

Moree Region CLSD Minutes

16 February 2024 - Teams

Present: Judy Duncan (CLSD), Kate Halliday (CLSD), Paula Jackson (ACFAS), Steven Tinkler (ACFAS), Sean Suey-Thorne (Revenue NSW), Louise Coady (ALS), Jenny Lovric (ALS), Ben Graham (NNWCLC), Tamara Kenny (CLSCA), Angelia Graham (ALS), Adam See (DAA), Julianne Elliott (LA), Gen Crump (Miyay Birray), Denise Haines (NSW Health), Laura Lombardo (Gilbert & Tobin Law), Anela Carroll (Benevolent Society), Sue Phillips (FamAC), Joy Wilson (Homesnorth), Blossom Pitt (Regional NSW), Sahara Cochrane (JR), Sally Carpenter (Services NSW)

Apologies: Allan Nolan (CLSAC), Toni Johnston (DAA), Darrell Smith (Miyay Birray), Lauren Stefanou (ALS), Ros Law (CC), Danielle Dent (Mungindi LALC), Lisa Coulton (Thiyama-li), Denise Webb (SEWU – Pius X), Kelly James (Justice Advocacy), Mary Duke (AHO), Dominic Holles (ALS), Jen Davidson (G & T Law), June Gollan (LA), Lloyd Munro Jnr (Miyay Birray), Thomas Duncan (JR), Carmine Munro (Assisted Care Australia), Carolyn Weldon (Assisted Care Australia)

Agenda Item	Discussion	
1. Welcome, purpose & acknowledgement	Judy	
2. Check-in / introductory	Introductions	
3. Topic of the day / Guest Speaker	<p>Louise Coady - Principal Solicitor - Care & Protection/Family Law Practice – Aboriginal Child & Family Advocacy Services (AFCAS) – Aboriginal Legal Service.</p> <p>ACFAS is 2 specific programs sitting alongside each other: Legal and nonlegal advocates. The service has had to work on information barriers to ensure privacy and confidentiality.</p> <p>The advocates in Moree are Steven Tinkler (Child & Family Advocate and</p>	

Support Officer), Annie Nolan (Disability Advocacy and Support Officer) and Paula Jackson as the Administration Officer. Currently recruiting positions for a social worker and lived experience workers in Moree.

ACFAS is based on a Victorian model that diverts children from care and protection system, it is a client driven model that works with parents and guardians and what they need, at each stage of the engagement there is checking in with them. A lot of referrals come from DCJ who can sometimes pre-empt the needs of the family/client.

Advocates will identify legal issues and refer to lawyers in the ALS. Louise is keen on using Family Law Act to prevent families becoming involved in the care and protection system as it is more alternative dispute resolution (ADR) based. A civil lawyer will be joining the team as well. An external evaluation service has been engaged.

In conjunction with LAFPA (Legal Assistance for Family Partnership Agreement) DCJ are shifting a little bit in referring families to early legal advice.

Referrals can be made without any DCJ involvement or referral.

Louise has spoken with GMAR about this program, and they will be involved.

ACFAS is located in the Moree ALS office at Auburn Street Moree.

Louise will return to the next meeting with more information about how the team can help, including case studies.

Jessica Trappel – Principal Solicitor – Civil Law – Aboriginal Legal Service).

ALS launched first Civil service in October 2023 – the employment service providing advice and representation on any employment law issue, focusing on discrimination and sexual harassment. Angelia Graham is the Community Engagement officer. A couple of other services with ALS – Fines Clinic, which has a criminal and civil lawyer, tenancy service operating in Greater Sydney area. There are also a couple of lawyers working in specific areas: general civil lawyer in Hunter and Illawarra assisting women. Redfern assisting women trying to get bail, another civil lawyer based in Moree and Dubbo area who will be in the ACFAS team.

Q: What are the time frames for referrals? Aim for a quick turnaround, should be in touch within a few days, however there is a wait for employment law advice at the moment. Currently recruiting and using pro bono help. Fines team there is a bit of a wait as well. Send referrals to civil inbox or the 1800 number. If you would like to be advised about the outcome of a referral note that in the referral email.

