

Taree - Forster CLSD Program meeting

18th Sept 2024 – First Steps Count Child and Community Centre, 4 Myall Ave, Taree

MINUTES

Present: Kate Darnell (Forster/Taree Regional Coordinator, MVNS), Marlo Slavin (FNAAFV) Jazlee Jake (Pathfinders), Heidi Anderson (Mission Aust) Craig Partridge (Wesley Mission) Kurt Schurmer (Services NSW) Alison Minett (Services NSW) Joey Engel (Homebase) Shaarn Whitehouse, Mel Kallmier and Haley McEwen (MNCLC) Susan Stanley and Cindi Ulstrup (Services Aust) Annette Andrews (Interrelate) Michael Giles (Hunter CLC) Trent Singles (NSW Fair Trading) Winnie Baker (Legal Aid)

Apologies: Meggie Molony (Blue Sky), Jane O'Dwyer (Mid Coast Council), Jillian McDonnell (Seniors Rights Service) Anne Cregan (Gilbert and Tobin) Heidi Campbell Pm (Legal Aid)

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
1. Opening and Welcomes	Kate d acknowledged the meeting took place on the lands of the Biripi people and welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. Intro and Purpose of today's meeting	<p>Purpose of today's meeting (5 Minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLSD Program Objective – To build and nurture a network of legal assistance and community services to increase access to justice and improve legal and social outcomes for people experiencing social or economic disadvantage or dislocation. • Today's Meeting Objective - To provide an opportunity for local partners to network and build connections with one another. • To celebrate and promote further community events and partnerships. • To engage in and share valuable information via an information session on Victim Services and Coercive Control (delivered by Hunter CLC and MNCLC) 1:30pm-3:30pm. 	
3. Guest Speaker	<p>Marlow Slavin - Sector Development and Member Engagement Officer for the National Peak Body for Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Forum (FVPLS).</p> <p>Responsible for providing culturally safe and holistic services to First Nations people affected by family violence – predominantly women and children. The National FVPLS Forum provides</p>	

	<p>expert national policy advice in areas of policy, planning and law reform, and advocates for safety and justice for First Nations people affected by family violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This year FNAAFV became a standalone incorporated entity. - Family Violence Prevention Legal Services provide holistic care that includes legal and non-legal supports. - There are 16 head office locations and 38 outreach locations Australia wide. In NSW, FVPLS are based in Forbes (Binaal Billa), Kempsey/Grafton (Many Rivers), Walgett/Moree/Bourke (Thiyama-Li) and Broken Hill (Warra Warra). <p>New Community of Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FNAAFV launched an interdisciplinary community of practice in August this year to develop strategy regarding family and sexual violence that draws from grass roots voices. - The Community of Practice aims to create alliances and networks to reduce violence in line with target 13 of Closing the Gap. <p><i>Target 13</i> <i>By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is reduced by 50%, as progress towards zero.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Community of Practice also aims to build the capacity of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and is underscored by the principle of self-determination. It is open to ACCOs but also non-Aboriginal led services working in the sector. - There is an open invitation to anyone to join. Services can join to participate in meetings or to be kept abreast of developments. - Join the Community of Practice by registering at the bottom of this page. 	
<p>4. Further Networks and Connection</p>	<p>Annette Andrews - Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner and General Mediator from INTERRELATE</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides a family law mediation service for both property and parenting with offices in Taree and Port Macquarie. Really keen to bust the myth that they only do parenting mediations. - A child consultant is also available on the mid north coast to be involved in the mediation process. - Also do court ordered mediation and have a specialist family violence support worker. - Interrelate can also do legally assisted mediation with private lawyers or other services (Community Legal Centre, Legal Aid) - Fees are low as they receive funding from the Federal Attorney General's Department. - All one-on-one appointments are FREE and the child inclusive process is free. - For mediations the 1st hour is free and if the participant's income is over \$50,00 they are only charged \$30 for each additional hour after that. <p>Trent Singles – NSW Fair Trading</p> <p>“Let’s Talk” Workers Forum and Community Services Expo and events being held in Taree Oct 30th and 31st</p> <p>To view the complete program and book your spot Click Here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The events are targeting supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, young people, people with disability and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. - One session will be with subject matter experts on cost of living and tenancy issues and is a partnership between Revenue NSW, Births, Deaths and Marriages, Financial Counselling, Mid North Coast Legal Centre and Fair trading. - The youth event is about what to look out for when purchasing a 2nd hand vehicle, at mid coast community college. - The event for people with disability will include an education session about consumer law for disability service providers followed by an education session for users of these services about what to look out for. This will take place at Council Chambers. 	
<p>5. Arising Challenges/Item</p>	<p>Jane O’Dwyer – Community Development MidCoast council in engagement with NSW Health has recently highlighted more and more people not having their power of attorney completed and are therefore left in hospital waiting for paperwork to be completed so that they</p>	<p>CLSD Regional Coordinator and Program Unit to:</p>

<p>for discussion (5-10 Minutes)</p>	<p>can access a place at an aged care facility. Jane highlighted/requested a potential opportunity to deliver some training for this cohort via CLSD and MNCLC & Legal Aid</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mel (MNC LC) noted a need to have conversations early with people about getting these documents in place. - Suggestion to speak with Trustee and Guardian because they and come specifically to Taree every month. They draft documents for free for aged pensioners and people on the Disability Support Pension. - Noted that people might not understand the difference between power of attorney, enduring guardianship and wills and may think that in doing a will they have covered everything. - Jane would likely have the connections with health services/elderly services. <p>Mid North Coast Legal Centre – New Reconciliation Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNC LC has had its reconciliation action plan 2024-2026 approved by Reconciliation Australia! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ascertain whether this is a policy position for all facilities - Investigate options for delivering CLE and legal clinic locally to have documents drafted. (Trustee and Guardian/Pro-Bono legal firms)
<p>Past and Upcoming Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tobwabba Wills Clinic June 20th and 21st 19 people received wills (thanks to our partners from Gilbert and Tobin) - NAIDOC All Schools – July 30th - Birth Certificate Day Taree – August 9th 25 BC and 6 BR (Thank you MNCLC for attending) - MNCLC – RAP (Reconciliation Action Plan) Launch Party Sept 26th RSVP info@mnclegal.org.au - MNCLC confirmed legal support at PM Birth Certificate Day Oct 10th TBC Legal Aid 	
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>Introduction of “Legals Only” Meeting to take place once a year Wednesday November 6th – First Steps Count Child and Community Centre Next CLSD meeting for ALL partners and community workers will be meeting Weds Feb 26th, 2025, 12:30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Steps Count Child and Community Centre, 4 Myall Ave, Taree</p>	

