

Community  
Legal Centres  
NSW

# NSW Community legal sector induction

February 2019

# Community legal centres in NSW

## Specialist Centres

- Animal Defenders Office (ADO)
- Arts Law Centre of Australia
- Australian Centre for Disability Law
- Australian Pro Bono Centre
- Environmental Defenders Office NSW (EDO)
- Financial Rights Legal Centre
- HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (NSW) (HALC)
- Human Rights Law Centre
- Immigration Advice and Rights Centre (IARC)
- Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS)
- Justice Connect
- National Children's and Youth Law Centre (NCYLC)
- Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC)
- Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS)
- Seniors Rights Service (SRS)
- Tenants' Union of NSW
- Thiyama-Li Family Violence Service
- Welfare Rights Centre
- Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
- Women's Legal Service NSW



## Generalist Centres

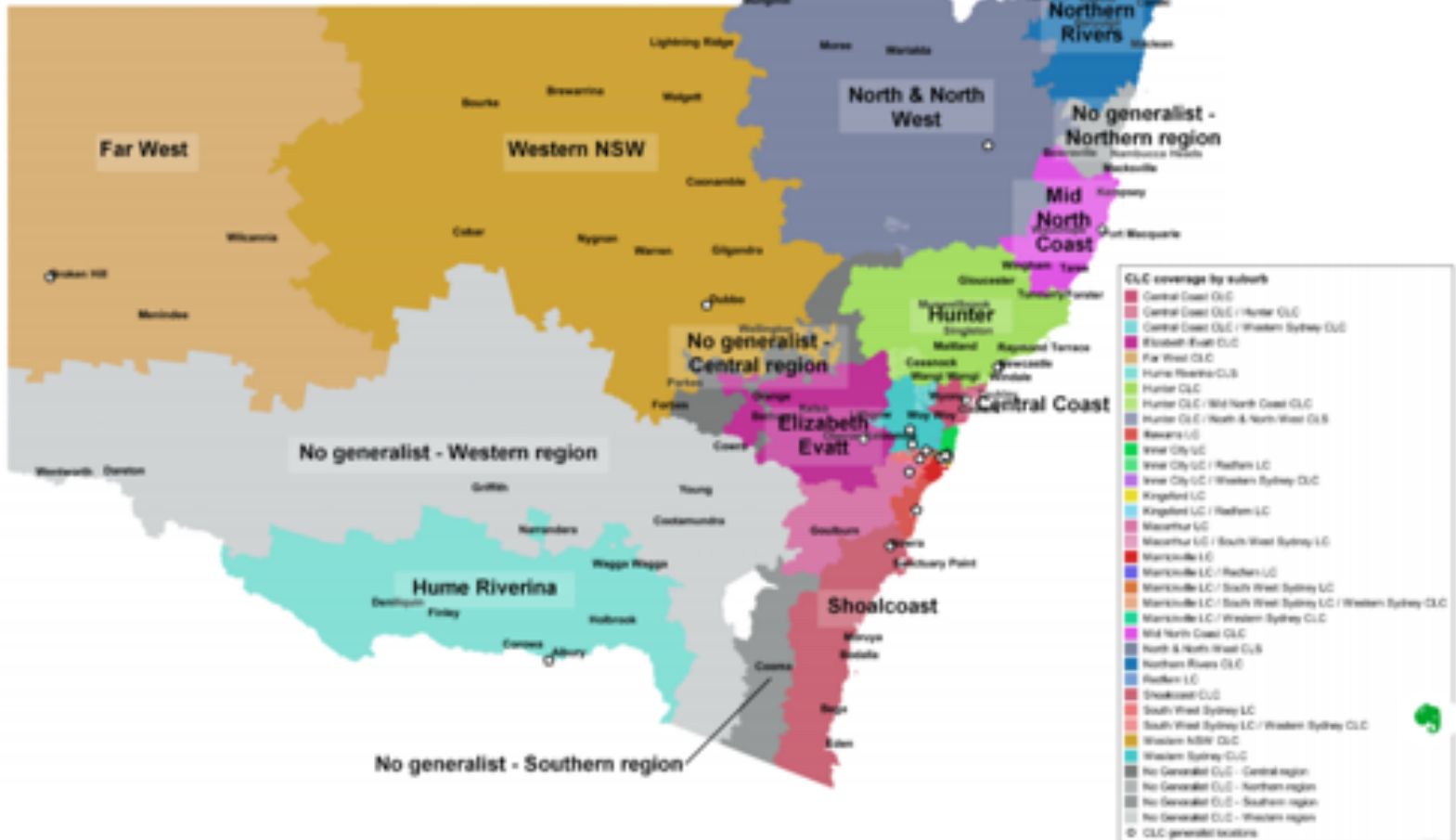
- Central Coast Community Legal Centre
- Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre
- Far West Community Legal Centre
- Hume Riverina Community Legal Service
- Hunter Community Legal Centre
- Illawarra Legal Centre
- Inner City Legal Centre
- Kingsford Legal Centre
- Macarthur Legal Centre
- Marrickville Legal Centre
- Mid North Coast Community Legal Centre
- North and North West Community Legal Service
- Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre
- Redfern Legal Centre
- Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre
- South West Sydney Legal Centre
- University of Newcastle Legal Centre
- Western NSW Community Legal Centre
- Western Sydney Community Legal Centre



