

# The Indigenous Women's Legal Program (IWLP) Women's Legal Services NSW



WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

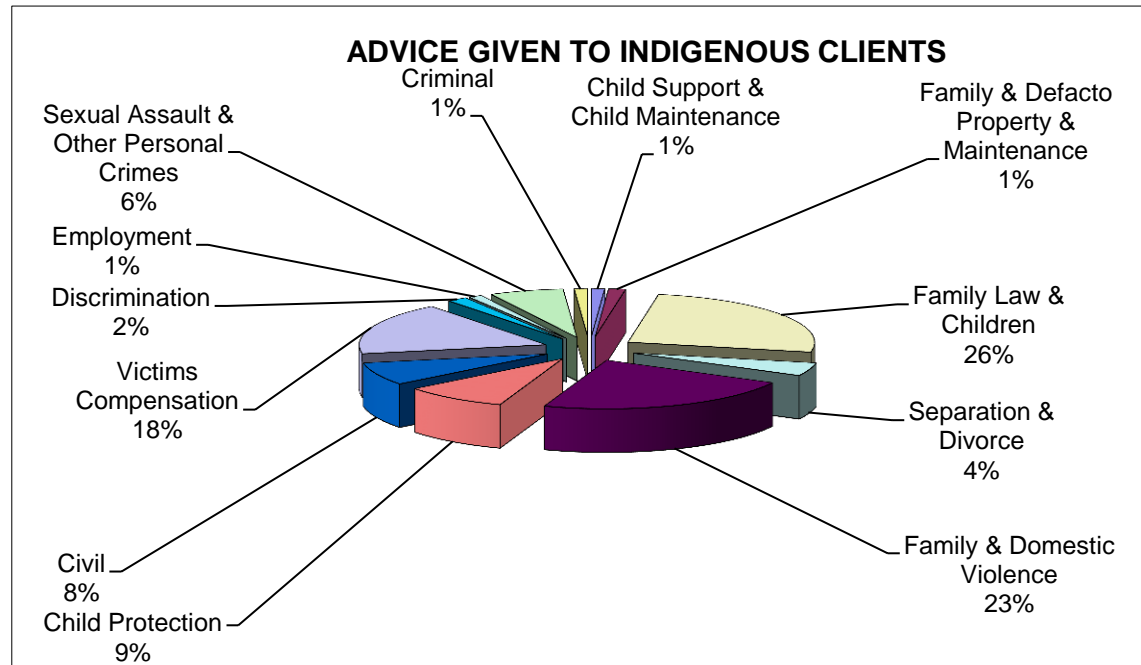
INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S LEGAL PROGRAM



The Indigenous Women's Legal Program aims to provide services that best meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Literacy skills are an issue for our Indigenous clients. To accommodate this, branding with a visible Indigenous element was created. WLSNSW purchased the painting "Journey of the Wildflowers" by Donna Hensen c. 2009 (next page) to be used as the image for the Indigenous Women's Legal Program. The IWLP promotional products have been designed using elements from the painting and has been well received.

Protection from domestic and family violence is an important issue for Indigenous women. To assist with enforcing Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders, a breach diary was developed, using the IWLP image. This diary, with an Indigenous design on a mainstream document, has been distributed for general use. This is the first initiative of this kind that we are aware of. The AVO Breach Diaries have been very successful with a distributed of over 7,000 this year through the Women's Domestic Violence Court Scheme, Police and other DV services. Legal Aid NSW and NSW Police Force have generously contributed to the printing of a further 20,000 dairies.





IWLP continually provided a service to Indigenous women across NSW through the Indigenous Women's Legal Advice Line, case work, community legal education and law reform activities. We were guided by the Aboriginal Women's Consultation Network which met three times this year.





**We provided Community Legal Education to:**

- High School students about Cyber bullying in La Perouse, Wilcannia and delivered more workshops in rural areas
- Women's groups about Human Rights through Skill Up Speak Up
- We presented at the Healing Our Way Conference
- We assisted the Migration Review Tribunal with their Reconciliation Action Plan and to create a plaque for the Sydney and Melbourne offices that acknowledges the Traditional Owners.





## Think B4 U Click – Cyberbullying

A request from a remote community for Cyberbullying information was made to IWLP. From this request a presentation was developed to inform, educate and make Aboriginal High School girls more aware of the issues surrounding cyberbullying, how it occurs, what signs to look for, how to stop it and how to report inappropriate behaviour while online. We also bring to light the implications that some behaviours evolving from such, can have on the victim and perpetrator of cyberbullying and the seriousness of this global epidemic.

We developed material and then conducted a focus group with girls and parents from the La Perouse Aboriginal Community

We then delivered a pilot workshop in Brewarrina Central School.

