

elizabeth evatt
community legal centre

ANNUAL REPORT
2018-2019



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre would like to pay our respects and acknowledge the continuing sovereignty of the Darug, Gundungurra and Wiradyuri nations as the owners of the land on which we work.

Our Funders

Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and NSW Government through the Community Legal Services Program, which funds our legal services; Cooperative Legal Services Delivery (CLSD) Program at Legal Aid NSW, which funds facilitation of the Central Tablelands CLSD program; and NSW Fair Trading through the Tenants' Advice and Advocacy program, which funds the Blue Mountains Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Service.

EECLC would also like to thank Blue Mountains City Council for continuing to support us through providing us with a rent free office space in Katoomba.

Hours of Operation

Main office: 4 Station St, Katoomba NSW 2780

Monday – Friday: 9.30am – 4.30pm

Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre (LINC):

1 Padley St, Lithgow NSW 2790 – Every second Tuesday

Lithgow Community Projects (LCP):

28 Main St, Lithgow NSW 2790 – Every second Tuesday and each Thursday

Bathurst Relationships Australia

98 Seymour Street, Bathurst 2975 – Every Monday

Bathurst Information and Neighbourhood Centre

96 Russell Street, Bathurst 2795 – Thursday once a month

Legal Advice Line: 4704 0207 or 1300 363 967

Tenancy Advice Line: 4704 0201

Fax: 02 4782 4384

Email: admin@eeclc.org.au

website: www.eeclc.org.au

WHO WE ARE

EECLC Board

EECLC is run by a volunteer Board who give generously their time and talents.

Board Members

President

Sarah Shrubbs (until December 2018);
Sara Blazey (until June 2019)

Vice President

Suzie Van Opdorp

Treasurer

Timothy Kaye

Secretary

Celia Vagg

Ordinary Members (at June 2019):

Dianne Hamey; Eric Sidoti; Kerry
Tongue (from April 2019); Sarah Ellison
(from April 2019)

Departing Board Members:

Felicity Martin (April 2019); Hilary
Kincaid, Neal Blewett, Christine Wren
(December 2018)

EECLC Staff

Managing Principal Solicitor

Arlia Fleming

Supervising Solicitor

Rebecca Frost (from August 2018)

Solicitors

Thea Deakin-Greenwood

Kathy Keat

Jessica Adams (until May 2019)

Tenant Advocates

Jo Hibbert

Ben Connor

Operations Officer

Tina Napier

Volunteer Coordination & Admin

Natalie Tomlins (from May 2019);

Meg Goodwin (until May 2019);

Martin Roberts (until October 2018)





WHAT WE DO

The Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre (EECLC) is an independent, not for profit, community legal centre.

We are part of a nation wide network of independent community legal centres that work towards achieving a fair and equitable justice system for all. We strive towards a fair society by making a positive difference in the lives of people who are disadvantaged in the Blue Mountains and Central Tablelands communities.

EECLC aims to increase our community's understanding of and access to the legal system by providing free legal information and advice, assistance and representation; community legal education; advocacy for tenants; and law reform activities.

We share a commitment to social justice; we respect diversity and we value the strengths and abilities of our community.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is my first year as President. I have the very good fortune of following on from our former President Sarah Shrubbs who stepped down from the Board in 2018, after ten years of service. I acknowledge her fine stewardship which has left the service in a very good place.

I would like to begin by thanking our Managing Principal Solicitor, Arlia Fleming, for her work and dedication to ensuring the EECLC maintains a high standard of practice and meets its obligations to clients, staff, the Board and our funders.

Arlia has many personal and professional qualities which ensure success in her role. She provides efficient and effective management of the centre. She is very supportive of staff and the Board. She is always very open in her communication and is an effective communicator. All of these qualities and skills make for a high performing organisation!

It has not been the easiest of years with much uncertainty regarding funding levels. It is well recognised that there is large amount of unmet need for legal assistance and Community Legal Centres such as ours struggle to meet community demand. Services like ours require additional funding if we are meet our objective of accessible legal services and social justice.

I wish to acknowledge our staff who provide a high standard of service whether it be legal assistance, administration, intake or tenancy advocacy. We are very fortunate to have a team of such committed workers who delight in making a difference in the lives of people who are often disadvantaged and marginalised.

The work of the centre requires a commitment to collaborative practise, whether it be within the team or between EECLC and other government and community service organisations. In order for EECLC to meet its benchmarks, we must work with others. I acknowledge the contribution of our community partners across the Blue Mountains and the Central West. Without our community partnerships much of the work we do would be neither achievable or sustainable.

In closing it is important to acknowledge the Board. All members perform their role in a voluntary capacity. This requires a certain passion and commitment to social justice and very real commitment to EECLC. It has been a pleasure working with you over the past twelve months and I look forward to achieving more in the year to come.

SUZIE VAN OPDORP

President





TREASURER'S REPORT

This has been my first year on the Board of EECLC and I have found an organisation efficiently and prudently managed and dedicated to its mission but heavily constrained by limited financial resources.

Reliance on state and federal government funding with no major source of independent finance limits ability to service unmet need, which is evident both in the Blue Mountains where EECLC is long established and further west where EECLC's growing services highlight the shortage of service provision. No amount of careful budget scrutiny, risk management and good process can compensate for this financial constraint. In that regard it was disappointing that EECLC's strong case for additional funding in the recent state tender process to provide services to areas west of Bathurst was unsuccessful. In addition, it is a shame that current funding across the CLC sector was not indexed.

Thankfully funding for existing services remains robust and we will continue to make our best case to governments, and to access specific programs as they arise. We are also grateful for the volunteer support which we receive. Although local opportunities for public fundraising and individual or corporate philanthropy are limited we may need to increase our efforts here to diversify funding.

I would like to thank CLCNSW, for their invaluable assistance in providing bookkeeping, accounting and other financial services to EECLC, and William Tomiczek and Associates for their audit of the accounts.

