

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 more inclusive society 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.

The Combined Community Legal Centres' Group (NSW) Inc (CCLCG) is the peak body for (CLCs) in NSW. We are resourced by a small State Office which is funded by the NSW Government. CCLCG has 39 member organisations including generalist and specialist community legal centres. For more information on the NSW Community Legal Centres or CCLCG go to [www.nswclc.org.au](http://www.nswclc.org.au) or call 9212 7333.

# **Combined Community Legal Centres Group NSW**

## **2007/2008 Annual Report**

# CCLCG Member Centres 2007/2008

## 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

Tenants' Union of NSW

Welfare Rights Centre

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women and Children's Legal Centre

Women's Legal Service NSW

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

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

Helen Campbell, Chairperson, CCLCG

2007/2008 was an extraordinary year of growth and recognition for NSW community legal centres, and a year of consolidation for the Combined Community Legal Centres' Group. The work of the sector was recognised in several awards, and with the significant funding increases. CCLCG also held an extremely successful State Conference - **Justice - CLCs celebrating change and connecting communities**, which helped strengthen the network and progress the work of the sector.

## **Rudd Government recognises CLC work with injection of \$10 million one-off funding across Australia**

On April 18th 2008 the new Federal Attorney General, Robert McLelland announced a one-off payment to CLCs, \$2million of which went to NSW centres saying:

"Community legal centres and legal aid provide valuable assistance to disadvantaged people in a range of areas ...The Rudd Government recognises that without such support people can be prevented from fully participating in society, causing their problems to escalate and entrenching disadvantage."

The funding announcement coincided with the release of the Report of the Commonwealth Review of the Community Legal Services Program. The Review found that CLCs can't meet client demand on current resource levels and made 16 recommendations to improve the Program. CCLCG will work through the National Association of CLCs to ensure the implementation of the Review results in long-term improvements in funding and program development.

## **Public Purpose Fund approves grants to 15 CLCs**

In May 2008, a successful submission by Legal Aid NSW to the NSW Public Purposes Fund (PPF) provided 3 years of funding to 15 of NSW's smallest CLCs. The centres, including most centres in rural and regional NSW, previously received either no or very small amounts of funding from the NSW Government. The funding from the PPF is for a wide variety of programs developed by the centres themselves. These include: Care and Protection Early Intervention Advocacy (Elizabeth Evatt CLC); state education discrimination matters (Disability Discrimination Legal Centre); provision of outreach to key NSW towns in the Southern Riverina (Albury-Wodonga CLS); Isolated Client Advocacy Program (Western NSW CLC); and the establishment of an outreach in the Tweed Valley (Northern Rivers CLC).

## **Public Purpose Fund provides 3-year funding to CCLCG for Learning & Development Program**

Also in May 2008, the Public Purpose Fund (PPF) approved 3-year funding for an expanded version of the CLC Training Program which the PPF had funded as a pilot in 2006. (See Page 26)

## **State Office Staff**

As a result of the PPF funding, the State Office continued to increase the number of staff and the quality of programs being run from the Office. 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, Norico Allen, Larteasha Smith and Ellen Davis) for their enthusiasm and commitment throughout the year. Thanks also to Liz Snell for her work as a locum Advocacy and Human Rights officer, and in compiling the proceedings from the State Conference.

### **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 2007/2008:

- Mr John Hatzistergos, NSW Attorney-General, for his continuing interest in and support of CLCs;
- Mr Robert McLelland, Federal Attorney-General, for his support for the CLC program;
- 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, and Ms Julia Hall, Directors of National Association of CLCs;
- Ms Chloe Wyatt from the Ideas Unit, for her dynamic work as the State Conference Organiser.

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.



Helen Campbell, CCLCG Chair

# Over 200 people participate in successful CLC State Conference 2008

From the 7th to 9th of April 2008 Community Legal Centre staff and people from the broader justice sector came together for a stimulating conference - **Justice: CLCs celebrating change and connecting communities.**

Day 1 of the gathering pioneered a conference for regional, rural and remote (RRR) CLCs, who met to network and hear from specialist CLCs about connecting specialist legal services with rural clients. Day 2 brought together people from across the justice sector. This part of the conference was opened by Laurie Glanfield, Director General, NSW Attorney General's Department, who was followed by the keynote presentation: "Will Indigenous Rights Change Australia?", an address by Les Malezer, Chairperson of the Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action (FAIRA). Day 3 of the conference was a chance for discussion and workshops within the CLC network.

The conference was highly successful and more than 200 people attended including a significantly high number from our rural, regional and remote centres. Feedback during the conference and afterwards has been enormously positive.

Sessions from the conference included:

- Showcasing Community Legal Education
- Aboriginal Legal Access and CLCs
- Access to Justice for CALD Communities
- Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities
- Youth Justice
- Researching Legal Needs
- Freedom of Information
- CLCs Working with Human Rights
- Animal Law in the Community Sector
- Centrelink and Participation Failures
- Anti-Discrimination Law- New Models

Proceedings from the Conference, including mp3 recordings of the key-note speeches, papers and power-point presentations have been published on the CCLCG website at [www.nswclc.org.au](http://www.nswclc.org.au)

CCLCG wishes to thank everyone for making the NSW CLC State Conference 2008 such a success. An enormous thank you to everyone in the sector for all their contributions to the conference including:

- everyone who MC'd/organised a workshop
- everyone who presented in a workshop session or plenary
- Linda Tucker for sharing CLC stories at the conference dinner
- the State Conference Working Group
- the State Conference organiser (Chloe Wyatt)
- the volunteers from Kingsford and RACS
- and huge thanks goes to Alison Aggarwal for overseeing the preparation and putting enormous work into the conference.

We also want to thank all those who were able to attend the conference, it was fantastic to see such a strong representation of people from all the community legal centres - particularly from RRR areas.



Scenes from the CLC State Conference 2008.



# Community Legal Centre work recognised with accolades

## ■ Redfern Legal Centre wins Law category at the HREOC 2007 Human Rights Awards

The 2007 Human Rights Law Award was awarded to the Redfern Legal Centre. The Law Award is sponsored by the Law Council of Australia. The award was presented by Mr Ross Ray, President of the Law Council of Australia.

HREOC explains the value of Redfern's work:

"Redfern Legal Centre was established in 1977 and has been providing free legal advice, legal services and legal education to disadvantaged people, and the groups who advocate for them, ever since. The centre has also campaigned tirelessly to reduce inequalities and defects in the legal system and the administrative and social practices that impact upon disadvantaged people.

The centre operates on a very limited budget. It relies heavily on volunteer labour and pro-bono assistance from legal professionals to service a heavy caseload and clients that number in the thousands. A very high proportion of the centre's clients are from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.

One of the centre's major achievements has been the coordination of the innovative Redfern Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme, which aims to ensure that women seeking a restraining order have access to both legal assistance and to any other support services they may require (such as housing, income support and counselling). The scheme is widely recognised as a successful model for providing women who suffer domestic violence with the support that they need.

