



COMBINED COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES GROUP NSW  
**2006/2007 Annual Report**

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# About this report

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# Who we are

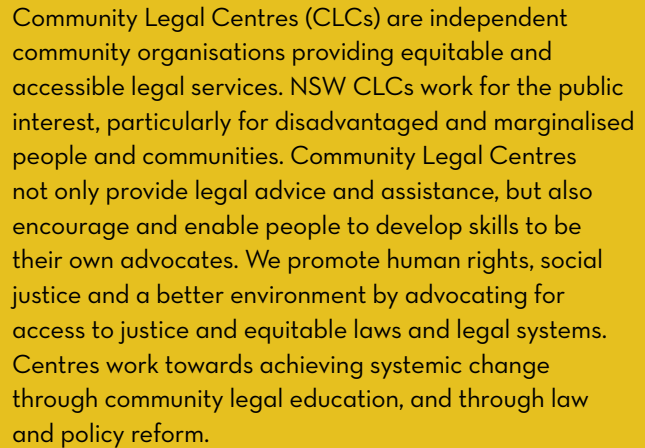
The Combined Community Legal Centres Group (NSW) Inc (CCLCG) is the peak body for Community Legal Centres in NSW. CCLCG is resourced by a small State Office which is funded by the NSW Government.

The State Office plays a critical role in the law and justice sector in NSW. As the peak body for 40 member community legal centres (CLCs) in New South Wales, the CCLCG supports and represents CLCs in a range of government and community forums. The State office works with the NSW CLC sector to advance the work of CLCs in the strategic directions of Funding, Capacity Building, Gaps in Legal Services, Human Rights and Strategic Service Delivery.

## Combined Community Legal Centres Group (NSW) Inc. State Office

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Ultimo NSW 2007

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A large yellow speech bubble with a tail pointing towards the bottom right, containing text about Community Legal Centres (CLCs).

Community Legal Centres (CLCs) are independent community organisations providing equitable and accessible legal services. NSW CLCs work for the public interest, particularly for disadvantaged and marginalised people and communities. Community Legal Centres not only provide legal advice and assistance, but also encourage and enable people to develop skills to be their own advocates. We promote human rights, social justice and a better environment by advocating for access to justice and equitable laws and legal systems. Centres work towards achieving systemic change through community legal education, and through law and policy reform.

# **Combined Community Legal Centres Group NSW**

## **2006/2007 Annual Report**

# CCLCG Member Centres 2006/2007

## FULL MEMBERS:

### Generalist Centres

Albury Wodonga Community Legal Service

Central Coast Community Legal Service

Elizabeth Evatt CLC (formerly Blue Mountains CLC)

Far West Community Legal Centre

Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre

Hunter Community Legal Centre

Illawarra Legal Centre

Inner City Legal Service

Kingsford Legal Centre

Macarthur Legal Centre

Macquarie Legal Centre

Marrickville Legal Centre

Mt Druitt and Area Community Legal Centre

North and North West Community Legal Centre

Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre

Redfern Legal Centre

Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre

South West Sydney Legal Centre

Western NSW Community Legal Centre

### Specialist Centres

(The) Aged-Care Rights Service

Arts Law Centre of Australia

Consumer Credit Legal Centre NSW

Court Support Scheme

Disability Discrimination Legal Centre NSW

Environmental Defender's Office NSW

HIV/AIDS Legal Centre

Immigration Advice and Rights Centre

Intellectual Disability Rights Service

National Children's and Youth Law Centre

National Pro Bono Resource Centre

Public Interest Advocacy Centre

Public Interest Law Clearing House NSW

Refugee Advice and Casework Service

Thiyama-Li Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Unit  
(joined May 2006).

Tenants' Union of NSW

Welfare Rights Centre

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women and Children's Legal Centre

Women's Legal Service NSW

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

UTS Community Law and Legal Research Centre

University of Newcastle Community Legal Centre

# Organisational structure of the Combined Community Legal Centres Group NSW

## Community Legal Centres that are members of CCLCG



# Chair's report

In 2006/07 the State Office made significant advances, particularly in the confirmation of the positive work of CLCs and in accessing greater funding for the sector.

## ***Review finds NSW CLCs “sound, well conceived and well administered”***

NSW Community Legal Centres were declared to have a clean bill of health after an extensive review of the NSW Community Legal Centres Funding Program. On 15 February 2007, the Commonwealth Attorney-General Philip Ruddock and the NSW Attorney-General Bob Debus released the Report of the Review of the NSW Community Legal Centres Funding Program. Copies of the report can be downloaded from the CCLCG website: [www.nswclc.org.au](http://www.nswclc.org.au)

The Review, which received over 50 submissions from community organisations, government departments and individuals, found that the CLC Funding Program is “sound, well-conceived and well administered” and represents “an effective use of public funds” that warrants continued government support.

The Review noted that a key strength of the program is that Centres have flexibility to design and develop their service delivery model, based on their knowledge and experience of communities, and their strong relationships with other service providers. The Report also noted that CLCs are highly effective at identifying unmet legal need in the community, and using a mix of strategies including legal services, community development approaches, law reform and community legal education, to meet these needs.

CCLCG welcomed the Review Report and its recommendations to resource all existing CLCs to a minimum baseline level of funding. The Review also found that Centres are under-resourced and under-funded to meet the growing demand for their services, and that more funding would improve the accessibility of CLCs to Indigenous Australians and other disadvantaged client groups.

CCLCG will continue to work with the Commonwealth and State Attorneys-General to address the Review Report's recommendations and improve the work of CLCs.

## ***Funding for two new programs for NSW CLCs!***

CLCs were delighted when the Public Purpose Fund approved a grant of over \$400,000/year for two State-wide programs:

1. CCLCG Training Program; and
2. CCLCG Aboriginal Legal Access Program.

The need for these two programs was identified in the Report of the Review of the NSW Community Legal Centres Funding Program, and the funds now enable CCLCG to implement some of the recommendations of the report.

The CCLCG Training Program specifically aims to ensure that CLCs have the necessary knowledge and skills to provide the best services possible to their clients against the backdrop of a rapidly changing legal scene. In particular centres in rural regional and remote areas will be provided with opportunities to train and develop their staff and management committee members. CLCCG welcomed Joanna Mantziaris as the Training Program Coordinator to oversee this program.

The CCLCG Aboriginal Legal Access Program responds to the continuing difficulty Aboriginal clients face in accessing legal services. CCLCG welcomed Renee Williamson as the Aboriginal Legal Access Program Coordinator to oversee this program.

CLCs found that Aboriginal clients faced compounded problems as members of social and economically disadvantaged communities that made it hard to access legal services. In response to this several CLCs have initiated very positive projects to improve the accessibility of their services for Aboriginal clients. The CCLCG Aboriginal Legal Access Program was initiated to strengthen these existing initiatives and enable them to continue and expand.

## ***National Conference in Wollongong, NSW***

NSW CLCs were very proud to host the National CCLC Conference in Wollongong in September 2006. The conference has provided an invaluable opportunity to forward the work of CLC staff in their own centres through networking and skill-sharing opportunities between people from around the country. There were excellent workshops on issues ranging from community legal education on credit and debt, to Aboriginal family violence, to human rights and disability. Numerous NSW CLCs contributed their ideas and expertise to the conference, particular thanks to Illawarra Legal Centre.

### **NSW Legal Assistance Forum**

For the second year, I represented CLCs and was Deputy Chair of the NSW Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF). NLAF promotes collaboration and coordination in the development of legal services in NSW, specifically for disadvantaged people. The Forum includes representatives from government, private and non-government bodies that provide a range of legal services. This year, NLAF completed its review, which found that there had been increased collaboration among members particularly in addressing gaps in provision of services. NLAF also focused on a number of key areas including provision of legal service in rural regional and remote areas, overcoming conflict of interest barriers, the scope of legal services provided by Chamber magistrates, access to interpreters for legal services, and launched a new guide on legal services for Aboriginal People in NSW and the ACT.