elizabeth evatt  
community legal centre

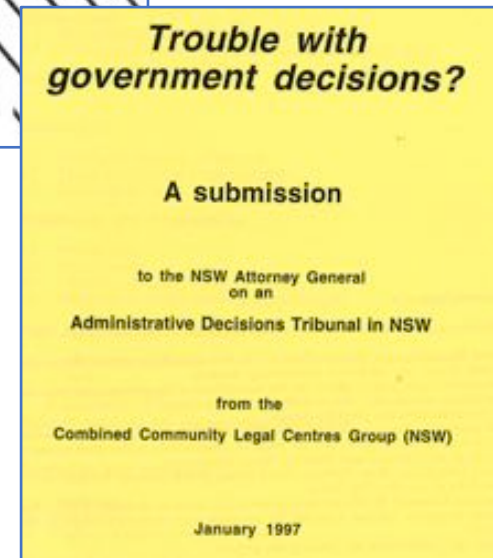
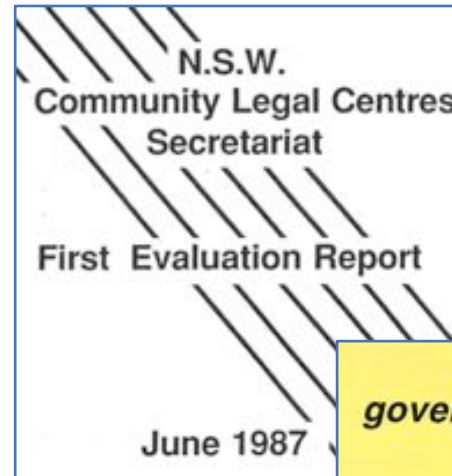
## Evidence of legal need in NSW

Figure 1: Catchment regions, NSW



[illegible]

# History & philosophy



Community legal centres in NSW  
have been around for 40 years.

<https://www.clcnsw.org.au/history-of-CLCs>



## 30 YEARS OF KINGSFORD LEGAL CENTRE



Brendan Edgeworth (head of School), Nevea Jivan (senior KLC Solicitor) and Tony Weiss (senior KLC Director)



KLC staff and friends



KLC Director Anna Cuddy & head of school Brendan Edgeworth



KLC Staff, Secondaries and Friends (past and present)



KLC - supporting social justice for 30 years



Macarthur Legal Centre executive officer Robert Pelletier (centre) celebrates the milestone 30th anniversary with staff Joanne Walker, Tanya Whitehouse, Shayin Schumacher, Rebecca Whitehouse and Danielle Archer. Picture: Angelo Velardo

