



NSW Legal Information and Referral Forum

Report to NLA

LIRF met on 15 July 2015.

Call Me Dad documentary, Media Stockade

<http://callmedadfilm.com/>

Sophie Wiesner, Director and Teri Calder, Impact Producer, presented an overview of this documentary (including the first 15 minutes of it), which is a story about men who have perpetrated or are at risk of perpetrating family violence. At stake is the safety of their children and partners, the stability of their families, and the power that all of us have to intervene in this issue. It will screen on the ABC in November. Media Stockade, the production company, has also developed a version of the film suitable for community organisations to use for their education or fundraising purposes.

The film-makers' intention is that the documentary will encourage men to recognise their behaviour and take responsibility for it (while recognising that not all men will). They are also hoping that the film will increase the number of advocates willing to speak out against domestic and family violence (D&FV), increase advocacy for support for women who experience D&FV, and increase bystander action.

All organisations in the legal assistance sector are welcome to use the documentary for their own professional development, community and/or fundraising purposes, once it has screened on the ABC. Media Stockade is preparing outreach kits (with expert input from specialists in the area of D&FV) for community groups to use to support the screenings.

The kits will be available from Media Stockade at a small cost to cover the costs of producing them. If you are interested in using the documentary (post the November ABC screening) for your own organisation's purposes, or if you would like to assist with the outreach materials, you can contact Teri Calder on teri@mediastockade.com.

Boarding Houses project: Tenants Union of NSW

Margaret Di Nicola, the Boarding Houses project officer, provided an overview of the legal information and referral strategies that the TU has put in place to reach this group in the community, who experience many legal problems and are unlikely to access legal assistance on their own. Margaret ran through the history of boarding houses and the accompanying legislation. She noted the community bias towards boarding houses and speculates that it would make a positive difference if instead they were known as part of the mix of "affordable housing".

A related factsheet for community workers can be found on the Tenants NSW website at <http://intranet.tenants.org.au/print/fs27.pdf>. The TU has also produced a wallet card listing Boarding house residents' rights and where to obtain legal assistance, and a two page factsheet outlining the Boarding house occupancy principles which can be downloaded from the Find Legal Answers website at http://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au/guides/tenants_rights_manual/pdf/boarding_house_principles.pdf.



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LawAccess online - refreshed website

<http://www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au/>

Earlier this year the Department of Justice consolidated a number of justice sector agencies into one new website. Although maintaining their own branded website, this meant that LawAccess had to move their website to the new platform and adopt the Justice website style. The upside was that this brought an opportunity to refresh the website.

The website is now divided into four key areas:

1. My legal problem is about...(replaces LawAccess online)
2. Representing yourself (replaces LawAssist)
3. LawPrompt (restricted resource for LawAccess staff and CLC and Legal Aid lawyers who are subscribed)
4. Corporate information

LawAccess is always keen to hear your feedback so please have a look at the new website and provide your feedback either via the feedback option available on the Contact Us page, or directly via lawaccess@agd.nsw.gov.au.

New work in legal information and referral

The various agencies attending provided information about newly produced legal information resources and initiatives for enhancing legal referral:

LIAC

- The online edition of Hot Topics' *Drugs and the Law* is currently being updated (it will also be posted on the Drug Info site <http://www.druginfo.sl.nsw.gov.au/>, which is managed by LIAC).
- Please let Cathy Hammer know if you have new plain language resources or projects to promote. Cathy is happy to promote them using LIAC's Tumblr account, and blog (you could be a guest blogger). Cathy can be contacted on cathy.hammer@sl.nsw.gov.au. Visuals are good!

Diversity Services, Department of Justice

- A new edition of the Capacity Toolkit will be published later this year.
- Diversity Services is responsible for a new Multicultural Plan for the Department of Justice for 2015-2018.

