

## Moree CLSD Program meeting

24 March 2023, 10am – 12pm, Online

### MINUTES

**Present:** Judy Duncan (CLSD Coordinator, Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT), Winnecke Baker (Legal Aid NSW), Nathan Allen (Gilbert & Tobin), Lola Imawan (Respect at Work Legal Service), Jake Fing (Legal Aid NSW), Lauren Stefanou (Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT), Maureen Bates-McKay (Legal Aid NSW), Jenny Lovric (Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT), Angela (Aboriginal Legal Service), Karen Bevon (Gamble Aware)

**Apologies:** Glen Crump (Red Cross), Fred McGrady (Community Member), Susan Phillips (Legal Aid NSW)

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
<b>1. Opening and Purpose</b>	<p>Judy acknowledged that the Moree CLSD Program partnership is based on the lands of the Kamilaroi people.</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> planning collaborative action in Moree LGA to address legal and non-legal needs to improve legal outcomes for people experiencing social and economic disadvantage.</p>	
<b>2. Guest Speakers</b>	<p><b>Jake Fing – Solicitor</b></p> <p><b>Family Law Service for Aboriginal Communities, Legal Aid NSW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Family Law Service for Aboriginal Communities, or FamAC is a sister service to the Civil Law Service for Aboriginal Communities at Legal Aid NSW.</li><li>- It has been operating for about 12 months and the solicitor in charge is Bianca Dufty, a Kamilaroi woman from Moree/Brewarrina.</li><li>- The service is only for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</li><li>- The focus of the service is care and protection matters (early intervention) and family law.</li><li>- FamAC prioritises referrals for clients who have recently had a child removed by DCJ.</li></ul>	<p>Suggestion to discuss the ALS NSW/ACT new child and family support service based in Dubbo and Moree at a future CLSD meeting.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are 8 solicitors in the team that can do ongoing casework for clients in addition to providing advice and help with legal tasks that don't require ongoing support.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jake is the solicitor conducting regular outreach to Moree every 6 weeks and is originally from Moree. Can come more frequently as needed for clients with ongoing cases.</li> <li>- Susan Phillips, who previously worked with CLSAC is the Aboriginal Field Officer for FamAC in Moree.</li> <li>- While in Moree Jake and Susan work from Pius, Maayu Maali, the Local Court.</li> </ul> <p><b>Referrals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a referral form for services to use. Contact Judy or Jake for a copy of the form.</li> </ul> <p><b>Aboriginal Women Leaving Custody Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FamAC has received funding to work alongside the Civil Law Service for Aboriginal Communities to support Aboriginal women leaving custody with any family law and care and protection law matters.</li> <li>- These services aim to connect with women prior to their release so that they have legal support as soon as they leave custody.</li> <li>- The model works well in state-run correctional facilities but is a little more challenging in privately run facilities.</li> <li>- FamAC is speaking with Clarence Correctional Facility about how the model could work there.</li> </ul> <p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>Regarding child protection, Jenny raised concerns about the practice within the local school of teachers making mandatory reports for things like children not having lunch boxes at school.</p>	
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	<p><b>Maureen Bates-McKay – Engagement Officer</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Defence and Veterans Legal Service</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This legal service is available Australia-wide for defence force members, veterans, their families, and carers to engage with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide.</li> <li>- The Commission is investigating issues and themes relating to defence and veteran deaths by suicide, attempted or contemplated suicide, and poor mental health outcomes.</li> <li>- Requests to have a private session with a commissioner close on <b>28 April</b> and all other submissions must be received by <b>13 October</b>.</li> <li>- Lots of information about the service and the Royal Commission is available online here: <a href="https://www.defenceveteranslegalservice.org.au/Home">https://www.defenceveteranslegalservice.org.au/Home</a></li> <li>- CALL: 1800 33 1800</li> </ul> <p><b>Karen Bevon – Connect Consulting</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>GambleAware Legal Education and Engagement Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Connect consulting is delivering a program for Gamble Aware, which supports people who gamble, and people impacted by gambling.</li> <li>- Unfortunately, Gamble Aware counsellors no longer have access to an internal legal service.</li> <li>- Connect Consulting has been engaged to help gambling counsellors to better understand legal issues connected to gambling, to develop some basic legal literacy, and to know the legal service providers in their area.</li> <li>- A training package is being developed to achieve this aim. The training will include basic legal information, questions to ask people in order to make a referral and how to support clients to get legal advice.</li> <li>- Since Gamble Aware lost its in-house legal service, there is a concern that referrals aren't being made to other legal services.</li> </ul>	<p>Maureen to check if information about the service has been sent to Moree RSL.</p> <p>Maureen to send hard copy resources to Judy to display on notice boards around town.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legal issues that arise include legal capacity/guardianship, criminal law, family law (access to assets, care of children, how this system operates in Australia), and immigration and visas to name a few.</li> <li>- So far, the consultants are hearing that counsellors don't know how to connect people to external legal help.</li> <li>- Training options will be made available to counsellors in the second half of the year.</li> </ul> <p><b>Comments/Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jenny noted that the industry is pernicious and gambling addiction may be one of multiple addictions that people have.</li> <li>- There are lots of good resources about capacity that are publicly available through the law society.</li> <li>- Jake asked if the training is also being provided to people working in venues? No, the training is solely for Gamble Aware service providers.</li> <li>- Jake noted that gambling debts can't be applied to Legal Aid's grants system when assessing client eligibility.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3. CLSD Regional Action Plan</b></p>	<p><b>New Action Plan will be developed in Quarter 2</b></p> <p>There are 3 stages to preparing the plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Survey partners</li> <li>2. In-person consultation with community services and community members on 19 May in Moree</li> <li>3. Online consultation with legal services, date TBC</li> </ol> <p>Things that will need to be considered in planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National and State agreements on Closing the Gap,</li> <li>- NSW Aboriginal Justice Policy Plan and possible local justice plans.</li> <li>- Opportunities for synchronicity in CLSD and ALS plans, noting that ALS plans are specific to closing the gap.</li> <li>- Angela is looking at justice circuit breakers, like the youth bail project.</li> </ul> <p>The ask is whether ALS can be involved in the CLSD action plan.</p>	<p>CLSD to consult with ALS about draft planning survey.</p>