TIM KAYE
Treasurer



MANAGING PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR'S REPORT

What a year it has been! We have been through a state government tender process, and I'm pleased to say come out the other side relatively unscathed and with the same amount of funding secured for 3 years. Our Commonwealth funding, however, ends on 30 June 2020 and we wait to see whether that will be brought into line with the state funding. Unfortunately, we were not successful in our tender application to expand our services further to the west, and this resulted in the loss of solicitor Jess Adams, and the subsequent closure of our Bathurst office based at Relationships Australia. We still continue to visit Bathurst each Monday, and once a month at the Neighbourhood centre.

Other staff movements include our Coordinator of Volunteers and Admin, Martin Roberts, leaving to pursue his therapeutic career. We were assisted by the fabulous Megan Goodwin for a short time. Our recruitment for this position was successful in securing Natalie Tomlins who has a background in mental health support. Natalie is a great addition to the EECLC team, her sense of humour is a great joy and her strengths in working with our volunteers is unsurpassed. We farewelled our longest serving employee Jo Hibbert, who has been a fantastic advocate for the tenants of the Blue Mountains for many years. She is missed but we know she is still doing great community work and enjoying her beautiful garden.

Participation in a cultural immersion with the Wiradyuri Elders in Bathurst taught us much about the significance of some of the local sacred sites such as Wahluu (Mount Panorama) and we were invited to practice Yindyamarra, which means respect, be polite, do slowly, be gentle and honour. This was a very special day and you will find photos of the Board, EECLC team and the Elders throughout this report.

I continue to serve as an ordinary member on the Community Legal Centres NSW board, where I continue to advocate for a united CLC sector. This year has seen an earnest embarking on collaborative legal service planning as required by the Commonwealth National Partnership Agreement.





We have been very fortunate this year to have many volunteers assist us. Ben Gillies who came to us from Corrective Services was invaluable providing support to the legal team 5 days a week for his practical legal training placement. Joshua Abbott, Mark Hoare, Jen Johnston, Natalie Tomlins, Carolynne Duncan, Elliot Lowe and Ella Stacey, have also worked hard to assist us in keeping the centre running smoothly. A huge thanks must go to our volunteer solicitor, Preeti Karan, who attends the centre one day a week looking after the Legal Advice Line. Preeti comes to us all the way from the Hawkesbury and we are very grateful to work with her.

Our Evening Legal Service has also continued every second Wednesday, where we are ably assisted by Anthony Steel of Mid Mountains Legal for family law advice; Lida Szabunia, also from Mid Mountains Legal, for traffic advice; and Scott Paige from Higgins Lawyers, and Marcia Ruf, for civil law advice. The Evening Legal Service is a crucial part of EECLC and we are very grateful to those who can volunteer their time and skills.

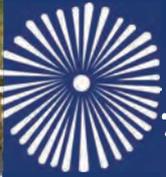
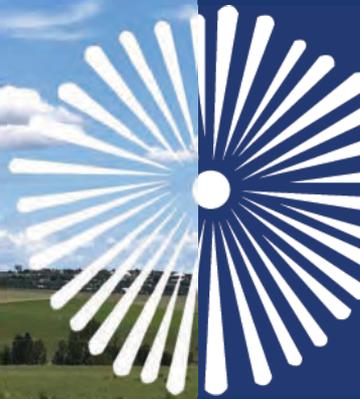
I must thank the Central West Family Law Pathways Network for sponsoring me to attend the Child Inclusive Practice Forum in sunny Darwin, this was a very enjoyable conference.

Our board have continued to be very supportive of the centre and of staff and I thank them for their continued dedication to the governance of the centre.

I will end by saying what a pleasure and privilege it is to work with a team of people who are all dedicated to assisting those people in our community who are socio-economically disadvantaged.

ARLIA FLEMING
Managing Principal Solicitor







OUR LEGAL SERVICE

EECLC provides free legal assistance to people who live in the Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Oberon, and Bathurst regions, assisting further into the Central Tablelands region as resources permit. Our services are designed to match the needs of our community, and the capacity of our clients. We reach people at their time of need through partnering with local community agencies and providing a range of outreach services.

We assisted **711** clients this year, who received the following services:

897 advices

248 tasks

We provided one off assistance with writing letters, preparing documents or making phone calls on behalf of clients.

62 duty lawyer services

We assisted people at local courts who are affected by family and domestic violence to obtain appropriate protection.

21 dispute resolution cases

We negotiated on behalf of our clients in family law disputes, to avoid the number of people having to take their matters to court. Most of our cases related to parenting matters.

117 court/tribunal matters

We represented our clients at court to resolve issues requiring judicial oversight, including applications for victims compensation.

36 other representation services

We assisted people to resolve their legal issue through negotiations, including applications for care and protection matters involving children, and credit and debt issues.

In addition, we provided:

932 referrals

200 information sessions



The main types of problems we assisted with included:

