

Moree CLSD Meeting

17 May 2024 10am online

MINUTES

Present: **Kate Godfrey** Social Worker Moree Violence, Abuse and Neglect Service, Hunter New England Local Health District, **Kristie Burge**, Aboriginal Child and Family Advocacy Service ALS NSW/ACT, **Julianne Elliott** CLE Solicitor Legal Aid NSW, **June Golland** WDO team Legal Aid NSW, **Tamara Kenny** Civil Law Services for Aboriginal Communities CLSAC Legal Aid NSW, **Sean Suey-Thorne** Revenue NSW, **Ben Graham** A/Principal Solicitor North & North West Community Legal Centre, **Laura Lombardo** Pro Bono team Gilbert + Tobin Law, **Shantel Simpson** Moree TFSS WDVCAS, **Thomas Duncan** Just Reinvest, **Kahla Williams** Caseworker Youth Justice Moree, **Libby Every** Counsellor Anglicare, **Annie Nolan** Disability Advocate ACFAS Moree, **Steven Tinkler** Child and Family Advocate and Support Officer ACFAS Moree, **Nikolai Haddad** Civil Lawyer ALS NSW/ACT, **Melinda McGrady** Aboriginal Student Support Officer TAFE NSW, **Katja McPherson** Respect at Work Legal Service, Legal Aid NSW, Lorilie **Haines** Abcare, **Holly Graham** Legal Aid NSW, **Louise Coady** ALS NSW/ACT, **Blossom Pitt** Regional NSW, **Kellie Ward** Flourish Australia, **Darrel Smith** Miyay Birray, **Sahara Cochrane** Just Reinvest, **Mary Duke** AHO, **Nik Stafford** Carers NSW Carer Gateway, **Janna Martin-Cooley** Pro Bono team Gilbert + Tobin Law, **Kate Halliday** Legal Aid NSW, **Winnie Baker** Legal Aid NSW, **Judy Duncan** CLSD ALS (NSW/ACT), **Alexander** Barker Dept of Education, **Mekayla Cochrane** Just Reinvest

Apologies: Jeremy Mills Dept Education, Anela Carroll Benevolent Society, Jamie Sampson Dept Education, Jill Ahoy Uniting NDIS, Lauren Stefanou ALS, Sandy Davids, Centacare, Denise Haines NSW Health, Rachel Palmer Dept of Justice, Donna Bevan Connecting Consulting

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
Opening and purpose	Judy opened the meeting acknowledging elders and country and asking people to pause in silence for a minute to reflect on recent losses in the community.	

<p>Lorilie Haines AbCare</p>	<p>Lorilie is the out of home care manager Abcare who are extending to Moree as a new ACCO in this space. One cohort of kids in Moree has been transferred to Abcare and we are now working on 2nd phase part of bringing kids back to ACCO. We have 3 out-of-home care caseworkers, a family preservation worker and a cultural mentor. While we mainly receive referrals from DCJ we do look at other kids on country who require our service.</p> <p>The Family preservation program receives referrals from DCJ however there are also 2 spaces for community referrals or self-referrals for high to medium risk families, family preservation can include family group conferences as well as financial assistance. We can work with families for up to up to 2 years.</p> <p>At this stage the service just for Moree town not the Shire however the priority is to bring over all kids in OOHC to an ACCO.</p>	
<p>ALS Aboriginal Child and Family Advocacy Service – Kristie Burge and Louise Coady</p>	<p>Kristie Burge is the manager of ACFAS ALS allied service team, based in Dubbo working across Dubbo and Moree. Louise Coady is the Principal Solicitor Care and Protection and Family Law at the ALS NSW/ACT.</p> <p>The allied service team provides prevention and early intervention before any DCJ intervention in Moree extending to Tenterfield, Armidale and Boggabilla. We don't rely on DCJ referrals and will help where there is a need for intervention or support for families, especially for families whose members have a disability.</p> <p>An evaluation framework is being put into place at an early stage so we can learn from it.</p> <p>About to recruit for a legal team in Moree comprising a family lawyer, civil lawyer and child protection lawyer.</p> <p>Difference with ACFAS service is that it is community and client driven. The allied health team is being trained to connect clients with legal assistance from the legal teams. We are a big champion of the use of the Family Law Act and Family Court instead of families being forced into the state-based child protection system. With the Family Law Act amendments (commencing this month) decisions about the best interests of the child are more streamlined and courts must consider specific issues</p>	<p>See attached info sheet on the Family Law Act amendments.</p>

