

# We're Still Standing!



**NSW Community Legal Centres  
State Conference 2005  
20 - 21 June 2005**



**Sydney Masonic Centre  
279 Castlereagh Street, Sydney  
Organised by  
The Combined Community Legal Centres' Group (NSW) Inc.  
(CCLCG)**



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**20 JUNE 2005**

**SESSION A (9.00-11.00am)**

***We're still standing! Opening Session***

Jacinta Tobin of the Darug people will give the Welcome to Country. Polly Porteous, Director CCLCG will lead into a historical overview of the work of NSW Community Legal Centres, highlighting the achievements and major transitions and the challenges that have led to where CLCs stand today. The session is intended to be interactive, and will invite people from the floor to speak about the establishment of particular CLCs and key moments in CLC history.

***Orientation to CLCs***

Janet Loughman of Kingsford Legal Centre will guide new CLC workers through an introduction to the sector - talking about the history of the CLC movement, the differences between CLCs and Legal Aid, what do all the acronyms mean, who's who in the sector, and the role of NACL, CCLCG and the State Office.

***CLC Staffing Conditions Facilitator Polly Porteous***

Romi Slaven, who has been working on a CCLCG project to identify common staffing conditions among NSW CLCs, will analyse current staffing conditions across the NSW CLC sector. This will lead into a discussion with Lurline Comerford of the Australian Services Union on the potential impacts of the Federal Government's proposed industrial relations changes on CLCs, the SACS award and on registered enterprise agreements.

***How CLCs and Community Justice Centres Can Work Together Facilitator Alison Aggarwal***

Gina Vizza of the NSW Attorney General Department will talk about Community Justice Centres (CJCs) and examine ways that CLCs and CJCs can work together to improve access to relevant services for mutual clients.

**SESSION B (11.30am-1.00pm)**

***Media Skills Facilitator Maria Girdler***

Adele Horin, a journalist for the Sydney Morning Herald, will speak about the dynamics of generating news in current contexts.

***Community and Cultural Development - Are We doing It? Facilitator Tracey Willow***

Kylie Clarke of the Blue Mountains Mental Health Cultural Development Project will explore what is community and cultural development, the theoretical frameworks and principles of practice, identifying examples of practice from within the CLC sector and outside the sector, and discussing the barriers to practising community development.

***Aboriginal Advisory Group Facilitator Melissa Stubbings***

The CCLCG Aboriginal Advisory Group invites all Aboriginal staff, Aboriginal management committee members, and Aboriginal volunteers with CLCs to attend a meeting of the CCLCG Aboriginal Advisory Group.

***Making Police Complaints Effective Facilitator Caroline Bass***

Mandy Loundar and Juliana Demetrius from the NSW Ombudsman's Office will provide an overview of the complaint handling systems for the NSW Police and NSW Ombudsman, providing tips on how to make complaints about police more effective and discussing specific issues relating to police and youth relations.

**SESSION C (2.00-3.40pm)**

***Management of Legal Practice Training (section 142 mandatory CLE) Facilitator Jenny Lovric***

Kate Driver and Prue Bindon of Harmers Workplace Lawyers will provide mandatory continuing legal education in the areas of

equal employment opportunity, discrimination and harassment, occupational health and safety, and employment. This workshop is designed to satisfy requirements under s142 of the Legal Profession Regulation 2002.

***Working with Aboriginal Communities Facilitator***

***Melissa Stubbings***

Members of the CCLCG Aboriginal Advisory Group will talk about the various projects they are involved in at their community legal centres, and ways in which they engage with Aboriginal communities.

***Parents Enforcing Contact Orders***

Kirillie Moore of Redfern Legal Centre and Elizabeth Stolier, an experienced practitioner in Children's Courts, will lead a discussion on problems facing parents with children under the care of the Department of Community Services, looking particularly at options for parents having difficulties enforcing contact orders.

***Recognising and Managing Stress Facilitator Tracy Leahy***

Gillian Smith-Cameron, a counsellor and massage therapist in the Hawkesbury/Nepean area, will present and lead discussions and exercises on physical and emotional health.

