Moree CLSD Program Meeting Q3 – Legals Services only

22 August 2025, 10am – 11.30am, online

Present: Judy Duncan (Regional Coordinator CLSD); Haney Cho (SIC LANSW), Donna Boughton (Anglicare); Nikita Robinson (Domestic Violence Supervisor – NSW Police – New England District), Danielle Hatch (Flourish Australia); Fiona Smith (Hunter Newcastle LHS); Glen Crump (MBYS); Felicity Curtis (LANSW - Moree); Toni Longbottom (ALS); Holly Graham (LA NSW); Abbey Wightley (G+T Law); Fern McCormick (WDVCAS New England), Sarah Gray (Hunter New England LHS), Anthony Hancock (DCJ - ASU); Katey Godfrey (NSW Health - VAN), Julianne Elliott (CLE LANSW), Eddie Stewart (LANSW - Moree), Lucinda Walder (WDO LANSW), Nicole Pearce (Flourish Australia); Sarah Proudfoot (DCJ); Paula Jackson (ALS - ACFAS); Teangi Foster (Benevolent Society); Alina Swan (MBYS); Fiona Smith (Hunter New England); Danielle Hatch (Flourish Australia); Lola Craigie (LANSW), Theresa Lake (ALS), Mary Duke (AHO), Byamee Homeless Support Service; Rachel Egan (Benevolent Society)

Apologies: Denise Webb (Pius SEWU) – Tileah McGrady (Thiyama-li), Jamalla Williams (Anglicare), Lauren Stefanou (ALS), Jemima McCaughan (ALS), Kelly Ward (Flourish Australia), Jason Poutawa (Salvation Army), Nicole Smith (MFS), Ros Laws (CC), Crystal Robinson (CC), Amy Quinlan (Centacare), Briana Pitt (NSW Tafe): Clarie Williams (Dept Community & Justice – Anti Discrimination), Rachel Durmush (LA NSW), Kerry Macey (Bamara), Di Lindburg (MFS)

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Out come
Welcome	Acknowledgement to Country.	
Service Introduction	Everyone provided introductions.	
Introductions NSW Legal Aid Team Moree Office	**Haney Cho – Solicitor-in-Charge** Moree office have been open for a month. Working on long term service delivery within the catchment. Attending Moree LC on Mondays on DV matters and available to give advice to defendants. Edward Stewart, crime solicitor. Family law clinic is available via booking advice appointment.	Referrals and welcome pack

Theme: Domestic & Family Violence	**Nikita Roberson – Domestic Violence Supervisor New England Police District** Oversees the DV team and reviews body-worn camera stats. Ensures appropriate legal action is taken following DV incidents. 79% of DV assaults reported result in some form of legal action. 89% breach of AVO rate, which is high considering victim reluctance to engage. Victim reluctance to participate in legal processes. Lack of long-term relationships between agencies and families due to short-term placements (e.g., 3-year transitions). Her position was vacant for 4 years; ideally, there should be two people in the role. Presence of young male officers (implying a need for more diversity or experience in the team). **Fern McCormick – Case Worker – Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS)** Services the New England Police District. Offices located in Moree and Armidale. Staff are present at each court in the district. Works closely with Nikita Roberson and WDVOs (Women's Domestic Violence Officers). Facilitates Police Safety Action Meetings. Engages with individuals 16 years and older referred by police. Offers Court support (including attending hearings and supporting victims to give evidence); Counselling referrals; Housing assistance.; Victim Services applications and Safety planning. **Rachael Egan – Benevolent Society** Based in Moree and Tamworth, servicing the New England region. Leads Safe and Strong Families Pilot Programs. Focus on early intervention. Target Groups include youth and families. Supports victims of domestic and family violence. Also, people who use violence (perpetrators) who want to continue connections with family. **Anthony Hancock – Aboriginal DFV Snr Specialised Officer - Aboriginal Services Unit (ASU) - Gunnedah/Moree** ASU is based at the Moree Court Office, also active in Gunnedah. Leads the "Leaving Footprints" program — launched in February. Program designed by a community member from Condobolin, based on lived experience. Licensed by DCJ. Assist Aboriginal people over 18 who are using or acting out violence. Focus on court support, referrals, and behavioural change. Program has been delivered twice in Moree and Gunnedah so far. This consists of two half-quarter days of initial sessions. With 6 week follow-up to assess impact. Three days total, with two days in the classroom. Upon completion participants receive a certificate and BBQ to celebrate achievement. 64 men and 8 women have participated. Zero breaches reported — a significant achievement. Funding secured for 18 more months, with efforts underway to extend it. Participants are supported through the court process. Cases go straight to the Magistrate. Anthony is involved in bail planning, court support, and watching briefs. The program adapts if the person is no longer in a relationship, focusing on patterns and behaviors.	anthony.hancock@dcj.nsw.gov.au 0497 088 466