Much of the centre's activities are concerned with domestic violence, disability discrimination, racial discrimination and Indigenous issues".

## ■ Kingsford Legal Centre Director Anna Cody wins Women Lawyers Association of NSW Achievement Award

Anna Cody, Director of the Kingsford Legal Centre was the recipient of the 2007 Achievement Award, in the Government or Community Lawyer category, awarded by the Women Lawyers Association of NSW. The Women Lawyers' Association of New South Wales is the peak body representing women lawyers in NSW for the advancement of women in the legal profession.

## ■ Kingsford Legal Centre Staff win UNSW PATS Award

Denise Wasley, Anna Hartree, Teena Balgi, Linda Tucker and Shirley Southgate were thrilled to be awarded the 2007 UNSW Professional & Technical Recognition Award for Excellence in Enhancing the Student Experience. The Award was presented to staff by Deputy-Vice Chancellor (Research) Professor Les Field at a ceremony on 12 December 2007. Anna Cody, KLC Director, had nominated the team for their innovative and energetic work with the UNSW Law Faculty's students who participate in KLC through their clinical legal education courses. The award is well-deserved and further recognition of the excellent service provided at KLC.

## ■ Welfare Rights Centre Director Michael Raper wins the 2007 Justice Medal

The Law and Justice Foundation of NSW presented its awards at a ceremony on 31 October 2007 at Parliament House. The Justice Medal is the pre-eminent Award for outstanding individual achievement in improving access to justice especially for socially and economically disadvantaged people. Michael Raper from the Welfare Rights Centre of NSW won this award for his passionate yet balanced campaigning and advocacy for reductions in levels of poverty, inequality and hardship. Director since 1990 of the NSW Welfare Rights Centre, he leads a community legal centre specialising in Social Security and Family Tax Benefit law, helping the most disadvantaged people access their entitlements.



## ■ CLC Presence at 2020 Summit



Robin Banks, CEO of PIAC

Robin Banks, the CEO of PIAC (the Public Interest Advocacy Centre), participated in the 2020 Summit held on the 19th and 20th of April 2008 at Parliament House in Canberra. Robin gave the following account of the Summit:

“I was delighted when I opened the paper back in March to find my name included on the list of participants in ‘The Future of Australia Governance’ stream at the Australia 2020 Summit. Preparation for the Summit meant trying to at least skim read the many hundreds of submissions made to the Summit by people from all walks of life across Australia. Reading these showed just how engaged and interested many Australians are about the way in which government interacts with the people. They provided extremely thought provoking ideas that then informed our discussions in Canberra on 18 and 19 April 2008. And the discussions were fantastic: such a diversity

of the Australian community represented and such passion for the future of Australia.

Within the Governance stream we split up into four groups and I was in the Parliamentary Reform and Citizenship engagement group. We looked both at reforming parliamentary structures and processes to improve governance and also at how the government(s) might better engage with the people to develop more responsive and creative government policy direction. Despite lots of media to the contrary, there was time for lots of ideas and for the voices of all in the group to contribute.

The outcome of our discussions was one big idea: ‘collaborative governance’ and a number of strategies for achieving this. Along with those in the Governance stream I certainly look forward to continuing the conversation with the government and the community about how we achieve more effective engagement into the future.” Robin can be contacted at PIAC on phone 8898 6500.

Anna Cody, Director of Kingsford Legal Centre



# CCLCG Board

Position	Name	Member centre	No. of board meetings attended (from a total of 9)
Chairperson	Helen Campbell	Redfern Legal Centre	8
Deputy Chairperson	Anna Cody	Kingsford Legal Centre	8
Secretary and Practice and Insurance Committee Convenor	Phillipa (Pip) Davis	Hawkesbury Nepean CLC	9
Treasurer and Public Officer	Denise Wasley	Kingsford Legal Centre	9
Legal Aid Commissioner	Sara Blazey (Ex-officio)	Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre	9
Alternative Legal Aid Commissioner	Maria Girdler (Ex-officio)	Macquarie Legal Centre	9
State representative to NACLCLC: Policy	Janet Loughman	Women's Legal Services	8
State representative to NACLCLC: Program Issues	Jackie Finlay	Welfare Rights Legal Centre	9
Sector Development	Kim Price	Women's Legal Services	8
Law Reform and Policy Convenor	Jessica Cruise	Public Interest and Advocacy	9
Rural, Remote and Regional CLCs convenor	Tracey Willow	Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre	8
Representative, Aboriginal Advisory Group	Nancy Walke	Northern Rivers CLC	7
General Member	Jeff Smith	Environmental Defenders Office	5
General Member	Robyn Ayres	Arts Law Centre of Australia	5
State Office Co-Directors (Ex-officio)	Polly Porteous		7
	Alison Aggarwal		5

# The Work of Community Legal Centres

## CCLCG Sub-Committees and Working Groups 2007/2008

Sub-committee or Working Group	Convenor/s	From which centre
Administrators	Hilary Chesworth	Redfern Legal Centre
	Lisa Woodgate	Marrickville Legal Centre
Aboriginal Advisory Group	Nancy Walke	Northern Rivers CLC
Community Legal Education Workers Group	Nicki Peterou	Redfern Legal Centre
Employment, Human Rights & Discrimination Subcommittee	Susan Winfield	Consumer Credit Legal Centre
	(Emp) Linda Tucker	Kingsford legal Centre
Domestic Violence & Victims Compensation Subcommittee	(DV) Elena Grinfeld	Women's Legal Services
Law Reform & Policy	(VC) Karyn Bartholomew	Illawarra Legal Centre
	Jess Cruise	Public Interest Advocacy Centre
Practice and Insurance Committee	Shirley Southgate	Kingsford legal Centre
	Pip Davis	Hawkesbury Nepean Legal Centre
Rural, Remote and Regional	Sharlene Naismith	Shoalcoast CLC
	Tracey Willow	Elizabeth Evatt CLC

### The CCLCG Board

**Back row** Kim Price, Pip Davis, Nancy Walke, Jessica Cruise, Jackie Finlay, Janet Loughman, Denise Wasley, Maria Girdler

**Front row** Sara Blazey, Tracey Willow, Polly Porteous, Helen Campbell, Jeff Smith



# Legal education for the community

## Access to Legal Services and Information for Russian Speakers in Redfern–Waterloo

At the end of 2007 and in early 2008, Redfern Legal Centre (RLC) and South Sydney Community Aid Co-op developed and delivered a community legal education project for Russian speaking people in the Redfern - Waterloo Area. The project was delivered co-operatively between the two centres and drew on the flexibility, responsiveness, co-operation and local knowledge of both community organisations.

The project began with Redfern Legal Centre's Russian background Practical Legal Training (PLT) student participating in the Russian speakers group conducted by South Sydney Community Aid Co-op to help participants build skills in understanding Australian legal terms, concepts and institutions.

