

Upper Mid North Coast CLSD Program Meeting

17 September 10 am South Kempsey Community Centre

MINUTES

Present: Wendy Cowan - Annecto, Duke Albada – Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre Gamble Aware, Mel Kallmier - Mid North Coast Legal Centre, Nathalie Gentle – Mid North Coast Legal Centre, Leah Kelly - AFO Legal Aid, Kate Fernandes - Family Law Team Legal Aid, Chris Lynch - Mid North Coast Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service, Josie Payne - Community Housing Limited, Heidi Campbell – Civil Law Team Legal Aid, Katherine Yager - FDR practitioner, Anna Davidson - FDR practitioner, Roger Bosmans – Headspace Reconnect, Holly Graham – CLSD Legal Aid, Jenni Johansson – CLSD Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre

Apologies: Anne Cregan – Gilbert + Tobin, Kylie Hyde – Legal Aid,

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
1. Welcome	Welcome and Acknowledgment of/welcome to Country	
2. Opening and purpose	The purpose of these quarterly meetings are for legal and community services to work together to increase access to justice for disadvantaged people in a way that is relevant and meaningful for our unique communities, and to identify current and emerging issues	
3. Brief introductions		
4. Birth Certificate Day Reflection	Almost 70 birth certificates on the day, very successful, want to look to expand the event, could do it a lot better next time – more planning Mel – Nambucca is a good spot Jenni – combining with another event worked really well.	Let Jenni know if you have any events/ideas for

	<p>Josie – another day planned for before xmas There was only 1 registration on the day, the birth certificates were mainly due to transience and also some had laminated theirs. Mel – could there be assistance in uploading Roger – could you on the day make copies and have the solicitor certify copies Good to know if BDM have cost exemptions for people fleeing violence Is there any planning at govt level for uploading digital copies Could ask Centrelink to come and assist people with app</p> <p>Question as to why the option on back of form (if you don't have the 2 IDs)</p> <p>If someone turns up without the 2 IDs we could have process on back and then follow up with person</p>	<p>future events to share the day</p> <p>Invite Centrelink to come to next event to assist in uploading id docs to MyGov</p> <p>Follow up with Winnie re-back of form options – does this option carry any weight with BDM</p>
<p>5. Identify prevalent current and emerging issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification is one • Roger – a lot of school refusal and mother is asking about distance education processes, issues with YP doing a cert 3 in mechanics but school was unable to unenroll him. Seeing a lot more transgender and also the risk of homelessness • Limited options where there is school refusal, wont take on kids who have been absent from school for a year • Pressure from schools to attend but no support for family to assist in getting child to go to school • Roger will act as advocate in school (for 12 to 18 year old) • Duke mentioned police partnership where they pick up kids from home, have them for breakfast then take to school/sports • Josie, also having difficulties with ID, similar issues with what everyone has said 	<p>Training for community workers on case notes around identifying coercive control?</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna – big thing is coercive control. As a group we need to think about how we record thing/make notes we see so it becomes third party evidence in an affidavit, and let person know you have done this and that it can be used in evidence and it shows a pattern. New law in QLD they can use the bodycam evidence from police. Training on how to take effective case notes. Everyone in the community can take notes • Jennie – Kempsey family used to do bystander training • Wendy – recent example of police going to DV situation and taking the mans word for it and took her to a cell (she is dark he is fair) now going through discrimination • Legal aid – we do make complaints to police, can refer to us for advice • Mel – cost of living issues? Chris - Lot of rent increases is putting pressure on. Bill coming through around no grounds evictions so will come in hopefully around March. Lot of rent increases in Coffs Harbour • Affording storage fees is something that comes up – refer these to financial counsellors • Roger – more families accessing the food bank at KAS on Wednesday mornings at the school • Could we collaborate on goods 360 pallets, perhaps a xmas drive? • Anna DVSafe phone.org provide cleaned second hand phones • Jenni – seeing a lot of single income families coming for food relief. We are currently looking to leverage re the demand 	
<p>6. Women’s legal forum – next steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where? More than 1? What? • Want an actual event e.g. an art event, a weaving event to provide plausible deniability • Elder abuse • Family violence • Child protection – many Nans not being supported by Centrelink and 1 now has a Centrelink debt • Good to offer childcare on day • Someone to speak on welfare rights, elder law, obscene images, Parental responsibility for grandma or Aunty • Mediator – you don’t always need a legal remedy, conflict resolution skills 	<p>Look at what else is happening and when</p> <p>Jenni will send email around thoughts around forum</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centrelink attend? • Prior event in South Kempsey was a successful location • People aren't secure talking to a lawyer • Plain English myth busters, and community awareness of what a lawyer can do and when you should contact them– Winnie is checking out what resources we have • Spend time on purpose on the day to set tone • Josie- can do bulk text • Kempsey – is a community where f2f is really important • Bowraville and Nambucca? • Blue sky – 16 days of activism are doing a forum in Coffs Harbour all about DV aimed at workers. Kempsey families? Pathfinders are doing a clothesline project. Talk to health NSW to see what they are doing • Question re medication – nits or ringworm cream (Leahs Partner is a paramedic/nurse who happily volunteers • Idea to do one forum in Kempsey? One in Bowraville? Contact in Bowraville 	
<p>7. Other business/partner updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wendy - Shortfall in support workers in aged care. Reforms coming through don't address the worker shortage 	

Next meeting 5 November 2024 at the Library