

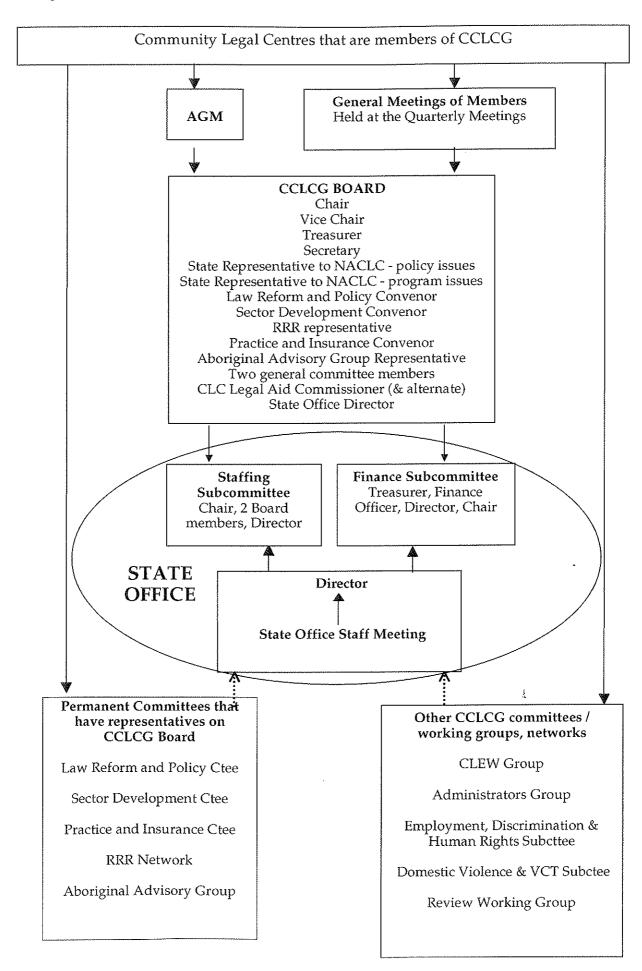
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CCLCG Contact Details

Combined Community Legal Centres Group (NSW) Inc State Office Suite 3B, 491 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills 2010

> t 02 9318 2355 f 02 9318 2863 nswclc@clc.net.au www.nswclc.org.au



About the Combined Community Legal Centres Group NSW

The Combined Community Legal Centres' Group NSW (CCLCG) is an incorporated association consisting of, and representing, the network of community legal centres throughout New South Wales.

The objects of CCLCG include the following:

- To assist member centres fulfil their goals and policies, particularly through advocacy for the provision of adequate resources and education of the public about the role of Community Legal Centres.
- •To facilitate communication and cooperation among member centres, and between member centres other bodies and to assist all member centres, especially those in remote and rural areas, to participate fully in the activities of the organisation.
- •To support member centres to advocate for people who are socially or economically disadvantaged through research, community development projects and law reform.
- •To provide information and referral for Community Legal Centres and related agencies and disadvantaged people in need of legal services.
- •To work co-operatively with other organizations, particularly the NSW Legal Aid Commission and relevant national networks, in relation to justice issues and the provision of community based services.
- •To assist CLCs fulfil the strategic directions of the CLC sector.

Chairperson's Report

Michelle Jones

The State Office of the CCLCG continues to play a critical role in the law and justice sector in New South Wales. As the peak body for 39 member community legal centres (CLCs) in New South Wales, the CCLCG represents CLCs in a diverse range of community and government forums.

During this financial year we continued to consolidate the work of past years and developed a number of new and innovative projects such as:

- Finalised the CLC response to the Commonwealth/State Review of NSW CLCs
- Commissioned an Economic Value Report from the UTS Institute of Sustainable Futures to illustrate the value of CLCs
- Continued to work in partnership with the Legal Aid Commission on a number of projects including the Co-operative Legal Service Delivery Model (CLSDM)
- Finalised the review of all State Office policies and procedures
- Developed an Enterprise Agreement for staff of the State Office
- Commissioned the CCLCG Employment Rights Project
- Finalised the redrafting of the CCLCG membership guidelines and constitution
- Lobbied for additional funding to cover the salary increases to the NSW Social and Community Services Award (SACS)

In 2005 I was elected Deputy Chair of the newly created NSW Legal Assistance Forum. NLAF aims to promote collaboration and co-ordination in the development of legal services in NSW, specifically in relation to legal services for disadvantaged people. It includes the peak representative bodies with responsibility for the delivery of legal assistance, and specialist organisations dealing with a wide range of legal issues.

The State Office is extremely fortunate to employ staff who continue to amaze all with their energy and dedication to everything they do. On behalf of the Board our sincere thanks to Polly Porteous, Alison Aggarwal, Jean Parker and Carol Roberts for their enthusiasm and commitment to the sector.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank the following individuals and organisations for their continued support of the State Office during 2005-2006:

- Dennis Roach, CLC Funding Program Manager, Legal Aid Commission for his continued support of the State Office and the community legal centre program
- Julie Bishop, Director, National Association of CLCs
- Geoff Mulherin and Sue Scott from the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW
- Louise Blasejowska and Bill Grant from the Legal Aid Commission
- Ben Benson, solicitor from Henry Davis York for his assistance with redrafting the constitution and rules of CCLCG

Thanks to my fellow Board members for their expertise and commitment to the State Office over the past twelve months.

Finally, I would like to thank the management committees, staff and volunteers of community legal centres in New South Wales; without their continued dedication and support of the State Office of CCLCG community legal centres would not be in the strong position we are today.