These sessions covered areas including:

Courts in Australia; Differences between civil and criminal law and practice; Role and function of NSW Anti-Discrimination Board and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission; Role and function of Consumer Trader and Tenancy Tribunal NSW; Australian Industrial Relations Commission and Industrial Relations Commission of NSW; Lodging complains against financial organizations to Australian Banking Industry Ombudsman and lodging complaint against insurance Company to Insurance Ombudsman; How to make a complaint against Police and your rights, including lodging a complaint to the NSW Ombudsman;

Explanation how to engage the lawyer, what are the costs and how they could be calculated; Obligation of lawyer to disclose the cost before engagement; How to fight against unacceptable noise in your neighbourhood; Domestic violence matters, how to protect yourself and Explanation of when and how the Police could enter private premises in order to prevent domestic violence.

Part of the program also included development and delivery of a training session for Redfern Legal Centre workers on the expectations of Russian speaking people in approaching legal services.

In the wake of the program, Redfern Legal Centre has observed an increase in the number of Russian speaking people who seeking legal advice, now that they realise they have a legal problem, and now that they are confident to contact the Legal Centre. For more information contact Elizabeth Morley at the Redfern Legal Centre on 9698 7277.

## Mt Drutt & Area Community Legal Centre deals with increase in home repossessions

In early 2008 Centre staff noticed a significant increase in enquiries from homeowners who have: Received a notice under s.52 (b) Real Property Act 1900; received a Statement of Claim seeking possession of the client's home; become subject to a writ for possession from the Supreme Court; and received a letter from the Sheriff warning of intended eviction from the family home.

The average defaulting mortgagee cannot afford

private legal advice regarding their predicament. The usual scenario sees a lender obtaining default judgment for possession in the Supreme Court, as the borrower desperately seeks a buyer for their home, or refinancing from those lower-tier lenders not yet affected by the 'sub-prime' mortgage collapse in the U.S.A.

Borrowers will often mistakenly believe that arrangements discussed during telephone conversations with loans-managers will result in the lender ceasing its efforts to undertake a mortgagee-sale and enforcing its rights to possession of the borrower's home.

Each client's case is different, but in many instances appropriate legal assistance can result in the homeowner keeping their home, or at least making suitable arrangements for an orderly vacation of their property. For more information call Mt Druitt & Area CLC on 9675 2009.

## **Community Legal Education Workers Group Report**

### ***Nicki Petrou and Susan Winfield Co-Conveners***

The NSW Community Legal Education Workers (CLEW) convenes quarterly and communicates regularly to share knowledge and ideas for the effective organisation and delivery of legal education to the community. This year's conveners have been Nicki Petrou, solicitor from Redfern Legal Centre and Susan Winfield, solicitor at the Consumer Credit Legal Centre.

Nicki Petrou will step down as co-convenor at the end of 2008 and we thank her for her valued contribution to CLEW as convenor for many years. We welcome Anna Hartree, Co-ordinator of Kingsford Legal Centre who replaces Nicki and will co-convene with Susan.

Membership of CLEW is open to everyone in the sector who participates in the organisation and delivery of community legal education. Members include dedicated CLE workers, solicitors and co-coordinators. Over the past year the group continued to benefit from the co-operation, breadth of experience, dedication and enthusiasm of its members. CLEW members continue to share information about projects and interesting activities, in particular new innovative ways to facilitate CLE, and tried and tested methods of becoming successfully involved in local

communities and specific target groups. Importantly, members also share information about projects or methods that have been less than successful, a good learning tool for others.

This year as a work in progress has been the update and maintenance of the CLEW CLE Materials folder on the BBS (CLC intranet), with the aim of ensuring up-to-date accurate information on topics and workshops is readily available for all CLEW members and CLC workers to refer to and utilise.

The group has introduced regular training sessions specific to its member's needs, delivered within the quarterly CLEW meetings. This year CLEW members have benefited from sessions on media training; effective delivery of CLE to intellectually disabled people; and complexities of centers working co-operatively together and with outside agencies to co-produce publications.

The CLEW conveners participate and represent CLEW at the Legal and Information Referral Forum meetings and the National CLEW network.

Over the year CLEW members have participated in a number of events in addition to those in their local communities. This included Human Rights day in 2007 and a workshop at the NSW State Conference. The State Conference workshop included a particularly innovative showcase from Sharon Callaghan from Illawarra Legal Centre on how CLE can be effectively delivered as legal theatre, particularly to recent migrant groups. Meredith Mclean showcased Shoalcoast Legal Centre's calendar aimed at introducing a variety of legal topics to local youth. Alison Aggarwal from State Office and Simone Montgomery from the Tenant's Union explained the aim and content of the well-attended Community Education Training sessions held twice a year, which explores creative and diverse ways to plan, deliver and evaluate CLE sessions and projects. The State Conference workshop was particularly well received and CLEW members thank all presenters and participants, and particularly Sharon Callaghan for her valuable assistance in planning the workshop.

Finally, the Network continues its acknowledgment of the significance of CLE in connection to all aspects of community legal centre work and continues to explore options to promote its importance.

# Access to justice for Aboriginal communities

## **Disability Discrimination Legal Centre scopes disability issues for Aborigines around Lismore**

Disability Discrimination Legal Centre (DDLC) is using an Aboriginal Legal Access Program (ALAP) Grant from CCLCG to undertake a Scoping Project of Northern Rivers Indigenous Disability. A key feature of this project was a week-long tour (May 2008) of the Northern Rivers area meeting up with Indigenous disability groups in regional and rural communities. The Aboriginal Disability Network is assisting DDLC. For more information contact DDLC on phone 9310 7722 or [info@ddlcnsw.org.au](mailto:info@ddlcnsw.org.au)

## **HIV/AIDS Legal Centre looks at privacy issues for Aboriginal patients**

HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (HALC) is investigating development of a resource and training program on privacy issues for Aboriginal clients dealing with medical problems. Confidentiality and disclosure of HIV can be sensitive matters in Aboriginal communities as with all communities, and can be a barrier to access to testing and treatment. HALC has begun liaising with some Aboriginal and HIV services to scope out the project. For more information contact Brady at the HIV/AIDS Legal Centre on phone 9206 2060.

## **Illawarra Legal Centre presence at 'The Spirit of the Lagoon' community festival**

Illawarra Legal Centre participated in the Southside Festival at Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation. 'The Spirit of the Lagoon' was a community festival about caring for the place where we live. The day was filled with music, bushcare workshops, drumming, an outdoor café and performances from Casey Donovan, fire twirlers, and the Wadi Wadi Mixed Tribe Indigenous Dancers. Storytelling was so inspiring that a young participant summed it up when he shouted, "free the spirit of the lagoon so the turtle can come back". All agreed.





**Indigenous lawyers of the future**  
Indigenous winter school students visit Kingsford Legal centre – with Shirley Southgate (back right).

## 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's principal 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. Although at times during the year our numbers dwindle our meetings continue to be well attended by members who have the opportunity to share information and to offer guidance to CLCs on Aboriginal issues and we continue to invite other organisations to share their information with us. We have recently decided to review our terms of reference and to again look at the policy on welcome to country.

