**LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

**REPORT TO NLAF**

**FROM:** Alastair McEwin, CLCNSW Director

**DATE:** July 2014

The mid-year meeting of this group for 2014 was held on 15 July at Legal Aid. There was full attendance from existing members: CLCNSW (who convenes the group), LawAccess, Legal Aid, LIAC, Law and Justice Foundation, NLAF and PIAC.

The training manager at the Financial Counsellors Association of NSW has been approached to join this group and although unable to join this meeting has indicated interest for future meetings.

Despite the loss of PPF funding for Sector Development, CLCNSW has offered to continue to convene this group, as the members of the group agreed that it’s a useful forum for information sharing, and even more so now that many organisations may have to reduce spending on staff development.

All of the organisations represented reported on the impact of financial cuts in their work in this area. While overall there is a reduction in what our organisations are able to offer, there are also some opportunities to work with new groups or provide training differently.

The members then reported on new training initiatives at their organisations, including:

**•** CLCNSW has just run its latest induction for staff who are new to CLCs. Next sessions expected to be September and December.

• LawAccess continues to offer quarterly tours to all justice sector staff, which can be booked through Learning Aid’s Learning Management System. Numbers for these tours have been lower this year, so all organisations in the justice sector are reminded that these introductions to LawAccess (which are free) are a useful component for staff induction programs, or as part of ongoing professional development for existing staff.

• LawAccess is conducting training with registrars and counter staff in Courts to improve their referrals to LawAccess.

• Legal Aid’s training calendar for July to September is available and was distributed.

• LIAC staff have recently run training in Armidale and Tamworth on LIAC services, the Find Legal Answers website and working with the LIAC trained librarians at their local public library.

The local CLSD regional coordinators are instrumental in promoting the training to workers in their regions.

* PIAC is seeing an impact on take-up of their courses as community organisations have less money to spend on staff training and development, although interestingly advocacy courses are very much in demand. PIAC has recently started a partnership with UWS offering the Practising in the Public Interest course for law students.

The next meeting of this group will take place in November.