Parenting arrangements

Apprehended domestic violence orders

Family law property

Domestic and family violence

Victims compensation

Divorce

Civil law problems - complaints about government departments

Credit and debt

Wills and estates

Child protection

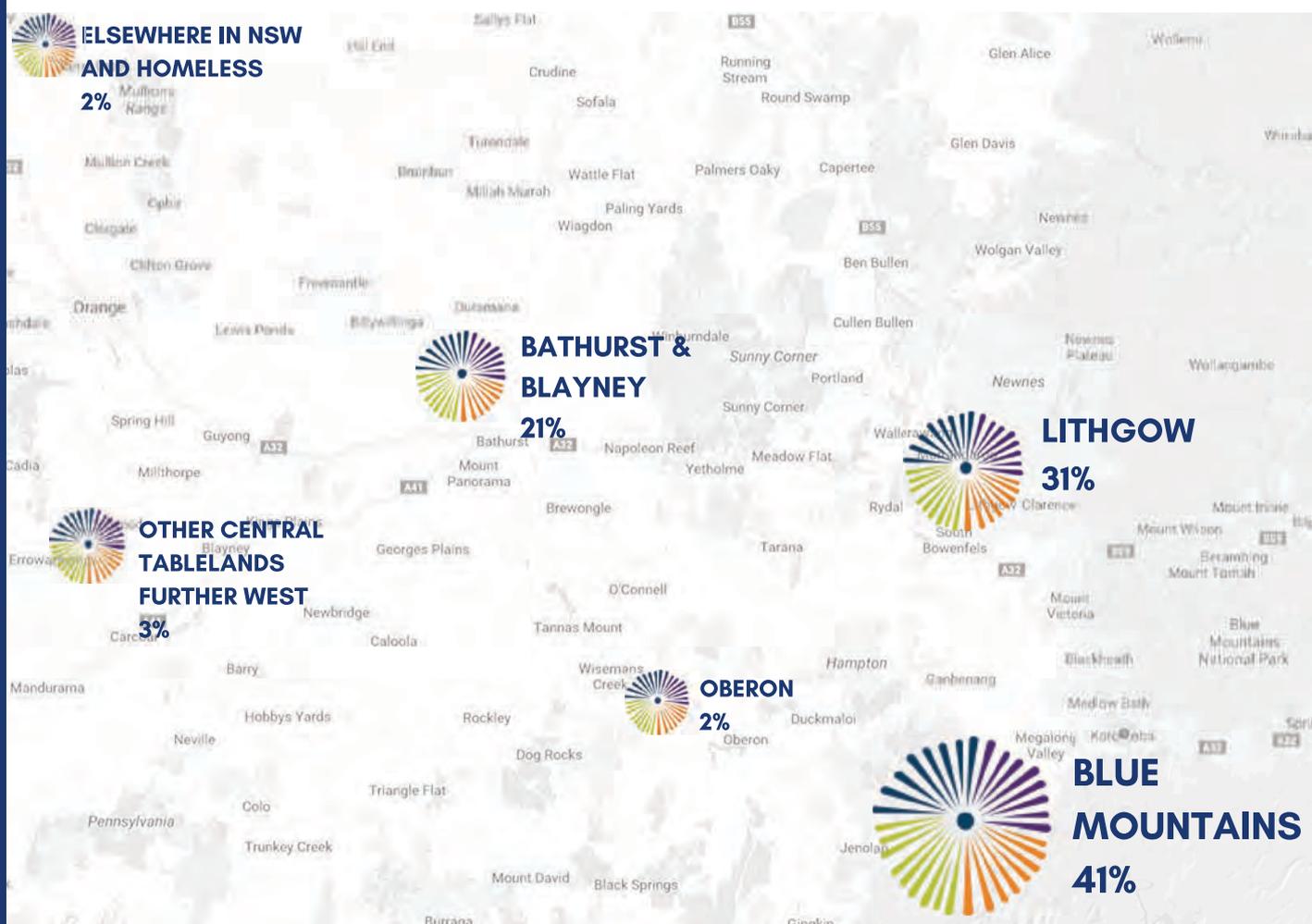
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences

Employment



EECLC provides regular outreach services across our catchment.

This provides people with the opportunity to meet face to face with a lawyer in locations with less access to legal assistance. This map highlights the proportion of our legal services provided to people in different towns.



These outreaches include:

- Weekly legal advice and representation at Katoomba, Lithgow, Bathurst and local courts on apprehended violence order list days;
- Fortnightly advice and representation to tenants in dispute with their landlord at Katoomba NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal;
- Weekly Attendance at Lithgow Community Projects;
- Fortnightly attendance at Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre; and
- Monthly attendance at Bathurst Information and Neighbourhood Centre.

*We would like to thank our outreach partners who provide space for us to see clients:
Lithgow Community Projects, Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre,
Bathurst Relationships Australia, Bathurst Neighbourhood Centre.*

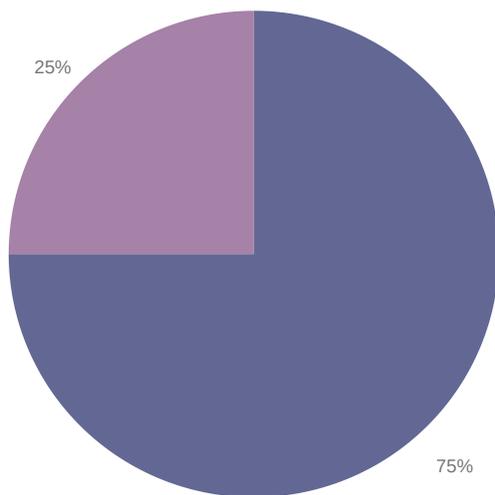
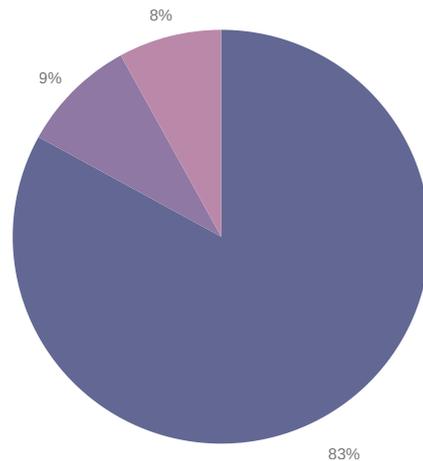
OUR CLIENTS

Our services are prioritised to the most vulnerable people in our community. Research into legal needs indicates that certain groups of people are more likely to experience legal problems, have greater number of problems, and also more complicated and difficult legal problems that are harder to resolve.

