

# Central West Quarter 1 CLSD Meeting Notes

**Date:** 29 February 2024

**Venue:** Western Plains Cultural Centre Dubbo

**The theme of the CLSD meeting:** Get up close and personal with local Lawyers and Advocates from legal and advocacy services in Dubbo.

**Purpose of meeting:** This meeting was for community and disability sector workers who wanted to learn about legal services available in Dubbo and how to make referrals to these services.

A priority on the Central West CLSD Action Plan was to add relationship building events between local services and legal services to demystify legal services and learn how to make better referrals.

This forum was for local community and disability sector workers to:

- Spot legal issues when working with clients.
- Understand the impacts of legal issues on clients.
- Learn of the referral processes to legal and advocacy services in Dubbo.
- Explore how to support clients with their legal issues.

At this event, lawyers from various areas of law and public legal sector organisations, sat at small tables. Community sector workers rotated around the tables. Lawyers and advocates shared information and answered questions from community sector workers. Areas of law covered include:

- Crime
- Family
- Civil
- Victims' services
- Disability issues
- Tenancy

Legal and Advocacy services participating included: Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS), Disability Advocacy NSW, Legal Aid, New England & Western Tenants Advice & Advocacy Service (NEWTAAS), Western NSW Community Legal Centre and Western Women's Legal Support.

Community and Disability Workers attending the event were from the following services:

- Kustom Support Coordination
- Interrelate
- Lives Lived Well
- Strive Disability Support
- Koioop Connect
- MAC River
- Social Futures
- Orana Support Service
- Lives Lived Well
- Mission Australia
- Uniting
- Skillset Senior College
- Police (Orana Mid- Western Police District)

- Western NSW Health District MERIT and Community Drug and Alcohol Team
- WDVACS (Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program)

The feedback from both lawyers, advocates and participants attending this event was overwhelmingly positive.

Lawyers/advocate shared the following feedback:

*"The event was an effective way to speak to a lot of people".*

*"Good questions were asked and there was a keen interest in our information".*

*"We got really positive responses and things we can follow up on".*

Comments by Community / Disability Workers included:

*"It was a well organised event with a great variety of people".*

*"This was extremely worthwhile attending for our service".*

*"Great to be able to sit with lawyers and ask questions on how they can help my clients".*

**Sharon Tomas CLSD Program Regional Coordinator  
Central West CLSD Program  
Email: Sharon.Tomas@alsnswact.org.au**