

COMMUNITY
COMPASSION
JUSTICE

Community Legal Centres NSW
2008/2009 Annual Report



Community Legal Centres NSW

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. CLCs 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.

Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. (CLCNSW) is the peak body for CLCs in NSW. We are resourced by a small State Office which is funded by the NSW Government and Public Purpose Fund. CLCNSW has 39 member organisations including generalist and specialist CLCs.

Annual report 2008/2009

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Who we are

The State Office of Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. (CLCNSW) plays a critical role in the law and justice sector in NSW. As the peak body for community legal centres (CLCs) in New South Wales, CLCNSW 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.

Vision

CLCNSW aims to be an innovative, dynamic and effective provider of support services to CLCs in New South Wales, and to assist the community legal centre movement to achieve equitable access to justice for all citizens.

Purpose

CLCNSW, through its State Office, provides services to community legal centres as a group and to individual centres, in the areas of network maintenance and development, communications and information, legal policy development and advocacy, and sector maintenance and development. CLCNSW coordinates strategic direction and development for the sector as a whole, liaises and negotiates with Government on relevant legal and equity issues as well as funding and program issues.

CLCNSW Member Centres 2008/2009

FULL MEMBERS:

Generalist Centres

Central Coast Legal Centre
Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre
Far West Community Legal Centre
Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre
Hume Riverina Community Legal Service
Hunter Community Legal Centre
Illawarra Legal Centre
Inner City Legal Centre
Kingsford Legal Centre
Macarthur Legal Centre
Macquarie Legal Centre
Marrickville Legal Centre
Mt Druitt & Area Community Legal Centre
North & North West Community Legal Service
Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre
Redfern Legal Centre
Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre
South West Sydney Legal Centre
Western NSW Community Legal Centre

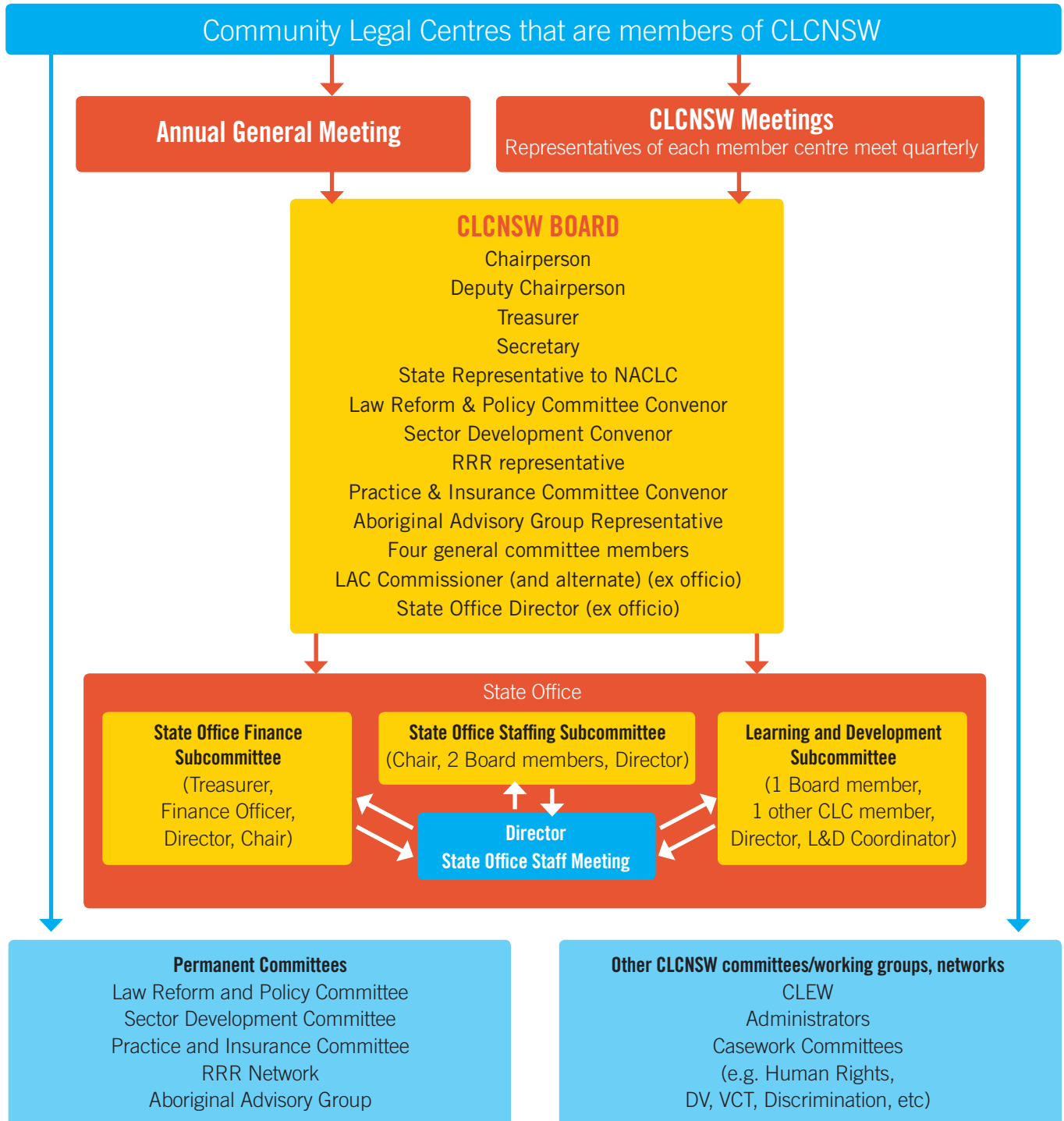
Specialist Centres

(The) Aged-Care Rights Service
Arts Law Centre of Australia
Consumer Credit Legal Centre (NSW)
Court Support Scheme
Disability Discrimination Legal Centre NSW
Environmental Defenders Office NSW
HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (NSW)
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 (Australia)
Tenants' Union of NSW
Thiyama-Li Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Unit
Welfare Rights Centre (NSW)
Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
Women's Legal Services NSW

ASSOCIATE MEMBER:

University of Newcastle Community Legal Centre

Organisational structure of Community Legal Centres NSW



Chairperson's report

Helen Campbell, Chairperson CLCNSW

Acknowledgement of country

May I start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we work in the state office of Community Legal Centres NSW: The Gadigal People of the Eora Nation. We also acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which community legal centres work throughout NSW and thank them for their custodianship of country.

Funding expansion

2008/2009 was a year of challenge and change for NSW community legal centres, and a year of growth for Community Legal Centres NSW (CLCNSW). Once again the sector was recognised in a number of one-off funding grants from the Federal Attorney-General, Robert McClelland.

In April 2008, additional funding of \$2.2 million was made available to community legal centres for the 2008/09 year. In May and June of 2009 additional one-off funding of \$2.6 million for community legal centres in NSW was made available for the year ahead.

In May the Attorney-General said:

“Legal assistance services are critical to effective early intervention by helping people resolve problems before they escalate and lead to entrenched disadvantage... Community Legal Centre funding will help disadvantaged Australians who require legal assistance in areas such as consumer protection, mortgage and tenancy issues, welfare rights, family and homelessness issues.”

Further funds were released in June.

The additional one-off funding is provided for:

- \$3.6 million for the development of pilot programs to build better partnerships and greater collaboration between all Family Relationship Centres and nearby Community Legal Centres;
- \$1.5 million for Community Legal Centres; and
- \$916,000 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (ATSILS).

The Attorney-General said: “These additional resources will help address pressing legal assistance needs, including those of Indigenous Australians and families experiencing separation.”

Collaboration between Family Relationships Centres and Community Legal Centres is intended to provide families with early and targeted legal information and advice.