Legal

Experiencing financial hardship 83%

At risk of experiencing homelessness 9%



At risk of or currently experiencing family or domestic violence 75%

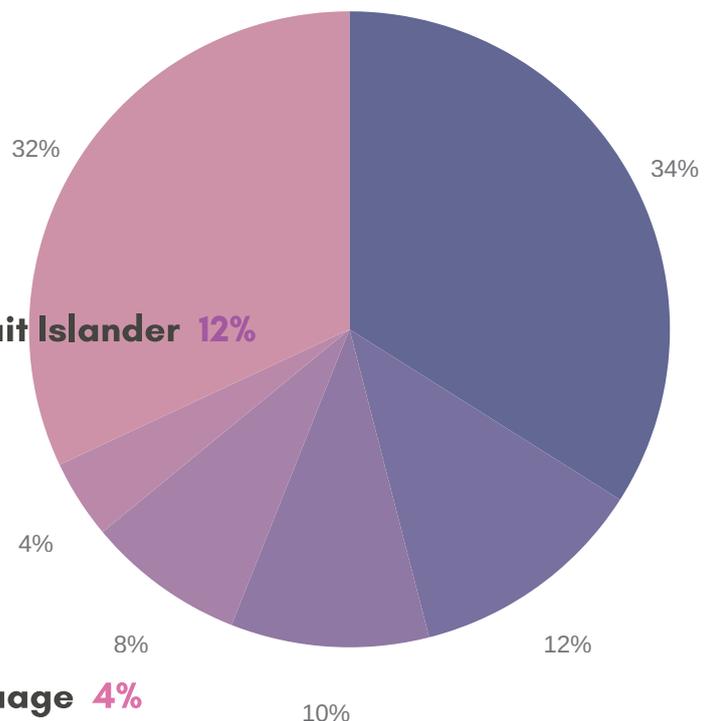
Have a disability 34%

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander 12%

65 or over 10%

Under 25 8%

English is not their main language 4%





OUR TENANCY SERVICE

The Blue Mountains Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service provides assistance to tenants having difficulties maintaining their tenancies. We aim to support people to enforce their rights as a tenant.

We assisted **270** clients this year, who received the following services:

184 information sessions

65 referrals and connections with support

254 advices

236 negotiation, advocacy and liaison services with landlords

68 applications, representation and appeals services at NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT)

47 duty advocacy services at NCAT

The main types of problems we assisted with included:

Termination of lease

Rents and other charges

Repairs and alterations

Bonds and compensation

Social housing

Access and privacy

Miscellaneous disputes

NCAT and jurisdiction

Agreements

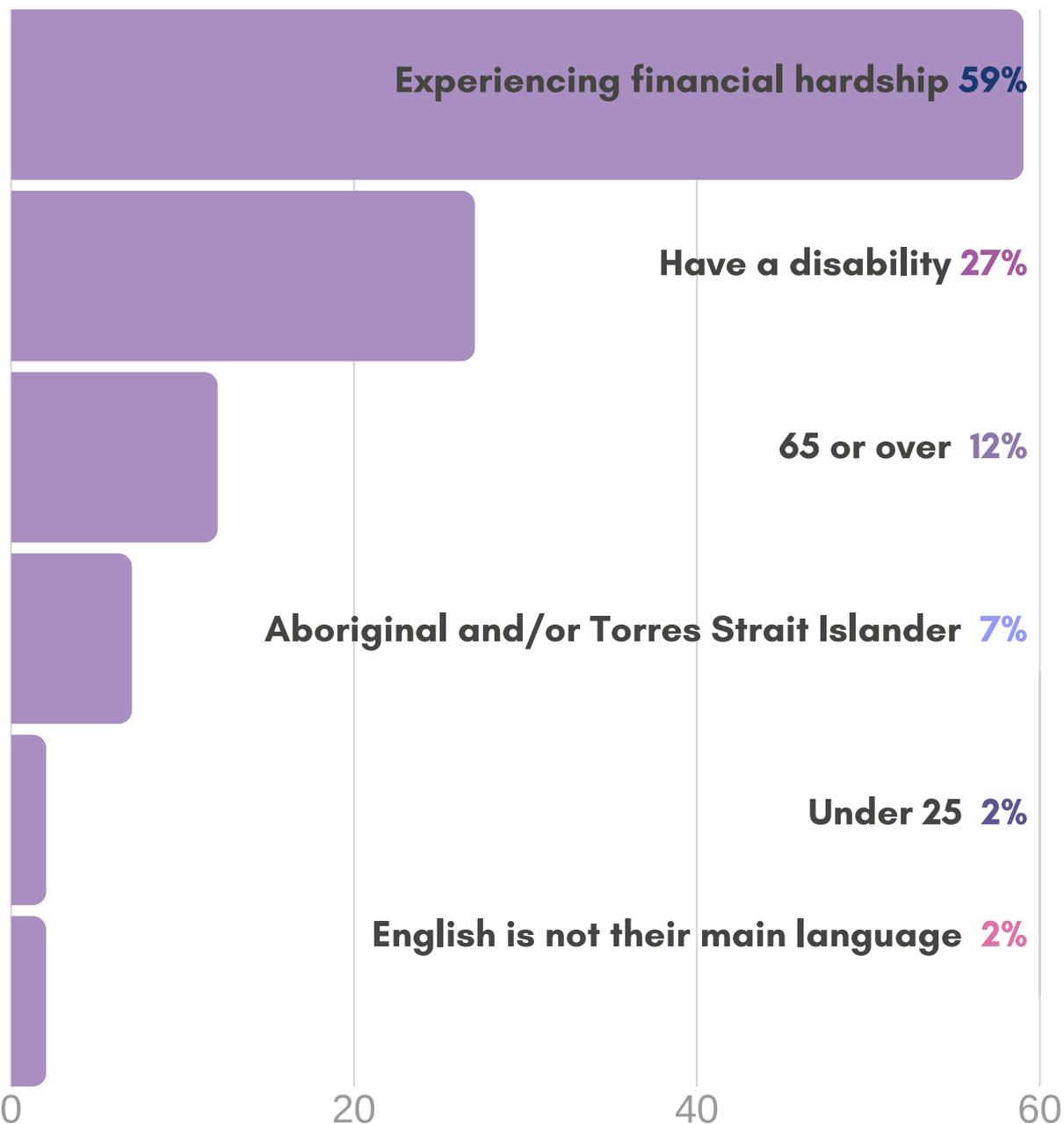
Share accommodation

Boarding house and lodgers





Tenancy



HOW WE MADE A DIFFERENCE

Thank you for being there for me...and thanks for helping me get out of the horrible situation and find the right way and choose the right thing to do...

Thank you for all the kind and caring things you have done for me... you have given me a renewed sense of hope and fresh growth and strength to go forward. I just can't thank you enough...

Without help I would have been stuck in that situation and unable to leave - she made a massive difference to me and my kids...

I sat and stared at paperwork because of trauma - to have someone take that from me and deal with it was a relief...






WE SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL.
LET'S FIGHT OPPRESSION ON ALL FRONTS!