Updates:

Birth Certificate Event – December 2023:

Birth certificate events held December 2023 in Mungindi and Moree supported by CLSAC, FamAC and Revenue NSW, Services Australia and ALS.

- 39 BC applications taken plus birth registrations
- 18 General Civil advice
- 14 Revenue NSW engagement
- About 15-20 people through doors at Mungindi
- About 50 people through the doors at the Moree event.

At these clinics community came for one or multiple advice/support.

Fine Debt Flyer:

Fine debt flyer – has been drafted and distributed for feedback with services involved.

Moree & Boggabilla Wills Clinic – March 2024:

Moree and Boggabilla Wills Clinics - Boggabilla clinic to be held at TAFE 12/13 & then Moree on 14/15 March at the Moree Social Co House.

CLSD Pro bono partners Gilbert + Tobin Law's Laura Lombardo – Ben Graham from NNWCLC to assist with Wills and other legal issues along with Tamara from CLSAC is joining for the Moree component.

Registrations being taken by Judy.

The clinic will provide wills, powers of attorney, enduring POA

Wills can record where sentimental items go, burial or cremation wishes, and help to avoid uncertainty.

Community Legal Education (CLE) Julianne Elliott

Julianne coordinates youth related CLE across NSW – focus on police powers, but also on civil law issues such as school suspensions and exclusions. Had a chat to a lot of local groups in Moree October last year organised by CLSD to establish need and interest.

2 workshops that might be useful – school suspensions for young people or families, community workers or all three audience groups. Interest in general topic of education.

JR is planning Education summit in Moree – Ed Dept will be giving info about policy changes, but it would be good to bring in another perspective at the forum. Still unclear what the new behaviour strategies will be.

Jenny suggests from chat also good to have CLE on Inclosed Lands.

Laura confirms that G + T can speak with small groups on the side of a forum.

AEGC meeting next week – will table it at the meeting to have a special meeting when Julianne Elliott in town.

Good feedback from the father's program about CLE last visit.

2nd workshop is custody support training workshop – for people who want to be independent support people at the police station – for anyone, workers, parents, volunteers, 2 to 3 hours. It goes through children's criminal jurisdiction and police powers, who is who at the police station. Would like to run this with a local youth worker.

Youth interagency meeting at the end of the month and AEGC next week – Julianne to send information to Glen and Judy about the workshops so they can discuss further.

Frontline Service Survey – Where to now:

Next steps with the Frontline Services Survey

Action: further small group discussion.

General Information:

Jenny reminds everyone that the ALS children's bail program still underway in Moree – which means that police refer bail conditions to the

ALS so they have opportunity to review.

NCAT tenancy proceedings:

People from Moree must travel to Narrabri which is the closest place for NCAT hearings. Need to apply to attend via phone or AVL but apparently NCAT is quite lenient in giving leave. Advantage of Sydney Indigenous list for Moree people is that they can attend via AVL. Indigenous list at tenancy tribunal.

Action: further separate discussion with people working in this space.

Revenue NSW:

Sean advises that Revenue NSW has been joining CLSAC on their outreach and that from last Friday started doing referrals for write off applications to the ALS.

Sean has been advocating for us on data but running into some issues. Jenny offered assistance and reminded us about CTG commitments on data sharing.

Action: Informal request to revenue – Kate

Multiple initiatives around DFV occurring in Moree:

- Primary Health Network pilot to 2026 local care support team. Gunnedah and Moree. CTG initiatives.
- Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes initiative. Consultation in December 2023 and survey.
- Deputy Chief Magistrate's specialist list. 5 courts including Moree. Training for practitioners and court users is currently being offered.

Do we need to use CLSD as a place to try for greater coordination of this?

Action - pool contacts and consider bringing all together at future CLSD meeting.

Blossom Pitt new Regional NSW Coordination officer for Moree. Would love to catch up about the Frontline Services Survey report. Also interested in training people at police station.

	Action: Judy to provide Survey results and introduction to Julianne for CLE training	
4. Next meetings	17 May 2024 –10.00am – 11.30am - Teams	