The community legal centre funding of \$1.5 million is intended for:

- assisting disadvantaged older Australians;
- family law matters and early intervention and prevention of family violence; and
- developing clinical legal education projects focused on family law.

While welcoming these one-off enhancements, CLCNSW has also continued to seek a stable long-term funding plan for CLCs that will better enable us to meet the needs of our clients and our communities.

Strategic Service Delivery

In 2008/09 CLCNSW continued to advocate for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2006 Review of the NSW Community Legal Centres Funding Program. Some progress has been made on the development of the strategic service delivery model and the measurement of service outcomes. A joint Commonwealth–State commitment to a new funding model is yet to be finalised.

In September 2008 the CLCNSW State office together with Women's Legal Services NSW and Western NSW CLC commenced the Legal Needs Research and Strategic Planning Project. This project is making great progress towards the development of a strategic planning tool that can be used by all CLCs. The National Association of Community Legal Centres has also expressed interest in the outcomes of the project.

Public Purpose Fund support

The NSW Public Purpose Fund continued to support CLCs and the State office in 2008/09 by funding the Learning and Development Program and the Aboriginal Legal Access Program (ALAP). Both these initiatives strengthen the capacity of CLCs to provide better-informed and more accessible services.

The twelve-month extension of funding for the ALAP enabled us to undertake an evaluation, which we believe shows that the program is capable of producing demonstrable results. Unfortunately its future remains unclear. We look forward to developing a long-term commitment from the PPF to support this important work.

Name, Logo, Plans and Prizes, Rules and Objects

We decided to refresh our name and look – we are no longer “Combined Community Legal Centres’ Group (NSW)” but now “Community Legal Centres NSW” with a new-look letterhead

I would like to thank the management committees, staff and volunteers of community legal centres in NSW. You are what makes our commitment to **Community, Compassion, Justice** a reality



to match. In keeping with our new style we also changed our annual Law and Justice Award to better articulate and promote the innovate projects undertaken by CLCs to enhance access to justice.

We also made substantial progress on the development of a new strategic plan for 2009-12.

This year we also made some minor and procedural amendments to the constitution of CLCNSW to allow for quarterly face-to-face Board meetings and to bring our membership criteria in line with NACLCL's proposed Common Membership rules. This will assist our efforts to obtain national recognition of the CLC 'brand' and assurance that it properly represents the quality of the work we do.

State Office Staff

Thanks to the team at the State Office for their enthusiasm and commitment throughout the year. We had quite a lot of comings and goings among the staff this year.

We farewelled Polly Porteous, State Office Director, who left in October 2008 after many years of service to pursue her dream of growing new little activists. We welcomed Alastair McEwin to replace her. Alastair has a strong background in CLCs and steps ably into Polly's role.

Roxana Zulfacar had been our locum Advocacy and Human Rights Officer from July 2008 until May 2009, replacing Alison Aggarwal who was on leave while working in the Australian Human Rights Commission. When Alison decided to make that move permanent, Roxana was appointed to the substantive role. Thank you to both Alison and Roxana for your policy and advocacy work. And welcome to Pauline Matthews who was appointed Administrator in September 2008.

And of course our great appreciation for Joanna Mantziaris, Jean Parker, Renee Williamson, Norico Allen and Ellen Davis who kept the Learning and Development Program, Information and Communication Strategy, Aboriginal Legal Access Program and office administration going.

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 2008/09:

- The Hon. John Hatzistergos, NSW Attorney-General, for his continuing interest in and support of CLCs;
- The Hon. Robert McClelland, Federal Attorney-General, for

his support for the CLC program;

- Mr Alan Kirkland, CEO of Legal Aid NSW, for his support of CLCNSW 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 Blazejowska from Legal Aid NSW;
- The Trustees and Administrator of the Public Purpose Fund;
- Mr Geoff Mulherin and Ms Sue Scott from the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW; and
- Ms Julia Hall, Director of National Association of CLCs.

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. You are what makes our commitment to "Community, Compassion, Justice" a reality.

CLCNSW Board

Position	Name	Member centre	No. of board meetings attended	No. of board meetings held during Board member's term
Chairperson	Helen Campbell	Redfern Legal Centre	7	7
Deputy Chairperson	Anna Cody (on leave until December 2008)	Kingsford Legal Centre	2	2
Secretary and Practice and Insurance Committee Convener	Philippa (Pip) Davis (until November 2008)	Hawkesbury Nepean CLC	4	4
Secretary	Mark MacDiarmid (from November 2008)	Elizabeth Evatt CLC	2	3
Practice & Insurance Committee Convener	Philippa (Pip) Davis (from November 2008)	Hawkesbury Nepean CLC	3	3
Treasurer	Denise Wasley (until November 2008)	Kingsford Legal Centre	3	4
	Hilary Chesworth (from November 2008)	Redfern Legal Centre	1	3
Legal Aid Commissioner (ex officio)	Sara Blazey	Elizabeth Evatt CLC	5	7
Alternate Legal Aid Commissioner (ex officio)	Maria Girdler	Macquarie Legal Centre	6	7
State representative to NACLC - Policy	Janet Loughman (until November 2008)	Women's Legal Services NSW	5	5
	Linda Tucker (from November 2008)	Kingsford Legal Centre	2	3
State representative to NACLC – Program Issues	Jackie Finlay (until November 2008)	Welfare Rights Centre	3	4
Sector Development Convener	Kim Price	Women's Legal Services NSW	5	7
Law Reform & Policy Convener	Jessica Cruise (until November 2008)	Public Interest Advocacy Centre	3	4
	Natasha Case (from November 2008)	Public Interest Advocacy Centre	2	3
Rural, Regional & Remote CLCs convener	Tracey Willow (until November 2008)	Elizabeth Evatt CLC	1	4
	Amanda Smithers (from November 2008)	Illawarra Legal Centre	3	3

Representative, Indigenous Advisory Group	Nancy Walke	Northern Rivers CLC	5	7
General Member	Robyn Ayres	Arts Law Centre of Australia	4	7
General Member	Kim Healy (until August 2008)	Central Coast CLC	1	1
General Member	Janet Loughman (from November 2008)	Women's Legal Services NSW	2	2
General Member	Jeff Smith	Environmental Defenders Office NSW	5	7
State Office Director (ex officio)	Polly Porteous (until October 2008)		2	2
	Alastair McEwin (from October 2008)		5	5



Arts Law Centre of Australia Executive Director Robyn Ayres at Arts Law Victoria

CLCNSW Sub-committees and Working Groups 2008/2009 (as at 30 June 2009)

Sub-committee or Working Group	Convenor/s	Member centre
Aboriginal Advisory Group	Nancy Walke	Northern Rivers CLC
Administrators	Hilary Chesworth	Redfern Legal Centre
	Janna Taylor	(The) Aged-Care Rights Service
Community Legal Education Workers Group	Anna Hartree	Kingsford Legal Centre
	Susan Winfield	Consumer Credit Legal Centre
Coordinators/Directors	Kim Price	Women's Legal Services NSW
Domestic Violence & Victims Compensation Subcommittee	Alicia Jillard	Women's Legal Services NSW
	Rachael Martin	Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women and Children's Legal Centre
Employment, Human Rights & Discrimination Subcommittee	Linda Tucker	Kingsford Legal Centre
Law Reform & Policy	Natasha Case	Public Interest Advocacy Centre
	Shirley Southgate	Kingsford Legal Centre
Practice and Insurance Committee	Pip Davis	Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre
	Mark MacDiarmid	Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre
Rural, Regional & Remote	Amanda Smithers	Illawarra Legal Centre
	Karin Ness	Northern Rivers CLC
Sector Development	Kim Price	Women's Legal Services NSW

Community Legal Centres NSW

Community Legal Centres NSW – our new name and look

In May 2009 the members of Combined Community Legal Centres' Group (NSW) Inc. (CCLCG) voted to change the organisation's name to Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. (CLCNSW). In conjunction with this name change, CLCNSW has commenced the roll out of its new look with a new logo and re-branding. The roll out will be completed in 2009/10 with the release of the re-developed CLCNSW website.

