

Welcome to the Winter/Spring 2012 KLC ebulletin. We've had lots of exciting developments lately, highlights in this edition include:

Success in Discrimination cases and the Visa Cancellation Clinic. KLC won a very long running race discrimination case at the NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal, and prevented many clients from having their Visas cancelled in the successful Visa Cancellation Clinic.

Submissions on Aboriginal Recognition in the Constitution, the Review of the Fair Work Act, Discrimination Consolidation Paper and Inquiry into Insecure Work. Staff and Students have been active on submissions encouraging law reform, particularly on the public housing repairs issues, NSW victims compensation and United Nation's human rights work.

CLE workshops reach out to school children, newly arrived culturally diverse communities and prisoners. Kingsford Legal Centre branched out to many target groups in our local community to present on important topics ranging from housing and fines, Power of Attorney and accessing free legal services.

Renovations and new faces in the KLC team. KLC welcomes a new Generalist Solicitor, Law Reform & Policy Solicitor, Aboriginal Access Worker and Front Office Supervisor to the team. We also congratulate

Principal Solicitor Emma Golledge on the new addition to her family, and to Dianne Anagnos who steps up as Acting Principal Solicitor while Emma is on maternity leave. KLC has also been renovated to provide better service to our clients and to fit all our students and new staff members in! We were honoured to have MP Peter Garrett attend and officially open the new centre for us.

Best Practices in Clinical Legal Education complete and to be published. Director Anna Cody is a part of the research team who are working on Best Practices in CLE and presented these to the Council of Australian Law Deans in June 2012 and at the July ALTA conference. The guide will now be published in a book to be released in 2013.

Helping our community with upcoming Tenant Groups. KLC is working closely with the Kooloora Community Centre, Eastern Area Tenancy Service and Working From the Ground Up to work with tenants groups on housing repair issues and advocacy skills.

Advice and casework

KLC won a very long running race discrimination case at the NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal and prevented many clients from having their visas cancelled in the successful Visa Cancellation clinic.

Race discrimination win

KLC won a long running race discrimination matter at the Administrative Decisions Tribunal. The Tribunal found that our client was discriminated against on the basis of his Aboriginality when he was refused accommodation by a guest house. The decision stated that our client's evidence as to what occurred was "clear, consistent and unembellished" and that he had been refused accommodation because of his Aboriginality. The Tribunal ordered the respondents to pay \$5,000 general damages, apologise and pay costs. The Legal Aid Commission funded Counsel, Lisa Doust who acted in the matter. Thanks to Lisa and to the many, many students who have worked on this file!

Visa Cancellation Matters

KLC recently wound up its Visa Cancellation Clinic project, which commenced in June 2011 with Partnership Program funding from the Legal Aid Commission. The Clinic assisted over 60 clients, providing 35 advices, 14 minor assistance cases and 18 major cases. Many of our students over the past 12 months have had the opportunity to work on these compelling matters, interviewing clients in prison, preparing statements for clients and family members and preparing submissions. Since May 2012, we have received successful outcomes in a further three matters, where we made submissions for our clients.

Student Advocacy at Waverley Court and the Social Security Appeals Tribunal

Seconded Solicitor Janis Dunncliff supervised two student advocacy matters.

A KLC Student represented a nursing student on a low range drink driving charge at Waverley Court. The student successfully obtained a section 10 dismissal with a 6 month bond for the client. The student received some stellar feedback from Magistrate Milledge, including: "you submitted well on behalf of your client, I

am grateful for that, you left nothing out, I have nothing to ask you"; and to the client "your representative prepared a good plea on your behalf – you should be grateful for that."

Another KLC Student represented a client at the Social Security Appeals Tribunal in an appeal after he was breached for not attending mandatory interviews. The client has significant mental health issues. The student addressed the member politely, integrated the facts and the law well and was flexible in his submissions when he was interrupted by questions by returning to his key points. We were notified by way of written decision that the student was successful and the client would be paid for the period he was breached.

Law reform, policy and publications

Staff and Students have been active in law reform campaigns, particularly on the public housing repairs issues, NSW victims compensation and United Nation's human rights work.

