

# Darwin Family Pathways Network

## Mega Training Day

By Melinda Schroeder, Network Project Officer.

On 11 May 2006 the Darwin Family Pathways Network hosted “Mega Training Day”, an expo-style learning event for people who have contact with separating families as a part of their daily work. The event was held in the Grandstand Bar at the Fannie Bay Turf Club. Feedback from the Mega Training Day was overwhelmingly positive with many people asking when the next event would be held.

The Darwin Family Pathways Network is funded by the Commonwealth Attorney General’s Department. The Network is made up of both government and non-government agencies who provide services to separating families. The aim of the Network is to develop a greater integration of family law services for separating families.



*Claudia Baggley and Karen Markos managed the Facilitator and Trainee Registrations*

briefing session, where the learning materials were introduced. Each group was given a case scenario of a separating family. Their brief was to attend at each information stall as a group and find out how that service could assist various members of the family in the case scenario. Trainees gathered information brochures and booklets from each agency to take back to their workplace. At the end of the training session, trainees were debriefed by their Learning Group Facilitator and identified any overlap or gaps in services available.

Sixty people registered for training. Trainees were from a range of services, including legal,



*Sharon Payne (Director NAAJA), Jenny Hardy (Deputy Director NTLAC) and Melinda Schroeder (Network Project Officer),*

Service providers set up information booths, displaying posters, pamphlets and information produced by their agency and had experienced staff at those booths, ready to answer questions from the trainees. Information booths were provided by legal agencies, court services, welfare agencies, mediation & counselling services, domestic violence services, FACS, the Child Support Agency and Centrelink.

Trainees were divided into groups of 8 – 10 and with the guidance of a Learning Group Facilitator, had a

court, welfare agencies, mediation/counselling, the Defence Force, Law Society, NT Police, FACS as well as several University students. Comments from trainees included “enjoyed the training day – very informative”, “good service – am more informed about services available so can refer more appropriately causing less frustration to the client”, “found session to be well presented and a useful tool”, “excellent and informative” and “I now understand the frustration faced by some clients”.

Several people attended as VIPs, including Jim Morrissey from the Law Council of Australia, the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mark Payne,



*Information booths set up by family law service providers*



James Burke, Member for Brennan, Sharon Payne, Director of NAAJA, Jenny Hardy, Deputy Director NTLAC and Kate Halliday from the Department of Justice. They enjoyed a morning tea and then took the opportunity to visit the information stalls and observe the trainees in action.

Information stall holders, trainees and Learning Group Facilitators all enjoyed the wonderful opportunity to network with agencies and learn more about services available in the community.



*Trainees undergoing a debriefing session with their Learning Group Facilitator*

*Trainees participating in a briefing session with their Learning Group Facilitator*

