

# PILBARA COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our March Newsletter!

This Month we celebrated Harmony Day! It is celebrated every year on the 21 March and is a day to celebrate cultural diversity. Our Karratha and Hedland migrant workers held events for the day. See page 2 and 3 for photos and information about the events.

Pilbara Community Legal Service Karratha office was invited to participate in a two day event hosted by Rio Tinto. They had a Rosie Batty as the guest speaker for the day. See page 5 for information for more information.

Lastly, we would like to welcome a new staff members to our South Hedland team. Sonia who will be our new domestic violence support worker! Welcome to the team!

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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



# Karratha Harmony Day



The turn out was spectacular, far more than anticipated with over 200+ people. Everyone enjoyed the variety of cultures on display—Nanna

Indigenous and these will form our areas of attention and improvement moving forward to enable future events to grow and succeed.



Harmony Day is about celebrating differences and learning about new cultures. It highlights the importance of inclusiveness, respect, equality whilst embracing and fostering a sense of belonging and connectedness to the community regardless of cultural, religious or linguistic backgrounds.

Pansy started off by presenting a Welcome to Country there was also Thai dancers, Filipino dancers, Venezuelan dancers, Maori performances, Thursday Island singing, a singing harmony group, finished off by a multicultural Zumba!

It is noteworthy that the entire event was pulled together in 4 short weeks from the conception, the planning right through to the event itself. It was refreshing and encouraging to witness the openness from businesses, organisations and the community in the cooperation to achieve such a positive result.



This year PCLS Karratha had the privilege of hosting a Harmony Day event that brought together the whole community embracing and celebrating the many cultures in a positive, fun way. There was a cross section of the community with fantastic cultural performances.

We organised a free sausage sizzle, displayed all the hundreds of art competition entries we put on in conjunction with the schools and worked in with the Karratha City Markets to provide a little something for everyone.

PCLS is engaged in and passionate about making a positive difference and empowering people to live effectively and this was demonstrated in the facilitation of this event connecting the community, celebrating cultural diversity and offering the opportunity for networking with others and new friends to be made.



Whilst we achieved a record number of people attend and it was a resounding success, we can also reflect and acknowledge there are areas for growth and improvement for future successful hosting of Harmony Day events in coming years, particularly in relation to the engagement of



# Hedland Harmony Day



Racial Discrimination.

Orange was the colour chosen to represent the day & ribbons were worn by all who attended. To support the message of a harmonious multicultural society. The food

Unami Magwenzi from Botswana, Simonetta Knott from Zimbabwe & Keesha Booth who has Papua New Guinean & German roots, had their unique stories to tell about inter-cultural communication.



The Hedland Harmony Day, 26th March 2018, was held in Lotteries House in South Hedland. The organisations involved in organising the event were Pilbara Community Legal Service & Relationships Australia. Other organisations such as Hedland Well Women's Centre & Department of

& room decoration also matched the colour theme of the luncheon. Australians are encouraged to wear orange clothing and/or the distinctive orange ribbon to show their support for cultural diversity and an inclusive Australia.

Communities also attended in support of the event.



Harmony Week is an

opportunity for all Western Australians to celebrate our diversity while working to remove barriers that still exist in the community.

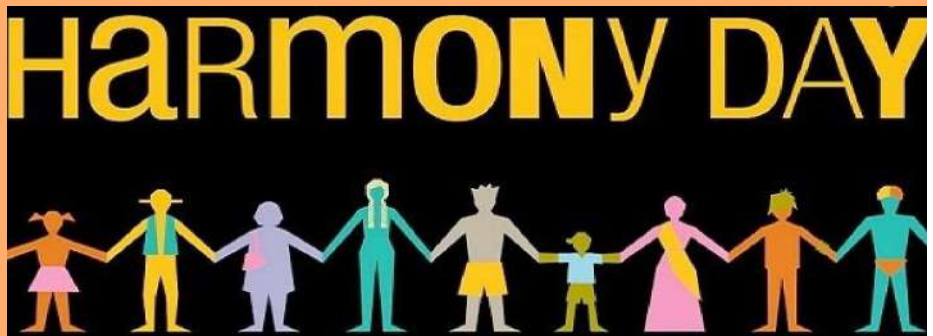
Port Hedland is a melting pot of nationalities with 38% of its residents born overseas, its is also home to 70 nationalities e.g. New Zealand,

There were also guest speakers from the Town of Port Hedland Community Engagement Officer Cara Dixon & Cheryl Leguin from the Filipino Australian Friendship Association who all shared information about new community services & projects.

Philippines, England, South Africa, India, Zimbabwe, Phillipines. Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander make up 16.7% of the population .

A big thank you to Victoria Malyk, who is the Community Migrant Service worker in South Hedland, for organising the event & for providing delicious snacks for all to enjoy.

The event was held from 12p.m. to 1p.m. About 40 people from different countries & cultures attended the event. Harmony Day is held every year on 21st March which is on the same day as the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of



## BEWARE: Telemarketers

A warning to people to be wary of telemarketing and entering into contracts over the phone.

We have had reports of some telemarketers being quite aggressive in their approach and persisting until they have succeeded in locking in the customer to a sale or contract.

