

MOREE CLSD Program Meeting

15 November 2024 | 10am – 12pm | Dhiyaan Centre and Online

MINUTES

Present: Judy Duncan (CLSD Program Regional Coordinator), Holly Graham (Legal Aid NSW), Kate Halliday (Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT), Ben Graham (North North West CLC), Mary Duke (Aboriginal Housing Office), Emma Smallwood (Legal Aid NSW), Nikoli Haddad (Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT), David Poulter (Youth Justice), Jessie-Grace Stephenson (Gilbert & Tobin), Kellie Ward (Flourish Australia), David Ankler (Premier and Cabinet), Crystal Robinson (Corrective Services), Joy Wilson (Homesnorth), Glen Crump (Mirray Birray), Crystal Robinson (Community Corrections), Dominic Holles (Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT), Jo Evans (Legal Aid NSW), Winnecke Baker (Legal Aid NSW) Sahara Cochrane (Just Reinvest), Angelia Graham (Aboriginal Support Unit), Glen Crump (Miyay Birray), Anela Carroll (Benevolent Society), Toni Johnston (Aboriginal Affairs), Annabel Nolan (Aboriginal Child & Family Advocacy Services), Colin Wells (Community Corrections), Mikala Bearman (Community College Northern Inland), Gemma McKinnon (Aboriginal Legal Service), Theresa Lake (Aboriginal Legal Service), Jennifer Swan (Community), Ann Holden (Aboriginal Child & Family Advocacy Service - ALS), Luke Swan (Abcare), Adam See (Aboriginal Affairs) Paula Jackson (Aboriginal Child & Family Advocacy Service - ALS),

Apologies: Katie Smith (SHAE Academy), Darrel Smith (Mirray Birray), Blossom Pitt (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development), Denise Ranby (Thiyama-li Family Violence Service), Julianne Elliott (NSW Legal Aid), Pia Van De Zandt (Premiers Dept), Carol Thomas (Youth Justice), Katrina Inostroza (NSW Legal Aid)

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
1. Opening	Crystal Robinson acknowledged the meeting took place on Gomeroi Country.	
2. Guest Speakers	<p>David Ankler – Premier’s Department, Moree Grants for Youth Services</p> <p>The work of the Premier’s Department in Moree includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding to boost after hours activities for young people in Moree LGA• Bail accommodation for young people (led by Youth Justice)• A review of current services supporting young people in Moree.	<p>David Ankler to:</p> <p>discuss funding program with PCYC and clarify as to what they offer.</p>

