

Kempsey Nambucca CLSD Program meeting

2 May 2023, 10AM – 12PM, Kempsey Library, Kempsey

MINUTES

Present: Mel Kallmier (MNC Legal Centre), Matthew Morrison (Sheridan Legal), Michelle Bower (Samaritans), Miranda Abbotts (Mission Australia), Matthew Taylor (MNC Legal Centre), Emma Smallwood (Legal Aid NSW), Kate Halliday (Legal Aid NSW), Ronald Dennison (Legal Aid NSW), Tim Bauer (Legal Aid NSW), Holly Barrett (YP Space), Jo Kelly (Learning the Macleay), Kristina Kerr (Midcoast Connect), Karen Fox (Legal Aid NSW), Tiarna Byrne (MNC Legal Centre), Georgina Calvi (Mid Coast WDVCS), Naomi Egger (Mid Coast WDVCS), Martin Burke (NSW Police), Leiann Vicars (CLSD).

Apologies: Shaarn Whitehouse (MNC Legal Centre), Kirsty Napper (Nautilus College), Jasmine Rourke (Interrelate), Alan Naylor (MNC Financial Counselling Services).

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
1. Opening and purpose	<p>Leiann acknowledged this meeting took place on the lands of the Dunghutti people and welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>The purpose of the meeting was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• hear from senior police about policing across the region,• provide information to senior police and to discuss issues within community impacting clients, and• consider ways in which CLSD partners and police service can work more effectively together.	
2. Presenter	<p>Martin Burke – Chief Inspector, NSW Police</p> <p><i>Martin shared policing experiences and data with partners.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Martin has served in Tamworth (4.5 years), Moree (6 years) and is now stationed in Kempsey. He talked about the importance of police learning the issues and challenges of the local community and working smarter, which included working with community partners early on.- Martin noted that 80% of statistics for children at risk come from police. He said this data can be used to their advantage – to engage and use as leverage with community services, especially in areas such as in education, youth, health and justice sectors.	

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- For instance, Martin described a program significantly funded by the NSW Department of Criminal Justice that had operated successfully in Moree. It was open from 9.00pm to 1.00am in the morning, which was the crime window during which youth engaged in boredom-related, risky behaviour and offending e.g. car theft, breaking and entering. They had use of a facility, purchased a water bubbler and food was supplied by Woolworths, McDonalds and other local businesses. 120 young people were attending per night at the program (young people 'want boundaries'), though often not attending school. In the period before Martin left, there had not been any juvenile crime in the preceding 3 months. The program took a flexible rather than a rigid approach and generated a lot of goodwill over an extended period. Martin noted that the program was effective in Moree, but Kempsey was twice the size and this may be a factor to consider.- Moving forward, a justice reinvestment approach is underway in Kempsey. Martin takes a positive view of it, as it is community and service led rather than focussed on police engagement. He will lend support to whatever is going on and noted police had a very good ability with data collection and could contribute through providing letters of in-principle support, which are useful for community organisations seeking grants and making funding applications. In his experience, it is often effective and a benefit to show police and community working together.- In terms of priorities, domestic and family violence (DFV) is a key issue for Kempsey police. Their data shows a significant increase in reporting over a three-year period – up from 11.3% to 15.3% (although this could partly be explained by a greater confidence in reporting by people). 90% of offences are assaults, or breach of AVO's. The MNC district is represented 80% of the year in the top 5% across the state. This is the biggest risk for Kempsey because of the impact on community, particularly with imprisonment of perpetrators. Shoplifting is seen as another key issue with the MNC district always in the top 10% across the state.- DVF is seen as an active driver of youth crime. About 25 young people (3-4 ringleaders and a couple of adults) are active in property crime i.e. property theft, stealing cars and break and enter offences. If one of these individuals is removed, the activity drops by 90%. Sometimes the ringleaders are as young as 14 – at times it is safer for a young person to be with mates than at home. In the last 6 months, there have been 244 | |
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	<p>interactions by police with young people. 156 incidents have been dealt with by police under the Young Offenders Act. Martin is trying to push this with his staff as it affords opportunities for young people (up to 60-64%) to be diverted under the provisions of the Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Martin noted that an approach where more therapeutic outcomes were available, is more effective. He said this included more interagency services around adolescent mental health i.e. intensive therapy, as well as the need for wholistic services to fully support families. He said getting a young person into treatment was better than other options. In attending an incident, he says he would not put a young person in the back of a police truck - in circumstances where ambulances are stretched and the wait is up to an hour, he would put a young person in the back seat to avoid a wig-out but that this was last resort – attention by appropriate health services for treatment is better. Emma Smallwood noted the chronic lack of mental health options and commented on a report that went to the AGD on this issue, which she would locate. Kate said there were 16 recommendations contained in it and it would be fantastic to pick up on some of these.- Under diversionary programs, police look to work with community services in education, youth, justice, health, social and other sectors. Martin will leave cards with Leiann and partners are welcome to engage through the CLSD program or directly with him through formal or informal contact. He is happy to arrange or provide education and information sessions, is seeking to alleviate misunderstanding and attitudes towards police by young people and others in community. He is seeking to bring accountability and responsibility.- There was a query as to why drug use was not mentioned given the prevalence of drug use (heroin, ice and cocaine) in the community. Martin welcomed information from the community to knock out suppliers but said that police efforts were ‘a drop in the ocean’ compared to what was coming into the community. A significant commitment of police resources is made but he noted a massive response is required. Martin said police are taking a disruption approach in Kempsey e.g. setting up an RBT in front of a supplier’s house - but they leave and activity returns.- Logistics are an issue in terms of resources and particularly transport. Martin gave the example of a Drug and Alcohol centre in Moree and a detox centre located in Armidale	<p>Emma Smallwood to locate report that went to the AGD including issue of chronic lack of mental health options.</p>
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that people would not turn up, requiring a 2-day trip for an ACLO to pick an individual up and drop them off. Martin looks at all the services and vehicles parked in Kempsey and says surely resources can be pooled. He is aware that buses are available in Kempsey. He says that it just needs co-operation and perhaps an MOU to get assistance to the people needing it.

