

Central Coast CLSD Program Meeting

19 May 2025 | 10:00am – 12:00pm | Liberty Family Church, Gosford

MINUTES

Present: Dylan Di Sciascio (CLSD Program Regional Coordinator, RYSS), Liam Bellette (RYSS), Jason Pitt (Central Coast CLC), Jodie Beaver (Legal Aid NSW), Kai Wu (Legal Aid NSW), Chris Murnane (Legal Aid NSW), Sonya Irvine (RYSS), Kim McLoughry, Laurence Crawford (Revenue NSW), Sharon Hemmings (Service NSW), Sarah (Coast Shelter), Ben Read (Central Coast Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Service), Sarah Etherington (Central Coast Community Legal Centre), Evrim Gunce Energy & Water Ombudsman), William Maynard (Solicitor Senior Rights), Jill Gough (Caseworker Uniting)

Apologies: Melanie Alexander (Legal Aid NSW), Kerewee (Tafe NSW), Ash (Tafe NSW), Jamei Pate (Services Australia), Clair Williams (DCJ Anti-Discrimination), Alex O'Neal (RYSS)

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
1. Opening	<p>Dylan acknowledged the meeting took place on Darkinjung Country and welcomed everyone.</p> <p>Purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognising that this week is Law Week and acknowledge the hard work that Legal Services do within the Partnership and day to day life.• 2024 – 2025 Action Plan completion.	
2. Project Updates	<p>Completed Actions</p> <p>1. Frank Baxter Connect Day</p> <p>- Frank Baxter Connect Day was a big success. The day educated people on referral pathways, giving young people support to access supports when leaving incarceration, full day, face to face interactions, streamlining collaboration between services which allows young people the opportunity to access services that aid in limiting re-offending.</p>	<p>Dylan has been liaising with Frank Baxter, in regard not another Connect Day in the future. This will be something that takes place later in the year and will look to be in a more appropriate space for</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would like to do another session however utilise a different space, especially considering legal services and confidential conversations, ensuring young people are given the best support possible, looking into a tour beforehand for services - ALS and CLC attend currently <p>2. Transport Fines Interviews finishing concluding next week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Quilter from the University of Wollongong; is completing her research on transport fines and young people on the Central Coast next week. - These interviews have given young people a voice, and ensures that they are being heard especially given the nature of their fines, and how it negatively impacted their lives (implications with Service NSW, travel etc). - This will mean all parts of the action plan have been addressed and completed. <p>3. Trespass Wallet Card</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have been completed and are currently being distributed along with Central Coast - 2000 copies have been printed and more can be printed if required - The cards are multipurpose. Initially designed for young people to understand Trespass notices, the cards can also help other groups such as the elderly with things like unauthorised family staying in their home. 	<p>young people to be able to safely and comfortably access services.</p> <p>Transport Wallet Cards are now being distributed on the Central Coast. There will be an emphasis on high foot traffic areas such as shopping centres, court houses, and at public transport stops.</p>
3. Guest speakers	<p>Ben Read – Central Coast Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist tenants on Central Coast within social housing, community housing, parks, private rentals - Amendments to tenancy act being released today (19/05/2025) - Operate within tenancy advice program, advice is primarily given via phone, - Can also support people within tribunals however this is not often due to funding and staffing - Bill introduced last year for no ground's terminations - Caps on rent increases (transitional period) - Ban on background checks - Restrictions on dual toilets and water usage 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New eviction protection around no ground's evictions; key protection involves requiring; evidence of grounds, ad notice periods, restrictions for reletting exclusion periods, support with challenging an eviction and protection for retaliatory evictions - Pets in rental properties reforms, list of conditions that apply and an accessible fact sheet online, anticipated matters re service dogs and people with disabilities and pets - In summary more rights are coming for tenants, these changes come into effect today 19/05/2025 - Increase in referrals for people in public housing, added protections and provisions for tenants in public housing, ensure these tenants are accessing advice and information on these protections and provisions <p>Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regarding agents acting incorrectly. Answer: encourage tenants to call tenancy advice if they have their agents/landlords performing in an unprofessional manner, new bill means there is more room for support with tenants accessing their rights. When supporting tenants ensure you are looking at the regulations as these will guide the support/evidence to provide <p>William Maynard – Senior Rights Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State-wide service provided to senior citizens, 50-over for Indigenous people, 65-over for non-Indigenous citizens, supported accommodation services is a branch off the general senior rights service - SRS see a lot of equity claims and help with representation within courts - Give education talks which are provided by lawyers - Advocates give assistance where lawyers aren't necessarily needed, - New aged care act coming in that is moving to a rights-based model - Generally, a telephone services however they do have walk-in services across the state 	