### **State Office Staff**

As a result of the Public Purpose Fund (PPF) funding, the State Office doubled its staff, and relocated to new premises in Ultimo. On behalf of the Board, our sincere thanks to the team at the State Office (Polly Porteous, Alison Aggarwal, Renee Williamson, Joanna Mantziaris, Jean Parker and Norico Allen) for their enthusiasm and commitment throughout the year. Thanks also to Sinead Eastman for her research on the CCLCG Employment Rights Project and to Renee Fallah, a UTS student, for her volunteer work on researching and writing a report on law reform and policy.

This year we farewelled our long-term Finance Officer, Carol Roberts, after over 20 years of service with the community legal centres. The Board thanks and acknowledges Carol for her dedication and contributions to CLCs over the years.

### **Funding and Support**

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the following individuals and organisations for their support of the State office during 2006/07:

- Mr. Bob Debus, the NSW Attorney-General until April

2007, for generously contributing funds for the National CLC Conference held in Wollongong, and his overall committed support for CLCs;

- Mr John Hatzistergos, the new NSW Attorney-General, for his interest in CLCs;
- Mr Bill Grant, CEO of Legal Aid NSW, for his support of CCLCG and his willingness to collaborate with CLCs;
- Mr Dennis Roach, CLC Funding Program Manager, Legal Aid NSW, for his continued support of the State office and the community legal service program;
- Mr Richard Funston and Ms Louise Blasejowska from Legal Aid NSW;
- The Trustees and Administrator of the Public Purpose Fund for supporting two new CCLCG programs;
- Mr Geoff Mulherin and Ms Sue Scott from the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW for their continued support for CLCs particularly the community education training program and subsidies for RRR centre staff to travel to CLC conferences;
- Ms Julie Bishop, Director, National Association of CLCs;
- Mr David Evans of Nash O'Neill Tomkins Lawyers for pro bono legal assistance;
- Mr David Hillard, Ms Angela Tao and Ms Laura Duesbury of Clayton Utz for pro bono legal assistance.

Thanks to my fellow Board members for their expertise and commitment to the State Office over the past 12 months.

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

Michelle Jones,  
*Chairperson*



# The CCLCG Board

Position	Name	Member centre	No. of board meetings attended (from a total of 9)
Chairperson	Michelle Jones	Tenants Union of NSW	9
Deputy Chairperson	Helen Campbell	Redfern Legal Centre	5
Secretary	Anna Cody	Kingsford Legal Centre	5
Treasurer and Public Officer	Hilary Chesworth	Redfern Legal Centre	8
Legal Aid Commissioner	Sara Blazey	Elizabeth Evatt CLC	7
Alternative Legal Aid Commissioner	Maria Girdler	Macquarie Legal Centre	6
State representative to NALCLC: Policy	Janet Loughman	Women's Legal Services	5
State representative to NALCLC: Program Issues	Jackie Finlay	Welfare Rights Legal Centre	5
Practice and Insurance Committee Convenor	Sharlene Naismith (started 22/5/07)	Shoalcoast CLC	2
	Kate Wandmaker (resigned 12/3/07)	Western NSW CLC	2
Law Reform and Policy Convenor	Agnes Chong	Consumer Credit	5
Rural, Remote and Regional CLCs convenor	Robyn Lee (resigned May '07)	North and Northwest CLC	1
	Tracey Willow (started 3/07/07)	Elizabeth Evatt CLC	3
Representative, Aboriginal Advisory Group	Erin Blanch (resigned 18/5/07)	Western NSW CLC	4
	Nancy Walke (started 3/7/07)	Northern Rivers CLC	1
Sector Development	vacant		
General Members	Robyn Ayres	Arts Law CLC	7
	Kim Healy	Central Coast CLC	8
	Pip Davis	Hawkesbury Nepean CLC	7
Co-Directors	Polly Porteous (started 1/3/07)	CCLCG State Office	4
	Alison Aggarwal		8



# The work of Community Legal Centres



**Granville Boys High students at a crime prevention workshop run by Macquarie Legal Centre.**

# Milestones new and old!

## ■ 10 years of the Justice Statement Centres

Ten years ago, following the Commonwealth's Justice Statement, five new community legal centres (CLCs) were established in NSW: Mt Druitt and Area CLC, Central Coast LC, Western NSW LC, Northern Rivers CLC and North and North West Community Legal Service. It's a cause for celebration that in spite of limited funding these centres have serviced their communities by offering advice, casework, community legal education and law reform for the past ten years.

## ■ Redfern Legal Centre's 30th birthday celebrations

Redfern Legal Centre (RLC) was established in 1977 – the first community legal centre in NSW, and the second in Australia – by lawyers, law students and academics, social workers and community activists outraged at the injustice created by the lack of affordable legal services for disadvantaged and marginalised people. The Centre opened with one paid staff member, barely any money, and lots of volunteers with expertise, enthusiasm, passion, commitment and a vision. Over the last 30 years Redfern Legal Centre has been blessed with a continuing stream of dedicated volunteers. Now the Centre has 15 paid staff and around 120 volunteers (mainly solicitors and law students), who come in every week to help people find their way through the legal maze.

## ■ The Environmental Defender's Office (NSW) Ltd opened a new office in Lismore

The new office, EDO Northern Rivers, will provide legal advice and community education services throughout the Northern Rivers region. The office will be staffed by two lawyers, Jessica Wood and Sue Higginson, and will be co-located with the Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre in Lismore.

## ■ New Home Building Advocacy Service (HOBAS) launched

HOBAS is a new service for consumers who have building disputes and is being run as a pilot program by Macquarie Legal Centre for one year. The service will provide telephone legal advice, consultations, mediation and representation in some cases.

## ■ Predatory Lending Project

Seen all the news about record numbers of people losing their homes over the last year? As a response to this crisis Consumer Credit Legal Centre (NSW) Inc (CCLC), Legal Aid and the Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH) have jointly established

the Predatory Lending Project (PLP). The PLP will lobby for effective law reform to prevent predatory lending practices, and aims to run cases for borrowers facing loss of their homes as a result of these practices. These legal services will be provided free or on a grant of legal aid by a number of major law firms who have agreed to participate in the project and to act for borrowers who are victims of predatory loans.



**Alison Aggarwal (CCLCG), Kim Price (Women's Legal Services NSW), Bill Grant (CEO Legal Aid NSW) and Sian Aldis (HIV/AIDS Legal Centre).**

## ■ Legal Aid courses open to CLCs

Kim Price, from Womens Legal Services, and Sian Aldis from the HIV/AIDS Legal Centre graduated with a Diploma of Business, thanks to the Legal Aid Commission's Management Development Program.

Sian and Kim were the first CLC staff to benefit from Legal Aid opening its course to participation from CLC staff. Alison Aggarwal explained the value of the course for the CLC sector: As managers of community organisations, such opportunities to gain professional development in an area such as management are not readily available. The CLC graduands of this course have benefited immensely by gaining better management skills and the confidence to navigate their centres through increasingly complex working environments". Kim Price commented: "It's really moved me forward. It's very important to us that legal centres can access Legal Aid's training calendar. I'd like to thank Bill Grant for his insight. We're all thrilled that he is placing an emphasis on training and I hope it will continue".

## Community legal education and law reform: essential to our communities

The high quality of services provided by community legal centres in NSW has been due to the unique combination of law reform, community legal education, casework and advice that CLCs undertake.