### MACARTHUR

## Macarthur Legal Centre celebrates 30 years of reaching out to care for community

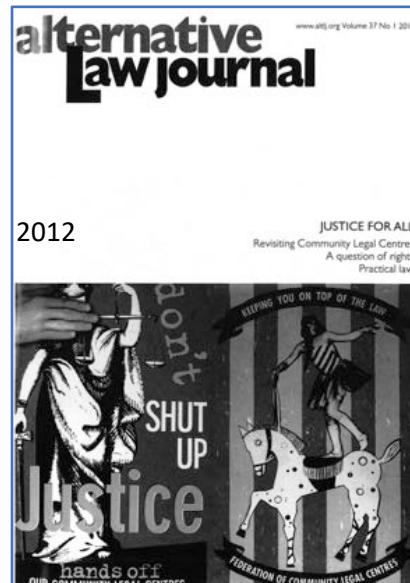
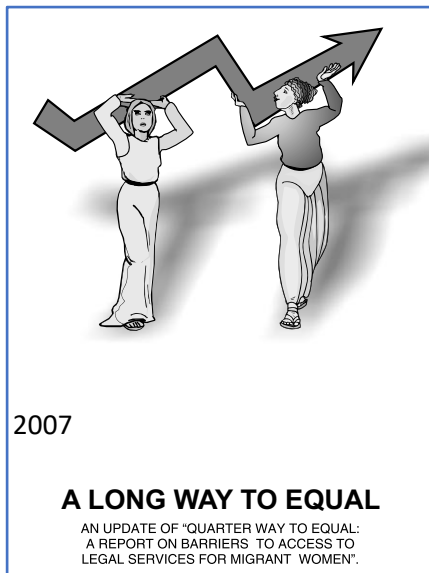
Luisa Cogno, Macarthur Chronicle Campbelltown  
November 9, 2017 9:50am



In 1982, a group of female legal activists founded Australia's first legal service for women. The Women's Legal Resources Centre (WLRC) was established to promote access to justice through the provision of legal services, law reform, and community legal education; particularly for women disadvantaged by social and economic circumstances. In 2016 we became the Women's Legal Service NSW



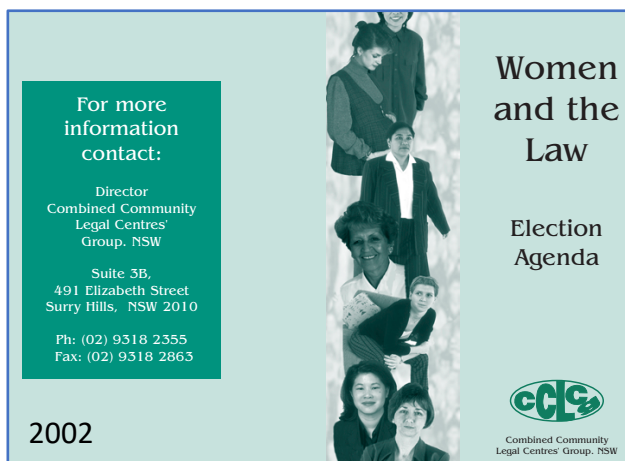
# History & philosophy



Community legal centres developed out of a concern that many people in the community were prevented from accessing legal assistance because of cost or other barriers.

The founders of the community legal centre movement recognized that many legal problems stemmed from, or are exacerbated by social and economic disadvantage or exclusion and can have enormous impact on many aspects of people's lives beyond the need to resolve an immediate legal issue.

Community legal centres have developed with a philosophy of holistic and accessible provision and the need to be proactive in addressing the root causes of the legal problems people experience. This has resulted in multidisciplinary teams within community legal centres, which may include community development workers, social workers, lawyers, researchers and educators.



