



**Report on the 2009 National CLCs Conference
Resolutions, Policy Statements and Actions**

Network / Session	'Resolution'	Status (Resolution, Policy or Action)	Action
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Network	(1) Resolve to support all of the CLCs that are members of NACLC which have developed or are developing ATSI cultural competencies among their staff and management	Action	The Indigenous Employment Policy has been circulated by NACLC. No further action required.
	(2) Resolve to support the various CLCs to incorporate ATSI staff targets within their organisation to reflect the percentage of ATSI community members that their organisation services	Policy	Encourage all CLCs to monitor and implement new strategies as requested
	(3) Resolve to encourage the development and implementation of an ATSI CLC staff and volunteer network within the membership of the NACLC. Ideally the NACLC will support the creation of network for staff, irrespective of their gender	Resolution	Liz O'Brien to consult with ATSIW network and ask for further advice regarding the creation of a new network (ongoing).
	(4) We resolve to seek the support of the NACLC to advocate for specified ATSIW's positions on Government-initiated national advisory group	Policy	Supported by NACLC. No action required.
LGBTI Network	(5) Calls on CLCs to: (a) Be aware of the changes to Commonwealth laws affecting same sex couples; (b) Promote the use of CLC-generated resources to	Policy	NACLC posted the statement on the BBS and website, and informed the network liaison, on 22 November 2009.



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	appropriately advise same sex couples of their rights and obligations under the new laws, including 'Almost Equal: A Guide for Community Legal Centre Lawyers to the 2008 changes to Commonwealth laws affecting same sex couples' to be available on the BBS		
Tenancy Network	The Tenancy Network calls on NACLC to continue to lobby the Federal Government to recognise human rights to housing over commercial advantage by eliminating no cause eviction.	Action	NACLC to continue to support the Network in lobbying the Federal Government to recognise human rights to housing over commercial advantage by eliminating no cause eviction.
Welfare Rights Network	The NWRN calls on the federal and state governments to redress the discriminatory treatment of New Zealanders and Pacific Islanders residing in Australia, on the basis of their migration status. In particular, the NWRN holds serious concerns in relation to the restricted access to social security and public housing to migrants from NZ and Pacific Islands and their children. We call on the NACLC to form a coalition with its counterpart in NZ to support the NWRN to develop a campaign strategy to redress these issues.	Policy Statement and Resolution	NACLC to provide NWRN with its NZ contacts and support NWRN in approaching NZ Coalition of CLCs.
Session 4: Exploitation and the international student industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the NACLC write to the Victoria Law Foundation in support of Western Suburbs Legal Service's application for funding for the International Student Legal Advice Clinic 	Action	NACLC will consider adopting or endorsing draft letters put to it by the networks or individual CLCs regarding these positions.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the NACLC write to federal government expressing extreme concern at the lack of legal protections and services afforded to international students studying in Australia. <p>In light of the financial benefit to the Australian economy generated by international students, delegates asked the NACLC to call upon the federal government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with CLCs to develop relevant legal information for international students, to be funded and disseminated through DIMA • Provide appropriate support services for international students, including legal services, to be funded through DEEWR 		
Session 6: Two models for Homeless Persons Legal Services	That NACLC works towards all CLSIS figures including tenure type to assist with developing information about homelessness	Action	NACLC has written to CCLSP requesting the inclusion of tenure type to assist with developing information about homelessness.
Session 11: Effective investigation of complaints against police	<p>(1) That the NACLC calls for the independent and effective investigation of all complaints against police officers. The investigation must meet international standards in that it must be:</p> <p>(a) Independent of police: conducted by an agency that is hierarchically, institutionally and practically independent of the police</p>	Action	NACLC has sent an email to the State and Territory Associations to determine if a sufficient number of CLCs are interested in forming a Network: responses from Networks due to NACLC by 1 April.



