

Northern Rivers Cooperative Legal Service Delivery Program Partnership

The Northern Rivers Cooperative Legal Service Delivery Program Partnership is one of 12 regional justice partnerships in NSW that aim to improve legal outcomes for socially and economically disadvantaged people.

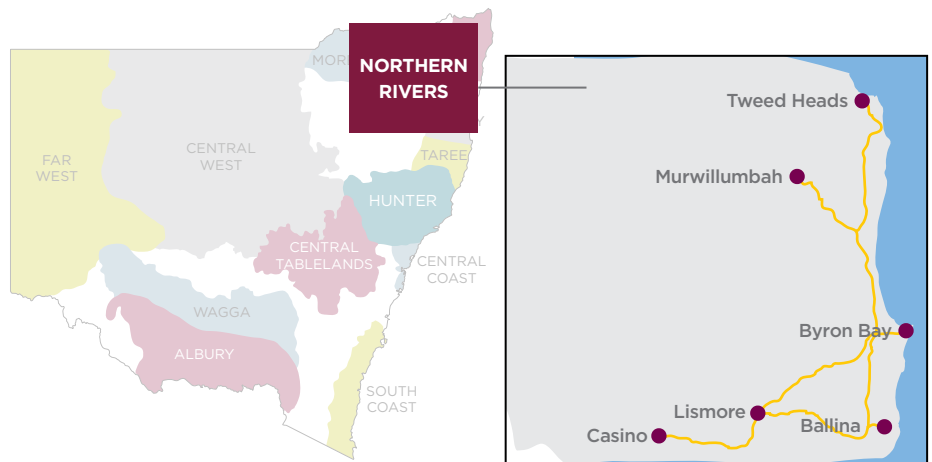
CLSD Program partnerships are a coalition of legal and non-legal services including:

- community legal centres
- financial counsellors
- Legal Aid NSW regional offices and outreach services
- the Aboriginal Legal Service
- private solicitors
- tenancy services
- disability services
- Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Services
- domestic violence services
- drug and alcohol services
- mental health services
- neighbourhood centres
- courts
- youth services.

Why are CLSD Program partnerships important?

Socially and economically disadvantaged people often have complex and interrelated legal, health, financial and social needs. CLSD Program partnerships identify areas of unmet legal need in their communities and take collaborative action to address that need.

Systemic issues and problems that are raised by partnerships are regularly fed back to the NSW Legal Assistance Forum, the Law and Justice Foundation as well as other relevant bodies such as the Law Society, ombudsman schemes and government agencies.



How does the CLSD Program work?

Each partnership has a regional coordinator. Face to face meetings of the partners are held four times each year. Information about meeting dates and locations can be found on the Legal Aid NSW website www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/clsd.

The quarterly meetings are a great opportunity for partners to share information about new services, emerging legal issues and legal needs in the region.

Each partnership has an action plan that provides a framework for priorities and collaborative work by the partners. Action plans are flexible and updated regularly.

Outside of the quarterly meetings the regional coordinator reaches out to potential new partners, monitors the action plan and helps partners to develop and implement projects.

CLSD Program Projects

Partners use an evidence based approach to respond to unmet and emerging legal needs. Funding is available to support collaborative projects that provide, facilitate or enhance access to legal services in the region.

Projects developed by the Northern Rivers partnership include:

- Early Intervention Referral Pathway resources for family law and care protection legal advice for families involved with FACS.
- Budget Education Training Package – Training Community Workers to identify and address budgeting issues to prevent increased debt.
- Cross Border Legal Issues Forum
- Aboriginal Wills Day in Tweed Heads.
- Law Week Event - Domestic Violence & Family Law Forums.

Northern Rivers region priorities:

- Improve access to family law, care and protection & domestic violence services
- More assistance for people in financial hardship with housing issues.
- Improve access to free legal services in the Tweed Shire, in particular services to Aboriginal community members.
- Improving approaches to young people and crime in Casino.
- Improving cultural awareness in the region.

How can you get involved?

Contact the Northern Rivers Regional Coordinator

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