	<p>when determining what is the best interests of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child. Louise observes that the Family Court is trying to set the tone for families and is very responsive to family violence. The legal team will be for the ACFAS team and in addition to the statewide care team at the ALS.</p>	
CLSD updates Moree fines flyer	<p>The Moree fines flyer promoting legal help for fines from Legal Aid NSW and the ALS NSW/ACT, as well as assistance from Revenue NSW, has been completed. It is in 2 formats including a DL (envelope size),</p> <p>Just Reinvest is now a WDO sponsor in Moree.</p>	<p>Contact Kate Halliday at the CLSD unit for printed copies of the resource.</p>
CLE	<p>Julianne Elliott community legal education Currently focusing on custody support training for people supporting young people in police custody and education issues. Police stations often don't have a long list of people who can independently act as a support person for young person, with the result that young person can end up with person who has not been trained or who is not independent. The more people who are trained the better.</p>	<p>Julianne to speak further with Blossom at Regional NSW.</p>
Wills clinic	<p>Wills clinic with Gilbert+ Tobin and North Northwest CLC Laura Lombardo reports back on the estate planning project for Moree and Boggabilla Moree held at Social Co House and the TAFE in Boggabilla in March. This project combined CLE on estate planning and one on one assistance with documents G + T assisted 23 clients and drafted 54 documents, while there were less people in Boggabilla, it was a good start. Ben NNWCLC was a really great event; we were able to help people who really needed it Ben saw 5 civil clients and 7 clients regarding estate planning.</p>	
Specialist Family	<p>Judy reports back on attending training in Moree regarding the new Specialist Family Violence Pilot that has commenced in Moree (and other locations including</p>	

<p>Violence List Pilot</p>	<p>Gunnedah and Inverell.) The pilot aims to provide a trauma informed and culturally appropriate response to ensure that ADVOs are consistent with other court orders. It takes place every Monday morning at 9:30.</p> <p>Judy reported that there was good networking at the training but there are gaps in services, including legal services and behaviour change programs. Magistrate Samuels asked attending services whether they would be available to attend court. The closest men’s behaviour change program is in Tamworth, not clear how Moree people are able to attend.</p> <p>The Local Court has issued a practice note for the pilot Practice_Note_-_Specialist_Family_Violence_List_Pilot_v.1.1.pdf (nsw.gov.au)</p> <p>Kate notes that data provided by BOCSAR shows that a significant proportion of AVOs are (71 out of a total of 256 in the period January to December 2023) were made against Aboriginal women. Shantel from the WDVCS confirms that the services are seeing primary victims having orders made against them, and that they work with victims even though they are defendants to an AVO, the WDVCS also has hearing support worker. Shantel also confirms that orders are made against family members (non-intimate partner relationships) and children in the region.</p>	
<p>Front line services survey</p>	<p>The Front-line services survey was conducted jointly by JR and the CLSD partnership and looked at services working with young people and families. The results of the survey were reported at the Moree CLSD meeting held in Q4 2023.</p> <p>Moree has been in the spotlight with staff from the Premier’s office regularly visiting, a governance group has been established to advice on distribution of funding made up of ACCOs. Premier’s department has been talking to services individually</p> <p>Judy is considering focusing on this at the next CLSD meeting</p> <p>Blossom confirms that the funding of \$1 million for after-hours youth programs.</p> <p>24 May Judge Skinner is meeting with decision makers better outcomes for Moree</p> <p>Looking to fast track the after-hours programs from 1 July</p>	

<p>Emerging and unmet needs</p>	<p>If you have not been invited to the meeting on 24 May reach out to Judy and she can help as you need to register by today</p> <p>Blossom reports that following participating in the mapping of services with Moree Council there appears to be a massive gap in transparency and collaboration. Accountability of services is also a component here. Services could improve how they promote their services and make sure people are aware of services. At the beginning of the year, a joint interagency was held for the region, there were 54 agencies in the room, many of whom were not well known. Need to look at how we go to community as community not going to services.</p> <p>She notes hearing good feedback about the wills clinic because of conflict when people pass away, and a lot of deaths are sudden</p> <p>Ben reminds everyone that the CLC goes to Moree once a month to give advice and prepare documents, however funding is uncertain, and we may have to cut back in Moree which is disappointing but no concrete plans yet.</p> <p>Blossom advises Regional NSW is working on capability workshops in and Moree would like to connect with Ben about these workshops.</p> <p>Katja asks if people are not coming to services are their community events that people go to? A majority of services create events such as NAIDOC coming up with something that needs to be considered community events. Judy will put Katja in touch with council roundtables Legal Aid NSW office</p> <p>Next Meeting: 23rd August 2024 at 10.00am to 11.30pm – Online</p>	
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