



hume riverina
community legal service

ANNUAL REPORT
2009 - 10

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WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT!

Vision

To ensure just and equitable access to legal services and resources for individuals and the community in North East Victoria and the Riverina of New South Wales.

Values

To provide safe, reliable and quality legal services respecting the diversity of the community.

Mission

To empower and educate individuals and groups in the community through a broad range of free legal services including legal education, particularly to those who are disadvantaged in their access to justice.

Objectives

1. To increase and enhance access to the law by the provision of legal advice and education to individuals, groups and the wider community.
2. To encourage and facilitate community involvement in the activities of the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service.
3. To advocate for and actively work towards changes which redress injustices and inequities in the law;
4. To continually seek to enhance and expand service provision;
5. To ensure the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service is able to operate effectively.

PRINCIPAL LAWYERS REPORT

As a rural legal practice we are aware of the difficulties facing such practices in our catchment area of North East Victoria and the Riverina of NSW. It is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit lawyers to our region both in private practices and community legal centres. To this end we have taken a more active role in encouraging law students to experience the law at HRCLS, both as volunteers at our Tuesday evening clinic and as graduate students on placement.

Hume Riverina has now become a teaching practice with a large number of PLT students (seven this year) taking advantage of our experienced lawyers and diverse practice to experience the practice of law in rural and regional Australia. We applied to the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department in September 2009, in partnership with Charles Darwin University, to commence a family law focussed clinical education project. This enables Charles Darwin's external law students to undertake, for academic credit, a clinical legal education course here at HRCLS. This application was successful and commenced in early July.

Our other major achievements this year have been the establishment of our outreach service to the Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service (AWAHS), the appointment of a FRC/CLC lawyer, a duty lawyer at the Albury Court on the family violence day and our new name and 1800 telephone number.

We have been attending AWAHS since the beginning of 2010, on a weekly basis. We have been well supported by the staff and there has been consistent attendance at the clinic in the first 6 months. We now have a poster which makes use of an Aboriginal work of art which is displayed at the service and our staff have also participated in Cross Cultural training given by Liz Heta, Aboriginal Liaison Officer with the Albury City Council.

On 24 July 2009, the Commonwealth Attorney General, Mr Robert McClelland, visited our office to launch our new name and our new 1800 telephone number which was made possible with some one off funding provided to us by the Attorney General. Due to our large catchment area, a 1800 number is vital to ensure access to justice for our rural, regional and remote communities.

We were also successful in obtaining funding for a lawyer to give legal advice, information and other services, to the FRC (Family Relationship Centre) through another Commonwealth government initiative. The purpose of this service is to ensure that separating couples do not enter the mediation process at the FRC with unrealistic expectations and are aware of their legal rights and responsibilities.

When we received \$70,000 from the Commonwealth government for domestic violence, we commenced a duty lawyer service at the Albury Court on Mondays. There had been a long standing request for this from service providers. We offered this service for 12 months and in that time assisted 43 clients.

We have also had some major staff changes. Our NSW outreach lawyer, Terry O'Riain, left us to work for a local law firm as a legal aid lawyer and was replaced by Sarah Rodgers who did not take long to fit in with HRCLS and her work as a generalist lawyer. Sarah is employed full time, half time as FRC/CLC lawyer and half time as the NSW outreach lawyer. Our wonderful vegetarian secondee legal aid lawyer, Sharda Ramjas sadly left us in April 2010 after 18 months, to work for a large private law firm in Sydney. We all miss Sharda's energy, happy smile and the Pilates classes that she instigated every Friday lunchtime. We have also been very fortunate to have acquired the services of Andrea Georgiou, who in only her first year of legal practice, has made an impact on both HRCLS staff and clients.

Continued...

As a community legal service we continue to be involved in our community both through our numerous network meetings, membership of Boards and Committees of Management, but also through our legal practitioner societies, involvement in Law Week, Family Pathways Network and the Cooperative Legal Service Delivery in NSW. We have also encouraged visits from local and state politicians such as the mayor of Albury, Alice Glachan, and Sophie Mirabella the member for Indi. We have also hosted Colette Quin from the Dispute Settlement Centre, Chris Robinson from Centrelink and Sally Pascoe from Intereach.

Thank you to all our staff and volunteers for your hard work throughout the year. Thank you too to all our hardworking students, Sophie Arnold, Nicholas Phillpott, Dante Mavec, Drew Kruzins, Alison Seidel, Catherine Coles and Jean Heath. Thank you also to Maralee Vogel who has volunteered on a regular basis. CLC's can not do the work that they do without the assistance of our volunteers.

The highlight of the year for me has been the expansion of the Albury Justice Support Network to the Albury Wodonga Justice Support Network (AWJSN)! This project was instigated by us back in 2005 with the assistance of Leonie Kirwin, outreach officer with the Intellectual Disability Rights Service in NSW. The Disability Advocacy & Information Service (DAIS) then took the lead organising the volunteers and any further training required. The extension of AWJSN to Wodonga is an initiative of DAIS, supported by HRCLS. This is a wonderful example of our working with community organisations to ensure the vulnerable have support and access to justice.

Karen Bowley
Principal Lawyer



Christine Tonks, the new service name competition winner with Karen Bowley, Principal Lawyer



The HRCLS team with The Hon. Mr Robert McClelland after officially launching the new service name, Hume Riverina Community Legal Service

ACCESS & EQUITY

HRCLS seeks to provide a service which is accessible, equitable, non-discriminatory and non-judgmental.

HRCLS provides legal advice, information, referral, casework, community legal education and law reform activities in North East Victoria and the Riverina of New South Wales. Any person who is in the region by virtue of their residing in, visiting, or legal issue arising in are eligible to receive service from HRCLS. No means test applies.

The service does have limited resources however, so within the general framework of eligibility for the service, special attention is paid to meeting the needs of the target groups. Broadly these are people who are considered to be disadvantaged in some way in dealing with the law.

There are two main categories of disadvantage:

- ◆ Those people who are denied access to legal assistance as a result of limited financial resources, whether they are recipients of social security benefits or in low income employment.
- ◆ Those people who are otherwise disadvantaged in their access to justice i.e. indigenous people, people from non-English speaking backgrounds, youth, people who have a physical disability or mental health problems, women living in circumstances of domestic violence or people who live in rural or remote areas.

HOURS OF OPERATION

9am to 5pm Monday to Friday

Telephone Advice & Information *

Monday 9am to 12 noon

Wednesday 2pm to 5pm

Friday 9am to 12 noon

Face to Face Clinics *

Wodonga Office on Tuesday evenings

Wangaratta Office on Tuesday evenings (fortnightly)

Family Law Assistance Clinics *

Wodonga office on Monday afternoons

Family Law Legal Aid *

Wodonga office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Rural outreach *

Lavington & Culcairn

Howlong & Corowa

Deniliquin & Finley

Corryong & Tallangatta

Mt Beauty & Myrtleford

Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service

Albury

Wangaratta

Intervention Order Court Support Program

Wodonga Magistrates Court on Thursdays

** Appointments essential*



STAFF

Permanent Staff as at 30 June



Julie Garner—Administrator

Julie has been with the service since January 2008. She began in a part-time Administrator role before becoming full-time in early 2009. Julie came to us from the Wodonga City Council where she worked as the Aged Services Officer for 2 years.

Ashlie Barclay – Office Manager

Ashlie commenced working with the service in January 2005 as the full-time Administrator and is now the Office Manager.