Housing repairs campaign

Our campaign seeks to improve the standard of housing for clients living in Housing NSW properties. We are continuing to work closely with Kooloora, Eastern Area Tenancy Service and Working From the Ground Up to build the capacity of tenants groups on housing repairs issues and advocacy skills. As part of this we have delivered two workshops at Kooloora on housing repairs applications and letter writing skills. We were also successful in getting a member of Parliament to ask questions that we drafted on housing repairs in Parliament. We did this in order to find out more about what is happening in this area, and to raise the profile of the issue in Parliament. We are continuing to apply pressure and gather evidence through our casework, and have run a pop up legal clinic in one of our local housing estates focusing on housing repairs.

Victims compensation review

We are continuing to work with CLCNSW and other community legal centres to campaign for the retention and strengthening of victims compensation, particularly for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. We have set up an online tool to assist individuals and organisations write to their local MP - <http://clcnsw>.

good.do/supportvictimscomp/. To date 34 different MPs have been emailed by 62 different people using this tool. We have also contributed to a letter to the Attorney-General seeking further information about the process of the review and to an open letter on victims compensation that is currently open for signature. Our submission was noted by Shadow Attorney General Paul Lynch in Parliament, who called on the government to adequately resource the scheme and commit to the continuation of lump sum payments.

United Nations human rights work

We coordinated, with the National Association of Community Legal Centres, the NGO submission to the UN Human Rights Committee on priority human rights issues in Australia. The submission was endorsed by 96 organisations! We also provided guidance, advice and training to the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance for the NGO Follow Up Report on priority issues under the Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. With Women's Legal Services NSW and the NSW Rape Crisis Centre, we coordinated the Sydney NGO roundtable with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. The NGO Follow Up Report was endorsed by all six national women's alliances and 105 organisations.

Submission on Aboriginal recognition in the Constitution

KLC made a submission to the Consultation on Aboriginal Recognition in the Constitution. Since the report has been released, KLC plans to run a series of workshops with non Indigenous community organisations to educate them and their clients about the issue.

NACLC response to Discrimination Consolidation Paper

KLC co-ordinated the National Association of Community Legal Centres response to the Government's *Discrimination Consolidation Discussion Paper* and this was submitted on 1 February 2012. This was the result of over 12 months of work by KLC alongside other clcs.

Review of the Fair Work Act

KLC participated in the review of the Fair Work Act through making a submission and giving evidence at the hearing. We were able to highlight particular jurisdictional issues between discrimination law and employment law, as well issues with short time frames and the impact on workers in insecure employment. Our submission and evidence was cited several times throughout the final report and many of our recommendations were adopted.

Review of legal services – Allen Consulting Group

The Government has commissioned the Allen Consulting Group to conduct a review of legal services in Australia. We contributed to the CLCNSW submission to the review. We highlighted the importance of including community education, community development and law reform activities as part of community legal centres' key outputs. Clinical courses in community legal centres – Spanish edition

Anna Cody recently had an article published in Spanish Journal "Revista De Educacion Y Derecho" (which stands for Education and Law Review) which assesses the benefits and challenges of running clinical courses in community legal centres.

Best practices in clinical legal education

The best practices research project Anna Cody has been working on with a cross University research team has produced 'Best practices in clinical legal education' for Australia. The team recently presented the guide to the Council of Australian Law Deans and at the July ALTA conference and are now publishing the guide as a book.

Community legal education

Kingsford Legal Centre branched out to many target groups in our local community to present on important legal topics ranging from housing and fines, Power of Attorney and accessing free legal services.

Talk to local Adult Migrant Education Program students

KLC solicitor Di Anagnos and students presented a workshop to 60 students at the City East Community College. The students were from Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Adult Migrant Education Program, and were all

recently arrived migrants from a wide variety of cultural and language groups. The talk was predominantly about accessing free legal services and basic rights when tackling tenancy problems and dealing with government organisations.