\$4 million for Community Legal Centres as early intervention services

On 11 May 2009 the Federal Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, and Minister for Home Affairs, Bob Debus, announced a one-off payment of \$4 million for Community Legal Centres nationally. Mr McClelland said:

“Legal assistance services are critical to effective early intervention by helping people resolve problems before they escalate and lead to entrenched disadvantage.”

CLCNSW applauds the Attorney-General for recognising community legal centres by providing additional funding. We note, however, with much concern the minimal short-term effects of the one-off funding. Helen Campbell, Chairperson of CLCNSW, stated:

“We were pleased to see some funding provided to a number of centres around NSW, particularly to those who need urgent funding simply to remain open to deliver core services. However, we are concerned about the negligible effects this one-off funding will have. The allocations are for 12 months only, with no known prospects as to long-

term funding. For CLCs to be truly effective in service delivery there needs to be a more structured approach to allocation of funding, whether short-term or long-term. Recurrent and long-term funding enable CLCs to establish effective services, particularly by building long-term positive relationships with the communities they serve.

“We have, over many years, provided the Commonwealth with a vast amount of evidence of areas of greatest legal need. This evidence-based information appears to have been ignored with the one-off funding allocation. We call upon the Attorney-General to consider a more strategic approach to funding allocation and to provide CLCs with long-term funding that addresses the areas of greatest need”.

2008 CLCNSW Law & Justice award winner

The winner of the 2008 CLCNSW Law & Justice award was Mr Eugene Butkowski. Eugene is a medical scientist and qualified lawyer who volunteers weekly at the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service (then known as the Albury Wodonga Community Legal Service). He provides legal advice and assistance to disadvantaged clients for the centre, which he has done since 2001. Eugene has also travelled twice to Rwanda for the Operation Open Heart Surgery team. Hume Riverina CLS noted that Eugene has “contributed immensely to helping socially and economically disadvantaged people access justice in his local community.” CLCNSW extends its congratulations to Eugene for his well-deserved award.

New Community Legal Centre for Tweed Shire

Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre (NRCLC), based in Lismore, has been assisting people in the Tweed Shire for the last 10 years. NRCLC had observed an increasing need for legal assistance in the Tweed Shire (with high population growth) and was delighted to secure a small pool of funding in 2008 to open an office in the area.

The new office is in Murwillumbah and was officially opened by the NSW Attorney General, the Hon. John Hatzistergos, in March 2009. It employs two part-time staff - a Solicitor and a Community Development/Community Legal Education (CD/CLE) worker. NRCLC's solicitor provides free legal advice to the local community at the Tweed Heads and Murwillumbah Courthouses and at the Pottsville Neighbourhood Centre on a rotating basis. Since the official opening all appointments have been fully booked.

Northern Rivers CLC staff training function, Aunty Gwen's Cultural Tour. Taken at Woodenbong during day-long tour of places of cultural significance for the local Bundjalung people.



© Northern Rivers CLC

Marrickville Legal Centre – 30 years in action

Marrickville Legal Centre was one of the first legal centres established in Australia, opening its doors to the community in 1979. From its very beginning the Centre targeted the diverse needs of the community in which it was based. The Centre has a well-established reputation for working with people from non-English speaking backgrounds, newly established and “hidden” communities, and children and young people.

From the early days on the first floor of Marrickville Town Hall, the Centre has grown and developed to its current multi-service status, which now incorporates a women’s domestic violence court support scheme, a generalist legal service, a tenancy service, an evening legal advice service and its state-wide award-winning children’s legal service.

The Centre marked its 30 years of legal services to the community with a celebration at Marrickville Town Hall on Friday 20 February 2009. The event was attended by a

wide range of community members, many of whom had been a part of the establishment and early days of the Centre.

Kingsford Legal Centre & New York University School of Law

Linda Tucker, Kingsford LC employment solicitor and CLCNSW Board member, won a UNSW International Development Scholarship for \$15,000 for a project ‘Developing innovative approaches to clinical legal experience for KLC students in community development and policy work’. Linda worked with New York University (NYU) School of Law during semester 1 in 2009 to learn about clinical work undertaken in their vast range of centres and programs, many of which have clear resonance with the social justice focus of the work and aspirations of KLC.

The National Human Rights Consultation

In late 2008 the federal government established the National Human Rights Consultation Committee to look at whether human rights are adequately protected in Australia and how they could be better protected. Key questions of the consultation were:

- Which human rights and responsibilities should be protected and promoted?
- Are human rights sufficiently protected and promoted?
- How could Australia better protect and promote human rights?

The Committee organised community roundtable discussions in a number of locations around the country, received over 35,000 submissions from the public and held a 3-day public hearing in Canberra.

Involvement in this consultation was identified as a priority for CLCs in NSW, in terms of contributing the experience and position of CLCs, and also engaging the community (including clients and community workers) with the issues and the consultation process. From the State Office, the Advocacy & Human Rights Officer promoted involvement, and made available tools and information for CLCs to use. CLCNSW also made a detailed submission to the consultation and provided feedback on the draft submissions of some other organisations.

Many CLCs in NSW undertook activities and programs to contribute to the national human rights consultation, as well as taking the opportunity to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 2008, International Human Rights Day.

Footnote: the Committee's report was released by the Attorney-General in early October 2009.

Video Competition: Freedom, Rights, Equality and Dignity – Why Australia needs Human Rights Protection

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC), on behalf of the NSW Charter Group, held a video competition based on the theme 'Why Australia needs Human Rights Protection'.

The competition ran until mid-March and called for videos that reflected the theme of the competition and provided a unique approach to a human rights subject. Some of the videos recorded a moment where a human right was protected, others observed what human rights means to us as Australians.

The winning video featured an unborn baby, named Baby Harper. Harper's mother, producer of the video, Rosanne Bersten, had the idea of using still images of baby Harper mixed with an evocative soundtrack when she was seven months pregnant. "I had the idea to use images of Harper because I believe human rights belong to everyone, even newborn babies. Even though a baby doesn't have a personality or beliefs, they still have rights because they are human. It also highlights that human rights legislation is designed to protect the most vulnerable people in society".

The video features a series of poignant images of Harper overlaid by statements explaining why human rights protections should be introduced in Australia. The soundtrack features work by two local musicians; the lead singer of one track, Natalie Pa'apa'a is Indigenous while the vocal on the other, produced by Kim Cunio and Heather Lee, is a former refugee.

For more information visit:

<http://www.piac.asn.au/news/Competition.html>

A Fair Go For All – Kingsford Legal Centre Photo Competition

In order to promote the Human Rights Consultation and maximise the participation of our community, Kingsford Legal Centre held a photo competition and exhibition to illustrate human rights as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including the right to life, liberty and personal security (Article 3), freedom from torture and degrading treatment (Article 5), freedom of belief and religion (Article 18), and the right to adequate standards of living (Article 25).

KLC also developed a simple 2-page submission to assist individuals in their community to participate in the consultation. Over 330 submissions were completed and forwarded to the Consultation Committee by KLC. Workshops and presentations were made to several



Promotion of Human Rights Consultation by KLC at Bowen Library

© Kingstford Legal Centre

community service organisations, members of the public and meetings of the local interagency groups. KLC also had information stalls at a number of community events. These included the 2009 Yabun Festival, Randwick City Community Fair, Indonesian Information Fair, the Russian Speakers Expo and the Junction Neighbourhood Centre Open Day. A community BBQ was held for the Aboriginal community living at La Perouse where information on human rights and the consultation was provided with submissions being received from community members.