Karen Bowley – Principal Lawyer

Karen started as a volunteer with the service working at the Tuesday evening advice clinics in 2001 and has gradually moved into the role as Principal Lawyer working on projects and policies as well as client work. Karen has practiced law for 10 years in the private and government sector.

Tracey Walker—Legal Assistant

Tracey has now been working in the legal field for approximately 3½ years and enjoys her role very much. Before taking on her current role Tracey worked as a receptionist for Upper Murray Family Care. She is currently studying an Advanced Diploma of Business (Legal Practice) .



Sarah Rodgers—Lawyer

Sarah was a long time volunteer of the service before we managed to entice her to work for us in November 2009. Sarah was employed part-time with the service as our NSW Outreach Lawyer and when we received the funding for the CLC/FRC Partnership her hours became full-time to enable her to be the lawyer for the partnership as well.

Andrea Georgiou—Lawyer

Andrea is a fresh new young lawyer who graduated in April 2009. Before being employed by the service in January 2010 she started volunteering as a law student. Andrea has brought and new enthusiasm, energy and eagerness to learn to the service.



Continued...



Beth Simpson – Lawyer

Beth works with the service two days per week running the Family Court Assistance Clinic and the Intervention Order Support Scheme. Beth has been practicing law on and off since 1981 and has worked with the service since 2002.

Karen Keegan—Lawyer

Karen returned to the legal service in June 2010 after managing the Wodonga Family Relationship Centre for 1½ years. Karen has come back on board as the supervising lawyer of the Charles Darwin University Law Students.



Andrew Johanson—Community Project Worker & Lawyer

Andrew is only new to our service having started in October 2008. Prior to his employment, he worked in the private legal sector for 4 years and was also a volunteer at our Tuesday evening advice clinics.

Brooke Morris—Cooperative Legal Service Delivery (CLSD) Regional Coordinator

Brooke began volunteering with the service in June 2009 before being employed as the CLSD Regional Coordinator for the Wagga/Albury area. Brooke has recently graduated from her Law Degree and hopes to gain employment in our local area.



Other staff employed during 2009-10:

Anne Baker—Administrator (temporary)

Sharda Ramjas—VLA Family Lawyer

Terence O’Riain—NSW Outreach Lawyer

Michele Kampen—Lawyer

VOLUNTEERS

Yet again we have been incredibly lucky to have had **21 talented lawyers**. There has been a slight drop in volunteers since the last financial year but the group that we have is absolutely wonderful. They volunteer their time in both our Wodonga and fortnightly Wangaratta evening clinics on a roster basis. Without them, we would not be able to run such successful and well attended advice clinics.

Volunteers as at 30 June 2010:

WODONGA

Peter Uniake (Adams Leyland)

Dirk de Zwart

Emma Hill (Skinner & Associates)

Kym Connell (Dick & Williams)

Eugene Butkowski

Dusan Jovetic (Trivett Keating)

Greg Duncan

Derek Norquay

Helen McGowan

Dione Garwell (Pogson Cronin)

Veronica Haccou (Nevin Lenne & Gross)

Sarah Caplice (Robb & Associates)

Brooke Morris

Allison Bruce (Robb & Associates)

Tanya Klein (Noreast Law)

Maralee Vogel

Sarah Fleet (Kell Moore)

WANGARATTA

Mike Noble (Stewart & Noble)

Nancy Battiato

Vic Campagna (Campagna Gray & Mallinder)

Ailyn Libo-On



Derek Norquay



Dione Garwell



Dusan Jovetic



Sarah Caplice



Dirk de Zwart



Kym Connell



Eugene Butkowski



Sarah Fleet



What volunteers have to say.....



My experience at the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service (HRCLS) was fantastic. I feel tremendously fortunate that I was able to work with such a talented and generous team who were very willing to mentor and impart their knowledge and expertise with me. I spent 6 weeks working as a volunteer student, assisting and shadowing lawyers in their day-to-day routines, and by the end of it, I didn't want to leave.

It is a requirement of all students undertaking the Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice to complete practical legal training. As part of my training I chose to participate in the Australian National University program which promotes and encourages law students and young lawyers to work in regional, remote and rural areas. Before arriving in Albury Wodonga I had firm ideas about what I wanted to achieve. I was eager to have a diverse and broad experience, to learn and absorb as much as possible from professionals working in the legal and related professions and to develop my understanding of the role and services provided by Community Legal Services.

My time at the HRCLS superseded my expectations and for the first time I became truly excited and passionate about my chosen career in the law. The breadth of experience I had was extraordinary as I immersed myself in all of the wonderful services that the HRCLS offered. These included: telephone advice, face-to-face clinics, Family Law assistance clinics, rural outreach clinics, accompanying the family violence duty solicitor at court, researching areas of law, social events and attending information sessions and training.

I am now working at Legal Aid ACT and I largely attribute my appointment to the invaluable experience I had at the HRCLS.

Catherine Coles
Graduate Law Student

Just as winter began to release its icy grip on Canberra, I bid farewell to my hometown and travelled down the freeway to verdant Albury Wodonga to spend three weeks with the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service. I was able to make the trip thanks to the ANU's **Law Graduates for Community Legal Centres in Rural Australia Project**, which funds internships at CLCs in rural areas.

When I arrived I had a vague sense that a Community Legal Service was 'like Legal Aid, but different'. While I knew that the HRCLS did not do court work, I had no idea of all the other wonderful things that the staff do to promote access to justice for vulnerable members of the community. I was able to sit in on numerous advice sessions and see how difficult it can be to discover exactly what a client wants and then to help them to understand the options they have for resolving their problem. I also got the opportunity to attend Community Legal Education sessions, Family Law Assistance Clinics, domestic violence duty solicitor work, and outreach trips to many of the towns around Albury Wodonga.

Last, but by no means least, I met a group of hard-working and compassionate lawyers who shared a lot of wisdom and experience with me during my too-brief stay with the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service.

Dante Mavec
Graduate Law Student



PRO BONO WORK

WEST HEIDELBERG COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE



Client A, Client B & Client C suffered damage to their property as a result of a shed, owned by a neighbouring Company, being 'uplifted' during a storm and thrown onto their caravans and vehicles. Client A, Client B & Client C sought the assistance of the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service (HRCLS) as they had been unsuccessful in recovering compensation for this damage.

The HRCLS wrote to the Company and demanded compensation for the individual financial loss sustained by Client A, Client B & Client C as a result of the Company's negligence. The damage sustained amounted to approximately \$36,000. The Company forwarded the matter on to their Insurance Company. We contacted Denis Nelthorpe from West Heidelberg Community Legal Service to advise us in this matter. He assisted in contacting the Insurance Company in order to get negotiations underway. After reviewing the matter, the Insurance Company denied any negligence on behalf of the Insured. The Insurance Company made a small offer to settle the matter 'in full and final settlement, on a commercial basis and with no admission of liability'.

We informed Denis of this and he contacted Daniel Marquet at Corrs, Chambers & Westgarth to see if he could assist the clients. After reviewing the material, Daniel was of the opinion that Client A, Client B & Client C had an arguable case in negligence against the Company and would assist on a Pro bono basis. After some further negotiation, the Insurance Company denied the existence of a non-delegable duty of care and repeated their offer of settlement. Client A, Client B & Client C again rejected this offer and have decided to commence legal proceedings. Corrs, Chambers & Westgarth have agreed to continue to assist Client A, Client B & Client C on a Pro bono basis. Hopefully we can report in next year's Annual Report as to the outcome of this matter.