CLE Roundup

Kingsford Legal Centre presented in many Community Legal Seminars. Staff from the centre presented to international students at UNSW as part of their induction program about housing, driving and fines; to community groups at SENC about Powers of Attorney and Guardianship issues; and to Thai court officers about the nature of the legal aid system in Australia. Principal Solicitor Dianne Anagnos also passed on some of her wisdom by speaking to the UNSW Student Legal Education group about how to run a successful Community Legal Education seminar, there were about 20 students in attendance.

Staff and services

KLC welcomes a new Generalist Solicitor, Law Reform & Policy Solicitor, Aboriginal Access Worker and Front Office Supervisor to the team. We also congratulate Principal Solicitor Emma Golledge on the new addition to her family, and to Dianne Anagnos who steps up as Acting Principal Solicitor while Emma is on maternity leave. KLC has also been renovated to provide better service to our clients and to fit all our students and new staff members in! We were honoured to have MP Peter Garrett attend and officially open the new centre for us.

Renovations to Kingsford Legal Centre

KLC has been renovated to improve the flow between our students, staff and clients. The renovations began in March and took around 6 weeks to complete. We welcomed MP Peter Garrett and a host of community workers, volunteer solicitors and UNSW colleagues to help us launch the new centre in May.



MP Peter Garrett and KLC staff at the launch of the refurbished KLC

New Wednesday advice night

Kingsford Legal Centre has extended its evening advice roster to add an extra night on Wednesdays. Edwina MacDonald supervises this advice clinic. We are always looking for new volunteers to staff our advice nights – solicitors with at least two years experience and a current practicing certificate to attend KLC one Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday each fortnight. If you are interested, email Murray Baker on m.baker@unsw.edu.au.

Kingsford Legal Centre on Facebook and Twitter

KLC has a Facebook and Twitter account where we will post information and links to our work on law reform and policy, major achievements of the centre and promoting upcoming events. Like Kingsford Legal Centre on Facebook and follow Kingsford LC on Twitter today!

Edwina MacDonald

Edwina joined Kingsford Legal Centre at the start of 2012 as the Law Reform and Policy Solicitor/Clinical Supervisor. Edwina was previously the Law Reform and Policy Coordinator at Women's Legal Services NSW.



Edwina MacDonald, Law Reform and Policy Solicitor

Laura Brown

Principal Solicitor Emma Golledge has taken 12 months maternity leave but we congratulate Dianne Anagnos who steps up to the position of Acting Principal Solicitor while Emma is away. We also welcome Laura Brown, in the position of Clinical Supervisor and Generalist Solicitor for 12 months.

Laura is all too familiar with life at KLC and UNSW, having completed her LLB here, was a secondee at KLC in 2008/09 and has been a part of our Volunteer Solicitor team ever since.

Murray Baker

In January 2012 Murray joined the KLC team as the new Front Office Supervisor. He brings three years experience from Student Services at the Faculty of Law here at UNSW.



Murray Baker, Front Office Supervisor

Working with our community

KLC is working closely with the Junction Neighbourhood Centre to create tenants groups, where tenants will learn how to advocate to Housing NSW on housing repair issues.

Housing Estate Pop-Up Clinic Series

KLC has been concerned that residents on some of the DOH housing estates within our catchment area may have difficulties accessing the Centre by public transport, so we are organising a number of pop-up clinics where secondees are available to give face to face legal advice, and students are on hand to help out and promote the centre. We have held one clinic at South Coogee housing estate and have another took place in August at Duffy's Corner, Maroubra.



KLC Students and Staff at the South Coogee Housing Estate Pop-up Clinic in May

Legal Needs Assessment Project

KLC is currently participating in this project being led by the National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC). It involves putting together a comprehensive document which looks at our current service delivery to clients as captured in our CLSIS database and an analysis of predicted legal needs of our community using ABS data. The document will be an evidence-based one which will inform our next round of strategic planning (in late 2013) and will also be used in funding applications and for more focussed promotion of the Centre. The document should be completed in December.

Know Your Rights Seminar

KLC in partnership the Junction Neighbourhood Centre organised a 'Know Your Rights' seminar in October. The seminar hosted guest speakers from EWON and Fair Trading as well as a speaker from KLC.

