

## Central West CLSD Meeting Minutes

16 March 2023 at Connecting Community Services Dubbo

### MINUTES

**Present:** Jimmy Forrest (Connecting Community Services), Donna Bruce (ALS), Simon Colyer (Relationships Australia), Ellen Newton (Housing Plus), Megan Raines (Legal Aid NSW), Melinda Knight (Legal Aid NSW), Wanita Gibbs (Mission Australia), Monique Wilson (Mission Australia), Kendy Beasley (Mission Australia), Erin Hunt (WDVCAS), Tori Mines (Western Women's Legal Support), Rachael Robertson (Western Women's Legal Support), Mark Gray (Uniting), Jarah Maraschio (Western NSW Community Legal Centre), Julie Ashford (Connecting Community Services), Kate Halliday (Legal Aid NSW), Sharon Tomas (ALS)

**Apologies:** Grace Toomey (NSW Aboriginal Land Council), Patrick O'Callaghan (Western NSW Community Legal Centre), Bill Dickens (Legal Aid NSW), Geraldine Keen (Legal Aid NSW), Jenny Bevan (Disability Advocacy NSW), Lindy Grady (NEWTAAS), Rachael Wong (ALS), Gargi Ganguly (Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet), Josh Harvey (Youth Justice)

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country	<p>The meeting was opened with an Acknowledgement of Country by Jimmy Forrest.</p> <p>Purpose of meeting is to:</p> <p>Learn how people in regional areas and affected by family violence can access in person specialist integrated duty lawyer and social support services with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>duty lawyer services provided by Legal Aid NSW</li><li>mental health worker support provided by Legal Aid NSW</li><li>social support services for women provided by the local WDVCAS and</li><li>social support services for men provided by Relationships Australia</li></ul>	
2. Guest Speakers	<p><b>Introduction of Guest Speakers –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Simon Colyer - Team Leader for Family Advocacy Support Service (Men's Service FASS)</li></ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ellen Newton - Domestic Violence Specialist Worker Family Advocacy and Support Services (FASS)</li> <li>• Megan Raines - Legal Aid Domestic Violence Family Law Solicitor</li> <li>• Melinda Knight- Para legal with the Domestic Violence Family Law Team at Legal Aid</li> </ul> <p>The panel presented information on the services provided by FASS duty lawyer and Support Workers and how to access these services. <b>Please see attached presentation.</b></p> <p>In Dubbo, FASS are on duty in person at the Courthouse during the circuit weeks of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, and on the majority of Registrar Friend’s list days. Discussion on how services in the room can work together and make referrals.</p> <p>Question: <i>What happens when there is conflict of interest?</i>  Legal Aid NSW is using information barriers to avoid conflict of interest for family law services which means that advice and duty lawyer services can be provided even if the other party is receiving help from Legal Aid NSW. Information is not shared among Legal Aid NSW lawyers unless client consent is given.  FASS support workers do not share information across services.  FASS can also refer to the other party to other specialist Legal Aid Family Law Services.</p> <p>Question: <i>Are FASS services means tested?</i>  Duty Lawyer services are free. Ongoing legal representation may be means tested.</p> <p>Question: <i>Do FASS Support Workers only work with people seeing FASS lawyers?</i>  FASS Support Workers can help all people. They can have a private lawyer, or a lawyer from Legal Aid or a Community Legal Centre or no lawyer.</p> <p>The Family Advocacy Support Service Brochure provides information about services provided by FASS Duty Solicitors and Support Workers.</p>	<p>Sharon to circulate FASS brochure with meeting minutes</p>
<p><b>3. Update on CLSD projects and priorities</b></p>	<p><b>Project and priorities update</b>  <b>Central West Legal Outreach Events for region</b>  A meeting with partners was held in January and a calendar of events will be circulated with meeting notes.</p>	

	<p><b>Coonamble Legal Outreach Event</b> The legal outreach event at Coonamble is set down for 21 March 2023. Information has been circulated to partners regarding this event.</p> <p><b>Birth certificate Request</b> The Local Facilitator at Schools as Community Centres at Dubbo West Public School has contacted the CLSD unit requesting Birth Certificates for their students. Partners discussed this request and decided to support it.</p> <p><b>Consultation on the publication 'How to Stick to Your Order'</b> Kate Halliday, Program Manager at the CLSD unit is seeking feedback on the revised content of the publication of '<b>How to Stick to Your Order</b>', a resource to help people understand their AVO orders. The revised publication will be for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audience. Draft scenarios for this audience have been developed with Offender Services and Programs/Corrective Services/DCJ and the Legal Aid NSW Domestic Violence Unit. Kate is keen to meet with any relevant local groups and to talk with people to gain feedback for the revised text for this publication. Please contact Kate directly on E: <a href="mailto:Kate.Halliday@legalaid.nsw.gov.au">Kate.Halliday@legalaid.nsw.gov.au</a> Jimmy Forrest suggested contacting the Bush Tucker participants at the Dubbo Local Aboriginal Lands Council.</p> <p><b>Bail Guide for young people Project</b> Suggested next steps is to hold a workshop to develop a resource for young people, their carers, and support people about bail conditions. Please contact Kate or Sharon if you know of any existing resources on this topic.</p>	Sharon to follow up
<b>4. Next meeting</b>	2pm, Thursday 11 May 2023, at Connecting Community Services	