



CLSD e-update APRIL 2014

CLSD PROGRAM UNIT

News

Welcome to the 1st edition of the CLSD e-update for 2014. Things have been busy in the CLSD Program Unit. We've worked with the Central West, Far West, South Coast and Northern Rivers partnerships on new Strategic Plans for each region. Thank you to everyone who participated, and to our CLSD Program Regional Coordinators for organising these meetings. The enthusiasm and buy-in to collectively identify and pursue tangible goals to assist disadvantaged people in regional and remote communities in each region shows how well CLSD program partners can work together.

CLSD Program Projects

Joint service clinics in rural NSW

CLSD Program partners are working together to provide joint-service clinics in regional and remote locations in NSW where there is otherwise no access to face-to-face free legal services. CLSD program partners have collaborated to staff weekly (or fortnightly) legal and advocacy clinics in Deniliquin, Corowa, Cootamundra, Gloucester and Glenroi (outside Orange). These join other established weekly clinics in Taree, Lithgow and Bathurst. We are also exploring joint service clinics in Cowra and Forster.



The rationale behind these clinics is that local people are more likely to use a regular, free and well-promoted clinic hosted in a local community agency with good community ties, rather than an ad hoc and unpredictable service. We are working with local public sector lawyers (from Legal Aid and Community Legal Centres) along with private local or Sydney-based pro bono solicitors, tenancy workers, family support services and financial counsellors. Some of the clinics are being conducted by webcam or telephone – all with the valued assistance of the local host agency.



LEFT: Karen Bowley, CLSD Program Regional Coordinator from Albury CLSD and solicitor with the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service congratulates and thanks retiring private practitioner David Martin who has been providing pro bono assistance at the Deniliquin weekly clinic. David Martin's place on the Deniliquin weekly roster will be taken over by pro bono solicitors from Clayton Utz.

Wellington Law Shop

In February, Central West CLSD partners teamed up for the *Wellington Law Shop*, an outreach "pop-up" shop to Wellington, a town identified as having high socio-economic disadvantage and high legal needs. The 'Law Shop' was open for a week at the vacant old Police Station. Services participating included Legal Aid Dubbo, the Aboriginal Legal Service, Western NSW Community Legal Centre as well as Lifeline Financial Counselling, the WDVCS, Barnardos and WDO providers. An e-zine/directory of where to get legal help for different legal problems has been produced for the local community.



LEGAL AID NSW NEWS

New Panels website

Legal Aid NSW has launched a new website for panel lawyers doing legal aid work. The Legal Aid NSW Panels and Panel Applications website is available to private lawyers to submit applications for appointment to a panel.

<http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/for-lawyers/panels-audit-and-practice-standards>

Before using the website, download and read the Quick Guide for Panels Application at

http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/19257/Panels-System-Quick-Guide.pdf.

A major component of the Reforms is a new model of service delivery for domestic violence victims. Under the model, all domestic violence victims will be referred to a single 'Central Referral Point' (CRP). This will be an electronic platform through which victims can be referred to Local Coordination Points (LCPs) for case coordination and risk assessment. The LCPs will also provide secretariat support for local interagency meetings regarding victims deemed at serious threat (or high-risk) of further harm, called Safety Action Meetings (SAMs).

The implementation plan proposes that the existing 28 Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (WDVCASs) be provided with additional funding to act as LCP in each region.

The new service delivery model will be trialled in two launch sites, Orange (hosted by Central West WDVCAS) and Waverley (hosted by Sydney WDVCAS), from June 2014. The remaining 26 sites will be established through a staggered roll-out over a five year period (concluding 30 June 2019).

New NSW Ombudsman Reports

The NSW Ombudsman tabled two reports to Parliament today that may be of interest to you. The first is a special report to Parliament entitled *Review of the NSW Child Protection System: Are things improving?* The second is a special report to Parliament as convenor of the Child Death Review Team. It analyses the causes of death of children with a child protection history from 2002-2011.

