

Central Tablelands CLSD Program Meeting

12 November 2024 – Online

MINUTES

Present: Arlia Fleming CLSD Regional coordinator (Chair); Holly Graham, CLSD Legal Aid; Carla Whitehouse, JAS; Keiran O'Sullivan, Legal Aid CLE; June Gollard, WDO; Shanaya Stapleton, Verto Tenancy Services; Sara Taab, Aged Care and Disability Officer@ Orange Police; Tori Evans OAMS; Yvonne De Borde, Macarthur Legal Centre; Leona Bishop, Relationships Australia; Eveleen May, Regional Manager JAS, Lucy Maranga, Orange Legal Aid

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
Welcome	Acknowledgement to Country Introductions	
Opening and purpose	To work together to assist people in our region who are experiencing social and economic disadvantage.	
Guest speakers	<p>Keiran O'Sullivan from the Community Legal Education Unit at Legal Aid will talk about his role and supporting the Central Tablelands CLE provides legal education across the state – I work in Youth team that runs workshops in schools We also have both online and in person events. We have team members assigned to each regional area – I cover Central Tablelands so am keen to hear about the legal needs of the Central Tablelands Can tailor our resources/packages to the needs of the audience e.g. interpreters but they have not been put into simplified English</p> <p>Lucy Maranga, (acting) Solicitor in Charge, Legal Aid NSW Orange, discussing the upcoming Future Focussed Sentencing event on 15 February 2025, in Bathurst.</p>	<p>Kieren will send a comprehensive list of resources available</p> <p>Arlia will promote Future Focused Sentencing among her networks</p>

	<p>Post sentence, peoples special circumstances are not taken into account like they are for sentencing – this project looks to address that and look for better outcomes post sentence. Will hear from Justice Health, drug and alcohol and different agencies</p>	
<p>Standing Items and general discussion</p>	<p>Sara Tabb – Aging and Disability Officer, Orange Police Sara has commenced in this role in March - the role was vacant for 2 years so is now focused on reconnecting services and developing a joint protocol. She can be contacted on 43857@police.nsw.gov.au</p>	
<p>Outreach events this year</p>	<p>Updates on outreach events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cowra Wills Clinic – 12/13 Nov Yvonne reported that as of last week 9 people were booked in, hoping for a good turn out today. ○ Birth cert event in Lithgow <p>Two solicitors, Eliza and Renee, attended from Central Tablelands and Blue Mountains Community Legal Centre to help with birth registration forms and applications for birth certificates, and to offer legal advice. Winnie attended from Legal Aid NSW to help with birth registrations and applications for birth certificates. Deanna Goodsell, Customer Care Specialist, came from Service NSW, and Justin Hermes, Aboriginal Customer Advisory Officer came from Revenue NSW.</p> <p>11 birth certificate applications were completed on the day and 2 birth registrations. Positively we were able to assist two Aboriginal grandmothers to apply for the birth certificates of their grandchildren who are in their care.</p> <p>Most clients also spoke to Deanna or Justin about other issues too.</p> <p>Several families who weren't able to make it on the day and have asked for assistance, so we plan to help them via appointments with Eliza during her regular outreach to Lithgow in the coming weeks.</p>	
<p>CLSD Program Updates</p>	<p>Eveleen May – Disability Advocacy NSW We have a fair bit of capacity at the moment so please send referral if you have any clients of any age with any level of disability that needs advocacy. Can assist with any suspected unfair</p>	

	<p>treatment. Different to JAS as we do not attend court, but we can refer to appropriate services e.g. tenancy</p> <p>Carla Whitehouse – JAS Pilot called JAS Diversion starting next year. People with a cognitive impairment will have a 16 week follow up post court and they will receive an assessment that means they will be able to access NDIS and be used in sentencing</p> <p>Shanaya Stapleton – Verto Tenancy Services No grounds evictions in tenancy to be abolished and looking at changes around pets. Concerned that there will be a lot of activity/no grounds evictions prior to the changes being implemented so please reach out. Will be looking at some education in the new year once the amendments commence.</p> <p>June Golland – WDO WDO – an alternative way for people to reduce fines debt Revenue NSW have developed some tools. Search WDO sponsor NSW Government Search data on unpaid fines in your community - apps09.revenue.nsw.gov.au/customer_service/forms/dashboard/overduedefines</p> <p>Yvonne De Borde - Maccarthur Legal Centre Monthly outreach to Cowra coming up – in Cowra at the moment, Wills Clinic, BC and general advice. Undertaken CLEs as well</p> <p>Arlia Fleming – Central Tablelands Blue Mountains CLC Have relocated the orange office to in Bathurst, opened 5 days a week. Planning on having an open day in March 2025 with Judge Musgrave. Seeking volunteer lawyers for evening clinic every second Tuesday evening.</p>	
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Next meeting TBC - Next year meetings will be on Thursdays