Law reform and community legal education in particular, are core components of Community Legal Centres work. Without these elements, CLCs would not be able to assist the wide range of client groups with specific disadvantages as they do, or be able to address the structural barriers faced by community members across NSW in accessing justice. CLCs work to improve the legal system for all, and this cannot be achieved without CLCs taking an active role in community legal education, law reform and legal policy advocacy.

The CCLCG sub-committees allow CLC staff to come together in networks which strengthen the capacity of all our member centres to service their communities. The following stories are snap-shots of the work CLC staff are doing every day across NSW. The areas of work reflect some of the many sub-committees which come together quarterly to discuss the way forward for their work.

### CCLCG Sub-Committees and Working Groups 2006/2007

Sub-committee or Working Group	Convenor/s	From
Administrators	Hilary Chesworth Lisa Woodgate	Redfern Legal Centre Marrickville Legal Centre
Aboriginal Advisory Group	Nancy Walke	Northern Rivers CLC
Community Legal Education Workers Group	Nicki Petrou Bridget Barker  Susan Winfield	Redfern Legal Centre Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre Consumer Credit Legal Centre
Employment, Human Rights and Discrimination Subcommittee	(Emp) Linda Tucker	Kingsford Legal Centre
Domestic Violence and Victims Compensation Subcommittee	(DV) Elena Grinfeld (VC) Karyn Bartholomew	Women's Legal Services Illawarra Legal Centre
Law Reform and Policy	Agnes Chong Shirley Southgate	Consumer Credit Legal Centre Kingsford Legal Centre
Practice and Insurance Committee	Natalie Ross Kate Wandmaker Sharlene Naismith	Inner City Legal Centre Western NSW CLC Shoalcoast CLC
Rural, Remote and Regional	Robyn Lee Tracey Willow Shirley Southgate	North and Northwest CLC Elizabeth Evatt CLC Kingsford Legal Centre

# Legal education for the community

## Northern Rivers Community Radio Project

Northern Rivers Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service (TAAS) recently joined with the North and North West Aboriginal Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service to produce the community radio project 'minute tips for tenants'. This project involved the joint production of 18 one-minute radio 'sound bites' or 'tips' on tenancy matters. The project is currently negotiating for free airtime on local community radio stations.

## Tenancy Rights theatre in Illawarra

Illawarra Legal Centre has developed a community legal education program involving forum theatre. The play helps recently arrived African migrants understand their rights as tenants in NSW. The audience comprised immigrants from various African nations where the languages include Kirundi (Burundi language), Liberian Pidgin English, Dinka, French, Arabic, Swahili, Krio, and Mandingo.

Forum theatre allows the participants to interact with the play, and reinforce their confidence to deal with different tenancy problems. The actors show how a visit to the Tenants Service is able to give the tenants a place to go to get advice and information when they need it.

Part of the performance involves the audience coming up with questions about renting: "What do you do if your landlord won't come and fix the things that need repairing?" "What do you do if children accidentally damage the house or what can you do if your landlord

wants to evict you because you ask for necessary repairs?" For more information about the tenancy theatre contact Illawarra Legal Centre Inc. Tenants Service on (02) 4274 3475 or Sharon Callaghan, the Illawarra CLC Legal Education worker on (02) 4275 4702.

## Crime Prevention workshops for high schools in the Macquarie area:

Macquarie Legal Centre was successful in obtaining a grant from the National Community Crime Prevention Programme to deliver a series of Crime Prevention workshops to local high schools over a period of two years. The first phase of this project involved conducting extensive research into school students' attitudes to crime in cooperation with the University of Western Sydney. The series of three workshops will be delivered to ten school groups over the next three school terms. The first Prevention Workshops were held on 10th August with presentations at Merrylands High School and Parramatta High School.

The workshops were presented by Macquarie staff with the assistance of actors from Powerhouse Youth Theatre. The professional actors present two short role plays scripted around the theme Think... Then Drive, you never know what's around the corner. The role plays, which dealt with driving issues identified as relevant in the earlier research, are hard-hitting. Students then take part in interactive sessions that tease out the issues raised in the role plays.

## Community Legal Education Workers Group Report

**Nicki Petrou, Jillian Chapman and Bridget Barker**  
**Co-Conveners of the CLEW Group**

The Community Legal Education Workers (CLEW) network group has continued to meet and pursue common goals with the assistance of Nicki Petrou at Redfern Legal Centre and – Jillian Chapman, Community Legal Education Worker at Illawarra Legal Centre and the new Co-Convenor Bridget Barker, solicitor Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre.

During the course of the year, the Group said farewell to both Jillian and Bridget and thanked them for their contribution to the work and visions of the network. We also welcomed our new Co-Convenor Susan Winfield, solicitor at the Consumer Credit Legal Centre who replaced Jillian.

Representatives from centres shared information about projects and interesting activities – ranging from new innovative ways to do CLE, to exciting community development projects. Again in 2006/2007 we have seen the creativity and enthusiasm of workers facilitating CLE in their communities. The innovation of some of these projects is to be commended and have been an inspiration to many in the group and the sector. This also shows great vision, flexibility and imagination on the part of the CLE worker and Solicitors in providing CLE that caters to the diversity of and changing audience target group and subject.

This year CLC workers have spent time preparing for a number of events including, Human Rights day and the *We learnt the hard way: producing CLE materials* workshop at the 2007 National Conference. The aim of this session was to pass onto other legal centres the valuable lessons that were learnt in how to do and how not to do CLE; what works and what doesn't. Illawarra Legal Centre, Kingsford Legal Centre, Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre and CLC Association WA presented this, which provided an opportunity for partnership projects.

Finally, the Network acknowledges the significance of CLE and continues to explore options of promoting its importance, and is therefore committed to providing an appropriate proportion of Centre time to CLE work.



**Aimee Falzon and Mohammed Ahmed, actors in a role play during crime prevention workshops run by Macquarie Legal Centre.**



### Community Education Training run by CCLCG

The Law and Justice Foundation funded CCLCG to provide two Community Education training workshops to CLC staff. The workshops are jointly run by CCLCG and the Tenants Union.

The workshop is a Certificate IV Accredited Unit. It provides an overview of how to plan, design, implement and reevaluate community education seminars that are relevant for the community.

This extremely popular workshop was met with widespread enthusiasm by the participants. Participants included a range of staff from many CLCs: principal solicitors, CLE workers, Court Assistance Scheme workers, youth education workers, generalist and specialist solicitors. The training modules have provided an avenue for CLC staff to attain skills in delivering CLE projects and activities in interesting and effective ways.

# Access to justice for Aboriginal communities

## Kingsford reaches out to La Perouse

Kingsford Legal Centre (KLC) has started an outreach service that will operate out of the demountables in Yarra Bay House at La Perouse. This outreach is one of the strategies implemented to increase and improve access to KLC by the local Indigenous community. For more information contact Kingsford Legal Centre on (02) 9385 9566 or visit [www.kingsfordlegalcentre.org](http://www.kingsfordlegalcentre.org)

## Stolen Wages Referral Scheme at PILCH

PILCH and PIAC have a joint project to assist Aboriginal clients in NSW on a pro bono basis with their applications to the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme (ATFRS). A number of PILCH member firms are currently assisting claimants with applications. Before accepting referrals, participating firms agree to undertake training relating to the operation of the ATFRS and the claims process, delivered by PIAC and undertake external cultural awareness training. For more information contact Sandra Stevenson: [ssstevenson@piac.asn.au](mailto:ssstevenson@piac.asn.au) or call (02) 8898 6550.