CLIENT STORIES

When people are faced with a legal problem, it can put strain on their health, relationships, employment and finances. These stresses limit capacity to engage meaningfully with the people around us and wider society, contributing to social isolation and exclusion. Getting legal assistance increases the chances that problems will be resolved, resulting in decreased stress and anxiety. These client stories and the quotes throughout this annual report tell us that our service changes lives – not just of those we directly assist, but their families, and by extension their communities.

Jill

Jill is a young woman who had a compensation payment placed into a Trust some years previously. She was not getting any details from the Trustee about the money in the Trust. Jill had disabilities and a difficult relationship with the Trustee that prevented her from being able to advocate for herself. She was also unable to pay her bills and living expenses.

With the assistance of our pro bono partner Sparke Helmore, we were able to assist Jill to appoint a person to manage the trust who she could communicate with more comfortably. Now Jill is confident that her compensation money is being appropriately managed and can access funds to pay her bills and living expenses.

Chris

Chris was released from prison, and had no identification documents. Chris was born overseas and this made it difficult for him to access his birth certificate. He could not continue to receive Centrelink benefits without providing them with ID and could not obtain an ID card from Service NSW without his birth certificate. Chris wanted to be able to work and find stable accommodation but without any ID he could not do this. We assisted Chris to obtain his birth certificate from overseas, allowing him to obtain ID and secure his Centrelink payment.

Max

Max is a 60 year old man with a neurological disability who lives by himself in a small unit in a rural town. Max is dependent on the disability support pension, and was referred to us by his financial counsellor about an electricity debt of over \$7000 at a previous residence. Max is living under financial stress and was going to agree to pay back the debt at a rate of \$20/fortnight. Since moving, he changed electricity providers and noticed that his electricity bills are a lot less than they were before. We agreed to assist Max by looking into the charges.

We contacted the electricity company and asked for a copy of the previous bills that led to the debt. After going through the bills, we noticed readings for 3 different electricity meters and that Max's electricity usage was equivalent to that of a 5 to 6 person household. Max confirmed with us that he lived alone and that the only items he had that would use a lot of electricity were a fridge and a fan heater, which were not enough to cause such a high electricity usage.

We disputed the high bills with the provider as there appeared to be errors made by the company and asked for the debt to be waived. The electricity company agreed to waive the whole debt which has relieved Max of some of the financial stress that he was under.

Gail

Victims of violence deserve compensation for their injuries. Gail is an Aboriginal woman who was the victim of many acts of violence by different perpetrators. EECLC assisted Gail to apply for Victims Compensation, requesting evidence to support her claims, and carefully assessed what category of compensation she was eligible for.

Gail was awarded compensation for 3 claims relating to domestic violence and sexual assault. A fourth claim was rejected in error by Victims Services, so we provided further assistance to successfully appeal this claim. Gail was ultimately awarded \$40,000 for all the violence she had suffered.





Joan

Property settlements after family breakdown should be fair and equitable for both parties. Negotiating a fair settlement can be challenging, particularly where one party is at significant disadvantage due to disability and victimisation.

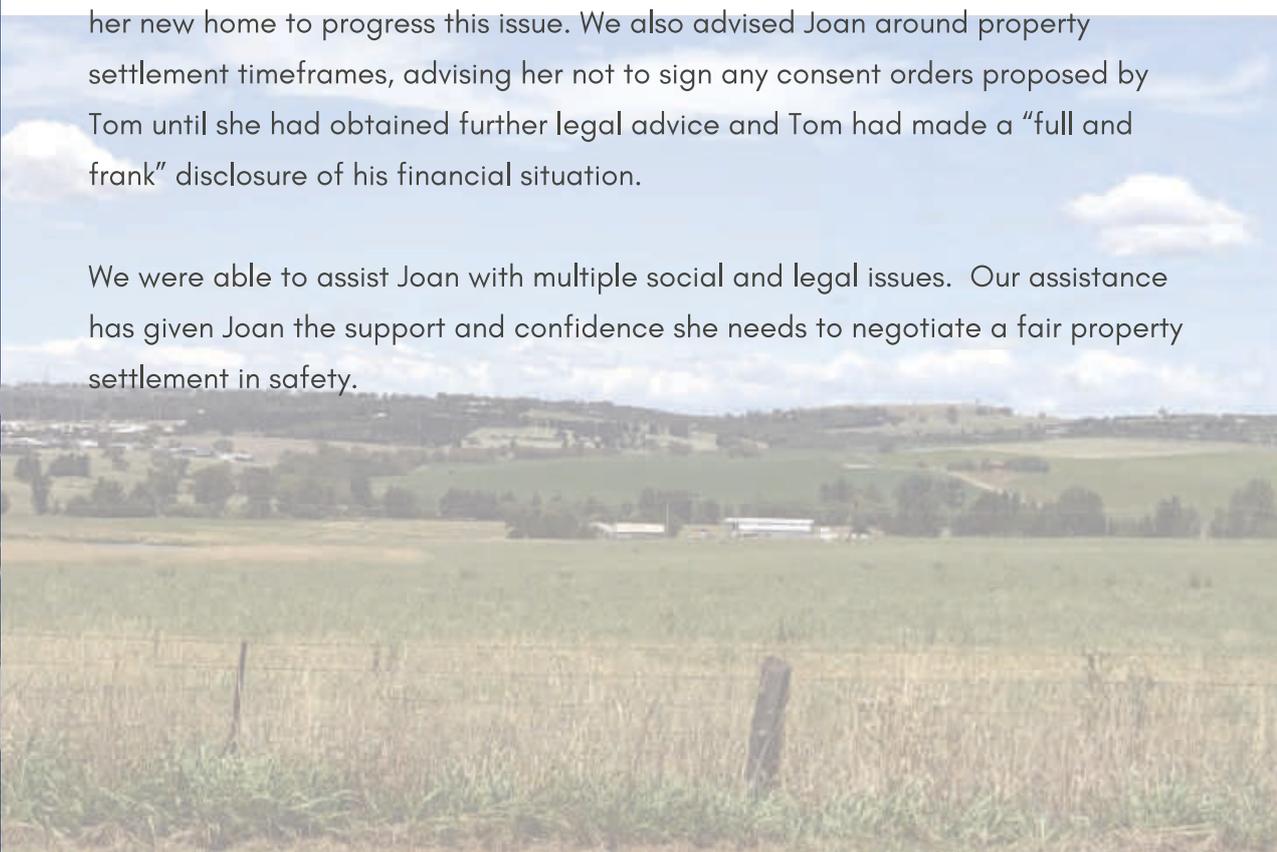


Joan is a middle-aged Aboriginal woman who is living with an acquired brain injury as a result of a workplace accident. Joan has been married to her partner, Tom, for several years. Tom had been abusive toward Joan through-out their relationship and controlled their finances. Tom was charged with assault and Joan was called to appear as a witness at court. Joan wanted to move away but had no access to funds, and was also unsure about ownership of their assets.