Denis Nelthorpe has been of great assistance to the HRCLS throughout the whole year. His willingness to provide assistance to anyone from a Community Legal Centre with regards to debt or insurance matters is greatly appreciated. He is known here as the 'Insurance Law Guru' and is definitely a great resource for the community legal sector in general. His work on the Insurance Bulk negotiations with AAMI is inspiring and the successful outcome that he achieved is a reflection of this. The HRCLS is happy to report that 2 of their clients were part of the bulk negotiation scheme and that AAMI decided to waive both debts.

CLAYTON UTZ

HRCLS is partnered with a large national law firm which gives us pro bono assistance in a variety of matters, whether it be discussing legal issues in a particular case, representing a client in litigation or providing facilities for meetings. In the latter category, Clayton Utz provided 2 conference rooms with catering and IT support for an all day meeting for Victorian RRR community legal centres in March 2010. There were over 50 CLC workers in attendance and without these facilities provided in central Melbourne, the day would not have been the success it was.

Continued...

Below is an example of the way in which Clayton Utz has assisted a client:

The HRCLS was approached by a not for profit organisation (the client) for assistance with negotiating a contract to subcontract employment services to another service provider in a rural location. The client organisation is a member of the Cooperative Legal Service Delivery Program, NSW. The HRCLS arranged a referral to Clayton Utz, a law firm who is the HRCLS pro bono partner. Clayton Utz then assisted the client with legal advice and drafting the contract.



Client A received a total of 4 infringement notices in 2008 for failing to pay a toll when driving in a toll zone. She also incurred substantial penalty fees for not paying. At the time of the offences, Client A's child suffered from a serious medical condition which required staying at the hospital for extended periods of time. As a result, Client A was not at their usual place of residence at the time the notices were sent, and was therefore unaware of the infringements.

The Hume Riverina Community Legal Service (HRCLS) wrote to the Infringement Court's Civic Compliance Unit several times advocating Client A's position. The Registrar refused to revoke the enforcements and the matter was transferred to the Magistrates Court in Melbourne for hearing and determination. Client A was required to attend Court in Melbourne and needed the assistance of a Solicitor for her hearing. The HRCLS contacted Fitzroy Legal Service and informed them of Client A's situation. The Fitzroy Legal Service was more than happy to assist, and appear for, Client A at the Melbourne Magistrates Court.

OUTCOME:

The prosecutor contacted Client A the day before the hearing and said he would be withdrawing the matter, as he couldn't believe it had gone this far due to the special circumstances at the times the fines were incurred and that Client A would not have to pay anything.

FAMILY LAW LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE

The Hume Riverina Community Legal Service staff includes a Victoria Legal Aid family lawyer and assistant employed through an innovative partnership between Victoria Legal Aid and the Community Legal Service sector which began in July 2006. Victoria Legal Aid offered six Victorian Community Legal Centres funding to provide a Family Law Lawyer and administrative support in areas which were not covered by Legal Aid offices or outreach programs.

Since 2006 the funding for this program has continued on an annual basis but in June 2010 the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service received the wonderful news that the funding for this program was made recurrent for 3 years (2010-2013).

In September 2008, Sharon Kim accepted a transfer to the Victoria Legal Aid office in Sunshine and in December 2008, Sharda Ramjas was appointed in the role.

As part of funding the lawyer is to provide legal advice, casework, court representation (for those eligible for Legal Aid) and Community Legal Education. The solicitor has provided all of the above as highlighted in the stats below.

Strong relationships have been cemented with a range of local service providers such as the Family Relationship Centre [FRC], the Magistrates, Local and Family Courts, Gateway Community Health Service and the Family Pathways Network. The relationships are evidenced by service providers regularly contacting our family law lawyer to clarify legal and legislative interpretation issues and requests for presentations for organisations that assist separated families.

In April 2010 Sharda left the position and moved back to her home city, Sydney. The position is now being advertised with hope of employing another lawyer as soon as possible.

2008-09	
Closed involving court representation (State project 3)	22

2009-10	
Closed involving court representation (State project 3)	18



FAMILY LAW ASSISTANCE CLINIC

During the year we have run this clinic on Monday afternoons, with the aim of assisting clients to represent themselves in family law matters where they are ineligible for legal aid, but cannot afford their own solicitor.

The purpose is to empower the client with a set of initiating or responding documents to get them off first base, then provide them with some skills to run their case thereafter.

A common theme this year has been grandparents who are seeking to spend time with their grandchildren. They had been refused time by either their own adult child, or the other parent with whom the children are living, or in one rare case, by both parents.

In one case, a grandmother and grandfather were seeking Orders to spend time with their 2 year old granddaughter. The mother (their son's ex-partner) was refusing to allow this. We assisted the grandparents to issue an Application in the Federal Magistrates Court in Albury and helped them prepare an Affidavit in support. The case is still ongoing, but they were successful in obtaining Interim Orders enabling them to see the child under the supervision of the Children's Contact Service, with the hope of Final Orders being made later in the year for unsupervised time every second weekend.

In another case, a grandmother of a 7 year old girl sought Orders to enable them to spend time together. The girl lives with her father and has not seen her mother (our client's daughter who was struggling with some personal issues of her own) for several years. The girl had lived with her grandmother for 4 years until, by agreement with all parties, she went to live with her father at age 5. Due to a combination of reasons, the father stopped his daughter from seeing her grandmother soon afterwards. The father refused mediation and so court action was required.

The Federal Magistrate in Albury made an Interim Order that the child spend one day per fortnight with her grandmother, with several conditions attached, including that the child not spend time with her mother. That Order was later extended to all of every second weekend and part of school holidays and the time they are spending together is reported to be going very well. That case is listed for final hearing next year.

So it is important that "other significant people" in the lives of a child are now acknowledged in the legislation and can apply to have orders made that allow them to spend time with that child.

The only costs for the clients we helped were the filing fee (which can often be waived) and the fees of the process server to serve the other parties. By representing themselves, they were able to avoid the legal costs. Of course, not everyone is capable of doing this, but for those who are, it is an option to achieve an outcome that they otherwise could not afford. These people also obtain a much greater insight into the workings of the legal system and feel very empowered by the process.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP CENTRE

The HRCLS was successful in obtaining a grant of funding from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department to form a partnership with the Wodonga Family Relationship Centre. The purpose of the partnership is to provide legal assistance services to parties who seek to mediate their family law disputes at the Family Relationship Centre, as part of a pilot program announced by Attorney-General Robert McClelland in 2009.

The legal assistance services being delivered by the HRCLS include legal information sessions to all clients who are participating in family dispute resolution, individual advice sessions to vulnerable clients referred by the Family Relationship Centre, representation at family dispute resolution, and minor casework including drafting letters and Consent Orders.

The HRCLS has also formed an informal partnership with the Wagga Wagga Family Relationship Centre and the Legal Aid NSW Lawyer who assists that Centre. This means that legally assisted mediations will be able to proceed in the next financial year in both Wodonga and Wagga Wagga. The HRCLS will represent one party, and the Legal Aid NSW Lawyer will represent the other party.

Since January 2010 when the pilot commenced the HRCLS has provided 14 information sessions about family law, which have been attended by 46 clients. The HRCLS has only just commenced the legal advice clinic which is offered every Tuesday afternoon on-site at the Family Relationship Centre, and is hoping to assist at least 4 clients each week at the clinic.