Employment clinic

UNSW Law Students shine in the student advocacy clinic and KLC takes part in Independent Inquiry into Insecure Work

Student advocacy in unfair dismissal conciliation

Over the Summer session one of our KLC students was able to represent one of KLC's clients in a conciliation at Fair Work Australia. As an end result, the student's client was very happy with the result of the conciliation, with the student securing him payment for lost wages and long service leave as well as a retraction of the dismissal, allowing our client to resign.

KLC students appear before the Independent Inquiry into Insecure Work Panel

KLC prepared a submission to the ACTU 'Independent inquiry into insecure work in Australia'. KLC was invited to speak at the Inquiry hearing in Sydney.

KLC Student represents KLC at Eastern Suburbs Migrant Refugee Employment Expo 2012.

On 22 May 2012, one of the KLC Employment Law Clinic students presented at the Eastern Suburbs Migrant and Refugee Employment Expo 2012, held at Randwick TAFE. Our student's presentation, 'Five things

you should know about your rights at work', was aimed at newly arrived migrants starting out in the workforce. The talk was well received with many of the attendees keen to find out more about KLC's employment advice clinic and the basics of working in Australia.



KLC Student at the Eastern Suburbs Migrant Refugee Employment Expo

Asian Women at Work CLE Series

KLC held six workshops in the first of the year for the Asian Women at Work series. The latest workshops have been well attended; over 30 women came to the workshop in Hurstville and 12 to the workshop in Cabramatta. We've also had three AWAW members call us recently for advice after coming to a CLE.



Employment Solicitor Liz Meyer (l) presenting at the Hurstville Asian Women at Work series

Aboriginal access program

Farewell to Ron Timbery and welcome to our new Aboriginal Access Worker Kaleesha Morris

New Aboriginal Access Worker joins Kingsford Legal Centre

Sadly Ron Timbery left Kingsford Legal Centre in May 2012 to work with the La Perouse Land Council. It's great he is still in the area and we will maintain connection with him, Ron has done a fantastic job building our connections with the local community. Kaleesha Morris has accepted the position of Aboriginal Access Worker and commenced at KLC in August 2012. Kaleesha has experience working for the National Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and for the South Sydney Domestic violence court assistance scheme.

Helping Kooloora Celebrate Closing The Gap

KLC ran a stall at the Kooloora Community Centre in Malabar to promote Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal People to Kooloora's community members, and to contribute to Kooloora's celebrations of "Closing The Gap" Day.



Ron Timbery, Edwina MacDonald and Students at "Closing the Gap" Day at Kooloora Community Centre

Family Law and Domestic Violence Clinic

The Family Law Community Legal Education clinic shines in 2012, presenting to many organisations on important changes to the Family Law Act.

Outreach success for the Family Law Clinic in 2012

Family Law/DV students gave Community Legal Education presentations to a variety of key organisations including the Deli, Staying Home Leaving Violence, the Royal Hospital for Women and Sutherland Shire Family Services.

Students also presented to SENC's Bengali women's group, the first of a series of workshops planned for this particular target group, exposing the students to cultural issues and delivery through use of interpreters.

For the first time, KLC included a presentation by our Family Law/DV students as a part of our ongoing Community Legal Education Series on Family Law topics. The feedback was very positive and we hope to provide this opportunity again in the future.



Family Law/DV Students presenting as part of the KLC Community Workers CLE series

If you would like to subscribe (free) to this eBulletin or would like further information please email Murray Baker at: m.baker@unsw.edu.au. If you would like to unsubscribe to this eBulletin please email Murray Baker at: m.baker@unsw.edu.au with "unsubscribe eBulletin" in the subject field.



LOCATION

Kingsford Legal Centre is located on the ground floor of the Law Building, University of New South Wales, Anzac Parade, Kensington.

Enter the university at the main entrance on Anzac Parade, walk down the main walkway and turn down the second path on the left. The entrance to the legal centre is opposite the Uni Bar.

POSTAL ADDRESS

F3-003
Kingsford Legal Centre
University of New South Wales
NSW 2052

Contact details

Phone: (02) 9385 9566
Fax: (02) 9385 9583
E-mail: legal@unsw.edu.au
www.kingsfordlegalcentre.org