialist forums per year (eg March, July & September) - the themes to be decided by the BMCI membership; and eight (8) general meetings (with provision for guest speakers).
- The roles of Chair and Minutes Secretary will rotate amongst the members – the roster to be drawn up 6 months in advance.

- The Minutes of the meeting to be distributed to members electronically (eg via email or the Members' section of the MCRN website) as soon as practicable after the meeting in draft form; and along with the Agenda prior to the next meeting.

Membership:

Participation in BMCI is offered/available to all financial MCRN members (organisations or individuals).

MCRN membership entitles the Member to:

- membership of BMCI (Guests are welcome to BMCI, but more than 3 attendances per year will require MCRN membership);
- free access to the weekly interagency *eBulletin*;
- access to the Members' section of the MCRN website (under construction);
- discounted Meeting Room and equipment hire.