- Martin reiterated that he is happy to commit to initiatives with CLSD partners and to try doing things differently. He said that where the opportunity presents, he is keen to give it a go. In the DFV space, they have 7 dedicated staff, including to cover compliance by perpetrators and checking AVO's. In terms of referrals, they refer 37% of males on. Kate noted that the challenge within the legal services space is about learning how and where referrals can be made. Examples raised were Kempsey Families for a men's help group and Many Rivers are involved in some services for men. It was acknowledged that the mapping of local services needed to be updated.
- In closing, Martin noted that anything that improves the community, benefits the police. Kate highlighted the willingness of the CLSD program to work with Martin and Kempsey police. Martin left the meeting due to another prior commitment but offered to attend at the Q2 June CLSD meeting to continue the discussion and engage in a Q&A session with partners.
- Following a morning tea break, partners reflected on presentation by Martin and discussed a range of issues raised by it.
- Jo spoke about her new role in a Commonwealth program Stronger Places Stronger People aimed at systems change within the community. She expressed some reservations about police commitment as police had been invited to attend a day at the end of last year but had not shown. Jo noted an upcoming meeting (22 May, KBH) involving mapping youth diversionary programs and funding for such programs.
- Mel raised looking at attitudinal change education for police. Tim's experience was that police were not open to this form of education, which Emma agreed with. Jo thought that individuals were open to change though, including current senior officers.
- Kate raised the importance of providing collective feedback to Martin and presenting this in the Q2 session. This should be a continuing commitment to provide such feedback.

	<p>Strategically, Kate wants to create something that is ongoing with Martin/police in this way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kate and Leiann are to circulate the Guide to Free Legal Assistance in Kempsey document. - Georgina and Naomi spoke about their WDVCS services and gaps they see, such as in parental plans for clients and in dealing with DCJ. They welcomed being able to make referrals to legal services. - Partners considered a range of dates in which to undertake the Q2 session with Martin. Leiann is to send these dates to Martin to see which suits for him to attend. <p>Meeting closed.</p>	<p>Leiann to circulate Guide to Free Legal Assistance in Kempsey</p> <p>Leiann to send dates to Martin Burke for Q2 CLSD meeting and confirm date</p>
5. Next meeting	TBC	