

South Coast CLSD Program meeting

14 February 2023, 11:00am via Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Erin Mulally (**Shoalcoast CLC**), Kerry Wright (**Civil Law Service, Nowra office - Legal Aid NSW**), Kate Halliday (**CLSD Unit - Legal Aid NSW**), Joseph Lyons (**Gamble Aware**), Lisa Woodgate (**Shoalcoast CLC**), Sharlene Naismith (**Solicitor in Charge, Nowra office - Legal Aid NSW**), Jess Mooney (**ADACAS**), Lola Imawan (**Respect at Work Legal Service – Legal Aid NSW**), Melinda Luke (**Anglicare**), Yvonne de Borde (**Macarthur Legal Centre**), Alexander Dy (**Civil Law Service, Nowra office – Legal Aid NSW**), Evrim Gunce (**EWON**), Kylie Davis (**Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation**), Elizabeth O’Connell (**Mission Australia**), Andrew Banks (**Hall & Wilcox**), Jasmine Huang (**Shoalcoast CLC**), Len Brown (**Shoalcoast CLC**), Louisa Stewart (**Shoalcoast CLC**), Bianca Dufty (**Family Law Service for Aboriginal Communities – Legal Aid NSW**), Michala Farrell (**Insight Legal Solutions, President of Shoalhaven District Law Society**), Virginia Martinez (**SAHSSI**), Harry Rutner (**Australian Centre for Disability Law**), Angela Stewart (**ADACAS**), Susan Cheetham (**Salvation Army**), Emma Wood (**Shoalcoast CLC**).

Apologies: Ruth Pilkington (**Legal Aid**), Kate Milner (**JAS**), Caroline Coles (**Southern NSW LHD**), Tasha Lilley (**Services Australia**), Carolyn Bateman (**Anglicare**), Jenny Dawson (**Anglicare**), Tyrone Taylor (**NIAA**).

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
1. Opening and Introduction	Acknowledgement of Country. General welcome and outlining the agenda of today’s CLSD meeting.	
2. Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To improve our understanding of what the Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme is, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Who is eligible to make a claim;○ What claimants can receive from the Schemes (if eligible); and○ What is required to make a claim.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand how the Civil Law Service for Aboriginal Communities can assist people who might be eligible to access these Schemes. 	
3. Icebreaker Exercises	Everyone shared one nice/exciting/fun/relaxing thing they did over the break.	
4. Guest Speaker	<p>Kerry Wright, Solicitor with Legal Aid NSW, to discuss the Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications close 30 June 2023. Internal review applications must be lodged by 31 December 2023. You may be able to get reparations if you were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed from your family or apprenticed; By some NSW government agencies; and This happened before 2 June 1969. If eligible for the scheme, claimants could receive up to \$75,000. Evidence does have to be provided to support the claim. If you disagree with the original decision, an internal review can be sought. The Civil Law Service for Aboriginal Communities at Legal Aid can assist with obtaining the relevant documentation to support the claim. Certain things to possibly flag with clients and seek assistance on prior to receipt of funds – outstanding fines/debts, how it will affect their income and assets with Centrelink, completing a Will so that the client can be clear on who should receive any assets on their death, discussions with financial counsellors to consider budgets/allocation of money after receipt of the lump sum. Clients may also be eligible for the National Redress Scheme, which is a scheme to provide payments to survivors of child sexual abuse who were abused in an institution. Knowmore legal service can provide more detailed advice in this area. The Civil Law Service for Aboriginal Communities are looking to do face to face outreach in the next few months to spread the word – once further details are known, Erin will distribute. 	Erin will distribute fact sheets and the Application form for the scheme with the minutes.

<p>5. CLSD projects</p>	<p>Birth Certificate Days: Erin has fielded a number of requests to hold another Birth Certificate Day on the South Coast. The South Coast CLSD region will have access to more free Birth Certificate allocations in the next financial year, so discussions can be had in a few months' time about locations etc once the allocation amount is known.</p> <p>In the meantime, Births Deaths and Marriages do have a waiver policy for the Certificate application fee, this can be used to assist clients to obtain a Certificate at any time.</p> <p>Wills Clinic: Hall & Wilcox attended the meeting today and raised the possibility of a future Wills clinic on the South Coast, depending on need and interest.</p> <p>Legal Provider Flyers: Sharlene from the Nowra office at Legal Aid has been working on a CLSD flyer for each area of the South Coast, outlining the various legal services that can assist in the region and where to go for help. A previous flyer was done in 2020, so this will update the information provided in the previous flyers.</p> <p>Court representation on South Coast working group: Kate Halliday, Sharlene Naismith, Erin Mulally and Louisa Stewart will be discussing limitations for clients to access ongoing representation at Courts on the Far South Coast and discussing ways to increase availability for clients to receive ongoing Legal Aid representation.</p>	<p>Erin will distribute information about the waiver policy and eligibility criteria with the minutes.</p> <p>Anyone with feedback or have clients that would be interested to let Erin know.</p> <p>Once all legal providers have confirmed details with Sharlene, Erin and Kate at CLSD unit can finalise.</p> <p>Anyone who has any feedback or any specific concerns for their clients in this area to let Erin know.</p>
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6. Next Meeting	16 May 2023 – will be a hybrid meeting (online and in person). In person venue to be confirmed but hopefully somewhere in Queanbeyan.	Erin to advise once further details are worked out. Any suggestions for speakers or areas of interest to discuss at the meeting let Erin know.
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Meeting close: 12:35pm