

Riverina CLSD Program Meeting

6th March 2025 | 10am to 12pm | Online

MINUTES

Present: **Chair** - Melissa (Mel) Van Lierop (Intereach), Craig Maxwell (Pathways Murrumbidgee Drug & Alcohol (WDO Sponsor), Danielle Plumb (LANSW), Kim Bustilli (LANSW), Geraldine Higgins (Intereach), Timothy Ngu (LANSW), Ellie Haas (LANSW), Adam Jacobson (Justice Advocacy Service), Yvonne De Borde (MLC), Shannon Daley (Anglicare), Teneille McDonald (Tafe NSW), Natalie Neumann (LANSW), Yvonne De Borde (MLC), Shannon Daley (Anglicare-Ashmont Community Centre), Caroline Barber (Women's Centre - Wagga), Tracy Wood (Wagga Youth Justice), Melissa Jozwiak (MLC) Holly Graham (LANSW), **Minute Taker** Tanya Finneran (LANSW), Lynn Banks (Marathon Health), Elizabeth Mekin (Marathon Health), Jacinta Ryan (Berto - Wagga), Emille Thomas (LANSW)

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
1. Opening	Melissa (Mel) welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Acknowledgement of country.	
2. Purpose of today's meeting	Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of Legal Roadshow/clinics Nov 24 & Feb 25.• Legal Topics• CLSD updates• The next Riverina Roadshow location and type.• Partner updates/CLSD Legal Service Directory• Review Action Plan 2024-20	
3. Introductions	Group introduced themselves and organisation.	

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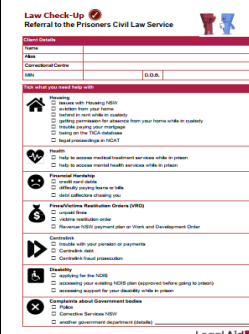
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4. Overview of Legal Roadshows	<p>Ashmont Resource Centre 25-28 November 2024 (80 clients received direct assistance)</p> <p>The event was in collaboration with Intereach, WDOS from LANSW, MLC, NSW Revenue, and community organisations. The event went for four days. This targeted unmet needs within Ashmont and the Wagga community for our most vulnerable and disadvantaged community in the area. We offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance with unpaid fines (NSW Revenue) • Drafting & executing 21 Wills – this can include Power of Attorney and Enduring Guardianship documents (Note MLC for some - provided 3 legal documents per client) • Birth Certificates (30 clients) • Provided 27 legal advice <p>The community provided positive feedback.</p> <p>Hay Expo & Legal Clinic 3-6 February 2025</p> <p>The event was held at Hay Community Hall with 35 service providers including NSW Police. There was also another Legal Aid clinic day held at Intereach which provided free legal advice and birth certificates. Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLC assisted 55 clients directly, with 23 Wills drafted and completed. (Note MLC provided 3 legal documents for some clients) • 21 birth certificates completed • LANSW provided 15 legal advice services from family and civil matters. Clients who were unable to obtain assistance were triaged and referred appropriately. <p>Feedback and comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration with weather when hosting event as it was extremely hot. • Continue to request clients fill out application forms before appointment slot. 	
5. WDO update on guides	<p>Danielle Plumb and Kim Busuttil - Work and Development Order Service (WDOS) - NSW Legal Aid</p>	<p>Contact details: WDOS email: wdo@legalaid.nsw.gov.au</p>

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	<p>Provided presentation on WDOS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work and Development Order Service team are based at LANSW in Wollongong and look after Vic and ACT. New WDO Guidelines 2025 available with Resource Kit. Key changes - WDO interstate restrictions are lifted, no age restriction for mentoring, court mandated activities can now be used for WDO, 3 step process for eligibility. 	<p>WDOS Website: LANSW WDOS</p> <p>NSW Revenue email: WDO@revenue.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>NSW Revenue contact: 1300 478 879</p> <p>Link: WDO sponsor resources</p>
<p>6. Law Check Tool refresher</p>	<p>Law check - Ellie Haas, Solicitor - Wagga LANSW</p> <p>Provided a presentation on the Law Check Up Tool.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil law problems are most common in NSW: Consumer (21%), Crime (14%), Housing (13%), Government (11%). This impacts on people's health and wellbeing. Adverse loss income loss and financial strain, stress related illness, physical health, relationship breakdowns, moving and can quickly escalate to crime matters. A lot of civil matters have time limits, 21 days unfair dismissal and termination of lease 90 days for example. Only 6% people who have legal issue seek legal advice. Wagga LANSW over capacity and relief solicitors servicing the office. SEIFA data from LJF 2020-21 show 63% of the population earn less than 52K and education level 27%. <p>Law and Justice Foundation referred to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Law and Justice Foundation data on Riverina CLSD (see page 8 of 10 for map) Law and Justice Foundation report from 2012 (page 345) Law Check up Tool attached Legal Aid Law for Everyday Life video from 2017 	<p>Request civil law training webinar-video</p> <p>People and the law webinar Civil Law and what's it all about</p> 

