

Far West CLSD Program Meeting

18 June | 1.30pm to 3:00pm | Legal Aid NSW Broken Hill

MINUTES

Present: Trevor Groves – **IDRS**, Julua Hamel - **Warra Warra Legal Service**, Victoria Achoko – solicitor **Warra Warra Legal Service**, Biftu Reggasa – solicitor **Warra Warra Legal Service**, Tony Muddit- SIC Legal Aid NSW, Caryn Ferguson- **Disability Advocacy** , Oliver Braes- mediator FDR **Catholic Care**, Kristy Parker, **Catholic Care**, Peter Baker - **Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre** , Brendan Delahunty - **Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre**, Holly Graham - CLSD Manager **Legal Aid NSW**, Yvonne De Borde – solicitor **Macarthur Legal Centre**, Tanya Finneran – CLSD Program Coordinator **Legal Aid NSW**

Apologies: Joshua Scotland – solicitor CLASC **Legal Aid NSW**

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
1. Opening and purpose	Holly opened with acknowledgement of the Wilyakali people.	
2. Introducing our new Far West regional coordinator Trevor Groves	Trevor provided a brief introduction about himself.	
3. Introductions	Group introduced themselves and organisation.	
4. Guest speakers from Community Restorative Centre	Terina King and Samuel Hooker unable to attend meeting.	Invite Terina and Samuel to next meeting
5. Amendments to the Family Law Act	Peter Baker, Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre The Family Law Amendment Act 2024 was passed by the Australian Parliament on 10 December 2024.	Useful sites resources:

CLSD Program Regional Coordinator: Trevor Groves
Email: trevor.groves@idrs.org.au
Phone:
Webpage: [IDRS](#)

	<p>From 10 June 2025, the <i>Family Law Act 1975</i> includes changes to the law about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how the courts will determine a property settlement • what the courts will consider when determining a property settlement. This includes the economic effect of any family violence, where relevant. <p>These changes apply to all separating couples, whether their property settlement is determined by the courts, or they are negotiating outside of court.</p> <p>You can find preliminary information in the Attorney-General's Department factsheet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family law (property) changes from 10 June 2025: Fact sheet for separating couples • Family law changes from June 2025: Information for family law professionals <p>What is changing?</p> <p>The Amendment Act makes significant changes to the framework for resolving the property and financial aspects of relationship breakdown in the <i>Family Law Act 1975</i>. The key changes that will impact couples seeking to resolve their property and financial matters include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making clear that the effect of family violence is a relevant consideration in determining the division of property and finances following breakdown of a relationship • expressly capturing 'economic or financial abuse' within the definition of family violence, and identifying dowry abuse as an example of conduct that might constitute economic or financial abuse • specifying the approach the family law courts will take when making decisions about the division of property • providing a new framework for determining ownership of the family pet in property settlements • providing the family law courts the discretion to use the less adversarial approach in property and financial matters, to enhance their ability to direct proceedings and manage evidence particularly where there may be family violence • elevating the duties of financial disclosure from the family law rules into the Family Law Act, to support parties to better understand their obligations and improve compliance. <p>It also makes a range of other changes to enhance the operation of Australia's family law system, including to safeguard sensitive information in family law proceedings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Aid NSW Panel Lawyers Directory • Legal Aid NSW WDO resources • Revenue NSW Fines & Fees • Legal Aid NSW FAMAC • Legal Aid Publications and Resources • BDM events for birth certificates • Get Help Surviving on the Outside - Community Restorative Centre
--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	<p>Group discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yvonne MLC can do family law matters if there is a conflict out to assist with advice to parents. • Peter is funded for traffic law matters and takes on duty advice relating to AVOs from the public. Unable to assist with private AVOs. • PINOP doesn't agree with order of police, no contact with perpetrator either personal or child involved. The police have said no to existing contact order because the victim influenced or not safe. We refer PINOPs to the DV liaison officer or give to the court to advise. • DV liaison officers very helpful and better line of communication. A lot more support to deal with by consent. 	
6. Draft Action Plan	<p>Trevor provided an overview of the draft plan.</p> <p>Group discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People leaving custody accommodation options besides a 7 day stay in a hotel. • Housing and rules around people sleeping rough. • Psychologist being served subpoenas and rights of clients. • CLE to community workers on confidentiality and trust. • Parenting programs. 	
7. Other Business	Nil	
8. Next meeting	18 September 2025.	