

Greater Albury CLSD Program meeting

8 May 2024 10am to 12pm, The Hub – YES Unlimited - 562 Macauley Street, Albury

MINUTES

Present: Stacey Simpson (CVGT – Parents Next), Simone Barlow (CVGT – Transition to Work), Rebecca Bryant (VERTO), Arlinda Wentworth (HRCLS), Navinesh Nand (Legal Aid NSW), Raissa Butkwoski (HRCLS), Felicity Hartridge (HRCLS), Anthony Nguyen (HRCLS), Amanda Meagher (HRCLS), Kate Halliday (Legal Aid NSW), Shannon Le-Lievre (Intereach), Tracey Whatley (The Personnel Group), Scott Dunlop (The Personnel Group), Rohan Harrison (Legal Aid NSW), Becky Smith (HRCLS), Eliesha Shelton (Mungabareena), Jenna McConnachie (NSW LA), Wendy Reid (WDVCAS), Sarah Ferraro (WDVCAS), Mikaela Blackley (WDVCAS), Steph Martin (WDVCAS), Tegan Digney (WDVCAS), Natalie Neumann (NSW LA), Claire Cartwright (Wodonga Secondary College)

Apologies: Gabby Maginnes (HRCLS), Jennifer Pegler (Murrumbidgee LHD), Michelle Conroy (One Door), Ashlie Barclay (HRCLS), Taylor Smith-Stephens (HRCLS), Karlee Hirt (HRCLS), YMCLC, Sara Reid (HRCLS), Margie Tickner (The Women's Centre), Ben Foley (RDAS), Erin Kerr (Pogson Cronin Solicitors), EMichelle Head (Albury City) Damien Morgan (Homes NSW), Diane Small (Albury City), Loretta Caunt (Intereach), Janaya Carney (Revenue NSW), Ellie Haas (NSW LA), , Rebecca Cooper (Service NSW), , Jane Cipants (NSW Legal Aid), Craig White (Intereach), Winnie Baker (NSW LA), Megan Fisher (Vinnies), Liz Hargrave (UMFC), Seema Sanghi (Legal Aid NSW), Kathie Makeham (Service Australia), Natalie Neumann (NSW LA), Tessa Mead (HRCLS), Tracey Barkley (NDIS), Susan Beddowes (Intereach), Kim Richardson (YLA), Audra Holden (Intereach), Jessica Blum (UMFC) , Magdalena Rooney (Intereach), Jessica Morath (Pro Bono Partner – Clayton Utz)

Agenda item		Discussion	Action/Outcome
1. Opening & Acknowledgement of Country (10.00am)	(3 mins)	Colette welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Acknowledgement of Country – Greater Albury CLSD – Colette	
2. Purpose: (10.03am)	(2 mins)	Purpose: A focus on youth - identifying legal needs and referral pathways in order to improve access to justice and improve legal and social outcomes for or youth. Collaboration & coordination.	
3. Guests Speakers (10.05am)	Online (10 mins)	<p>Natalie Neumann - Community Legal Education Officer – NSW Legal Aid – Co-Solicitor in Charge for the Community Legal Education (CLE) unit of Legal Aid NSW.</p> <p>The CLE team have appointed Natalie to our CLSD region.</p> <p>Role: deliver CLE and to support staff across the whole of LA NSW. Do try and prioritise community workers, who can then spread the work. Also do direct CLE to communities and schools. Will keep attending CLSD meetings to see how we can help the community and access to justice.</p> <p>Contact details: cle@legalaid.nsw.gov.au To find out more about webinars, podcasts and to request a workshop https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/community-legal-education</p> <p>Law Week 20-26 May 2024 We are running a webinar series for the public to get to know ‘people in the law’. The details are in the flyer below and on the website: www.lawweeknsw.org.au If there are other local Law Week events happening, services can register those events to be promoted on the website: www.lawweeknsw.org.au/register-an-event</p>	Colette to provide contact details for both guests speakers

