

Central Tablelands CLSD Program meeting

23 May 2023, 2-3:30PM, Online

MINUTES

Present: Aloka **Welch-Hammial** (CLSD Regional Coordinator), Arlia **Fleming** (CTBMCLC), Kate **Halliday** (Legal Aid NSW), Eveleen **May** (Disability Advocacy), Georgia **Murphy-Haste** (Sparke Helmore), Madison **Williams** (Sparke Helmore Lawyers), Morgan **Long** (Sparke Helmore), Penny **Watt** (Housing Plus), Yvonne **De Borde** (Macarthur Legal Centre), Tessa **Sparks** (CTBMCLC), Nick **Meumann** (CTBMCLC), Simon **Colyer** (Relationships Australia), Ellen **Newton** (Housing Plus), Megan **Raines** (Legal Aid NSW), Jill **Marshall** (Legal Aid NSW), Peter **Ringbauer** (Legal Aid NSW)

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
1. Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Acknowledgement of/welcome to CountryGeneral welcome - CLSD partners introduced themselves (name, pronouns, role, organisation) and shared a recent successful referral for their client to another service	
2. Purpose of today's meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To work together to assist people in our region who are experiencing social and economic disadvantage.	
3. Guest speakers and group discussion	<p style="text-align: center;">Family Advocacy and Support Service</p> <p>Ellen Newtown (Domestic Violence Specialist Worker Family Advocacy and Support Services at Housing Plus), Megan Raines (Solicitor at Legal Aid NSW), Simon Colyer (Family Advocacy and Support Service at Relationships Australia)</p>	

Where the FASS began:

- Arising out of the Third Action Plan under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022, the Federal Government committed \$18.5 million over three years (2016-2019) to implement the FASS in family law court registries nationwide.
- The purpose of the FASS was to provide an integrated duty lawyer and family violence support service to help families navigate the family law courts where there are concerns of family violence.

Expansion:

- In the 2021-22 Budget, the Commonwealth Government allocated funding to Legal Aid NSW to maintain and expand the FASS.
- The FASS currently operates in NSW Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA) Registries in Wollongong, Sydney, Parramatta and Newcastle.
- Legal Aid NSW will expand the FASS to all FCFCOA circuiting locations in NSW which is an additional twelve regional locations including Orange.

What is the FASS:

- The Family Advocacy and Support Services (FASS) is a specialist service that provides legal and social support to clients affected by family violence in the family law courts with:
 - Duty lawyer services provided by Legal Aid NSW
 - Social support services for women provided by the local Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (WDVCAS) and
 - Social support services for men provided by Relationships Australia.

What Problems can FASS Lawyers help with?

- The FASS lawyers can help with:
 - arrangements for children
 - getting an ADVO
 - Splitting property after separation
 - getting a divorce

- child support
- problems with Communities and Justice (DCJ)
- getting victims support
- sorting out other legal problems you have because of family violence

How can FASS Lawyers Help?

- FASS lawyers can:
 - give you legal advice
 - help with court documents
 - Provide a duty lawyer to appear for you in court (in some cases)
 - help you find a lawyer if you need help for an ongoing case
 - FASS lawyers can work with support workers to support you with your case and improve your safety.
 - FASS lawyers can help even if your ex-partner is getting help from another part of Legal Aid NSW.

How can the Social Support Service assist?

- The social support services are available for families affected by family violence who are experiencing family law issues and are available to all clients – whether they:
 - Have a matter in court or not
 - Are privately represented
 - Have a grant of Legal Aid and are represented by a panel practitioner,
 - Are represented by an in-house Legal Aid lawyer,
 - Are represented by a CLC
 - Are represented by a pro bono lawyer
 - Are self-represented.
- There are social support services for women and social support services for men:
 - The social support services for women are provided by the local WDVCAS via Housing Plus.

- The social support services for men are provided by Relationships Australia.
- The client does not need to be a victim of family violence, there can be allegations of family violence made against the client
- The social support services are also available to people indirectly affected by family violence, for example extended family members such as grandparents.

How does the Social Support Service assist?

- Work out what you need help with and connect you with other services
- Give you information and support during your family law case
- Advocate with you with organisations like Centrelink, Housing, Victims Services and NSW Police
- Provide you with a plan for your safety at home and at court
- Talk to the Federal Circuit Court and Family Court of Australia about your safety at court
- Connect you with behaviour change programs, parenting programs or other services
- Work with your lawyer and support you with your case and improve your safety.
- Assist with victims support applications.

How to get help

- Our duty lawyers and support workers are available at all Federal Circuit Court of Australia (FCFCOA) locations in NSW.
- At locations across NSW, our duty lawyers and support workers are available in person when the FCFCOA is sitting at that location. At other times we can help by telephone.
 - You can contact a duty lawyer by calling 1800 551 589
 - You can contact a social support worker for women by calling 1800 11 FASS (1800 11 3277)

- You can contact a social support worker for men by calling 1300 00 FASS (1300 00 3277)

For Family Law Violence Help visit www.fmailyviolencelaw.gov.au

Sparke Helmore

Georgia Murphy-Haste (Senior Associate, Pro Bono Legal Programs Manager), Madison Williams (Lawyer, Pro Bono)

Sparke Helmore's Pro Bono Practice

Assistance for individuals:

Sparke Helmore can consider any pro bono requests that fall within the areas of law outlined below:

- **Property** (i.e. lease review, tenancy and strata title issues);
- **Workplace** (i.e. unfair dismissal, discrimination, unpaid entitlements, and other disputes);
- **Litigation and dispute resolution** (i.e. elder abuse, bankruptcy, debts, consumer and other disputes);
- **Banking and finance** (i.e. negotiation of loan terms);
- **Construction** (including building disputes);
- **Insurance and superannuation** (i.e. disputes and early access); and
- **Wills and estates** (i.e. drafting Wills, Power of Attorney and Appointment of Enduring Guardian documents, applying for probate or letters of administration, and estate disputes).