Both reports and the Ombudsman's media release can be accessed at the links below.

http://www.ombo.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/15634/Causes-of-death-of-children-with-a-child-protection-history-2000-2011-SRP-April-2014.pdf

http://www.ombo.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/15691/Review-of-the-NSW-child-protection-system-Are-things-improving-SRP-April-2014.pdf

Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS) defunded

From the desk of Scott Morrison, Department of Immigration and Border Protection:

"From today people who arrived illegally by boat, as well as illegally by air, will no longer receive taxpayer funded immigration advice and assistance under the Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS). This election commitment will save the budget \$100 million," Minister Morrison said today.

"Australia's protection obligations do not extend to providing free immigration advice and assistance to those who arrived in Australia illegally ... The withdrawal of taxpayer funded immigration advice and assistance does not prevent those who arrived illegally having access to legal assistance. In addition, those who wish to provide immigration advice and application assistance pro bono are free to do so."

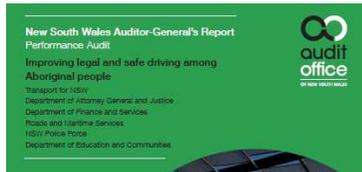
Minister Morrison continues: *"Access to any private and/or pro bono immigration advice by illegal boat or air arrivals will be facilitated by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, with all costs to be met by the providers of these services ... If people choose to violate how Australia chooses to run our refugee and humanitarian programme, they should not presume upon the support and assistance that is provided to those who seek to come the right way, and they should certainly not receive additional assistance, as they did under the previous government."*

...The government will provide a small amount of additional support to those who are considered vulnerable, including unaccompanied minors and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection is currently considering the most effective and efficient way to provide this support".

For more of the Minister's Media Releases, see <http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/scottmorrison/media/media-releases/2014/>

NSW AUDIT OFFICE - New response needed to improve Aboriginal peoples' access to driver licences

Government responses to improve legal and safe driving among Aboriginal people have had limited success reducing Aboriginal peoples' over-representation in road accident fatalities, traffic-related offending and imprisonments.



Less than half the eligible Aboriginal people in New South Wales currently hold a driver licence compared to seven out of ten for non-Aboriginal people. Licensed drivers make for safer roads, with fewer accidents and injuries. Driver licences give people the mobility they need to access services and actively participate in their communities.

There are real barriers for Aboriginal people to obtain, retain and regain driver licences. Barriers preventing Aboriginal people from obtaining a licence include:

- a critical shortage of supervising drivers to assist learner drivers complete the required 120 hours of supervised driving
- poorer literacy and numeracy skills among Aboriginal people which lower the pass rates for the driver knowledge test
- not having a birth certificate which is the main proof of identity to obtain a driver licence
- the layout, location and hours of operations of motor registries.

Aboriginal people find it harder to retain their licence primarily due to unpaid fines. The fine may or may not be related to driving, but if not paid can result in driver licence suspension. Aboriginal people are losing their licence for fine default at around three times the rate of non-Aboriginal people and face real barriers to regaining it. Aboriginal people found guilty of a 'driver licence' offence are also more likely to be imprisoned. In 2011, twelve per cent of Aboriginal people found guilty of a 'driver licence' offence were imprisoned, compared to five per cent for non-Aboriginal people. Challenges facing Aboriginal people in regaining their driver licences include knowing the options available for paying fines and managing debt, the ability to attend court if required and understanding court processes.

The NSW Government offers a number of programs to address the barriers Aboriginal people face in obtaining and retaining a driver licence. These programs include literacy/numeracy support, debt management, road rules education and supervised driving assistance. The Audit office found, however, that these programs have had limited success at reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal people charged with or imprisoned for traffic offences. Driving programs have generally been only available in limited areas and for a short time. They also suffer from constraints in insurance coverage and volunteer driver reimbursements, lack of program ownership, uncertain funding and poor evaluation.

Some local programs have been more successful over longer periods of time. Some of the factors contributing to the longevity of these programs include a vision towards employment, utilising connections into Aboriginal communities and involving Aboriginal people in program development and delivery.