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



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

## **Hawkesbury / Nepean Legal Centre Domestic Violence Day concert in a women's prison**

The Hawkesbury / Nepean Legal Centre domestic violence court assistance scheme marked Stop domestic violence Day 2007 (which fell on November 7th) with a very successful concert at Dillwynia Women's Prison. Mia Dyson and some local young women artists performed for the event and the audience loved it! The event was recorded by a radio station that broadcasts through prisons. For more information call O2 4588 5618.

## **Redfern Legal Centre solicitor fights subpoena of counseling notes in Sexual Assault case**

A Redfern Legal Centre client was sexually assaulted by her then partner. She reported the assault to police and was examined in hospital. She also received some follow-up care and counselling from her GP. In due course, the assailant was arrested and charged.

While preparing for the trial, the defendant's solicitor (a private firm) issued a subpoena to our client's GP for the GP's counseling notes and records. A few days before the subpoena was returnable, the DPP alerted our client to the existence of the subpoena.

In such cases the victim of a sexual assault is able to assert a privilege over records of confidential counseling communications. The judge is required to balance the harm caused to the victim by allowing access to the

records against the probative value of the records. However, in order to assert such a privilege, the victim has to seek leave to intervene in the criminal trial.

With less than a day to go before the return of subpoena, after attempting to arrange for the Crown to make the objection to access on the victim's behalf, and failing to get Legal Aid support, Redfern Legal Centre decided to take on the matter in-house. The defence wasn't ready to argue the point about access to the documents, and so the argument was adjourned. This happened five times before the defence was finally ready to deal with the argument!

Four months after the subpoena had been issued, Judge Berman finally heard the argument and decided that the defence should not have access to the doctor's notes. Mid way through the trial, the defence decided to have another go at getting the doctor's notes. Again the Judge decided that the defence should not have access to the documents.

The presence of a CLC solicitor made all the difference for a client facing a very difficult and drawn out court experience.

## Women's Legal Services NSW win appeal for victim of sexual assault in foster care

In February 2008 Women's Legal Services NSW won an appeal to the District Court. The appeal overturned the decision of a Magistrate in the Victims Compensation Tribunal concerning a claim about "unrelated acts" in the Victims Support and Rehabilitation Act 1996 NSW. Our client was the victim of numerous sexual assaults while in a foster home.

Senior Counsel, Robert Beech-Jones, with Junior Counsel, Regina Graycar, successfully argued that the client was not afforded procedural fairness, as the Magistrate did not answer the case put to it by our client about why the acts of violence were unrelated. Further, the Magistrate was in error in incorporating the concept of "pattern of abuse" in Schedule 1 into the determination of whether an act is related or not under s.5 of the Act. That is, a determination of what is a related act is to be made prior to any application of Schedule 1. There is no textual or other support for incorporating Schedule 1 into s. 5 of the Act. The matter was remitted back to the Tribunal for a re-determination.

There is no written judgment as Justice Quirk gave an oral judgment. The Tribunal is waiting on the transcript in order to re-determine the matter. For more information contact Women's Legal Services on phone 9749 7700.

## 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 the community.

This year our committee concentrated on issues relating to victims compensation. We had a number of guest speakers who presented practical information about the victims compensation process. The Committee also concentrated on discussing changes to the legislation relating to Apprehended Violence Orders (AVO). Provisions relating to an AVO were removed from the Crimes Act 1900 and new legislation called Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007 was introduced.

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

- Introduction of the new AVO legislation.
- Police delays in response to Freedom of Information requests.
- Female defendants to Apprehended Violence Order applications.
- Legal representation in AVO matters
- Police responses to reports of domestic violence by victims.

Our joint meetings with the Victims Compensation Sub-Committee continue to allow us to gain from each others' experiences and to address our interlinked issues. I would like to acknowledge the exceptional work of Angela Melouney as co-convenor of this Committee for Victims Compensation issues. Angela has recently left this position. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Angela 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 ongoing support to the convenors of this Sub-Committee in organising and co-ordinating our meetings.

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

## New Mental Health Legal Services Project at PIAC

The Mental Health Legal Services (MHLS) Project started in January 2008 and will run for 2 years. This program will explore the unmet legal needs of people who are mentally unwell and enable those needs to be better met through piloting innovative strategies.

The target group for the MHLS Project will be those individuals who are mentally unwell and who because of that have access to justice issues in areas such as...

- Crimes of violence
- Crimes of deception
- Family law matters
- Care and protection of children matters
- Discrimination, harassment and vilification
- Health care and service delivery
- Housing and social welfare
- Credit and debt

PIAC will research and pilot both capacity building/training and new mental health legal service delivery models.

PIAC wants to talk with consumers, carers, workers, academics and others with an interest in this important subject. If you have any questions, comments or ideas regarding the MHLS Project, please contact the Project

Coordinator, Stephen Kilkeary on [skilkeary@piac.asn.au](mailto:skilkeary@piac.asn.au) or call 8898 6513 or visit [www.piac.asn.au](http://www.piac.asn.au)

## Older Persons Legal Service: a new Program auspiced by The Aged Care Rights Service

In January 2008 Legal Aid NSW provided funding for the establishment of an Older Person' Legal and Educational Program under its Community Legal Centres Funding Program. The Older Persons' Legal and Education Program is a partnership between Legal Aid NSW and TARS (The Aged Care Rights Service) aimed at improving older persons' access to legal services through advice, assistance, advocacy, representation and education.

Under the funding agreement TARS established THE OLDER PERSONS LEGAL SERVICE ("OPLS") which provides legal advice, assistance and education for older people in the community as well as residents of aged care facilities and retirement villages throughout NSW including rural, regional and remote areas of the state.

This new legal service will be targeted at older people who are socially or economically disadvantaged. We have a staff of two solicitors who will give advice in the following matters:

- Consumer Issues - debt management, certain contractual matters and unfair contracts, provision of goods and services

- Human Rights matters - age discrimination, financial abuse by relatives and carers, assistance access to the administration of State and Commonwealth Law and Programs.
- Social Security - elderly members of the community will have access to legal assistance from TARS if their interaction with the welfare systems fails.
- Alternative Decision Making - Issues involving the capacity to make financial care decisions. TARS can provide legal advice and assistance in relation to Powers of Attorney and Enduring Guardianship issues.

TARS will also provide community legal education on topics of interest to older persons in community settings and events. These education sessions will be followed by the provision of face to face advice opportunities for members of the community. These sessions will be limited by time and resource constraints at individual venues. For more information visit: [www.tars.com.au](http://www.tars.com.au)

### **Redfern Legal Centre helps access payments from the Queensland Redress Scheme**

Redfern Legal Centre with Mudgin-gal Aboriginal Women's and Children's Centre held a public meeting in early 2008 alerting local residents to the Queensland Redress Scheme. Press releases have been consistently sent out to draw people's attention to the closing date for applications at the end of June 2008.

