

Far West CLSD Program Meeting

22 February 2024 12pm
32 Sulphide Street

MINUTES

Present: Sophie Farnsworth **Legal Aid NSW**, Kristy Parker **Children’s Contact Service – Catholic Care**, Melissa Callis **Warra Warra Legal Service**, Melissa McInnes **Far West MHDA**, Emma Pascoe **MERIT**, Kate Halliday **CLSD**, Justine Muller **Salvation Army interim team leader Catherine Haven house**, Colette Carnie **Children’s Contact Service – Catholic Care**, Ann TeKawa **RFDS Wellbeing Place**, Veselko Cuic **FWCLC**, Chris Richard **JAS**.

Apologies: Yvonne – Macarthur legal – new CLC operation for Wentworth
Barbara Bard – Lifeline
Erin Reberger Mission Australia AOD program

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
1. Acknowledgment of Country and opening of meeting	Chris opened with an acknowledgement of the Wilyakali people.	
2. AOD Services in Broken Hill Pannel	Anne Te Kawea from the RFDS discussed the clinicians and SMART Recovery programs offered by RFDS in Broken Hill and as outreach. Melissa McInnes from Far West Local health district, which includes voluntary and involuntary admissions to mental health and AOD facilities. FW LHD can also offer addiction medicine programs. Emma Pascoe from MERIT discussed the AOD services available in the Far West through MERIT. Catholic care offers a support group for carers for people with mental health, they may be looking at extending that to AOD.	Chris Richard will summarize this discussion in a Far West AOD Quick Guide

	<p>The Link is a Sydney based AOD service that operates entirely online who are making some efforts to target Broken Hill.</p> <p>Still lots of gaps for AOD treatment – assisting people with wrap around support e.g. accommodation, being able to refer out for support services, and to address other stresses. Also, family carers of people with AOD issues may also be a gap. There was a carer support group in Broken Hill but no it is longer operating.</p>	
Far West CLC Closure	<p>Vesselko Cuic – Regarding the Far West CLC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Far West CLC has made a secondment agreement with Western Sydney CLC, Veselko is the supervising solicitor for 3 or 4 months. • A new solicitor will be in Broken Hill from 11 March plus some lawyers in Sydney currently doing best we can to talk to people. • Some FWCLC clients have received messages that the service is not able to assist them any longer, referring them to Legal Aid NSW or a private lawyer. <p>Melissa Callis – Regarding Warra Warra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Family Legal Service Qld is going to support us with a secondment solicitor once a month, so business as usual, seeing clients and taking new clients. Trying to seek feedback about direction for Warra Warra from 2025 from community. <p>WDVCAAS – Need to look into another auspicing arrangement as well. Otherwise business as usual until June 2024.</p>	<p>Note: between the Q1 meeting and publishing of the minutes there have been significant updates on this issue. Please see the minutes of the Q2 meeting when released.</p>
Other Business	<p>Sophie is starting a civil outreach to Shack monthly, alternating with the Legal Aid NSW Civil Law Service for Aboriginal Communities.</p> <p>Justine from Salvation Army confirms that SA Broken Hill has lodged an application to become a WDO sponsor.</p>	