<p><b>4. Actions/Feedback from Previous Minutes</b></p>	<p><b>1. Referrals for Legal Aid representation for family law and care and protection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aboriginal clients should be referred to FamAC</li> <li>- All other clients should be referred to the Legal Aid Tamworth office (02) 6766 6322</li> </ul> <p>The Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT also has a child protection legal service and clients have the right to ask for Aboriginal Legal Service representation if they wish. Call: 1800 733 233</p> <p><b>2. NCAT Hearings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hearings are still being held 1 hour down the road at Narrabri and Judy is monitoring the situation.</li> <li>- Jenny noted that NCAT is exploring an Indigenous list based on success of the Indigenous list of the Family Court. Indication is that it will open in the next financial year.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Challenges/Suggestions?</b></p>	<p><b>Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approximately 8 lockdowns at school since the beginning of term.</li> <li>- Some children bring weapons to school or attend school affected by drugs.</li> <li>- The concern is that the school isn't notifying parents about these events, parents find out when their children tell them.</li> <li>- The schools are combining this year, years 7-12 on the one campus.</li> </ul> <p><b>Revenue NSW and Service NSW coming to Moree May 9-11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tuesday 9: Services information session at the Dhiiyan Centre</li> <li>- Wednesday 10: child car seat safety installation at Kiah Aboriginal pre-school</li> <li>- Thursday 10: youth services day, helmet, and road safety check at PCYC.</li> </ul>	<p>Consider revisiting CLE about rights in the education system. Judy noted that she would like the school to be involved.</p> <p>Judy to connect Revenue with ALS Fines service about the event.</p> <p>CLSD unit to connect with Lauren Stefanou re licence sanctions.</p>
<p><b>6. Next meeting</b></p>	<p><b>19 May Community Member and Community Service Consultation In-person in Moree, 10am – 12:30pm, lunch provided.</b></p>	