Redfern Legal Centre had 15 clients making claims from the scheme. Many of these clients have led very disconnected lives, struggling to maintain any close relationships and often experiencing depression and addictive behaviors. Given that many of these people were taken into care because they were considered to be in inadequate parental care, little was done for them other than to give them some clothing, some food and a roof over their head. Some were the victims of direct physical or sexual abuse by either staff, other adults or children.

The calling of the meeting and the writing up of people's stories, have in themselves been of value, and

the appreciation in the clients' faces when they see their stories written on paper has been clear. The process of making these claims has been an extraordinary journey both for the clients and for the staff at Redfern Legal Centre. For more information contact Redfern Legal Centre on 9698 7277.

### **Illawarra Legal Centre celebrates: Human Rights - Every Day**

A small group of local workers joined Illawarra Legal Centre staff to hold a Human Rights Stall at a busy location on Wollongong's key market day in December 2007 to mark International Human Rights Day.

Staff purchased around 100 Human Rights cards with quotes from world leaders from New Internationalist, had stamps available and some key statements to assist writers. We had a list of names and addresses of people we believed would be able to influence decision makers.

Professor Brian Martin, from the University of Wollongong joined Dr Judy Stubbs, the Chairperson of the Illawarra Legal Centre, assisted encouraging people to send a human rights postcard from the Stall.

"One of the most important ways to defend human rights is for people to speak out. Each of us, by voicing our concerns, can have an impact. Those who have influence, such as editors and church leaders, have a special responsibility," Professor Martin said.

The messages on the cards reinforce the idea of our collective responsibility to protect freedoms and work for justice. In the words of Martin Luther King, 'Justice denied anywhere is justice denied everywhere'.



Illawarra Legal Centre  
Human Rights Stall

## Report from the Law Reform and Policy Sub-Committee

The Law Reform and Policy sub-committee has had a very active year, with contributions from many people within the sector. Thank you to all who have included this work in their already busy work schedules.

We have also said a temporary (we hope) good bye to Alison Aggarwal, who has gone on secondment to the Australian Human Rights Commission. Thank you Alison for your terrific work and support from the State office. We have been fortunate to have had Liz Snell step into the role, and resource and support the Law Reform and Policy sub-committee.

While it's not possible to detail all the law reform and policy work done by the NSW CLCs, following are some of the highlights of this year's work:

- Review of NSW Police Powers - The Public Interest Advocacy Centre, with input from other CLCs, made a submission to the NSW Ombudsman's Review of Parts 2A and 3 of the Terrorism (Police Powers) Act 2002.
- NSW Attorney General's Discussion Paper: The Law of Consent and Sexual Assault - Women's Legal Services have prepared a guide for submissions.
- Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities - CCLCG is liaising with national and NSW CLCs, community groups, and media on the Federal government proposals, and calling for NSW Government to implement the Breaking the Silence Report recommendations.
- CCLCG and various NSW CLCs have made submissions to the NSW Inquiry into Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage
- Employment Rights Project (ERP) - The final paper on the impacts of WorkChoices, which analyses the trends in CLC case studies to date, is available from CCLCG.
- We are continuing to work with the NACLC human rights network to prepare Shadow Reports on ICCPR and ICESCR.
- We have commencing work on the CEDAW shadow report
- NSW CLCs participated in NSW consultations on implementing the domestic violence strategy. Women's Legal Services worked with CCLCG to write a submission for this inquiry.
- CCLCG, together with Kingsford Legal Centre, published the research report Protest, Protection, Policing: The expansion of police powers and the impact on human rights in NSW, written by Liz Snell. The report used the Sydney APEC meeting as a case study, and the launch of the report just prior to "world youth day" generated good media interest and public discussion. The report is available from CCLCG.
- Campaign for NSW Charter of Rights - Ongoing information sessions are being held for community groups on the Charter of Rights. CCLCG has endorsed both the NSW Charter Group's Campaign and the New Matilda Campaign, calling for governments to take steps towards a charter of rights at the State and federal level respectively.

Thanks again to all those who have been involved in this very important aspect of community legal centre work.

**Shirley Southgate, Co-convenor, Law Reform and Policy Sub-Committee**



Jacqui Wootton (Freehills secondee) and Sara Peel (Womens Legal Services NSW solicitor) on their regular fortnightly trip to work in Walgett at the Family Violence Prevention Legal Service.



# Publications

## ■ **Caring for Country – Environmental Defender’s Office**

The Environmental Defender’s Office has produced a publication entitled *Caring for Country: A guide to environmental law for Aboriginal Communities in NSW*. *Caring for Country* is a plain-English guide to assist Aboriginal people to understand their legal rights and obligation under environmental and natural resource management law.

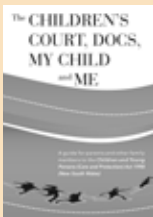
The guide explains the law as it relates to and impacts on Aboriginal people whilst recognising that environmental issues do not affect everyone in the same way. It deals with issues such as access to country, cultural heritage, development and managing country. The guide was produced with funding from the Law and Justice Foundation which allowed the EDO to establish the *Caring for Country* project and hire a dedicated Aboriginal Liaison Officer. The project is now supported by the Combined Community Legal Centres Group via a grant from the Aboriginal Legal Access Program.

The guide is free and available by contacting the EDO on 02 9262 6989. It can also be downloaded from the EDO website [www.nsw.edo.org.au](http://www.nsw.edo.org.au)

## ■ **Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre launches a new website**

Check it out at [www.nrclc.org.au](http://www.nrclc.org.au)

## ■ **The Children’s Court, DoCS, My Child and Me – Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre**



Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre has updated and reprinted its highly popular layperson’s guide to NSW care and protection law: *The Children’s Court, DoCS, My Child and Me*. Please contact Shoalcoast on phone (02) 4422 9529 to request free copies.

## ■ **Get the Facts on GreenPower – Elizabeth Evatt CLC**

The Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre is working in partnership with Blue Mountains City Council and our local climate action group on GreenPower issues.

Following a spate of enquiries about aggressive “green” marketing campaigns by various electricity retailers in our area, the Centre produced a resource called *Get the Facts on GreenPower*. It explains what GreenPower is and how consumers can choose green energy products wisely. It also includes simple tips for householders on how to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and save money on power bills at the same time. For more information contact Meredith Osborne on 4782 6906 or email [Meredith@eeclc.org.au](mailto:Meredith@eeclc.org.au)

## ■ **Flight Closed – PIAC and NSW Disability Discrimination Legal Centre report launched**

This report on the problems facing people with disabilities in airline travel was launched at Sydney Airport on 13 December 2007. At the Launch HREOC representative Mr Graeme Innes said HREOC would use the report’s findings in its discussions with the airline industry, government and CASA to ensure reasonable accessibility standards are introduced and enforced for airline travel for people with disabilities.

The launch also attracted very good media coverage with articles in *The Australian* and *Sydney Morning Herald* newspapers plus widespread national and local radio interest. Copies of the report are being sent to government to encourage action to improve access for people with disabilities.

