**Learning and Development Group meeting**

**Thursday 25th August 2011**

This meeting was held at Legal Aid and consisted of representatives from NLAF, CLCNSW, LJF, LIAC, and Law Access NSW. The College of Law came is as a guest speaker.

***LJF*** reported on the social media seminars held by LJF as part of its capacity building program in plain language law. They will be following through with the organizations who attended to assess their implementation of their chosen applications and the impact made.

***LIAC*** described their training program to local courts in regional areas in how to find and use LIAC resources in particular the Find Legal Answers kit which is now in smaller regional libraries and also has a link on the DAGJ website. The latest *Hot Topics* issue is on Refugees and the first three chapters of the *Employment and The Law* issue are available online on the LIAC website. Feedback welcome.

***LawAccess*** launched *LawAssist Fines* website with a very practical focus. They have also completed a 3 week induction program for new staff.

***Legal Aid NSW*** is currently reviewing and revising the training offered to LA staff through their Learning Management System.

***CLCNSW*** spoke about the weekly email updates as a communication tool for L&D and Sector Development Opportunities in the wider legal sector and invited agencies to send any relevant information for CLC staff. The opportunity to collaborate on an induction program that involves visiting relevant legal agencies (e.g. LawAccess, Legal Aid NSW, CLCs, Courts etc) was discussed. Representatives of the relevant agencies could organize visiting programs for staff across agencies so as to maximise efficiency. Group members agreed to consider strategies for a joint visiting orientation program. CLCNSW is happy to coordinate the group but strongly invites input and collaboration with other members of the L&D group. NLAF to develop a diagram showing relevant information/services organisations and referral pathways, which could be provided to the participants.

***The College of Law*** reported that there is a mix of online and face to face training opportunities for lawyers and spoke of the new program for PLT students offered by the College of Law.

***NLAF*** reported on the RRR working group and the proposal to utilize the national broadband network for professional development, increase in the frequency of legal service delivery and managing professional isolation in the RRR areas.

The Employment Law Working Group is mapping the provision of employment services and advice. The Domestic Violence Group held a meeting attended by NSW police to discuss input from the group into training for Police Prosecutors.

A catalogue of plain language legal resources for newly arrived migrants and refugees can be found on the NLAF website.

Work continues on the Prisoners Legal Information Portal.

The next meeting will be held at 2.30 pm on Thursday 17 November 2011.