# Legal need

- Based on income and education, almost 1 million people in NSW require legal assistance each year.
- *From the 2008 Law Survey:*



# The NSW Legal Assistance Sector



## Legal Aid Commission

- Government funded and run.
- Traditionally criminal, moving into civil, family, etc.
- Can formally help bottom 7%



## Aboriginal Legal Services

- Aboriginal community organisations in each state.
- Largely government funded
- Help Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people



## Community legal centres

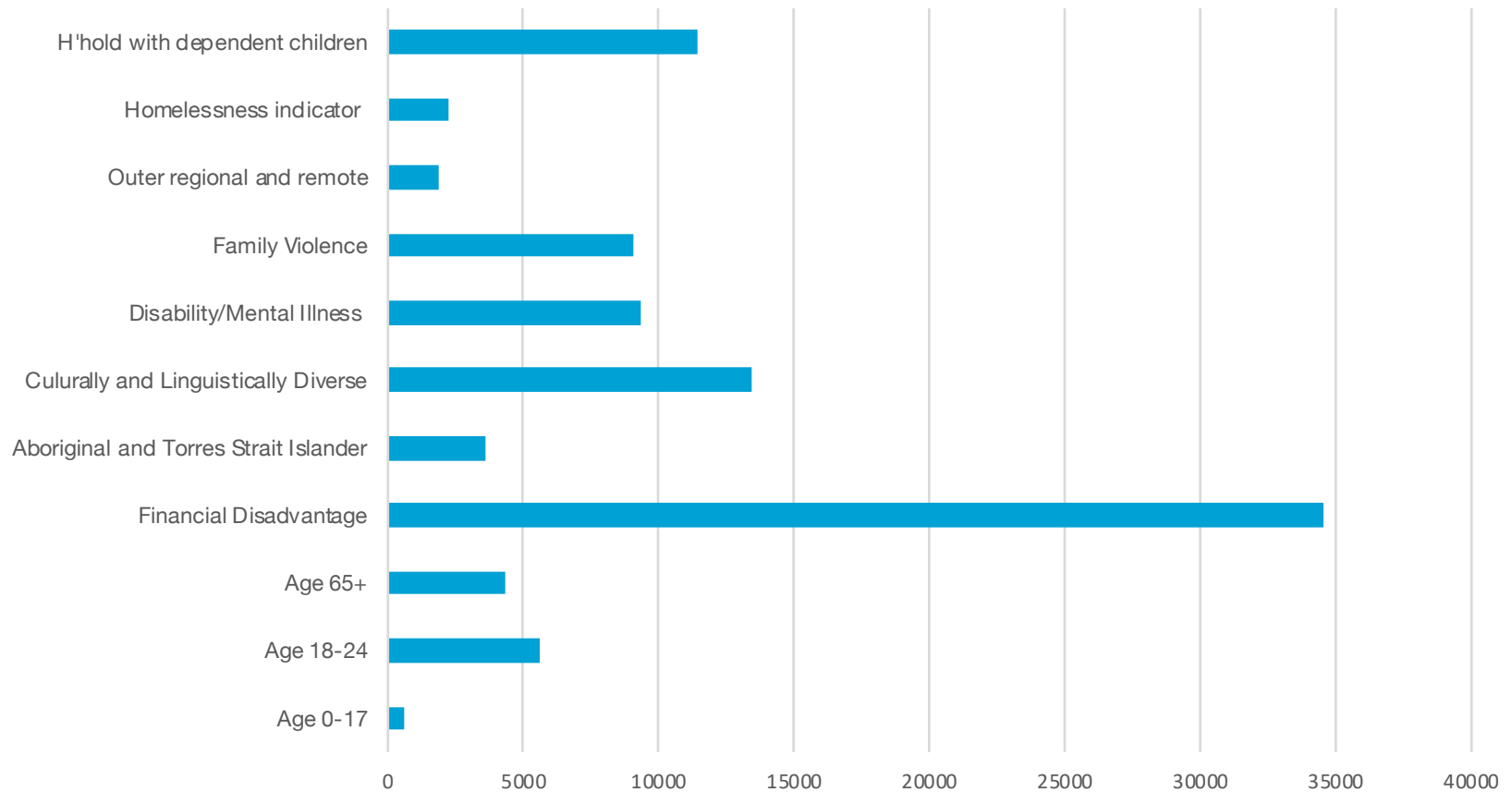
- Community owned and run.
- Funded by governments, grants, donations, etc.
- Help those Legal Aid can't or won't.
- Almost 200 individual CLCs across Australia.