Specialist Centres

CCLCG Members 2005/2006

FULL MEMBERS:

Generalist Centres

donorallot donnos	
Albury Wodonga Community Legal Service	(The) Aged-Care Rights Service
Central Coast Community Legal Service	Arts Law Centre of Australia
Elizabeth Evatt (used to be Blue Mountains)	Consumer Credit Legal Centre NSW
Far West Community Legal Centre	Court Support Scheme
Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre	Disability Discrimination Legal Centre NSW
Hunter Community Legal Centre	Environmental Defenders Office NSW
Illawarra Legal Centre	HIV/AIDS Legal Centre
Inner City Legal Service	Immigration Advice and Rights Centre
Kingsford Legal Centre	Intellectual Disability Rights Service
Macarthur Legal Centre	National Children's and Youth Law Centre
Macquarie Legal Centre	National Pro Bono Resource Centre
Marrickville Legal Centre	Public Interest Advocacy Centre
Mt Druitt & Area Community Legal Centre	Public Interest Law Clearing House NSW
North & North West Community Legal Centre	Redfern Legal Centre Publishing
Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre	Refugee Advice and Casework Service
Redfern Legal Centre	Thiyama-Li Indigenous Family Violence Prevention
	Unit (joined May 2006).
Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre	Tenants' Union of NSW
South West Sydney Legal Centre	Welfare Rights Centre
Western NSW Community Legal Centre	Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women & Children's'
	Legal Centre
	Women's Legal Service NSW
ASSOCIATE MEMBER:	
UTS Community Law And Legal Research Centre	

CCLCG Board November 2005 - November 2006

The CCLCG Board is elected every November at the AGM. It is composed of workers from members of Community Legal Centres elected at the AGM every year in November. These workers do not represent their centres but are on the Board in their individual capacity.

Position	Name	Member centre	Number of Board Meetings attended (from a total of 6)
Chairperson	Michelle Jones	Tenants' Union of NSW	6
Deputy Chairperson	Helen Campbell	Redfern Legal Centre	6
Secretary	Anna Cody	Kingsford Legal Centre	3
Treasurer & Treasu	Hilary Chesworth	Redfern	5
Legal Aid Commissioner	Simon Moran	Public Interest Advocacy Centre	4
Alternate Legal Aid Commissioner	Sara Blazey (Registered March 2006)	Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre	e 3
State Representative to NACLC - Policy	Janet Loughman (From February 2006)	Women's Legal Services	6
State Representative to NACLC – Program Issues	Jackie Finlay	Welfare Rights Legal Centre	4
Sector Development Convenor	Anna Hartree	Kingsford Legal Centre	5
Practice & Insurance Committee Convenor	Kate Wandmaker	Western NSW CLC	5
Law Reform & Policy Convenor	Agnes Chong	Consumer Credit	5
Rural, Remote and Regional CLCs convenor	Patrick O'Callaghan (From December 2005, - August 2006)	Western NSW CLC	2
	Robyn Lee (Registered August 2006)	North & Northwest CLC	1
Representative, Indigenous Advisory Group	Melissa Stubbings	Hawkesbury Nepean	3
General Member	Pip Davis	Hawkesbury Nepean Legal Centre	6
General Member	Rose George (From May 2006)	Disability Discrimination L.C	2
Director State Office	Polly Porteous (On leave from July 2006)	CCLCG	3
***************************************	Alison Aggarwal (Registered July 2006)	CCLCG	2

Report from NSW Representative to National Association of Community Legal Centres

CCLCG provides two NSW representatives to the National Association of Community Legal Centres: one responsible for policy issues (Janet Loughman), and one for program issues (Jackie Finaly).

Jackie Finlay provided the following report.

The National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) is the peak organisation representing community legal centres in Australia. Its objects are to assist disadvantaged and marginalised people in Australia to obtain access to legal services by: supporting community legal centres to provide legal services; providing a national forum for community legal centres; developing and coordinating national community legal centres policy and advancing the interests of community legal centres within Australia.

The NSW Combined Community Legal Centres Group has once again played an active role in NACLC activities this past year, in particular through the NSW State Office, NSW State representatives, PII representative, and the NSW National Conference organising committee.

This year the NACLC annual conference was held in Wollongong, NSW with the theme, *Opening Closed Doors - CLCs Advancing Community Justice*. The work of the NACLC NSW conference organising committee was outstanding. Committee members obtained sponsorship for the conference; helped locate and organise key-note speakers and presenters for the conference sessions, and helped organise the program and entertainment.

Some major projects undertaken by NACLC in 2005/06 included: pursuing the intellectual property rights for the use of the terms "Community Legal Centre" and trademarking "National Association of Community Legal Centres"; funding campaigns such as the the Doing Justice campaign (outlined below); assisting Centres to comply with accountability requirements under the Community Legal Services Program; and producing a National Financial Management Guide for Community Legal Centres;

NACLC's *Doing Justice* campaign focused on monitoring and explaining legislative changes in the areas of Family Law, Industrial Relations and Social Security. Two documents were produced: *Seeing Families Right*, on the Family law changes, and *Welfare to Work or Unworkable Welfare?*, on the Social Security law changes.

NACLC also joined with the CCLCG in publishing a cost-benefit analysis of community legal centres: *Economic Value of Community Legal Centres*.

Report from CCLCG Representative on the NSW Legal Aid Commission

Simon Moran is the CLC representative on the Board of the Legal Aid Commission, and is on the Commission Board's Civil Law and Community Funding Sub-Committees. Sara Blazey is the alternate commissioner and was on the Commission's Board's Family Law and Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme sub-committees.

This report was provided by Simon Moran

The Legal Aid Commission continues to perform strongly in a demanding environment of high need for its services.

The Commission was successful in attracting sufficient funds to increase the threshold of its means test and the fees that it pays to private practitioners. The Commission does, however, remain concerned about the availability of solicitors willing to act on behalf of legally aid clients in remote and regional areas. It is taking steps to address its concerns by developing a number of initiatives.

