

Central Coast CLSD Program Meeting

27 May 2024 10am – 12pm, RYSS Abilities North Wyong

MINUTES

Present: Sidonie Shaw (Central Coast Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service), Winnecke Baker (Legal Aid NSW), Dylan Di Sciascio (Central Coast CLSD Coordinator, Regional Youth Support Services), Sophia Cloke (Legal Aid NSW), Alexandra Richardson (Legal Aid NSW), Matt (Central Coast CLC), Kim McLoughry (Regional Youth Support Services), Louise Pateman (Regional Youth Support Services), Alex Whymark (Regional Youth Support Services), Jodie Beaver (Legal Aid NSW), Lorena John McKenzie, Liam Bellette (Regional Youth Support Services), Louise Artup (Regional Youth Support Services), Jason Pitt (Central Coast CLC), Zac McEwen (Central Coast CLC), Rachael Dobson (Legal Aid NSW), Kurt Vallin (Brisbane Waters Police).

Apologies: Luke Albon (Bungree Aboriginal Association), Dan Hunter (Yerin Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Services), Darryl Dawes (Links Youth Support Services), Rachel Jenner (Headspace)

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
1. Opening and purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dylan welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged it took place on Darkinjung Country.• CLSD partnership purpose To work collaboratively to identify and address unmet legal and related non-legal needs of people on the Central Coast.• Today's meeting purpose Introduce Regional Youth Support Services (RYSS) as the new coordinator of the CLSD Program and support relationships between legal and community services to address disadvantage within the community.	
2. Opening Address	<p>John McKenzie – NSW Legal Services Commissioner 2015-2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Spoke to the inception of the CLSD Program; the importance of lawyers learning from community services, maintaining open communication even during divergence on issues, and mutual respect for the structures and limits that all services are working in.	

<p>3. Service overview.</p>	<p>Alexandra Richardson – Legal Aid NSW, Family Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide advice to children and adults: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person at Woy Woy Children’s Court in care proceedings • By phone every Tuesday and Thursday and second Friday. Can schedule urgent matters and see clients in person. - Provide mediation about parenting of children, contact in care proceedings, restoration and pre/post adoption. - Current issues: domestic violence, drug and alcohol addiction and mental health issues. <p>Sophia Cloke - Legal Aid NSW, Civil Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Easiest way to identify civil law issues is by process of elimination. If it’s not a family and it’s not criminal, then it’s probably civil. - Provide advice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by phone on Tuesdays and Fridays • In-person fortnightly at San Remo Neighbourhood Centre - Current issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenancy (termination notices for fixed term tenants, extremely limited housing stock) • Mortgage stress, and • Working with Children Check cancellations (successfully reversed for some clients) <p>Jodie Beaver - Legal Aid NSW, Elder Abuse Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The service includes solicitors, a social worker and a paralegal. - Provide advice and support to people aged 65 and older or 55 and older for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. - The main perpetrators of elder abuse are adult children living with their elderly parents. Contact: elderservice@legalaid.nsw.gov.au or phone 4324 5611 <p>Lou – RYSS Rent Choice Youth Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support young people aged 16-25. - Current issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • young people housed in hazardous properties, lots of mould issues. 	
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- near impossible to find properties to relocate to, and
- No flexibility in Rent Start Bond Loans. Applications are refused as rents increase.

Rachael Dobson– Legal Aid NSW Domestic Violence Unit

- Statewide service that includes solicitors working in criminal, civil and family law, financial counsellors, and social workers.
- Provide advice:
 - In-person at all Family Law Courts in NSW, in the safe rooms at Wyong and Toronto Local Courts and at Rose Cottage.
 - Over the phone: **1800 979 529**

Kim – Regional Youth Support Services

- Support approximately 100 young people on the NDIS
- Provide Targeted Early Intervention for families (Gosford/on the peninsula).
- Indigenous program provides intensive support for young people pre and post release from Baxter.
- **Current issues:**
 - So many young people don't have a safe adult in their lives.
 - Lack of transitional housing for young people. RYSS and Coast Shelter had 15, but they were re-allocated to permanent housing during the pandemic and haven't been replaced.

Mat – Central Coast Community Legal Centre

- Provide family, criminal, civil, and care and protection law advice.
- Provide advice:
 - Over the phone on 4353 4988
 - In-person at Local Courts (Apprehended Domestic Violence Order clinic at Gosford on Tuesdays and Wyong on Thursdays and Traffic clinic at Wyong on Monday)
 - In person during outreach services at: The Glen (men and women), MINGALETTA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation, GNL Wyong, Eleanor Duncan Medical Service.
- Provide the Children's Court Assistance Scheme at Broadmeadow and Woy Woy Children's Courts.
- **Current issues:**
 - Increase in employment and tenancy issues

- Increased demand. Delivered 16,000 services in 2023 and already delivered 13,000 this year.