*Also Law Access, Family Violence Prevention Legal Services, WDVCAS, TAAS, etc.*

# Priority Client Groups

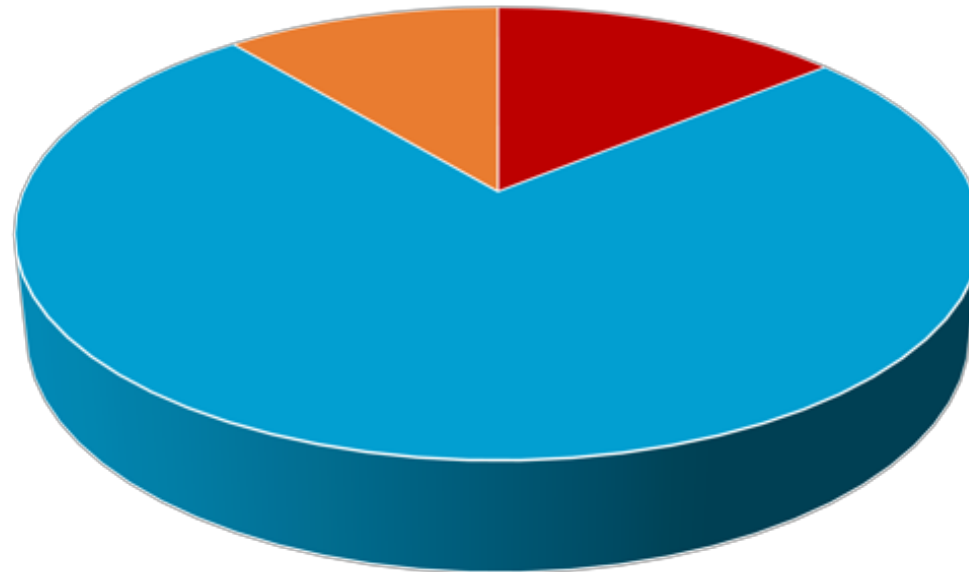
- people experiencing economic hardship
- children and young people
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- people in custody
- people in rural or remote areas
- people who are culturally and linguistically diverse
- people with a disability and mental illness
- people over 65 years
- people with low education levels,
- single parents
- people experiencing, or at risk of, family violence
- people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness

