### Minutes of Meeting held at the Western Districts Court House Richlands 13/07/2010

### Stakeholders Present:

Uncle Alan Hamilton & Kerry-Lyn Barney – MURRI Court Support Liaison Officers - Community Justice Program;

Lyn Manners & Koaneti Akuila – Partnership Brokers, Youth Attainment & Transitions – The Smith Family.

### Strategic Conversation

Initially Lyn introduced herself and Koaneti and explained the purpose of the visit.

Both Uncle Alan and Kerry-Lyn then gave an overview of the situation facing young Aboriginal people in the Inala area.

When asking the question – ‘Who are the key stakeholders currently involved in providing support to Indigenous students and their families informing them of alternate transition pathways’ or ‘Are the current programs and partnerships adding value to student transition pathways? – Both were united in their response - There are many Government, NGO and community programs/projects in the area reluctant to share their ideas or the ‘glory’ of their successes, lots of $$ but the outcomes remain the same. It appears there are ‘silos’ of activity with very little collaboration or coordination between providers and replicating of programs/projects is evident in the sector.

It was also agreed that much time, energy and $$ was being wasted in meetings – people without the authority to speak, make decisions or sign the cheques were at the table and the people with the time, talent or money – or Lyn said - the ‘WILL, SKILL or TILL’ - were often not at the table. Many ideas/initiatives that were the brainchild of local Aboriginal people were steamrolled at community meetings where much of the ownership and planning was taken over by non-Indigenous attendees. Aboriginal people deserve the right to initiate their own strategies to address the issues in their communities, and the support to do so successfully.

They identified one of the biggest challenges for the young people appeared to be that **‘no-one was home’** – parents were not responsive to their kids needs or had so many barriers or ‘challenges’ themselves that they were not pro-actively engaged in their children’s lives. Parents need the information/skills/education around healthy relationships to navigate through an ever increasing array of challenges in their and their children’s lives.

When asked ‘What are some of the things that you see stopping the young people of the local Inala area staying at school, going on to study at TAFE or University or gaining meaningful employment?’ past comments from other sections of the community were echoed, that the school was not supportive of Aboriginal kids needs. Also many parents had negative experiences at school and were reluctant to engage with the school or their children’s education.

The outcome of the meeting was that Uncle Alan committed to being involved in the Youth Attainment and Transitions, Partnership Brokering process and, as a Key Stakeholder, will assist to identify ‘other players’ from the Inala area. We agreed to work together to identify key stakeholders for the Inala Aboriginal community, and to determine how future partnerships can help to bridge the gap between current education results and the Governments Youth Compact targets?

### Lyn Manners will complete the follow up and plan the next steps in conjunction with Uncle Alan and Kerry-Lyn.