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7. Session on Tenancy	<p>Practical things that lawyers/tenant advocates can help with Tim Ngui – Homelessness Specialist Solicitor – LANSW</p> <p>Provided information on Tenancy: Help to appeal decisions from Homes NSW or Community housing provider and assistance can provide under the housing policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting eligibility • priority • former tenancy classification • reactivation <p>Assistance during your assistance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being absence from dwelling • Transfer • Occupants • Rental subsidy calculations <p>Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerri (Intereach) – If a person has social housing and is incarcerated and seeking to go into rehabilitation can they apply for a rental subsidy • Tim (LANSW) – We can liaise to have \$5 rent applied. This can also be found in the Housing Policy. • Craig (Mental Health Recovery Unit in Wagga) – Service offer 8 week program. 	<p><u>LANSW Tenancy</u></p> <p><u>NSW Government – Communities & Justice – Housing policies</u></p>
8. CLSD NSW program update/s	<p>Reflections Project Holly Graham – CLSD Program Manager for NSW</p> <p>CLSD survey and conversations took place with the 12 CLSD coordinators. The report came up with engagement planning aligned with ALS, CLCs and LANSW. Data on community Plan.</p>	<p>Request put on next meeting agenda on Legal Service Q2. Action - MVL</p>

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	<p>Program and development looking at training. Starting to implement from the review. Meeting with Associate Directors of LANSW Community and Practice. Arrange to meet with ALS NSW/ACT to discuss regional alignment.</p> <p>Q1 Traveling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal needs of young people with unpaid fines. Domestic and family violence Moree looking at themed meetings, housing, lack of supports for drug and alcohol and mental health. • Taree and Kempsey no longer attending • Dubbo and Taree focus meetings on people leaving custody especially short notice with bus funding. Looking at how to support them more. <p>Gerri (Intereach) raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incarcerated people leaving custody at 12pm, no financial help for food, travel and accommodation. Just funds for a bus fare. Issue also with leaving Junee CC isn't close to transport. Not sure if being driven to bus stop. Concerns with arranging family members ability to pick up from CC. • Concern people leaving custody are instantly homeless and don't know what to do and no services or middle person making appropriate arrangements. • Justice system letting down the community by their process. Then committing crimes in order to make money to support self. • No proper housing arrangements and returning to their partners when there is a AVO or DV and the cycle continues. <p>Winnie on maternity leave to end of December.</p>	
9. Discussion and agree on next Riverina Legal Help Roadshow	<p>Narrandera and/or Junee - Location/type/when</p> <p>Mel discussed:</p>	<p>Mel check with LANSW & ALS if 10th November works for Junee event instead of 6th November</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February held an exp /roadshow. Q2 legal service meeting in Wagga which is face to face. Q3 August for all CLSD meeting members. At the end of the year Q4 held at Ashmore Legal Event (run over 4 days) suggestion from group for need in Junee or Narendra. Gerri once a month with MLC team for Legal outreach clinic Gerri, CLSD, Legal Aid MLC and Intereach team alongside Service partners do something in Narrandera. Suggestion 2-3 day health event - October 1st or 2nd week. <p>Event for 6th November in Junee</p> <p>Mel suggested date and seeking groups thoughts and availability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MLC - booked in at Narrandera 4th November already. Also need to check out logistics with staff as 3-4 already in area and in Corowa on the 10th November. Note MLC regularly. If we send a solicitor to do outreach they could help with the Wills clinic. School holidays commence 29 September -10 October 2025. Mel - suggested 3rd or 4th week in September. Ellie - October date at the beginning is school holidays. Danielle and Kim – Fines in Narendra are extremely high and would like to attend. Ellie – attends the Narendra with Sue and Nyoka and other community outreach would be very effective. Mel - Week of 15th or 22nd September. Kim and Dani – 3rd November at Junee in the afternoon. 	
10. Partner Updates and News	<p>Information /New Programs/Initiatives/Event Sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elie (LANSW) – Law Week 19-20 May 2025 – Emily, Tim and Ellie will register for an event. Adam (JAS) – Currently training new staff 3 in Albury and 2 in Griffith. The new staff will travel to Narrandera which Adam has travelled there a bit for sentencing matters. CLE team at LANSW links to webinars and Law Week: 	<p>Mel requested group look at the CLSD Legal Service Directory for updates or additional partners. Any updates or amendments send an email.</p> <p>Action Plan add Junee as targeted location.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upcoming webinars on new laws in Immigration area including DFV and people on temp visas and new process for protection visa refusals: https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/community-legal-education/community-legal-education-upcoming-events ○ People can sign up to our Law for Community Workers email alerts to see what's coming up too. These are our past editions. ○ New resource that might be useful to circulate, but I think the team will separately be promoting this to CLSDs: Do Your Own Divorce - tips for using the guide ○ Nat will circulate the Law Week webinar links once they are ready. And if anyone is doing local events for Law Week, they can register to include them on this site: https://www.lawweeknsw.org.au/ (It's only just been updated for 2025 so I don't think there are any events registered yet). <p>Review Riverina Action Plan 2024-2025</p> <p>Mel (Intereach) presented the new Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More to do in Ashmont community–Wagga. Narrandera identified. New staff at Cootamundra (Billie-Jo Intereach) working with community out there. MAC legal have engagement and been involved with Intereach Office. Addressing high fines in Wagga. Training at Community workers its around update training guide. • Driving offences – Intereach successful applied for grant worth 3-4 million for SETS settlement engagement transition service. Have service program manager and has person at Cootamundra but not Wagga (can provide info for CALD meeting). • CLSD and legal partners meetings doing once a year. • CLSD program meeting on domestic and family violence. Focus of implication of the NDIS in October. 	NDIS focus on next meeting.
11. Next meeting	8 th March 2024 – Legal Services only F2F only F2F Wagga.	

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