# NSW CLASS data 2017/18 Clients by priority group



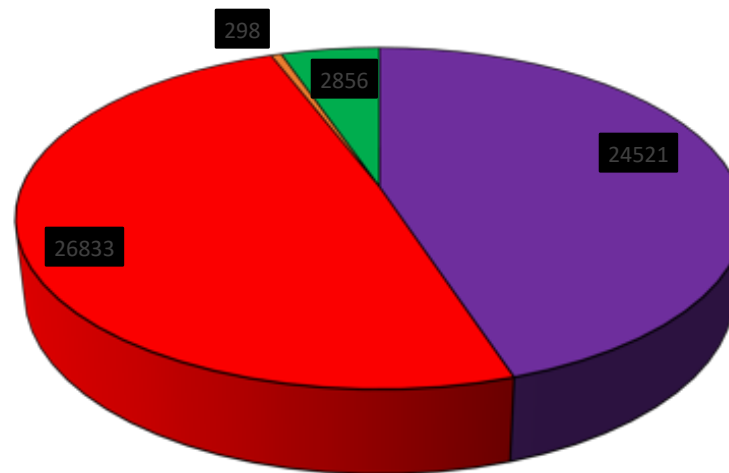
# NSW CLASS data 2017/18

## Community legal centres services by law type



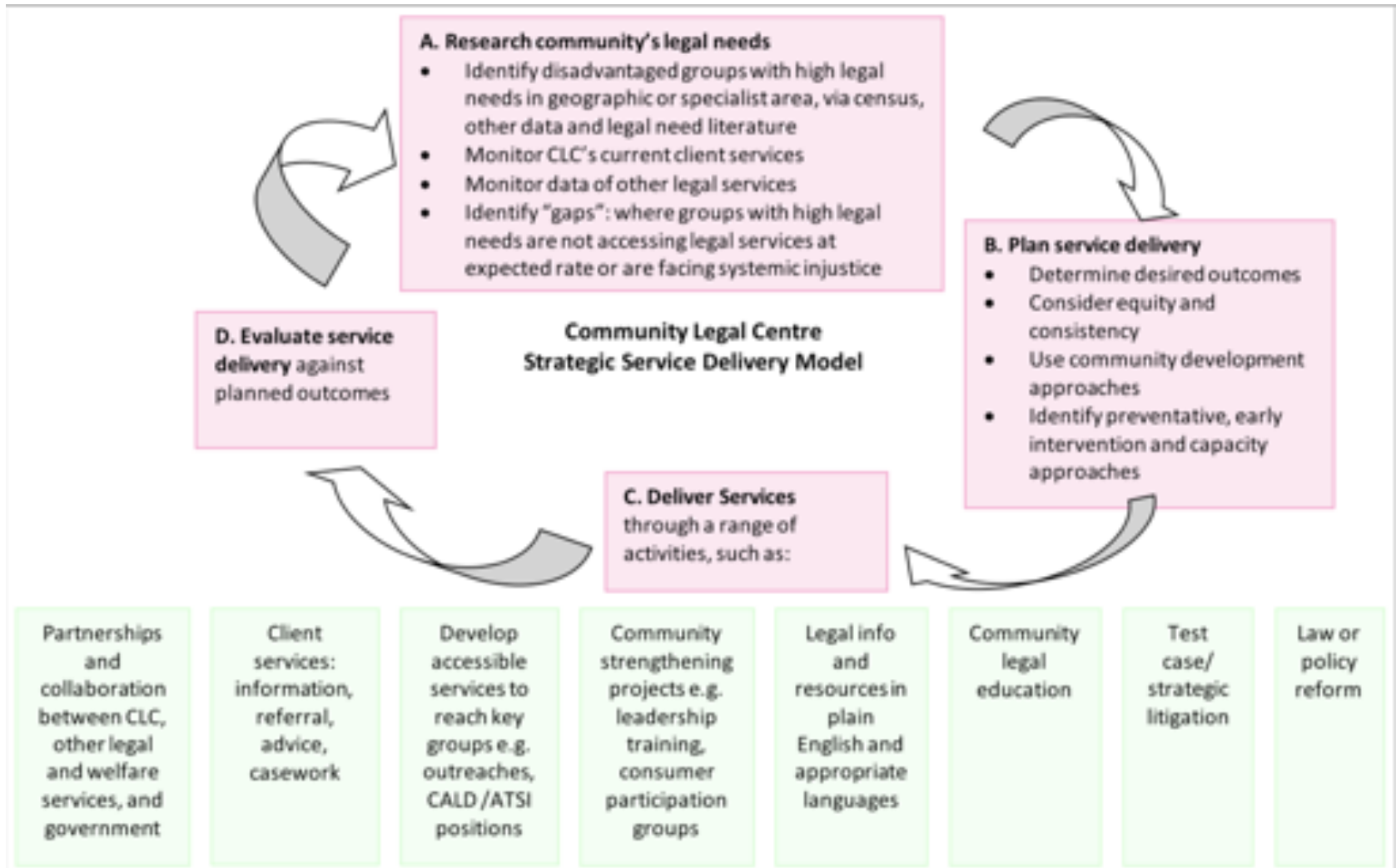
■ Family Law   ■ Civil law   ■ Criminal Law

# NSW CLASS data 2017/18 clients by gender



■ Male ■ Female ■ Neither male or female ■ Unknown

# Strategic Service Delivery



[www.clcnsw.org.au](http://www.clcnsw.org.au)