The Commission has undertaken reviews of the Mental Health Advocacy Service and the Prisoners Legal Service. These reviews are part of the Commission's ongoing reflection on the manner and scope of its service provision. The implementation of the Civil Law Review has now been finalised.

CLCs and the Commission continue to work closely on numerous projects. For example CCLCG and the Legal Aid Commission play a major role in the NSW Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF).

CCLCG sub-committees and working groups

CCLCG has a number of sub-committees and working groups that bring CLCs together to work on common issues. Some subcommittees are permanent committees under the CCLCG Rules and Objects, with convenors having positions on the CCLCG Board, while others are less formalised. The committee and working group convenors from November 2005 – November 2006 were as follows:

Sub-committee or Working Group	Convenor/s	From which centre
Administrators/Coordinators	Anna Hartree	Kingsford Legal Centre
Aboriginal Advisory Group	Melissa Stubbings	Hawkesbury/Nepean CLC
Community Legal Education Worker Group	Jillian Chapman Nicki Petrou	Illawarra Legal Centre Redfern Legal Centre
Employment, Human Rights & Discrimination Subcommittee	(Emp)Linda Tucker (HR&D) Anne Mainsbridge	Kingsford Legal Centre PIAC
Domestic Violence & Victims Compensation Subcommittee	(DV) Elena Grinfeld (DV) Margaret Martin (VC) Karyn Bartholomew	Womens Legal Service Marrickville Legal Centre Illawarra Legal Centre
Law Reform & Policy	Agnes Chong Shirley Southgate Rebecca Haynes	Consumer Credit Legal Centre Kingsford Legal Centre Women's Legal Services
Practice and Insurance Committee	Natalie Ross Kate Wandmaker	Inner City Legal Centre Western NSW CLC
Rural, Remote and Regional	Robyn Lee Partick O'Callaghan	North & Northwest CLC Western NSW CLC
Sector Development	Anna Hartree	Kingsford Legal Centre
Review Working Group	Maria Girdler	Macquarie Legal Centre

The following four reports provide a snapshot of the work done by these sub-committees.

Report from the Law Reform and Policy Sub-Committee

Co-Convenor Agnes Chong

It's been another busy year for the Law Reform and Policy Sub-Committee. Rebecca Haynes from Women's joined Agnes Chong as co-convenor at the beginning of the year, but unfortunately Rebecca left the sector in April. Thankfully Shirley Southgate from Kingsford Legal Centre has been co-convenor since May 2006.

This year we prepared a number of law reform submissions, including topics as diverse as regulation review, care and protection, work choices, the New Matilda Human Rights Act, counter-terrorism and human rights, the listing of PKK as a terrorist organisation, the new sedition offences, the effectiveness of fines as a sentencing program.

We were happy to welcome Gabrielle McKinnon from the ANU to our quarterly meeting in February to give us an outline of the New Matilda Human Rights Act and to help facilitate, together with Jo Shulman and Alison Aggarwal, a discussion of what the CLCs sector saw as important in a possible human rights bill. In May we welcomed Michelle Burrel from NCOSS who spoke to us about their upcoming campaign for the State election and how CLCs could contribute to it.

At our May quarterly meetings we also did some strategic planning where we were able to sit down and look at our law reform and policy objectives for 2006 - 2007. The meeting decided that the policy areas we would concentrate on are Work Choices, NSW anti-discrimination law, NSW Charter of Human Rights, prison reform, sexual assault, and to continue with our existing campaigns on family law, welfare, anti-terrorism, care & protection, the smart card, and child support. Sinead Eastman has joined the state office to work on the Employment Rights Project in response to the latest Work Choices legislation.

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the work of the law reform and policy sub-committee, including state office staff, various clcs staff and volunteers. We're gearing up for another busy year so watch this space!

Report from Domestic Violence Sub - Committee

Co-Convenor Elena Grinfeld

As convenor for the Domestic Violence Sub – Committee (DVSC) I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the DVSC on their dedication and hard work over the past year. I also like to acknowledge the exceptional work of Caroline Bass as previous convenor of this Committee.

Some of the issues that we have been actively addressing include:

- 1. Inappropriate referrals of domestic violence matter to mediation.
- 2. Police common law powers to carry firearms despite being subjected to an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO).
- 3. Amendments to the Crimes Act and the new AVO legislation.
- 4. Inclusion of Domestic Violence as an election issue.
- 5. Discussion of the Police and Ombudsman's power to investigate complaints about police.

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It has been a year since the DVSC integrated with the Victims Compensation Sub – Committee (VCSC). The joint meetings have been very successful as they continue to allow us to gain from each other experience and to address our interlinked issues.

Report from the Aboriginal Advisory Group to the CCLCG

Melissa Stubbings, Chairperson AAG

The Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG) to the Combined Community Legal Centres Group of NSW (CCLCG) has this year further consolidated their role and responsibilities to the network of Community Legal Centres across NSW. The AAG principle role is to offer advice and assistance to CLC's across NSW on Aboriginal issues either regionally or state wide. The AAG is constituted of all Aboriginal staff working in CLCs.

Members have increased as new projects have developed in Shoalcoast CLC, Redfern CLC and a representative from the tenants network has been invited to join. AAG meetings continue to be well attended by members who have the opportunity to share information and to offer guidance to CLC's on Aboriginal issues. Some of the CLC's and Networks invited to attend AAG meetings include RRR Network, National Children's and Youth Law Centre, Women's Legal Centre and NSW Organising Committee of the 2006 National Conference of Community Legal Centres.

External organizations who attended to share information, resources and ideas included NSW Legal Assistance Forum, Coalition of Aboriginal Legal Services and Law Society of NSW.

This year the AAG has implemented a series of cultural awareness training as part of the CCLCG quarterly meetings. The first of this series was held at the May quarterlies and comprised the members of AAG discussing their roles and projects with the broader members of CCLCG. This training was documented by Polly Porteous and a copy can be obtained by contacting the Chairperson of the AAG. Further training opportunities will be held at future quarterly meetings.