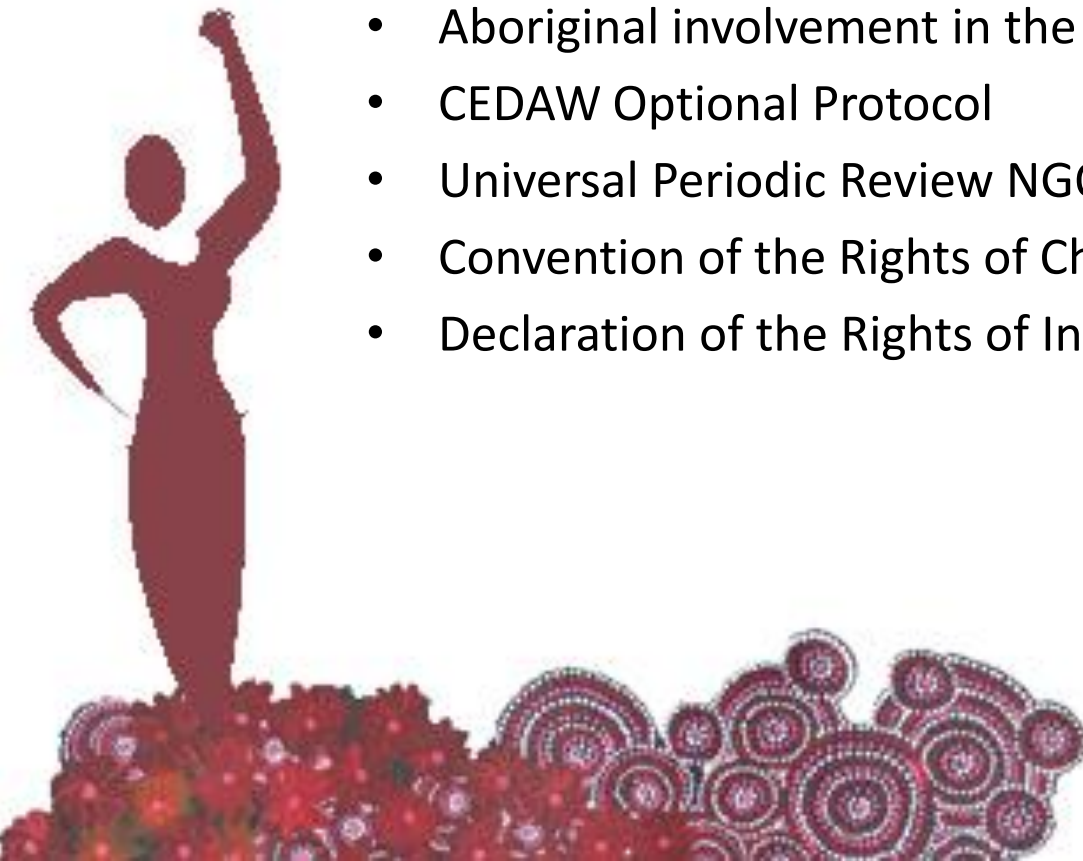
This developed into a partnership with ACCAN (Australian Communications Consumer Action Network) to develop and deliver cyber bullying material to parents and female students in regional and remote areas.

We have formed another partnership with Dubbo Western NSW Community Legal Centre to jointly deliver workshops to both male and female students.



**We participated in Law Reform activities about:**

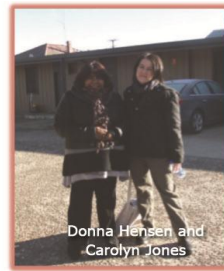
- Aboriginal recognition in the Australian Constitution
- Aboriginal involvement in the Family Law System
- CEDAW Optional Protocol
- Universal Periodic Review NGO Report
- Convention of the Rights of Children NGO Report
- Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples







Mary Frail, Dianne Hamey, Donna Hensen, Hon Pru Goward, Julie Baker and Helen Farrugia



Donna Hensen and Carolyn Jones

## Skill Up speak Up Project



Mt Druitt workshop participants



Kempsey workshop participants with Mary Frail and Helen Campbell



Mary Frail and Helen Campbell International Women's Day in Kempsey

The Indigenous Women's Legal Program have been conducting workshops around NSW to provide an opportunity for Aboriginal women to discuss policing and legal support for those who have experienced family violence. These workshops are providing practical tips and information to lessen the gap between legal rights and human rights. Everyone has the right to be safe but it doesn't always feel like that. These are interactive workshop around what does and doesn't work in stopping family violence for Aboriginal women.

The project has the following components:

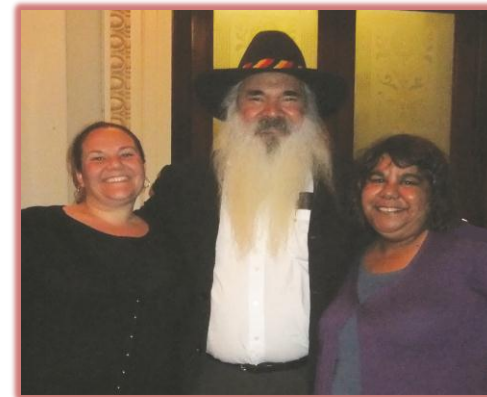
1. Deliver Legal Rights and Advocacy workshops to Aboriginal women experiencing domestic and family violence.
2. Develop knowledge and skills to effectively advocate with supportive partnerships to jointly advocate for positive changes for Aboriginal women.
3. The provision of direct legal assistance, advice, representation where are subject to systemic failures in relation to reporting violence.
4. The development of accessible resources to support the workshops.
5. Contributing to ongoing law reform work in relation to improving justice system responses to women experiencing violence.

These workshops have been so successful that Dept of Human Services has offered to fund IWLP to provide four workshops in remote communities in NSW.





**Mrs Navi Pillay**  
**UN High Commissioner**  
**for Human Rights with**  
**IWLP staff Mary Anne Frail**  
**and Donna Hensen**



**Mr Mick Gooda (Social Justice**  
**Commissioner) with IWLP Staff**

