**Learning and Development Group meeting**

**Thursday 15th November 2012**

This meeting was held at the Law and Justice Foundation, with representatives from LIAC, LAC, CLCNSW, L&JF, WLS, NLAF and Law Access NSW. There were apologies from CLEW, Tenants Union, ALS and PIAC.

***LIAC*** is developing revised versions of two existing videos on the Australian legal system (courts and legislation) that should be available early 2013. Macquarie Legal Centre has asked LIAC to facilitate reviews of three videos on young people and the law

***LAW ACCESS*** LawAssist is developing two new topics for release in 2013: recovery of goods and another employment topic, and is continuing to promote the LawPrompt service to Legal Aid and CLC lawyers. LawAccess has recently run “risk of harm” training for staff, for dealing with customers who threaten suicide or harm to others, and has also run DV training, covering screening and identifying DV when speaking to customers about other issues. The next intake of summer clerks will commence on 26 November.

***Legal Aid NSW*** The 2013 training calendar is in development with two key focus areas: health and wellbeing and management and leadership. The former will include courses such as dignity and respect in the workplace, resilience training for all staff (progressively rolled out to regional areas) and a 2-day mental health first aid course. Online courses that provide an induction to the various practice areas will be offered next year.

Staff in other agencies are very welcome to attend most courses advertised on the LMS (unless marked for Legal Aid staff only).

***CLCNSW*** Final Quarterlies for this year are on 26 and 27 November and there will be an additional networking & training day in December for RRR centres. A new CLC Directory will be available shortly. CLCNSW collaborated again with the College of Law to offer a CLC specific Practice Management Course for principal solicitors. A CLC sector induction program was run at the state office in October for staff and volunteers new to CLCs. Staff from outside Sydney joined by Skype. Some who attended the state office continued after lunch to LawAccess. This program will be run every two months.

***WLS*** reported on a new online legal information service called *Ask LOIS* which is a secure website that provides an online support network, with resources and training for regionally based workers (such as health workers) delivering services to women with legal needs. WLS has also developed a video explaining cyber-law, called Think B4 You Click, which is available on YouTube. WLS is part of the consortium developing and delivering the legal literacy training to inmates, funded through the Legal Aid/CLC partnerships grants program.

***NLAF*** reported on two developments: The RRR working group had identified mentoring as important for recruitment and retention of RRR lawyers; The Employment Services working group will wind up in early 2013, its legacy being a cross-sector employment forum for the purpose of training and information exchange, open to lawyers from CLCs, Legal Aid, LawAccess and the private profession. This forum will operate separately from the CLC Employment Network that meets at the Quarterlies, and Legal Aid’s Community of Practice group, both of which are intended for CLC and LAC staff respectively.

***The Collaborative Agency Induction Project*** There were further discussions on this concept, recognizing the difficulty of a “road show” type program. The contrast between needs and capabilities of larger and smaller agencies was recognised. It was agreed that Legal Aid would offer a half or full day session at their Central Sydney office, at which representatives of the participating agencies could present to inductees from across the sector. Subject to capacity LawAccess may also be willing to open up the session in their induction program at which invited guests from the sector come and speak.

***CLEW, ALS*** no reports. ***PIAC*** advised pre-meeting that there were no developments to report. ***Tenants Union*** reported by email on the publication of the hard-copy version of the Tenants Rights manual soon also to be available online at LIAC.

The next NLAF Learning and Development group meeting will be held on Thursday 28th February 2013 at Legal Aid.