The AAG would like to thank the State Office staff of CCLCG for their continued support and assistance throughout the year. The staff have provided minute taking (including typing and emailing out) a great relief for all AAG members and have continued to help with any projects or requests from members.

Report from the Community Legal Education Workers Group

Jillian Chapman and Nicki Petrou, Co-Convenors of the CLEW Group

The Community Legal Education Workers (CLEW) network group has continued to meet and pursue common goals with the assistance of Jillian Chapman, Community Legal Education Worker at Illawarra Legal Centre and Nicki Petrou, Solicitor at Redfern Legal Centre. Representatives from each NSW Community Legal Centre (CLC) have shared information about projects and interesting activities - ranging from new innovative ways to do CLE, to exciting community development projects. Again in 2005-2006 we have seen the creativity and enthusiasm of workers facilitating CLE in their communities.

This year workers spent time preparing for a number of events including Law Week activities, Human Rights day and a "How to do CLE" workshop at the National Conference. The aim of the conference workshop was to pass onto other legal centres the lessons that were learnt in the production of three CLE resources – a DVD (produced by Kingsford Legal Centre), the production of a theatrical performance (produced by Illawarra Legal Centre) and the writing of a CLE training and resource package (produced by Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre).

Members of the CLEW group participated in the development of the Tenant's Union Certificate IV training modules on Community Education. The first training was held in June 2005 and attended by five CLC workers. The training and modules have provided an avenue for CLC staff to attain skills in delivering CLE projects and activities in interesting and effective ways.

Finally, of paramount importance the Network continues to explore options to raise the importance and maintain a commitment to providing an appropriate proportion of Centre time to CLE work.

State Office of CCLCG

The State Office resources and carries out much of the work of the Combined Community Legal Centres Group. It oversees the CLC networks and programs in the areas of funding, human rights, advocacy and policy, management and technical advice and co-ordination for the sector.

As well as ensuring that CCLCG fulfils its many objectives, the State Office acts as a busy referral point for members of the public seeking legal advice or information about community legal centres.

In 2005/2006, CCLCG developed a new workplan for the State Office which comprehensively guides the work of the staff. The State Office reports against this workplan to our funders, the Legal Aid Commission of NSW.

CCLCG staff and Management negotiated and agreed to a three year Enterprise Agreement, which has been submitted for registration. This Agreement outlines the conditions under which the State Office staff undertake the work of CCLCG.

State Office staff and volunteers in 2005/2006 was as follows:

Permanent Staff:

Polly Porteous	May 2004 continuing
Carol Roberts	1999 continuing
Alison Aggarwal	September 2004 continuing
Jean Parker	May 2005 continuing
Carmen Jauregui	July- August 2005
Carmen Jauregui	July- August 2005
	Carol Roberts Alison Aggarwal

Annie Pettit

Sinead Eastman

Volunteers and Students:

CCLCG Employment Rights Project

Human Rights Officer

Research Officer

Sydney University Law Degree		
(External Placement Program)	Julia Beehag	September - November 2006
UTS - Professional Placement -		<u> </u>
Bachelor of Arts in Communication		
(Social Inquiry)	Rouada El-Ayoubi	March - June 2006







Polly Porteous



Alison Aggarwal



Carol Roberts

July-August 2005

May - September 2006

Strategic Action by the NSW CLC sector

In 2003 NSW Community Legal Centres came together to formulate 5 key strategic directions:

- 1.Funding
- 2. Capacity Building
- 3.Gaps in Legal Services
- 4. Human Rights
- 5. Strategic Service Delivery

In February 2005 we held a planning day for the sector, on the basis of which a 3-year Action Plan (2005-2008) was developed, in conjunction with the CCLCG Board. Once the Joint Commonwealth / NSW Review of NSW CLSP Report is accepted, the Action Plan will incorporate relevant recommendations from the Review Report and will provide a blue-print for NSW CLCs into the future.

Following is a brief summary of the strategic work undertaken by CCLCG and our members during 2005/2006.

CCLCG STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1: Funding

Our funding priorities include maximising opportunities within the existing Commonwealth and State Funding Program to increase funding, to seek additional funding from alternative sources and to secure and expand our funding base overall.

Commonwealth Community Legal Services Program

The Commonwealth CLSP provided just over \$5million to 29 NSW community legal centres for the 2005/06 financial year. This was an increase of 2.2% on the previous year, in other words, a small indexation increase.

The funding is provided within the rubric of the 2005-2008 Service Agreement for CLCs, which was successfully negotiated by the National Association of Community Legal Centres, the various State CLS Program Managers and the Commonwealth Attorney-Generals' Department.

NSW Community Legal Services Program

CCLCG provides annual Budget Submissions to the NSW Government, via the NSW Legal Aid Commission. Our Budget Submissions have focused on increasing core funding to the least funded community legal centres. In addition CLC advocated, in conjunction with NCOSS, for the funding for CLCs in 2006-07 be increased to cover the changes to the SACS award. This year we were again unsuccessful in our bids for increasing core funding in the NSW Budget. Instead the NSW Government passed on 2.74% indexation increases to 30 legal centres (and the State Office) for the period 05/06. This brings the amount of funding from the NSW Community Legal Services Program to just over \$4.1million.

CCLCG enjoys a great relationship with the State CLSP Program Manager Dennis Roach, and we are grateful for Dennis's ongoing support for the 31 organisations that receive funding through this program.

Joint Commonwealth and State Review of NSW Community Legal Centres

The Joint Commonwealth and State Review of NSW Community Legal Services Funding Program commenced during 2004 and continued throughout the 2005/06 financial year. CCLCG representatives on the Review panel included Jane Cipants and Polly Porteous. The final Report was completed in September 2006 and presented to the NSW Attorney-General and the Commonwealth Attorney-General for acceptance. Until the Report has been accepted by both Attorney-Generals CCLCG cannot report on key findings. However we are hopeful that the Review will lead to improvement in the funding for Community Legal Centres in NSW in the immediate future.