Women's Legal Services NSW

- Funding for the Indigenous Women's project has been confirmed for twelve months.
- WLS has received a small grant to run a respectful relationships program for young people in schools.
- The third edition of *Our Dream: Stopping The Violence* will be available from WLS shortly. It is a publication about domestic violence and the law in NSW, written specifically for Aboriginal women.
- A new booklet on sexual assault is also in development.
- ACCAN funded a project on how technology is used to perpetrate violence against women.



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Justice Connect

- Yvonne has recently commenced as Manager of Justice Connect's Migrant Outreach Service, MOSAIC. It provides advice and assistance on civil law matters. Currently operating in two outreach locations, a third outreach will shortly be launched in Auburn.
- The MOSAIC program is also developing short films in three languages on mobile phone contracts.
- The Self Representation Service currently assists people appearing in bankruptcy and employment matters in the Federal Court. They will shortly also offer assistance in administrative law and human rights matters.

LawAccess

- A new topic has been added to the Representing Yourself section, called After Someone Dies. It can be found at [http://www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au/Pages/representing/after someone dies/after someone dies.aspx](http://www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au/Pages/representing/after_someone_dies/after_someone_dies.aspx).

Community Legal Education Workers Network (CLEW)

- CLEW will meet on 22 July, with a presentation from the Community Broadcasters Association of Australia on how CLCs can use community radio to promote CLCs and present legal information and education.

TARS

- TARS, The Aged Care Rights Service, will soon change its name to "Seniors Rights".
- TARS is involved in a one day seminar on elder abuse, to take place on 13 October in Auburn. It will be held in collaboration with Auburn Council and South West Sydney TAFE.
- TARS is developing a project with funding from Legal Aid NSW, which is a radio play in community languages called Borrowers Beware.
- TARS is distributing sets of playing cards with legal tips in a range of community languages to older people.
- TARS is working with South West Sydney TAFE to develop and launch a Certificate 4 course on seniors advocacy.

Tenants Union of NSW

- The Residential Tenancies Act is now five years old and the TU has written a report reviewing the operation of the Act and noting a number of issues that need resolution. You can download the TU report from their website here: <http://intranet.tenants.org.au/print/policy-papers/TUNSW-Report-5-Years-RTA.pdf>

ALS NSW/ACT

- The ALS has been busy running a campaign to fight funding cuts which has been successful. All services have been retained for now.



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Report to NLAf

- The Talking Factsheets project is nearly complete. You can view the talking factsheets on the ALS' YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxTqByWNqE9vnXt8CpCeRSnzGu2gC5k0y>
- Just Reinvest, the organisation working on a Justice Reinvestment strategy for NSW is currently developing a new website and they are looking for some volunteer or pro bono assistance to design and build the site. Please contact them if you can help or have any ideas! <http://www.justreinvest.org.au/>

Australian Pro Bono Centre

- The National Pro Resource Centre has recently changed its name to the Australian Pro Bono Centre and also has a new visual identity. Their Twitter handle is @AusPBC.
- The Centre is developing a new website using Wordpress. They are keen to invite people to participate in beta testing in August, so if you would like to help please contact Dan Jacobs at the Centre on either 9385 7381 or daniel.jacobs@probonocentre.org.au.
- The Centre is currently undertaking the Eighth Annual Performance Report on the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target.

Financial Hardship Working Group

- This group was set up as a project of LIRF, in collaboration with the CLSD program at Legal Aid NSW. Membership is drawn from CLCs, programs within Legal Aid NSW, LawAccess NSW, many of the Ombudsman services and financial counsellors.
- The second meeting of the group took place on 25 May.
- Out of that meeting a letter has gone to ACMA outlining the barriers that people living in remote communities face in accessing, using and benefiting from the Do Not Call register, and suggesting some ways to remove those barriers.
- The group is also developing a joint Protocol for working together.

The next meeting of LIRF will take place in October 2015.

Jane Kenny

Grants and Legal Information Manager, Law and Justice Foundation

Convenor

Legal Information and Referral Forum