



How can CLCs work more collaboratively with doctors?

NACLCL Conference 2014



Women's Legal Services NSW

- State-wide Community Legal Centre for women
- Legal services relating to domestic and family violence, sexual assault, family law, care and protection and other issues that affect women
- Indigenous Women's Legal Program

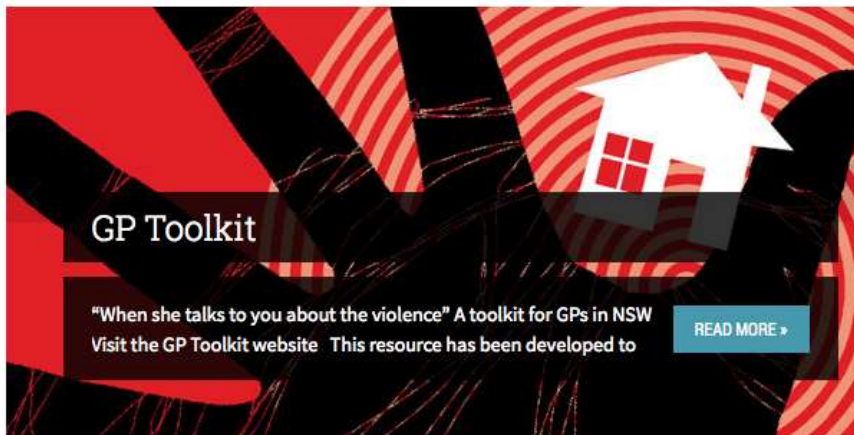
www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au

Women's Legal Services NSW

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GP Toolkit

"When she talks to you about the violence" A toolkit for GPs in NSW
Visit the GP Toolkit website This resource has been developed to

[READ MORE >](#)



Who We Are

What We Do

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Overview

1. **Introducing** WLSNSW resource “When she talks to you about the violence – A toolkit for GPs in NSW”
1. **Discussion** about how CLCs can work more effectively with the health profession



Another advocacy–health alliance

- WLSNSW provides face-to-face legal advice at four women's health centres in Western Sydney.
- Operated for over 20 years.
- One day per fortnight at each centre.
- Health centre staff do intake.
- Safe and secure for women.
- Holistic service.

Health Centre – holistic service

NATURAL WELLBEING

Mind, Body & You!

THURSDAY, 9.30 am—11.00 am



Join Naturopath Catherine Walker for a session that explores goal setting, stress management, and health choices. Learn how to make the most of your natural wellbeing.

Topics will include realistic goal setting, attitudes to food, eating well on a budget and 'surviving the supermarket'.

Cost: \$5.00 per session — REGISTER NOW!

If you require help outside our opening hours, please call one of the numbers below:

24 HOUR CRISIS LINES

- Domestic Violence Line 1800 656 463
- NSW Rape Crisis 1800 424 017
- Lifeline 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue 1300 224 636
- Lifeline 13 11 14
- Mental Health Line 1800 011 511
- Suicide Callback 1300 659 567
- Kids' Helpline (ages 5 to 25) 1800 551 800
- Homeless Persons Info Line 1800234 566
- Centrelink Emergency (not all services are

Blacktown Women's and Girls' Health Centre

9.30 am - 4.30 pm, Monday - Friday

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Blacktown Women's and Girls' Health Centre also offers the following services. Phone 9831 2070:

LEGAL SUPPORT

Legal advice and support from a qualified Women's Legal Service NSW solicitor. Every second Friday, by appointment only.

*

COUNSELLING

Counselling is available to support women and children (over 14 years of age).

Cost \$5.00 per session

By appointment only.

*

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNSELLING

A specialist outreach Counsellor from the WASH House is now available here at Blacktown, by appointment, every Tuesday

*

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT ADVOCACY SERVICE

Available every second Tuesday
(from 19.08.2014)

Make an appointment - or just drop in.

BLISS (Blacktown Lesbian Social Support)

Now at BACC (Marayong House)

(02) 9626 5312



Girls' Health Centre



Group Program - Term 3, 2014

Term commences:

Monday, 21st July, 2014

Term concludes:

Friday, 19th September, 2014

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

Phone: (02) 9831 2070

6 Prince Street, Blacktown 2148

Website: www.womensandgirls.org.au

Email: info@womensandgirls.org.au

Blacktown Women's and Girls' Health

Centre is a safe place for women

PLEASE NOTE:

Domestic violence – CLCs and GPs

NEWS

Inquest into death of Noelene Beutel by partner Wayne McClutchie to consider whether doctors should break privilege on domestic violence

TONY KEIM THE COURIER-MAIL JUNE 23, 2014 11:49AM

SHARE



SAVE THIS STORY

AN inquest into the murder of a mother-of-one by her long-time partner will consider whether doctors should be forced to break privilege and notify police in cases where patients are victims of domestic violence.

Brisbane coroner John Hutton on Monday said the probe into the violent killing of Noelene Beutel, 35, by her brutal and sadistic partner would focus on a review of the adequacy of systems currently in place, such as support by government agencies such as police, to prevent





Referrals from GPs to CLCs

- Anyone know how many referrals your CLC gets from doctors?
- WLSNSW 2013-14 referrals from 'medical' 7.7%
- Should it be higher?



Why should GPs make legal referrals?

- Patient's health could be impacted by a legal problem.
- Example 1
- Example 2
- What are some challenges facing GPs making legal referrals?