“Rights Here, Right Now”: Marrickville LC runs youth forum

As part of the National Human Rights Consultation, a Youth Forum was held in May 2009 at Marrickville Town Hall. The forum, entitled “Rights Here, Right Now”, provided an opportunity for young people to be involved in expressing their views on their rights and providing feedback on how to address gaps in current laws/policies. The forum was a

huge success and involved the participation of 100 young people from a variety of different schools and youth services from the inner West, Bankstown/Canterbury area and the St George region.

The Youth Forum was officially opened by the Human Rights Commissioner, Graeme Innes, and also involved theatre performances and facilitated group discussions on 5 issues: police and young people; public space issues; debt issues (such as mobile phone contracts, fines); technology and young people (looking at privacy in the context of online social networking sites); and school and education.

The Youth Forum was organised by Katrina Wong, Children’s Solicitor at Marrickville Legal Centre in partnership with community organisations including Headspace, Marrickville Youth Resource Centre, Marrickville Youth Council and was supported by the Australian Human Rights Commission. The comments and feedback raised during the day formed part of the Youth Justice Coalition’s submission to the National Human Rights Consultation.

Law Reform and Policy sub-committee report

Natasha Case and Shirley Southgate, Co-convenors
(report prepared by Roxana Zulfacar, AHRO)

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.

During the year, we welcomed Roxana Zulfacar to the role of Advocacy and Human Rights Officer in the CLCNSW State Office, and Natasha Case as the new co-convenor of 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:

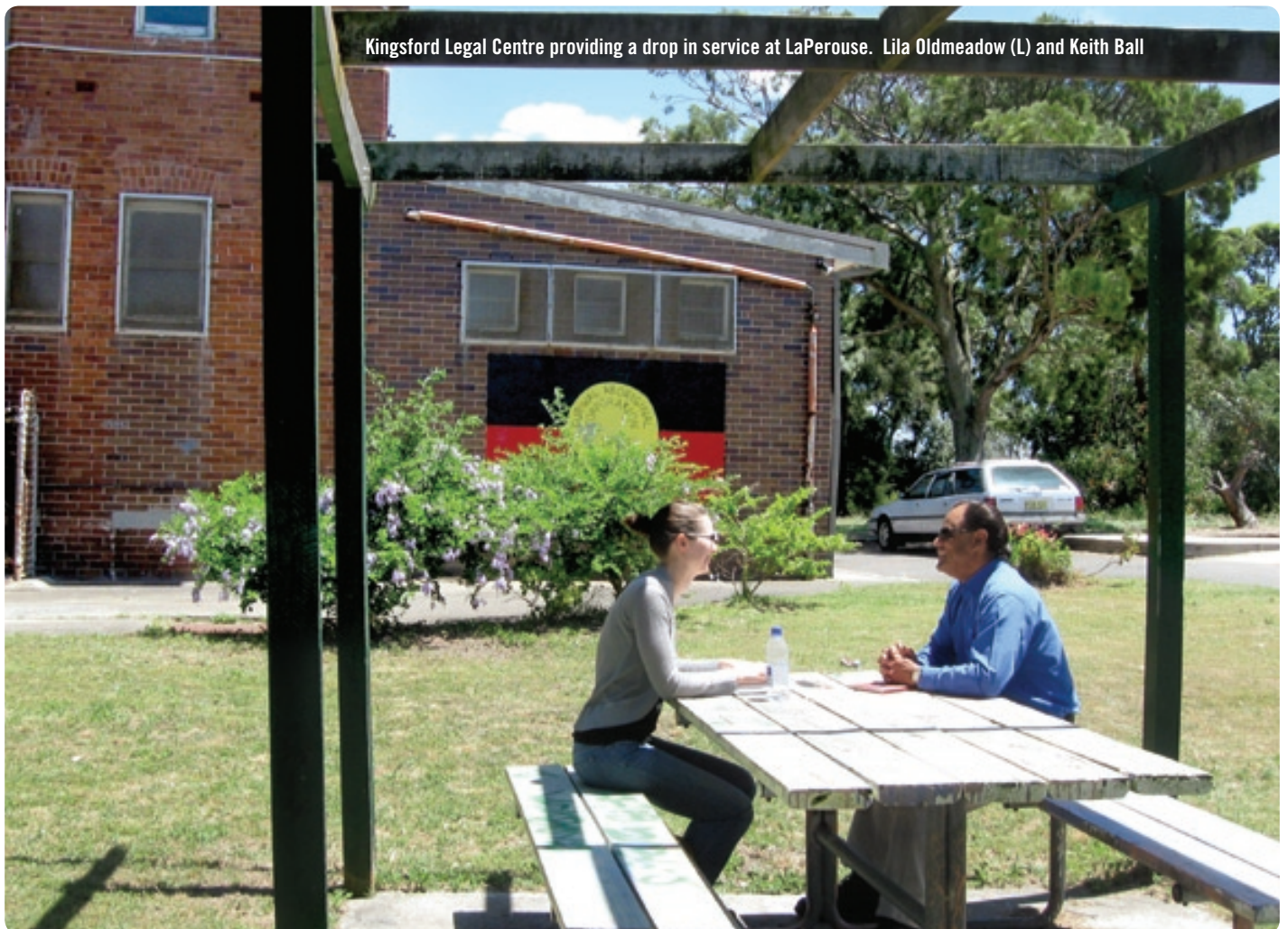
- National Human Rights Consultation - CLCNSW and CLCs around the state enthusiastically participated and encouraged participation (see elsewhere in this report for more details).

- CEDAW Shadow Report - CLCs, and in particular Women's Legal Services, were involved in preparation of this report.
- Freedom of Religion and Belief in the 21st Century (Australian Human Rights Commission Inquiry) – joint submission from a number of CLCs on behalf of CLCNSW.
- NSW Strategic Framework on Domestic Violence – submissions and participation in subsequent consultations.

The Domestic Violence / Victims Compensation committee continued to be very active, and other law reform working groups have been established to facilitate information sharing and collaboration on law reform and policy work.

Of course, many specialist CLCs were engaged in extensive law reform efforts in their areas of expertise.

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



Kingsford Legal Centre providing a drop in service at LaPerouse. Lila Oldmeadow (L) and Keith Ball

Educating the community about its legal rights

'Law Matters' on air! North and North West CLS radio program

North & North West CLS hosts an hour-long, weekly radio program, 'Law Matters', on the Community Radio Station 2ARM 92.1FM, talking on various topics with some invited guest speakers. A recent program discussed aspects of Constitutional Law with Bryan Pape, Senior Lecturer at the University of New England, who challenged the validity of the Federal Government's Stimulus Package in the High Court. Other topics have included the national Human Rights consultation, aspects of Family Law with guest speaker Michael Green QC, tenancy issues with KerryAnn Pankhurst, Service Manager of NEWTAAS, aged care rights with Stephen Newell of TARS, credit and debt matters, civil claims, and road and traffic offences. The Radio Station broadcasts to a potential audience of some 30,000 people.

Building the profile of the Western Sydney Tenants Service Parramatta

Western Sydney Tenants Service (WESTS) Parramatta, auspiced by Macquarie Legal Centre, has been busy publicising its services throughout the Parramatta, Holyrod, Auburn and Blacktown areas. Tenant advocate Linda Grady did an interview on a local radio station, SWR FM, to promote the service. Every month, WESTS runs an average of two Community Legal Education sessions (CLEs) with communities that have been identified as

needing assistance in understanding their rights and responsibilities including members of local African and Karin communities. WESTS staff are holding CLEs with clients from the Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association and Department of Aging Disability and Home Care. Staff also undertake duty advocacy at the Parramatta Consumer Trader and Tenancy Tribunal twice a month.

