

Central Tablelands Cooperative Legal Service Delivery Program Partnership

The Central Tablelands Cooperative Legal Service Delivery Program Partnership is one of 12 regional justice partnerships in NSW.

The partnerships aim to improve legal outcomes for people who experience social and economic disadvantage.

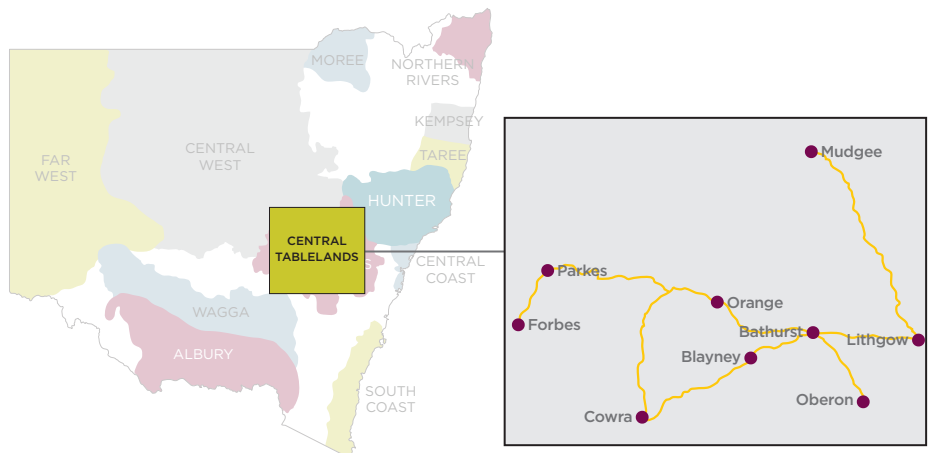
CLSD Program partnerships are a coalition of legal and non-legal services including:

- community legal centres
- financial counsellors
- Legal Aid NSW regional offices and outreach services
- the Aboriginal Legal Service
- private solicitors
- tenancy services
- disability services
- Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Services
- domestic violence services
- drug and alcohol services
- mental health services
- neighbourhood centres
- courts
- youth services.

Why are CLSD Program partnerships important?

People who experience social and economic disadvantage often have complex and interrelated legal, health, financial and social needs. CLSD Program partnerships identify areas of unmet legal need in their communities and take collaborative action to address that need.

Systemic issues and problems that are raised by partnerships are regularly fed back to the NSW Legal Assistance Forum, the Law and Justice Foundation as well as



other relevant bodies such as the Law Society, ombudsman schemes and government agencies.

How does the CLSD Program work?

Each partnership has a regional coordinator. Face to face meetings of the partners are held four times each year. Information about meeting dates and locations can be found on the Legal Aid NSW website www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/clsd

The quarterly meetings are a great opportunity for partners to share information about new services, emerging legal issues and legal needs in the region.

Each partnership has an action plan that provides a framework for priorities and collaborative work by the partners. Action plans are flexible and updated regularly.

Outside of the quarterly meetings the regional coordinator reaches out to potential new partners, monitors the action plan and helps partners to develop and implement projects.

CLSD Program Projects

Partners use an evidence based approach to respond to unmet and emerging legal needs. Funding is available to support collaborative projects that provide, facilitate or enhance access to legal services in the region.

Projects developed by the Central Tablelands partnership include:

- Wills clinics for Aboriginal people in Bathurst and Orange in partnership with pro bono firm Sparke Helmore.
- Legal advice clinics at the Neighbourhood Centre in Bathurst and the Lithgow Neighbourhood Centre – a collaboration between Elizabeth Evatt CLC and Legal Aid NSW.
- Youth Solicitor Program at Lithgow High School.

Central Tablelands region priorities:

- Improved linkages and connections with services and communities in Lithgow.
- Improved access for young people to legal services.
- Increasing family law services across the region.
- Increasing services to people with disabilities, with reference to the NDIS.

How can you get involved?

Contact the Central Tablelands Regional Coordinator:

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