

**Central Tablelands CLSD Program meeting**  
**7.03.2023, 2-3:30pm, Online**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Aloka Hammial-Welch (CLSD Coordinator), Winnecke Baker (CLSD Programs Coordinator), Maureen Bates-McKay (Defence and Veterans Legal Service), Kimeaka Birmingham (Catholic Care Wilcannia Forbes), Penny Watt (WDVCAS and SAM coordinator), Ellen Newton (Family Advocacy Support Worker WDVCAS, Housing Plus), Lucinda Walder (CLSAC), Clancy Von Schoenberg (Respect at Work Legal Service), Riley Brooke (Tenants Union), June Golland (WDO Service Legal Aid NSW), Jemima Mowbray (Tenants Union), Arlia Fleming (CTBMCLC), Peter Ringbauer (Orange Legal Aid), TNC Migrant Support, Melanie Dirscoll (Veritas House, Bathurst), Carla Whitehouse (JAS, based in Orange), Gina Sykes (JAS, Orange), Madison Williams (Sparke Helmore), Fiona Hutton (financial and gambling counselling Lifeline Central West), Jackie Lanagan (BINC Migrant Support Worker)

**Apologies:** Anna Nguyen (Respect at Work Legal Service), Yvonne De Borde (Macarthur Legal Centre)

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
<p><b>1. Opening</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledgement of/welcome to Country, the Dharug, Gundagurra and Wiradjuri nations.</li> <li>• General welcome/ice-breaker: CLSD partners introduced themselves (names, pronouns, role, organisation) and the best piece of advice they had ever received:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No is a full sentence; you don't need to explain why you are saying no.</li> <li>○ What other people think about you is really none of your business.</li> <li>○ Fake it 'til you make it.</li> <li>○ You're enough, everything you're doing is enough.</li> <li>○ Love many, trust a few, but always paddle your own canoe.</li> <li>○ Indecision is a decision.</li> <li>○ Let your conscience lead your mind</li> <li>○ Speak slowly, it doesn't take much longer, and you are much easier to understand.</li> <li>○ Never stop learning and stay persistent and patient</li> <li>○ If it's not going to matter in 5 years try not to spend more than 5 minutes worrying about it.</li> <li>○ Treat people how you want to be treated.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<p><b>2. Purpose</b></p>	<p>To work together to assist people in our region who are experiencing social and economic disadvantage.</p>	
<p><b>3. Guest speakers and group discussion</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tenants Union NSW</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jemima Mowbray (Policy and Advocacy Manager)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Tenants Union (TU) is a community legal centre with expertise and experience supporting renters in NSW. It is a peak body representing the interests of 2 million renters in NSW. It also acts as the resourcing body for the local tenant’s advice and advocacy services in NSW.</li> <li>• The TU provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Legal support: internal lawyers will run test cases;</li> <li>○ Training to all advocates that start in the tenant’s advice and advocacy services as well as some training for external services;</li> <li>○ Data research and statistics that are accessible to all, particularly in regards to rent increases so that renters are able to monitor trends across the state and advocate for themselves in the case of an unfair rent increase.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Good news for tenants: On Friday there was an announcement from the NSW Liberal and National parties that they would commit to ending no grounds evictions during periodic tenancies. This is a large concession from the Coalition even though most no grounds evictions happen at the end of fixed term tenancies. The Labor Party committed strongly to ending no grounds evictions in fixed term tenancies.</li> <li>• There is also a statutory review on domestic violence provisions in tenancy law occurring at the moment. The TU is keen to hear from people/organisations in the CLSD network about what they think could change regarding current protections for people impacted by domestic violence. Those wishing to discuss this should contact Jemima at <a href="mailto:jemima.mowbray@tenantsunion.org.au">jemima.mowbray@tenantsunion.org.au</a>.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Riley Brooke (Policy and Campaign Work)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Make Renting Fair</b> has existed as a campaign of the TU since 2017. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Removing ‘no grounds evictions’ from the <i>Residential Tenancy Act</i> has been part of campaign work for about 10 years.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

- Before the 2019 state election NSW Labour committed to abolishing no grounds evictions but they weren't successful in that election.
- In October 2021 the TU re-launched the Make Renting Fair campaign which now also covers issues such as affordability and healthy homes.
- The TU conducted a survey amongst supporters of the campaign to identify the issues most important to them and inform future campaign work.
- The leaders of the campaign have mostly been everyday renters who live regionally.
- To find out more about the campaign visit <https://rentingfair.org/>.
- The campaign platform:
  - All renters need homes that are affordable, secure, healthy and feel like home.
- The TU has developed 'putting renters on the map', a project that allows people to access data, information and downloadable toolkits relevant to their LGA or electorate which can be found at <https://www.tenants.org.au/protm>.