The NSW Auditor-General recommends the NSW Government support Aboriginal people to obtain a driver licence through:

- publicising that a Certificate of Aboriginality will be accepted as a primary proof of identity document if accompanied by a secondary proof of identity document
- assisting Aboriginal people to pass the driver knowledge test
- assisting Aboriginal people to complete supervised driving hours
- improving the access and quality of driver licensing programs.

The Auditor-General recommends that the NSW Government support Aboriginal people to retain or regain a driver licence through expanding and promoting Work and Development Orders and investigating innovative ways of communicating court attendance information.

The Auditor-General further recommends that NSW develop a coherent and coordinated approach led by the key departments of Transport for NSW and the Department of Attorney General and Justice.

A full copy of this report is on the Audit Office website at <http://www.audit.nsw.gov.au/Publications/Performance-Audit-Reports/2013-Reports/Legal-and-safe-driving-among-Aboriginal-people/Legal-and-safe-driving-among-Aboriginal-people>

New LawAssist Topic - Negotiation

LawAssist is a website provided by LawAccess NSW. It is designed to help people who are dealing with legal problems in NSW without a lawyer, by providing practical, plain language information on specific areas of law and the legal process. The website has been expanded to include a new topic on "Negotiation". This topic provides information for people who are involved in a dispute. It aims to develop their skills and give them confidence to try and resolve their problem by talking to the other party and without going to court.

The Negotiation topic has information about:

- Why try negotiation?
- Ways to negotiate
- Preparing to negotiate
- Tips for negotiating
- Coming to an agreement

You can view the new Negotiation topic in the 'What you should know' section of the LawAssist website at: http://www.lawassist.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au/lawassist/lawassist_what_you_should_know/negotiation.html

LawAssist also has information about: Debts – Small Claims, Car Accidents, Fines, Fences, AVOs, Employment Rights, as well as other skills based topics including Mediation, and Reading and writing legal documents.

For more information about LawAssist or to provide feedback, please call 1300 888 529 or email lawaccess@agd.nsw.gov.au

AVERT training is now online

The AVERT training is available as an online training package. The introductory course will be free but later modules will carry a cost (TBA). For more info, please go to <http://www.avertfamilyviolence.com.au/> This course is directed at people working in an ongoing capacity with people affected by violence.

Both courses are endorsed by AGD Family Law branch.

Fair Trading – My Place Programs and tenants mediation services

The current locations & dates for the My Place Programs are listed on the Fair Trading website at: http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/ftw/About_us/Our_services/Supporting_local_communities/My_place_program.page

Fair Trading – Dispute resolution service in tenancy matters

NSW Fair Trading provides a free dispute resolution service for tenants, residents, landlords and property managers with tenancy related disputes. The dispute resolution service offered by Fair Trading is a voluntary process between any parties involved in a tenancy dispute. Dispute resolution is assisted by an experienced Fair Trading officer who will aim to resolve disputes through mutual agreement.

Fair Trading will bring the parties of the dispute together either by way of teleconference or on site to resolve the dispute. For more information, see

http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/sites/ftw/About_us/Our_services/Resolving_issues/Residential_tenancy_disputes.page?DCSext.ref=HomePageClick:Whats_new

Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) Report on Access to Justice for people with disability in the criminal justice system

The AHRC has released the report "*Equality before the law: towards disability justice strategies*". The Report focuses on people with disabilities who need communication supports or who have complex and multiple support needs and who have come in contact with the criminal justice system. Negative assumptions and attitudes, coupled with a lack of support services and minimal provision of adjustments, often means that people with disabilities are viewed as not credible, not capable of giving evidence or unable to participate in legal proceedings. As a result many are left without effective access to justice. The Report proposes that in light of the substantial challenges that exist, each jurisdiction in Australia should develop an holistic, over-arching response to these issues through a Disability Justice Strategy. The Disability Justice Strategy should address a core set of



principles and include fundamental actions that are concerned with appropriate communications, early intervention and diversion, increased service capacity, effective training, enhanced accountability and monitoring, and better policies and frameworks.

