

# PILBARA COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our February Newsletter!

PCLS will sadly be saying farewell to our Hedland Housing Support Worker Jane Aspey. We thank Jane for all her hard work whilst she has been with us and wish her all the best in her new role!

Karratha solicitors attended the Roebourne open day with many other organisations. The next open day will be held in Hedland. See page 2 for more info.

Newman office held a wonderful event for Pink Ribbon Day. See page 3 for details about the event.

If you have experience in Domestic Violence Advocacy and think you would like to become a part of our PCLS team! Read page 6 for an exciting opportunity to join our Hedland crew. Information about the job opportunity is available on seek.

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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 or 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](http://www.pcls.net.au)
- Located in Karratha, Roebourne, South Hedland and Newman



## Message from Roebourne Staff

2018 has kick started off the year with a rush of clients coming through our doors each day. Both the Support and Tenant Education Program and Financial counselling program has had plenty of client activity with our services in high demand as people return from Lore and Culture.

We would like to remind our clients that we provide several services in Roebourne due to the Karratha PCLS staff doing outreach each week to the Roebourne office.

The schedule put in place at the moment to ensure all our services are being delivered to Roebourne are:

- Monday– Homelessness
- Tuesday– Domestic Violence

- Wednesday– Legal and Tenancy
- Thursday Homelessness

If you are located in the Roebourne/Wickham area and would like to see one of our Karratha workers please call the Karratha office on **(08) 9185 5899** to arrange an appointment for when the specific worker is in your area.

As the warmer weather continues, clients will find that the rules for obtaining HUGS (Hardship Utilities Grant Scheme) from Horizon Power have changed.

Clients will now need to have a Centrepay or direct debit in place for 180 days prior to the request for hardship assistance on their Horizon

Power account.

The transition to this system will cause some hardship to some of our families and especially those on Newstart who are more easily penalised for non-attendance at appointments and Job Service Provider activities.

Our office works closely with Housing Authority staff and a variety of other government departments and local groups who service the community.

We participate in Meet and Greet events such as the Elder's Yarn where service providers and local residents come together to resolve local issues.

We are looking forward to a busy and successful 2018!

## Roebourne Open Day

Roebourne Aboriginal Justice Program held an open day at the PCYC Hall in Roebourne on Tuesday 13 February 2018. Karratha legal team Jessica Fox and Kismatul Muzahid attended the open day on behalf of the Karratha office.

The event was a great opportunity to continue our networking in the community of Roebourne and surrounding Pilbara Region.

Some of the organisations that were present on the day were:

- Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
- A Sheriff from the Attorney Generals Office.
- Department of Transport.

The day was so successful and PCLS was invited to attend future open days. The next open day is being held in South Hedland towards the end of March.

Community Legal Education (CLE) includes a wide-range of activities designed to educate people about their legal rights and responsibilities to

prevent legal disputes and empower people in their pursuit of justice. The Pilbara Community Legal Service has a lot of exciting upcoming CLE planned where our legal team will have an opportunity to share their knowledge with the Pilbara.





## Pink Ribbon Fundraiser Event

Pilbara Community Legal Service hosted a Pink Ribbon fundraiser on Friday 7 July 2018. The event was supported by The Shire of East Pilbara and was held at Newman House.

There was approximately 61 who came to listen to people speak about their experiences. Lynne Craigie, President of the Shire of East Pilbara, Debbie Stockton, CEO of the East Pilbara Independence Support, and Chrissy Nicholson provided accounts of their own personal challenges and of winning the battle and those who didn't.



Lynne spoke with knowledge and feeling and advised those who are touched or not touched personally to talk about the illness and don't shy away from the subject.

Debbie talked about her friend and own experience with familiarity and understanding.

Chrissy declared her story with conviction and achievement.



Ettie spoke about the triggers of the event itself. The first trigger was her sister Chrissy who was diagnosed with breast cancer, treated and survived.

The second trigger was her brother, Francis, who sadly died in December 2015 from a different form of cancer.