## Two new Aboriginal Children's Court Assistance Scheme Workers at Macquarie

In 2007, Macquarie Legal Centre welcomed Kevin Hinton and Leah Cruickshank who have come on board as Aboriginal Children's Court Assistance Scheme Workers. In addition to providing court support the workers are undertaking a legal needs analysis to identify gaps

in services to Aboriginal young people in the Court System. The needs analysis will identify areas of need for Aboriginal young people involved with the Children's Courts. It is hoped by identifying these gaps, the scope of the Children's Court Assistance Scheme can be broadened to assist in reducing the rate of Aboriginal Young People facing court. Leah Cruickshank is in the early stages of writing up the literature review for this project.

## EDO Welcomes New Aboriginal Liaison Officer

A new position has recently been created at the Environmental Defender's Office with funding from the Law and Justice Foundation. Neva Collings was recently appointed to the position, and is responsible for improving the EDO's delivery of environmental law services to Aboriginal clients.

The EDO recognises the importance of Indigenous involvement in the protection of the environment as well as the importance of providing equitable access to EDO services across NSW. In her role as Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Neva will engage with the Indigenous community and ensure the EDO delivers educational and legal services to Aboriginal clients across the State. Four environmental law workshops will be held throughout the year in Dubbo, Sydney Metro, Narooma and Coffs Harbour. The project will also produce a Guide to Environmental Law for Aboriginal Communities.



## Aboriginal Advisory Group Report

### **Nancy Walke, AAG Convenor**

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 CCLCG on Aboriginal issues either regionally or state wide.

The AAG membership is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff within NSW CLCs. Membership has continued to increase as new Aboriginal staff are employed and as new Aboriginal projects have developed within NSW CLCs. 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 external organisations who attended to share information resources and ideas included ASIC and Legal Aid NSW.

The focus of much of 2007 has been on CCLCG's Aboriginal Legal Access Program (ALAP) and in particular the planning and drafting of the ALAP Grants Scheme. Two representatives from the AAG are now part of the ALAP Steering Committee, which will oversee and provide direction and guidance for the ALAP.

The AAG would like to thank the State Office staff of CCLCG for their continued support and assistance throughout the year.



**Renee Williamson has come on board to coordinate the new CCLCG Aboriginal Legal Access Program (ALAP). ALAP will help strengthen the work being done in many centres to service the legal needs of local Aboriginal communities.**

# Access to justice for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault

## **Silken Threads**

### **Multicultural Theatre performance raises awareness of domestic violence**

In June Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre worked with Silken Threads, a local multicultural women's theatre group, to produce a theatre workshop. This project aimed to raise awareness of domestic violence issues among culturally and linguistically diverse community members and service providers. The theatre performance used dance, movement and acting to portray a variety of emotions and issues, and highlighted some of the barriers and issues encountered in the delivery of services to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women. Theatre proved to be a great medium for getting messages across to communities without an emphasis on the English language, and encouraged self expression and creativity.

The project was based on community consultations that occurred late last year where women from the Northern Rivers multicultural communities were consulted on the issues affecting their lives in Australia. Some issues identified were: domestic violence and the need for support to be provided in a sensitive manner; the experience of refugees; services not using accredited interpreters or not using interpreters correctly; social isolation; fear of deportation or being sent to a detention centre. People from all over the region and from many different national backgrounds attended: Sudan, Thailand,

Philippines, England, Singapore, China, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Kenya, and Japan.

### **North and Northwest CLC win in the Victims Compensation Tribunal**

A North and North West CLC client who was sexually assaulted by a close family member as a child over 20 years ago won a good outcome in the Victim's Compensation Tribunal. The client was awarded \$40,000 by the Victims Compensation Tribunal without any section 30 issues. This well deserved award is an encouragement to North and Northwest solicitors given that the centre runs many victims compensation matters as part of its core legal practice.



## Domestic Violence Sub-Committee Report

### ***Elena Grinfeld, Convenor***

The Domestic Violence Sub-Committee consists of members from different community legal centres and meets every three months to discuss various legal and policy issues that affect our clients and the way we provide our services to a community.

The work of the Domestic Violence Sub-Committee this year has been marked by the introduction of the Crimes Amendment (Apprehended Violence) Bill. The legislation brought significant changes to the process of applying for and obtaining an Apprehended Violence Order in NSW. As a group we have been discussing the nature of the changes and the implication of the new legislation for our clients and their families.

#### **Some issues we have been actively addressing include:**

1. Amendments to the Crimes Act and the new AVO legislation.
2. Discussion regarding the Police and the Ombudsman's power to investigate complaints about police.
3. Female defendants to Apprehended Violence Order applications.
4. Legal representation in AVO matters
5. Police responses to reports of domestic violence by victims.
6. Activities during 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.

It has been two years since we integrated with the Victims Compensation Sub-Committee (VCSC). Our joint meetings continue to allow us to gain from each other's experience and to address our interlinked issues. I would like to acknowledge the exceptional work of Karyn Bartholomew as co-convenor of this Committee for Victims Compensation issues. Karyn has recently left this position. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Karyn for all of her hard work in organising our meetings and inviting guest speakers.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff of the Combined Community Legal Centres' Group NSW who through the year provided constant support to the convenors of this Sub-Committee in organising and coordinating our meetings.



**The Silken Threads community theatre group worked with Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre to produce a theatre workshop raising awareness of domestic violence.**

# Fighting for fairness: employment, human rights, discrimination, and law reform

## Employment Research Project

The State Office's Employment Research Project (ERP) ran from September 2006 until June 2007. The ERP will identify and coordinate training workshops on WorkChoices for the NSW CLC sector and collate case studies and statistical information which can be used for advocacy, policy and law reform. Sinead Eastman, the ERP Research Officer organised an Employment Law Workshop held at Gilbert+Tobin on Tuesday 8 August 2006. The workshop helped develop a WorkChoices training tool or checklist for CLC staff, including volunteers, on what questions to ask when potential clients call seeking advice on employment law, and also where to refer clients for advice.

## Womens Employment Rights Project

The Womens Employment Rights Project (or WERP) was funded by the Office for Women for one year and run by the Inner City Legal Centre. During the last year ICLC provided legal employment advice, and training on the various aspects of WorkChoices that impact on women. WERP staff collected case studies of 300 women.

The website and report developed as part of the Women's Employment Rights Project will be launched at NSW Parliament House on 23 October by the Minister for Women, Verity Firth. The website has received very positive feedback and is a very worthwhile resource for CLC clients. Check it out at [www.iclc.org.au](http://www.iclc.org.au), click

on publications, click the Women's Employment Rights Project link and WERP will appear.

Inner City Legal Centre is pleased to announce that the Office for Women has provided funding of \$125,000 for WERP for another year. The new project will again monitor and collect case studies, provide two half day telephone advice service, training as needed and continue to update and enhance the website.

## Kingsford Legal Centre contributes to Timor Leste human rights training

Kingsford Legal Centre recently developed and presented a five-day training in Timor Leste for UNIFEM. The training included two days on the nature of human rights and specifically the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as well as three days on how to prepare a shadow report. This arose out of the work which Kingsford has done domestically in preparing Australia's shadow report.

The project was funded by UNIFEM and the United Nations Office for Women, in conjunction with Rede Feto, a local Timorese women's NGO. It was a lively and interesting time learning more about the reality of life for Timorese women and the challenges which they face. One of the barriers identified by the training participants was entrenched views about the roles of men and women, as well as health issues including high maternal mortality given that Timor Leste is the poorest



country in South East Asia with limited prenatal and postnatal care for women.

There were 30 participants in the sessions and it certainly provided an opportunity to reflect on issues in common, such as violence against women. Timor Leste, unlike Australia, has ratified the Optional Protocol, which means that Timorese women can make individual complaints to the CEDAW Committee. We are still waiting for this to occur in Australia. Kingsford Legal Centre staff hope to continue the relationship with Timor Leste NGOs and UNIFEM.