**Never give out your bank details over the phone to people selling life insurance, funeral plans, mobile phone contracts or anything else.**

You should at least ask them to send you a written contract for you to consider.

If you are being annoyed or harassed by telemarketers you can make the calls stop by registering your phone details with the DO NOT CALL Register.

**To register visit  
[www.donotcall.gov.au](http://www.donotcall.gov.au) or  
phone 1300 792 958**

Once registered, your phone number will be removed from all

telemarketers' database and they will no longer be able to contact you.

Note that charities and non-profit organisations are exempt from the Register and so you may still receive the occasional call from a charity raising money for a particular cause.



## Have you Got Issues with you Employment?

Have you been recently terminated and you think its unfair? Are you having issues with your work pays? Do you have queries about your workplace that you think is unfair? Well you may have as little as 14 days to make a complaint.

Pilbara Community Legal Service does not necessarily advise clients of employment law matters however the Employment Law Centre of WA is a not-for-profit community organisation providing free legal advice and assistance to vulnerable employees throughout WA.

ELCWA provides education to

service providers and the general public. ELCWA prioritises employees who find it difficult to access legal advice and provides assistance through a variety of services.

ELC provides advice on a wide range of issues. These include:

- Unfair Dismissal
- Underpayment of wages and entitlements
- Annual leave, sick leave, parental leave and other conditions of employment.
- Breach of contract
- Discriminations
- Bullying



ELC can also provide interpreters free of charge if you are form a non-English speaking background.

If you are needing to speak with the Employment Law Centre, they can be contacted on 1300 520 054. their opening hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:30am to 1:00pm.

**ELC** Employment Law Centre of WA (Inc)

For more information please visit their website: [Www.elcwa.org.au](http://www.elcwa.org.au)

## Rosie Batty



Rosie Batty, is an Australian domestic violence campaigner and the 2015 Australian of the Year. Her role as a campaigner began in 2014 after her son Luke Batty was murdered by his father.

Rosie Batty visited the Pilbara for the first time and travelled around for a

week as a guest of Rio Tinto as a result of achieving a White Ribbon accredited workplace.

Rosie Batty visited Karratha, Roebourne, Tom Price, Paraburdoo and Wakathuni Aboriginal community to share her story and spoke about the importance of increasing public awareness and changing attitudes and behaviours towards domestic violence.

Pilbara Community Legal Service (PCLS) was invited by Rio Tinto to participate in the two-day event in Karratha held at The Quarter.

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March Rosie Batty and PCLS spoke to Rio Tinto employees and

on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March a community event was held.

The PCLS CEO, Clare Murray, spoke about the services available in the Pilbara for victims of domestic violence.

PCLS would like to thank Rio Tinto for the opportunity to be involved in this event.



## Conflicts of Interest

Sometimes we are unable to assist clients with an issue due to a conflict of interest. When we explain this to a client they do not always understand what this means.

A conflict of interest occurs when a person's personal interests conflict with their responsibility to act in the best interest of the organisations.

Personal interest can include direct interests as well as those of family, friends or other organisations a person may be involved with or have an

interest in.

It also includes potential conflict between staff, volunteers and third parties working with another organisation.

A conflict of interest may be actual, potential or perceived and may be financial or non-financial.

Essentially a conflict of interest may arise if its possible that a person will make a decision based on, or affected by, personal influences.

The need to prevent actual and perceived conflicts of interest applies to the Board, CEO and staff– as well as contractors and other third parties.



"What conflict of interest?! I work here in my spare time."

Article courtesy of Com Management weekly update (24th February 2016)

## Be Energy Efficient this Summer

- The following tips are a guide help you save on your power bills this summer!
- ☑ Set temperatures on the air conditioner between 24 and 25 degrees. Setting an air conditioner just one degree warmer than you normally would can cut cooling costs by 10 per cent
- ☑ Only cool the areas people are in by using zoned cooling or alternating between separate units
- ☑ Add window coverings such as drapes or roller blinds that fit snugly around windows. This can reduce seasonal heat exchange by almost half. Blinds with light-coloured backings on window-facing sides deflect sun heat
- ☑ Get in early on a hot day and close windows, lower blinds and close off rooms not in use to reduce heating inside
- ☑ Plant shade trees, wall vines and thick shrubs. Think about shade covering for not only windows but walls and roofs as well. Planting smart for summer can cool a home by up to 12 degrees
- ☑ Add exterior shades or awnings. This can decrease the temperature in a room by up to 3 degrees
- ☑ Open windows both sides of the house to allow cool breeze to flow through
- ☑ Use fans to cool down. Fans are cheap to run, evaporating moisture from the skin and creating a cooling effect
- ☑ When buying a new air conditioner, consider the size of the room. A unit too small for the space will need to run constantly but one too big will run in short cycles, causing extra wear and tear
- ☑ Ensure air conditioners are in good shape by regularly cleaning or replacing the filter, keeping outdoor equipment for the system free of dirt, leaves and other debris, and covering the external part of the system when not in use during cooler months
- ☑ Check the insulation in ceilings and walls. The better the insulation, the more likely cool air will stay where it's needed
- ☑ Draught-proof your home if you use an air conditioner. This will further ensure refrigerated air stays inside to cool your home efficiently.\*