Assistance for charities and not-for profits:

Sparke Helmore can consider any pro bono requests that fall within the areas of law outlined below:

- **Not-for-profit law** (i.e. structuring, governance, fundraising and compliance issues);
- **Corporate and commercial** (i.e. drafting and reviewing contracts, mergers and acquisitions);
- **Property** (i.e. lease review and tenancy);

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplace (i.e. drafting workplace policies, safety, drafting and reviewing employment contracts, vaccination advice, and other disputes); • Intellectual property and information technology (i.e. trademarks, intellectual property advice and disputes, online terms and conditions and technology contracts); • Privacy (i.e. breach response management, cyber security, drafting and reviewing policies); • Coronial inquests; • Banking and finance; and • Planning and environment (i.e. disputes with local councils). <p>Referral Forms for Individuals and Entities and Feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pro Bono team has drafted referral forms for their services. • Feedback provided by partners was that these draft forms are clear and easy to navigate. • Once these forms are finalised, they will be distributed. 	
<p>4. Standing items</p>	<p>Referrals</p> <p>Legal Health Check & Guides to Free Legal Help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CTBMCLC has developed a new Legal Health Check document to help non-legal services to make legal referrals. - Aloka has sought feedback from local social workers about the draft document. The feedback was that social workers did not know where to refer their clients following using the Legal Health Check. - Consequently, the Legal Health Check is being revised to correspond with the Free Guides to Legal Help (joint legal service referral guide) so that once a community worker uses the health check, they can then easily refer to the guide and refer their clients to the relevant legal service. - The Guides to Free Legal Help have been drafted to correspond with the Legal Health Check so that once areas of legal need have been identified using the Legal Health Check, the community worker and client can refer to these guides and contact the relevant legal services listed under the area of need. These Guides to Free Legal 	

Help can also be used independently of the Legal Health Check as a resource for services and individuals to find free legal help in the region.

- These documents will be sent out to the services listed on them for feedback and consultation.
- Once these tools are finalised, Aloka will be holding free training workshops across the Central Tablelands region to educate community workers and non-legal services on how to use these tools. This training will likely occur towards the end of the year and in early 2024.

Tackling fine debt

Orange Fines Clinic

- Proposed Fines Clinic/Community Day in Orange in June
- Feedback was that it might be too cold and not attract enough attendees in the winter months
- Partners suggested that a fines clinic be held in tandem with a larger event later in the year when it is warmer (perhaps NAIDOC celebrations)
- Aloka to contact Revenue NSW about their capability in attending a fines clinic
- Partners recommended a few other services that Aloka should contact about attending a fines clinic:
 - ALS Fines Service
 - LALC
 - OAMS
 - Birrang
 - Mary Mackillop
 - Foodbank
 - Could energy vouchers be provided?
 - Lifeline Financial Counselling

<p>5. Outreach events</p>	<p>Updates on proposed outreach</p> <p>Speed Networking in Bathurst</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unsure if there is a need for this in Bathurst as the interagency group is quite active <p>Cowra Wills Clinic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This will likely occur later in the year due to Sparke Helmore capacity/availability - Aloka will be attending a Cowra interagency meeting in the coming months to discuss and plan the event - Aloka to be in touch with CINC and Erambie Mission - Enquiry about capability to store wills: NSW Trustee and Guardian has a wills storage service for a modest fee, which includes a discounted fee for people on the age pension, Kate advised that the CLSD Program is open to offering to cover the cost of will storage of wills that are completed at a CLSD sponsored wills clinic. 	
<p>6. CLSD Program update</p>	<p>CLSD Program Update</p> <p>CLSD Network Microsoft Teams Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The teams group is all set up with about 20 members currently - Aloka has been adding details and resources as she goes and has set up a warm referrals tab with details for a number of services and link to warm referral forms. The information has all been collated in a very usable format - CLSD partners encouraged to join the group. <p>CTBMCLC Orange Office Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Orange Office is mostly set up, two new solicitors (Nick and Tessa) have been hired and an admin person will be starting in June, Meagan Kay. - The office is now taking referrals, drop-ins are welcome, located next to Orange court (lefthand side of the Local Aboriginal Land Council Building - Unit 1/120 Byng St Orange Phone: 4704 0211 or warm refer using the regular online form https://ctbmclc.org.au/intake-form 	

	<p>Macarthur Legal Centre Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Macarthur Legal Centre is now funded under the NSW Critical Service Gap funding to deliver free community legal services to the Cowra area. The flyers attached outline the areas they will be covering and the services they can provide. - The referral pathways are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o For clients who wish to self-refer either by phone 02 4628 2042 or macarthur_admin@maclegal.net.au o Warm referrals can be made to westernregion@maclegal.net.au or by phoning 02 4628 2042. If emailing, please include client's full name, address, DOB, matter type and full name of the other party for conflict checking. (Note: they are not giving the western region email to clients) - Due to the vast area, a lot of the advice will be given over the phone and video etc. The centre will also arrange visits to the areas, for example to hold wills days, attend community events and provide legal education as needed. 	
7. Next Meeting	Tuesday 15 th August 2023 at 2pm	