### **Welfare Rights wins payment from Centrelink after client left for 11 weeks without support**

The Welfare Rights Centre recently advocated on behalf of a client who had applied for Newstart Allowance 11 weeks before, but had not received any payment. Centrelink had told him that it was looking into whether he should face an immediate eight-week non-payment period due to an allegation that he voluntarily left his job. As a result of the Welfare Rights Centre's involvement, Centrelink made a positive decision within one hour of

being contacted. Welfare Rights then had to contact the client's local Centrelink office to obtain an emergency payment for the client.

Recently a spokesman for the Human Services Minister, Senator Chris Ellison, confirmed that there have been a number of cases of people losing their benefits for more than eight weeks because Centrelink was slow to make a decision. The Welfare Rights Centre is pleased that the Minister has ordered Centrelink to review its processes. There are potentially thousands of people affected by Centrelink's poor processing of payment applications. Since 1 July 2006, Centrelink has imposed 9,000 eight-week non-payment periods, resulting in savings to the Government of approximately \$16 million. For more information about welfare rights, call (02) 9211 5300.

### **Bourke to Hainan Province: Women's Legal Services speaks to international conference**

In March, Principal Solicitor Janet Loughman attended a training workshop in Hainan Province, China. The workshop was a joint HREOC and All-China Women's

Federation project. Janet presented a paper on WLS NSW services and its work in promoting women's rights. For more information, contact Janet Loughman: [janet\\_loughman@clc.net.au](mailto:janet_loughman@clc.net.au)

## **Hawkesbury case finds rail transit officers not authorised to take people to court**

Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre successfully defended penalty notices issued to two clients by RailCorp transit officers for allegedly hindering and obstructing 'authorised officers' in the performance of their duties under the *Rail Safety Act 2002*, and for the use of offensive language.

In the (unreported) case of *RailCorp v Pantehis and Wiles*, the Local Court found that the transit officers had not been authorised under their delegations from the CEO of RailCorp to commence legal proceedings for an offence under the *Rail Safety Act* or to recover any debts that become due under this Act. On this basis, the matters were dismissed by the Court.

This is important for any client who has been issued similar penalty notices by a RailCorp transit officer, because until the delegation is amended, if someone is issued with a court attendance notice or elects to have the infringement determined by a Court, RailCorp lacks the authority to commence proceedings and accordingly, the matter before the court should be dismissed. For more information contact Pip Davis of Hawkesbury Nepean CLC on (02) 4588 5618.

## **Privacy Law and artists rights**

In January 2007, Arts Law made a submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) in response to the Review of Privacy (ALRC issues paper). Arts Law commented on issues which impact upon artists and arts organisations. Of particular concern are proposals for the introduction of an action for 'breach of privacy', which would have a detrimental impact on artists such as street photographers who create artwork that reflects public places and spaces. An expectation of privacy in public

places, or while engaging in public activities drastically alters the current societal expectations as well as the current legal protections.

'Sufficient safeguards exist'

In fact sufficient regulation exists which addresses the use or publication of unauthorised images, such as photographs, taken in public places which are offensive, defamatory, misleading and deceptive, or a breach of confidence. Moreover, areas of law such as defamation, the federal *Trade Practices Act*, state and territory Fair Trading Acts, and the law of passing off, may be used by individuals to prevent unauthorised use of their image in particular circumstances. These mechanisms, combined with criminal law, provide sufficient safeguards. Further legislation would have undesirable effects on artistic practice and would curtail the freedom of individuals and artists to take photographs or paint images of public places. To download the Arts Law submission visit: [www.artslaw.com.au/\\_documents/files/Privacy-ResponsetoIssuesPaper31.pdf](http://www.artslaw.com.au/_documents/files/Privacy-ResponsetoIssuesPaper31.pdf)

## **Kingsford Legal Centre has a significant win in the AIRC**

Belinda Morley, formally an employee of Qantas Holidays, came to Kingsford in May of last year in relation to her dismissal but, owing to significant personal difficulties, did not pursue her matter at the time. Ms Morley had suffered a serious illness then a serious injury which caused her to be absent from work from February to May 2005. She was then dismissed for her absences and 'failure to provide appropriate documentation'.

Kingsford Legal Centre considered the matter had merit given the reasons for Ms Morley's absence at the time of the dismissal and that she had in fact provided documentation. Ms Morley sought reinstatement and compensation. The Commission upheld the application and ordered that our client be reinstated in February 2007 and awarded 21.2 weeks remuneration. *Belinda Maree Morley v Qantas Holidays Limited* (PR 973333 31 August 2006).

## Shoalcoast Legal Centre wins in the Supreme Court

Shoalcoast has recently had a win in the Supreme Court after appealing a Children's Court of NSW decision. In this decision the Magistrate had alleged that the mother had no role to play in the proceedings brought by DoCS as the proceedings were for leave pursuant to s90 of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*. Shoalcoast was successful on appeal, with Justice Sully stating that a leave application may still have a substantive character and may be open to challenge by parents or others in appropriate cases. In this respect his Honour's decision differs from the prior decision of *Re Edward* (2001) 51 NSWLR 502. The decision, *Re Brett* [2006] NSWSC 984, can be found at: [www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/caselaw](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/caselaw)

## Submissions to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

CCLCG and several CLCs made submissions on the Draft Report of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's investigation into 'The Burden of Regulation in NSW'. The Draft Report failed to adequately address the importance of regulation in protecting both the wider community and people who experience disadvantage, in consumer, environmental planning, privacy and tenancy contexts.

## Northern Rivers CLC human rights poster competition

Northern Rivers CLC held a poster competition for local schools for Human Rights Day. The winning poster, designed by Richmond River High School year eight student Cielle Marchal, was printed by CCLCG and distributed to all CLCs, to use to advertise their local human rights day events.

The brief given to local high schools was to design a poster that expressed the fundamental meaning of human rights and also promoted International Human



Rights Day, which falls on 10 December.

While Cielle's poster was the overall winner, Bridget Barker from the Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre said the entries from Richmond River High School were of such a high standard that four other students were acknowledged for their efforts.

Several CLCs held events commemorating the day (e.g. New England and Western Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service organised a barbecue for tenants and homeless people and Illawarra LC screened the movie *Kanyini*), all of which were advertised by CLCCG through State and local media.





**Left-to-right: Jo Shulman (Disability Discrimination Legal Centre), Alison Aggarwal (CCLCG), Belinda Smith (University of Sydney) and Shirley Southgate (Kingsford Legal Centre) in a meeting on discrimination law reform at the State Office.**

## Report from the Law Reform and Policy sub-committee

As always, there have been more law reform and policy issues of concern than we as a sector have the time and resources to address. We have been fortunate this year to have the Promoting Fairness and Justice in NSW 2007 policy position statement from the CCLCG to guide the work of the Law Reform and Policy sub-committee.

It is not possible to list all the work done by the sub-committee, nor all the people who contributed to the work. However the following give a general sense of the range of work undertaken this year.

Some of the work that the subcommittee chose to focus on included:

- Working with NCOSS in developing a strategy and campaign for the NSW election;
- Maintaining our involvement with the NSW Charter Rights Group;
- Working with the NALCLC human rights network to prepare Shadow Reports on ICCPR and ICESCR;
- Preparing submissions on, among other things, care and protection legislation; same-sex entitlements and the Federal Governments intervention in the Northern Territory;

- Analysing new security legislation in the lead up to the APEC meeting in Sydney;
- Hosting a public meeting with Mr Miloon Kothari, the UN Special Rapporteur on Housing, to hear his views on Australia, and provide him with information from a section of the public;
- Hosting a meeting with Sir Nigel Rodley, to discuss the impacts of the reforms to the UN on the Human Rights Committee.

