

**National Community Legal Centres Conference  
nipaluna – Hobart  
22–23 March 2023**

**Conference  
Program Celebrating  
50 Years**



**Community Legal Centres  
Australia**

**Reconnecting**

**and**

**Reimagining**



Community Legal Centres Australia acknowledges and pays respect to the muwinina and palawa people, the true owners, and custodians of nipaluna – the land on which the city of Hobart is placed. We recognise that Aboriginal sovereignty has never been ceded and nipaluna always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

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# Tuesday

21 March 2023



Network Meetings		Convenor
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Network	9:00AM–5:00PM	Bobbi Murray <i>Community Legal Centres NSW</i>
Disability Rights Network	9:00AM–5:00PM	Mark Patrick <i>Australian Centre for Disability Law</i>
Human Rights Network	9:00AM–5:00PM	Rachael Pliner <i>Federation of Community Legal Centres (Victoria)</i>  Sarah Marland <i>Community Legal Centres NSW</i>
National Professional Indemnity Insurance Network <i>National PII Network members only</i>	9:00AM–12:00PM	Catherine Eagle <i>Welfare Rights and Advocacy Centre</i>
Older Persons' Legal Services Network	9:00AM–12:00PM	Rebecca Edwards <i>Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre</i>  Jane Andreassen <i>Townsville Community Law</i>
Student Legal Services Network	9:00AM–12:00PM	Kim Richardson Jessica Sabapathy <i>Youth Law Australia</i>
Employment Law Network	1.15PM–5:00PM	Gabrielle Marchetti <i>JobWatch</i>
RRRR (Regional, Rural, Remote and Very Remote) Community Legal Network	9:00AM–1:00PM	Judy Harrison <i>North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service</i> Bill Mitchell <i>Townsville Community Law</i>

Tenancy Network	12:00PM–4:30PM	Ben Bartl <i>Tenants' Union of Tasmania</i>
Community Services Network	1:00PM–4:00PM	Helen Wallace <i>Caxton Community Legal Centre</i>
Disaster Resilience Legal Network	1:00PM–5:00PM	Bill Mitchell <i>Townsville Community Law</i> Bronwyn Lay <i>Federation of Community Legal Centres Vic</i> Renee Magee <i>Wotton + Kearney</i>
Youth Advocacy Network	1:00PM–5:00PM	Matthew Keeley Kim Richardson <i>Youth Law Australia</i>
5:30–7:00PM	Welcome Reception HOBART FUNCTION AND CONFERENCE CENTRE	

# Wednesday

22 March 2023



9:00AM	Welcome to Country and opening <b>PLENARY HALL</b>				
<b>PLENARY 1</b> 9:30-11:00AM	The laws of Nature or Commerce? <b>PLENARY HALL</b>		Bob Brown <i>The Bob Brown Foundation (Action for Earth)</i>	The laws of Nature cradled humanity into existence on this unique planet Earth. But now that the laws of Commerce are destroying Nature, which laws should we obey? Commerce is winning, with recent laws in Australia to criminalise peaceful defenders of Nature. Bob takes us to the wild world, including Antarctica and the Tarkine, and ponders whether it is better to incarcerate our body or lose our soul.	
<b>MORNING TEA</b> 11:00-11:30AM					
<b>WALKING TOUR</b> 11:30AM-1:00PM	Tasmania's queer transformation		Rodney Croome <i>Long-time Tasmanian LGBTIQ+ equality advocate</i>		
<b>STREAMS</b>	1. Reimagining pathways to justice	2. Reimagining a sustainable, resilient and thriving sector	3. Reimagining strong, safe and secure organisations	4. Reimagining client and community connection	5. recharging skills and knowledge
<b>BREAKOUTS</b> 11:30AM-1:00PM	<b>PLENARY HALL</b> Making change happen – winning big for communities without breaking the budget  Arif Hussein <i>Refugee Advice and Casework Service</i>  Katherine Boyle <i>Welfare Rights Centre NSW</i>  Leanne Ho <i>Economic Justice Australia</i>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM 3</b> Employers of choice – attracting (and keeping) great staff  Carly Hanson <i>Community Legal Centres Queensland</i>  Helen Campbell OAM <i>Women's Legal Service NSW</i>	<b>HARBOUR VIEW ROOM 1</b> The physiology of a leader – daily life strategies for sustained performance  Dr Jemma King <i>BioPsychAnalytics</i>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM 1</b> Reimagining community legal education in a changing world  Sarah Edwards <i>Central Australian Women's Legal Service</i>  Kate Gibson <i>Eastern Community Legal Centre</i>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM 2</b> Cyber security risk management, scams and cyber insurance  Reece Corbett-Wilkins <i>Clyde &amp; Co</i>  Suanne Russell <i>Australian Financial Complaints Authority</i>  Andrew Grogan <i>Gallagher</i>