We were able to organise for Joan to attend the local police station and review her recorded evidence in readiness for the hearing, and provided her with information about court processes. We referred Joan to the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Scheme (WDVCAS) who were able to support her at Court.

We referred Joan to a range of local services that would assist with moving her possessions to her new home, reinstating her Disability Support Pension (DSP), and negotiating with the NDIS to obtain additional support and services. We advised Joan that she would be eligible for the Victims Support Scheme and made an appointment with another community legal centre close to her new home to progress this issue. We also advised Joan around property settlement timeframes, advising her not to sign any consent orders proposed by Tom until she had obtained further legal advice and Tom had made a "full and frank" disclosure of his financial situation.

We were able to assist Joan with multiple social and legal issues. Our assistance has given Joan the support and confidence she needs to negotiate a fair property settlement in safety.



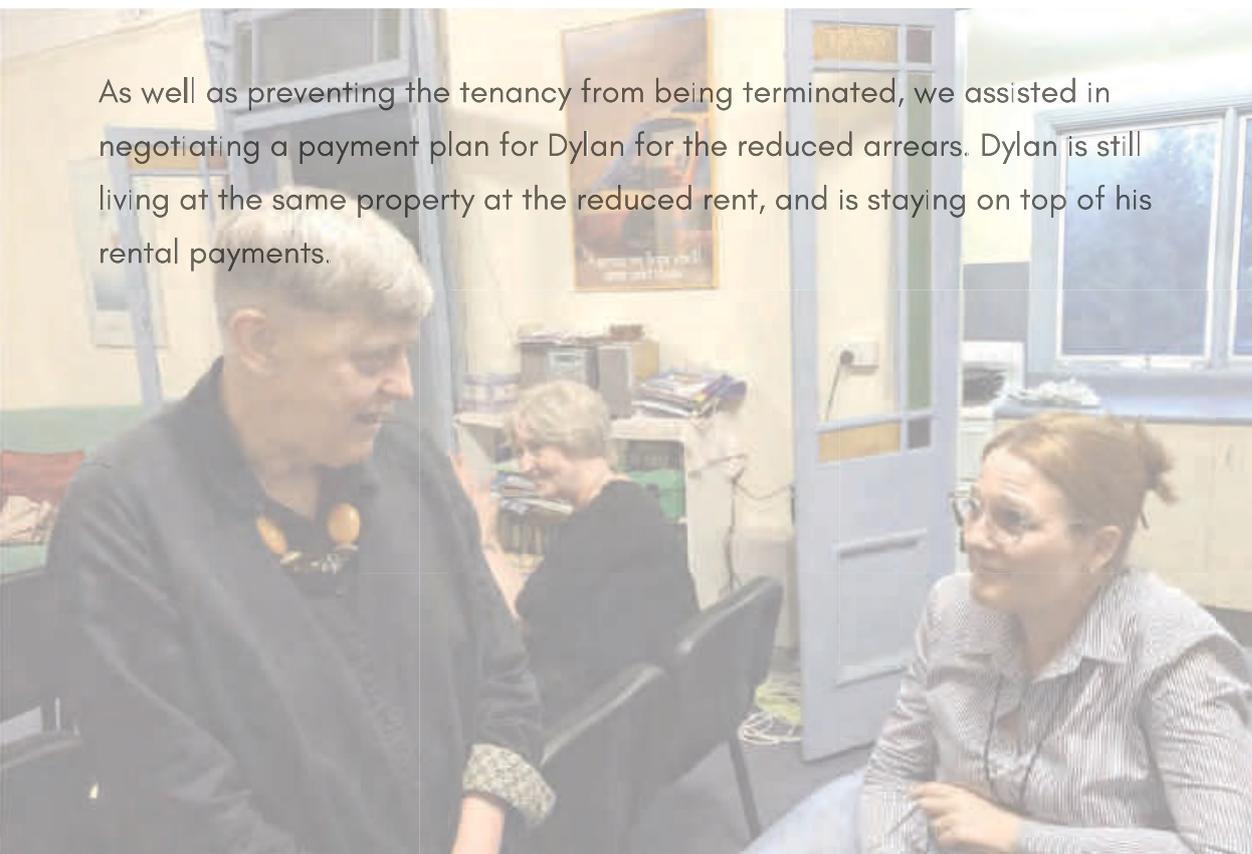
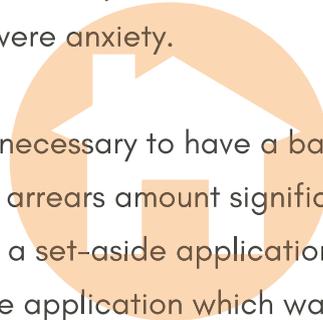
Dylan

Individuals who live with disabilities can be disadvantaged, especially when faced with the administrative formalities required of a tenant.

Dylan is a middle-aged man with visionary impairments who resides in community housing. His tenancy was terminated by his provider, on the basis that Dylan had fallen into arrears on his rent. Dylan had been charged a market rent as he had been unable to complete a rent review form, which considers a range of factors to help set an appropriate rent. He was unable to complete the form due to his vision impairments which made tasks such as reading and writing impossible. Dylan has previously been homeless and the idea of this being a reality again, led to severe anxiety.

