

## Central West Quarter 3 CLSD Meeting Notes

**Date:** Thursday 5 September 2024

**Venue:** Western Plains Cultural Centre Dubbo

**Attendees:** Magistrate Funston (Specialist Children's Court) Jimmy Forrest (Connecting Community Services), Kristie Burge (ALS Child & Family Advocacy and Support (ACFAS) Bobby- Jane Jackson (Youth Koori Court) Tia Caldwell (ALS), Craig Biles, Brodie Purdon (Legal Aid), Dominic Holles (ALS), Megan Raines (Legal Aid), Jennifer Bevan (Disability Advocacy NSW), Linda Grady (NEWTAAS), Michelle Redden (Connecting Community Services), Rikka Lamb (Youth Off the Streets), , Kate Halliday (ALS Child & Family Advocacy and Support (ACFAS), Shiree Talbot (Orana Support Service), Gargi Ganguly (National Indigenous Australians Agency), Sara Lane (Ashurst), Pat O'Callaghan (Western NSW Community Legal Centre), Rachael Robertson (Western Women's Legal Support), Molly Bland (Legal Aid), Toni Windsor (Strive Ability) Michelle Katen (interrelate), Anne Chawla (Interrelate), Sharon Tomas (ALS)

### **Jimmy Forrest opened our meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country**

**The purpose of meeting:** One of the priorities of the action plan for the Central West CLSD partnership is about supporting young people to understand their rights and obligations regarding bail. The purpose of this meeting was to help us work together in better supporting young people and their families.

His Honour Magistrate Funston, the specialist Children's Court Magistrate for Youth Koori Court and the Winha-Nga-Nha Indigenous Care list in Dubbo joined us as our special guest speaker and facilitated the following conversations:

- We learnt about the Youth Koori Court (YKC) in Dubbo and how it is different to Children's Court. Also joining the meeting and adding to our conversation were members of the Youth Koori Court team including Bobby- Jane Jackson (YKC Caseworker), Tia Caldwell (ALS Specialist Children's Court Lawyer) and Brodie Purdon (Solicitor with Children's Civil Law Service). The highs and sad times that come with working so closely with young people were also shared.
- What is the Winha-Nga-Nha list and what makes it different? Adding to this conversation were Megan Raines (Senior Family Law Solicitor Legal Aid NSW) and Kristie Burge (Program Manager) and Kate Halliday (Managing Solicitor) from the ALS Child & Family Advocacy & Support (ACFAS) team.
- Magistrate Funston provided information on the changes to the bail laws affecting children and young people and *doli incapax*. His Honour talked about *Doli incapax - The Criminal Responsibility of Children Matthew Johnston SC Rose Khalilizadeh*. This legal article will be circulated to CLSD partners with meeting notes.
- How non legal services can help to achieve positive outcomes for young people. Dom Holles encouraged community sector services to engage with lawyers and be more involved in court proceedings when it relates to their clients.

Discussions were held on the Bail and Accommodation Support Service (BASS) for young people in Dubbo. BASS provides an after-hours intake service for NSW Police. BASS provides police with information that helps young people gain access to bail if they are likely to be

held in custody. Young people can be connected with accommodation, transport, case support and other services to help them satisfy the conditions of a bail order. Shiree Talbot from Orana Support Service (OSS) shared that OSS provided bail accommodation for young people in Dubbo and explained eligibility and referral pathways for this service. More information will be circulated with the CLSD meeting notes.

**Next CLSD meeting:** 7 November, legal services only.

**Sharon Tomas CLSD Program Regional Coordinator**  
**Central West CLSD Program**  
**Email: [Sharon.Tomas@alsnswact.org.au](mailto:Sharon.Tomas@alsnswact.org.au)**