

PILBARA COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first PCLS newsletter for 2018!

We hope everyone had a very safe and happy holidays and new year. All four of our PCLS offices are now open and ready for another great year of helping our community.

The end of 2017 was a very busy last few months for our organisation with lots of different events.

We were lucky enough to celebrate our PCLS end of year party at the Whim Creek Pub. Staff had the opportunity to participate in training held by Clinton Walker from GurraGura who presented a training about the Ngarluma people. A big thank you to Clinton and the Whim Creek Pub.

In November Karratha, Roebourne and Hedland office attended white ribbon events to help raise awareness against domestic violence. See page 4 and 5.

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Pilbara Community Legal Service is a not for profit Government funded agency managed by a Board of Management and supported by a CEO and administrative staff. PCLS has four office locations, Karratha, Roebourne, South Hedland and Newman, however our services are delivered throughout the Pilbara region to isolated communities which include: Talka Warra, Yandiyarra, Marble Bar, Nullagine and Jigalong with occasional visits to Onslow, Tom Price and Paraburdoo.

Our goal is:

To make sure that cost or access isn't a barrier to people in the Pilbara receiving the advice they need.

We assist in the areas of:

Financial counselling– provide financial service information, budgeting, advocacy and support services for the purposes of assisting individuals who are in financial difficulty due to circumstances such as debt, over-commitment, unemployment, sickness family breakdown.

Tenancy Support– provide tenancy advocacy, education and support services to tenants facing difficulties maintaining their tenancy. We assist and support people who are experiencing homelessness and ensure they are linked with mainstream services.

Legal– provide free education to the community as well as legal advice, primarily in the areas of Family Law, Criminal Injuries Compensation, Wills and Deceased Estates (we do not provide criminal law advice).

Domestic Violence- Provide support and advocacy for victims of domestic violence/ at risk clients, promoting safety planning to help ensure client wellbeing whilst helping to resolve crisis. DV assists with access to other related services such as legal advice, accommodation, health, income support and financial counselling.

Migrant Settlement Services– provide one on one casework, support, information and linkages to other mainstream services to assist migrants. community development activities are undertaken which include the implementation of projects that aim to support and empower newly emerging community groups.

To find out more about our service:

- Visit our website: www.pcls.net.au
- Located in Karratha, Roebourne, South Hedland and Newman



Financial Counsellors Association of WA Conference

The Financial Counsellors Association of Western Australia held their State Conference at the Duxton Hotel in Perth from 23rd October to 26th October 2017.

PCLS was represented by the Financial Counsellors from South Hedland-Merlin Gepte, Roebourne-Lynn Hart, Karratha-Kelly Preece, Newman-Fran Manuela and CEO Clare Murray.

The theme of the conference was “Waves of Change, Oceans of Opportunities”. There are over 130 Financial Counsellors based in WA & through National Standards & Guidelines, offers Financial Counsellors access to continuing Professional

development, supervision & support.

FCAWA also provides an advocacy & policy development role on the issues that people in financial hardship experience & raises the profile of Financial Counselling in the WA community, offering a free, independent & confidential service.

The sessions included:

Skills for Financial Counsellors:

Economic abuse, gambling in WA, mental health and economic independence, cultural considerations in offering financial support, homelessness and financial hardship, elder economic abuse

ETHICS

Ethical practice for financial counsellors, counselling relationships, boundaries, conflict of interest.

TECHNICAL

Superannuation changes, changes to the banking code, utility & mortgage stress, debt and mortgage stress, pay day lending and the credit code impact of the WA financial downturn, issues impacting on financial stress

The conference was supported by various speakers who inspired the financial counsellors who attended the conference.

IBN Annual General Meeting

The Yinhawangka, Banyjima and Nyiyaparli people established IBN in 2001 as Trustee of the IBN Charitable Foundation; created under the Mining Area C Agreement (MACA) with BHP Billiton. The traditional lands of the IBN people are in the high country of North Western Australia.

IBN delivers programs and services to more than 1,200 IBN Community Members, the Yinhawangka, Banyjima and Nyiyaparli people. We do this through:

Community programs: Assistance with

financials in times of emergencies or crisis.

Field Officers: Assistance and personal support to the IBN Community.

Projects: Building sustainable and positive futures through focus on housing, health, employment, business education, employment, culture and business enterprise.

IBN has a strong financial history and investment strategy that includes a Future Fund to ensure the IBN Community have access to a secure

source of income long after the end of the Mining Area C Project.

The IBN Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday the 4th of Novemebre 2017 between 8am and 4pm.

PCLS Hedland worker Merlin Gepte had a promotional stall there to give out information and educate attendees of our services.

Information sourced from IBN website



Community Housing Day

On the 7th November PCLS Roebourne STEP Angie attended and assisted with the Department of Communities 'Community Housing Day' at the Ngunin Centre in Roebourne.

It was an opportunity for people in the community to discuss with Housing staff about maintenance, debt, overcrowding, housing applications and tenancy support.

There was a good turn out on the day people attended and asked questions and followed up on outstanding maintenance. People were also encouraged to complete a Housing Needs Survey as to the service of their Housing Services Officer and what could be done to improve the housing needs to the community of Roebourne.

On the 13th November we were

privileged to be able to witness the Yindjibarndi Determination of Native Title handed down by the Honourable



Justice Rare at the Millstream/Chichester National Park Visitor Centre.