	Samantha Lee <i>Redfern Legal Centre</i>	A. Krishna <i>Federation of Community Legal Centres (Victoria)</i>  Lynne Haultain <i>Victoria Law Foundation</i>		Alexandria Jones <i>Barwon Community Legal Service</i>	
<b>LUNCH 1:00-2:00PM</b>					
<b>MEETING</b> 1:15-1:45PM	<b>LexisNexis training</b> <b>GRAND BALLROOM 3</b>		Aaron MacLeod, <i>LexisNexis</i>		
<b>MEETING</b> 1:15-2:00PM	<b>Australian Services Union member meeting</b> <b>GRAND BALLROOM 2</b>		Leon Wiegard, <i>Australian Services Union, Vic Tas Branch</i> Kelley Temple, <i>Community Legal Centres Australia</i>		
<b>PLENARY 2</b> 2:00-3:30PM	<b>First Nations justice</b> <b>PLENARY HALL</b>		This session is being developed and presented by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, cultural authority for the lands upon which the conference is being held. Speaker details to follow.		
<b>AFTERNOON TEA 3:30-4:00PM</b>					
<b>STREAMS</b>	<b>1. justice</b>	<b>2. sector</b>	<b>3. organisations</b>	<b>4. community</b>	<b>5. recharging</b>
<b>BREAKOUTS</b> 4:00-5:30PM	<b>HARBOUR VIEW ROOM 1</b>  <b>Pathways to justice through the coronial jurisdiction</b>  Michael Murray <i>Townsville Community Law</i> Klaire Coles <i>Caxton Legal Centre</i>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM 3</b>  <b>Managed retreat? Empowering RRRR communities to shape just responses to climate change impacts</b>  Julia Davis <i>Financial Rights Legal Centre</i> Judy Harrison, Bill Mitchell <i>Co-Convenors of the National RRRR Community Legal Network</i>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM 1</b>  <b>Integrated practice – opportunities and outcomes</b>  Monica Miller <i>Southern Aboriginal Corporation Family Violence Prevention Legal Service</i> Ashleigh Newnham, <i>South-East Monash Legal Service</i>  Marika Manioudakis <i>Eastern Community Legal Centre</i>  Kasumi Ejiri <i>Women's Legal Centre ACT</i>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM 2</b>  <b>Session being confirmed</b>  Watna Mori <i>EDO Pasifika (Pacific) Program</i> Semisi Tapueluelu <i>Environmental Justice Australia</i>	<b>PLENARY HALL</b>  <b>Just Hearing theatre workshop</b>  Genevieve Bolton Farzana Choudhury <i>Canberra Community Law</i> Robin Davidson, Merryn Byrne, Craig Alexander <i>Rebus Theatre</i>

		Camille Demeyer <i>Women's Legal Service          Tasmania</i> Sarah Toovey <i>Ruah Legal Services</i>	
7:00PM	<b>Pre-dinner drinks</b> Hotel Grand Chancellor <b>FEDERATION BALLROOM</b>		
7:30-11:00PM	<b>Conference Dinner</b> Hotel Grand Chancellor <b>FEDERATION BALLROOM</b>		



# Thursday

23 March 2023



**PLENARY 3**  
9:00-10:30AM

**Building strong, safe workplaces**  
**PLENARY HALL**

Zana Bytheway  
*JobWatch Employment Rights Legal Centre*

Alastair McEwin AM  
*Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability*

Dean McLaren  
*Aboriginal Advisory Group NSW*

Helen McKenzie  
*Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW*

**MORNING TEA 10:30-11:00AM**

**STREAMS**

**1. Reimagining pathways to justice**

**2. Reimagining a sustainable, resilient and thriving sector**

**3. Reimagining strong, safe and secure organisations**

**4. Reimagining client and community connection**

**5. recharging skills and knowledge**

**BREAKOUTS**  
11:00AM-12:30PM

**GRAND BALLROOM 2**  
**Ombudsman panel and Q&A**

Chris Field PSM  
*President, International Ombudsman Institute Western Australian Ombudsman*

Deborah Glass OBE  
*Victorian Ombudsman*

Anthony Reilly  
*Queensland Ombudsman*

**GRAND BALLROOM 3**  
**Creative approaches to gathering data**

Verity Smith  
*Public Interest Advocacy Centre*

Suzanne Slegers  
*Community Legal Centres Australia*

**GRAND BALLROOM 2**  
**Psychological safety in the workplace**

Cherry Ngan  
 Sandra Hu  
*McKinsey & Company*

**PLENARY HALL**  
**Session by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Network**

Candice Hughes  
*YFS Legal*

Mark Holden  
*Financial Rights Legal Centre*

**HARBOUR VIEW ROOM 1**  
**Legal practice management**

Catherine Eagle  
*Convenor, National Professional Indemnity Insurance Network*

(Closed session for CLCs Australia member organisations only.)

