

## Northern Rivers CLSD Program meeting

19 March, 2024 - 10 – 12pm, Southern Cross University, Lismore

### MINUTES

**Present:** Bridget Barker (LA), Katja McPherson (LA), Kate Halliday (CLSD), Elizabeth Lehmann (LA), Tom Kershaw (LA), Daniel Turner (LA), Laura Kilgour (HWL), Melanie Townsend (LA), Kylie McKenzie (WDVCAS), Brendan Ross (The Centre), Sahm Ryder (The Centre), Trish McFarlane (The Centre), Joy Peters (CLSD), Natalie Mikkelsen (The Centre).

**Apologies:** Rachael Thomas (LA), Ashleigh Walters (ALS)

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
<b>2024 Meetings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>We will be meeting F2F during 2024 unless otherwise confirmed.</li><li>Locations to be Tweed Heads and Lismore, however forums and events may be in other locations as required.</li></ul> <p><u>Q2 Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> June</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information &amp; Referral Forum – Tweed Heads</li></ul> <p><u>Q3 Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> August</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Aboriginal Improving Access to Justice Event – Goonellabah.</li><li>This project is in partnership with the Aboriginal Court Support Officers. The event will focus on Crime, Family &amp; Care &amp; Protection. More detail to follow.</li></ul> <p><u>Q4 Meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> November</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Themed Meeting NDIS – Lismore (TBC) – See Below</li></ul>	

<p><b>2. Who is Doing What Project</b></p> <p><b>Themed Meeting NDIS for November Meeting</b></p>	<p>Joy to coordinate a working party to begin the project. Sahn, Rachael &amp; Dan nominated so far. Joy will follow up to get an ALS representative onboard. This project will initially be an internal document which will document service delivery in our region. It will be used as a reference point by staff from all 3 services. Content, access, platform and other details to be determined by the working group.</p> <p>Joy to also contact Jessical Trappel to talk about ALS civil law plans for the region.</p> <p>Katja suggested a target group that has been hard to reach is people with disability – what are barriers, what are people experiencing. Acknowledging that it is a very broad area. Many service providers are sole traders, although there has been some consolidation. NDIS service providers increasingly becoming a source of work for legal services. Gap in disability advocacy services?</p> <p>Aim of this forum – Encourage referrals on consumer law issues and other civil law issues, International Day of people with Disability in December</p> <p>Help workers identify issues and make appropriate referrals.</p>	<p><b>Joy to coordinate a working group for this project.</b></p> <p><b>Contact ALS Civil.</b></p>
<p><b>3. Opportunities for 2025</b></p>	<p>Kyogle to be added to the Action Plan. It was noted that it is a community to be explored for 2025. This can be placed on the Agenda for the first meeting of 2025 for discussion.</p> <p>At this stage the “Financial Hardship Forum” will be held in 2025. This will be partnering with the Financial Counselling Service and others as documented in the Action Plan. It was noted that Disaster Recovery Services need to be included in the Forum. Other issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tweed fine debt is very high, plus it is poorly serviced.</li> <li>• Purpose of the Forum would be to raise awareness with support services regarding early legal and financial advice.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Joy to update Action Plan</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some potential issues: council rates and uninhabitable properties where there is some potential for referral to legal services.</li> </ul>	
<b>4. Family Law Subpoena Project</b>	<p>Family law subpoena project CLE has been put together and the CLC is looking at running this. Kate asks what about the resource? Is there going to be a resource? HWL will advise regarding the fact sheet.</p> <p>Family law subpoena project reached out to Legal Aid family law and they are not keen to co-present. CLC would like to deliver t to services in Grafton and Clarence Valley. Bridget is also interested in having a copy of the CLE. Joy to share</p>	<p><b>Joy to forward to Bridget</b></p> <p><b>HWL to respond regarding a factsheet</b></p>
<b>5. General Business</b>  <b>Homeless Outreach Model</b>	<p>It was suggested at the Planning day that we need a model for homelessness outreach services. discussion about what this could be/intended to be:</p> <p>NR CLC do 2 homeless outreach Fred’s Place last Fri of month and Fletcher ST Byron Bay last Tuesday of each month each Centre do the appts morning appts are made. Go early while people are having breakfast but also have appts during the day. Getting a fair few in TH and BB.</p> <p>Legal Aid NSW – the civil law blueprint has had an impact on outreach however in response to request Legal Aid civil Lismore going to South Tweed Social Futures Hub every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday. Legal Aid won’t have the comprehensive outreach that we used to as the blueprint means that more resources are being put into representation. The role of the housing lawyer will be more focused on casework.</p>	<p><b>Joy to Update Action Plan with progress from Q1 meeting</b></p>