The pilot program has given HRCLS a valuable opportunity to work together more closely with the Family Relationship Centre and to strengthen the relationship between the two services.



FRC Manager Karen Keegan & HRCLS Principal Lawyer Karen Bowley shaking hands after the signing of the MOU



The FRC and HRCLS staff get together for a photo op!

ADVICE & CASEWORK

All of our advice has continued to occur by appointment only. Appointments are made between the allocated hours (noted on page 5) allowing 20 minutes for each telephone advice or half an hour for face-to-face advice.

We are pleased to say that our advices have slightly increased this year despite the number of staff changes that we have had.

2008-09		2009-10	
Total Advice activities (generalist)	1259	Total Advice activities (generalist)	1268
Total Advice activities (State project 2)	169	Total Advice activities (State project 2)	230
Total Advice activities (State project 3)	217	Total Advice activities (State project 3)	197
TOTAL	1645	Total Advice activities (Clinical Legal Education)	1
		Total Advice activities (FRC)	1
		TOTAL	1697

Our "Top 5" areas of legal inquiries were:

1. Spending time / living with (child) issues
2. Intervention Orders
3. Property in marriage
4. Separation
5. Wills, Probate & Estate issues

Our casework this year has again included a variety of matters. Below are two interesting examples of cases that our lawyers have assisted in:

1. The HRCLS was approached by Client A whose car was written off as a result of a motor vehicle accident that was not his fault. Client A did not hold comprehensive insurance cover. The HRCLS assisted Client A with Court documents and Client A successfully obtained judgement against the driver for compensation for damage to the vehicle. Unfortunately the judgement was unable to be enforced because the defendant then moved out of the area to an unknown address.

The HRCLS then reviewed Client A's insurance policy and discovered that the policy allowed Client A to claim against the policy under an "uninsured motorist extension" clause. Client A was able to successfully claim \$3000 from the insurer.

2. Client A was being pursued for a debt of approximately \$37,000 by their former employer. The debt arose out of damage that occurred to the employer's work vehicle. The employer alleged that the damage that occurred was the direct result of Client A's negligence. However, Client A believed that the damage was due to a mechanical failure and was further compounded as the result of the actions undertaken by other employees of the organisation.

Client A sought the assistance of the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service (HRCLS) to help resolve his matter. We helped Client A in drafting and filing a Defence. However, as the HRCLS did not have the resources to support Client A in seeing the matter resolved in court, and Client A was refused Legal Aid, an application was made to New South Wales Law Society Pro Bono Scheme.

Client A was successful in obtaining legal representation through the New South Wales Law Society Pro Bono Scheme. The Pro-bono appointed solicitor successfully settled the matter of out court resulting in the case being dropped against Client A.

Continued...

Our "Top 5" areas of casework were:

1. Intervention Orders
2. Spending time / live with (child) issues
3. Credit and debt owed by client
4. Property in marriage
5. Civil property disputes

2008-09	
Total cases open during period (generalist)	292
- Open at period start	29
- New (opened in period)	263
- Still open at period end (ongoing)	44
Total cases closed during period	248
Total cases open during period (State Project 2)	17
- Open at period start	0
- New (opened in period)	17
- Still open at period end (ongoing)	5
Total cases closed during period	12
Total cases open during period (State Project 3)	78
- Open at period start	21
- New (opened in period)	57
- Still open at period end (ongoing)	19
Total cases closed during period	59

2009-10	
Total cases open during period (generalist)	359
- Open at period start	44
- New (opened in period)	315
- Still open at period end (ongoing)	44
Total cases closed during period	315
Total cases open during period (State Project 2)	37
- Open at period start	5
- New (opened in period)	32
- Still open at period end (ongoing)	14
Total cases closed during period	23
Total cases open during period (State Project 3)	62
- Open at period start	19
- New (opened in period)	43
- Still open at period end (ongoing)	0
Total cases closed during period	62

OUTREACH SERVICES

The Hume Riverina Community Legal Service (HRCLS) is an active organisation within the regional community. This is reflected by the HRCLS's ongoing commitment and involvement in many regional networks and projects. The HRCLS is committed to providing a high quality service to our Victorian and New South Wales rural catchment areas, and does this by providing an 'Outreach Program'.

The Outreach Program involves a solicitor visiting an area and providing a free 30 min face-to-face appointment with a person in order to discuss their specific legal issue and explore the options available. However, this is not the sole objective of this program, in that it is also about bringing the law to the rural and regional community by increasing their access to justice and to develop relationships with workers and other community organisations in order to gain a working knowledge of how a community functions. The legal advice clinics are hosted by various community service providers including Upper Murray Family Care, Intereach, Community Health Centres, Libraries, Council Offices and Neighbourhood Centres. The Outreach Program helps enhance our service's profile within the community which in turn increases the demand for information and advice by way of client appointments and community legal education.



Outreach location in Deniliquin—
The Neighbourhood Centre

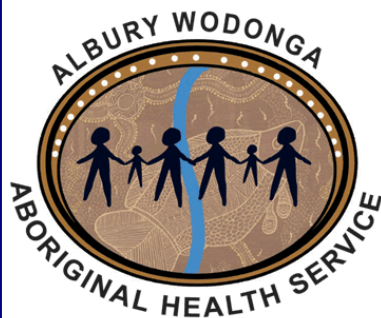
Continued...

The current HRCLS Outreach locations in the Victorian rural catchment area are:

- Mt Beauty:** 1st Tuesday of the month at 9.30am – 11am
- Myrtleford:** 1st Tuesday of the month at 1.30pm – 4pm
- Wangaratta:** 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 3pm – 5pm & 5.30pm – 7pm
- Corryong:** 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10am – 12pm
- Tallangatta:** 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2pm – 3.30pm

The current HRCLS Outreach locations in the NSW catchment area are:

- Albury:** 1st Thursday of the month at 9am-11am
- Howlong:** 2nd Thursday of the month at 10am-12noon
- Corowa:** 2nd Thursday of the month at 1.30pm-3.30pm
- Deniliquin:** 3rd Thursday of the month at 10.30am-12.30pm
- Finley:** 3rd Thursday of the month at 2.30pm-4pm
- Lavington:** 4th Thursday of the month at 10am-12noon
- Culcairn:** 4th Thursday of the month at 2pm-3.30pm
- Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service:** Every Wednesday at 1.30pm-3pm



All new outreach location launched

This year the HRCLS launched a new outreach program at the Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service (AWAHS). AWAHS services a large number of Aboriginal clients in Albury Wodonga. The AWAHS staff have been an extremely important source of referrals, and have supported the clinic by assisting with appointment bookings and offering bus transport to clients who attend AWAHS for legal advice appointments with the HRCLS.

The HRCLS attends AWAHS on a weekly basis in recognition of the need for Aboriginal clients to access a regular and consistent service. Any client who identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander who contacts the HRCLS for an appointment can be referred to the AWAHS outreach clinic.

Following the launch of the AWAHS outreach clinic, HRCLS have attended cultural awareness training at NSW Legal Aid in Sydney and a local workshop with Liz Heta, the Aboriginal Liaison Officer at Albury City Council. This training has helped HRCLS staff gain a greater awareness of the hurdles that many Aboriginal people experience in accessing justice.