	Peter Shoyer <i>Ombudsman and Information Commissioner, Northern Territory</i>				
<b>WALKING TOUR</b> 11:00AM-12:30PM	<b>Tasmania's queer transformation</b>		Rodney Croome <i>Long-time Tasmanian LGBTIQA+ equality advocate</i>		
<b>LUNCH</b> 12:30-1:30PM					
<b>MEETING</b> 12:45-1:15PM	<b>LexisNexis talk</b> <b>GRAND BALLROOM 3</b>		Aaron MacLeod, <i>LexisNexis</i>		
<b>STREAMS</b>	<b>1. justice</b>	<b>2. sector</b>	<b>3. organisations</b>	<b>4. community</b>	<b>5. recharging</b>
<b>BREAKOUTS</b> 1:30-3:00PM	<b>HARBOUR VIEW ROOM 1</b>  On the wrong side of the system: supporting offenders, perpetrators, prisoners and the accused  Nicholas Snare Astrid Sander <i>Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre</i>  Lee-Ann Carter <i>Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service</i>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM 3</b>  Demand management framework for community legal centres  Rosslyn Monro <i>Community Legal Centres Queensland</i>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM 2</b>  How and why – the role of governance and leadership in creating a thriving workplace  Michelle Cutler <i>Board Matters</i>	<b>PLENARY HALL</b>  Asserting the rights of people with disability – CLC practice and service delivery post NDIS  Hui Zhou <i>Fitzroy Legal Service</i>  Cheryll Rosales Jennifer Jacobs <i>Uniting Communities Law Centre</i>  Naomi Anderson <i>Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service</i>  Jessica Brugmans <i>Darwin Community Legal Service</i>  Andrea de Smidt <i>Queensland Advocacy for Inclusion</i>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM 3</b>  Effective communication – purposeful, planned and sustainable  Dr Fiona Reynolds <i>TriComm Consulting</i>
<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b> 3:00-3:30PM					
<b>PLENARY 4</b> 3:30-5:00PM	<b>Working in solidarity with grassroots movements</b> <b>PLENARY HALL</b>		Debbie Kilroy OAM <i>Sisters Inside</i>		

Latoya Rule  
*University of Technology Sydney*

Rocket Bretherton  
*Justice Reform Initiative*

When communities struggle together at a grassroots level, we can make real and lasting change. Or, in the words of Mariame Kaba, “everything worthwhile is done with other people”. Through grassroots organising led by Aboriginal communities and criminalised people, prison abolition has emerged as an urgent political struggle.

In this session, hear from Debbie Kilroy, Latoya Rule, and Rocket Bretherton who will:

- Share their lived experiences of interacting with toxic prison systems
- Unpack abolition and share lessons learned from local struggles to reimagine justice
- Speak to the importance of relationships and collectivism in the fight for change
- Highlight why – and how – the community legal sector should ally itself to prison abolition and other grassroots social justice movements

The session will be facilitated by Ruby Wharton and Neta-Rie Mabo from Sisters Inside, an organisation that supports criminalised women and girls, and their children, both inside and outside prison.

**CLOSE** 5:00PM

# Friday

## 24 March 2023



### Masterclasses

### Presenters

**Embedding climate justice in community legal sector operations and practice**

9:00AM–5:00PM

Dr Bronwyn Lay  
*Federation of Community Legal Centres (Victoria)*

What does climate justice look like for community legal services? There is a need to increase literacy and preparedness of the community legal sector for climate change impacts and how to achieve climate justice for the communities they work with. This masterclass will introduce examples of equitable responses that address access to justice and community resilience and inform participants on specific climate change impacts as advised by scientific experts. It will then support the grounding of organisational practices and service delivery in equitable adaptation and climate justice. Attendees from all areas of centres – operations, service delivery, policy – are encouraged to attend and participate.