Flight Closed can be viewed at: [http://www.piac.asn.au/publications/pubs/rep2007123\\_20071201.html](http://www.piac.asn.au/publications/pubs/rep2007123_20071201.html)

Media Release for Flight Closed can be viewed at: [http://www.piac.asn.au/news/media/20071213\\_ftlclsdrp.htm](http://www.piac.asn.au/news/media/20071213_ftlclsdrp.htm)

Please contact Brenda Bailey by e-mail to [bbailey@piac.asn.au](mailto:bbailey@piac.asn.au) or by phone 02 8898 6522 to obtain a bound copy of the report.

PIAC CEO, Robin Banks (centre) and Chair of the NSW Disability Discrimination Legal Centre, Rosemary Kayess, present Human Rights Commissioner and Acting Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Graeme Innes AM (Australian Human Rights Commission).





■ **Guide to Unfair Dismissal laws** – Inner City Legal Centre and Kingsford Legal Centre

After many years hard work by Kingsford Legal Centre and Inner City Legal Centre, the guide was launched as a web resource in October 2007. Although the 2007 federal election results will mean this will need to be updated, the everchanging industrial relations environment makes it very difficult to provide easy to read up to date information. The constantly changing law also makes the need for clear guides to the law very pressing. The guide was launched by the State Minister for Industrial Relations and will assist unrepresented litigants and employment lawyers to advise and represent clients in this area of law. To read or download the guide go to [www.iclc.org.au/udg/](http://www.iclc.org.au/udg/)

■ **Answers for Artists; a Guide to Basic Legal Issues for Artists.** Available in Chinese/English and Arabic/English - Arts Law Centre of Australia



Answers for Artists is a resource designed for artists from Cultural and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds which covers basic legal issues that affect their arts practice. The new guide covers the legal issues of Copyright, Moral Rights, Contracts and Insurance + Liability. The guide includes practical scenarios about each issue illustrating how they apply to artists. Answers for Artists is available as a hardcopy booklet, with accompanying postcard. You can order FREE copies of the guide by downloading the order form on the Arts Law website: [www.artslaw.com.au](http://www.artslaw.com.au) or by calling 9356 2566.

■ **Disclosure Guide - HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (HALC)**

The Guide was launched by Justice Kirby at a function at The Tim Olsen Gallery, supported by the Woollahra Hotel and Di Lusso Winery. The publication provides a guide to legal issues surrounding disclosure of one's HIV status. To get copies of the Guide contact HALC on phone 92062060 or email [halc@halc.org.au](mailto:halc@halc.org.au)

■ **Business Structures and Governance: A Practical Guide for Artists and Arts Organisations** - Arts Law Centre of Australia

Arts Law's latest handbook, Business Structures and Governance: A Practical Guide for the Arts is now available. It contains information about business structures frequently used by artists and arts organisations in Australia, including partnerships, co-operatives, unincorporated and incorporated associations, and companies. The guide can be used to help you decide which structure will be most suitable for you and your organisation. It provides helpful information about starting up an organisation and meeting your ongoing legal obligations. Copies can be purchased at the Arts Law website: [www.artslaw.com.au](http://www.artslaw.com.au) or by calling 9356 2566.

■ **Protest, Protection, Policing: The expansion of police powers and the impact on human rights in NSW**



CCLCG, together with Kingsford Legal Centre, published the research report Protest, Protection, Policing: The expansion of police powers and the impact on human rights in NSW, written by Liz Snell. The report used the Sydney APEC meeting as a case study, and the launch of the report just prior to "world youth day" generated good media interest and public discussion. The report is available from CCLCG or can be viewed online at [www.nswclc.org.au](http://www.nswclc.org.au)

# National Association of Community Legal Centres Representatives 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.*

A major activity for NACLC in 2008 was to make detailed funding and budget submissions to the federal government. In April 2008 the new Attorney General announced one-off additional funding of \$10 million to Commonwealth funded CLCs.

Also in April 2008 the government published its report of the review of the CLSP funding program and the Attorney General made a commitment to consulting with CLCs and other stakeholders about its recommendations.

NACLC engaged a consultant to develop a methodology for the measurement of CLC outcomes. This arose from the review of the CLSP and a recognition that performance monitoring by way of assessing CLSIS data does not reflect the complexities of the work undertaken by CLCs or capture the outcomes they achieve.

The NACLC projects funded last year progressed. These included the trial of bulk purchase of looseleaf legal services; national IT support; the development of a kit to support community management in CLCs; the use of Voice Over the Internet Protocol to reduce Centre's telephone costs; and a project to encourage law graduates to work in regional CLCs.

The NACLC's **Doing Justice** campaign focused on Indigenous justice and the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER). As a result of the NACLC scoping project

in 2007 the AGD provided funding to enable expert welfare rights advice and assistance to the more than 20,000 Indigenous people in 600 communities affected by the significant social security changes included in the NTER.

NACLC coordinated the report to the UN Committee responsible for monitoring ICESCR. The report, entitled **Freedom, Respect, Equality, Dignity: Action** was prepared with significant contributions from many CLCs, in particular Kingsford Legal Centre and the Human Rights Law Resource Centre. The report provided a comprehensive and constructive analysis of the state of economic, social and cultural rights in Australia and documented where Australia is falling short of its international obligations.

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

**Jackie Finlay and Janet Loughman NSW state representatives to NACLC**

## Legal Aid Commission Representative Report

*Sara Blazej is the community legal services representative on the Board of Legal Aid NSW. As well as attending the monthly Board meetings she also attends the Legal Aid sub committee on CLCs and is a representative on the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Programme Advisory Committee*

Legal Aid NSW has had another successful and challenging year! There continues to be close cooperation between Legal Aid and CLCs particularly with regard to working together in the delivery of legal services. Legal Aid NSW was supportive, and instrumental, in the increase in funding many CLCs received this year from both Federal and State funding bodies. The Combined Group of CLCs contributed to Legal Aid's review of services relating to domestic violence and there have been meetings concerning care and protection in anticipation of the Wood Special Commission report on child protection.

This close working relationship is vital in an area of finite resources particularly in RRR centres. Programmes such as CLSD will continue to expand and play an important role in filling the gap in legal services.

**Sara Blazey, Legal Aid Commissioner**

## 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.

### Objectives

The State Office of CCLCG has the following 9 main areas of work, or objectives:

- 1 Support the key strategic directions of the NSW CLC Sector
- 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 Support member centres in relation to governance and service delivery
- 5 Manage an effective and efficient office
- 6 Operate a Human Rights and Advocacy Program
- 7 Promote and represent CLCs to government, the justice sector and the wider public
- 8 Operate an Aboriginal Legal Access Program
- 9 Operate a Training Program to improve the skills of CLCs to provide better services to their clients and communities

### Achievements 2007/2008

- Held successful State Conference in April 2008, created proceedings online, and completed a thorough evaluation of the conference.
- Regular consultation with key bodies of the NSW justice sector through the NSW Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF).
- Printed and distributed an updated CCLCG Brochure.
- Continued to inform CLC staff of training opportunities in the NSW Justice sector through the regular training calendar.
- Continued to provide our quarterly e-bulletin **On The Record** to an increasing number of recipients.