Jason and Zac – Central Coast Community Legal Centre, Aboriginal Community Navigators for young people

- Provide outreach to Broadmeadow and Woy Woy Children’s Courts and Frank Baxter
- Zac delivers a 10-week program for Aboriginal young people in Frank Baxter that covers things like healthy relationships, life skills, health and nutrition and suicide prevention.

Sidonie Shaw – Central Coast Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service (CCTAAS)

- Only eligibility criteria for CCTAAS is that you need to be a tenant.
- Mostly provide advice by telephone (4353 5515) but also attend the Tribunal 1 day/week.
- CCTAAS can provide representation in rare cases for its highest needs clients in complex matters.
- **Current issues:**
 - Community Housing Providers applying for termination when they only want tenants to agree to new terms. Generally dealt with by consent agreement.
 - More tenants with capacity issues.
 - More people living in parks in Wyoming, Central Coast Mobile Van Village, El Largo.
 - Push back from estate agents when tenants want to terminate due to domestic violence.
 - Would like to do more community education about people’s rights (mould and repairs).

Alex – Regional Youth Support Services

- Previously a full-time caseworker with the Hub project working with young people who were victims of domestic violence/sexual assault.
- Now supporting young people on the NDIS in the northern region.
- Have capacity to receive referrals!

Liam – Regional Youth Support Services

- Work with young Aboriginal people in Frank Baxter and post release for a 2-year period. Funded to support 16–18-year-olds but will work with young people from 14.
- Provide outreach to both Wyong and Woy Woy Local Courts.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have capacity for referrals! - Current issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people leaving custody without Centrelink or ID • Seeing young people offend earlier. • AVOs being made against young people. • Young people not being told why they are being evicted. • Police taking away young people’s phones which makes it hard for them to access services. <p>Kurt – Youth Liaison Officer Brisbane Waters Police</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Receives a notification when anyone under the age of 18 is arrested. - Delivers all court alternatives like youth justice conferences. - Works closely with the PCYC and has additional programs at Narrara Valley high school for young Aboriginal women and a 6-week program at Frank Baxter for young men. - Youth Action Meetings, following the model of Safety Action Meetings for people experiencing domestic and family violence, will be starting on the Central Coast to support at risk young people. The meetings will be chaired by a full-time worker, not a police officer. <p>Lou – Regional Youth Support Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manager Ability Links Northern - Current issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic violence • Disengagement from education • Young people with mental health issues coming into contact with the criminal justice system. 	
<p>4. Project Summary</p>	<p>Kim McLourghy – Peninsula Youth Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funded through Regional NSW for 12 months. - Involved 1 consultation with young people at risk living on the Peninsula and 1 community forum, which was run by the young people. - The themes from the consultation were used to structure the forum, which was attended by representatives from local schools, shopping centre managers, local community members and key agencies. - Main issues identified were: 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to services and recreation, and • unreliability of bus services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identified that these issues were the result of poor public transport. - As a result of the project, young people participated in a survey done through Transport NSW and were invited to meet with the Minister for Transport. The government subsequently established a Bus Industry Taskforce in May 2023. - The Minister has advised that the government has identified 6 immediate actions to address the bus driver shortage in NSW which includes supporting driver recruitment and retention and improving contracting for rural and regional bus services. 	
3. Discussion – where to focus our efforts	<p>There was consensus to start work on the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal referral resource for services - Legal/community service referral resource for clients - Service days in high needs locations: Summerland Point, Caves Beach, North Wyong, Wyee, Caravan Parks. - Schedule a future meeting in the northern part of the coast, possibly in partnership with the San Remo neighbourhood centre. 	Dylan to connect with Bud from Revenue NSW about future service days and the ability of services to join. Depending on the locations, CLSD partners may want to organise a separate outreach.
4. Next Meeting	TBC – Likely August	

Review of Centrepay

The Federal Department of Social Services is conducting a review of Centrepay. The deadline for submissions is **2 July**.

Centrepay is a voluntary free bill paying service offered by Services Australia for Centrelink customers that enables them to approve deductions from their welfare payments for approved goods and services, including accommodation, education, employment, health, travel, utilities and household costs. A significant number of people are also using Centrepay to pay down their fine debt with Revenue NSW. If you work with people who are using Centrepay in this way, please connect them with a solicitor from either Central Coast CLC or Legal Aid NSW who can check whether this is the most appropriate arrangement for them.

The stated aim of the review is to ensure that Centrepay is meeting the ongoing needs and expectations of customers and the broader community. If you are working with people that use Centrepay please share your insights with the review.

[Access the discussion paper and have you say here.](#)