

Aboriginal Field Officer Program

Family Law Conference, 2023



Role of Aboriginal Field Officers

- Assisting with client work – intake and assessment of clients, liaison b/w solicitor and client, assisting with communication, attending outreach clinics, attending court list days, spotting systemic legal issues
- Engaging Community – making connections with community members, Elders, clients and service providers; attending local meetings; being the ‘face’ of LANSW
- Community capacity building – building awareness of LANSW services
- Assisting with outreach events and CLE
- Making referrals for both legal and non-legal help





Benefits of the AFO Program

- AFOs create and build connections between Aboriginal communities and the LANSW service
- Ensures culturally appropriate service delivery
- Works collaboratively with solicitors to provide wrap-around service – allows us to meet the legal and non-legal needs of clients
- Linking clients to other supports and services
- Fill the gaps – link clients to services where there is no Legal Aid Office (face to face, phone, AVLs)



Benefits of the AFO Program

- Increases access to legal services for Aboriginal people and communities
- Provides culturally appropriate services to Aboriginal people and communities
- Develops local community partnerships and referral pathways
- Identifies systemic issues (both legal and non-legal)
- Contributes to Closing the Gap targets, outcomes and priority reforms



AFO Locations:

- Bourke
- Walgett
- Dubbo
- Port Macquarie
- Newcastle x2
- Wagga Wagga
- Nowra
- Coffs Harbour (AWLC)
- Lismore (FamAC)
- Tamworth (FamAC)
- Parramatta (FamAC)
- Campbelltown
- Blacktown
- Head Office (ICLC)
- Broken Hill
- Location TBC x1

Questions?

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