

PILBARA COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our October newsletter!



In memory of Kismatul Muzahid who sadly passed away on 27 October 2018. Kiz was a valued member of our PCLS team, who worked as a lawyer in the Karratha and Roebourne office.



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PCLS Community Legal Education

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
- Located in Karratha, Roebourne, South Hedland and Newman
- Open 8am – 4pm weekdays



KDCCI Awards Night



On 27 October 2018, the KDCCI Business Excellence Awards night was held on WA Small business Day to celebrate local business operating in the City of Karratha.

The gala was Gatsby themed and our community rose to the occasion to support and celebrate these achievements.

The event was held at the Tambrey Conference room, and for a brief moment we were transported back in time with a sea of gowns, father boas, headpieces, suits and fedoras

Attendees were treated with pre-event refreshments and canapes and a top class meal complimented with great entertainment during the event.

The night was a great opportunity for businesses to network as well as celebrate the achievements of local businesses.

PCLS was a finalist in two awards- Best Business (20+ employees) and Best Community Organisation. The judging stated that some categories were highly competitive so whilst EPIC was the winner of the Best Community Organisation category, PCLS received a Highly Commended Award.

PCLS was represented by Clare Murray, Christy Reed, Jessica Fox and Angie Mitchell who all went on stage to collect the award.



Teddy Bears Picnic



The annual Teddy Bears Picnic and Early Years Expo, hosted by EPIC, was held on 24 October at the Karratha Leisureplex.

The event allows businesses to promote their services to residents in the Karratha area, particularly families and caregivers with young children.

Tenancy advocate Flor and migrant worker Debra set up a stall on behalf of PCLS to promote our services.

Bubbles were give to the children at our stall to keep them



entertained while Flor and Debra handed out brochures and spoke to the adults about the work we do

here at PCLS.

The event was a great success with nearly 1000 attendees! This gave PCLS an opportunity to let a lot of new residents or residents who may not have heard of us before, know what our organisation is all about and how we are able to assist with their issues.

WA 10 Year Strategic Plan on Homelessness

The 10 year strategy is a whole-of-community plan to tackle homelessness around Western Australia. Government and mainstream services such as health, mental health, education and justice will work together to recognise the issues causing homelessness.

Addressing and preventing homelessness is an important issue. Even though government and mainstream services are working together to prevent homelessness, it has not been enough to end homelessness in Western Australia.

Working in the homelessness program at PCLS our workers have identified some pathways in which people become homeless.

- Poverty
- Poor family relationships/ domestic violence
- Drug, alcohol or mental health issues

The strategy is being implemented as homelessness is becoming a complex issue with many contributing factors. It will enable all agencies who work with people experiencing homelessness, in providing an effective outcome for families faced with these issues.

On October 4, 2018, Pilbara Community Legal Service (PCLS) was invited to have their say on tackling homelessness in



the Pilbara region. Attendees were able to discuss the specific needs that our clients have been facing within our local community.

A draft copy of the strategy is set to be finalised and available for those involved to make comments, by the end of the year (2018).

There will be a series of action plans for the strategy which will outline the key initiatives for the 10 year period.

The plan will be implemented through a flexible, phased approach which will ensure that future actions reflect what has been achieved, recognise new challenges and priorities and respond to emerging evidence and innovation.

The 10 year strategic plan on homelessness has given organisations like PCLS something to focus on, and looking forward to receiving in order to better the work we do here for our clients.

Until we are successful with minimising

the risks of homelessness, there are ways we can support those who are currently homeless. The backpack sleeping bags are one way to assist the homeless to live a more comfortable life on the streets

These backpack sleeping bags have been designed to give dignity to the homelessness people.

The first step to getting homeless people back on their feet is dignity. We hope to become a part of this and be able to assist the homeless living on the streets in the Pilbara.

If you would like to make a donation to the Backpack Bed cause visit:

<http://backpackbed.org/about-us>



For more information on the 10 year strategic plan visit:

<https://www.communities.wa.gov.au/about/projects-and-programs/homelessness-strategy/>

Cooking Class

PCLS Migrant worker Victoria held another successful cooking up a storm class for October.

Victoria holds this class monthly for migrants in Hedland to come together to meet new people as well as become more education on others cultures through food.

North Regional Tafe Lecturer Petro Gows and her student Lilly Reen

participated in this months event as part of a cooking project for a TAFE leadership course.

The theme for this months class was South Africa as Petro is originally from South Africa. Petro and Lily made some traditional South African foods which included:

- Bobotie bake
- Pannekoek crepes

- Koeksisters donuts



PCLS Community Legal Education

On the 19th October 2018, Michael Harding, Lawyer from South Hedland office, attended Yaandina Aged Care facility to deliver community legal education on areas of practice that confront the elderly.

In the seminar, members of the facility took part in a seminar and engaged in a question and answer time which covered relevant areas of practice such as Wills & Deceased Estates, Powers of Attorney and Enduring Guardianship Appointments.

The discussion and presentation covered:

1. Wills- What are they, why do we need them and what happens if we don't have one.

2. Powers of Attorney – What are they, who needs one and why?

3. Enduring Guardianship Appointments- What are they and why do we need one

Members of the audience were prompt to ask questions which was no surprise given that these areas of practices that PCLS cover are highly relevant to the elderly or aging population.

The discussion ran for roughly 30 minutes and was presented in front of 30-40 residents and members of

staff. After the Question and Answer time, Michael also made himself available to residents at the facility to discuss individual problems one on one and provided advice in relation to same.

The staff seemed to enjoy the presentation and I was glad that there were a number of residents that had their ears pricked and were engaging with the topics discussed. It was even more pleasing to have members of the residence as well as staff come for a one-on-one chat after the presentation