DUTY LAWYER SERVICES

Our service continued to assist and represent people in the Wodonga Magistrates Court with the Intervention Order process. Once a week our solicitor, usually Beth Simpson, sometimes with law students in tow, attended the court which sits alternately on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

As in past years, we primarily assisted female Applicants in family violence situations, but on occasions have helped male Applicants and Respondents of both gender. Most alarming has been the significant increase in matters where threats and psychological and emotional violence are being relayed via Facebook. Also of concern is the number of cases involving mothers bringing applications against their sons.

The majority of cases were resolved without the need for a contested hearing. In those few unresolved cases, clients were referred to private solicitors for representation, often with legal aid eligibility.

The 2008 legislation has resulted in solicitors more frequently needing to negotiate and then draft Interim Parenting Plans to cover the short term arrangements for children until the parties can access mediation services. Luckily in Wodonga, there are several solicitors who are prepared to do this and clients can leave court with at least a short term plan in place, together with an Order or Undertaking for their protection and often that of the children.

The Integrated Response to Family Violence Network in Wodonga brought renowned Canadian psychologist, Alan Wade, to the region for a 2 day Conference at Beechworth in November 2009. This was well attended by many service providers working in the Family violence field in this area, and challenged the way we work with victims.

The Network also implemented a family violence awareness project as part of the Victorian ENOUGH campaign. A fiberglass elephant (Do you have an elephant in your room?) was purchased and decorated by a young local artist with positive comments about healthy relationships on one side, and on the other, negative dynamics were represented. The elephant was launched in Wodonga on 6 November 2009 and since it has been displayed in various public places throughout the city.

On 13 May 2010 we did a presentation of the Family Violence Protection Act 2008 to service providers in Benalla, in conjunction with the Integrated Family Violence Services Managers Alliance and the Police. This was based on a powerpoint presentation originally devised by the Murray-Mallee Community Legal Centre with discussion about cases demonstrating how the new Act has been implemented in practice.

Beth Simpson was also able to get to Melbourne to attend a Victorian Federation meeting on 26 March 2010. This was valuable as she was able to insight into how CLC solicitors operate as duty lawyers in other rural areas as well as the city (including the specialist courts) and discuss issues common to all. An Evaluation of the Police Family Violence Safety Notices was also presented.

As a result of some additional Commonwealth funding, we also trialed placing a duty solicitor in the Albury Local Court on Monday mornings. This took place over twelve months from July 2009 to June 2010, though often clashed with the Wodonga Network meetings so it was not possible to have representation every week. The procedure for obtaining an Apprehended Violence Order is quite different to the Victorian system. Nearly all domestic (family) Applications are issued by the Police and the Albury Magistrate does not require the Person in need of Protection (PINOP) to attend court on the first Mention. We were able to assist some Defendants in understanding the repercussions of consenting to an Order, but rarely could give family law advice to women because they were not present. So we were more involved with the personal applications, frequently being neighbourhood disputes. Over this year we assisted clients, and due to these low numbers, we could not justify continuing that service, despite assurances from service providers that there is a great need for legal advice at court, and especially for unrepresented Defendants who rarely have access to legal aid. We still provide telephone advice to anyone involved in AVO Applications, and may reassess our involvement in the Albury Court in the future if further funding becomes available.

Continued...

The Albury Network Meetings were recommenced during the year, and participation rate is slowly increasing. The Network funded the creation of some decorated pavers highlighting aspects of family violence for white Ribbon Day in November 2009. This was accompanied by a sausage sizzle in QEII square which attracted members of the public. The pavers are now located at the Women's Centre in Albury.

Our solicitor attends both Albury and Wodonga Network meetings where possible.

2008-09	2009-10
Closed involving court representation (generalist) 125	Closed involving court representation (generalist) 159

SUBSIDISED WILL SCHEME

The Hume Riverina Community Legal Service (HRCLS) decided to establish a scheme for the preparation of wills, powers of attorney and enduring guardianship for selected clients for a limited fee. The HRCLS canvassed local law firms in the Albury Wodonga region in April/May 2009 to ascertain participation in the scheme, as well as the number of clients they could assist.

A total of 10 firms confirmed their willingness to participate, with the scheme officially commencing in June 2009. The scheme was aimed to assist those people with limited financial capacity and health issues to have a will, power of attorney and enduring guardianship drawn up for them by a solicitor at a subsidised rate.

The significant aspects of the scheme are:

- The HRCLS has a list of law firms who are willing to offer a number of discounted wills, powers of attorney & enduring guardianship (the number to be determined by the firm) per year;
- The law firm is prepared to take instructions from the holder of a Voucher within 5 working days;
- The HRCLS to assess and distribute Vouchers as necessary;
- Vouchers to be given only to those individuals who are financially disadvantaged **and** experience a particular vulnerability (eg frailty, ill health, language, isolation or disability);
- Financial disadvantage is defined as someone in receipt of a social security pension or benefit and who does not have money or assets exceeding \$5,000 (excluding their interest in a family home or motor vehicle).
- The cost of each will, power of attorney & enduring guardianship for a voucher client to be \$50 each.

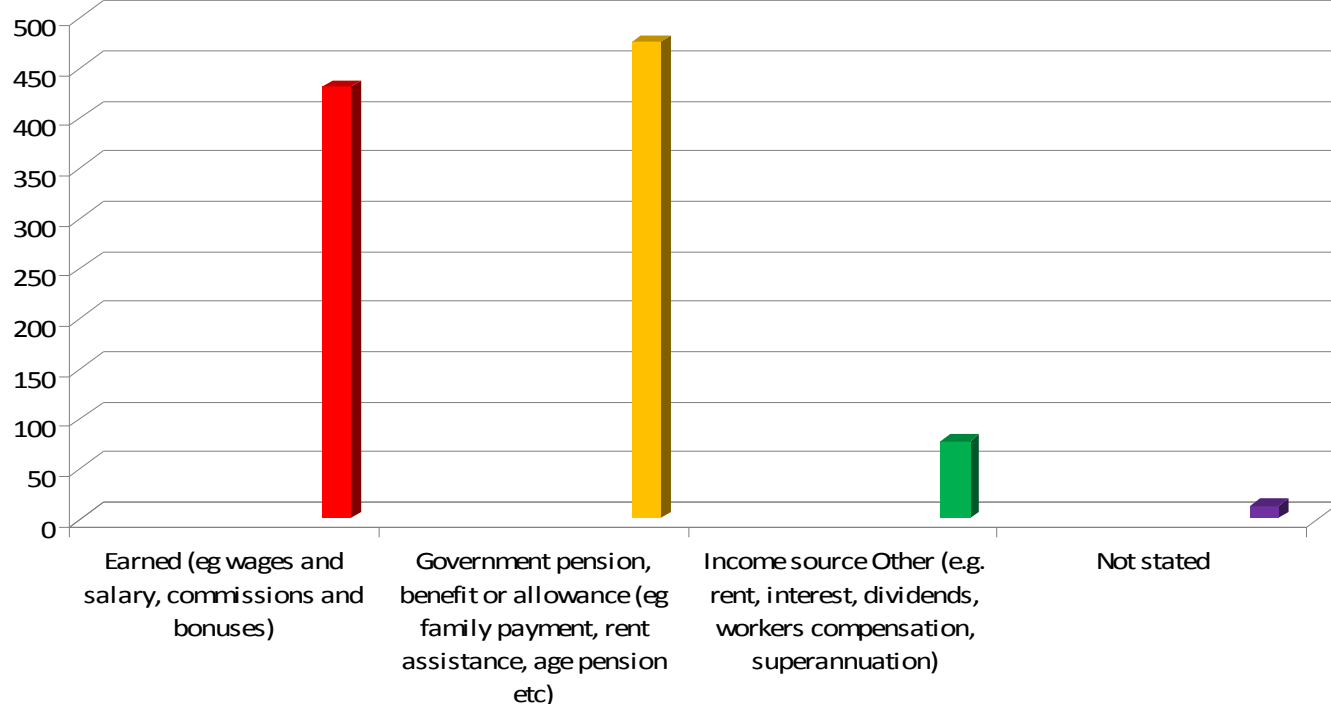
Clients will need to make an appointment in the Subsidised Wills Clinic, which is currently held on Wednesday afternoons at the HRCLS, and will be assessed as to their suitability for the scheme. If successful, the client will then be given the applicable voucher(s) and a letter with the contact details of the participating law firm.

