

## Central Tablelands CLSD Program Meeting

27 November 2025 | 2-3:06PM | Online

### MINUTES

**Present:** Arlia Fleming (CTBMCLC) Yvonne De Borde (MLC), Keiran O’Sullivan (CLE team - Legal Aid NSW), Jessica McCleary (Legal Aid NSW), Shanaya Stapleton (Verto, Tenancy Service), Georgia Murphy-Haste (Sparke Helmore), Madison Williams (Sparke Helmore), Lauren O’Brien Relationships Australia – Bathurst); Daniela Wilcox (civil solicitor at Legal Aid - Orange); Amanda Crosbie (WDVCAS safety manager proxy for Plus Community replacing Penny Wate), Paula Cahil (Generalist counsellor Central West Women’s Centre); Yvonne De Borde (MLC); Gina Skyes (JAS Central West IDRS); Tanya Finneran (CLSD Legal Aid),

**Apologies:** Carla Whitehouse (Justice Advocacy Service), June Golland (WDO Legal Aid NSW), Maryam Soleymanpour (WDVCAS, Plus Community),

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
<b>1. Opening and purpose</b>	<p>Arlia acknowledged that we are all on Aboriginal lands and that sovereignty was never ceded</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To work together to assist people in our region who are experiencing social and economic disadvantage.</p> <p>Attendance’s provided brief introductions.</p>	
<b>2. Standing items and general discussion</b>	<p>Update from Partners:</p> <p><b>Daniela - Orange LANSW</b> – Civil Law Service for Aboriginal Communities and Family Law Service for Aboriginal Communities outreach late November–December visits by Jessica Rushby and colleagues over 2–3 days heading to Lake Cargelligo. Employment Law team with Legal Aid’s ‘<i>Work Ready Program</i>’ delivered multiple sessions offering advice and tips for workforce readiness. Targeted at young people and older students; presented at TAFE for Year 11 &amp; 12 students and those interested in work.</p>	<p>Paula requests fact sheets on Scams relevant to local community by next week for distribution in showbags.</p> <p>Yvonne send outreach flyer for Cowra and</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arlia: noted that Lake is not covered by this CLSD region and suggested Daniela engage with Binaal Billa (FVPLS based in Forbes, servicing Lake Cargelligo).</li> <li>Daniela raised concern about civil practice issues—romance scams targeting elderly, tribunal matters, and financial management orders affecting older women who’ve lost partners.</li> <li>Paula: Central West Women’s group promoting health; issue of scams discussed at Walking Group. Willing to distribute fact sheets locally. Planning for International Women’s Week and Seniors Week. Current assembling bags for Thursday night at Macatee Park; reclaim march moved to Little Alberts with “Songs of Survival.” Many women unaware of AI-related risks. Two upcoming E-Safety webinars (registration open). Considering hosting sessions at the Centre to hear local concerns. Some counsellors involved; reviewing intact process for screening.</li> </ul> <p><b>Yvonne – MLC –</b> Face to face clinics finished for year. Cowra is overlap for the CLSD and will be back in Cowra in February and at Grenfell on 10 February.</p> <p><b>Gina – JAS-</b> Shut down open 2 January. Operates 24/7 every day of the week for anyone in custody.</p> <p><b>Shanaya – Verto –</b> Few cases recently won for tenants with pets. Changes to Residential Act on DV in favour of the victims, survivors on tenancy if they want to leave – good provisions, no date confirmed.</p> <p><b>Ruth –</b> Expanded to include home care family and family law; trained staff and established contacts to support this. Great feedback from clients—especially those who don’t drive—because they no longer need to travel far. No waitlist and actively taking bookings. Clinical therapist available to provide therapy around contact. Other feedback on buildings structure and welcoming for children; addressing cases where parents haven’t seen children for over 12 months. Previously families had to travel to Orange; now serving clients from the Blue Mountains (eastern side noted as particularly challenging).</p>	<p>Grenfell event next February 2026.</p> <p>Arlia to provide list of services and arrangements over holidays by email to the group with minutes.</p> <p>Jessica to provide list of allocated Panel Members for C&amp;P when Service Agreements are signed off.</p>