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	<p>(b) Effective: capable of ascertaining whether the conduct complained of is unlawful or breaches disciplinary standards and that it leads to the prosecution and discipline of the perpetrators</p> <p>(c) Prompt</p> <p>(d) Open to public scrutiny</p> <p>(e) Allows the effective participation of victim/family</p> <p>(2) That the NACLC endorses the formation of a National Police Accountability Network to assist the work of lawyers and activists in achieving justice for victims of police misconduct and human rights abuses</p> <p>The NACLC points to the Police Ombudsman of Northern Ireland as an example to work from.</p>		
Session 24: National Human Rights Consultation	<p>That the Federal Government put in place a framework for the better protection of the human rights of all on Australian shores.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that it ensures that mechanisms and resources are provided to ensure those who are most vulnerable to having their human rights infringed are able to access human rights; • that all its government departments responsible for the administration of policies and practices are required to comply with human rights. 	Policy	Ongoing social justice policy project of NACLC
Session 30: Making Human Rights a reality	That all CLCs advocate the development of	Resolution	Done



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for the most disadvantaged	charters of human rights that replicate the essential principles enshrined in the current Victorian and ACT charts in all states and territories of Australia		
Session 31: Planning for legal needs	That the NACLC adopt a model piloted by the Legal Needs Strategic Planning Project NSW as a national strategic planning model	Action	Done – proposal for development and national roll out funding submission submitted.
Session 34: Could a Federal Human Rights Act better promote climate justice?	That the NACLC calls on the Federal Government to include environmental rights within a Human Rights Act	Resolution	Done
Session 35: Joined up justice: towards a nationally integrated coronial system	<p>(1) All State and Territory governments should act to guarantee that the preservation of life is central to their coronial systems by introducing, as appropriate, prevention and reporting amendments to their coronial legislation</p> <p>(2) All State and Territory governments should act to recognise the international human rights obligation to respect, promote and fulfil the right to life by introducing, as appropriate, amendments to their coronial legislation so that coronial investigation is independent.</p> <p>(3) That amendments to Recommendations 1 & 2 should be enforced by a uniform national coronial public reporting and review scheme for coronial findings and recommendations</p> <p>(4) Primary and secondary coronial legislation in the various jurisdictions</p>	Policy	No action required



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	<p>should be amended or introduced in recognition of the principle that participation of families in the inquest process is a fundamental component of Australia's international human rights obligations</p> <p>(5) The remaining recommendations of the National Report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (1991) should be implemented</p> <p>(6) Legal aid must be sufficient to enable all families to obtain, without financial hardship, legal advice and representation for investigations and inquests, as a fundamental component of Australia's human rights obligations under the right to life</p> <p>(7) Legal aid must be sufficient to enable all advocacy organisations with sufficient interest to intervene in inquests, as a fundamental component of Australia's human rights obligations under the right to life</p> <p>(8) A specific pool of funds should be made available to enable CLCs to provide legal representation for families at inquests</p> <p>(9) The Australian Coronial Reform Working Group, along with key stakeholders, should discuss the appropriate model, including funding and governance, for the National</p>		



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	Inquest Clearing House		
Session 46: Affordable and secure housing at a time of economic turbulence	That the NACLC will work on developing a resource list for sharing information relating to tenancy and housing issues.	Action	Done (information on BBS)
Session 49: Moving in on young people	(1) That the NACLC requires government and calls on media outlets to accurately represent youth crime statistics	Policy statement	No action required – NACLC to respond as required
	(2) That the NACLC supports the work of state CLCs lobbying for youth crime prevention models based on a framework of human and children's rights which (a) address causes of youth offending (b) are inclusive of young people's views (c) ensure resourcing of suitable diversionary programs for all young people apprehended or charged with criminal offences	Action as requested	Ongoing
	(3) That the NACLC calls for a collaborative cross government, community and providers approach to the implementation of this crime model.	Resolution	NACLC to develop a policy position and distribute to State and Territory Associations for comment by CLCs.
Other Resolutions: Resolutions on the Death in Custody of Mr. Ward	(1) That the Federal Government recommit to full implementation of RCIADIC recommendations and resource continuous implementation of RCIADIC recommendations (2) That the Federal Government review the fitness of GSL/GHS to operate	Action	Advocated by NACLC during Conference in Perth



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	<p>Commonwealth immigration detention and related contracts with a view to terminating those contracts forthwith</p> <p>(3) That the WA Government terminate the GSL/GHS prison transport contract and return control to the state in the context of radically reducing arrest, detention, transport of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Western Australians.</p> <p>(4) That the WA Government implement the State Coroner's findings and recommendations in full, urgently</p> <p>(5) That the WA Government compensate the Ward family urgently and proportionately for their loss, grief, suffering and for the loss of Mr Ward as a leader and lawman in his community</p> <p>(6) That the WA Government recommit and resources full implementation of the RCIADIC recommendations</p> <p>(7) A full inquiry into systemic institutionalised racism in the WA Criminal and Prison System; and institutionalised racism in health, education, family violence and child protection systems.</p>		