### CCLCG Aboriginal Legal Access Program

In December 2006 the CCLCG received funding from the Public Purposes Fund to run the CCLCG Aboriginal Legal Access Program (ALAP). ALAP is a state-wide program which aims to enable better access by Aboriginal people to legal services, increase the numbers of Aboriginal people receiving legal services, improve and enhance the capacity of CLCs to provide effective and culturally appropriate services to Aboriginal people, and increase awareness among Aboriginal people of their legal rights and the legal services available to them.

A key component of the ALAP is a Grants Scheme open to all NSW CLCs for projects which endeavour to meet the aims of the ALAP. Eight Aboriginal legal access projects are now underway across NSW with the support of this Grants Scheme. In August 2007, CCLCG awarded grants to the following Community Legal Centre programs:

- **Hawkesbury Nepean CLC - Aboriginal Legal Access Service Program** will continue Hawkesbury Nepean's work in delivering services such as outreach programs, CLE, casework and community development.
- **Northern Rivers CLC - Mirrung Ngu Wanjarri Program** will continue Northern Rivers' family violence work, engaging in community consultations, legal advice and CLE outreaches, and developing improved service delivery strategies.

- **Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre - Creating Spaces Program** will support Aboriginal women and their children in accessing their legal, social and cultural rights to be free of sexual abuse and violence.
- **Environmental Defender's Office Ltd (NSW) - Caring for Country: Improving delivery of Environmental Law Services to Aboriginal Clients in NSW.** Continues and expands the existing Caring for Country program to improve the delivery of environmental law services to Aboriginal people in NSW.
- **Illawarra Legal Centre - Aboriginal Legal Access Worker Project.** With a focus on credit and debt, this project builds on consultations and planning already completed to increase Illawarra Legal Centre's ability to meet the needs of Aboriginal clients.
- **Macarthur Legal Centre - Indigenous Legal Outreach Project** will develop an appropriate legal service delivery model for local Indigenous People and provide legal advice and community legal education to Indigenous people in the Macarthur region.
- **Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre - Indigenous Legal Access and Violence Prevention Project** will increase access by the local Indigenous communities to legal services and justice by providing education about legal issues relevant to both violence prevention and redress for victims.
- **Kingsford Legal Centre - La Perouse Outreach Service** will provide legal advice and information via an Outreach Clinic for the Indigenous Community in the Kingsford Legal Centre catchment area.

## CCLCG State Office expands Learning and Development Program

In May 2008 CCLCG was successful in ensuring 3-year funding from the Public Purpose Fund (PPF) for the Learning & Development Program. The program had previously been a one-year pilot to June 2008 with funds from the PPF. Consultants Westwood Spice conducted an evaluation of the pilot Training Program and found that it had made substantial achievements including a doubling of training opportunities provided directly by CCLCG and a tripling of external training opportunities publicised to NSW CLCs. With the 3-year funding, the program will strengthen current initiatives and introduce innovative learning opportunities such as mentoring and online learning.

Key Achievements in the Training Program so far:

- A Training Needs Analysis and the development of a Learning and Development Schedule
- Creation of a Learning and Development Policy for CLCs
- Development of pro formas for individual and centre record keeping of Learning and Development
- Distribution of information on local training to relevant CLCs in a regular comprehensive Training Calendar and ongoing email postings.
- A visit to the Peninsula CLC (Victoria) to set up training for the Valuing Volunteers Kit for the NSW State Conference
- A visit to the Victorian Federation of Community Legal Centres to share ideas about sector development
- Service visits to Far West CLC, North and North West CLC, Hunter CLC, Western NSW CLC
- Initiation of a Senior Staff Induction kit with the Coordinator's Group subcommittee
- Sourcing governance training for Management Committees
- Design, delivery and evaluation of a Mentoring session at the November 2007 Quarterlies.



Law students attending University of Newcastle's free legal advice clinics run at Newcastle Beach over summer.

**Some of the training courses offered to CLCs through the training program:**

- Aboriginal Cultural Awareness training
- OHS Consultation Training
- Grievance Handling in the Workplace Training
- Governance training
- CLSIS training
- Time Management
- Financial matters (with LAC)
- Mental Illness Awareness
- Winning Grants
- Delivery of Aboriginal Cultural Awareness training
- Time Management and Leadership training

# CCLCG State Office staff list

Name	Position	Dates
Alison Aggarwal	Co-Director Advocacy and Human Rights Officer	July 2007- April 2008 LWOP April 2008 - June 2009
Norico Allen	Finance Officer	ongoing
Ellen Davis	Administrative Assistant	January 2008 - ongoing
Jean Parker	Administration and Information Officer	ongoing
Polly Porteous	Co-Director Director	July 2007 - April 2008 April 2008 - ongoing
Joanna Mantziaris	Training Coordinator	ongoing
Larteasha Smith	Aboriginal Legal Access Program Assistant	February 2008 - July 2008
Liz Snell	Locum Advocacy and Human Rights Officer	April 2008 - July 2008
Hanna Tuohy	Administrative Assistant	July - October 2007
Melissa Yorizane	Student Volunteer	August - December 2007
Renee Williamson	Aboriginal Legal Access Program Coordinator	ongoing
Additional administrative support provided by office support and recruitment companies		

## Staff changes

Alison Aggarwal is taking leave from the Advocacy and Human Rights Officer position from 21 April 2008 til 30 June 2009 to pursue other work in the human rights sector. We are sad to see her go and will miss her incredible hard work and passion.





**The State office  
from top left**  
Alison Aggarwal,  
Norico Allen,  
Polly Porteous,  
Joanna Mantziaris,  
Ellen Davis,  
Jean Parker,  
Renee Williamson,  
Larteasha Smith



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 2008. 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 2008 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Dated at Allawah this 8 day of Oct 2008.



