

Kempsey Nambucca CLSD Program meeting
19 June 2023, 10AM – 12PM, Kempsey Library, Kempsey

MINUTES

Present: Mel Kallmier, Mid North Coast Legal Centre; Tiarna Byrne, Mid North Coast Legal Centre; Emma Smallwood, Legal Aid Port Macquarie; Fiona McMullin, Legal Aid Coffs Harbour; Heidi Campbell, Legal Aid Port Macquarie; Renae Kennedy, Family Connect and Support; Colean Sines, Family Connect and Support; Kim Cameron Love, Justice NSW (Courthouse); Steve Blunden, CEO Durri AMS; Kylie Bartram O'Brien, Boorongen Djugun; Kate Halliday, Legal Aid NSW; Gail Missen, Boorongen Djugun; Miranda Abbotts, Mission Australia; Jo Adams, Services Australia; Michelle Hannan, Gilbert & Tobin; Katherine Yager, Dhulawang FDRP; Cindi Ulstrup, Services Australia; Emily Lewis, Services Australia; Caleb Rose, YP Space; Uncle Fred Kelly, Durri ACMS; Maura Luxford, TAFE Services Manager; Karen Perry, Mission Australia; Michelle Mayhew, Pathfinders Family Connect & Support; Ashleigh Howe, Social Futures Family Connect (Schools); Riahnnon Paulson, Burrun Dalai; Tahlia Duroux-Lancaster, NSW Health; Anna Davison, Dhulawang FDRP; Matthew Morrison, Sheridan Legal; Annika Malcolm, Benevolent Society; Petra Ward, WDV CAS; Rodger Bosmans, Youth Worker – Reconnect; Martin Burke, NSW Police; Jo Schultz, NSW Police.

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
1. Opening and purpose	<p>Kate acknowledged this meeting took place on the lands of the Dughutti people and welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>The purpose of the meeting was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hear from senior police about policing across the region, • provide information to senior police and to discuss issues within community impacting clients, and • consider and discuss ways in which CLSD partners and police service can work more effectively together. 	
2. Presenters	<p>Martin Burke – Chief Inspector, NSW Police</p> <p>Jo Schultz – Acting Commander, NSW Police</p> <p><i>Martin and Jo shared policing experiences with partners.</i></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Among issues/trends in Kempsey Mid North Coast area, police keen to address issues of youth crime.- Engagement was put to one side and enforcement was prioritised for a time. This has had a dramatic impact over the last 3-4 days.- Young people offending – key “ringleaders” targeted – NSW Police see it as peer pressure/social media as behind issues of youth crime. Difficulty in getting information from community in order to prosecute.- Some people in custody at the moment to manage the risk. NSW Police see it as reducing the number of key offenders in order to remove peer pressure.- Currently trying to make local Kempsey area look more presentable. Working with Community Housing/LEMC and other services so people can take pride in their area and boost pride within the community. The aim is to “tidy the place up” including to attend to blocked sewers/guttering to try to improve wellbeing within the community.- Police coordinating an approach to improving the physical aspect in the community.- Meeting planned with LEMC tomorrow to talk about coordinating improvements to West Kempsey area.- In the longer term, looking at what can be done to improve health outcomes, education outcomes and engagement within the education system. May not be conventional education but keen to see community members involved. Note from BOCSAR data just released, that all crime across Kempsey LGA (61%) happens in the family home eg property crime – how do we make properties more secure (eg Safer By Design) (“target hardening”)? A focus will be in the Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) space.- First Nations people represent well over 50% in DFV space. Police have a zero-tolerance approach to DFV reporting. Staff wear body cameras and use that with or without a victim statement. Police are seeking AVOs based on this evidence and sometimes prosecutions.- DFV/Youth engagement are key priorities.- There is a link between DFV being present in the homes of young people and the young people that police are having contact with (i.e. correlation between DFV and youth offending).- Biggest body of work is in the DFV space. Want to get into the four walls. Also want to challenge services to do more/reasons why we “can go in and do something”. Want to overcome the “not our job/not our role” approach which results in non-intervention. <p>- Following a morning tea break, partners reflected on presentation by Martin and Jo and discussed a range of issues raised by it.</p>	
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Steve B – Durri priority is to employ 2 x youth workers – 28 Aboriginal organisations in last 18 months have looked at issues, Federal Government funded the report, report completed/nearly published. One section identifies 13 youth workers in the Macleay Valley – before we apply for new funding money need to know what is there already. Durri only knows of one (Burrin Dalai) – keen to have more because important to do Aboriginal specific programs. ACMS sees urgency of having youth workers available after hours/targeted support and programs. Keen to work in partnership with schools (Melville and Kempsey). 18 months ago meeting with 28 organisations – “this is not our culture, we need to take it back”. Looking at employment, culture, Closing the Gap framework – service mapping in the Macleay Valley.