To view the report go to: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/access-justice-criminal-justice-system-people-disability>

Following the release of the Report, the AHRC is developing a national list of programs and services that assist people with disability in the criminal justice system. They are seeking public input about existing services and programs that help people with disability to participate in the criminal justice system and are looking for examples of the following types of programs and services:

- Early intervention programs
- Programs and services which aim to prevent violence against people with disability
- Services and supports in police stations, courts and in custodial settings
- Diversionary measures
- Disability training programs for police, judges and correctional officers
- Policies and frameworks in the criminal justice system which aim to improve access to justice for people with disability

If you would like to provide information to the Commission about a program or service that assists a person with disability in the criminal justice system, go to <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/disability-rights/current-projects/call-out-programs-and-services-assist-people-disability>

Australian Law Reform Commission Inquiry: Review of Commonwealth laws for consistency with traditional rights, freedoms and privileges

The Attorney-General has asked the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) to review Commonwealth legislation to identify provisions that unreasonably encroach upon traditional rights, freedoms and privileges.

From Senator Brandis: *"This is a major instalment towards the commitment I made to restore the balance around the issue of human rights in Australia ...I have asked the Commission to identify where traditional rights, freedoms and privileges are unnecessarily compromised within the legal structure of the Commonwealth. Where encroachments exist, the Commission will determine whether they are justified...For too long we have seen freedoms of the individual diminish and become devalued. The Coalition Government will strive to protect and restore them."*

The terms of Reference (not yet finalized) will involve:

- Identification of Commonwealth laws that encroach upon traditional rights, freedoms and privileges; and
- a critical examination of those laws to determine whether the encroachment upon those traditional rights, freedoms and privileges is appropriately justified.

With a particular focus upon:

- commercial and corporate regulation;
- environmental regulation; and
- workplace relations.

The Commission is to provide its report by 1 December 2014. For more information, see <http://www.alrc.gov.au/inquiries/freedoms>

Proposed reforms to the Racial Discrimination Act 1975

The Australian Government is currently considering amendments to the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*. According to Senator Brandis, the Attorney-General of Australia, the proposed amendments *"will strengthen the Act's protections against racism, while at the same time removing provisions which unreasonably limit freedom of speech"*.

The proposed amendments will repeal sections 18C as well as sections 18B, 18D, and 18E of the Act. A new section will be inserted into the Act which, according to Senator Brandis, *"will preserve the existing protection against intimidation and create a new protection from racial vilification. This will be the first time that racial vilification is proscribed in Commonwealth legislation sending a clear message that it is unacceptable in the Australian community."*

Senator Brandis continues: *"I have always said that freedom of speech and the need to protect people from racial vilification are not inconsistent objectives. Laws which are designed to prohibit racial vilification should not be used as a*

vehicle to attack legitimate freedoms of speech. This is an important reform and a key part of the Government's freedom agenda. It sends a strong message about the kind of society that we want to live in where freedom of speech is able to flourish and racial vilification and intimidation are not tolerated."

The draft amendments have been released for community consultation, with submissions to be **made by 30 April 2014**.

See <http://www.ag.gov.au/Consultations/Pages/ConsultationsonamendmentstotheRacialDiscriminationAct1975.aspx> for more information and the Exposure draft. Submissions can be emailed to s18cconsultation@ag.gov.au or sent to:
Human Rights Policy Branch
Attorney-General's Department
3–5 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

LawAccess NSW – new resource to raise awareness of its service in the Deaf Community



A new video resource, aimed at increasing awareness of LawAccess NSW in the Deaf Community, is available on the LawAccess NSW website.

LawAccess NSW is a free government telephone service that provides information, referrals and in some case, advice for people who have a legal problem in NSW. The LawAccess website provides access to easy to read legal resources and to the LawAssist website, a website designed to assist people who are representing themselves in a court or tribunal in NSW.

