

## Central Tablelands CLSD Program Meeting

24 September 2024 | 2 – 3:30PM | online

### MINUTES

**Present:** Arlia Fleming (Central Tablelands and Blue Mountains CLC), Peter Tudor (Legal Aid NSW), Leona Bishop (Relationships Australia), Tyler Martin (Veritas House), Sarah Priestly (Central West WDVCS), Winnecke Baker (Legal Aid NSW), Georgia Murphy-Haste (Sparke Helmore), Madison Williams (Sparke Helmore), Nadina Roy (Lithgow Local Court), Yvonne de Borde (Macarthur Legal Centre)

**Apologies:**

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
<b>1. Opening and purpose</b>	<p>Arlia acknowledged chairing the meeting from Wiradjuri Country and that sovereignty was never ceded.</p> <p>Purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Check-in with partners regarding progress on the current action plan</li><li>• Update on upcoming events</li><li>• Partner updates</li></ul>	
<b>2. Action Plan update</b>	<p><b>Priority 1: legal education for young people (bail conditions, AVOs and court processes) and reduce the impact of fine debt on young people experiencing disadvantage.</b></p> <p><i>Related work</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Legal Aid NSW Orange is organising training sessions for people who are interested in learning about the role of acting as a support person for young people when they are arrested by police. Dates and locations will be finalised shortly.</li><li>• Saturday 2 November one-day workshop at Bathurst Court House about the provision of local and holistic support for offenders. Anyone who works with offenders is encouraged to attend. Flyer with registration details included at bottom of minutes.</li></ul>	Winnie send Arlia, Yvonne and Peter latest data regarding police diversion.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide training for youth workers about police powers, apprehended violence order and bail. Also relevant to discuss options for dealing with fines. Arlia will distribute youth service survey in the coming weeks to determine where in the region would be best to deliver training about police powers, AVOs, bail and fines as they relate to young people.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new organisation in Bathurst, Wahluu Health Aboriginal Corporation has recently received Justice Reinvestment funding from the State Government. Looking at working out of the Kelso Hub and one of the initiatives is to employ 2 staff who will work with offenders pre and post release from custody. Also hoping to establish an Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) in Bathurst. CTBM CLC is supporting Wahluu with operational support.</li> <li>• Tyler noted that training about police powers, AVOs, bail and managing fines would be relevant for certain staff at Veritas House.</li> <li>• Idea re fine debt to showcase the work of Bathurst Neighbourhood Centre, which is considered a super WDO sponsor. Will check-in with June Golland from the WDO Service at Legal Aid NSW in Orange when she returns from leave.</li> <li>• Also wanted to investigate opportunities for using cautions and warnings in consultation with police. This action was allocated to Peter Ringbauer however he is no longer working at Macarthur Legal Centre or Legal Aid NSW so need to rethink approach.</li> <li>• Macarthur Legal Centre still visiting Cowra monthly and could check in with police when there's time around advice appointments.</li> </ul> <p><b>Priority: integrate cultural safety into all CLSD activities and promote anti-racism throughout the region and increase engagement with Aboriginal communities in the region.</b></p> <p>Related work</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-racism training was held in Bathurst in partnership with <a href="#">Indigenous-X</a>. The training was delivered to 2 groups of approximately 20 people.</li> <li>• Wills clinic for the Aboriginal community in Cowra in November in partnership with Yalbilanga Boori, Sparke Helmore, Legal Aid NSW and Macarthur Legal Centre.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Georgia asked whether this training is different to cultural awareness training. Arlia noted that the focus is very different, taking participants on a journey through racism, what it is, how it plays out in society today and what we as organisations and individuals can do to tackle it.