Thank you to all in the sector who have contributed to the work of the law reform and policy sub-committee, including state office staff, CLC staff and volunteers. A special thank you to Agnes Chong who co-convened the subcommittee all year, and who has now resigned to pursue new challenges overseas. We wish her all the very best.

## Report from the Employment, Human Rights and Discrimination Working Group

In 2007 the Employment, Human Rights and Discrimination Working Group continued its focus on the impact of WorkChoices on NSW CLC clients.

Members of the group worked with the CCLCG to develop the Employment Rights Project and provided case histories which documented the extent to which clients were excluded from unfair dismissal remedies because of the WorkChoices amendments. This resulted in a report showing an extensive impact on clients by either removing all legal remedies or making any redress more complex and time consuming. This reflected evidence provided by members of the group when they appeared before the NSW Legislative Council inquiry on the impact of WorkChoices which was then picked up on by the NSW Government response to the inquiry in May 2007.

# Publications

## ■ **On the Record**, e-bulletin of the NSW Community Legal Centres:

In October 2006 the Combined Community Legal Centres Group State Office launched the *On the Record* e-bulletin. *On the Record* was historically a paper journal that showcased the work of NSW Community Legal Centres, and a forum for discussion about the struggle for a just legal system. Now *On the Record* is being sent quarterly to over 200 subscribers from community organisations, the justice sector, media, universities and the private legal profession. To receive copies, please fill out the subscription form on our website: [www.nswclc.org.au](http://www.nswclc.org.au)

## ■ **Campaigning and the Law in New South Wales**, Environmental Defender's Office NSW

This plain-English guide is an essential companion for those interested in learning about their legal rights to protest, and how to make informed decisions when participating in protest and campaign actions. The publication examines laws governing campaigning as they apply in a wide range of circumstances, such as on the street, in forestry areas and on Commonwealth land. It is a practical source of information that is intended to help guide campaigners through the various aspects of campaigning in NSW including: Campaign planning and protest action; Speaking out in public; General criminal offences and powers; Arrest and detention; Bail; and Preparing for court.

Cost: \$20, 112 pages. For more information about this publication, please contact Tisha Dejmanee on (02) 9262 6989, or [education@edo.org.au](mailto:education@edo.org.au)

## ■ **Our Dream - stopping the violence**, Women's Legal Services

The second edition of the publication *Our Dream - stopping the violence*, is now available for purchase. This is an information booklet for Aboriginal women on domestic

violence and the law in NSW. The booklet has been updated to include legal information about the changes to NSW Domestic Violence Law that occurred in March 2007. This publication is available for download from: [www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au](http://www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au)

## ■ **Book Launch: Mapping Pro Bono in Australia**

On 28 June the National Pro Bono Resource Centre launched a new book, *Mapping Pro Bono in Australia*. For details about the book see: [www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au/probono](http://www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au/probono)

## ■ **Finding a Way - case studies in disability discrimination law**

On 7 February the Disability Discrimination Law Centre (DDLC) launched a new book of disability discrimination law case studies. The book aims to give practical tips about what to expect when dealing with disability discrimination law. Copies of *Finding a Way* are free, subject to postage costs, and can be obtained by emailing [info@ddlcnsw.org.au](mailto:info@ddlcnsw.org.au) or calling (02) 9310 7722.



## ■ **Youth Law Diary Launched:**

Shoalcoast CLC's latest Community Legal Education initiative is a 2007 Youth Law Diary. The diary is for high-school aged young people and school-leavers, and contains legal information and tips on twelve monthly topics covering issues such as Renting, Mobile Phone Contracts, Fines, Police Powers, Centrelink Payments, Victim's Compensation and Human Rights.

The free diary is being distributed in high schools and youth services throughout the Shoalhaven. To encourage recipients to access and think about the legal information they contain, the diaries have an entry form to a quiz competition included. The quiz, which was devised by Project and Policy Solicitor Meredith McLaine, has 12 multiple-choice questions on diary topics. All correct answers will go into a draw for a prize. The quiz and publicity about the diary will also be in the local paper. For information on the diary call Meredith on (02) 4422 9529.

### ■ **Rural Landholders' Guide**

The Environmental Defender's Office (EDO), in association with the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority has released a very successful publication entitled, *The Rural Landholders' Guide to Environmental Law*. The booklet covers legal issues relating to land management including water law, native vegetation law and conservation on private land.

The booklet has been extremely popular with landholders as it explains the complex legal issues affecting farmers in plain English. The EDO is also conducting community education workshops based on the booklet and these have been very well attended.

To order free copies of the Guide call the EDO on (02) 9262 6989 or to download the pdf (993 KB) go to: [www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/pdf/landowners\\_guide.pdf](http://www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/pdf/landowners_guide.pdf)

### ■ **Discrimination Toolkit Launch:**

#### **Your guide to making a Discrimination Complaint**

Kingsford Community Legal Centre, Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre and Legal Aid NSW are launched this innovative and practical legal resource on Wednesday 28 March. For more information about the Toolkit please contact Meredith Osborne at Elizabeth Evatt CLC on (02) 4782 4155.

### ■ **New Guide to Legal Services for Aboriginal People in NSW and the ACT**

This state-wide referral Guide was recently launched by the NSW Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF) Working Group on Aboriginal Clients, which includes the Coalition of Aboriginal Legal Services (formerly the ALS), the Legal Aid

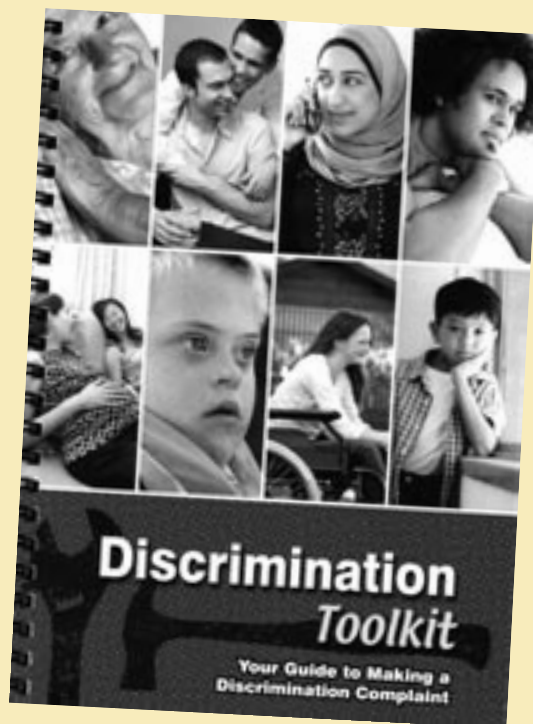
Commission, several member CLCs and other NGOs. The Guide was produced in response lack of information in the community on the civil and criminal law services that can assist Aboriginal people. The guide is easy to use and has a complete list of civil and criminal legal services accessible to Aboriginal people. If you would like a copy of the Guide, please contact Raymond Brazil from the Aboriginal Legal Services on (02) 8842 8000.

### ■ **Consumer Credit Fact Sheets**

On 22 August 2006, the Hon Diane Beamer, Minister for Fair Trading and Mr Geoff Mulherin, Director of the Law and Justice Foundation launched Consumer Credit Legal

Centre (NSW) Inc's series of new and updated credit and debt fact sheets. The fact sheets cover the following topics: *Need a Loan?*, *Easy Money*, *Family Breakdown and Debt*, *Struggling with a debt?* *Debt Collection* (NEW!) *Refinancing* (NEW!). They are available in Arabic, Spanish, Chinese, Samoan, Vietnamese (NEW!), Bahasa Indonesia (NEW!) The fact sheets are now available on the CCLC website at: [www.cclcnsw.org.au](http://www.cclcnsw.org.au).