During this financial year a total of 31 Vouchers were issued to eligible clients:

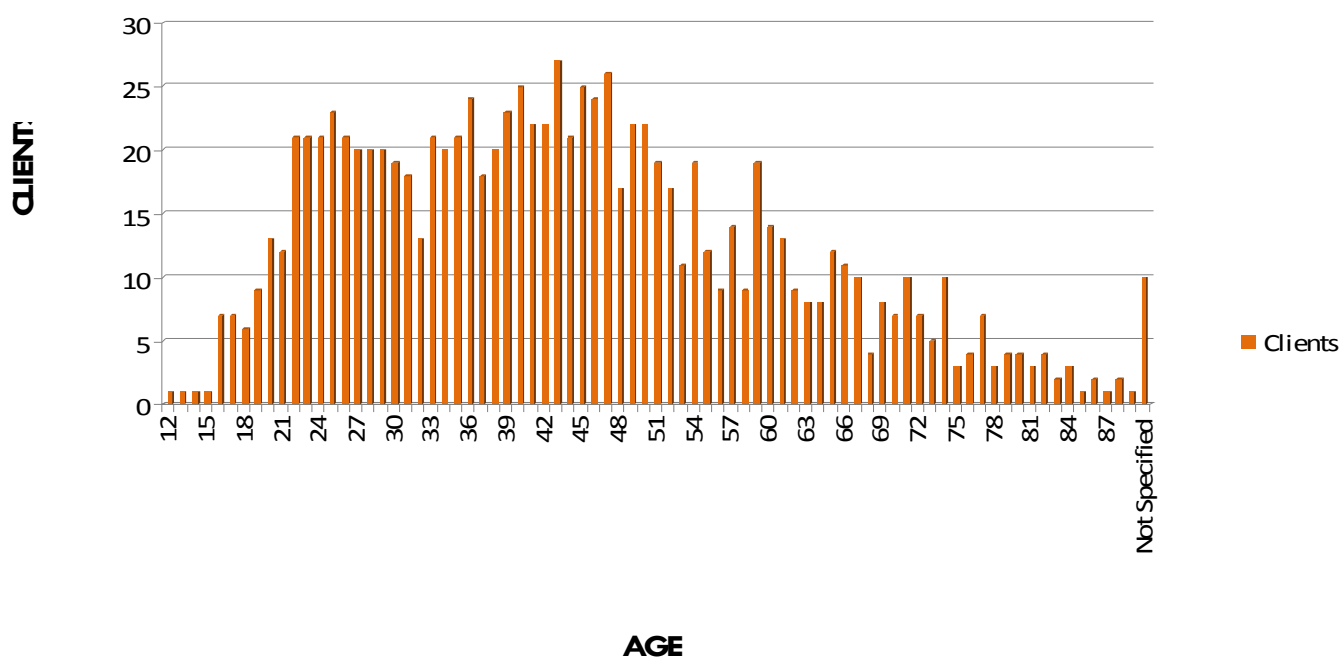
- Wills- 10 documents
- Enduring Power of Attorneys- 14 documents
- Enduring Guardianship- 7 documents

INTERESTING STATISTICS

Clients x Income Source



Clients x Age



COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

2008-09

Community Legal Education projects completed

49

2009-10

Community Legal Education projects completed

15

National Law Week

Monday 17 May – Friday 21 May 2010

We had a busy week during Law Week this year.

'Law and Justice in your community' was the theme of National Law Week this year. We partnered with local law associations, local courts, libraries and Consumer Affairs Victoria. The Legal Aid NSW Road Show visited Albury and in conjunction with the Roadshow we gave talks with Victims Services at the library and had lunch at Westside Community Centre a community centre in Albury which has links to the local aboriginal community.

Albury Court presented a talk on how to conduct small debts without a solicitor which was so popular with the local business community that another talk was conducted on the following day. This year the prospects of a law degree at La Trobe University Albury Wodonga reminded us of the need to recruit lawyers to the Regional and Rural areas. In light of this we held a lawyer's BBQ at the University for prospective law students. We attended with Consumer Affairs Victoria, NSW Police and Albury District Law Society members.

The Hume Riverina Community Legal Service (HRCLS) with the Albury & District Law Society organised a breakfast for Women Lawyers and Women Paralegals. It was held in Albury and well attended. Judy Small, director of Victoria Legal Aid's Family, Youth and Children's Services was guest speaker. She spoke about her position at Victoria Legal Aid and how she saw law and justice. There was an article published in the Border Mail Newspaper on Tuesday 18 May 2010.



L to R: Volunteer Lawyer Sarah Caplice with Judy Small and Sarah Rodgers



L to R: Law Student Jean Heath and our Administrator Anne Baker enjoying the breakfast

For more details about the events held, please see the Law Week Report at **Annexure 1** sent to the NSW Law Society.



Specialist Legal Services

The HRCLS arranged the following Specialist Legal Services to visit our region:

- **Jobwatch Inc.** - attended Wodonga and gave an overview of the *Fair Work Act 2009*, *Occupational Health & Safety Act 2004* and the *Equal Opportunity Act 1995* in the context of discrimination, sexual harassment and bullying and discussed Collective Bargaining. It was a popular with attendees coming as far away as Myrtleford. The discussion on bullying was particularly relevant in light of the bullying incident at a Hawthorn Café in Melbourne in 2010 with its horrific outcome. On a lighter note fortunately unfair dismissal seemed more understandable after James Fleming's presentation.
- **Women's Legal Services (NSW)** - presented a seminar titled *Working with Women and Working out the Law*. Two seminars were conducted one in Albury and one in Wagga Wagga for community workers. It was an all day event with sessions ranging from AVO's and the law, Family law and parenting after separation – what community workers need to know and lastly client records, file notes and responding to subpoenas. Legal Aid NSW Co-operative Legal Service Delivery Program assisted with funding and total attendees for both seminars was in excess of 65 people.

Life Planning Seminars

Our usual Life Planning talk was well subscribed and was presented on 15 occasions in association with Northeast Health Wangaratta. Talks were conducted from places ranging from Yackandandah in North East Victoria to Deniliquin in NSW Riverina. We also had at a Life Planning talk in Mt Beauty Hospital in which our PLT Student Jean Heath gave a summary on how to donate your body to science. In that session some feedback included “ I found the facilitator very clear and it cleared up some pressing concerns.”



Karen Bowley speaking to group about Wills and Powers of Attorney

What did the participants think?

“Very informative—excellent material provided for our information”

“A most informative session”

“Very interesting and an easy speaking voice to listen and follow”

“Excellent presentation”

“Well done and thank you”

Continued...

