



Maria Maguire of Unfolding Futures addressing the forum

Small groups stick together

SMALL non-profit service organisations servicing the Blacktown area agreed to band together at a meeting held at the Blacktown Salvation Army hall on November 8.

Western Sydney Community Forum executive officer Deborah Sharp gave her commitment to work towards a regional forum dealing with the issue.

NSW Council of Social Services policy officer Christine Regan also gave her support to the formation of a regional group.

The feelings of those at the forum were summarised by NSW Mission Australia general manager Unis Goh when she highlighted the importance of the smaller organisations.

She said she wanted to avoid the

services sector becoming like the banks—there are only four of them.

Ms Goh stressed it was important for bigger services like Mission Australia to work with smaller organisations and give clients a range of choices.

Blacktown and other drugs family service co-ordinator Tirrania Suhood said smaller organisations did not have the bureaucracy of large organisation.

She said this was an advantage as it allowed clients' issues to be processed faster.

“We need a voice for smaller organisations,” she said.

“There is little government funding and people in the community don't give money away to small organisations they have never heard of.”