Consumer Credit LC's award-winning Arabic Radio Project is now also available online. You can listen to the different segments and download the accompanying guide. The fact sheets project and the web launch of the Arabic Radio Project were funded by the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW. If you would like to find out more about this project or any of the education workshops, please ring (02) 8204 1360.





# National Association of Community Legal Centres Representatives Report

**Jackie Finlay**

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

The major activity for NACLC in 2007 was to respond to the Attorney-General's internal review of the Community Legal Services Program. As part of the CLSP Review NACLC met with CLCs, including NSW CLCs at our quarterly meeting, to find out about the work of Centres, what problems are encountered and the myriad of innovative ways in which services are delivered to disadvantaged people. The CLSP Review was used as an opportunity to showcase the amazing work of CLCs.

In 2006/07 NACLC presented a new report detailing the need for new funds in CLCs. NACLC submitted to the Federal Government that CLCs need an additional \$39 million to fund current services. It was calculated that the full costs of one worker at a CLC is around \$100,000, and that each Centre should receive at least \$500,000 to better achieve their outcomes.

This year NACLC received a one-off grant to implement a number of schemes that have been in development for two years. The following schemes will commence in 2007/08: bulk purchase of legal resources; national IT support, CLC Management Committee support and use of Voice Over the Internet Protocol to reduce Centre's telephone costs.

NACLC is a member of the Australian Legal Assistance Forum (ALAF). ALAF is comprised of the major legal aid client service providers in Australia, which are, National Legal Aid, the Law Council of Australia,

representatives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services and NACLC. Work of ALAF in 2007 has included: brokering regular meetings between Family Relationship Centre provider peaks and CLCs to assist and clarify legal information and referrals; and develop and release the ALAF Civil Justice Strategy.

During 2006/07 NACLC endorsed 11 people to attend UN meetings as its representatives. NACLC was also involved in the development of Shadow Reports on ICCPR and ICESCR.

This year the NACLC annual conference was held in Brisbane with the theme, *Justice in Climate of Change: CLCs Looking to the Future*.

This year NACLC's Doing Justice campaign focused on Indigenous Justice. NACLC worked with the organisations in the Northern Territory in response to the 'emergency response' in the NT.

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, and PII representative.

## Legal Aid Commission Representative Report

**Sara Blazey is the Community Legal Centre representative on the Board of the Legal Aid Commission and is on the Commission's Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program sub-committee.**

The Legal Aid Commission has been in the fortunate position this year of being able to expand some of its services. There has been a significant increase in the number of clients accessing Legal Aid and more solicitors have been recruited in the civil and child care departments. The threshold of its means test has been significantly increased meaning more people are eligible for legal aid.

There continues to be a close working relationship between the Commission and Community Legal Centres. There is good cross referral of clients in appropriate cases and a number of joint projects have been undertaken.

# State Office Report

## Vision

The State Office of the Combined Community Legal Centres Group (CCLCG), aims to be an innovative, dynamic and effective provider of support services to community legal centres in New South Wales, and so to assist the community legal centre movement to achieve equitable access to justice for all citizens.

### The State Office has 10 main objectives:

- 1 Work to implement CCLCG's policy positions in the five key areas: Funding, Capacity Building, Gaps in Legal Services, Human Right, Strategic Service Delivery
- 2 Support the governance activities of the CCLCG - Membership and Board
- 3 Facilitate communication and coordination between the State Office and the network, and within the network
- 4 Provide training, information and referral for member centres in relation to governance and service delivery
- 5 Maintain expertise in relation to funding, including by acting as a key liaison point between government and the network in relation to funding
- 6 Operate a Human Rights and Advocacy project
- 7 Promote and represent CLCs to government, justice sector, and the wider public
- 8 Manage an effective and efficient office
- 9 Operate an Aboriginal Legal Access Program
- 10 Operate a Training Program - to improve the skills of CLCs to provide better services to their clients and communities

## Achievements 2006/2007:

- Received PPF funding to commence the CCLCG Aboriginal Legal Access Program and the CCLCG Training Program.
- Received funding from NSW Attorney General for the National CLC Conference in NSW.
- Submitted pre-budget submission for 2007/2008.
- Regular consultation with key bodies of the NSW justice sector through the NSW Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF).
- National CLC Conference held in Wollongong, NSW.
- Award at Law and Justice Foundation Annual Awards.
- In conjunction with WERP, drafted and distributed to all centres an employment law case histories template.
- Organised an Employment Law Workshop for the NSW CLC sector (August 2006) and an Employment Law Evening Seminar (20 November 2006) with three barristers speaking and an audience of about 60 from across the NSW CLC sector, Legal Aid, LawAccess and private practice.
- Held the first of two Community Education workshops training CLC staff to provide community legal education, in partnership with the Tenants Union through a Law and Justice Foundation grant.
- Organised CLSIS training for CLCs.
- Sector consultation and submission for the NSW Draft State Plan and forthcoming NSW election policies.
- Wrote a submission on the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Draft Report; *The Burden of Red Tape*.
- Contributed to the NSW Legislative Council Inquiry into the Impact of Family Law Amendments on Women and Children in NSW.
- Printed and distributed Human Rights Day Poster in conjunction with Northern Rivers CLC.
- Printed and distributed updated CCLCG Directory.

- Completed and registered CCLCG's Enterprise Agreement 2006 with the NSW Industrial Relations Commission.
- Release of the Joint NSW-Commonwealth Review of NSW CLCs Report.
- Strategic planning for sector on the Review Report implementation
- Began implementing the NSW Review with the CLC Sector and the Legal Aid Commission
- Produced a policy statement and advocacy kit in the lead up to the NSW Elections
- Produced employment law referral tools for solicitors in CLCs and the wider NSW justice sector.
- Collated case studies of clients affected by WorkChoices and produced a report highlighting key trends in the impact of WorkChoices.
- Launched the Economic Social and Cultural Rights Essay Prize, jointly with the UNSW Australian Human Rights Centre.
- Conducted community education training in conjunction with the TU for CLC and tenancy staff.
- Continued to inform CLC staff of training opportunities in the NSW Justice sector through the regular training calendar.
- Continued to put our new e-bulletin *On The Record* to an increasing number of recipients.
- Trained staff to update website and updated CCLCG website.
- Strategic planning for CCLCG State Office staff for 2007/08.



**In May 2007, the State Office moved into an office in Ultimo's Dalgety square, a historic heritage building, formerly the Farmers and Graziers Wool Store.**

# CCLCG State Office staff list

Name	Position
Alison Aggarwal	Director Co-Director/Advocacy and Human Rights Officer
Polly Porteous	Program Manager Co-Director
Carol Roberts	Finance Officer to November 2006
Norico Allen	Finance Officer
Jean Parker	Administration and Information Officer
Nerissa Bradley	Advocacy and Human Rights Officer
Renee Williamson	ALAP Coordinator
Joanna Mantziaris	Training Coordinator
Sinead Eastman	Employment Rights Project Officer

## Agency Temps

Hannah	
Rosemary	
Doriana	
Rachel (current)	Admin Assistant

## Student Volunteers

Renee Fallah	Student Volunteer (UTS)
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State Office staff,  
clockwise from top  
left: **Alison Aggarwal,**  
**Renee Williamson**  
(left) and **Joanna**  
**Mantziaris** (right),  
**Jean Parker,** **Norico**  
**Allen,** **Polly Porteous.**



SANDRA D. GROLLMUS

Registered Company Auditor  
Registered Tax Agent

7 BURRANEER CLOSE  
ALLAWAH 2218  
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 2007. 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 2007 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Dated at Allawah this 11 day of Sept 2007.



