Handout 4  What is an interagency

Interagencies are formal meetings of community services with common interests. They may meet monthly or less frequently throughout the year. These groups can take different forms including:

1. Local information Exchanges.
These exchanges aim to inform members of new development, meetings will often include a program of guest speakers who discuss issues such as:

- Local service initiatives
- Changes in: government policy
- government and non-government programs
- legislation
- funding arrangements

2. Specialist Interagencies
This is where agencies who share a common target group meet to:

- Discuss their concerns
- Share information
- Plan collaborative activities

Examples of these interagencies include:

- Family Service Interagencies
- Child Protection Interagencies
- Disability Interagencies
- Mental Health Interagencies

3. Local Social Action Forums and/or Coalitions.
These forums/ coalitions are formed when workers, community members and/or other groups share a common goal around social or political change. For example they may work together to prevent the closure of a service that assists their target group.

4. Peak Bodies
Plan a coordinated critique of government policy and represent and/or advocate the concerns of the community sector about state and federal economic, social and political issues; some examples include:

- Youth Affairs Council of Australia
- Australian Council of Social services
- Council for the Single Mother and her Child