Uncle Fred Kelly - Dunghutti Elders Council talking about some of the solutions – this forum should be taken on board, especially the level of racism in the area. Sick of the racism present – a couple of years ago NSW police were targeting young people because shop owners did not want them there. Young people carrying convictions from not having fines paid (was discretionary but NSW Police did not use discretion) – will impact their ability to have a licence.

Caleb R - YP Space has 5 youth workers. At capacity and have a waiting list. Keen to work with all in this space.

Caleb – Housing question – Federal Government put \$2b into housing in this space. One of the big factors in homelessness is overcrowding, cost of living – is there an opportunity for NSW Police/Community Housing to lobby that some of that money comes to Kempsey? Martin said yes, absolutely the case – wants to explore local community including Aboriginal Community Housing/Community Housing and other social housing providers to put their hands up. Martin said police can support this formally and informally.

Uncle Fred – question as to why Aboriginal people are not in private housing? Martin – absolutely. Uncle Fred says Durri staff cannot get housing because of racism. He is on the Aboriginal Health Advisory Board & sees it in that context. Disappointed in civic leaders, too – important to make a statement.

Kim CL - DFV has 2 sides that she sees. One is women having AVO's taken out because they want them in place but not necessarily seen as needed. Other women say they want a DVO but cannot get one i.e women trying to get help but not able to. Feeling is that police officer is not interested. Martin - if anyone not satisfied with service police giving you can speak to a supervisor on shift, or send an

email to Martin. People say if they complain it will get “thrown in the bin”. Kim can advocate on their behalf.

Martin – concerned about subtle manipulation behind the scenes. Discretion there but would have to be pretty compelling to amend an AVO. For example, can look at a standard AVO or amend conditions to help a family unit be together.

Pathfinders – sometimes officer won’t let you discuss in private, not a DVO available across a huge area as Matt often away. Even before trying to get an AVO has been hard – not a culturally appropriate police station. Some police officers do not care – also sometimes ask support workers to leave the room while they take a statement, but this is a traumatic time and victims suffer. Sometimes the support worker is helpful to assist.

Martin - pointed out that some matters are sensitive – there are 3 rooms. Again, if you are not happy then let Martin know. **No issue with having support people in the room.** Only an issue if support workers are “putting words in the mouth” of the person.

Martin – noted also that a support worker could provide a statement to corroborate the statement of the complainant. This could be done in a private room.

Martin – also noted that when DFV was reported, that it should be taken by officer wearing a body worn camera to enable conversation to happen. He said young people are not feeling safe at home, so this is where crime problem comes from i.e. going out into community.

Sometimes it is not what a police officer says to you but their body language, what is written on their faces. How much training do new and old police officers get? Some of their interactions with community is more often that they are dismissive and not supportive.

Police Commissioner has a plan to get the administration side of DFV to a 1 hr process (currently 4hr process).

Kylie O’B – questioned whether Kempsey police station under-resourced? Martin said no – we maintain calls for assistance and backfill this if needed.

Kylie – questioned if anything is happening about ICE/meth amphetamine in community at the moment. Booroongen manages 96 Aboriginal Elders, 180 YO with disabilities – most of the homes that staff go to are impacted by what they observe to be a substance/drug issue. There is no existing drug court for this area – this is a matter for the Attorney General. Drugs/gambling/DV is off the scale in the community. Housing is often disgusting – cold/horrible looking and some people do not go