CCLCG STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2: Capacity Building

CCLCG will develop and support training and capacity building programs for staff and volunteers and seek funding and other opportunities to create further support for training and skills development in the sector.

Quarterly Meetings

CCLCG continues to run four 2-day sector-wide meetings a year (in August, November, February and May). The "quarterlies" provide an opportunity for all the CCLCG committees to meet on a regular basis. They include casework meetings, sector development meetings, compulsory Practice and Insurance meetings (for all principal solicitors), community legal education worker group meetings, and also General Meetings of CCLCG members which make key strategic decisions.

Subsidies are made available to regional community legal centres for travel into Sydney to participate in the quarterlies. The quarterlies are therefore an invaluable opportunity for community legal centres throughout the state to network, share skills, and provide direct feedback to the State Office of CCLCG regarding our work.

Training organised by CCLCG

The State Office introduced a new Training Opportunities Calendar for the sector. The calendar is produced quarterly and provides information on a range of training opportunities CLCs can access both in Sydney and in rural, regional and remote areas. This enables CLCs to access a range of training beyond that provided directly by CCLCG.

One afternoon of each Quarterly Meeting is set aside for training for CLC workers. This year the following training sessions were run.

Quarterly Meeting	Training	Trainers
August 2005	Industrial Relations Laws	Carmen Jauregui
November 2005	New Civil Procedures Act	David Hanger - Blake Dawson Waldron
	Consultations on Working with CALD Communities and people with disabilities	Attorney General's Department Diversity Unit
February 2005	Employment Law Trainings	Linda Tucker
	Advocacy Training for Community Legal Centre Workers	PIAC
	Bill of Rights Training	Gabrielle McKinnon
May 2005	Supervising Law Students at CLCs	Merran Lawler & Mark MacDiarmid
	Changes to Family Law	Sara Blazey & Janet Loughman
	Aboriginal Advisory Group Training – Cultural Awareness	Aboriginal Advisory Group
	WorkChoices: A Practical How-to Training Session	Mark MacDiarmid

Training Reference Group

CCLCG continued to convene the Training Reference Group for the Not-for-profit legal sector, drawing together trainers and training coordinators from Law Access NSW, Womens Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme, Tenants' Union of NSW, Public Interest Advocacy Centre, Legal Aid Commission NSW, Law and Justice Foundation and CLCs.

The Group provides opportunities to share and coordinate training throughout the not-for-profit legal services sector. The group also reports to the NSW Legal Assistance Forum, where it is able to raise any strategic policy issues for improving the provision of training in the sector.

In 2005/2006 the Group focused on ensuring that not-for-profit legal services had speedy access to relevant training in legal areas that experienced great change during the year – for example industrial relations and family law. An example of the collaboration fostered by the Group is the sharing of information about Workchoices. The NLAF worker with the Law and Justice Foundation compiled a list of research / training, resources on the new laws and disseminated that to the Group. The Training Reference Group then further identified the need for specific training to be provided to the sector, and as a result CCLCG broadened the scope of our IR research project to include coordination of training on Workchoices to all Group members. The Project commenced June 2006.

Communication and Media Strategy

In consultation with the sector, CCLCG developed a communication and media strategy that identified several key initiatives including:

- Developing an electronic bulletin On The Record for external stakeholders and the community
- Providing quarterly State Office Updates for NSW CLCs
- A media strategy supporting the sector to identify media opportunities; links centres with relevant media and establishing a media fax stream accessible through the State Office.

Membership

CCLCG revised and finalized its membership package. This has assisted in clarifying and formalizing the process for any organisations wanting to become members of CCLCG.

Thiyama-Li Family Violence Prevention Service was accepted as a new member in May 2006. They are based in Moree and provide appropriate legal, health and practical assistance to Aboriginal women experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault within their region.

CCLCG Publications

- We're Still Standing: Summary of Conference Workshops (NSW Community legal Centres State Conference 2005, CCLCG)
- The Economic Value of Community Legal Centres (prepared by Institute for Sustainable Futures for Combined Community Legal Centers Group NSW and National Association of Community legal Centres, 2006)

Service Visits

CCLCG conducted service visits throughout 2005-06, totalling 3 RRR centres, 1 generalist centre and 3 specialist centres. The service visits provide an important opportunity for the State Office to hear about the work of centres, to share information about the State Office's work, and to identify ways in which the State Office can better support the work of centres.

CCLCG STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3: Gaps in Legal Services

There are critical gaps in the availability of legal services particularly in rural, regional and remote areas of NSW. We will work closely with our primary 'legal' partners – Legal Aid Commission, the NSW Law Society, and Aboriginal Legal Services - to ensure the most appropriate legal services are provided.

NSW Legal Assistance Forum

CCLCG worked with other members of the NSW Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF) to consolidate its establishment and working mechanisms. NLAF aims to "continuously improve 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 Law and Justice Foundation NSW provided a 12 month project officer to resource NLAF.

NLAF met quarterly from November 2005 onwards and developed several Working Groups to advance specific issues including the Working Group on Legal Services to Aboriginal Clients and the Working Group on Conflict of Interest. In addition the NSW training Reference group and the NSW Legal Information and Referral Forum have reported to NLAF. CCLCG and CLCs participate in all the Working Groups. Over the course of the year CCLCG has contributed to key NLAF discussions on:

- developing a register of services appropriate for Aboriginal clients
- delivery of civil law services to Aboriginal clients
- implementing changes in family law and employment law
- capacity building in rural, regional and remote areas

Legal Aid Commission

CCLCG works closely with the Legal Aid Commission NSW as a fellow legal service provider in NSW. The CCLCG representatives on the Legal Aid Commission, Simon Moran and (alternate) Sara Blazey ensured that legal centre views were expressed to the Commission.