Elizabeth Evatt CLC responds to unmet legal needs in care and protection

EECLC's Care and Protection Early Intervention Advocacy Project is a response to unmet legal needs in the care and protection system for clients and workers in the Blue Mountains, Greater Lithgow, Oberon, Bathurst and surrounding communities.

The Project has three important goals:

- To improve access to legal advice and minor assistance for marginalised and disadvantaged clients involved in care and protection matters;
- To facilitate regional training opportunities for government and non government care and protection workers focusing on collaborative practice; and
- To promote a co-ordinated and holistic interagency approach to care and protection at the local level.

From 1 July 2009, the project will move to its final phase, with the delivery of more accessible legal services, a community legal education strategy and a framework for improved collaboration between services.



Mural outside
Marrickville Legal
Centre.

© Marrickville Legal Centre

Michael Lalor (North & North West CLS Principal Solicitor) and Karthigeyan Kanagasabapathy (N&NWCLS Solicitor) at 2ARMFM Community Radio Station in Armidale, where they host the weekly radio program 'Law Matters'



Young People and Fines Project in the Illawarra

The Illawarra Legal Centre's (ILC) Children's Court Assistance Scheme (CCAS) has identified the need for information to be available for young people on the laws relating to fines. Significant numbers of young people have incurred large debts through being fined. Many of the fines are for travelling without a ticket but others include public order offences that incur on-the-spot fines. The ILC, in collaboration with Wollongong University Law Faculty workers and students, has undertaken research on existing work around fines, identified the basis and context for current laws around fines, and investigated alternate approaches that reduce the negative impact of fines on young people. Recommendations from this work will be submitted to relevant authorities.

This project will produce education resources for young people and community sector workers outlining the serious consequences for young people incurring large debts.

Community Legal Education Workers (CLEW)

Group Report Susan Winfield and Anna Hartree, Co-Conveners

The NSW CLEW Network convenes quarterly and communicates regularly to share knowledge and ideas for the effective organisation and delivery of legal education to the community. The conveners this past year have been Susan Winfield, Senior Solicitor at the Consumer Credit Legal Centre, and Anna Hartree, Coordinator from Kingsford Legal Centre.

Membership of the CLEW network 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 coordinators. One of the important focuses of the network meetings is the sharing of ideas, experiences and information on CLE activities undertaken in each CLC. The breadth of knowledge,

innovation and creativity within the CLEW Network is truly inspiring.

The network continues to include training session at each quarterly meeting on issues specific to the delivery of community legal education. This year the CLEW network has benefited from training sessions on International Human Rights Day – 60th Anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights presented by Brenda Bailey from PIAC, the Guardianship Tribunal presented by Jill Forrester and on Legal Aid Commission's Older Person's Legal Service presented by Lauren Finestone.

NSW CLEW participates in the National CLEW network. Regular national phone link ups have allowed State CLC workers to share ideas on education sessions, plan for the CLC National Conference and look at the national guidelines for community legal education. As well as hearing about highlights in education there has been an emphasis on how programs have been developed and presented. This shared information has helped facilitate national projects around human rights as well as specialist creative learning activities in areas such as tenancy and credit and debt. The 2009 National CLC Conference gathering of workers doing CLE considered the proposal for a pilot national CLE coordination scheme.

The NSW CLEW conveners also participate in the Legal Information and Referral Forum (LIRF) which aims to improve referral pathways and access to legal information, and reports to NSW Legal Assistance Forum on a quarterly basis. This year, LIRF meeting have concentrated on information and referrals in relation to credit and debt, Domestic Violence and the legal needs of older people.

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.

Improving access to justice for Aboriginal people and communities

Kingsford Legal Centre Aboriginal Legal Access Project progresses

Kingsford Legal Centre's (KLC) Aboriginal Access Worker, Keith Ball, commenced in November 2008. Over the past 6 months a good working relationship has begun to be established with the local Aboriginal community in the Botany and Randwick local government areas. An outreach service at Yarra Bay House in La Perouse for the local Aboriginal community has continued on a weekly basis.

In June an outreach service to the local youth centre, The Shack, will be provided every fourth Monday of each month. This service will provide the teenage and pre-teenage populations in the local area with a stronger opportunity for them to access legal advice in an environment where they feel comfortable.

The KLC Aboriginal Advisory Group (KLC AAG) held its first meeting in April. There are currently 4 Indigenous community members on the group.

Upcoming projects include a drawing/painting/digital art competition for Indigenous students at local primary and high schools, of which the winning pieces will be used on future KLC Indigenous resources.

As a result of all of Keith's hard work KLC's quarterly statistics for the period ending March 2009 have seen an increase in the number of Indigenous clients accessing our services. Over this period, 5% of the clients identified as Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander. This is the first time this level has been reached since this particular information has been recorded.

EDO: improving access to environmental law for Aboriginal communities

■ Caring for Country project

Through the Caring for Country project, the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) is able to provide a targeted environmental legal service to Aboriginal communities. It is the only NSW legal service provider pursuing litigation to



Kingsford Legal Centre stall at La Perouse NAIDOC celebrations (Anna Hartree, Linda Tucker, far left)



Kevin Butler with his prize winning entry for the ILC Aboriginal Art Competition

prosecute destruction and damage of Aboriginal cultural heritage. It does this through a combination of litigation, legal and technical advice, policy and law reform, and community education. An Aboriginal Liaison Officer has been employed and an Aboriginal Advisory Committee, comprising influential indigenous representatives, is in place to guide the EDO's indigenous engagement.

■ Scientific Advisory Service

The EDO established the Scientific Advisory Service in 2003 to provide pro bono scientific advice to the EDO and its clients. The Service, which now has a register of 120, makes experts available to communities who are trying to protect their local environment and who cannot afford to pay for scientific advice. It also allows communities to base their submissions to decision-makers on scientific evidence, and as such, represents a different approach to community involvement in decision-making processes affecting their local communities and local environment.

Illawarra Legal Centre's Aboriginal Art Competition

The Illawarra Legal Centre hosted an Aboriginal Art Competition, which was finalised in June 2009.

A launch night was held at the Old Court House in Wollongong on the 15th July 2009 where the winner of the competition was announced. The competition was won by the artwork named "One Race Per Planet", created by Kevin Butler a well-respected local artist.

It is the aim of the Illawarra Legal Centre to have the artwork digitally transferred to sheet metal and mounted at the entrance of the Illawarra Legal Centre. It is hoped that the signage will be welcoming to the Aboriginal community and generally improve the appearance of the building.

Access to justice for rural, regional and remote communities

Central Coast's Homeless Outreach Legal Service

The Central Coast Homeless Outreach Legal Service (CCHOLS) was established in 2006 with the aim of providing free legal advice, representation and referrals to homeless people, or people at risk of becoming homeless, on the Central Coast.

The service has three sites, which are familiar and easily accessible to target clients, with a solicitor attending each of the sites on a weekly basis. The focus of the service is working in partnership with various community welfare and emergency housing service providers, to provide socially informed and appropriate legal assistance.

Hume Riverina's Family Law Assistance Clinic

The Family Law Assistance Clinic (FLAC) was established in 2003 to address the unmet need of community members who were unable to access free family law advice. The project recognised the need for assistance to self-represented litigants in family law matters in both Victoria and NSW. The project empowers the client to maintain responsibility for their matter whilst providing a high standard of assistance in the production of competently drafted legal documents. With weekly clinics, the FLAC has had over 500 advice sessions in the past five years.

Rural, regional and remote CLC website development

North & North West Community Legal Service (NNWCLS), on behalf of six regional, rural and remote (RRR) community legal centres, ran a project to develop websites to enable people in RRR areas to access information about community legal centres in their area.

Launched in February 2008, each of the six RRR centres are successfully managing and expanding their own websites, with links to other sites, fact sheets and FAQs added. They reach the Newcastle, Blue Mountains, Windsor, Dubbo and Lismore areas and the North & North West region of NSW.