**SESSION D (4.00-5.30pm)**

***Economic Justice - Workplace Reform***

Linda Tucker of Kingsford Legal Centre, Andrew Joseph a barrister, Alison Peters from Union NSW and Anne Mainsbridge of PIAC will speak in a panel discussion on the proposed federal industrial relations reforms followed by a workshop on how to address the impacts on CLC clients. Participants are requested to bring along case study examples.

***Practising Human Rights in Redfern - A Community Development Approach***

Helen Campbell of Redfern Legal Centre will review the human rights implications of 'redevelopment' and the role of CLCs in defending 'neighbourhood rights'. This issue has arisen in Redfern in the past 12 months as a result of a young Aboriginal man dying while being pursued by police and ensuing 'riots'. A parliamentary inquiry and a whole new legislated removal of local councils' planning powers were introduced. The state government has indicated the need to expand the CBD and (by implication) remove the low-income families who have traditionally lived south of the city. This workshop uses this case study to discuss the role of CLCs in supporting communities facing these issues.

***Working the Client Relationship***

Mark MacDiarmid of Blue Mountains Community Legal Centre will use a variety of engaging activities to examine ways of improving client relationships, by addressing stereotypes, clients' expectations, CLC workers' expectations, personal boundaries and developing strategies for dealing with difficult client relationships.

***Researching the Law Online Facilitator Maria Girdler***

*(This session is off-site - please leave at the commencement of afternoon tea and make your way to BDW, Level 36, Grosvenor Place, 225 George St)*

Pamela Swords from Blake Dawson Waldron will facilitate a hands-on workshop focusing on improving legal research skills, with the major emphasis being on legal services freely available online. It will cover legislation, case law and current awareness as well as tips on improving research strategy. There will be lots of opportunity for practice and discussion on legal research. Participants should bring along any research questions you've found difficult to answer in the past. (Max. 17 participants).

**HARBOUR CRUISE DINNER**

Relax on the Sydney harbour waters, as you enjoy good food, drinks and entertainment with your friends and colleagues. Meet 7.30pm sharp at King Street Wharf. Tickets cost \$60 (including dinner and drinks) and can be paid for on the night.

Community Legal Centres (CLCs) have been operating in New South Wales since 1977. There are now 40 CLCs throughout the state. Over the years CLCs have worked in the public interest of the most disadvantaged and marginalised members of the community. CLCs provide a range of legal services including advice, referrals, strategic casework, community legal education and law reform. This conference affirms the progress and achievements of CLCs within the legal justice sector and the broader community.

The conference brings together a wide range of people including academics, community workers, government and CLC workers from around New South Wales. Taking a broader social justice and human rights perspective, the conference will explore the current issues in the justice system, their impacts on disadvantaged and marginalised communities in NSW, and strategies for ensuring accessibility and equity in the justice system.

*We would like to acknowledge the kind generosity and support of the following sponsors:*