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	<p>After Hours Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 funding streams: funding to extend existing services and small grants to amplify services provided by individuals and small businesses. • Mirray Birray, SHAE Academy and the PCYC have received funding to extend existing services. • Under contracts these providers give monthly verbal check-ins, quarterly reports (activities delivered, staffing, participant involvement, compliments/complaints), and financial reports. <p>Small Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-competitive grants of up to \$10,000 are available. More detailed applications can apply for \$25,000. • People/businesses can apply any time until the allocation is exhausted. • To-date 10 applications have been approved and 9 funded. \$100,000 of the \$320,000 available has been allocated. • Examples of funded projects include an after-hours boxing program, touch football competitions in Moree and Toomelah, cultural activities during the Block Party, a mural in Mungindi and mental health peer support groups. <p>Review of Existing Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the main gaps are in mainstream service delivery, not NGOs. • Have reviewed existing service mapping documents and separately requested information from NSW Government agencies about their services in Moree. • Will analyse this information against what they would expect to see from a service system at key points in a young person's life. <p>Questions/Concerns?</p> <p>Can the Premier's Department provide a community update about the small grant funded services so that the community can take advantage of them?</p>	<p>Share information about services that have received small grants funding with this group to promote up-take of services.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be a one-pager flyer sent to Judy. <p>Will the small grants program stop once the initial \$320K is spent?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes. <p>At what point will there be publicly available information about the review of services?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope to be finalising recommendations in February 2025 and would like to share something publicly early next year if not before the end of this year. • Emerging high-level findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - community awareness and understanding of what is available is relatively low. If people do know what services exist, they don't know what they're funded to do or how they're performing - accessibility is an issue (narrow eligibility criteria mean they aren't accessible to people who might benefit the most) and - workforce and recruitment issues are common. <p>Glen Crump – Mirray Birray</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Beat program operates a bus for young people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mon, Tues, Wed: 8pm – 12am - Thurs – Sun 8pm – 2am • 13 staff working on a rotating roster. Young people can contact them via phone and social media platforms. • In October 584 young people used the service and 378 have used it so far this month. <p>Data from October 2024 interactions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males up to 15yrs 280 • Males 15yrs & over 41 • Female up to 15yrs 156 • Females 15yrs & up 107 	
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	<p>Referrals to PCYC 16 & Shae Academy 54</p> <p>November 2024 interactions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males up to 15yrs 246 • Males 15yrs & over 38 • Female up to 15yrs 374 • Females 15yrs & up 120 <p>Referrals to Shae Academy 140</p> <p>Information as promised from David Ankler: Below is a summary of the outcomes of the meeting on 19 November, the Moree LGA Youth Crime Local Governance Group:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Discussed more detailed findings of the service review and next steps. This included discussion on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Service gaps, especially for young people with complex needs. ○ The need to increase awareness of available services and make sure they can be accessed by those who need them. ○ Steps to strengthen governance and accountability across the service system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heard from Miyay Birray, SHAE Academy and PCYC on the after-hours activities they are funded to deliver under this package. Good attendance rates were reported by all three, including young people at risk, but there are ongoing recruitment challenges for PCYC. - Discussed potential options for longer term place-based work in Moree and the development of a Crime Prevention Plan by Moree Council. - Heard from Youth Justice about the Bail Accommodation Program tender, with 6 Aboriginal organisations invited to submit proposals by 13 December. <p>David Poulter – Manager Moree Bail Accommodation Project, Youth Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select tender for the provider opened at 9am on 15 November. (Attachment) 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisations invited to tender have until 13 December to respond. Will organise presentations to a panel in Moree in January 2025 and anticipate having a provider by the end of that month. • Partnering with TAFE to provide training opportunities that focus on young people. • Have engaged an Aboriginal Consultancy to provide tender support and have a strong panel of Aboriginal people to participate in the evaluation process. • During tender will do more work around planning for the site. Ideally up and running by mid-2025. • Interested in one premises but still undecided. Feedback has been to be close to town but not in town and young people have mentioned wanting outdoor space, to be able to fish and have pathways into employment. <p>Dominic Holles – Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT, Specialist Children’s Court Sitings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List is 1 year old, and the uptake has been excellent. • Advantage is having a specialist Children’s Court Magistrate to manage the list who is expert in the Children’s Criminal Proceedings Act. • One prime outcome of this legislation is the focus on rehabilitation. Another is that support agencies can attend as matters are held on a specific day. • The Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/Act has received funding for 2 new positions in Moree: Senior Children’s Solicitor (starting 6 Jan 2025) and a youth officer. • The Senior Solicitor will also deal with serious Children’s Court matters in Walgett, Bourke and Tamworth. They will be Tamworth 3 days/week and Moree 2 days. • Youth officer will focus on Moree and Circuit Court of Boggabilla, and Mungindi. • It was noted that kids are calmer, not having to sit at court all day with adults. 	
<p>3. Service Updates</p>	<p>Jo Evans – managing opening of Legal Aid NSW Office in Moree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secured office space. • At a minimum will employ an Aboriginal Field Officer and an Office Manager, similar to the Walgett Legal Aid NSW office. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong argument for employing a permanent solicitor but still discussing if this is achievable. Services like CLSAC and FAMAC will still service the community. <p>Kate Halliday – Aboriginal Child and Family Advocacy Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits Moree monthly to give legal advice. Focus on families who are having contact with DCJ about their kids. Conversations can happen very early on, before DCJ is possibly involved. • People can speak to non-legal advocates based in Moree and get legal advice. • Advertising for lawyers now via the ALS website. <p>Jenna McKinnon - Principal Solicitor Closing the Gap, Aboriginal Legal Service, Redfern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funded to work with local Just Reinvest teams and community around Aboriginal Justice Plans (state level) but looking into the possibility of implementing local plans. • Moree is an area where the Aboriginal Legal Service is funded to trial this. <p>Joy - Homes North</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising a lunch on Christmas day for people who have nowhere to go. <p>Ben – North Northwest Community Legal Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing Moree outreach. • Terri, the principal solicitor has returned from maternity leave. • Expanding pro-bono partner network to help clients in areas that aren't funded through CLCs or Legal Aid like personal injury. Aim to connect people with advice early because they saw people give up on valid cases because didn't have money to pursue them. • Aspire towards providing outreach in Boggabilla and Mungindi but depends on next round of funding. <p>Jessie-Grace - Gilbert & Tobin, Pro-bono Legal Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to fill gaps in legal service delivery that exist outside Legal Aid, ALS and CLC guidelines. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy to receive referrals. • Do everything except criminal and family law. • Examples of work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support regarding giving people in need of protection (PINOPs) civil standing. ○ Civil claims of children in detention. ○ NDIS appeals. ○ Anti-discrimination. ○ Advocacy and casework regarding housing repairs. ○ Helping people with issues that arise after people die, for example disputes about burials and who is in charge. ○ Support organisations that need help implementing/drafting governance. • Want to do work that is community led and based on community need. <p>Judy Duncan – CLSD Regional Coordinator / Aboriginal Legal Service/Just Reinvest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Collaboration with NSW Legal Aid WDO Services, Aboriginal Legal Service Fines Unit, Revenue NSW, Services Australia, CLSD Program & Transport NSW held a Fine Debt Outreach Clinic in October with around 63 people through the door on the day. • Wills Clinic to be held in March 2025 with pro bono Legal Partners G & T Law, North Northwest Community Legal Centre planning to commence mid-January. • Collaboration of services Just Reinvest, Moree Secondary College, NSW Department of Education, Regional NSW, Aboriginal Affairs, NSW Tafe, Moree Christian School, Community College Northern Inland • Recently held a mini-youth forum attended by around 200/250 young students. • This is the precursor for a full day education summit in term 1 or 2 next year. • Goal is to hear from young people about would make their learning environment better. 	
<p>4. Current issues</p>	<p>Specialist Family Violence List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not covered by a local legal service and there is No Domestic Violence Duty Scheme in Moree. • Existing services would need specific funding to support this service. 	<p>For discussion in 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal assistance at court on specialist

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was also noted that there isn't a private space at court for PINOPS to receive advice. • Gilbert & Tobin offered to provide assistance with research that might support this advocacy. This could be done over the Summer. 	<p>family violence list days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic offender program, has been 100% online since covid.
5. Next meeting	28 February 2025	Legal Partners only meeting