Rural, regional and remote CLCs

sub-committee report *Amanda Smithers, Convenor*

Much has changed with the RRR committee but equally much has stayed the same. Committee personnel may change but the focus and direction of the committee, that is the issues and concerns facing RRR centres, remain constant.

We started the year with Tracey Willow and Joanne Newland as co-convenors. Due to changing circumstances these roles were taken over by Karin Ness and Amanda Smithers. The quarterly meetings were facilitated by Karin and continued the process of providing RRR staff the opportunity to raise issues and discuss possible strategies.

A major issue facing rural communities is the attraction and retention of professionals. There has been significant coverage in the media however it has focused mainly on teachers, doctors and allied health professionals however the issue is equally pertinent to lawyers.

In July 2008 a report by Trish Mundy for the Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre looked at the problem specifically in relation to the attraction and retention of lawyers in RRR areas. The review sought to understand the nature and extent of the problem through:

- the development of a statistical profile;
- an analysis of the literature; and
- the identification of initiatives.

It concluded with possible strategies but has recommended further research.

The issue of attraction and retention of lawyers, amongst a range of other issues including the increased demand for CLC services, was also raised in material collected from member CLCs and provided to the NSW Legal Access Forum (NLAF), as part of their submission to the House of Representatives Inquiry into the impact of the global financial crisis on regional Australia and the role of the Commonwealth Government in ensuring that Australia is equipped to respond. This submission was later reported on by the Sydney Morning Herald and included a number of RRR examples.

As a result of this submission NLAF was invited to address the Standing Committee for the Inquiry. Alastair McEwin and Amanda Smithers, along with representatives from



Arts Law Centre of Australia Senior Solicitor Delwyn Everard and artist Shirley Banalanydju in Ramingining for the Wills Project

© Arts Law Centre of Australia 2008, Photograph by Kyas Sherriff

the Law Society, Legal Aid NSW and the Aboriginal Legal Service, reiterated issues such as:

- attraction and retention of lawyers (particularly taking into account inequitable pay scales as compared to Legal Aid NSW);
- funding (receiving one-off funding as opposed to

increased core funding);

- access to suitable accommodation; and
- increased need for our services (and concern that this is matched by increased unmet need).

The Inquiry also held hearings at Broken Hill where the Far West CLC gave evidence.

Access to justice for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault

Immigration Advice & Rights Centre's Domestic/Family Violence Project

The Domestic/Family Violence Project, run by IARC, was established to guide victims of domestic violence through the complexity of Australian immigration legislation. The project developed a plain English guide to how the legislation operates and provides comprehensive guidance to victims of domestic/family violence, social workers, community workers, migration agents and others. It has been translated into 18 different community languages. The project also runs community information sessions about the Domestic/Family Violence provisions in Australian immigration law.

Domestic Violence and Victims Compensation sub-committee report

Alicia Jillard and Rachael Martin, Co-convenors

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

This year our committee was very busy, as can be seen below. The work of the Sub-Committee was mostly dominated by law reform work and we were active in preparing submissions and engaging in consultations with government. This year we also created an email list to create a more direct means of communication between committee members to respond to consultations and prepare submissions. Our meetings have changed over the course of the year to include dedicated slots for the same-sex domestic violence working group and sexual assault issues.

Thanks to the continued high attendance and interest of committee members. Also a big thank you to Elena Grinfeld for her efforts as DV co-convenor. Elena left the position and WLS NSW this year to take up a position at EWON.

Victims Compensation

Letters were sent to the Attorney-General, the Director of Victims Services and a number of other key ministers and shadow ministers, detailing our significant concerns in relation to:

- the Attorney-General's announcement of the streamlining of the victims compensation process to remove/reduce the role of solicitors; and
- the law reform recommendations made by the outgoing chairperson of the Victims Compensation Tribunal being considered by the Attorney General's Department.

Representatives of the Sub-Committee met with the Acting Director of Victims Services and the Assistant Director-General of the NSW Attorney to be briefed on the review of Victims Services.

In October 2008 we sent a submission to the Ombudsman's review of the FOI Act, many thanks to Megan Cameron and Pip Davis for drafting such a comprehensive document. We also sent letters to police regarding delays in response to Freedom of Information requests.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence has been high on State and National agendas this year. We have been busy keeping up to date with policy consultations and the many changes to AVO legislation this year. We have been particularly concerned with changes to Changes to Local Court Chamber Registrar Services and changes to the law allowing a defendant to seek revocation of an order after it has expired, making it easier for AVO defendants to apply for a gun licence.

Pip Davis was elected as our CCLCG representative on the Apprehended Violence Legal Issues Coordinating Committee (AVLICC). AVLICC is concerned with the appropriate coordination of criminal justice system services for people seeking apprehended violence orders, examining and identifying legal, policy and procedural barriers to the provision of adequate criminal justice system services. AVLICC puts forward recommendations to government to improve legislation, policies and procedures.

We made a lengthy submission in April 2009 to the NSW Domestic Violence and Family Violence Strategic Framework. Thanks to Felicity Martin for writing it and to the contributions from Rachael Martin, Immigration Advice and Rights Centre and Yasmin Hunter.

Submission from the group made in August 2008 to the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and Children, thanks to Elena Grinfeld for preparing it.

Independent Social Security Handbook (6th edition) Welfare Rights Centre

The Welfare Rights Centre has completed the first major re-write of this popular Handbook in 5 years. The Handbook was first published in 1991 and since then has proved to be an invaluable resource for community workers who need to know about Social Security law and its administration through Centrelink. The 6th edition comprises 50 chapters and includes information about:

- the “Welfare to Work” changes which resulted in thousands of Social Security recipients being subject to the current penalty regime;
- the new rules relating to eligibility for Disability Support Pension, Newstart Allowance (partial capacity) along with Parenting Payment Single and Newstart Allowance (principal carer);
- the income management or “quarantine” rules introduced by the previous Government; and
- the legal rights a person has under Social Security law including how they can appeal to an Authorised Review Officer (ARO), to the Social Security Appeals Tribunal (SSAT).

Go to: <http://www.welfarerights.org.au/pages/issah.aspx>

Rural Landholder’s Guide to Environmental Law in New South Wales (2nd edition)

Environmental Defender’s Office NSW

‘The Rural Landholder’s Guide to Environmental Law in NSW’, produced by the EDO, is a plain English publication designed to familiarise rural landholders with the many environmental and natural resource management laws that apply to them.

It also serves as a referral service, steering people to other organisations and resources



that can provide more information and assistance. This project collates a vast amount of complex information into a single and easy to understand guide. The topics covered in this booklet include: vegetation management, protected plants and animals, bushfire management, development consent, mining and quarrying, and heritage protection.

30,000 free copies of the guide have already been distributed, with a further edition and print run of another 40,000 due out later in 2009.

To order, go to: www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/contactus.php

Blogging: The Brown Couch Tenants’ Union of NSW

The TU now has a blog called the Brown Couch. “Like the iconic piece of share-house furniture after which it is named, the Brown Couch is a place where tenants can catch up on the latest news, be cheaply entertained, and commune with their fellow tenants.”

Go to: <http://tunswblog.blogspot.com/>

Capacity building for environmental law in the South Pacific report

Environmental Defender’s Office NSW

This report was prepared by the EDO at the request of the IUCN Environmental Law Program. It is intended to inform the development and implementation of a project to build the environmental law capacity of government and nongovernment organisations in the South Pacific region, to be delivered jointly by the IUCN and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), in collaboration with government and non-government partners throughout the region. The report provides an overview of the following topics:



- environmental issues in the South Pacific;
- environmental law and policy in the South Pacific;
- key institutions and existing capacity-building programs; and
- proposed capacity-building strategies and activities.