We assisted Dylan in acquiring the documents necessary to have a back dated rent review conducted. This reduced his arrears amount significantly. We then assisted Dylan by successfully lodging a set-aside application, obtaining a significant extension of time for the application which was 4 weeks out of time. This was achieved by legal arguments, drafting with Dylan a detailed statutory declaration explaining his circumstances, and establishing that the community housing provider had not made sufficient allowances for his disabilities.

As well as preventing the tenancy from being terminated, we assisted in negotiating a payment plan for Dylan for the reduced arrears. Dylan is still living at the same property at the reduced rent, and is staying on top of his rental payments.





COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

EECLC provides community legal education sessions for community workers and community members to increase their knowledge of the law and legal systems. Information sessions on the following topics were held this year:

Planning Ahead: Wills, Power of Attorney and Guardianship

- Seniors Week presentation at Springwood Hub with Springwood Neighbourhood Centre, private solicitor Anthony Steel of Mid Mountains Legal and Arlia Fleming;
- Presentation to students at Lithgow TAFE for class learning English as a second language;
- Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre playgroup discussion;
- Blue Mountains Vision Impaired group discussion.

Elder Rights and Abuse Prevention

Seniors Week presentation at Lithgow Library with private solicitor Darryl Browne, and Lithgow Neighbourhood Centre;

- Springwood Sports Club presentation with the Blue Mountains Elder Abuse Collaborative, including guest speakers from the Police, and Elder Abuse Helpline, My Aged Care and Penrith Legal Aid;
- Law Week presentation at Lithgow Library with Dept of Fair Trading on avoiding scams.

General legal issues

- Discussion with Blue Mountains TAFE community work students in Katoomba;
- Discussion with Anti Discrimination Board presenter and Katoomba High School students, Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre and other services about common forms of discrimination.



OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

EECLC partners with local services to raise awareness of legal issues in the wider community. In 2018-19 we:

- Worked with Blue Mountains Coalition Against Violence and Abuse (CAVA), Lithgow Cares, and the Bathurst Family Violence Community Awareness Network to inform the community about family violence and local assistance. Key events supported this year include Reclaim the Night in Bathurst, White Ribbon in Lithgow, CAVA planning day;
- Participated in NAIDOC events in the Gully, Katoomba, Wahluu in Bathurst and at Orange Aboriginal Medical Service, as well as Sorry Day at Katoomba Hospital;
- Participated in Lithgow family day events at Bowenfels and Portland, Lithgow Mental Health expo and worked with the Bowenfels Hub planning group to develop a renewed community space in Bowenfels;
- Facilitated the cooperative Legal Services Delivery (CLSD) network for the Central Tablelands. Program highlights this year include holding the Cowra Wills Day at Cowra Information and Neighbourhood Centre, and the development of a new strategic plan to guide actions over 2019-2021. EECLC was also successful in obtaining funding from the CLSD unit at Legal Aid NSW this year to place a solicitor at Lithgow High School one day per week for a year as a pilot project in 2019-2020;
- EECLC also participated in a range of regional and state wide legal networks this period, including the NSW Legal Assistance Forum (NLAFF) Collaborative Service Planning working group, Western Sydney Outer Western Sydney Legal Services (OWLS) network and Central West Family Law Pathways Network (CWFLPN). The CWFLPN provided sponsorship to enable Arlia Fleming to attend the Child Inclusive practice Forum in Darwin this year.

ENGAGING FOR CHANGE

EECLC is part of a strong network of community legal centres around the country that work with advocacy services, politicians and law reform bodies to promote the interests of our communities and advocate for fairness within the legal system.

Sexual Assault Matters

EECLC used our expert experience in representing victims of sexual abuse to participate in sector consultations in relation to the NSW Law Reform Commission consultation on Consent and Sexual Assault. We also provided our own submission which can be found here: <https://www.eeclc.org.au/cle-law-reform>. We were subsequently invited to give evidence to the Inquiry and our solicitor Thea-Deakin Greenwood attended.

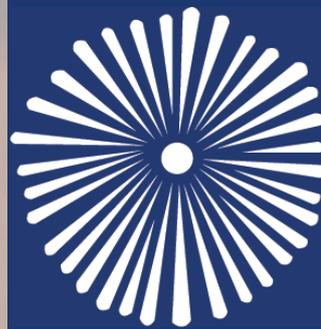
Thea has also launched a law reform project in partnership with the University of NSW in relation to Restorative Justice in sexual assault matters. Restorative justice involves bringing together the victim and perpetrator of a crime so that they can share their experience of what happened, to discuss who was harmed by the crime and how, and to create a consensus for what the offender can do to repair the harm from the offence. The aim is to assist victims to have an active role in the process, and provide an avenue for offenders to take responsibility for their actions as an alternative to the court system. A presentation on the project was made at CLCNSW quarterlies this period.

Victims Compensation

EECLC represents many people who have been victims of violent crime and are entitled to compensation. Unhappy with enormous delays and inconsistencies EECLC complained to Victims Services, the Attorney General and our local state members of Parliament. We also spoke to the media:

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/delays-in-victim-support-payments-leave-vulnerable-women-at-risk-20190209-p50wox.html>

This advocacy led to some changes to the scheme with the welcome introduction of the immediate needs support package providing victims of domestic violence with the support they need within 2 weeks of leaving violence.