<p>home to dinner/care. She worked in WA for 5 years, where small towns lobbied to get “truancy” officers (housing/education etc) – person trained to manage/deal with the issue. We can have great meetings but can be a waste of time because that does not get change on the ground. Looking for wholistic/back to basics collaboration. Systems do not work because this community is not funded. We need to prioritise action.</p> <p>George Hardiman Units (Bronx) – half of male offenders this year have all been housed together in George Hardiman.</p> <p>Miranda A - all comes back to respect – not shared between NSW Police and services.</p> <p>Uncle Fred - Learning the Macleay document. Aboriginal community immersed in lateral violence and inter-generational trauma.</p> <p>Annika M – questioned what cultural training is given to Police in Kempsey (relevant and community based). Connecting to Country cultural training that teachers are required to do (NESA approved) – 3-day workshop – no one takes advantage of it but everyone should do so.</p> <p>Martin – looking for this. Caleb, too. NSW Police has Aboriginal Strategic direction – face to face and online training. He is keen to get involved, can Uncle Fred please provide the information.</p> <p>Steve B – questioned ice/drug situation. Police station has people of interest on the wall who are people selling into our community. What are police doing about this? Martin - we deal with drug-users, but the more serious offender is who we are looking for. We lack tangible evidence that identifies dealers. Sometimes we get lucky to catch people, but we need information. We are looking for suppliers. 7g=140 hits and we got it in Nambucca. This is about 3-4days of local use, so we need the timely information to get the supplier.</p> <p>Therapeutic outcomes through Court are very limited e.g. the credit program. There is no option for merit locally because there is no outlet. Merit is here in name but not practically available locally.</p> <p>Martin - once Bennelong Haven closed, there was no longer an alternative locally. Hard detox occurs in jail. There are flow on effects of taking drugs off the street. The issue is why people are doing it.</p> <p>Uncle Fred - #1 cause of child sexual assault. We need to look at this.</p> <p>Annika – questioned where the money is coming into the community and why are the outcomes not being achieved? Why are services not accountable? Before Benevolent Society was working with PCYC in South Kempsey. There was a deep relationship but no longer - we are being let down by so many people in the home but also within the services. We need to come together to find a new way</p>	<p>Uncle Fred to provide Martin with cultural training information.</p>
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(wrap around service approach required) – e.g. Port Augusta 4 youth liaison officers based at police station all the time.

Michelle M – 80% of her job is case management though she is not funded to do this. A lot of services she calls, attitude is “how can I say no” – maybe secret shoppers are the answer? Glossy brochures and flash offices and cars – but Kempsey does not have wrap-around service delivery.

Steve – service mapping the Macleay Valley is the answer – we know what organisations have got the money and will be publishing it. Too much duplication of services.

Anna D – mapping journey on top of service mapping is where you get the answers (is it about processes/racism etc) – follow the real story of a service user. Flexible money is important so you can pay for the flexible service delivery. Push back to funding organisations to say “we need to be able to spend it flexibly”. Limitations on funding are key.

Miranda - Youth Engagement Officers are important in police work.

Uncle Fred – PCYC is a safe space to deliver programs but we cannot get back to that because new volunteers are needed, also funding is needed for new programs to be delivered there.

Steve – only flexible money they can put aside is what comes from Medicare, but this is also having to pay locum GPs, staff etc. When CDEP was in place, we had the night patrol locally. This was a good thing that made a difference. Shame it is no longer around. He worries about vigilante groups.

Bellbrook/Thungutti – there is a shared responsibility agreement and now things are looking better for the community. Model to practice everywhere.

Police have to come to the party on this – eg for Lovebites program, there is one police officer that helps. We got so many police officers trained but police do not come along.

Jo S – struggling with recruitment, retention. Interested to see how many of the police trained are actually still with the police. Recently looked at staffing allocations and looking at re-allocating another officer to Kempsey as another Youth Engagement Officer (now have 1.3 people across the whole region). Also have 2 other active young police working under the Youth Command. Additional PCYC officer (2 local people). School liaison officer in Kempsey. Port Macquarie PCYC is being built and will come with another 2 police officers. Want to prevent as well as protect. Noticing the disengagement of young people post-covid and can see that trying to re-engage them into community is difficult. YP exposed to degree of violence – “payoff” is a “set of keys”. Kempsey is a “honeypot” town where kids come from Grafton, Newcastle to “play”. Trying to bring in additional resources where we can.

	<p>Action – Martin is going to link up about locally embedded cultural training and experience for new staff at Kempsey Police.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna happy to help write letters asking for flexible funding. AGs “episodic case management” – this, and Martin/Jo happy to support this. • Kylie - Elders – in every home there is DV/substance abuse so need case management in every home. • Jo: Cell Support program looking to be reinvigorated. Hoping eventually person doing cell support is also the person who will support the client all the way through (an advocate). • Jo: Young Offenders Act allows community to deliver a caution for a young person. Would be keen to get community involvement in cautions issued to young offenders. Can provide training for those who would issue this (Cautioning workshop). Kate knows a Legal Aid person who would be a good rights-based trainer for this. • Jo can send information to the network about the training details for cautioning. • Martin – happy to be engaged in the network on an ongoing basis. Happy for Leiann to liaise with Martin to engage particular staff roles to be present. Eg Martin suggests Sergeant level would be a good cohort to bring in to CLSD meetings. If your client has a concern about the level of service they have received then speak to Martin. <p>Meeting closed.</p>	<p>Anna – writing letter/s to support flexible funding.</p> <p>Kate to follow up Legal Aid contact for rights-based training.</p> <p>Jo to send information to CLSD about caution training.</p> <p>Leiann to liaise with Martin about on-going involvement in CLSD.</p>
5. Next meeting	TBC	