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 2008**

### ASSETS

Cash on Hand		
Westpac Cheque acct	\$21,895.80	
Bus Max-I Acct; O32249 212849	\$184,647.03	
Fixed Deposit 50037739	\$41,244.78	
Term Deposit Bank Guarantee	\$7,756.04	
Term Deposit Bank Guarantee	\$7,500.00	
Petty Cash	\$150.00	
Total Cash on Hand		\$211,902.05
Prepaid Expenses		\$2,967.95
Bonds - electricity		\$350.00

### NON - CURRENT ASSETS

Office Equipment		
Office Equipment @ Cost	\$38,267.63	
Accum Depreciation - Office E	(\$10,682.54)	
Office Furniture	\$29,152.53	
Accum Depr Office Furniture	(\$14,476.26)	
Total Office Equipment		\$42,261.36
Bond premises - Real State		\$2,650.00
Total Non-Current Assets		\$44,911.36
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$260,131.36</b>

### LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities		
Group Tax Payable	\$11,298.00	
Superannuation Payable	\$0.27	
Union Fees Payable	\$18.00	
Accrued expenses	\$22,768.94	
Holiday Pay Accrual	\$18,616.46	
Ultimo Staff Key Deposit	\$200.00	

### GST LIABILITIES

GST Collected from Customers	\$8,967.19	
Less: GST paid to suppliers	(\$32,542.76)	
Total GST LIABILITIES		(\$23,575.57)
Total Current Liabilities		\$29,326.10

Combined Community Legal Centres (NSW)

C17, 99 Jones Street

ULTIMO NSW 2007

## BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 2008 CONT.

<b>OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
CLEW TRAINING MONEY		\$2,196.73
Wage Packaging Accounts		
M J	(\$41.00)	
P P	\$180.00	
Total Wage Packaging Accounts		\$139.00
Combined Group Funds		
Access & Equity to 2008	\$15,000.00	
CLC Group Funds	\$12,808.45	
CCLCG Publications	\$2,950.97	
PII Reserve	\$39,088.88	
Total Combined Group Funds		\$69,848.30
Website to 2008		\$12,695.36
<b>PROVISIONS</b>		
L.S.L. Provision	\$14,984.49	
Other leave provision	\$20,346.25	
Parental Leave Provision	\$7,380.62	
Prov'n - equipment & fitout	\$3,985.00	
Prov Future Depreciation	\$14,676.27	
Prov for recruit costs	\$2,000.00	
Provision Publication	\$959.61	
Total Provisions		\$64,332.24
Total Other Current Liabilities		\$149,211.63
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>\$178,537.73</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>\$81,593.63</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Accumulated Surplus		\$63,960.64
TRF/BalSht		\$23,599.29
Accum surplus Website		\$5,523.24
Current Year Surplus		(\$11,489.54)
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>\$81,593.63</b>

Combined Community Legal Centres (NSW)

C17, 99 Jones Street

ULTIMO NSW 2007

**PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT – JULY 2007 THROUGH JUNE 2008**

<b>INCOME</b>		
LEGAL AID:		
LAC Grant		\$247,356.36
PPF ALAP		\$282,087.74
PPF Training		\$101,490.44
OTHER INCOME:		
Bank Interest Received		\$30,530.28
CCLCG Group levy		\$4,206.72
NACLC Conference 2006		\$2,970.00
STATE Conference 2008		\$49,123.74
PROVISIONS		
Provision-Publications		\$7,049.03
Provi-Aboriginal Adv Group		\$283.16
CCLC Fund		\$12,750.00
PII		\$3,544.57
Training Income		\$200.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$741,592.04</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Staffing Expenses</b>		
Salaries		
Direct Salaries	\$248,943.17	
Leave Expense	\$9,913.02	
Consultants & Contractors	\$39,690.03	
Staff entitlement prov/LSL	\$8,378.41	
Total Salaries		\$306,924.63
<b>Total Staffing Expenses</b>		<b>\$306,924.63</b>
<b>Salary On - Costs</b>		
Superannuation	\$22,241.13	
Workers Comp Insurance	\$1,447.25	
Total Salary On - Costs		\$23,688.38
<b>Staff related expenses</b>		
Staff Training & Development	\$4,507.06	
Staff Recruitment	\$220.00	
Conferences	\$7,458.23	
Supervision	\$2,785.00	
Occupational Health & Safety	\$828.59	
<b>Total Staff Related Expenses</b>		<b>\$13,235.70</b>

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

**PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT – JULY 2007 THROUGH JUNE 2008 CONT.**

<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	
Premises	
Rent	\$29,833.97
<b>Other Premises Costs</b>	
Heat, Light & Power	\$1,260.66
Repairs & Maintenance	\$1,082.04
<b>Total Other Premises Costs</b>	<b>\$2,342.70</b>
Office Overheads	
Legal expenses	\$315.52
Postage & Couriers	\$1,098.48
Printing & Stationery	\$20,887.03
Software	\$1,382.18
Equip repairs & maintenance	\$8,668.02
Office Expenses	\$6,686.10
<b>Total Office Overheads</b>	<b>\$39,037.33</b>
Communication	
Telephone	\$7,460.77
Internet	\$946.61
Web expenses	\$999.84
<b>Total Communication</b>	<b>\$9,407.22</b>
<b>Financial &amp; Accountability</b>	
Accounting & Audit Fees	\$1,125.00
Bank Charges & Interest Paid	\$359.71
Insurance General	\$1,415.33
<b>Total Financial &amp; Accountability</b>	<b>\$2,900.04</b>
Library, Resources & Subs	\$2,325.42
Travel/Accommodation	\$15,305.41
<b>Program &amp; Planning</b>	
Grant ALAP	\$199,715.70
Training Program Subsidy	\$30,153.36
Board Expenses	\$6,072.67
Consultants – Research	\$3,311.40
Meeting expense	\$34,000.14
Indigenous Adv Group	\$2,177.13
Cross Checks – PII	\$3,544.57
<b>Total Program &amp; Planning</b>	<b>\$278,974.97</b>

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

**PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT – JULY 2007 THROUGH JUNE 2008 CONT.**

<b>Office Assets</b>		
Computer equipment	\$810.00	
Office Equipment	\$754.00	
Office Furniture & Fittings	\$1,139.39	
Depreciation/capital equipment	\$3,945.37	
<b>Total Office Assets</b>		<b>\$6,648.76</b>
UF Awards		\$1,103.23
NLAF		\$534.53
Community Education Workshop		\$437.78
CCLCG		
RRR quarterly attend	\$6,941.44	
Qterly Meeting Expenses	\$10,404.55	
Interpretors- Qtly /meetings	\$2,254.55	
Bad Debt	\$780.97	
Total Operating Expenses		\$409,232.87
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$753,081.58</b>
<b>OPERATING PROFIT</b>		<b>(\$11,489.54)</b>
Other Income		
Other Expenses		
<b>NET PROFIT/(LOSS)</b>		<b>(\$11,489.54)</b>

Combined Community Legal Centres (NSW)  
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## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES &amp; GOVERNMENT GRANTS</b>		
	2008	2007
Receipts from Clients & Grants	808,023.31	677,157.25
Payments to Creditors & Employees	1,023,507.21	(599,896.79)
<b>NET OPERATING CASH FLOWS</b>	<b>(215,483.90)</b>	<b>77,260.46</b>
Net Term Deposits Redeemed	–	117,500.00
Interest Received	30,530.28	(14,478.13)
<b>NET CASH FLOW FROM ALL ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(184,953.62)</b>	<b>209,238.59</b>
Payment for Office Equipment	(3,453.55)	(30,028.00)
<b>NET (DECREASE)/INCREASE IN CASH HELD</b>	<b>(188,407.17)</b>	<b>179,210.59</b>
Cash at the Beginning of the Financial Year	400,309.22	221,098.63
<b>CASH HELD AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<b>\$211,902.05</b>	<b>\$400,309.22</b>