	Katey Godfrey – Social Worker - Hunter New England Health - Violence Abuse Neglect Team (VAN) Based in Moree, working across acute inpatient settings. VAN Team Services: 1. Sexual Assault Service (24/7) - For adults (male and female) and children. Offers crisis response and can be contacted any time. 2. Child Protection Service - For children 0–18 years where abuse has occurred. Can be opened case-by-case. 3. Aboriginal Family Violence Service (AFVS) - Responds in a culturally competent way. Nathan Towney is also involved. 4. General Family Violence Support Note: Each service (except AFVS) is staffed by one clinician. Katey provides direct support to patients and families. Children experiencing wellbeing issues, mental health concerns, or psychological harm. Works with referrals from the Emergency Department and community sources. She provides crisis response; risk and safety assessments; DV Stat assessments; referrals to WDVCAS, refuge/crisis accommodation, and Staying Home Leaving Violence programs. Katey attends SAMS (Safety Action Meetings). She provides short-term counselling and refers out with consent. Handles mandatory reporting (e.g., child abuse, stabbings). Works Monday to Friday, except for the Sexual Assault Service, which is 24/7.This is a consent-based service. Strong focus on cultural safety, especially through AFVS. Integrated with police, health, and legal services. Plays a critical role in early intervention, crisis response, and ongoing support. **Donna Boughton Support Recovery Program – Anglicare Case Manager for Care team** Based in Moree, it covers up to 1.5 hours outside the town. Works long-term with clients recovering from domestic violence. Offers a holistic, family-based support model. Supports mothers and children post-DV. Can also work with perpetrators if they are actively seeking to reunite with family and engage in recovery. They provide housing support (including access to 6 donated houses where clients must submit by application for approval. This is temporary housing until the client is ready for independent living or might enter a new relationship); Court support; Medical and school liaison (e.g., doctors, teachers, interviews); therapy referrals and emotional and practical support — walking alongside clients at their own pace. No formal referral is required — clients can be engaged directly. **Toni Longbottom ALS program manager Justice reinvest** Justice Reinvestment is an approach that supports Aboriginal communities to find local solutions to local issues. The aim of Justice Reinvestment is to resource communities to develop and deliver solutions that	

	reduce the contact of Aboriginal adults and young people with the criminal justice system, including the police, courts, and prisons. Justice Reinvestment initiatives: • are led by Aboriginal people united by a connection to Country • have a systems focus • are informed by data and evidence, including with reference to **Indigenous Data Sovereignty and governance principles**. JR are in Nowra, Kinchela, Mt Druitt, Cowra, Wahluu Bathurst, Maranguka Bourke, Moree, Kempsey, LALC Toomelah and Iana Ngalee LALC Malabugilmah. Recruiting in Moree. **Lucinda Walder LANSW WDO** Holding community fines event at Moree Legal Aid on Tuesday 16 September 10-2pm. On 17-18 September checking in with sponsors and linking up with FamAC. **Anthony Hancock DCJ** Youth Justice's team in the Bail and Accommodation Support Service (BASS) provides an after-hours intake service for NSW Police. This service was previously known as the Bail Assistance Line. BASS provides police with information that helps young people gain access to bail if they are likely to be held in custody. Young people can be connected with accommodation, transport, case support and other services to help them satisfy the conditions of a bail order. BASS also has two service coordinators during business hours who complement the work of the after-hours team. They assist Youth Justice staff in securing accommodation for young people in the community. **Glen Crump** Recently completed Youth Justice by Lauren Ella Duncan. Street Beat is being refunded for another 3 months and positions will be advertised.	
Other business	4th Quarter CLSD Meeting - 21st November 2025, 10.00am to 1.00pm - In person – Dhiiyaan Aboriginal Centre – 38 Albert Street Moree – lunch provided	