SANDRA GROLLMUS  
Registered Company Auditor  
Registered No. 1254

Combined Community Legal Centres (NSW)  
C17, 99 Jones Street  
ULTIMO NSW 2007  
**BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 2007**

## ASSETS

Cash on Hand		
CBA Cheque Account	\$105,178.91	
Westpac Cheque acct	\$25,000.00	
Cash Management Account	\$224,515.40	
Fixed Deposit	\$37,964.91	
Term Deposit Bank Guarantee	\$7,500.00	
Petty Cash	\$150.00	
Total Cash on Hand	\$400,309.22	
Accounts Receivable	\$209.07	
Prepaid Expenses	\$100.00	
Bonds - electricity	\$350.00	
Non-Current Assets		
Office Equipment		
Office Equipment @ Cost	\$33,531.80	
Accum Depreciation - Office E	(\$8,104.96)	
Office Furniture	\$2,942.05	
Accum Depr Office Furniture	(\$24.52)	
Total Office Equipment	\$28,344.37	
Bond premises - Real State	\$7,650.00	
Total Non-Current Assets	\$35,994.37	
Total Assets		\$436,962.66

## LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors	\$875.00	
Group Tax Payable	\$6,863.00	
Superannuation Payable	\$356.38	
ALAP Fund Payable	\$110,000.00	
Training Subsidy Payable	\$29,405.20	
Accrued expenses	\$51,514.80	
Holiday Pay Accrual	\$16,084.06	
GST LIABILITIES		
GST Collected from Customers	\$6,210.94	
Less: GST paid to suppliers	(\$8,806.05)	
Total GST LIABILITIES	(\$2,595.11)	



Combined Community Legal Centres (NSW)  
C17, 99 Jones Street  
ULTIMO NSW 2007  
**BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 2007**

Other Current Liabilities		
CLEW TRAINING MONEY	\$2,692.23	
Wage Packaging Accounts		
Polly Porteous	(\$211.46)	
Total Wage Packaging Accounts	(\$211.46)	
Combined Group Funds		
Access & Equity to 2008	\$15,000.00	
CLC Group Funds	\$16,442.67	
Indigenous Advisory Group fund	\$283.16	
Administrators Trust money	\$545.00	
State Conference	\$4,857.91	
CCLCG Publications	\$10,000.00	
PII Reserve	\$35,174.35	
Total Combined Group Funds	\$82,303.09	
Website to 2008	\$12,695.36	
Provisions		
L.S.L. Provision	\$6,606.08	
Other leave provision	\$20,346.25	
Prov'n - equipment & fitout	\$3,985.00	
Prov Future Depreciation	\$29,152.53	
Prov for recruit costs	\$2,000.00	
Provision Publication	\$959.61	
Total Provisions	\$63,049.47	
Total Other Current Liabilities		\$160,528.69
Total Liabilities		\$373,032.02
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>\$63,930.64</b>
Equity		
Accumulated Surplus		\$69,634.15
Accum surplus Website 2008		\$5,523.24
Current Year Surplus		(\$11,226.75)
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>\$63,930.64</b>



Combined Community Legal Centres (NSW)

C17, 99 Jones Street

ULTIMO NSW 2007

## PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT – JULY 2006 THROUGH JUNE 2007

### INCOME

LEGAL AID:		
LAC Grant		\$239,454.56
Law & Justice Fnt-CE Grant		\$4,090.90
PPF ALAP		\$233,000.00
PPF Training		\$84,000.00
OTHER INCOME:		
Bank Interest Received		\$14,478.13
CCLCG Group levy		\$6,379.88
NACLC Conference 2006		\$5,000.00
PROVISIONS		
Provision A/L & Parenting		\$13,525.18
Provi Aboriginal Adv Group		\$5,280.75
Prov for IR contract #1		\$3,911.36
Training Income		\$909.09
Recoup Expenses		\$190.06
Total Income		\$610,219.91

### EXPENSES

Staffing Expenses		
Salaries		
Direct Salaries	\$164,791.69	
Leave Expense	\$4,325.95	
Consultants & Contractors	\$12,055.33	
Staff entitlement prov/LSL	\$4,499.00	
Total Salaries		\$185,671.97
Salary Sacrifice expense		
Practicing Certificates	\$163.64	
Mantziaris, Joanna sal sacrifici	\$1,304.34	
Roberts, Carol sal sacrifice	\$4,677.28	
Aggarwal, Alison salary sacrific	\$10,000.00	
Williamson, Renee sal.sacrif	\$1,911.90	
Porteous, P Sal sacrifice	\$4,507.06	
Bradley, N wage pack	\$10,000.00	
Total Salary Sacrifice expense		\$32,564.22

Combined Community Legal Centres (NSW)  
C17, 99 Jones Street  
ULTIMO NSW 2007

## PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT – JULY 2006 THROUGH JUNE 2007

Salary On-Costs		
Superannuation	\$17,566.50	
Workers Comp Insurance	\$1,148.15	
Total Salary On Costs		\$18,714.65
Staff related expenses		
Staff Training & Development	\$1,491.37	
Staff Recruitment	\$1,302.71	
Conferences	\$1,848.19	
Supervision	\$770.00	
Occupational Health & Safety	\$580.30	
Total Staff related expenses		\$5,992.57
Operating Expenses		
Premises		
Rent	\$25,014.27	
Moving Expenses	\$6,293.42	
Other Premises Costs		
Heat, Light & Power	\$1,346.81	
Repairs & Maintenance	\$181.82	
Total Other Premises Costs		\$1,528.63
Office Overheads		
Legal expenses	\$1,572.95	
Postage & Couriers	\$1,517.44	
Printing & Stationery	\$11,877.98	
Software	\$1,691.18	
Equip repairs & maintenance	\$3,204.92	
Office Expenses	\$2,896.19	
Total Office Overheads		\$22,760.66
Communication		
Telephone	\$5,984.68	
Fax	\$319.57	
Internet	\$702.00	
Web expenses	\$5,767.77	
Total Communication		\$12,774.02

Combined Community Legal Centres (NSW)  
 C17, 99 Jones Street  
 ULTIMO NSW 2007

## PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT – JULY 2006 THROUGH JUNE 2007

Financial & Accountability		
Accounting & Audit Fees	\$875.00	
Bank Charges & Interest Paid	\$1,436.00	
GST rounding account	\$0.32	
Insurance General	\$1,101.52	
Directors & Officers insurance	\$400.00	
NACLC Conference 2006	\$5,000.00	
Total Financial & Accountability		\$8,812.84
Library, Resources & Subs		\$1,806.83
Travel		\$6,524.64
Program & Planning		
Grant ALAP	\$150,000.00	
Training Program Subsidy	\$30,211.60	
Board Expenses	\$9,629.01	
Evaluation PPF	\$40,000.00	
Meeting expense	\$9,445.23	
Indigenous Adv Group	\$5,021.49	
Total Program & Planning		\$244,307.33
Office Assets		
Office Equipment	\$2,240.91	
Office Furniture & Fittings	\$5,038.86	
Future Depreciation	\$29,152.53	
Depreciation/capital equipment	\$1,682.93	
Total Office Assets		\$38,115.23
NLAF		\$760.75
Community Education Workshop		\$3,131.29
CCLCG		
RRR quarterly attend	\$6,379.88	
CLEW RRR attend	\$293.46	
Total Operating Expenses		\$378,503.25
Total Expenses		\$621,446.66

<b>OPERATING PROFIT</b>	<b>(\$11,226.75)</b>
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Other Income

Other Expenses

<b>NET PROFIT/(LOSS)</b>	<b>(\$11,226.75)</b>
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