Law and Justice Foundation NSW

CCLCG has an important relationship with the Law and Justice Foundation on many levels.

The Foundation provides a significant number of grants to legal centres for various projects including community education, research, centre publicity material, and translation of information into community languages. Members of CCLCG also attended meetings of the Data Digest Steering Committee.

In addition, CCLCG sponsors an award as part of the Foundation's NSW Justice Awards. The Award is presented to an individual who, in a voluntary capacity in a NSW community legal centre, has demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving access to justice in NSW.

The 2005 Combined Community Legal Centres Group Award was presented to Jennifer Burn (University of Technology, Sydney) for her work on the UTS Anti-Slavery Project, which provided legal representation to victims of human trafficking. David Law was awarded a high commendation for the extensive support and contribution he has provided to the HIV/AID Legal Centre.



CCLCG Chair Michelle Jones presents Jennifer Burn with the CCLCG Award at the Law and Justice Foundation award night Janet Loughman was the recipient of the 2005 Justice Medal for her systemic advocacy for children since 1991. In addition to undertaking strategic litigation, she has actively lobbied the government and engaged the media on children's rights. She has written a number of submission on the NSW legislative framework for care and protection. She was commended for her unwavering commitment to advancing the rights of children.



Janet Loughman receiving the 2005 Justice Medal from Sir Anthony Mason

Law Society of NSW

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CCLCG maintained a good working relationship with the Law Society of NSW. In 2006 we met with the President of the Law Society to discuss ways to increase solicitor numbers in regional NSW. We also invited the Law Society's pro bono solicitor to meet with CLC solicitors at a Practice and Insurance Committee meeting during the Quarterlies..

CCLCG STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4: Human Rights and Advocacy

Recognising that human rights and social justice are defining principles for the sector, we will further promote respect for and understanding of human rights in the community and within the Community Legal sector.

In 2005-2006 CCLCG undertook a range of advocacy initiatives and strengthened the capacity of NSW CLCs to implement a human rights and social justice based approach to their work at both the State and national level.

Advocacy

CCLCG made the following submissions:

FEDERAL

- Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee Anti-Terrorism Bill (No.2) 2005 (Cth) (2005)
- Senate Employment Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee *Inquiry* into the Workplace Relations Amendment (WorkChoices) Bill 2005 (2005)
- Australian Law Reform Commission Review of Sedition Laws (2006)
- International Commission of Jurists Australia ICJ Eminent Jurists panel: Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights (2006)
- Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security Listing of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) as a "terrorist organisation" under the Criminal Code (2006)
- Joint NGO submission to the Special Rapporteur on Counter Terrorism and Human Rights (2006)

NEW SOUTH WALES

- Standing Committee of Attorneys-General National Law Reform proposal re Advocates Immunity (2005)
- DOCS Discussion Paper Review of the Inter agency Guidelines for Child Protection Intervention (2005)
- DOCS Consultation Draft 2006 Inter agency Guidelines for Child Protection Intervention(2006)
- Legislative Council Social Issues Committee Inquiry into the Impact of Commonwealth WorkChoices Legislation (2006)
- NSW Law Reform Commission Report on Community Justice Centres (2006)
- DOCS Review of the Children and Young Persons (care and Protection) Act 1998 (2006)
- NSW Sentencing Council Review of Court Imposed Fines and Their Enforcement (2006)
- Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Investigation into the Burden of Regulation in NSW and Improving Regulatory Efficiency (2006)
- NSW Attorney General's Department 2006 Justice Sector Research Agenda Project

CCLCG continued to keep the NSW CLC sector informed of developments on new anti-terrorism legislation and their impacts. This included supporting centres to undertake law reform at both the State and Federal level, arranging press conferences, meeting with and informing Federal parliamentarians, and informing international bodies such as the UN Special Rapporteur on Counter Terrorism and Human Rights.

CCLCG completed a large research project on identifying systemic issues in the NSW care and protection systems. In consultation with centres, CCLCG supervised a student to collate case studies and write up a research report on key systemic care and protection issues in NSW. This research was then used as the foundation for CCLCG submissions to the State Government's Review of the Inter agency Guidelines for Child Protection Intervention and for the Review of the *Children and Young Persons* (Care and Protection) Act 1998.

Industrial relations was a key area of law reform work this year. CCLCG prepared a law reform kit in advance of the proposed Industrial Relations legislation amendments and assisted centres to undertake related law reform activities, including meeting with federal parliamentarians. Since the introduction of the amendments, CCLCG has promoted training for the sector on what the new laws cover, and how they are relevant to CLC clients. CCLCG also coordinated representatives to attend a parliamentary hearing for the Inquiry into Impact of WorkChoices in NSW. Towards the end of the financial year, CCLCG commenced a longer-term project to collate information and case studies on the impacts of Industrial relation legislation amendments on CLC clients.

CCLCG contributed to a range of law reform discussions with CLCs and other community organisation on issues such as the Smart Card and family law amendments. CCLCG also assisted the sector to identify future law reform priorities by organizing a strategic planning meeting for the Law Reform and Policy Network in the May 2005 quarterlies.

Human Rights

CCLCG organised human rights related training at quarterly meetings, including training on an Australian Bill of Rights. Feedback from the training was used to develop a CCLCG submission commenting on the New Matilda Draft Bill of rights. CCLCG also attended and supported centres to participate in discussions on a NSW Charter of Rights.

CCLCG supported centres to promote the work of CLCs on International Human Rights Day (10 December) by disseminating a joint press release that highlighted NSW CLCs events being held across NSW.