Human Rights

Our Solicitors gave 5 talks on Human Rights. Some were to students at a local school and one was to community workers. Given the postponement of the introduction of a Human Rights Bill, we consider that there be a continued need to promote human rights in the community.

Family Law & Family Violence

These CLEs ranged from Grandparents and Family Law in Albury to the Family Violence Protection Act in Benalla. We had 2 projects with a total of 4 talks given. Our IVO assistance lawyer Beth Simpson has seen the implementation of the recent Family Violence Protection Act and the practical outcomes in requesting an IVO in light of the broadening of the definitions in the Act of Family Violence and the use of safety notices.

“What if”

Our Community Legal Education activities ranged from attending schools to talks on Family Violence to Wills and Powers of Attorney. One project was brokering local lawyers to speak in country towns through out the North East of Victoria including Beechworth, Wangaratta, Mansfield, Benalla, Wodonga and Bright. The talks were titled “What if?” They were intended for carers and requested by Villa Maria. Villa Maria supports carers of people with physical and intellectual disabilities, mental health issues, chronic illnesses and those who are frail aged. The workshops included a local lawyer as brokered by us and a speaker from Carers Victoria addressed issues such as Wills, Power of Attorney and emergency respite options. The object was for carers to develop their own What if plan. We worked along side Villa Maria who wrote a note of thanks as follows:

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your assistance liaising with and securing the services of seven different solicitors to present at Villa Maria’s ‘What If’ workshops. Your help was invaluable in sourcing a local ‘face’ to present important legal information to carers in our sessions. The feedback from our carers has been wonderful – they certainly benefitted from having someone local who knows the area and the needs of the area, to answer their questions accurately and expertly. The solicitors were all very friendly and explained some complicated concepts clearly and with sensitivity. This aspect of the workshops has proven to be the most appreciated and was recognised as the best part of the day, from the evaluation forms completed. Personally in my role, organising and coordinating these workshops, I have certainly appreciated your expertise in selecting and negotiating this service on my behalf as I was certainly not equipped with the knowledge to do so! I feel this has been a most successful partnership between Hume Riverina Community Legal Service and Villa Maria. I look forward to opportunities to work with you again in the future!”

Sincere thanks”



LAW REFORM & LEGAL POLICY

2008-09		2009-10	
Law Reform/Legal Policy projects completed	2	Law Reform/Legal Policy projects completed	9

We made submissions with respect to Powers of Attorney in Victoria and New South Wales. Some projects were lobbying for funding for our VLA Secondee family law position and NSW outreach lawyer position. We are pleased to report that VLA Secondee family law position has been funded for three years.

Other funding opportunities included FRC & CLC Partnership Trial in which we successfully made a submission. Other Law Reform projects included a submission on Youth Allowance and Subsidised Will Scheme. An ongoing project is the Disability Action Plan which is currently in draft form.

Our Principal Lawyer has been involved in a Wills & Pro Bono Scheme project which is seeking to roster pro bono lawyers on call for patients at hospital. We are appreciative of Lodden Campase CLC Principal Lawyer Peter Noble's presentation with a Bendigo Lawyer outlining this project in Bendigo and some of the steps they took for it to operate successfully.

RESEARCH

Graduate Law Student, Catherine Coles, did extensive research on "How to donate your body to science". This then formed the basis of a Life Planning presentation prepared by one of our other Graduate Law Students, Jean Heath, which was presented to a community group in Mt Beauty.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORK

Staff of the service are involved in the following committees/networks:

Integrated Response to Family Violence Network

Multicultural Interagency Network

Regional Rural & Remote Community Legal Service Network (State & National)

Corowa Interagency Meetings

Albury & District Law Society

Law Week Committee

North East Law Association

Rural Housing Network Ltd Board

Elder Law Working Group (State & National)

Cooperative Legal Service Delivery

Koori Interagency Network Group

Disability Advocacy and Information Service Committee of Management

Community Development and Community Legal Education Working Group

Children and Young Persons Working Group

Advisory Group Family Relationship Centre

Family Pathways Network

Albury Wodonga Family Domestic Violence Committee

Westside Community Centre

Wodonga Court Users Forum

Youth & Emergency Services

Age Concern



TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Staff attended the following training/professional development:

NALC National Conference—Perth

Collective Bargaining

Occupational Health & Safety Act 2004 & Equal Opportunity 1995—discrimination, sexual harassment

Overview of Fair Work Act 2009

Practice Management & Business Skills—A guide to dealing with conflict of interest

Ethics for community lawyers

Law & Organising: What makes a good community lawyer?

Working with Clients who have a mental illness

Update on Family Violence Protection Act

Implied Terms of Contract

Self Care in the Family Law Context

Lawyers & FDRP's— Inter-Professional Training

Simplified Grants Process

CLCNSW State Conference

Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training

Legally Assisted Mediations

Family Law training

Lawyers Sanity, Profitability and Wellbeing

Family law Property Settlements

Energy & Water Ombudsman Victoria

Reporting to the Office of Police Integrity & Procedures and process on how matters are dealt with

Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement

Victorian RRR Meeting

ADDITIONAL INCOME

We received additional income in the amount of \$15,760.00 from Legal Aid NSW for the Cooperative Legal Service Delivery program.



