

PIR Agency:	Aftercare
Date:	Dec 14- Oct 15
Key issue(s)	Minimal social support services for persons in the 50 plus age group. Multiple clients report experiencing extreme social isolation at various points in time e.g. when they struggle with aspects of their mental illness or when physical illness happens; when a friend dies. Many reports being lonely and having no social outlet or support, this then has a negative impact on their mental wellbeing and can result in hospitalisation.
Main Objective(s)	Determine a service model that can work with this group; support/facilitate the introduction of service provision in this area of need on the Redcliffe Peninsula. Provide consumers with opportunities to access this service model.
Summary of Impact or Result	Over the period of the project; the group 61 model (that provides trained volunteers to befriend mental health consumers), was supported to bring their service to the region. This resulted in numerous matches between volunteers and 'friends' thereby supporting consumers' needs in community.
Context	
<p>The project was identified as a result of consumers voicing their needs in this regard. Service providers also noted that there was 'nowhere' to refer people to when they were ready to exit clients' Often consumers still needed some follow up in community and more informal support was identified as being important. Multiple services came together for a meeting in late 2014 to discuss this matter and develop a plan.</p>	
Stakeholders/Partnerships	
<p>PIR, Group 61, Aftercare, community members and services (clinical and non-clinical), local representatives, Regional Council, Redcliffe Police, HHS (Hospital and Health service), Encircle.</p>	
Project Management	
<p>This is a 4 phase project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Determine what currently exists (Rationalise the need for the project) 2) Establish relevant key partners (following a community meeting) 3) Devise a strategy to consider options to meet the needs in the community (determined that the Group 61 model could work) 4) Evaluate end 2015. <p>The project plan later included completing an application for system reform funding.</p>	
Description of Activities	
<p>The outcomes of the project were achieved i.e. a new service was introduced to the region. Expectations were probably even superseded.</p>	

Project Impact	
The project will now be sustained and supported via the existing Area Coordinator for Group 61.	
Lessons Learned	
The initial budget of \$5000 was insufficient. Another \$5000 was applied for and on receipt of this, the project continued for another 3 months. The working group determined that the capacity of Group 61 had not reached a self-sustaining level. Other challenges included; drop off consistent support from the community members and stakeholders. The project worker found it challenging working one day a week. This project would benefit from more hours. Working with an existing, established service such as Group 61 was very beneficial to this project. We were able to link in to their expertise and experience.	
Appendices	