**Civil Law Service for Aboriginal Communities at Legal Aid NSW**

Lucinda Walder (Solicitor)

**The Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme:**

- The scheme closes on the 30th of June this year and the Civil Law Service for Aboriginal Communities (CLSAC) is trying to get the word out to as many Stolen Generations survivors as possible.
- Who can get reparations?
  - A person may be eligible if they were:
    - Removed from their family or apprenticed,
    - By some NSW government agencies, and
    - This happened before 2 June 1969 (the 1969 timeframe is quite strict but the team has had some successful cases from 1970 and a little bit later).
- Aboriginal Affairs can assist in filling out the simple one-page application. They will conduct a search to find records and anything connecting the applicant to the scheme.
- Applicants could receive:
  - An ex-gratia payment of \$75,000 and
  - funeral payment of \$7000

- Legal Aid lawyers can help people apply and obtain records.
- See attached flyer for more information.

**The Civil Law Service for Aboriginal Communities (CLSAC)**

- The CLSAC can provide free legal assistance regarding:
  - Stolen Generations compensation
  - NDIS
  - Housing – rent, repairs and evictions
  - Discrimination
  - Fines, debts and loans
  - Employment and Working with Children Checks
  - Victims compensation
  - Problems with funeral insurance
  - Super and insurance
  - Centrelink
  - Complaints about government
- To get in contact with CLSAC call 1800 793 017 or 02 9219 5057 or email [clsac@legalaid.nsw.gov.au](mailto:clsac@legalaid.nsw.gov.au)
- See attached flyer for more information.

**Respect at Work Legal Service at Legal Aid NSW**

Clancy Von Schoenberg (Solicitor)

**The Respect at Work Legal Service:**

- Provides free legal and holistic services to people who have experienced sexual harassment/discrimination in the workplace. The service is funded until 30 June 2025.
- Community Legal Centres and the ALS have also received funding to provide these services.
- The Respect at Work Legal Service is aiming to assist clients with CaLD backgrounds (particularly migrant workers), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, young people aged under 25 and people with a disability.
- The free legal advice is provided over the phone or face-to-face if requested through assistive technology such as Zoom.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The legal service can support clients with negotiations or dispute resolution as well as complaints to the Australian Human Rights Commission and Anti-Discrimination NSW.</li> <li>• The service is contactable at <a href="mailto:respectatwork@legalaid.nsw.gov.au">respectatwork@legalaid.nsw.gov.au</a> or through the 1300 888 529 (LawAccess).</li> <li>• The Respect at Work Legal Service is keen to hear from CLSD partners in regards to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Are there industries and employers in the region where sexual harassment and discrimination are known to be problems?</li> <li>○ Who do you think in your community would benefit from our service?</li> <li>○ What's the best way to engage with these people? What forms of engagement should we avoid? What are the opportunities to leverage?</li> <li>○ Who else in the community do we need to collaborate with?</li> <li>○ Are there potential barriers to accessing our service?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The TU has done some work with international students and housing and reported that one of the issues identified was workplace discrimination. Jemima suggested contacting international student organisations directly as international students are often at higher risk of being discriminated against. Jemima also suggested contacting the international students clinics coordinator at Redfern Legal Centre.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>4. Standing items</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Referrals</b></p> <p><b>Legal Health Check (feedback and update):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aloka and Arlia have created a tool for social workers working with clients to help them to identify legal issues that they might not be aware of. Aloka has sent the legal health check to a group of social workers and has received good feedback from them which she will incorporate into the tool.</li> </ul> <p><b>Service Contact Details (update):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aloka and Arlia have created a document for each major town in the region which identifies where a person can get free help by legal issue and location. They are waiting for the CTBMCLC office in Orange to open to finalise and distribute this resource.</li> </ul>	