Upper Murray Family Care Incorporated

BOARD MEMBERS PROFILE & CONTACT DETAILS

President Trish Devlin LL.B	Trish Devlin Lawyers 11 Faithful St Wangaratta, Vic 3678 3710 Snow Rd, Whorouly East 3735 PO Box 1228, Wangaratta, Vic 3677	03) 5722 4122 0411 255 353 (mobile) trish@trishdevlinlawyers.com.au	Appointed to the Board on 16 January 2009. Trish started with the agency as a foster care worker having worked previously as a psychiatric nurse, left to pursue legal studies and returned in 1999 as a solicitor in the new Community Legal Service, leaving in 2002 to return to private practice, interspersed with a stint with DHS. Trish now runs her own private practice as a solicitor in Wangaratta.
Vice President Jeff Wittig	Boralma-Tarrawingee Rd Londrigan Vic 3678	03) 5721 6099 (work) 03) 5721 9222 (fax) 03) 5726 9346 (home) 0428 573 075 (mobile) wangniss@netc.net.au	Appointed to the board on 30 July 1999 and has been vice-president since 2000/1. Jeff is a small business owner in Wangaratta.
Treasurer Phil Oates Dip Bus. (Acc)	7 Hall Court Wodonga, Vic 3690	02) 6024 2698 (home) philmer27@hotmail.com	Appointed to the Board on 11 October 2002. Phil was appointed treasurer in 2003/4. Phil is a retired accountant who was previously with the ATO. Phil is also on the board of other organisations such as WAW Credit Union.
Member Lester Sawyer B.Arch. ARAIA	PO Box 830 Albury, NSW 2640 559 Paine St Albury NSW 2640	02) 6021 8484 (work) 0414 273 584 (mobile) 02) 6021 8829 (fax) 02) 6021 3394 (home) lestersawyer@bigpond.com.au	Appointed to the Board on incorporation on 14 June 1985 but was also on the Committee of Management prior to incorporation. Lester is a past president of 5 years. Lester is an architect working in his own business.
Member Greg Pearl Dip Ed, B Health Admin	Deputy CEO Wodonga Regional Health Service Cnr Wilson & Vermont St Wodonga, Vic 3690	02) 60 517469 (work) 0408431253 (mobile) greg_pearl@wrhs.org.au	Appointed to the Board on 8 June 2007. Greg is currently Deputy CEO of Wodonga Regional Health Service based in Wodonga.
Member Clare Grogan B Ed.	Catholic Education Office PO Box 1181 Wangaratta 3676 124 Delloro Rd Wangaratta South, Vic 3678	03) 57257228 0417219203 (mobile) Clare Grogan cgrogan@ceosand.catholic.edu.au	Appointed to the Board on 12 December 2008. Clare has a background in teaching and currently works as an Education Officer at the Catholic Education Office in Wangaratta.
Member Sue Blake Dip Ed. B Ed. M Ed.	581 Cookinburra Road Barnawartha, Vic 3688	02) 6026 7155 (home) 02) 6055 7764 (fax) 0416 247 736 (mobile) sue@creativelinks.com.au susan.blake@dhs.vic.gov.au	Appointed to the Board on 24 September 1999, Sue became President in 2002/3 and has held this position until 2009. Sue's experience is in the early childhood sector, disability services, teaching and education. Sue is a learning development co-ordinator for the Hume region DHS.
Member Phil Stuckey B Bus	PO Box 1139 Wodonga, Vic 3689 610 Affleck Street Albury, NSW 2640	02 6056 2828 wk 02 6056 1181 fax 0417 242 381 mob 02 6041 1048 home Phil@kookabrothas.com	Appointed to the Board on 19 February 2010. Phil runs a food manufacturing business in Wodonga established in 1987, was previously Manager of Upper North East Youth Services & has served on the boards of several community organisations and schools in the region.
CEO & Public Officer Luke Rumbold BA, BSW, MSW, PhD, FAIM	C/- UMFC 27 Stanley Street Wodonga, Vic 3690	02) 6022 8030 (work) 02) 6022 8099 (fax) 0418 970 182 (mobile) lrumbold@umfc.com.au	Luke is currently the CEO of UMFC and has been with UMFC since 17 September 1984.
Director Business Services Ray Woodhouse	C/- UMFC 27 Stanley Street Wodonga, Vic 3690	02) 6022 8032 (work) 02) 6022 8099 (fax) 0403 006 149 (mobile) rwoodhouse@umfc.com.au	Ray was employed at UMFC in November 2008 as the Director of Business Services. Prior to this, Ray was the UMFC auditor from 1990 – 1997 and a Board Member from 1998 – 2002.



Annexure 1:

NATIONAL LAW WEEK 2010

The Hume Riverina Community Legal Service, Upper Murray Regional Library, Albury City Library, Consumer Affairs Victoria, La Trobe University, Attorney General's Department of NSW, Albury Local Court, NSW Police, Sandra Northey (Local Solicitor) and Albury & District Law Society worked together to organise the events held in the Albury-Wodonga area during Law Week.

Committee Members

Andrew Johanson – Project Worker, Hume Riverina Community Legal Service
Diane Whitlock – Manager, Wodonga Library
Ross Kearney – Secretary, Albury & District Law Society
Sarah Caplice – Young Lawyers Albury & District Law Society
Karen Keegan – President, North East Law Association
Sarah Rodgers – Secretary, North East Law Association
Ingrid O'Neil – Court Staff, Albury Local Court
James Sloan – President, Albury & District Law Society
Kym Connell – Treasurer, Albury & District Law Society
Rob Anderson – Consumer Affairs, Victoria

Events Held

Lawyers/ Para Legals Breakfast, Monday 17 May 2010

The Albury & District Law Society, Young Lawyers Section of Albury & District Law Society and the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service ran a breakfast for Women Lawyers and Women Paralegals. It was held in Albury and well attended. Judy Small, director of Victoria Legal Aid's family, youth and children's services, was guest speaker and spoke about her position at the legal aid commission and how she saw law and justice. There was an article published in the Border Mail Tuesday 18 May 2010, copy enclosed.

Wills & Powers of Attorney, Monday 17 May 2010

The Hume Riverina Community Legal Service delivered and Albury Library Museum hosted a talk on Wills, Powers of Attorney in conjunction with the Law Week Roadshow. There was subdued interest however a good chance for representatives from Victims Services to network with the Legal Service's Principal Solicitor.

Family Law Talk, Monday 17 May 2010

The Hume Riverina Community Legal Service delivered and Albury Library Museum hosted a talk on Family Law in conjunction with the Law Week Roadshow and Family Relationship Centre, Wodonga. There was subdued interest yet another opportunity for the CLC and FRC to co-operate in light of new funding initiatives.

Legal Information Stall, Monday 17 May 2010

The Hume Riverina Community Legal Service, Legal Aid NSW, Victims Services and Fair Trading held a lunch at Westside Community Centre, Albury with an open invitation to the local aboriginal community to attend. This was part of the Law Week Road Show. It was not well attended but information was left at this community centre.

Continued.....

National Law Week 2010 Con't

Law Careers BBQ at La Trobe University Tuesday 18 May 2010

The Hume Riverina Community Legal Service, Consumer Affairs Victoria, NSW Albury Police and Albury District Law Society with La Trobe University hosted a BBQ and presentation for prospective law students in light of preliminary proposal of a Law Degree being offered at the Albury / Wodonga Campus. Some schools facilitated the attendance of students with staff in attendance as well. Attendance was the tip of the iceberg for interest from local lawyers and schools in this exciting opportunity to train, employ and retain lawyers in the North East of Victoria and Riverina of NSW.

Buying and Selling a House Tuesday 18 May 2010

Sandra Northey, a principal of local practice from Wodonga in conjunction with the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service gave a talk on Buying and Selling a House. This opportunity for the public to ask questions about an area of interest is of value. This event was advertised during the week in the Border Mail, copy enclosed and paid for by Sandra.

Introduction to the Office of Public Advocate Wednesday 19 May 2010

Wodonga Library celebrated Law Week 2010 with a presentation by Allan Elliott from the Office of the Public Advocate. Friends of Wodonga Library put on the lunch and 35 people attended which indicated the popularity of the area of discussion.

Presentation by Consumer Affairs Vic, Wangaratta Wednesday 19 May 2010 & Wodonga Thursday 20 May 2010

Presentation on Refunds and Warranties in Victoria & Consumer Affairs Victoria Services. Despite being advertised in the Border Mail the Saturday before Law Week in the main section, proof enclosed, it was not well attended.

"What about me? Self care for workers in the family law context" Family Pathways Network Conference Thursday 20 May 2010

Although not a law week initiated event we co-promoted this conference within law week. It was a headline event with guest speaker Hon. Chief Justice Diana Bryant, please see copy of Border Mail Article. Organisers considered the conference a success with over 70 attendees.

"Albury Court Debt Recovery Workshop" Thursday 20 May 2010 & Friday 21 May 2010

Ingrid O'Neil, of the Albury Court, presented a talk on how to conduct small claim debts without a solicitor which was so popular with the local business community that another talk was conducted on the following day. Ingrid provided a take home kit for attendees to guide them through the processes/forms.

Please note the Albury & District Law Society and North East Law Association dinner was cancelled due to insufficient numbers.

Media Coverage

The media releases were sent out to all local newspapers, radio stations and television stations.

Even though there was varied interest in events, the publicity and opportunity to engage with, and promote local legal services available to the community, made this week most worthwhile. Furthermore this week demonstrated a successful collaboration and co-operation between the private legal profession and government agencies in both NSW and Victoria.