	Online (10 mins)	<p>Jenna McConnachie - Community Legal Education Solicitor – Respect At Work Legal Services (RAWLS) –Civil Law Division jenna.mcconnachie@legalaid.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>A lawyer in the Respect at Work Legal Service (RAWLS) – a trauma-informed team within Legal Aid NSW helping people with experiences of sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace. A core aspect of their work is to provide community legal education for groups in the community that are more vulnerable to abuses of their workplace rights. Focus is young people. Also have community engagement officers who focus on CALD communities, ATSI communities and people with disabilities. Are available for state-wide community engagement and legal education, and in particular to respond to the needs and issues identified by the CLSD.</p> <p>Have developed a legal education program for young people called ‘Work Ready’ that can be delivered to young people starting out in the workplace, free of charge. Work Ready is an interactive workshop that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduces young people to Australian laws that protect them in a workplace; • develops young people’s ability to identify unfair treatment at work; and • gives them information on how to access free and confidential advice and support for these issues. <p>Jenna has no real local knowledge so would love to co-present with local people and work together.</p>	
--	------------------	---	--

<p>4. Legal Needs Scenario (10.30am)</p>	<p>In person (30 mins)</p>	<p>Becky Smith – HRCLS – Invisible Hurdles Program – for young people. It is a team of 2 (Becky Taylor-Smith is an apology) Contact: cls@umfc.com.au Invisible Hurdles is a youth specific family violence unit. They have a partnership with Northeast Support & Action for Youth (“NESAY”), Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service (“AWAHS”) and Flexible Learning Centre (“FLEXI”). The team is onsite with their partners at least 1 day a week and work very closely with the students and staff. There is a big need for Birth Certificates for students.</p> <p>Activity: Young person, 18 years old, wants to get a job but is unable to get a TFN and doesn’t have a Birth Certificate, she also finds out her birth was never registered (if she applies for birth to get registered, there is a chance she will get a fine). She has been working a “cash” job for last 2 years, and sometimes gets paid in meals instead of money. She has also been kicked out of home (due to argument with mum’s new partner) and mum took partner’s side. She has been getting threatening texts from mum’s partner. She also doesn’t have a car and no something on social about a “no credit” loan.</p> <p>What issues can be identified: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cash job = no entitlements, including superannuation - Cannot apply for Centrelink without a BC - Don’t want her getting a “no credit” loan - DV aspects – link her in with WDVCS for support, might also be able to assist with making a Victims of Crime application - BC application fee = cannot afford (a solution to this could be that YP can attend a free BC day run by CLSD, but this is only if YP lives in NSW) <p>Becky (Invisible Hurdles project) can assist and how does funding work – both VIC & NSW funding, the clients age from 12-25, but need to have a link with either NESAY, AWAHS or FLEXI. Becky makes comment that we would love to support more people, but not able to.</p> <p>Question from Elisha: could you accept referrals from Mungabareena.</p>	
---	----------------------------	---	--

		<p>Becky: there is room to assist.</p> <p>Kate Halliday: maybe access to birth certificates via event only days is not the only way to provide free NSW birth certificates in the GA region. Maybe some of the quota of certificates can be given to different service providers to be used as required?</p> <p>There are plenty of free NSW BC, if anyone has any idea of how you want to use those (to help your clients) please let us know so we can work out how we can assist. Would love to work with whoever wants to work with us, could be on an ongoing basis or event basis. Can contact Kate Halliday: Kate.Halliday@legalaid.nsw.gov.au or Colette: cquin@umfc.com.au directly.</p> <p>Comments from the collective: Sometimes people are not aware when events are being help or are not able to attend. Raissa: People don't think lawyers can help with BC's, so might need to be a bigger conversation with community support services to refer people to our service. Steph: BC's are also a big issue for women escaping FV as the perpetrator controls everything.</p> <p>Kate Halliday: maybe we can look at identifying a partnership that might be able to work on this. CQ to send out an email and everyone to respond if they are interested in a partnership.</p> <p>Becky Smith: A challenge we are facing is YP losing/damaging their BC. We provide YP with certified copies but there are still issues with them being damaged or lost. There has been some ideas thrown around (digital BC / street lockers). Think it's a wider Government issues, but in the meantime, how can we assist YP? FLEXI/NESAY are not able to hold on to the original BC's.</p> <p>Becky Smith: another challenge with BC's is not knowing what state a BC is registered in, no way to do a search and find out.</p>	<p>Col to send out email.</p> <p>Kate and Col to investigate further. Establish a partnership to identify issues / progress ideas.</p>
--	--	---	--