# Conference Program

**20 June 2005 (Internal day for CLCs)**

TIME	SESSION	FACILITATOR (presenters in italics)	ROOM
<b>8.30-9.00</b> <b>SESSION A</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b>		
<b>9.00-10.00</b>	Welcome to Country We're still standing! <i>Opening session</i>	<b>Jacinta Tobin</b> <b>Polly Porteous</b>	Doric
<b>10.00- 11.00</b>	Orientation to CLCs <i>(for new CLC members)</i>	<b>Janet Loughman</b>	Corinthian
	CLC Staffing Conditions	<b>Polly Porteous</b> <b>Romi Slaven</b> <b>Lurline Comerford, ASU</b>	Tuscan
	How CLCs and Community Justice Centres Can Work Together	<b>Alison Aggarwal</b> <b>Gina Vizza</b> , Community Justice Centres, NSW Attorney General Department	Composite
<b>11.00-11.30</b> <b>SESSION B</b>	<b>TEA BREAK</b>		
11.30-1.00	Media Skills	<b>Maria Girdler</b> <b>Adele Horin</b> , Sydney Morning Herald	Corinthian
	Community and Cultural Development - Are We Doing It?	<b>Tracey Willow</b> <b>Kylie Clarke</b> , Blue Mountains Mental Health Cultural Development Project	Composite
	Aboriginal Advisory Group Meeting <i>(Aboriginal workers/ representatives only)</i>	<b>Melissa Stubbings</b> CCLCG Aboriginal Advisory Group	Tuscan
	Making Police Complaints Effective	<b>Caroline Bass</b> <b>Mandy Loundar</b> and <b>Juliana Demetrius</b> , NSW Ombudsman Office	Doric
<b>1.00 - 2.00</b> <b>SESSION C</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>		
<b>2.00 - 3.40</b>	Management of Legal Practice Training (section 142 mandatory CLE)	<b>Jenny Lovric</b> <b>Kate Driver &amp; Prue Bindon</b> Harmers Workplace Lawyers	Doric
	Working with Aboriginal Communities	<b>Melissa Stubbings</b> CCLCG Aboriginal Advisory Group	Corinthian
	Parents Enforcing Contact Orders	<b>Kirrillie Moore</b> <b>Elizabeth Stoller</b>	Composite
	Recognising and Managing Stress	<b>Tracy Leahy</b> <b>Gillian Smith-Cameron</b>	Tuscan
<b>3.40 - 4.00</b> <b>SESSION D</b>	<b>TEA BREAK</b>		
<b>4.00 - 5.30</b>	Economic Justice - Workplace Reform	<b>Linda Tucker</b> <b>Andrew Joseph</b> , Barrister; <b>Alison Peters</b> , Unions NSW; <b>Anne Mainsbridge</b> , PIAC	Doric
	Practicing Human Rights in Redfern – A Community Development Approach	<b>Helen Campbell</b>	Tuscan
	Working the Client Relationship	<b>Mark MacDiarmid</b>	Composite
	Researching the Law On-Line	<b>Maria Girdler</b> <b>Pamela Swords</b> , Blake Dawson Waldron	BDW*
<b>7.30-10.00</b>	<b>HARBOUR CRUISE DINNER</b> Tickets cost \$60 (including dinner and drinks) and can be paid on for on the night <b>Meet at King Street Wharf</b>  *Blake Dawson Waldron. Go to reception on level 36, Grosvenor Place, 225 George St		

