



## NSW Legal Information and Referral Forum

### Report to NLA

LIRF met on 21 October 2015.

#### **Reaching communities – using community broadcasting to provide legal information**

Three speakers provided information on this topic.

Emma Couch, Member Services Officer, Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBA) – ***Community Broadcasting and how you can use it***

- Emma provided an overview of community broadcasting in Australia and what these radio stations provide: news, information and cultural content and entertainment.
- CBA research shows that almost five million people listen to community radio every week.
- Community broadcasting reaches out to a range of audiences that are of interest to those providing legal information and referral – Indigenous, RRR, people with disabilities, CALD, young people and older people.
- Community broadcasters are always keen for content and would welcome the opportunity to work with members of LIRF to deliver legal information and sources of legal referral. Emma is happy for members of LIRF to contact her for advice on how to make the approach and can be contacted on 9318 9622 or at [ecouch@cbaa.org.au](mailto:ecouch@cbaa.org.au)
- The CBA website is a very useful source of information: <https://www.cbaa.org.au/>. It contains a list of member stations with short descriptors and a link to station websites where they exist. The CBA short videos are also a useful way to find out more about community broadcasting. They can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/user/CBAATube>.

Diana Bernard, Manager, Education, Promotion & Special Projects, The Aged Care Rights Service (TARS), ***“Borrowers Beware”***

- The “Borrowers Beware” project received funding from the CLC partnership program at Legal Aid NSW.
- This project was developed in response to a need TARS identified through their calls and casework for information about the legal issues for older CALD people giving financial help to family members.
- Problems arise when there is a lack of knowledge about the services available, there are cultural issues around accessing those services and language difficulties.
- The language groups targeted were Arabic Croatian, Serbian and Macedonian.
- TARS chose community radio as the medium to deliver this information after consulting with community organisations and leaders, who indicated that radio in language was a preferred cultural engagement strategy. Providing information this way also overcomes any problems with literacy and/or English, allows for greater reach than face to face CLE, and facilitates a broader range of presentations – ads, stories and interviews.
- Some of the challenges and opportunities conducting the project included engaging the interest of the radio stations, or specific contacts or journalists, developing succinct ads and interviews with lawyers (whose tendency is to give more information rather than less), and measuring the longer term outcomes of the project.



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Jane Brock, Executive Officer, Immigrant Women's Speakout Association (IWSA): ***Forced and Servile Marriages radio plays***

- Jane told us about the project that IWSO is currently developing, which uses community radio to deliver a clear and succinct message that forced marriage is illegal in Australia, and provides information about who to contact for help. (Legal Aid was represented on the steering committee for this project and signed off on the legal content). The radio plays will be launched on 28 October. The project was funded with a grant from the Law and Justice Foundation.
- IWSA identified the need for this messaging through its work with CALD women, both clients and member community leaders.
- The project has been a useful way of engaging community leaders, and by testing the resource, delivering information in a proactive way to communities who participate in this practice.
- Some of the challenges have included cultural sensitivity around this issue, being able to communicate the right messages effectively in different languages, using realistic language, and the time taken to consult appropriately both around development of the project and in testing the scripts and translations.

#### **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:

#### **CLCNSW (Al McEwin)**

- 40 year anniversary celebrations approaching – promotional postcard distributed to meeting participants. Please contact the CLCNSW office if you would like copies to distribute to your staff/stakeholders. More information can be found here: [http://www.clcnsw.org.au/cb\\_pages/40\\_year\\_celebration\\_registrations.php](http://www.clcnsw.org.au/cb_pages/40_year_celebration_registrations.php).

#### **Legal Aid NSW (Kirsten Cameron):**

- Legal Aid is considering the legal information and assistance needs of the newly arriving Syrian refugees. Legal Aid will convene a group from the sector to progress this, with an invited guest speaker to inform the discussion.
- The CLE/training calendar continues to expand. There will be a new round of train the trainer courses offered to AMEP and English language teachers using the What's The Law resource. Legal Aid's training calendar and information can be accessed here: <http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/workshops>.
- The re-vamped Best For Kids website <http://www.bestforkids.org.au/> was launched recently by the NSW Attorney General.

