Handout 6: Obstacles to Strong Networks.

A number of different factors can prevent the development of strong networks. These can include:

1. Pressures of Work
Community sector workers can be tremendously busy. This means that networking can sometimes be seen as a luxury rather than a necessity. Busy staff may have little time to respond to requests from other services or attend interagency meetings.

2. Differences in Philosophy or Priorities
Where significant differences exist between services, these may discourage staff from initiating and maintaining contact, even where they have common interests.

3. Staff Changes
Where staff change frequently, it can be difficult to maintain effective links.

4. Distance from the Community
Some services, especially large ones, or those whose auspice is not a community based organisation, may remain distant from local issues and services.

5. Confusion About the Purpose of Networking
If employers or management committees aren’t clear about the importance and purpose of networking, they may feel attendance by staff at meetings that foster networking a waste of time. Their view may be that staff members should stay on the site of their program as much as possible and that the only time they are really working is when they are at their agency.