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	<p>Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regarding support to mitigate financial loss with selling a house to entering an aged care facility, answer; SRS can offer financial advice for these circumstances 2. Regarding planning ahead documents; answer; SRS give advice on power of attorney and guardian, private solicitors do wills, NSW Trustee and Guardian will draw a basic power of attorney and guardianship document at a low cost, Salvation Army do pro bono days for Wills, CLC do Aboriginal Wills program that run annually. It is important that guardian and power of attorney documents are draw up when the person understands and has capacity to be aware of what these documents are. Wills are not just for older people; it is important that young people are also aware of these documents and can access support early. <p>3. Evrim Gunce - Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EWON provides a free service re energy and water matters, service supports people with increasing bill costs - Involves dispute resolution; investigate claim to produce a reasonable outcome for all parties involved - EWON supports people to understand their energy bill and the charges involved as well as accessing their concessions and rebates - Extra help team within EWON supports people who may require further assistance as well - Fact sheets and resources are available in over 40 languages to ensure all people can appropriately understand the service - Bring your bills day looking at Wyong and Woy Woy, later on in the year, looking at a targeted First Nation event, would like ideas around area and venue that works best for the service, looking at October 2025; Kim RYSS suggested Woy Woy Kiosk space for bring your bills space <p>Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regarding current wait times for EPA are quite long, answer; complaints and feedback are being provided back to EPA 	
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	2. Landlord issuing bills that are not accurate. Contact EWON for support and advocacy to resolve billing issues.	
5. Service/project updates	<p>Central Coast CLC Community Legal Education Sarahe@centralcoastclc.org.au</p> <p>1. Planning upcoming CLE sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can offer education sessions on different areas of legal services, regular community sessions targeted at general community members and workplaces. CLE sessions can surround, neighbourhood disputes, subpoenas, AVO's, fines - Presentations can be provided to workers and their clients - CLE and Uniting have a family law basics session that can be accessed - Family dispute matters are being seen across multiple services - Group feedback re providing workshops regarding rights with young people and legal processes specifically with police interactions - Legal Aid have a program that can be run through schools that educates young people on how to appropriately interact with police - CLE can run sessions on AVO's and police powers to community - Services can reach out to CLE to confirm what sessions they are interested in <p>Service collaboration and strategic discussion (CC connect days):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connect days are now changing to a new format, instead of a one-day format they are now being held on numerous days within a week across numerous locations across the Central Coast the first week - Dates and Locations for Connect Days: Coast Shelter 24th of June (10am – 2pm), San Remo Neighbourhood Centre 25th of June (10am – 2pm), Mingaletta 26th of June (10am – 2pm) - Connect days last year were held once every month, this year they are 3 days in one week every second month - New locations are being sought for October onwards, these locations would need to have capacity to hold the number of people that attend 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Having 3 in one week allows more space for advertising and for opportunity for people to access the service another day if they are unavailable for one of the first days - New services are also welcome to come, EWON looking at attending a service connect day TBC <p>Service Updates</p> <p>Revenue NSW:</p> <p>WDO's change in legislation regarding activities within WDO's. Anything that is compulsory such as attending school can be used as an order, mentoring is now open to any age instead of only 25 and under.</p>	
6.Next meeting	08 September 2025	