#### **Australian Pro Bono Centre (Afton Fife and Sue Hunt)**

- Afton introduced Sue Hunt, the new Policy Officer at the Centre.
- The Centre is currently updating the Pro Bono Manual.



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- With their recent re-branding, the Centre has a new Twitter handle, @AusPBC, and a new LinkedIn page, which can be found at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/australian-pro-bono-centre>.
- The Centre has recently published the Eighth Annual Performance Report on the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target and it can be found at : [https://wic041u.server-secure.com/vs155205\\_secure/CMS/files/cms/Eighth Annual Performance Report on the Aspirational Target 2015.pdf](https://wic041u.server-secure.com/vs155205_secure/CMS/files/cms/Eighth%20Annual%20Performance%20Report%20on%20the%20Aspirational%20Target%202015.pdf).

#### Women's Legal Services NSW (Rebecca Ebel)

- Ask Lois continues to add new webinars to its schedule. You can find the latest list on Ask Lois at <http://www.asklois.org.au/>.
- WLS recently ran a domestic violence legal training day for CLC lawyers.
- The 2016 training program will include content on DV law, family law, care and protection and victims' support.

#### Law and Justice Foundation (Jane Kenny)

- New grants made in August 2015:
  1. Giving Evidence in Children's Court DVD - Association of Children's Welfare Agencies
  2. The AVO Roundabout - Intellectual Disability Rights Service
  3. Self-representation Help for Asylum Seekers in the 'Fast Track' Process - Refugee Advice and Casework Service

More information can be found here: <http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/grants/awarded>.

#### Justice Connect (Savi Manii)

- The Not-for-profit law service now has funding to go national. <https://www.justiceconnect.org.au/our-programs/not-for-profit-law>.

#### State Library of NSW (Oriana Acevedo, Consultant, Multicultural Services)

- Oriana's role is to build multicultural services at the State Library.
- She is working on expanding the State Library's outreach to public libraries in NSW.
- The service currently contains over 70,000 items, which are available to borrow through public libraries.
- Oriana encouraged members of LIRF who have legal information or plain language legal resources available in community languages to liaise with her about distribution through the public library network. Oriana can be contacted on 9273 1544 or by email at [oriana.acevedo@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:oriana.acevedo@sl.nsw.gov.au).
- More information can be found on the Library's multicultural services at <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/services/multicultural/index.html>.

#### CLSD program, Legal Aid NSW (Jenny Lovric)

- The Financial hardship working group, which was initially established as a working group of LIRF, is currently transitioning to become a working group of NLA, given its expanding role and the work it is doing around advocacy.



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- The Older Person's Diary 2016 will be available shortly. Orders for copies should be made by going to **Order a publication** on the Legal Aid NSW website:  
<http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/publications/order-a-publication>.
- CLSD is shortly expanding to the Moree region.
- CLSD is involved in the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment project in Bourke. It was noted that Alastair Ferguson, who leads this project, was the winner of the 2015 Law and Justice Foundation's Aboriginal Justice Award.
- Jenny reminded everyone that CLSD is a ready-made set of networks around regional NSW, so if you are planning to deliver outreach, seminars or CLE in the regions, Jenny would be happy to connect you to the various regional coordinators.  
<http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/community-partnerships/cooperative-legal-services-delivery-clsd-program>.

#### Justice Connect (Siobhan Ryan)

- Siobhan has recently started at Justice Connect as the New Initiatives Manager. She will be working on projects to do with health justice partnerships, seniors and employment law.

#### TARS (Nalika Padmasena and Pat Joyce)

- TARS held a forum on elder abuse recently. There were around 250 participants. TARS is planning a further two regional forums. A copy of the forum program is attached to these minutes.
- On 24 November TARS will change its name to Seniors Rights Service. The web address and all email addresses will change.

#### LIAC (Philippa Scarf)

- LIAC is currently updating earlier Hot Topics editions of Drugs and the Law and You and your Lawyer. Both will be available online. All online copies of Hot Topics can be found on the Find Legal Answers website at [http://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au/hot\\_topics/](http://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au/hot_topics/).

The next meeting of LIRF will take place in March 2016.

**Jane Kenny**

**Grants and Legal Information Manager, Law and Justice Foundation**

**Convenor**

**Legal Information and Referral Forum**