# Conference Program

**21 June (External day open for everyone)**

TIME	SESSION	FACILITATOR (presenters in italics)	ROOM
<b>8.30-9.00</b> <b>SESSION E</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b>		
<b>9.00-10.40</b>	Welcome to Country  Panel "Looking Backwards Moving Forwards ...where do CLCs and the broader justice sector stand?"	<b>Jacinta Tobin</b>  <b>Michelle Jones</b> <b>Justice Virginia Bell</b> , Supreme Court of NSW <b>Cleonie Quayle</b> , National Indigenous Women's Legal Services Network <b>Mark Richardson</b> , Chief Executive Officer, NSW Law Society <b>Ben Slade</b> , Principal, Maurice Blackburn Cashman lawyers <b>Jane Cipants</b> , CCLCG Board Member	Doric
<b>10.40-11.00</b> <b>SESSION F</b>	<b>TEA BREAK</b>		
11.00-12.30	Circle Sentencing: Indigenous Courts and Justice Practices in NSW	<b>Meredith McLaine /Melissa Stubbings</b> <b>Gail Wallace</b> and <b>Roslyn Barker</b> , Circle Sentencing Program Officers at Nowra and Dubbo Courts	Doric
	CLCs Relationships with NSW Universities	<b>Maria Girdler/ Jane Cipants</b> <b>Simon Rice</b> , Macquarie University; <b>Vedna Jivan</b> , UTS; <b>Sean Farrar</b> , Illawarra; <b>Graeme Ulbrick</b> , Macquarie Legal Centre; <b>Janet Loughman</b> , UNSW	Composite
	Federal Anti-Terrorism Laws	<b>Agnes Chong</b> <b>Joo-Cheong Tham</b> , University of Melbourne	Corinthian
<b>12.30 - 1.30</b> <b>SESSION G</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>		
<b>1.30 - 3.00</b>	Working Effectively with Muslim Clients	<b>Agnes Chong</b> <b>Hanan Dover</b> , Mission of Hope	Tuscan
	Disability Issues	<b>Ben Fogarty</b> <b>Ben Fogarty</b> , DDLC; <b>Rosemary Kayess</b> , DDLC; <b>Peter McGhee</b> , IDRS; <b>Tiffany Swinton</b> , IDRS	Composite
	Community Legal Education Showcase	<b>Tatiana Lozano &amp; Margie Martin</b> <b>Meredith Osborne</b> , BMCLC; <b>Reeda Kassis</b> , CCLC; <b>Jane Stratton</b> , PIAC; <b>Meredith McLaine</b> , Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre; <b>Margaret Small</b> , Women's Legal Service NSW; <b>Nancy Walke</b> , NRCLC	Corinthian
<b>3.00 - 3.20</b> <b>SESSION H</b>	<b>TEA BREAK</b>		
<b>3.20-5.00</b>	Housing Justice - The Fall of Public Housing	<b>Chris Martin</b> , Tenants Union	Tuscan
	Legal Referral: Training Video and Kit	<b>Joanne Moffitt</b> and <b>Tracy Leahy</b>	Corinthian
	Working With Newly Arrived African Communities	<b>Jane Cipants</b> <b>Cheryl Webster</b> , Anglicare; <b>Semra Guler</b> , Community Project Officer, Auburn Migrant Resource Centre; Representative from Anglicare's Humanitarian Settlement Program, <b>Jillian Chapman</b> , Illawarra Legal Centre	Doric
<b>SESSION I</b>			
<b>5.00 - 7.30</b>	<b>LAUNCH OF THE NSW LEGAL ASSISTANCE FORUM &amp; CONFERENCE DRINKS</b> <b>Polly Porteous (MC)</b> Guest Speaker: <b>The Hon. Bob Debus</b> , NSW Attorney-General <i>With attendance of representatives from the Law Society, the Bar Association, Aboriginal and Islander Legal Services, Law Access, the Law and Justice Foundation, CCLCG and the Legal Aid Commission</i> <b>LIVE MUSIC: WILD HONEY</b>  <b>Upper Level Foyer</b>		



# Program Description

**21 JUNE 2005**

**SESSION E (9.00-10.40am)**

Jacinta Tobin of the Darug people will give the Welcome to Country.

**Panel: "Looking backwards, moving forwards ... where do CLCs and the broader justice sector stand?"**

**Facilitator Michelle Jones**

Justice Virginia Bell of the Supreme Court of NSW

Cleonie Quayle of the National Indigenous Women's Legal Services Network

Mr Mark Richardson, Chief Executive Officer of the Law Society  
Mr Ben Slade, Principal of Maurice Blackburn Cashman Lawyers  
Jane Cipants, Board Member CCLCG and Coordinator Illawarra Legal Centre

will present their perspectives on what have been some of the major changes in the justice sector over the past thirty years and where CLCs have been located within those developments. Looking forwards they will comment on some of the challenges that the justice sector faces and how they may determine the direction for CLCs and other sectors.

**SESSION F (11.00am - 12.30pm)**

**Circle Sentencing: Indigenous Courts and Justice Practices in NSW** Facilitators **Meredith McLaine and Melissa Stubbings**

Gail Wallace and Roslyn Barker who are the Circle Sentencing Program Officers at Nowra and Dubbo Courts will present on different ways circle sentencing programs have developed in response to differing needs of specific communities and lead a discussion on the role of circle sentencing in addressing issues such as family violence.

**CLCs Relationships with NSW Universities** Facilitators **Maria Girdler and Jane Cipants**

Simon Rice of Macquarie University, Vedna Jivan of UTS, Sean Farrar of Illawarra Legal Centre, Graeme Ulbrick of Macquarie Legal Centre and Janet Loughman of UNSW will present examples of different relationships between Universities and CLCs in terms of clinical legal education, research, practical legal training, and volunteerism. The session will discuss how to inculcate a fraternity of students and academics with experience and commitment to servicing marginalised and disadvantaged clients and communities.