		<p>Kate Halliday: NSW LA is doing some advocacy work with BDM. Thinks they might be interested in discussing some of the cross-border issues being experienced, and especially if there is a quick method of checking if a birth is registered in VIC or NSW.</p> <p>Becky Smith: Law Week event, doing 2 lots of “Donuts with Lawyers” events, one in the Youth Hub in Wangaratta and one in Wodonga.</p>	<p>CQ to circulate an email with details.</p> <p>CQ to send out poster</p>
BREAK (11.00m)	(10 mins)		
5. Around the room (11.10am)	(10 mins)	<p>Felicity – HRCLS – Law Reform & Communications Jenna – NSW LA Natalie – NSW LA Shanon Le-Lievre – Corowa Intereach Elisha – Mungambareena Tracey – Personnel Group Scott – Personnel Group Rebecca – VERTO Steph – FASS Tegan – WDV CAS Mikayla – WDV CAS Colette – HRCLS CLSD Raissa – HRCLS Becky – HRCLS Amanda – HRCLS Arlinda – HRCLS Anthony – HRCLS Kate – NSW LA Rohan – NSW LA Nav – NSW LA Simone – CVGT Stacey – CVGT</p>	
6. Upcoming Events	(40 Mins)	7 8.2024 – GA CLSD trip to Deniliquin –	

(11.20am)		<p>Kate Halliday & Colette have discussed this and are wondering if a big community event in Deniliquin is a good idea if we don't know what the needs are (for August CLSD trip). Thinking that we could have a meeting (or several meetings) with the community to find out what the needs are (is there a need for Wills? Do they need BC's? do YP need assistance?).</p> <p>Colette: there are certainly a significant amount of DV matters that are not being reported. Amanda: agrees with above. Being such a small "fish bowl" community. We are seeing similar issues in Vic (Corryong area) – if someone reports they get "shunned". Amanda and Colette are already trying to look at how we can support and are discussing with support services there.</p> <p>Examples from what we are hearing from the community in relation to DV: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report was made and a woman was fired from her job. • Another woman was fired from her job as the supermarket she was working in was in the ADVO zone "he has to eat". • The perpetrator was well known in the community, so protection was taken for when the perpetrator was being served as to ensure not many people around to see. • Matter being adjourned 3 times due to perpetrator not having been served. <p>Steph from FASS made comment about police doing victim statements with the perpetrator present (victims scared and can't speak up). There is also a major problem with Police not taking matters seriously.</p> <p>Kate Halliday: have you tried having conversations with Police about this?</p> <p>Steph (FASS): they are aware of it. There is a DVLO that covers Deniliquin and Finley area, but who we never see and very hard to get responses from. Scott Russell is aware of it and big conversations are happening.</p>	
-----------	--	--	--

		<p>Comment from Rohan: I think it's also a resourcing issue.</p> <p>Raissa: I see clients with different range of issues. There are a lot of debt/fines matters, but we are not getting many referrals. The cross-border things is a massive issue, it's also impossible to get fines waived in NSW for any reason, including for DV related matters.</p> <p>Steph (FASS): Also seeing a lot of cross applications, a lot of victims are becoming perpetrators. A lot of frustration from women because they are saying they had to show so much proof for an AVO, however it seems very simple for the perpetrators to issue one against them.</p> <p>Mikayla (WDVCAS): we are also having some training in terms of dowry.</p> <p>Bec (VERTO) – we are inundated with housing matters in Deniliquin. No housing available. Horrible landlords and a lot of unsafe “shocking” living conditions. People also live in threat of “no grounds eviction”.</p> <p>Personnel Group: We only have a “satellite office” in Deniliquin so not across the issues there. Will find out who is on the ground there and ask those questions. We are a disability employment services – all clients we deal with are vulnerable and also have housing issues.</p> <p>Question: what other services are in Deniliquin?</p> <p>FASS/WDVCAS – we refer clients to Vinnies / MLHD.</p> <p>Colette has found a Deniliquin Services Directory. She will have a look and see if useful, will share if so.</p> <p>Kate: Asked if Colette can discuss with Vinnies. BC day could be a good event to start with and then see what else is required.</p> <p>Corowa Intereach: we have workers in Deniliquin that might be able to provide some input.</p>	<p>Colette to share Deniliquin Services Directory. Colette to ask Vinnies if BC event would be of value?</p>
--	--	---	--

