Handout 5: The Benefits of Developing Strong Networks

There are a number of benefits of developing and maintaining strong networks. These include:

- Opportunities to share information. For example, sharing information about new program developments, changes to current programs and emerging social and political issues in the local area, changes in government policy.
- Developing an awareness of other available services in order to make appropriate referrals and to minimising duplication of services.
- Mutual support during stressful periods.
- More efficient use of resources. For example, pooling resources to share a staff development day or working in partnership to develop a new program that responds to a community need.
- Identifying workers and agencies with specialist expertise and developing ways of sharing this expertise with a number of different agencies.
- Sharing knowledge of the community and working in a co-ordinated way to develop new programs that respond effectively to the most significant needs of the area.