**Federal Anti-Terrorism Laws** Facilitator **Agnes Chong**

Joo-Cheong Tham, a Lecturer at University of Melbourne will provide a broad understanding of the federal anti-terrorism laws, demonstrate how the laws apply in particular contexts (e.g. in provision of legal advice) and discuss some of the policy issues associated with such laws.

**SESSION G (1.30-3.00pm)**

**Working Effectively with Muslim Clients**

**Facilitator Agnes Chong**

Hanan Dover of Mission of Hope will present intimate cultural viewpoints on ways of working with both newly arrived and highly assimilated Muslim clients. The workshop will use a practical approach and a supportive environment to discuss appropriate behaviours, standards of modesty and privacy and cultural sensitivity.

**Disability Issues**

Ben Fogarty and Rosemary Kayess of NSW Disability Discrimination Legal Centre and Peter McGhee and Tiffany Swinton of Intellectual Disability Rights Service will be on a panel discussing recent trends in disability discrimination, the United Nations convention on the rights of people with disability, laws relevant to people with intellectual disability and issues pertaining to providing legal services for clients with intellectual disability.

**Community Legal Education Showcase**

Facilitators **Tatiana Lozano, Simone Montgomery and Margie Martin**

Meredith Osborne of the Blue Mountains Community Legal Centre, Reeda Kassis of the Consumer Credit Legal Centre, Jane Stratton of the Public Interest and Advocacy Centre, Meredith McLaine of Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre, Margaret Small of Women's Legal Service NSW and Nancy Walke of the Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre will present an array of community legal education projects from NSW community legal centres - including responses to domestic violence, Arabic radio kits, public debates on poverty and the law, youth videos and more!

**SESSION H (3.20-5.00pm)**

**Housing Justice - The Fall of Public Housing**

Chris Martin of the Tenants Union will review the significant - and in the Tenant's Union's view very damaging - changes to public housing announced over the past year, including the 'anti-social behaviour' amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act 1987, and the 'reshaping public housing' reforms.

**Legal Referral Training**

Joanne Moffitt of Kingsford Legal Centre will show the video and training kit developed by Kingsford legal Centre for legal referral training and Tracey Leahy of Hawkesbury/Nepean Community Legal Centre will share lessons for improving legal referral training. Both experiences will be the basis for a discussion on legal referral training in CLCs.

**Working with Newly Arrived African Communities**

Cheryl Webster of Anglicare, Semra Guler, the Community Project Officer at Auburn Migrant Resource Centre, Representative from Anglicare's Humanitarian Settlement Program and Jillian Chapman of Illawarra Legal Centre will provide an overview of issues and needs of African communities and provide practical examples of ways of working with these communities. The presentations will be followed by a discussion around CLC responses to African communities in NSW.

**SESSION I (5.00 - 7.30pm)**

**Launch of the NSW Legal Assistance Forum & Conference Drinks** Facilitator **Polly Porteous**

Guest Speaker **The Hon. Bob Debus,**

**NSW Attorney-General**

With attendance of representatives from the Law Society, the Bar Association, Aboriginal and Islander Legal Services, Law Access, the Law and Justice Foundation, the Combined Community Legal Centres Group (NSW) and Legal Aid NSW.

The NSW Legal Assistance Forum is being established for the purpose of continuously improving service delivery to socially and economically disadvantaged people through better alignment of planning, program design and service delivery by providers of legal assistance services.

**The conference will conclude with drinks. Take the opportunity to meet and enjoy a drink with members from all parts of the NSW justice sector.**

**There will also be live music performed by Wild Honey, a fantastic acoustic and rhythmic band from Hawkesbury/ Nepean region, who will be playing original folk music.**

For more information about  
**NSW Community Legal Centres:**

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**\* Solicitors attending any of the legal training sessions can claim 1 mandatory CLE point/hour.**