Fair Treatment - Drug Reform

EECLC's Managing Principal Solicitor, Arlia Fleming is a strong believer in reforming the current law and order agenda. EECLC participated this year in the Uniting Fair Treatment Campaign which involved the filming of the "Long Walk to Treatment" from Dubbo down to Sydney. Arlia spoke on a panel of advocates who emphasised that drug addiction should be treated as a health issue rather than a criminal one. You can find out more about the campaign here: <https://www.fairtreatment.org/>



Child Protection

EECLC also lobbied for support from politicians, attended meetings and engaged the media in an attempt to stall proposed amendments to the *Children and Young Person's (Care and Protection) Amendment Bill 2018* that would unfairly penalise parents in need of community supports by prematurely removing children from their care on a permanent basis: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/sep/25/advocates-fear-nsw-child-protection-bill-reduces-rights-of-birth-parents>

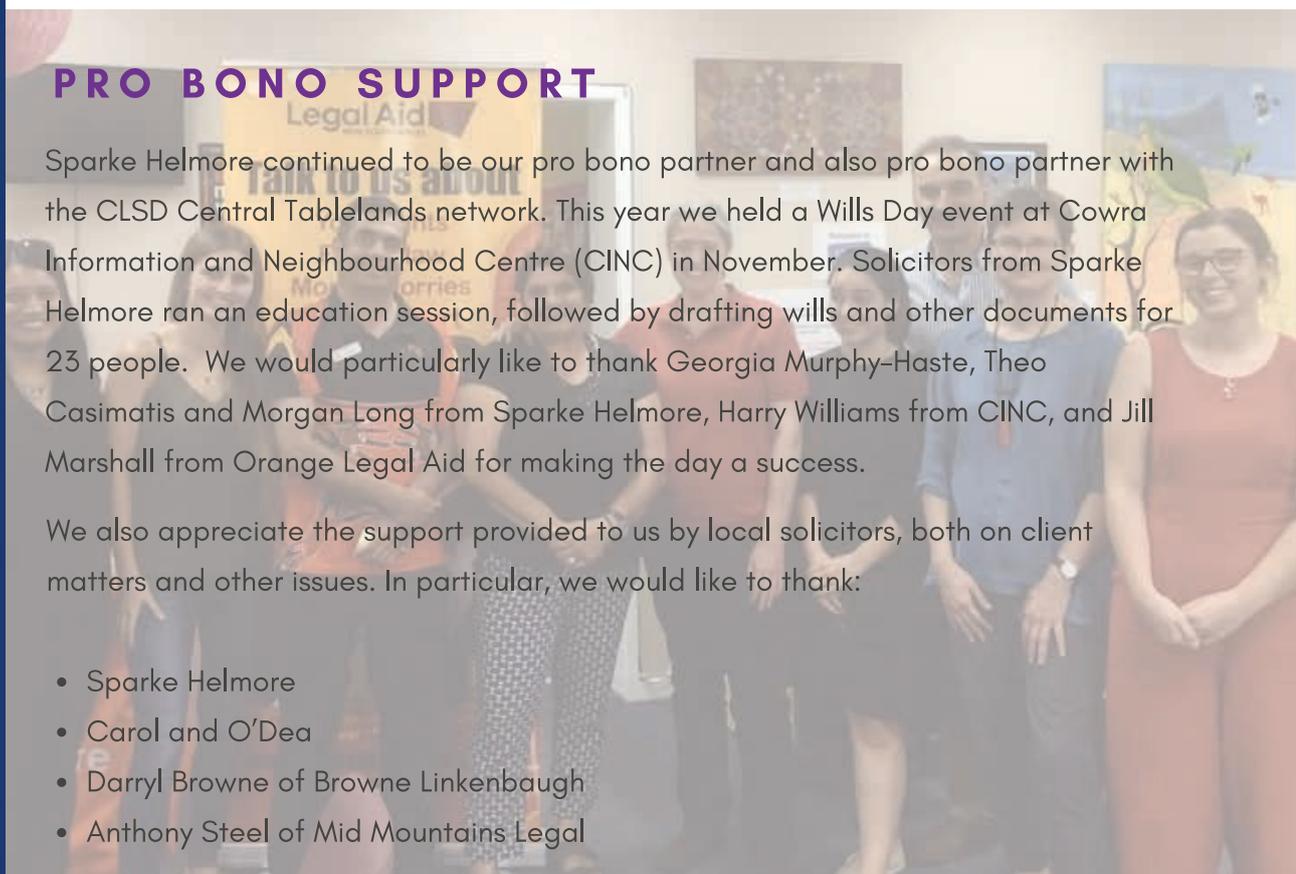


PRO BONO SUPPORT

Sparke Helmore continued to be our pro bono partner and also pro bono partner with the CLSD Central Tablelands network. This year we held a Wills Day event at Cowra Information and Neighbourhood Centre (CINC) in November. Solicitors from Sparke Helmore ran an education session, followed by drafting wills and other documents for 23 people. We would particularly like to thank Georgia Murphy-Haste, Theo Casimatis and Morgan Long from Sparke Helmore, Harry Williams from CINC, and Jill Marshall from Orange Legal Aid for making the day a success.

We also appreciate the support provided to us by local solicitors, both on client matters and other issues. In particular, we would like to thank:

- Sparke Helmore
- Carol and O'Dea
- Darryl Browne of Browne Linkenbaugh
- Anthony Steel of Mid Mountains Legal



DONATIONS AND SHORT TERM GRANTS

EECLC, like many community organisations, has very limited resources with which to meet significant community need. As a consequence we are creative in seeking out grant and other fundraising opportunities to provide additional services, as well as to cover our very lean organisational overhead.

We wish to thank the following organisations for one off grants and donations received this year:

NSW Health

We obtained a Get Healthy at Work program grant to purchase 2 standing desks and mats to encourage our desk bound staff to move and stretch in the workplace.

Australian Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

With the assistance of our local member, Susan Templeman MP, we obtained a Stronger Communities Program Grant to purchase additional desks, new chairs, and upgrade computer hardware and software. Thanks also to Connecting Up for providing these licenses at a discount.

In June we were also excited to receive notification of funds for short term activities from the following organisations:

Links for Life and the Portland Social Justice Group

Thanks to Anne O'Connell and these two local groups for supporting us to refurbish our damaged office sign and support sending staff to the 2019 National Community Legal Centre Conference. Blue Mountains City Council also provided funds to attend the conference.

Bank Australia

For supporting us in 2019-2020 to fund our "Pathways to safety and freedom" through their Customer Grants program. This grant will enable us to extend the reach and depth of the legal assistance we provide to women experiencing family and domestic violence, in particular those with additional vulnerabilities.

CLSD Unit at Legal Aid NSW

For supporting us to pilot a school based solicitor at Lithgow High School as part of their wellbeing centre for students at risk of disengaging from school.





EMPOWERING OUR CLIENTS

*We need your support to continue
our work.*

*Please consider making a tax deductible donation at
<https://www.givenow.com.au/eecl>*

