

The Law and More

National Community Legal Centres Conference
Ngunnawal Country – Canberra
2–5 September 2025



Community Legal Centres
Australia

National conference
Program

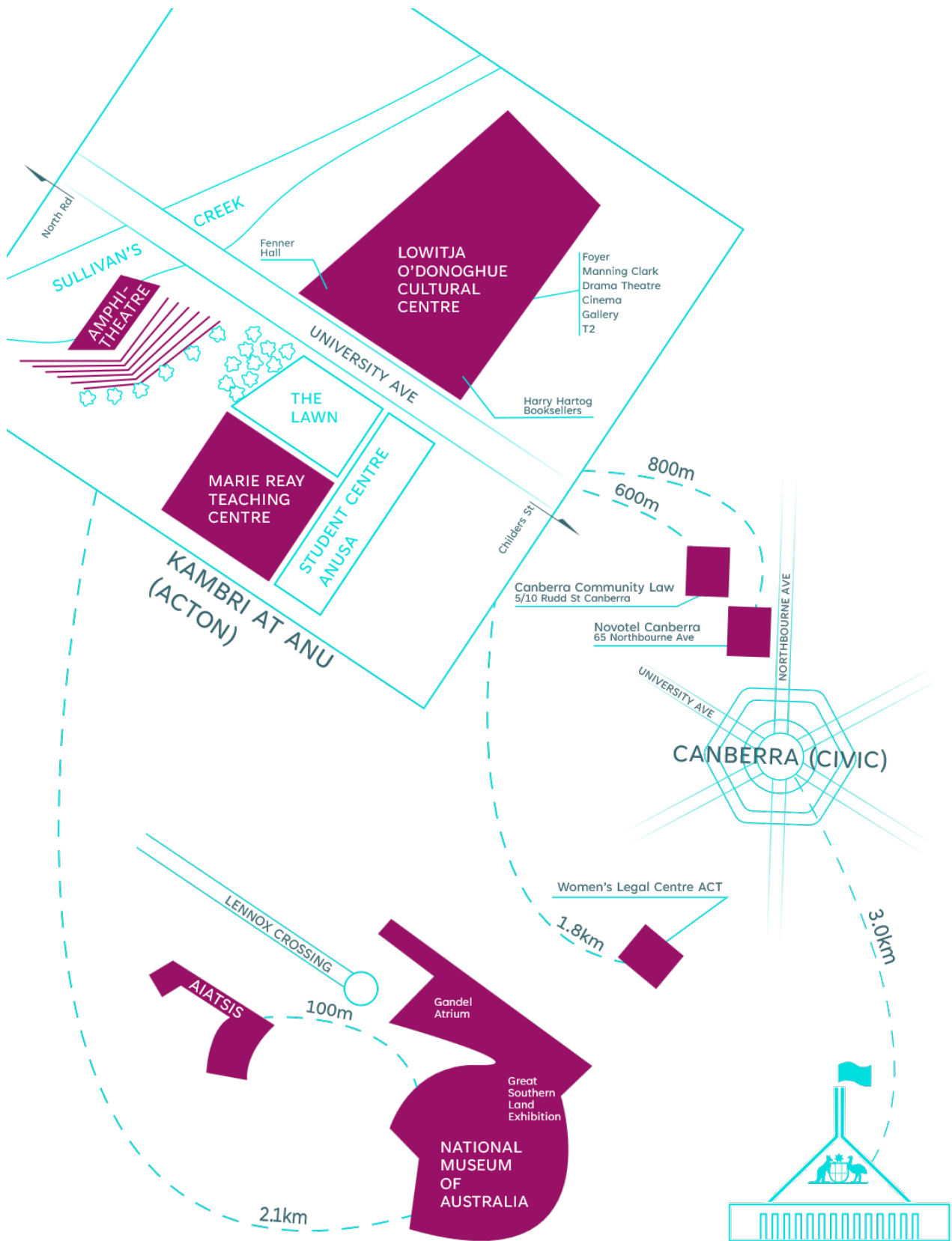
Conference at a glance

| | Tuesday 2/09 | Wednesday 3/09 | Thursday 4/09 | Friday 5/09 |
|-----------|------------------|---|--|------------------------------|
| Morning | Network meetings | Masterclasses M1-M4 | Breakouts B1-B5 Breakouts B6-B10 | Plenary 3 Closing session |
| Afternoon | Network meetings | Smoking ceremony, Welcome to Country Opening addresses Plenary 1 Plenary 2 | Lunchtime sessions Breakouts B11-B15 Breakouts B16-B20 | |
| Evening | | Welcome Reception | Conference Dinner | |

