

Upper Midnorth Coast CLSD Program Meeting

5 November 10.30 am South Kempsey Community Centre

MINUTES

Present: Jenni Johansson CLSD coordinator (Chair), Holly Graham CLSD Program Legal Aid, Mel Kallmier MNCLC, Kaylie O'Brien MNCLC, Sarah Dahlenburg MNCLC, Sharon David-Gordon WDVAS, Petra Ward WDVAS, Rachael May KFI, Georgia Whyte KFI, Ashleigh Howe Family Connect, Jo Knight MCTAAS, Wendy Atkinson KFI, Georgia Boschke KFI, Stephanie Tait Kempsey Community Mental Health, Kristy Lee Kempsey Community Mental Health, Corinne Rose KNC, Chantelle Perry KNC, Josie Payne CHL, Nichole Moore CHL, Adele Armstrong CHL, Meggie Malony Blue Sky, Darci Newport Samaritans, Michelle Bower Samaritans, Leah Kelly Legal Aid, Jodie Wright Uniting, Kaz Jermyn Uniting IFP, Paul Reinbott KFI, Belinda Horne Disability Advocacy NSW,

Apologies: Anne Cregan Gilbert and Tobin, Kylie Hyde Legal Aid, Kim Cameron-Love DCJ, Duke Albada KNC, Sue Thompson Kempsey Community Mental Health, Alice Jamison Legal Aid, Amanda Steger Uniting,

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
1. Welcome	Welcome and Acknowledgment of/welcome to Country	
2. Purpose of today's meeting	The purpose of these quarterly meetings is 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		

<p>4. Panel speakers</p>	<p>Melanie Kallmier, Legal Services Manager/Solicitor – Mid North Coast Legal Centre Topic: Victims Services applications Mel presented Stalking, intimidation are still acts of violence – if in doubt, refer Burden of proof is balance of probabilities INSP is a grant that covers relocation costs due to violence, if staying at home it is security cameras, extra locks etc - \$5000 Counselling – up to 22 hours, you can apply to have this extended Need details of act of violence for counselling – don't be vague – use words like stalk and intimidate – not 'experienced DFV in the home' be more descriptive in the application. More detail will mean application generally more successful. Details are kept confidential Recognition payments currently taking 2-4 months ISP takes 10 – 14 days – needs to be immediate need which is generally within 6 months If a client has experienced DV and sexual assault, put in 2 RP applications as they are different categories of violence – don't roll everything into one as they will only get the one payment If any queries, please get in touch with Sarah from MNCLC</p> <p>Rachel May, Coordinator Staying Home Leaving Violence Program – Kempsey Families Topic: Emerging complexities in DFV</p> <p>Safe and affordable housing is our biggest issue -as it means people (both victims and perp) will stay in relationship Gender roles and growing influence of people like Andre Tate Tech abuse – links to accounts. We provide safe phones Media quickly move on, now all about Trump The way forward is changing gendered roles and attitudes. <u>Moving forward</u></p>	
---------------------------------	--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen ties between services (services have competed for limited funding, which can make services compete against each other - so if services can collaborate together we can best support women and children) • Creating space for disclosure • Stay involved post-disclosure <p>Petra Ward, Aboriginal Focus Worker – Women’s Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services Topic: Update on the Court processes</p> <p>Police contact WDV CAS and WDV CAS contact victim of violence – are there with them right through whole court process. Issues in region caused by flow on effect of Sheriff strikes in 2024. Hearing are delayed by up to 6 months. Many have been moved to Coffs Harbour. This causes extra stress on victim – new service, new location, are all prepared for court then told not for another 6 months – many want to drop charges and forget about it due to stress of court. (court is the most daunting thing for a lot of women) Issues that follow – women not turning up then Magistrate decides on the day (some matters where women are not turning up require a no contact AVO) WDV CAS have started casework New DV committee in Nambucca/Bowraville Police shortage in Macksville</p>	
<p>5. Questions for the Panel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Tate’s impact is huge • Health – we now ask quite a few questions on DV. DV screening will be mandatory – rolled out in Feb • Safety Action Meeting – go through clients who have had contact with services and then establish actions. • There is a lack of places to place women and kids, also a lot of people don’t realise financial abuse/coercive control is DV • Take case notes as coercive control is difficult to prove • ‘Empower You’ app allows victims to record, take notes 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steep escalation in drug use, seems to be an increase in sexual assaults with ICE• Noticing most referrals have involved hard drug use (ICE, heroin)	
6. Other business/partner updates		

Next meeting 25 February 2025