		<p>Colette: I will reach out to Intereach. Has also received some interest from services in Deniliquin. Also making enquiries with TAFE about using a conference room if we meet in Deniliquin for the next CLSD. Discussion regarding a Planning Group to assist, interested: Steph, Nav, Amanda, Raissa, Kate, Arlinda. Colette will do some research and then get back to the planning group. <i>Comment from Kate: we don't need to be too attached to any date, let's see what works with people.</i></p> <p>EVENTS: Stacey (CVGT): we are looking to organise an event "Discovery Day". Will send an email with information. Also trying to get TAFE and local sporting groups involved.</p> <p>14.5.2024 The Stepping On program has been rescheduled to the 14 May 10am at the football club rooms in Berrigan. Stepping On is a program for adults aged 65 years and over, and Aboriginal adults aged 45 years and over, who are living at home and who have fallen or have a fear of falling. The group runs for two hours each week for seven weeks. Sessions are interactive, involve informative guest speakers, include morning tea and opportunity to network with other participants and local health professionals. The program empowers older people to be active, strong, and independent in their own homes for as long as possible. It increases confidence in their mobility as they build strength, balance, and awareness. https://www.activeandhealthy.nsw.gov.au/home/stepping-on/ (for more information) You can contact Icaria health on 02 6021 5165 to make a referral.</p> <p>20.5. and 21.5. 2024 - Janaya Carney - Revenue NSW - Aboriginal Customer Advisory Officer - Fines & Debt will be attending Albury for networking. Reach out to her via telephone or email if you would like her to come and have a chat on: 0455 431 059 or janaya.carney@revenue.nsw.gov.au.</p>	<p>CQ to reach out to Intereach.</p> <p>Colette will do some research and then get back to the planning group.</p> <p>Colette to circulate information.</p>
--	--	--	---

		<p>23.5.2024 Law Week Breakfast Our annual breakfast is a wonderful opportunity for people from across the region with an interest in social justice to come together to discuss improving access to justice and hear from leaders and change-makers who inspire thought and action. This year we are thrilled to announce Chief Magistrate of Victoria Justice Lisa Hannan as guest speaker. Prepare to be inspired, challenged, and engaged in cultivating discussion on championing justice in our regional communities. https://events.humanitix.com/2024-law-week-justice-breakfast</p> <p>30.5.2024 - DCJ Housing Mobile Outreach - Corowa Intereach What will the team be able to help with? Assist with any social or government housing questions you have. Assist with lodging your housing application online. Check in if you already have an applications Provide you with information if you are having a housing issue. Let you know what help there is for private rentals The team will also have self-service kiosks for use if clients want to check something online or upload paperwork. Made contact with Belinda – she is happy for someone to attend to assist if clients have ID issues / Debts – Any takers?</p> <p>Comment from Bec (VERTO): this is well and truly overdue. Comment from Shannon (Intereach): agreed, this is well overdue. We have a lot of people that come to us with housing issues. We would ideally love housing to have representations to come monthly to discuss those issues with clients, however when housing came last time, they did not get many people. They seem to be attending when it's a matter of crisis.</p> <p>31.5.2024 – Regional Domestic & Family Violence Conference – Griffith Regional Theatre – See Flyer 27.6.2024 – NSW Trustee and Guardian - Commercial Club Albury</p>	
--	--	---	--

		<p>Confirmed Speakers: T&G (Estate Planning), Service NSW Support & Customer Service Specialists, others TBC.</p> <p>Opportunity: We'd be thrilled to have you host an information stall. We're also open to stakeholder suggestions to enrich the event.</p> <p>Audience: Primarily focused on seniors. (Haven't considered online attendance at this stage)</p> <p>HRCLS – possibly conducting a scams for seniors trivia quiz. Any other takers?</p> <p>VERTO: doing some training on 25 and 26 June re. land leases.</p>	
Next meeting Q3		TBC - 7 August 2024 - Deniliquin – here we come!	