It had been a 14 year long and emotional journey for the Yindjibarndi people to finally have recognition that they are the Native Title land owners.

The Financial Counsellor's from each of our regional centre's attended the state Financial Counselling Association conference in October. This keeps us abreast of changes in

banking, utilities, superannuation and debt collection and offers opportunity to liaise with government and non-government industry representatives. It is also a valuable opportunity to meet other practitioners from suburban Perth areas. This year the Rural and Remote practitioners met for a whole day and participated in a visit to the Magistrate's Court.

In Roebourne our client's continue to seek us out for assistance with issues related to housing, government benefits, debts and household bills and we are happy to meet with residents of Roebourne and Wickham as well as Cheeditha and Mingullatharndo to find a resolution for their problem.



The City Of Karratha holds a network meeting every 3 months for the organisations in Karratha.

These meetings are held to discuss how services can work together to assist the people living in the community.

At the last meeting for the year PCLS STEP workers Karla and Jo did a presentation about their program along

with REFAP, Cleanaway, Mawarnkarra Health Service and Housing Authority Perth (affordable housing) .

The meetings are very informative and a good opportunity for services to link with each other. We look forward to attending more next year.



White Ribbon Event Karratha

During the month of November the Karratha Pilbara Community Legal Service held a series of events to raise awareness to stop domestic violence against women.

A community morning tea was held at the Welcome Lotteries House with all community services to discuss the event on 25th November 2017.



During the lead up to Karratha's main event, posters and brochures were dropped around to various businesses to raise awareness of domestic violence and with the aim of starting conversations in the workplaces.

On Thursday the 23 November 2017 staff from the Karratha office held a stall at the Karratha City shopping centre. There were promotional items, white ribbon cupcakes made by Shae's Cookies and Cupcakes, and everyone was getting involved in taking a photo with our sign created by SignsWest.



On Saturday the 25 November 2017 the event was held in conjunction with Karratha City Markets at The Quarter.



The White Ribbon Event commenced with a march where 150 community members participated. After the march the event kicked off with speeches, markets and entertainment.



There was an opportunity for community members to take a walk

down a memorial lane and see the stories of women who died at the hands of family and/or domestic violence.



The event wrapped up with a candlelight vigil to pay respects to the victims of domestic violence.



Pilbara Community Legal Service would like to thank everyone who contributed to make this event happen and also those who came down to participate. It was a good success especially as it was the first event held in the City of Karratha based on such a sensitive issue.

White Ribbon March Port Hedland



Domestic Violence worker Ellysha from PCLS took the lead this year to help run the event and through her efforts, created a great collaboration across the community.

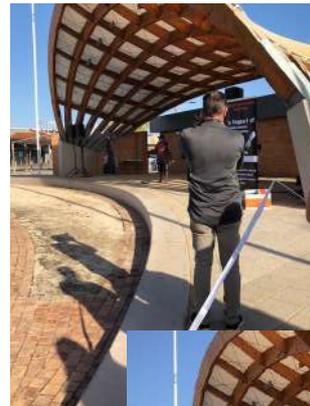


On Thursday 23 November 2017 the town of Port Hedland held a White Ribbon Day March to support victims of family and domestic violence.

The march was held in the South Hedland Town Square and went from 7am til 8am. The march was followed by a free breakfast of sausages, eggs and bacon which was held from 8am til 9am.

The morning started off with Alfred Baker, an elder from Karriyarra, doing a Welcome to Country. Greg Lilleyman, White Ribbon Ambassador and FMG Operations Director, lead the march.

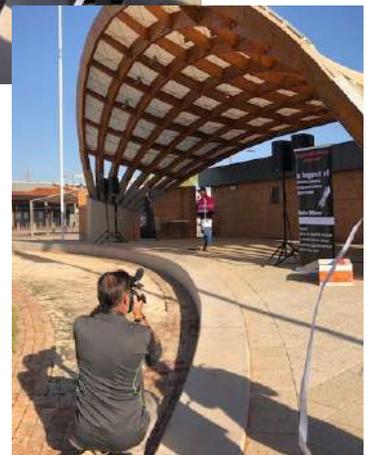
A big thankyou to PCLS workers, FMG, BHP, Australian Services Union, Mission Australia, Department of Communities and the Town of Port Hedland for making this event possible.



After the march was over Cindy Morgan from Hedland police spoke about the horrible statistics of domestic violence that occurs across Australia and the deaths that have come from it.

The event was open to all members of the community and there was a great turnout. Over 800 people attended the march with majority of the marchers being male.

There were two guest speakers who were both victims of domestic violence who stood up and spoke out about their story which was very confronting.



Cooking up a Storm: International Day



places around the world. wore traditional Indonesian dresses.

PCLS Hedland workers Yasser Al Assadi from Syria and Merlin Gepte from Philippines The Cooking up a Storm Program provides a venue to showcase the talents and skills our town's diverse communities through a variety of cookery classes culminating in the annual multicultural lunch.

Hedland Community Migrant Service Worker held their monthly cooking up a storm session on 01 December 2017 at the Hedland Well Women's Centre (WWC).

entertained attendees with two songs.

Hedland community members had the chance to come together to experience different cultures through dress, dance, music and food.



All attendees were asked to bring a plate of food that represents their culture so they could share different foods from different

There was a competition held for the best traditional dresses. The prizes were won by Harini Dyamayanti and Suci Rahayu who