The resource translates the *About Us* page in Auslan. The resource was developed as part of the implementation of the LawAccess NSW Communications Strategy – people with disability 2012-2015. The objectives of the Strategy include enhancing access to LawAccess NSW telephone service and websites as well as raising awareness of its service to people with disability, their families and carers and disability support services.

LawAccess NSW recently became a National Relay Service (NRS) friendly organisation. NRS provides a variety of options for people who are Deaf, hard of hearing or who have a speech impairment to contact LawAccess NSW via the NRS. One of the options for members of the Deaf Community who wish to contact LawAccess NSW is to choose the available NRS video relay contact on SKYPE and communicate with LawAccess NSW customer service staff or lawyers with the assistance of an Auslan Interpreter.

All LawAccess NSW customer service staff have received NRS training and the various options of contacting LawAccess NSW through the NRS are promoted on its websites and on its range of *Need Legal Help?* publications. To view the video resource, go to http://info.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au/lawaccess/lawaccess.nsf/pages/about_us

How Laws Are Made – new resources

The Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC), with the support of the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW, has produced two new short films - *How Laws Are Made: Parliament and Courts*. The films are 8 and 10 minutes long and provide an overview of the processes of law making in the Australian legal system. A captioned version of each film is also available.



Information
about the law in NSW

The films are intended for a non-legal audience and have great application for training. They were produced by LIAC to replace an old video that has been used in training of public librarians and local council staff over many years. These films have been professionally produced and combine film footage, archival material and graphic elements to assist in conveying the information clearly.

The videos can be found on the Find legal Answers website <http://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au/about/videos.html> They are also on the State Library vimeo channel which includes the captioned versions: <http://vimeo.com/channels/findlegalanswers> and on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/findlegalanswers>

LIAC hopes that these resources will be widely used, so please take the time to view them and share. If you would like any more information about the videos please contact Cathy Hammer: (02) 92731645 or email cathy.hammer@sl.nsw.gov.au

Supreme, District & Local Court civil forms can now be filed online

The move to improved online services for court users is now well underway, with a wide range of online civil forms now available for the Supreme, District and Local Courts on the NSW Online Registry.



The NSW Online Registry is a secure, self-serve web portal providing registry services to parties in matters before the Supreme, District and Local Courts. It enables legal representatives and court clients who are representing themselves to lodge and keep track of their matters online and without attending court.

Use of online court forms can speed up the case management process, and make it faster and more efficient to initiate cases and bring them to their conclusion. Using the Online Registry website, registered users can file forms, track the progress of cases, view filed documents online, check for judgments and orders, request copies of judgments, and many other tasks.

The website onlineregistry.lawlink.nsw.gov.au is the same website through which probate notices are now published. Previously, court clients who are representing themselves or their legal representatives had to visit a court registry to file documents. They also had to call the court to confirm an outcome. These tasks can now be done online from within homes and offices.

Time saving for court users is expected to be significant, especially for legal representatives who deal with a large volume of cases. The disadvantage of distance will also be reduced for regional court users.

Following a successful pilot in 2013, more than 24,000 civil court forms have been filed online to date. Over 1200 forms are now being filed online weekly, a number which is steadily rising. For more information and to register go to onlineregistry.lawlink.nsw.gov.au

Medicare Locals

Medicare Locals are set up to coordinate and deliver health services including after-hours GP services, immunisations, mental health support, targeted and tailored services for those in need, and eHealth. Medicare Locals are often set up as regional hubs, and also provide outreach to vulnerable populations. Read more about Medicare Locals at



<http://www.medicarelocals.gov.au/internet/medicarelocals/publishing.nsf>

Medicare Locals websites have great data on socio-economic demographics, including statistics on health in their localities. They have a data request form:

<http://www.gpaccess.com.au/library/011060%20HML%20Data%20Request%20Form%20FINAL.pdf>

STOP PRESS: there are current rumours that Medicare Locals will be subject to cuts under the budget. Stay tuned.