</li> </ul> <p><b>Priority: primary victims of domestic and family violence are identified correctly. Data indicates an increase in the number of final AVOs made against Aboriginal women, particularly in Orange and Bathurst and WDV CAS has noted a drop in the number of Aboriginal women seeking help as victims. We want to ensure that all women experiencing violence get access to legal and other supports at the right time.</b></p> <p>Related work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CTBM CLC has delivered training about this issue in Bathurst, Orange and Cowra recently and are looking to do further workshops.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah noted that the current rolling Sheriff strikes in the region are having a significant impact on service provision as PINOPs aren't allowed to attend court. Parkes, Forbes and Cowra have been heavily impacted. In Cowra the strike has coincided with the sitting week 2-3 times in a row and only key staff are allowed to attend at those times. Most matters are being adjourned, which delays outcomes for PINOPs. The WDV CAS has raised this with the WDV CAP but there appears to be little room for compromise.</li> <li>• WDV CAS us still doing their complete processes with clients outside of the court days.</li> </ul> <p><b>Priority: Needs of migrant and refugee communities and exploitation in employment and accommodation.</b></p>	
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	<p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migrant Support Worker with Orange City Council, Annie Gallagher has advised that they aren't seeing many legal issues within the migrant community at the moment.</li> <li>• Jackie at BINC may still be interested in working in this area – Arlia will check in with her.</li> <li>• Yvonne noted that Macarthur is really happy to deliver community legal education in Cowra as part of its outreach.</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Outreach Request - Lithgow</b>	<p>Lithgow Aboriginal Family Health – birth certificate, legal and fines clinic early November 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annette Campbell (Aboriginal Family Health Worker- Walanbang Gabingidyal) contacted the CLSD program about the number of families connected with the health service who are unable to access ID that's needed to enrol their children in daycare.</li> <li>• Annette advised that clients would also benefit from support from other services like Revenue NSW and the help legal services can provide with a range of issues.</li> <li>• CTBM CLC and Revenue NSW are able to attend so far.</li> </ul>	
<b>4. Cowra Wills Clinic</b>	<p><b>Update from Georgia and Madison from Sparke Helmore</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yalbinga recently advised that there are 27 clients signed up for the clinic following strong interest at the NAIDOC week event.</li> <li>• A flyer about the availability of birth certificates for eligible clients has also been shared with Yalbinga.</li> <li>• Lawyers from Macarthur Legal Centre and Legal Aid will also be available on day 1 of the wills clinic to provide advice about a range of legal issues.</li> </ul>	Winnie to confirm catering arrangements with Yalbinga and send instructions on storing wills with Trustee and Guardian to Yvonne and Peter.
<b>5. Partner updates</b>	<p><b>Leona – Relationships Australia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let's Talk training about elder abuse has been delivered to senior police during 2 training sessions in Sydney. The training was delivered in partnership with the Elder Abuse Service at Legal Aid NSW, which is based in Gosford and services the Central Coast and lower Hunter.</li> </ul>	
<b>5. Next meeting</b>	Tuesday 12 November 2PM	



# SAVE THE DATE



*2 November 2024*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS ARE INVITED TO A ONE-DAY WORKSHOP ON SATURDAY, 2 NOVEMBER AT **BATHURST COURT HOUSE**, AIMED AT CLOSING THE BUGMY GAP.

## **THE BUGMY GAP**

IT HAS BEEN MORE THAN 10 YEARS SINCE THE HIGH COURT RECOGNISED THAT THE RELEVANCE OF AN OFFENDER'S EXPERIENCE OF DISADVANTAGE DURING CHILDHOOD DOES NOT DIMINISH OVER TIME.

DESPITE A DECADE OF COURTS, LEGAL PRACTITIONERS, COMMUNITY AND CORRECTIONAL SUPPORT AGENCIES, HEALTH (AND MENTAL HEALTH) SERVICES WORKING TO ADDRESS THE EFFECTS OF SUCH DISAVANTAGE, MORE CAN BE DONE.

## **THE WORKSHOP WILL:**

- EDUCATE ALL THOSE WORKING FOR OR WITH OFFENDERS
- FACILITATE THE SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

SCAN THE QR CODE TO  
REGISTER INTEREST

*Formal invitation to follow*