In conjunction with PIAC, CCLCG supervised students to develop a research paper comparing anti-discrimination laws in different jurisdictions, to be used as a basis for future advocacy by NSW CLCs.

CCLCG was appointed a member of the UNSW Australian Human Rights Centre's (AHRC) Council and is working with AHRC to establish a joint CCLCG/AHRC Human Rights Essay Prize in 2007.

An exciting initiative in 2005-2006 was the development by the Tenants Union of a Community Education training module for the Certificate IV training program. CCLCG assisted in strengthening the human rights based approach in the training program. This training module provides CLC staff with the skills and knowledge on how to prepare, deliver and evaluate community legal education sessions and materials. Alison Aggarwal was also a co-trainer for the first Community Education Training Workshop in June 2006.

CCLCG continued to contribute to the PIAC Human Rights Project, by sitting on the Advisory Board on behalf of NACLC, and also became a member of the PIAC Equality Rights Advisory Group.

On a national level, CCLCG contributed to the work of the National CLC Human Rights Network, including contributing to the network's submissions on the impacts of anti-terrorism legislation and an Australian Bill of rights.

In June 2006 CCLCG assisted PIAC with organising a meeting between community legal centres and the UN Special Rapporteur on health, during his informal visit to Australia in June 2006. This provided the opportunity for CLCs to share information on the extent to which legal systems in Australia could ensure that the right to health is realised and that violations of the right to health are addressed.

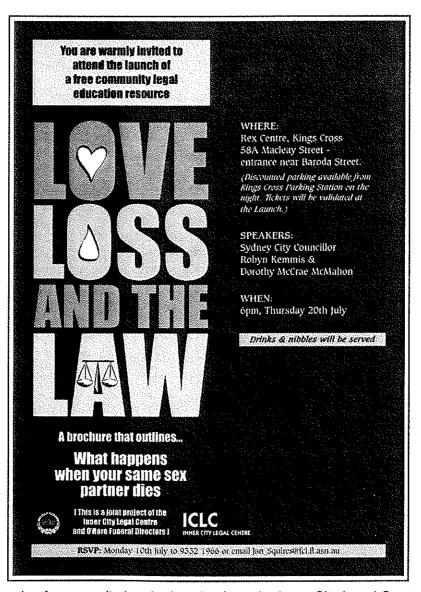
CCLCG supported centres to respond to other international human rights issues as they arose, such as sharing information from WTO meetings in Hong Kong to sector and contributing to the NACLC letter to this end, and assisting Redfern Legal Centre with fund-raising for Aceh Legal Aid to undertake human rights work.

We will advocate for, and continue to use, "Strategic Service Delivery". This is the practice of addressing systemic injustices through a multi-disciplinary approach including strategic casework, community legal education advocacy and law reform.

The concept of strategic service delivery was strongly promoted by CCLCG representatives on the Steering Committee of the Review of CLCs. Although the Final Report of the Review was not released this financial year, a "Strategic Service Delivery Model" developed by the consultants during the Review was based on the CCLCG submission. The model outlines a mechanism for ensuring that individual legal centres plan their services carefully, taking into account the legal issues of their community, whether other services can better meet those needs, what the centre can realistically achieve in regards to those needs, and what type of service may be suitable for each need (eg advice, casework, supported referrals, community legal education, training of local community workers, development of partnerships with other services).

The State Office trialled this "Strategic Service Delivery Model" with Central Coast Legal Centre to structure their strategic planning day in 2006. The model proved an extremely efficient means by which centres can identify the areas of law they can best assist their community in; establish their future directions; and set more realistic goals for centres, particularly where underfunding is a core problem. CCLCG hopes to continue promoting this model to the sector in future years.

CCLCG also furthers this strategic service delivery model on a practical level by supporting centres in their CLE and law reform work.



An example of community legal education from the Inner City Legal Centre

Registered Company Auditor Registered Tax Agent 7 BURRANEER CLOSE ALLAWAH 2018 TELEPHONE 9546 7366 FAX 9546 2267

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To: The MEMBERS

Scope

I have audited the financial report of the COMBINED COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES' GROUP (N.S.W.) INC. for the financial year ended 30 June 2006. The Members of the governing body are responsible for the financial report. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements and relevant statutory and other requirements, so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Organisation's financial position and the results of its operation.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and the Funding and Performance Agreements the financial position of the COMBINED COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES' GROUP (N.S.W.) INC. as at 30 June 2006 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Dated at Allawah this 8 day of August 2006.