DV Toolkit for GPs project

- Background to project
- Toolkit and waiting room poster
- Launch and distribution
- Working with the Australian Medical Association (AMA)



Background

- Request for CLE to GPs in Bankstown in 2011
- Old WLS resource from 1999 needed updating
- Applied for grant from LJF
- Research the gaps – lots of volunteer hours
- Consult with doctors
- Design and layout
- Finally completed end of 2013 and launched in 2014

GP Toolkit

When she talks to you about the violence

A toolkit
for GPs
in NSW

Over 1 in 5 women make their first disclosure of domestic violence to their GP.¹

You may be the only person she will tell.

Your skills and sensitivity are essential.

This resource has been developed to assist you in identifying and responding to women and children who have experienced or are experiencing family violence (also known as 'domestic violence' or 'intimate partner violence').

It has been estimated that full time GPs are seeing up to five women per week who have experienced some form of intimate partner abuse (physical, emotional or sexual) in the past 12 months.²

The toolkit contains guidelines for patient care, from a range of sources, as well as some legal information relevant to your role as her GP.

The Medical Profession has key roles to play in early detection, intervention and provision of specialised treatment of those who suffer the consequences of domestic violence, whether it be physical, sexual or emotional.³

Responding effectively to family violence requires knowledge of the physical and emotional consequences of the violence, an understanding of appropriate and inappropriate responses, and having good networks with local family violence services.

After family and friends, victims are most likely to tell health professionals about violence.⁴



What's in the GP Toolkit?

- What is family violence and indicators
- Sample 'script' and how to respond
- Safety planning and continuing care
- Victims support scheme
- Immigration family violence provisions
- Note-taking and subpoenas
- When the perpetrator is your patient

Waiting room poster



Launch at AMA



http://itstimetotalk.net.au/gp-toolkit/

It's Time to Talk
about domestic violence

It's time to talk about Domestic Violence

It is a crime
It is everybody's business
A community without violence
is a community without fear

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GP Toolkit

1. What is family violence?
2. Indicators
3. How to ask your patient
4. Responding to a disclosure
5. Initial safety planning
6. Victims support scheme
7. Note-taking for legal purposes
8. Mandatory reporting
9. Immigration family violence

When she talks to you about the violence

A toolkit for GPs in NSW

- Download the complete GP Toolkit (PDF)
- Download Waiting Room Poster (PDF)

Contact [Women's Legal Services NSW](#) to order hard copies of the GP Toolkit

Over 1 in 5 women make their first disclosure of domestic violence to their GP.¹

Cover letter

*From the President's Office
A/Prof. Brian K. Owler
MB BS BSc(Med)Hons) PhD FRACS*



22 April 2014

Dear Colleague,

AMA (NSW) and Women's Legal Services NSW recently jointly launched the enclosed resource for doctors on domestic violence.

One in five women who experience domestic violence will first mention it to their GP.

When she talks to you about the violence – a toolkit for GPs in NSW provides doctors with information on how to work with patients in violent relationships to help them plan for their own safety.

It also has information a range of topics like documenting injuries for legal purposes and difficult situations such as when you treat both the abuser and abused.

Additionally, on the back page, there are contact numbers for legal and support services for people experiencing domestic violence.

Also enclosed, is a poster for your waiting room advising people experiencing domestic violence that it is safe to raise the issue with their doctor.

It is very important that doctors have access to information like this, as you may be the only person a patient will ever tell about their experience with domestic violence.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Owler', written in a cursive style.

*A/Prof. Brian K. Owler
President, AMA (NSW)*



Working with the AMA

- Then-AMA president launched the previous version in 2000
- Current AMA president was very keen
- Timing was lucky
- AMA has great media skills, resources and contacts
- CLC and AMA common goals around DV

Toolkit in the media

- Prime interview

<https://au.prime7.yahoo.com/n2/news/a/-/local/22356705/doctors-better-equipped-video/>





Toolkit in medical media





Tips for working with the AMA

- Check AMA website and policies
- Federal AMA President knows about CLCs and is interested in targeting domestic violence
- Don't be shy about contacting AMA media or policy teams
- A 'human story' is important (media 'hook')
- AMA can open you up to more contacts

Other organisations

Medical Women's Society of N.S.W

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN – A new GP TOOL KIT

May 14, 2014 by nswmws

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

We are currently liaising with the Women's Legal Service of NSW on Violence Against Women issues.

They have just launched their GP Tool Kit. We plan to assist them with a GP referral list which we will source, through our membership data base, by invitation and expressions of interest.

Dr Liz Rickman from MWS of NSW, met with Helen Campbell, executive officer of Women's Legal Services NSW and Natalie Neumann, community education officer at WLSNSW, to assist in informing doctors of their recent publication THE GP TOOLKIT. It is resource file for doctors working with victims of domestic violence.



Dr Liz Rickman and Natalie Neumann from Women's Legal Services NSW

If you are interested in being part of this referral list for use by lawyers, or if you have any questions regarding this list, please send your contact details and email address to nsw@alnmw.org.au. We look forward to hearing from you.

MWS of NSW and WLSNSW hope to work together more in the future as needs arise.

GP toolkits will be available at our dinner on May 21st or contact www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au



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Where to now?

- Other States showing interest in Toolkits
- Federal AMA – across jurisdictions
- NSW AMA – creating a video for GPs to complement Toolkit
- Continue to look for ways to promote and distribute Toolkit
- Evaluation



Other ways to work with health?

- Practice nurses
- RACGP
- Area health services
- Conferences
- Universities – CLCs get involved in training medical students about DV and services
- What else?

Northern Territory

- Mandatory reporting of serious domestic violence to police.
- How does this change role of doctors and CLCs?





Thank you!

Questions?
Comments?