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tackling fine debt in the region</b></p> <p><b>Fines Clinic in Orange:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CLSD program is hoping to organise a fines clinic in Orange before the end of the financial year.</li> <li>• Arlia suggested it could coincide with the opening of the CTBMCLC Orange office in April, May or June.</li> <li>• Other community organisations could attend making it more of an expo/community day.</li> <li>• The Senior Citizens Hall at 77 Kite Street was suggested as a venue as it is inside, has tables and the Orange City Council may be able to support the event. The event would need to be promoted well as the venue is not immediately obvious and may not draw people in from the street.</li> </ul>	
<b>5. Outreach events 2023</b>	<p><b>Speed Networking in Bathurst:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orange successfully held a speed networking event for community organisations and it would be great to organise a similar event for Bathurst.</li> <li>• A potential venue could be Housing Plus at Kelso as there is a large room?</li> <li>• Aloka will put out feelers in the coming weeks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Wills Clinic in Cowra:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sparke Helmore wills clinics are back up and running. Sparke Helmore have stated they may be able to attend a wills clinic event in the next financial year (2023/2024).</li> </ul>	
<b>6. Program update</b>	<p><b>CLSD Microsoft Teams Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of people/organisations have joined the Microsoft teams group for the region.</li> <li>• The group is purposed to be a central and easily accessible repository for all things CLSD so that the network isn't completely reliant on emails.</li> <li>• The teams group is used for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ to send and receive updates about local services (ie new referral pathways and forms)</li> <li>○ to receive updates on and plan CLSD events in the region</li> <li>○ to access documents from CLSD meetings</li> <li>○ to access and monitor the CLSD action plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

- as a general communication platform for partners to send out reminders and other info
- Aloka is still working on setting it up properly, please email [clsdcentraltablelands@ctbmclc.org.au](mailto:clsdcentraltablelands@ctbmclc.org.au) if you would like to be added.

**Macarthur Legal Centre:**

- Macarthur Legal Centre is now funded under the NSW Critical Service Gap funding to deliver free community legal services to the Cowra area. The **flyers attached** outline the areas they will be covering and the services they can provide.
- The referral pathways are as follows:
  - For clients who wish to self-refer either by phone 02 4628 2042 or macarthur\_admin@maclegal.net.au
  - Warm referrals can be made to westernregion@maclegal.net.au or by phoning 02 4628 2042. If emailing, please include client's full name, address, DOB, matter type and full name of the other party for conflict checking. (Note: they are not giving the western region email to clients)
- Due to the vast area, a lot of the advice will be given over the phone and video etc. The centre will also arrange visits to the areas, for example to hold wills days, attend community events and provide legal education as needed.

**CTBMCLC Orange Office and Binaal Billa FVPLS Update**

- CTBMCLC is opening an office in Orange in conjunction with Orange LALC next to the courthouse. The office will have 2 lawyers and an admin person and will be open 5 days a week.
- CTBMCLC also has a new partnership with Binaal Billa in Forbes. The CTBMCLC solicitors based in Orange will also go out to Forbes fortnightly and travel around with community support workers on the ground. There will be a separate intake forms for Binaal Billa and CTBMCLC. Binaal Billa assist Aboriginal women and men who have experienced family violence or other violence or abuse in their lives.

**Legal Aid NSW**

- Legal Aid Orange getting a second family law solicitor and are recruiting for a 2-year temporary position.
- The WDO solicitor has re-located so recruitment is also underway for that position.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cowra Court circuit (Cootamundra circuit) will be changing in July and will occur for 1 week per month. It will be attached to the Orange circuit but with a different magistrate and the list day will likely be a Wednesday. This may impact some clinic numbers in Cowra. There is currently a proposal that urgent matters will go through Orange.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cultural Education to Community Services about Aboriginal culture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maureen asked what role the CLSD partnership has to play in providing cultural education to services about Aboriginal culture.</li> <li>○ Peter noted that Central West Law Society hosts an annual training for lawyers and there was no acknowledgement of Country. Peter offered to write to the Law Society suggesting they hold a cultural awareness session as CLE.</li> <li>○ Cultural education was also suggested as a topic for guest speakers at a future CLSD meeting.</li> <li>○ The Fernando Principles on sentencing Indigenous offenders was also suggested as a topic for a future meeting.</li> </ul>	
<b>7. Next meeting</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at 2pm	