SANDRA GROLLMUS
Registered Company Auditor

Registered No. 1254

Profit & Loss Statement

July 2005 through June 2006

ncome Core Funding Received	\$231,803.64
Bank Interest Received	\$10,907.69
NACLC Conference 2006	\$10,000.00
Release of Provision	\$5,000.00 \$909.00
Training income otal income	\$258,620.33
xpenses Staffing Expenses	
Salaries	
Direct Salaries	\$113,394.30 \$6,725.07
Leave Expense Consultants & Contractors	\$900.00
Staff entitlement prov/LSL	\$3,548.56
Total Salaries Salary Sacrifice expense	<u>\$124.567.93</u>
Roberts, Carol-sal sacrifice	\$7,746.74
Aggarwal, Alison-salary sacrif	\$9,971.78
Porteous,P-Sal sacrifice Total Salary Sacrifice expense	\$9,973.08 \$27.691.60
GST credits on wage packs	(\$0.33)
Total Staffing Expenses	\$152,259.20
Salary On-Costs Superannuation	\$12,748.33
Cents per kim	\$1,132.29
Workers Comp Insurance Staff related expenses	(\$428.42)
Staff Training & Development	\$849.09
Staff Recruitment	\$563.98
Conferences Occupational Health & Safety	\$2,788.72 \$526.72
Total Staff related expenses	\$4,728,51
Total Salary On-Costs	\$18,180,71
Operating Expenses Premises	
Rent	\$23,634.71
Other Premises Costs	e1 012 61
Heat, Light & Power Total Other Premises Costs	\$1,013,61 \$1,013.61
Office Overheads	<u></u>
Legal expenses	\$42.00 \$1,061.60
Postage & Couriers Printing & Stationery	\$4,972.83
P&S Annual Report	\$391.00
Equip repairs & maintenance	\$2,914.83 \$977.30
Office Expenses Total Office Overheads	\$10,359.56
Communication	
Telephone	\$3,364.24 \$589.82
Fax Internet	\$490.92
Web expenses	\$687.46
Total Communication	\$5,132,44
Financial & Accountability Accounting & Audit Fees	\$1,950.00
Bank Charges & Interest Paid	\$425.01
GST rounding account Insurance - General	(\$0.82) \$1,512.96
Directors & Officers insurance	\$272.73
NACLC Conference 2005	\$10,000.00 \$14,159,88
Total Financial & Accountability Library, Resources & Subs	\$2,183.40
Travel	\$2,095.50
Program & Planning Board Excenses	\$7,229.23
Consultants-research IR	\$3,911.36
Meeting expense-room hire	\$8,945.62
Indigenous Adv Group Planning Day	\$5,000.00 \$700.00
Review	\$5,846.79
Total Program & Planning	\$31,633.00
Office Assets Purchase of Equipment <\$1000	\$433.08
Total Office Assets	<u>\$433.08</u>
Depreciation/capital equipment	\$3,722.29 \$94,367 <u>.47</u>
Total Operating Expenses Total Expenses	\$264,807.38
Total Expenses	
Operating Profit	(\$6,187.05)
Other Income	
Law & Justice RRR grant	\$2,727.27
Donations/Gifts Register	\$1,500.00 \$12,800.00
CCLCG fees 05/06 Advocacy Training-PIAC	\$272.72
Total Other Income	\$17,299,99
Other Expenses	
CCLCG Expenses	\$7,036,99
CCLCG quarterly RRR attend CLEW - RRR attendance 1/4's	\$627.64
Special RRR meeting 8/7/04	\$126.23 \$740.79
CCLCG meeting speakers	\$740.79 \$300.00
CCLC meeting interpretors CCLCG-t/f excess funds to pro	\$4,241.07
Total CCLCG Expenses	\$13.072.72
PROJECTS LJF Awards	\$404.55
Lat Awards	\$404,55
Total PROJECTS CONFERENCE EXPENSES	4
Total PROJECTS CONFERENCE EXPENSES Conference-supplies	\$45.45 \$150.00
Total PROJECTS CONFERENCE EXPENSES Conference-supplies Conference Speakers Conference Travel RRR	\$150.00 \$1,295.52
TOTAL PROJECTS CONFERENCE EXPENSES Conference-supplies Conference Speakers Conference Travel RRR Total CONFERENCE EXPENSES	\$150.00 \$1,295.52 \$1,490.97
Total PROJECTS CONFERENCE EXPENSES Conference-supplies Conference Speakers Conference Travel RRR	\$150.00 \$1,295.52

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Combined Community Legal Centres (NSW) Suite 3B, Briad House 491-493 Elizabeth Street Surry Hills NSW 2010

Balance Sheet

As of June 2006

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Assets
     Cash on Hand
         CBA Cheque Account
                                                                           ($3,270.34)
         Cash Management Account
                                                                          $187,898.46
         Fixed Deposit
                                                                           $36,320.51
         Petty Cash
                                                                              $150.00
     Total Cash on Hand
                                                                                     $221,098.63
     Bonds-electricity
                                                                                         $200.00
     Non-Current Assets
         Office Equipment
            Office Equipment @ Cost
                                                               $28,436.46
            Accum Depreciation - Office E
                                                               ($28,436.10)
         Total Office Equipment
                                                                                $0.36
         Bond premises-Elizabeth St
                                                                            $5,000.00
     Total Non-Current Assets
                                                                                       $5,000.36
 Total Assets
                                                                                                $226,298.99
 Liabilities
     Current Liabilities
        Accrued expenses
                                                                            $4,799.03
        Holiday Pay Accruai
                                                                          $16,602.94
    Total Current Liabilities
                                                                                      $21,401.97
    Other Current Liabilities
        CLEW TRAINING MONEY
                                                                           $2,692.23
        Wage Packaging Accounts
            Alison Aggarwal
                                                                  $383.53
            Poliy porteous
                                                                  $141.48
        Total Wage Packaging Accounts
                                                                             $525.01
        Combined Group Funds
            Access & Equity to 2008
                                                               $15,000.00
            CLC Group Funds
                                                                $9,375.05
            Indigenous Advisory Group fund
                                                                $5,563.91
            Administrators Trust money
                                                                 $545.00
            State Conference
                                                                $4,857.91
           CCLCG Publications
                                                               $10,000.00
           Pli Reserve
                                                               $29,511.72
        Total Combined Group Funds
                                                                          $74,853,59
        Website to 2008
                                                                          $12,695.36
        Provisions
           L.S.L. Provision
                                                               $6,606.08
           Other leave provision
                                                               $22,471.00
           Prov'n - equipment & fitout
                                                               $3,985.00
           Prov for recruit costs
                                                               $2,000.00
           Prov'n - IR Project
                                                               $3,911.36
       Total Provisions
                                                                         $38,973.44
    Total Other Current Liabilities
                                                                                   $129,739.63
Total Liabilities
                                                                                               $151,141.60
Net Assets
                                                                                                $75,157.39
Equity
   Accumulated Surplus
                                                                                    $73,489.45
    Accum surplus Website 2008
                                                                                     $5,523.24
   Current Year Surplus
                                                                                     ($3,855.30)
Total Equity
                                                                                                <u>$75,157.39</u>
```