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	<p><b>Holly Redding– Disaster Relief for Jill Marshall at LANSW</b> - Assisting community from the 2020 floods around the Central West through government and community grants program. Provides assistance with applying for program and eligibility requirements. Deadline for the RA Program to June 2027 and Ned to apply by 30 March 2026 for the RA Program as the deadline is June 2027. Next clinic at Forbes on 3 December.</p> <p><b>Jessica McCleary – SIC Orange LANSW</b> - Launched Care &amp; Protection initiative at 3 pilot sites at Orange, Tamworth and Lismore. Addressed recognition of C&amp;P work, which many practitioners are less willing to do as the current model requires 5 years experience and not realistic for regional locations. The program introduced mentoring and scaffolding to help practitioners join and has had positive response from 8 solicitors who are in process of signing Service Agreements with LANSW. Jess is responsible for allocating C&amp;P in the region and keen to get Criminal solicitors on board too.</p> <p><b>Amanda Crosbie – WDV CAS</b> – Monday launched ‘Red bench’ at Bathurst Red Orchard which was provided by Rotary in Bathurst. Have benches will be embellished with plaque. 16 days of activism have nut bush dance at Mabelle Park.</p> <p><b>Georgia and Maddison – Sparke &amp; Helmore</b> - First Nations Workshop in Walgett. Assisted clients with drafting Wills and planning. A lot clients don’t turn up the second day of workshop to execute and rely on local legal services to execute as Local Court Registrars will not execute documents. Sparke Helmore have got permission to look at taking referrals for victims support matters, would like to discuss.</p> <p><b>Lauren O’Brien – Relationships Australia</b> - Recently refunded for Let’s Talk Program. Supports people over 65 and their loved ones. Service demand is growing, team performing well, and there is currently no waitlist. Calls are directed to Bathurst numbers. Mediation</p>	<p>CTBMCLC happy to discuss VS with SH.</p>

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	<p>Work handling complex cases involving coercive control, requiring mediators to manage challenging dynamics.</p> <p><b>Kieran – CLE LANSW</b> - Seniors Diaries have landed and can be obtained from the Orange Legal Aid office, of the CLC offices or by contacting <a href="mailto:cle@legalaid.nsw.gov.au">cle@legalaid.nsw.gov.au</a> Daniela Wilcox from the Orange Legal Aid office has also been doing some excellent work delivering some workplace rights workshops to young people at Kelso High School. Laurence Budd Croft from ALS in Hunter provided update on policy changes going on at Revenue NSW and suggested doing a joint event attend with WDO.</p> <p><b>Arlia -CTBMCLC</b> – Developed and launched practical outcome measures this year to track impact. Focus on AVOs correcting misidentification of women as primary aggressors; most cases result in police withdrawal, improving client safety and wellbeing.</p> <p>Plotting away at developing some outcome measures and have landed reasonable things to measuring and practical ways to implement that. Launched their first <a href="#">Impact Report</a> this year. Work and doing for the community. A lot of work recently on Parenting Orders in lead up of Christmas. Managing uncertainty with NSW Government; reduced presence at Bathurst Local Court (no 1st and 3rd week), but still active in Orange, Lithgow, and Katoomba. Strong collaboration with Relationships Australia; significant increase in legal-assisted mediation, with agreements becoming more stable and lasting longer. Request from Wattle Tree House for BC event next year.</p>	
<p><b>3. Outreach events next year</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forbes/Parkes – Wills Clinic – Arlia asked would it be possible to include non-Indigenous people who are financially disadvantaged?</li> <li>Wattle Tree House Bathurst – social housing program request for BC event</li> </ul> <p>Sparke Helmore are available to attend the event.</p>	<p>Georgia to confirm S&amp;H budget to include the non-Indigenous community in Wills Workshops.</p>

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<b>4. CLSD Program Update – Justine</b>	NSW Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF ) has requested CLSD to convene a Rural Regional Remote Committee (RRR) working group so we would like to hear from partners as to what they would like a working group to do – eg particular legal issues, (noting that there is a traffic and fines working group that works with Revenue to address issues and there is a homelessness and tenancy working group that has just started up.) and/or legal service delivery issues ( eg mentoring, training, incentives to get more solicitors in the region) The main players on NLAF are ALS NSW, CLC NSW, Justice Connect, LawAccess NSW, LJF, Law Society of NSW, LANSW, Legal Information Access Centre, NSW Bar Association, NSW Family Violence Prevention Legal service, The Justice and Equity Centre.	<a href="#">Central Tablelands CLSD partnership</a>
<b>5. Suggestions for guest speakers at future meetings, what topics are people interested in hearing about?</b>	Arlia will arrange guest speakers. Early next year work on Action Plan and survey will be sent out to the group with assistance of Justine and Winnie.	Review <a href="#">Central Tablelands Data Pack</a> for Action Plan meeting early next year.
<b>6. Next meeting</b>	19 February 2026 at 2pm – 3:30pm.	

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