The third trigger was a work colleague, Lorraine Jones who was a STEP worker for the Pilbara Community Legal Service Inc. based in Roebourne.

Apart from these triggers there are many more out there who prompt fundraisers such as this to continue to provide ongoing support for all the families battling and experiencing breast cancer.

Pilbara Community Legal Service would like to thank the local businesses in Newman for their donations toward the event. They are: Woolworths Newman, Cellarbrations, Newman Visitors Centre, Newman Hotel, Oasis@Newman, Ka Huna Massage & Reiki Healing and Toni Morrison, STEP officer from Metamaya and her husband Lyall for their donation of \$100. We also thank and

acknowledge the Shire of East Pilbara for granting us the use of the Newman House Function Rooms free of charge.

A big 'thank you' to Newman House Manager, Tania Tucker for her tireless input into this successful fundraising event. Thanks to Fran Manuela and Chrissy Nicholson who spent the morning in the kitchen cooking and to Emma Watson from The Beach for blowing up the balloons with helium gas for us and all other guests who took the time to attend and support this meaningful & worthy event.

We extend our thanks to the organisers of the Te Kapa Haka Te Roopu Tai Tamariki O Newman Maori Culture Group and a special 'thank you' to the children for their energised performance of traditional song and dance of New Zealand.

All monies raised from the Special Pink Ribbon Fundraising Event will go to the McGrath Breast Cancer Foundation to place more breast care nurses into rural and regional communities across Australia and also to assist with more cancer research. The event raised one thousand two hundred and twenty three dollars.



## Thankyou!



PCLS South Hedland now has a Security Door in Unit 9. This will greatly assist with the Security in the Office. Thanks to Michael & Dean of Goodline. The Painting will be completed in the next few weeks.

## Farewell Lunch for Hedland DV Worker!



As everyone knows Ellysha has been the Domestic Violence Outreach worker

here, in the PCLS branch, in South Hedland for a number of years. We farewelled Ellysha at a Lunch held at Raikas Restaurant with staff attending from Karratha, Roebourne & South Hedland.

Her time in the role enable her to forge strong bonds between the Outreach Service, the Police, the Department of

Child Protection, Hedland Women's refuge, other Domestic Violence support services & Court based Victim Support Services. Ellysha was passionate about all her clients & increased the referrals to the service through unofficial channels. She attended meetings in a Pilbara based Aboriginal Community & was able to provide information directly to women & forge relationships with community members & local Police.

## Hedland Financial Counsellor

Merlin Gepte is the Financial Counsellor in the South Hedland branch of PCLS and has been very busy promoting all the Services that are run here as well as attending to clients that come to the office in Lotteries House.

### What is a financial counsellor?

Financial counsellors work with individuals and families to help with financial crisis such as the risk of legal

action, loss of essential services or repossession/eviction. The service is also provided to people experiencing financial difficulties that may be affecting other issues such as tenancy, problem gambling, substance abuse, conflict or violence in relationships.

### What does a financial counsellor do?

A financial counsellor can offer information, conduct assessments and

provide options and support to assist clients, address identified problems and manage financial situations more effectively.

Pilbara Community Legal Service Financial Counsellors provide community education to improve knowledge and skills on what to do when in a financial crisis.

## Bloodwood Tree Association

On Thursday 08<sup>th</sup> February Merlin



completed a 2 hour Community budgeting workshop at Bloodwood

Tree Association in South Hedland. There were 10 participants who thoroughly enjoyed the work shop.

Participants sorting the Budgeting cards provided by the Money Business Facilitators Guide (ANZ Banking group). This workshop gave participants some ideas about how to make spending

decisions & how to use a budget to help them look after their families & keep them strong.



## FMG Cloudbreak Mine



The Cloudbreak mine is an iron ore mine located in the Pilbara region of WA Australia, 89 km west-south-west of Nullagine, in the Chichester Range. It is operated by the Fortescue Metals Group.

