Moree CLSD Minutes
Thursday 30 January 2020 10am
Aboriginal Legal Service Moree

Present: Terri King (North and North West Community Legal Service), Joy Wilson (Homes North Community Housing), Kimberley Wilson (Legal Aid NSW), Shane Smith (Moree Family Support), Felicity Curtis (Moree Family Support), Jessica Chimfombo (Moree Family Support), Glen Crump (Miyay Birray), Darrel Smith (Miyay Birray), Romani Blue (NSW Ombudsman), Chris Warren (Just Reinvest), Libby Every (Anglicare), Jason Coakes (NSW Police), Martin Burke (NSW Police), Judy Duncan (Just Reinvest), Kate Halliday (Legal Aid NSW), Merinda Dutton (Legal Aid NSW), Denise Haines (NSW Health), Chris Binge (Shae Academy)

Apologies:

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<td>1. Welcome and introduction</td>
<td>Kate welcomed everyone to the meeting.</td>
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| 2. Guest speakers / topic of the day | Chris Binge from Shae Academy
Shae has been established for 12 months and offers:
Health and wellbeing services: women and men’s groups, individual services, working with families
Education services: Empowerment centre (used to be called homework centre) which focuses more on other skills. Also working with young people from age 13 to 25 years.
Sports: involved in sponsoring kids in sport. | |
Working with a lot of young people who are suspended from school – last year over 120 students were suspended, mainly in terms 2, 3 and 4. Most families do not know their rights in relation to Department of Education policy on suspension of students.

Concerns raised in discussion about young people exiting detention who are not permitted to attend school full time – only permitted to attend partially or are told to enrol in distance education.

There may be opportunities for fresh discussion on school attendance issues with the Department of Education with changes to roles in Moree. Glen suggests that the new District Superintendent be invited to a CLSD Program meeting.

Shae is now a registered WDO provider.

**Darrel Smith from Miyay Birray**

Youth Get Wise – 4 week program individual program for young people who are in the court system, on bail. Some young people are court ordered, others self-refer. Also working in partnership with Juvenile Justice. Referral pathway also from police as part of bail conditions.

Miyay Birray also receives referrals from Department of Communities and Justice for case management of young people who are in out of home care.

**Felicity Curtis and Jess Chimfombo from Moree Family Support Service**

Moree Family Support Service offers case management, tenancy education for young people and will soon offer ‘Feeling Fantastic’ a 6 week program on emotional understanding and expression for young people under 12 years.

**Jason Coakes** from PCYC

The Saturday night program is continuing and attracts a lot of young people.

Rise Up and Fit to Strive programs are also available – looking at incorporating cooking this year.

Fit for Change also offers programs for schools, including talks on arson and other issues.

There is also some interest in introducing Flat Track program.
### 3. Challenges and suggestions

Terri from North and North West Community Legal Centre provided an update regarding their new Moree office. NNWCLC provides advice on a wide range of legal issues including family law. They also operate a domestic violence court liaison program in other courts in the region. NNWCLC may be able to offer a similar service at Moree Local Court depending on who is appointed as their lawyer in Moree.

NNWCLC can also do wills, power of attorney for disadvantaged people, however they are quite flexible regarding client eligibility for this service.

NNWCLC is also in discussion with the CLSD Program Regional Coordinator about holding a wills clinic in Moree in March.

The flyer on legal advice services in Moree has information on how to contact NNWCLC (sent out with these minutes).

Joy from Homes North – client who needs help to understand the terms of an ADVO or APVO. The client will need a copy of the order (available from the Local Court) and police can assist, or refer the client to a legal advice service.

Glen from Miyay Birray raised an issue about young people at court who are in out of home care, and who nominate residential address that is not supported by the young person’s case manager.

Martin emphasised the need for bail conditions for young people to be flexible, and for changes to be made where circumstances change.

Agreed that Darrel and Glen talk further with Michelle (DCJ in Moree) to clarify that DCJ caseworkers who attend court can/should stay at court so that they can assist the court, through the police prosecutor, with information about appropriate accommodation for a young person.

Martin raised issue of recent housing evictions and the need to use as many opportunities as possible to encourage tenants to get early legal and advocacy assistance to avoid eviction which has many negative consequences for tenants and their families.

Family Support Service advises that they are currently planning a youth homelessness action day in April targeting young people in years 10, 11 and 12.

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Darrel and Glen to discuss with Michelle (DCJ)
Kim from Legal Aid NSW to follow up with social housing providers in Moree about making early referrals.
CLSD Program Unit to send minutes to Kerry Anne at NEWTAAS for their input/advice.
Shane from Family Support Service to raise awareness about the need for early legal advice for people experiencing tenancy problems, including difficulty with making rent payments, at the Homeless action team meeting next week.
Kim (Legal Aid NSW) advises that housing/homelessness is in the CLSAC action plan.

Judy has a question about what services are now available for perpetrators of domestic violence now that ACE is no longer operating.

Current available options are:
- Shae Academy’s men’s group (the DVLO is referring people to this program)
- What’s your plan? (offered by the ACCSO’s at the Local Court)

4. **CLSD partnership priorities & actions**
   - Actions from previous minutes
   - Action Plan (priorities, completed actions, ongoing actions)

Fine debt and WDOs

Note high fine debt in Moree. **1221 people have fine debt (around 16.5% of the population of Moree). Collectively they owe $2,677,628. 28 people are engaged in a WDO** (data from Revenue NSW 1 January 2020).

Kim (Legal Aid NSW) reminded everyone that people can get legal advice/assistance about having a fine waived and that telephone advice is available from the Civil Law Service for Aboriginal Communities (phone...)

Also see the flyer on legal advice services in Moree for clinics.

Agreed to focus on:
- Encouraging WDO providers to register as advocates with Revenue NSW so they can make inquiries about whether a client has a fine debt.
- Holding a fines day at the Local Court (and possibly other locations), possibly in conjunction with NAIDOC celebrations.
- Note that Legal Aid NSW is talking to Glen about doing promotion on fines and WDOs through his radio program.
- Engage with Revenue NSW about strategies for moving people who are on time to pay arrangements to WDOS and seek information about the offences that notices are being issued for.

5. **Next meeting**

   **21 May 2020**

jjj