Section 457 visas, Fair Work Ombudsman and Department of Immigration and Border Patrol

The Fair Work Ombudsman (the FWO) has a role in policing 457 visa arrangements for overseas sources workers. Fair Work Inspectors have now been appointed as Migration Inspectors. Under operational arrangements agreed with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) the Fair Work Ombudsman's role will be to monitor three specific employer visa sponsorship obligations relating to subclass 457 visa holders.

The FWO will not be accepting direct complaints about subclass 457 sponsorship obligations. These complaints should be made to DIBP on 131 881 or the DIBP website at <http://www.immi.gov.au/Work/Pages/Work.aspx>

FWO's role will not be to respond directly to complaints about subclass 457 visas. This will continue to be the responsibility of DIBP, as the lead Agency responsible for enforcing Migration laws. The Fair Work Ombudsman will, through its existing use of field and site visits to ensure compliance with workplace law, ensure that any employer visited who also sponsors subclass 457 visa holders, is monitored in relation to three specific sponsorship obligations.

From July 2013, Fair Work Inspectors are responsible for monitoring to ensure that:

- subclass 457 visa holders are being paid the market rate specified in their approved visa
- work undertaken by subclass 457 visa holders matches the job title and description approved in their visa
- employers who sponsor subclass 457 visa are cooperating with Inspector

The monitoring role will take place alongside, and complement, FWO's existing work on site visits. When a Fair Work Inspector visits an employer who also employs a subclass 457 visa worker, the FWO will record information about the 457 visa workers' rate of pay, the job they are performing and, if necessary, the employer's cooperation with Inspectors. This information will then be passed on to DIBP for further investigation and enforcement, as required.

Visa holders and visa sponsors who have questions about their visa rights and entitlements or their sponsorship obligations should contact DIBP on 131 881 or the DIBP website.

To see more information on FWO's role in monitoring subclass 457 visas, see <http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/our-role/pages/subclass-457-visa-monitoring>

ASIC Community Outreach Training Opportunity

From February to June 2014, ASIC's Community Outreach Program will be offering free legislation training sessions to Financial Counsellors, consumer advocates and community-based lawyers in metropolitan, rural and regional New South Wales.

As the national regulator of financial products and services (including credit), ASIC will cover:

Session 1: A 2-3 hour training overview of the *National Consumer Credit Protection Act (Cth) – NCCP Act*, including the National Credit Code. This is intended for workers *new to financial counselling and consumer law* who would like a refresher training course, an overview of the legislation prior to the Enhancements.

Session 2: A full day practical overview of the *Consumer Credit Legislation Amendment (Enhancements) Act 2012* – Intended for *all* Financial Counsellors, consumer advocates and community-based lawyers, to review the legislative changes that came into effect 1 March 2013 onwards.

Regional locations include:

- Nowra
- Coffs Harbour
- Newcastle
- Lismore
- Tamworth
- Wagga Wagga
- Orange

To register your attendance contact Don Perlgut at don.perlgut@asic.gov.au. Please direct any telephone inquiries to Don Perlgut at (02) 9911 5473.

Defend yourself: facing a charge in court

The third edition of this book has been updated with law changes. This book is for people who want to defend a charge in court and to better understand court processes. Available online and in print in all NSW public libraries. See <http://www.federationpress.com.au/bookstore/book.asp?isbn=9781862879614>.

First Australians (Hot topics 86)

This issue looks at the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, how they are defined, where they live and levels of cultural engagement. It examines socio-economic profiles in relation to health, education, housing, employment and criminal justice. Also discussed are the concepts of self-representation, self-determination and sovereignty. A section on land covers Mabo, land rights and Native title. Available online and in print in all NSW public libraries. See http://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au/guides/hot_topics/first_australians/index.html



National disability insurance scheme (NDIS) factsheet

This factsheet provides information for people with disability, their families and carers who receive services from Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Available in Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese, as well as easy read English. and resources for employees in NSW who need to determine what they are entitled to from their employer, and how they can recover what they are owed. See http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about_us/strategies/national_disability_insurance_scheme