“I spent a whole day & a night over at FMG Cloudbreak mine site, flying in with the staff, on the 13-14 February to do an information session promoting all of the P.C.L.S. services to over 600 workers on a 2-week-on:1-week-off FIFO “Fly in fly out”

shift. Other organisation that also participated were- Bloodwood Tree Association, EPIC-Empowering People in Communities, ANZ Super Fund & others.”

“It was a great opportunity to hear the challenges the mine workers are experiencing. Being away with their family for two weeks is already a challenge & the first & primary need that these hardworking people must receive, is any support to maintain a healthy family relationship. We know that a breakdown of this essential unit in our society will result in different social issues that we are trying to service.”

“I’ve noted some basic issues in need

of financial counselling as I engaged conversation with them. There are issues that were shared about credit & debt management, mortgage stress, budgeting or prioritise spending, superannuation & other non-fc issues. I even found myself doing basic counselling sessions with some without having the need to share budgeting or the pitfalls of credit cards etc., because some of them just need someone who will listen to their concerns. It seems they need additional Chaplains on site.”

“I am looking forward to presenting another information session next week on the 20th-2st February, this time at FMG Christmas Creek

g another one next week on the 20-21 February, this time at FMG Christmas



# Job Opportunities!

## KEEPING WOMEN SAFE IN THEIR HOMES (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH) INITIATIVE

Located in South Hedland

Full-time fixed-term contract to commence asap to October 2018

**Salary - Level 5 SACS WA Interim Award 2011**

**76-hours per fortnight (8:00am – 4.06pm Monday to Friday)**

**Option to access a range of salary sacrifice opportunities**

**Access to Employee Assistance Program**

The Keeping Women Safe in Their Homes (Domestic Violence Outreach) Initiative aims to improve the safety of women and children, who are escaping domestic violence, provide wrap-around support in collaboration with other relevant service providers, deter perpetrators from re-offending and facilitate the collection of admissible evidence to improve justice responses. The Keeping Women Safe in Their Homes (Domestic Violence Outreach) Initiative is an early intervention and prevention strategy aimed at breaking the cycle of family and domestic violence and preventing women and children becoming homeless following domestic violence. The key features of the Keeping Women Safe in Their Homes (Domestic Violence Outreach) Initiative are:

- a coordinated wrap-around response in collaboration with other relevant service providers;
  - make appropriate referrals to other relevant services;
  - conducting comprehensive risk assessments and risk management;
- implementing security upgrades in line with the risk assessment and risk management plan;
- ongoing risk assessment and safety planning as part of a comprehensive case management plan;
  - where appropriate, home visits are provided as required;
  - assist women with obtaining a Violence Restraining Order;
- working closely with the WA Police, criminal justice system and other service providers to reduce or manage the risk posed by the perpetrator and ensure women receive a coordinated response

To be considered for this position you must possess the following eight (8) essential requirements:

1. Case management skills to assess, inform, advise, support and refer clients
2. Excellent interpersonal and written communication skills
3. Demonstrated skills in working with, and knowledge of, Microsoft Office programs including Word, Excel and Outlook and other data base entry systems
4. Ability to interact sensitively and effectively with a broad range of individuals including Aboriginal and CALD client, community groups, Government and Non-Government agencies
5. An understanding of issues facing victims of Family and Domestic Violence living in the Pilbara
6. Strong time-management skills with the ability to work under pressure and to apply contemporary problem solving techniques through effective case management
7. Knowledge of Aboriginal culture and an understanding of issues facing Aboriginal people, and people from culturally diverse backgrounds
8. A current 'C' Class Driver's Licence
9. National Police Clearance (no more than 6 months)
10. WWC

Desirable

Degree/Diploma in Social Work, Social Sciences, Community Services, Human Services, Health Sciences and/or experience commensurate with the position.

**Applying for the position:** please submit a current and detailed Resume or CV which **must** include the contact details of your current or most recent Supervisor as well as a cover letter addressing the above eight (8) essential requirements.

**For enquiries about the position:** Please contact the EAFA, Christy Reed on [9185 5899](tel:91855899).