# Moree CLSD Regional Meeting Minutes

## 21 November 2019 10am Aboriginal Legal Service Moree

**Present:** Michelle Allen (Department of Community Services and Justice), Bianca Smith (Byamee Proclaimed Place Inc/ MAHS), Glen Crump (Miyay Birray), Darrel Smith (Miyay Birray), Kate Halliday (Legal Aid NSW), Lynne Worrall (Legal Aid NSW), Noeline Carr (ALS)

**Apologies:** Libby Every (Anglicare)

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<tr>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
<th>Action/Responsibility/Time</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1. Welcome, purpose &amp; acknowledgement</strong></td>
<td>Noeline welcomed everyone to the meeting.</td>
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<td><strong>2. Check in</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3. Previous minutes /actions</strong></td>
<td>Last meeting’s minutes were noted.</td>
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<td><strong>4. Challenges, issues and requests</strong></td>
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<td><strong>5. Guest speakers / topic of the day</strong></td>
<td>Michelle Allen - Manager of Client Services, Community Services within the new Department of Community Services and Justice. Identified gap where young people in out of home care are remanded in custody. CS are not notified, or not notified in a timely manner about remand so they are not able to provide as much assistance as possible about accommodation for the young person or options for care</td>
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This gap happens for a number of reasons:

- Police don’t make call to the Hot line
- young person does not tell Juvenile Justice, the court or police that he/she is in OOHC

Need to improve communication with courts and Juvenile Justice to ensure that a child in OOHC is identified early. Unless the magistrate is aware of the history of the young person it is unlikely that Community Services will be notified.

Community Services has a centralised system so the notification should be made via the Helpline. Also identifying a young person in OOHC depends on the knowledge of Juvenile Justice Case Workers.

The young person may nominate a family member to live with during bail that may not reflect the arrangements that have been put in place for the young person.

Community Services can also provide court support for young people in OOHC. Community Services are now working with Juvenile Justice to make a more robust process for notification to Community Services.

Other issues for Community Services include:

- Applications for access to the NDIS which can be a bit hit and miss. The assessment process can be challenging and there is a thin market for services in this region.

Bianca Smith- Byamee/MAHS

Identified barriers for clients in securing housing:

- Admission to housing provider about drug use
- Debt from previous tenancies, sometimes due to domestic violence which was not reported to the police or recorded by police
- On TICA.
Also finding joint case planning with other services quite challenging –
acknowledging that these clients have very complex issues.

Some clients face barriers to obtaining social housing due to the conditions of
an AVO.

Kate from Legal Aid NSW advised that civil law advice is available for people
having difficulties with the NDIS and dealing with debt.

Kate will introduce Bianca to the Legal Aid NSW civil services that provide
outreach in Moree and to ask them to visit her service when they are next in
Moree.

Lynne Worrall – WDO Service

The WDO scheme recently won a Premier’s award.

Lynn advised the members that Community Services (formerly FACS) are now a
WDO provider.

Lynne has been speaking with local TAFE about WDOs. She also advises that the
SHAE Academy has almost completed the process to become a WDO sponsor.

Note:

that the fine debt for Moree is relatively high – over 1000 people collectively
owe over $2 million. By comparison it appears that not many people are
engaged in WDOs’.

Suggested that perhaps WDO sponsors may not consistently inform people
about the possibility of doing a WDO if they are already engaged with the
service provider.

After much discussion it was agreed that we could do the following:

• Ensure that all WDO providers in Moree have the poster and
  information about WDOs available to clients.
• Lynne Worrall will do a radio program with Glen about fines and WDOs.
• Noeline will promote WDOs through attending other interagency
  meetings such as the Aboriginal Interagency and the Roundtable.
• All to look for a local WDO case study that could be used in a story for
### CLSD Program priorities

Youth Forum – agreed that the Regional Coordinator would organise a panel of youth services for the first CLSD Program meeting in 2020 – to promote the services that are available to other services.

### 6. CLSD partnership priorities & actions

- **Previous actions**
- **Action Plan and projects**

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<td>NOVA Committee (DV) – Hairdresser project</td>
<td>Regional Coordinator to attend NOVA meeting - present Hairdresser project.</td>
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<td>Miyay Birray - Youth Diversion forum/Panel</td>
<td>Regional Coordinator to discuss who should be on panel, who to invite?</td>
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<td>North North West Community Legal Center - Wills Clinics</td>
<td>Regional Coordinator to contact North &amp; North West Community Legal Centre to set a date for Wills Clinic in 2020</td>
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<td>Legal AID - Promote WDO</td>
<td>Regional Coordinator to distribute posters to service providers promoting WDO’s</td>
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### 7. How did we go?

### 8. Next meeting

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<td>30 January 2020</td>
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