With a mixture of presentations, panels and workshops this masterclass will equip those working in centres with the knowledge and capability to identify and prepare for climate change impacts and will consist of two elements:

1. Resilient community legal sector: Equitable adaptation to climate change impacts.
2. Empowering communities: How to embed climate justice in our approaches and within the law

This masterclass has been co-designed with the Climate Justice Legal Project, which is a partnership between the Federation of Community Legal Centres Vic, Environmental Justice Australia and the Climate Council. Experts from the three organisations will present, including Dr Simon Bradshaw from the Climate Council, Katelyn Jones from Environmental Justice Australia and Dr Bronwyn Lay from the Federation. Other presenters include CLCs’ lived experience of extreme weather from four states, Monica Taylor from Queensland University of Technology, Bill Mitchell OAM and more.

**Keeping safety at the centre: Asking questions, assessing risk, undertaking safety planning and safe case management with victim survivors of sexual, domestic and family violence**

9:00AM–5:00PM

Pip Davis  
*Women's Legal Service (NSW)*  
  
Angela Lynch  
*Queensland Sexual Assault Network*  
  
Brian Sullivan PhD  
*SICURA*

Law and Justice Foundation research of 2019 found that people who experienced domestic and family violence in the previous year were ten times more likely to experience other legal problems than those who had not experienced violence. While the most common legal problem was family law (where victims were sixteen times more likely to have a family law problem than those who had not experienced violence), other legal problems included criminal law, employment law, credit and debt, government payment problems, health, housing, personal injury and rights issues.

Increased awareness about the prevalence of violence, and research such as that by the Law and Justice Foundation, has led to an increased recognition that lawyers, regardless of their practice areas, will advise and represent clients who have been subjected to sexual, domestic and family violence and abuse and/or clients who have used violence. It is imperative therefore that all lawyers hold knowledge about violence and abuse, are competent and comfortable asking questions it, have knowledge and skills to avoid being inadvertently complicit or colluding with perpetrators of violence, understand risk factors and how to assess levels of risk, and know how to ensure safety is built into not only the work we are doing with clients but also the ways in which we work with our clients, such as how we approach negotiating, mediating, collaborating and litigating, particularly for those lawyers working in family law and domestic violence matters.

This interactive masterclass will provide you with practical skills and knowledge to keep safety at the centre of the work you do with your clients and will address the following:

1. Screening for sexual, domestic and family violence (for those subjected to violence and those who use violence) – what does screening mean and how is it different from risk assessment and risk mitigation
2. Understanding the risk factors, especially high risk and lethality factors
3. Assessing risk
4. Managing risk, including collaboration with other professionals, e.g. social workers and sharing information to ensure the safest outcomes for clients
5. Ensuring evidence is in the best possible form in court, tribunal or other documents

The session is aimed at lawyers who work in family law and domestic violence matters, but will also be very relevant to lawyers and non-lawyers who wish to increase their knowledge and skills in working safely with clients.

<p><b>Vicarious trauma AM</b> <b>Trauma-informed practice in a legal setting</b></p>	<p>9:00AM–12:00PM</p>	<p>Amanda Whelan Aunty Glendra Stubbs <i>knowmore</i></p>
<p>An introduction to the neurobiology of trauma and its impacts, and how to apply trauma informed principles and approaches to community legal centre work</p>		
<p><b>Vicarious trauma PM</b> <b>Working well: Understanding vicarious trauma, burnout and compassion fatigue and what helps</b></p>	<p>1:00PM–5:00PM</p>	<p>Amanda Whelan Aunty Glendra Stubbs <i>knowmore</i></p>
<p>Common psychological injury risks in community legal centres, workplace and worker rights and responsibilities and what we know helps people stay well at work</p>		
<p><b>Intersection of social security and community legal centre generalist casework</b></p>	<p>9:00AM–12:00PM</p>	<p><i>Presented by Economic Justice Australia</i> Emily Singh <i>Monash University</i> Sam Tracy <i>Basic Rights Queensland</i> Laura Jordan Veronica Williams <i>Social Security Rights Victoria</i></p>

This masterclass will upskill generalist sector workers in social security and family assistance law. Participants will leave the session feeling more confident about advising clients on day-to-day Centrelink issues and knowing when it's time to refer to a specialist social security legal service. The masterclass will begin with an introduction to essential areas of knowledge on social security law and processes, including major areas of policy and case law and an overview of payment types

and the common eligibility issues people face. Following this, two specific social security topics - member of a couple and disability support pension - will be used as case studies for a deep dive into the complexities of social security law and legal assistance, which will cover:

- How to use the Social Security and Family Assistance Guides
- Resource planning and time allocation for social security casework and representation
- Freedom of information applications and reviews: 'When, how and why to FOI'
- Appealing a social security decision
- Helpful resources to sign up to for regular, critical updates to social security and family assistance law and policy and other tips.