Go to: <http://www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/publications.php#pacific>

Children in the Creative Process: Information for Artists and Arts Organisations – Australia

Arts Law Centre of Australia

This fact sheet, developed by Arts Law Centre of Australia, deals with freedom of expression, a fundamental principle in the arts. It discusses a number of aspects where that freedom is limited by law, and where the interests of an artist and the interests of the children they work with must be balanced according to the legislation. Where the artistic and creative process involves children, the law imposes a number of limits and constraints designed to protect children from exploitation or harm. The fact sheet is designed for those contemplating working with or using children in any part of the creative or artistic process, and provides an understanding of the legal rules that apply.

Go to: <http://www.artslaw.com.au/LegalInformation/ChildrenInTheCreativeProcess/default.asp>

Wallet card for young people on new compliance regime

Welfare Rights Centre

The Welfare Rights Centre, Sydney received a grant from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) to produce a wallet card primarily aimed at young people and jobseekers. The project, which was timed to coincide with the introduction of the new compliance regime on 1 July 2009, contains information



about young job seekers' rights, responsibilities and obligations when it comes to Centrelink. It also simplifies the complex new compliance regime, explaining the different types of penalties, ways to appeal and "get out of it".

Young people are disproportionately affected by Social Security penalties. In 2007/2008 one in four of all participation failures were imposed on young people between the ages of 18 and 21 years. More than ever, young people need independent advice and information about the new penalties system. They also need to know where to go to get that free advice. The wallet cards have all the telephone numbers of Welfare Rights Centres around the country.

Go to: <http://www.welfarerights.org.au/SharedDocuments/Getpaidnotpenalised.pdf>

Relationships and Centrelink booklet Illawarra Legal Centre

The ILC has rewritten their booklet "Relationships and Centrelink" to cover the recent changes to the law to remove discrimination towards same sex couples under Centrelink rules and regulations. Before July 1 2009, same sex couples were classed as singles by Centrelink. From July 1 2009, people in same sex relationships will be required to establish the status of their relationship for the purpose of determining what payment they are now eligible for.

The booklet contains new sections on Your Rights and Centrelink and Investigations and Centrelink.

Contact Illawarra Legal Centre for more information:

T: (02) 4276 1939, E: illawarra_nsw@clc.net.au

Activists Rights Manual Redfern Legal Centre

RLC held a party to launch the Activists Rights Manual (website) at the Alexandria Hotel in Sydney. The event was well attended with Meredith Burgmann entertaining the crowd with stories about her life as a young activist and the lack of resources available then (she went on to become a member (and then President) of the NSW Legislative Council).

The Activist Rights Manual is designed to help activists change the world. It is focused on activism in Sydney, Australia and is a response to an increasing tendency of police to be aggressive at protests, which can infringe important human rights. It is intended for a non-legal audience, yet it should also be of assistance to lawyers who have an interest in this area of law.

Go to: www.activistrightsmanual.com

Administrators and Finance Officers working group report

Hilary Chesworth and Janna Taylor, Co-convenors

Administrators and Finance Officers from community legal centres throughout NSW meet at the Quarterlies to discuss matters of interest, as well as financial matters and issues relating to funding.

In the last year all participants were encouraged to make use of the Financial Skills Database which is available on the BBS. This database links staff from particular CLCs with specific skills in a number of areas such as use of CLSIS or salary packaging. It is especially useful for staff new to CLCs.

Other matters discussed at the meetings in the 2008-2009 period included:

- Travel allowances
- Worker compensation and on-site consultants
- Fringe Benefit Tax and salary packaging
- Study leave provided by centres
- IT providers used by various CLCs

In May Dennis Roach, Funding Program Manager from Legal Aid NSW, along with Lesley Taylor from the Commonwealth spoke on funding. Participants had the

opportunity to ask questions relevant to their funding.

Hilary, who has convened the meeting for some years, took a well-earned break after 2008, and Janna will also be retiring handing over the role of convener. We would like to thank everyone for their continued interest and participation and for contributing to discussion in our meetings.

National Association of Community Legal Centres representative's report

Linda Tucker, NSW state representative to NACLCL

Over the past year, the NACLCL management committee (MC) finalised the Accreditation and common membership rules for community legal centres. These were drafted following consultation with centres via the State and territory Associations with the aim of raising the CLC profile, publicising our work, protecting the CLC 'brand' and CLC clients against 'lookalike' services and helping ensure consistent quality of services. The rules were adopted by NSW in May 2009 and have now been implemented in most jurisdictions.

The MC finalised the 2009-2012 NACLCL Strategic Plan and also finalised and endorsed the NACLCL contribution waiver policy and accepted the ALAF Statement of Co-



operation. A NALCLC intern prepared an Indigenous Employment Strategy which the MC finalised and endorsed in March. It was sent out to the State and Territory Associations with the recommendation that member CLCs adopt the strategy.

NALCLC provided a submission to the National Human Rights Charter Consultation, drafted by Bill Mitchell who also appeared at the consultation in Canberra.

There was a lot of concern about one off Federal Government funding that was announced in May. NALCLC wrote to the Attorney General to express concern about the lack of information about the reasons for the funding and reiterate our submission that CLCs need recurrent funding.

At the end of June, we received confirmation that CLSP funding was extended by one year to 'enable further consultation on the recommendations of the review of the Commonwealth Community Legal Services Program and finalisation of any consequent changes to the new service agreements.'

Legal Aid Commission representative report

Sara Blazey, Legal Aid Commissioner

(Alternate Legal Aid Commissioner: Maria Girdler)

Sara Blazey 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 subcommittee on CLCs and is a representative on the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Programme Advisory Committee.

It has been another busy year for Legal Aid NSW particularly facing the challenge of increased demand for services with reduced resources. The means and merit tests had to be reviewed across all areas to keep expenditure within budget. Although this resulted in some cuts to grants of aid these were kept to a minimum. There continues to be close cooperation between Legal Aid and CLCs particularly with regard to working together in the delivery of legal services. This year has seen a particular emphasis on service delivery in rural and remote areas. This close working relationship is vital in an area of finite resources. Programmes such as Cooperative Legal Services Delivery model will continue to expand and play an important role in filling the gap in legal services.

State Office reports

The State Office of CLCNSW has the following 7 objectives under its strategic plan:

1. Maintain a functional, collaborative and effective network of CLCs in NSW

2. Develop, preserve and promote a clear identity for CLCs and our unique place in the justice sector
3. Build the organisational capacity of CLCs to operate effectively and deliver quality services
4. Advocate for appropriate law reform and effectively promote respect for Human Rights
5. Improve funding for CLCs
6. Increase access to justice and legal services
7. Operate an efficient, effective and best-practice office.

Legal Needs project

CLCNSW established, in September 2008, the Legal Needs project to develop and trial a model of evidence-based legal needs research and strategic planning for community legal centres. Its broader objective was to more effectively target the legal services provided to economically and socially disadvantaged people in NSW by community legal centres. Among a range of products of the project, a key product will be the planning toolkit, which will include reports on legal needs issues, a template strategic plan and a step-by-step guide for centres to gather and analyse their own research.

CLCNSW has worked closely with a consultancy, Judith Stubbs & Associates, and two pilot CLCs, Western NSW CLC and Women's Legal Services NSW, to trial and implement the model. The project has been overseen by a steering committee made up of representatives from CLCNSW, the two pilot CLCs, NALCLC, LawAccess, Legal Aid NSW and the Law & Justice Foundation. The project has been financially supported by WLS, Legal Aid NSW and the Foundation. The project is expected to be completed in October 2009, with an implementation process later in 2009/10.

