

## Hunter CLSD Program Partnership

### Action Plan 2025 and 2026

Partnership Purpose	To work collaboratively to identify and address unmet legal and related non-legal needs of people in the Hunter region. We do this by strengthening referral pathways, working on projects and coordinating our efforts.		
Partnership priorities	Project / Activity	Resourcing	Progress notes
Community Service Partnerships and Networking	Engagement with culturally and linguistically diverse communities across the Hunter	Legal partners CLSD Regional Coordinator Non-legal services working with CALD communities Hope St Wallsend and Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre. Aboriginal community services Homeless migrant support services Youth services Community centres	Invite CALD organisations to CLSD meetings to present. Provide CLE to CALD organisations. Build towards collaborative legal events. Network with Mosaic Multicultural Connections and learn more about the legal needs of migrant and refugee communities. Provide CLE and legal advice workshops with interpreters to those communities. Provide, and complete cultural competency training. Ensure an interpreter service is available at each event.

	Legal services guide in Hunter	CLSD Program Unit with input from legal partners	Promote actively online, at CLSD meetings and at partnership events. Ongoing and needs regular updates.
	Build stronger relationships with disability advocacy services	Legal partners CLSD Regional Coordinator Disability Advocacy services Justice Advocacy Service Disability Advocacy CDAH Senior citizen groups NDIS providers	Invite disability advocacy services to present at the Hunter Q2 meeting, 2025. Network with disability advocacy services. Work towards a collaborative legal event and invite disability services. Link in with Legal Aid's new civil disability service.
	Bring community housing providers and Homes NSW to meetings	CHPs and Homes NSW CLSD Regional Coordinator	Form relationships with Homes NSW and community housing providers, invite them to CLSD meetings.
CLE and Outreach Events	<b>Project / Activity</b>	<b>Resourcing</b>	<b>Progress notes</b>
	Outreach in Muswellbrook	Legal partners Other relevant services based on community need. CLSD Regional Coordinator	Hold the Hunter Q3, 2025 meeting in Muswellbrook.  Host a collaborative fee waiver birth certificate and free legal advice

			<p>event with ALS, CLSD and Legal Aid NSW.</p> <p>ALS and the WDO team are keen to collaborate on outreach. The ALS Hunter LAW program does a monthly outreach to Muswellbrook in the QEII building and could coordinate for more services to be present during this outreach.</p>
	CLE for Aboriginal community-controlled organisations about employment law	<p>Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT civil law service</p> <p>Legal Aid NSW?</p> <p>Hunter CLC?</p> <p>CLSD Regional Coordinator</p>	Ongoing.
	Community events for older clients where older people can get free blood pressure, BSL and tests plus legal advice. Could partner with ACAT in areas of need, such as Muswellbrook, Maitland, Cessnock.	<p>Newcastle University Older Persons Legal Clinic</p> <p>Legal Aid NSW Elder Abuse Service</p> <p>CLSD Regional Coordinator</p> <p>Interested community service partners.</p> <p>Older Persons Legal Clinic</p>	Assess scope for 2026.
	Request from Survivors R Us to duplicate outreach event held in 2023 and include additional services like	<p>Legal partners</p> <p>Survivors R Us</p> <p>CLSD Regional Coordinator</p> <p>Financial counsellors</p>	Host a collaborative fee waiver birth certificate and free legal advice

	Services Australia, Service NSW and Revenue NSW.		event. Could invite financial counsellors.
	Free legal advice, and birth certificate outreach event to Raymond Terrace	Legal partners CLSD Regional Coordinator Local partner service in Raymond Terrace	This could involve partnering with Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation in collaboration with the ALS. There are pockets of low birth registration, and high legal need in this region.
	CLE on Domestic and Family Violence	Legal partners CLSD Regional Coordinator Local partner services from the DFV sector NWDVCAS	
	Fines Clinic in Raymond Terrace region, with potential replication across the Hunter	Legal Partners CLSD Regional Coordinator Revenue NSW WDO team Local partner service in Raymond Terrace	Community legal education on WDO's
	We Care, an Aboriginal owned and operated organisation in Maitland who provide NDIS services have expressed interest in collaborative outreach events with legal partners, and Service NSW.	Legal partners CLSD Regional Coordinator Service NSW	Ongoing communication. Scope for 2026. Invite We Care to CLSD Q3 meeting in Maitland.
	<b>Project / Activity</b>	<b>Resourcing</b>	<b>Progress notes</b>

<b>Advocacy</b>	Less case study meetings focused on what legal issues are, more advocacy .	CLSD Regional Coordinator to explore alternative meeting structures.	Ongoing
	Service gaps and high disadvantage in Muswellbrook and Singleton.	CLSD Regional Coordinator to work with legal partners on collaborative birth certificate and free legal advice events.	
<b>2025 Meeting Locations</b>	<b>Project / Activity</b>	<b>Resourcing</b>	<b>Progress notes</b>
	Quarter 1: 20 February Raymond Terrace	Revenue NSW WDO team	Theme: unpaid fines and debt in the Raymond Terrace region
	Quarter 2: 22 May Maitland	Disability Advocacy Justice Advocacy Service We Care	Theme: working well with disability advocacy services
	Quarter 3: 21 August Muswellbrook	Legal Aid NSW	Combine with outreach to Muswellbrook. This has been coordinated with Legal Aid NSW.
	Quarter 4: 20 November Toronto		Legal services only.

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