New bigger fines brochure from the ALS

This factsheet covers new on-the-spot fines for offensive language, acting in a disorderly way and refusing a police order to 'move on'. See this and other publications at <http://www.alsnswact.org.au/publications>



Parents fact sheet This factsheet from the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian is about the laws for employing children is for parents of children under 15 years of age in the entertainment, exhibition and still photography industries, and under 16 years of age in modelling. See the Factsheet at http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/example-folder-5/children-s-employment/OCG_Parents_fact_sheet.pdf

Law & Justice Foundation large grants recipients - 2013 General Grants Round

The successful recipients of the Foundation's 2013 General Grants Round were:

- **Barnardos Australia: Beyond barbed wire**
Barnardos Western NSW will receive funding to pilot a mentoring program in western NSW for women exiting prison. This project aims to reduce recidivism by reducing isolation and connecting this group with support services, through the help and support of mentors, who will be trained to work with these women. The project hopes to better understand the impact of mentoring on women exiting prison, and whether providing support and connection to other assistance services in this way has an impact on recidivism.
- **Inner City Legal Centre: LGBTI safe relationship CLE project (for workers who work with vulnerable people)**
The Inner City Legal Centre (ICLC), located in Kings Cross, operates the Safe Relationships Project (SRP), which provides court assistance, advice and referral for LGBTI people experiencing or escaping domestic or family violence (DFV). Through their work, the SRP and the ICLC found that LGBTI people experiencing and escaping DFV access relevant support services at a significantly lower rate than heterosexual people, despite research showing that LGBTI people experience this form of violence at the same rates. Through this project, ICLC will develop and deliver a training program for frontline workers who deliver services to people experiencing same sex domestic violence to be rolled out in a range of rural and regional locations around NSW.
- **Alzheimers Australia NSW: Protecting people with dementia from financial abuse**
Alzheimers Australia NSW identified a need through their consumers for information about the incidence and experience of financial abuse of people living with Alzheimers disease, and the practical steps that can be taken both to minimise the risk of this abuse occurring. Alzheimers Australia NSW will receive funding to develop a discussion paper, an education session and a helpsheet for people affected by dementia, their carers and service providers, about these important issues.
- **Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT: Talking factsheets**
These "talking factsheets" will cater to a wider range of Aboriginal audiences, particularly the online audience and those who have difficulty in reading or writing. These video resources will raise awareness and comprehension of everyday legal issues that affect people's daily lives, as told by 'everyday' Aboriginal people that communities know and trust. The evaluation of this project should provide useful information on whether this is an effective strategy for disseminating legal information to this audience.
- **Mt Druitt Community Legal Centre website**
Mt Druitt Community Legal Centre identified a need to expand the reach of the Centre's services to their catchment area, and free up time spent on providing standard information so that they can concentrate their efforts on assisting clients with more complex matters. This grant is to develop their organisation's first website, which will be an important tool for connecting with their local community.
- **Macarthur Legal Centre: Debtors Guide To Local Courts In NSW (4th edition)**
With many changes in the area of credit and debt in recent years, and the introduction of initiatives such as the Work Development Orders Scheme, Macarthur Legal Centre in Campbelltown has identified a need to update a popular plain language resource, the Debtors Guide To Local Courts In NSW. This book is an important resource for financial counsellors, lawyers assisting clients with credit and debt problems. It is also a practical guide for community members looking for information in this area.

- **Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre: Roadmap of family law service use in the Lismore area**
The Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre's (NRCLC) Aboriginal Community Development worker had observed the reluctance of Aboriginal people to engage with the family law system. This was consistent with a recent Family Law Council report that noted an under use of the family law system by Aboriginal people. NRCLC will receive a small grant to assist them to identify and document the legal roadmap that faces Aboriginal families in the Lismore area following separation.

For more information on the CLSD Program, go to
<http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/community-partnerships/cooperative-legal-services-delivery-clsd-program>
or contact Jenny Lovric on E: jenny.lovric@legalaid.nsw.gov.au or Tel: (02) 9219 5102