Aboriginal Legal Access Program

For 2008/09, CLCNSW continued to receive funding from the Public Purpose Fund to run the 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 Community Legal Centres (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 NSW CLCs for projects which endeavour to meet the aims of the ALAP. In 2008/09, CLCNSW provided grants to the following CLCs for Aboriginal legal access programs:

- Hawkesbury Nepean CLC: Aboriginal Legal Access Service

- Northern Rivers CLC: Mirrung Ngu Wanjarri Program
- Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre: Creating Spaces Program
- Illawarra Legal Centre: Aboriginal Legal Access Worker
- Macarthur Legal Centre: Indigenous Legal Outreach Project
- Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre: Indigenous Legal Access and Violence Prevention
- Kingsford Legal Centre: La Perouse Outreach Service
- Environmental Defender's Office NSW: Caring for Country
- Redfern Legal Centre: Helping Women Through
- Macquarie Legal Centre: Identifying Broken Bridges
- NSW Disability Discrimination Legal Centre: Scoping project, Northern Rivers Indigenous disability issues
- Arts Law Centre of Australia: Evaluation of 'Artists in the Black' (AITB) Education Program

Learning and Development Program

2008/09 saw the completion of the first year of a 3-year funding period of the new Learning and Development (L&D) program. The L&D program is a revised and extended version of the Training Program funded by the PPF in November 2006. The model used in the program provides the benefits of centralisation – with its efficiency

of scale, avoidance of duplication, and encouragement of collaboration – while at the same time being flexible enough to meet the needs of individual centres and their clients.

The new Program provides:

- An integrated program of training workshops and seminars
- Specific learning and development opportunities for generic roles in the sector – solicitors, coordinators/ executive officers, administrative workers – as well as volunteers and management committee members
- Regular “Legal Update” sessions and Legal Training days
- Provision of new training resources
- Better use of technology to administer the program and deliver learning outcomes.

Highlights of L&D program:

- Development of CLC Staff Induction Kit for NSW (with plans to make it relevant for CLCs nationally)
- Formation of National Sector Development Team (representatives from Federation of CLCs Victoria and QAILS)
- Legal Training Needs Analysis
- Quarterly training calendars
- RRR visits to Northern Rivers and Tweed Heads offices, QAILS, Federation of CLCs Victoria, PILCH



Arts Law Centre's Indigenous Legal Services Officer Trudie Broderick (2nd from left) at the GARMA Key Forum

- Formed a Learning and Development subcommittee
- Formed a State Conference Committee
- CLSIS training via Webex
- Report on Governance Training with recommendations

Training provided in 2008/09 included:

General:

- Time Management
- Community Education (x2)
- BBS Training (Beginners and Intermediate) (x3)
- Older person's Legal Education Program (LAC and TARS)
- How the Care and Protection section of LAC works
- Law Access
- Aboriginal Cultural Awareness (x2)
- CLSIS training (x2)
- Mental Health Awareness
- Accidental Counsellor

Legal:

- Progressing a case through the Administration Appeals Tribunal
- Error of law in judicial decision making
- Practical skills for drafting affidavits
- Media Strategies
- Employment Law (for solicitors)
- Mandatory 176 (MCLEx2)
- Credit and Debt Ombudsman
- Security law
- CLC involvement in national consultations on protecting human rights / Charter campaign
- How to lobby the NSW AG
- Older persons

Management:

- Governance (including outreach to RRR areas)
- Leadership Effectiveness Training
- Salary Packaging / Sacrifice session
- Diploma of Management (2 places offered by LAC for UTS course)



CLC graduates of the Diploma of Business (Frontline Management). (L-R), Polly Porteous, Peter Davies, Catherine Kerr, Janna Taylor, Lee Taylor. Joined by Joanna Mantziaris (far left), Alan Kirkland (3rd from right), and Professor Theo van Leeuwen (2nd from right)

CLCNSW State Office staff members

Name	Position	Dates
Alison Aggarwal	Advocacy and Human Rights Officer (AHRO)	Leave without pay April 2008 – June 2009, left March 2009
Norico Allen	Finance Officer	Ongoing
Ellen Davis	Administrative Assistant	Ongoing
Joanna Mantziaris	Learning & Development Coordinator	Ongoing
Pauline Matthews	Administrator	Commenced September 2008
Alastair McEwin	Director	Commenced October 2008
Jean Parker	Information & Resources Officer	Ongoing
Polly Porteous	Director	Left October 2008
Renee Williamson	Aboriginal Legal Access Program Coordinator	Ongoing
Roxana Zulfacar	Advocacy and Human Rights Officer	Locum July 2008 – May 2009, permanent from May 2009

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES NSW INC

ABN: 22 149 415 148

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, Community Legal Centres NSW Inc (the association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2009 for the year then ended, the income statement, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 NSW and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibilities also include designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also

includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 NSW. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Basis for Qualified Auditor's Opinion

The financial report of Community Legal Centres NSW Inc (formerly Community Legal Centres Group (NSW)) Inc as at 30 June 2008, was audited by another auditor, Sandra Grollmus whose report dated 8 October 2008, expressed unqualified opinion on those statements. We were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the comparatives. Accordingly, we are not in a position to, and do not express any assurance in respect of the comparative information for the period ended 30 June 2009.

Qualified Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects on the financial statements of the matters referred to in the qualification paragraph, the financial report of Community Legal Centres NSW Inc presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Community Legal Centres NSW Inc as of 30 June 2009 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the Associations Incorporations Act 1984 NSW.

Name of firm: WalterTurnbull

Name of partner: Don Walter



Address: Level 13, 321 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Dated this 3rd day of November 2009

INCOME STATEMENT AND BALANCE SHEET

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	Note	2009 \$	Revised 2008 \$
INCOME			
Operating grants	2	917,436	630,934
Other income	3	49,420	110,658
		<u>966,856</u>	<u>741,592</u>
EXPENDITURE			
CCLCG expense	4	25,046	22,458
Program and planning expense	5	390,217	278,975
Office overheads expense	6	61,706	68,418
Office assets expense		862	2,704
Depreciation expense		7,849	3,946
Rental expense (premises)		32,183	29,835
Employee benefits expense	7	330,495	292,866
Other employees expense		27,105	11,292
Consultants & contractors expense		32,852	39,690
Other expense		11,279	2,898
		<u>919,594</u>	<u>753,082</u>
Current year surplus/ (loss)		<u>47,262</u>	<u>(11,490)</u>
RETAINED PROFITS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u>194,984</u>	<u>206,474</u>
RETAINED PROFITS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	17	<u>242,246</u>	<u>194,984</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2009

	Note	2009 \$	Revised 2008 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	8	219,693	162,901
Trade and other receivables		13,100	-
Prepayments		40,123	2,968
GST receivable		11,247	23,576
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>284,163</u>	<u>189,445</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Term deposit		55,414	41,244
Term deposit – bank guarantee		8,015	7,756
Property, plant and equipment	9	13,008	42,262
Bond – Electricity		350	350
Other non-current assets	10	8,659	2,650
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>85,446</u>	<u>94,262</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>369,609</u>	<u>283,707</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Group tax payable		14,182	11,298
Accrued expenses		11,788	15,404
Website to 2008		-	727
Grants received in advance	11	78,663	-
Provisions	12	22,730	60,937
Other current liabilities	13	-	357
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>127,363</u>	<u>88,723</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>127,363</u>	<u>88,723</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>242,246</u>	<u>194,984</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Reserves	14	138,390	113,390
Retained profits		103,856	81,594
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>242,246</u>	<u>194,984</u>

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 2 to 11:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Community Legal Centres NSW Inc as at 30 June 2009 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Community Legal Centres NSW Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Chairperson
Helen Campbell

Dated this 27th day of October 2009

Treasurer
Hilary Chesworth

The logo for Community Legal Centres NSW is a white speech bubble with a blue tail pointing downwards and to the left. Inside the bubble, the text "Community Legal Centres NSW" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, stacked in three lines.

Community Legal Centres NSW

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