



DELEGATE'S REPORT

2 February 2010

DR1	MISSION AUSTRALIA'S PERSONAL HELPERS AND MENTORS PROGRAM
FILE: 419	KEO (NRN) {Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

Reporting on attendance at launch of Mission Australia's Personal Helpers and Mentors program.

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DESCRIPTION:

The launch of the "Personal Helpers and Mentors" program by Mission Australia, which is funded by the Federal Government, was held at Port Macquarie Westport Bowling Club on Wednesday 16 December 2009 at 10.00 am.

Welcome to Country was done by Uncle Bob O'Brien with Daryl Beleconni as MC. In attendance were the Federal Member for Lyne Rob Oakshott and Member for Port Macquarie Peter Besseling.

The Personal Helpers and Mentors Program provides for 50-60 places within the Hastings and Macleay Valleys to provide personal assistance and mentoring to individuals with a disability including mental health.

There are no specific numbers allocated to either valley, basically it is first in best dressed, which may disadvantage the Macleay Valley, however the assurance was given that this would not occur.

There are a range of activities within this program and tabled for information is literature on these.

It is good to see that mental illness is now being recognised as a disability, and services are becoming available to provide additional assistance to enable people with a disability including mental illness to live in the community, be an active part of the community and access employment.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Nil.

- **Social**

Additional support programs will increase the ability of disadvantaged people to partake more fully in the community.

- **Economic (Financial)**

Nil cost to Council, however, the program could result in more employment within our community and increased economic returns.

- **Policy or Statutory**

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the information be noted.
2. That Kempsey Shire Council support the program.

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COUNCILLOR E A GREEN