Conference venues

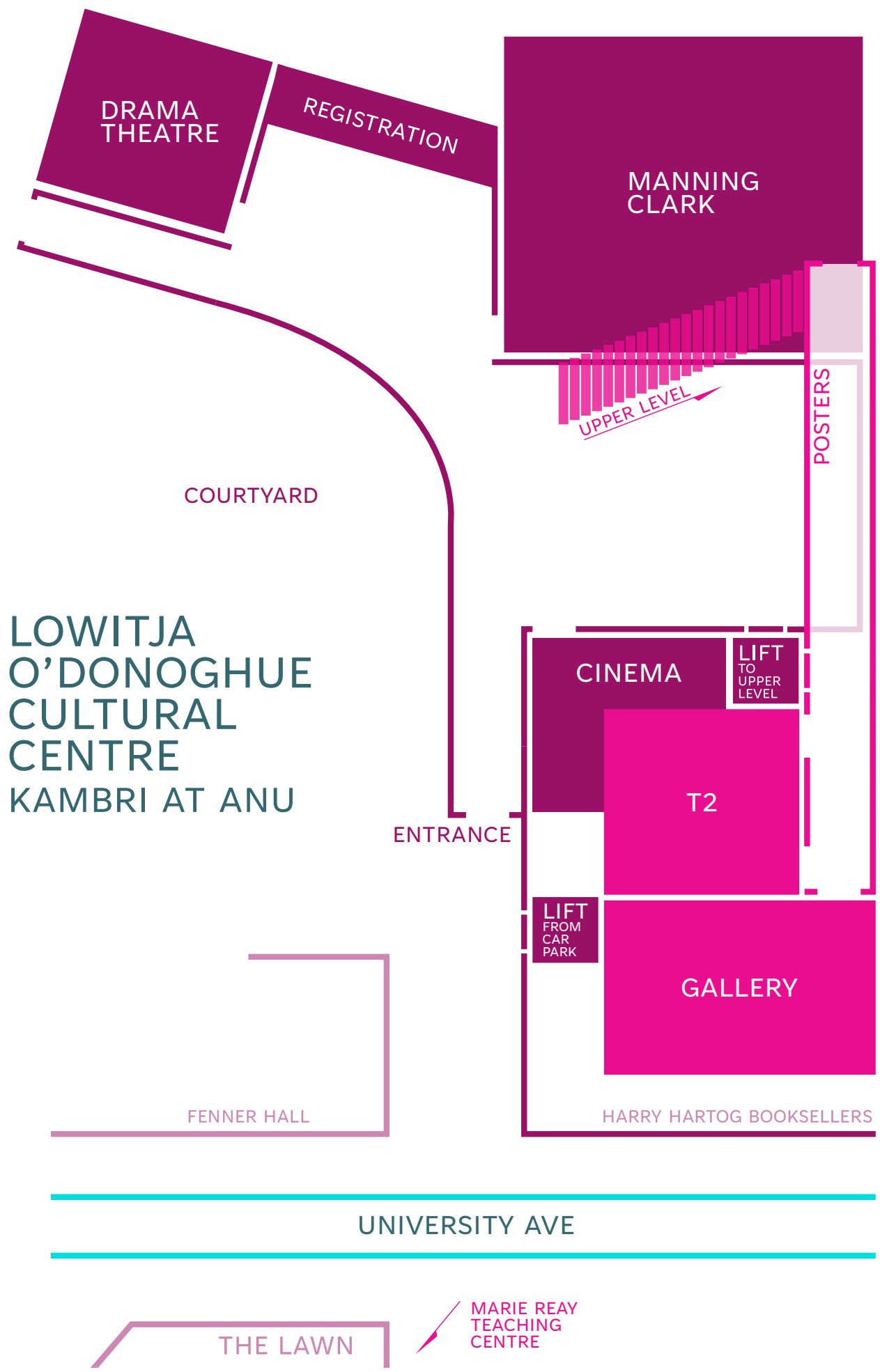
- Kambri at ANU**
 – University Ave, Australian National University, Acton
 Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre
 Opening, Welcome Reception, plenaries, breakout and lunchtime sessions, walking tours
 Marie Reay Teaching Centre
 Network meetings, masterclasses
- AIATSIS**
 – Lennox Crossing, Acton
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Network meeting
- National Museum of Australia**
 – Lennox Crossing, Acton
 Conference Dinner
- Canberra Community Law**
 – 5/10 Rudd St, Canberra
 National PII Network meeting
- Women's Legal Service ACT**
 Basketweaving workshop





CONFERENCE VENUES





Tuesday 2 September

National Network meetings – Kambri at ANU – Canberra Community Law – AIATSIS

8:30

NETWORK
MEETING

MARIE REAY 303

Disability
Rights Network

NETWORK
MEETING

MARIE REAY 402

Human Rights
Network

NETWORK
MEETING

MARIE REAY 502

Rural, Regional,
Remote and
Very Remote
(4Rs)
Community
Legal Sector
Network

NETWORK
MEETING

MARIE REAY 304

Youth
Advocacy
Network

NETWORK
MEETING

MARIE REAY 302

Aboriginal and
Torres Strait
Islander Men's
Network

*Open to Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander men
only*

NETWORK
MEETING

AIATSIS
51 Lawson Cres. Acton

Aboriginal and
Torres Strait
Islander
Women's
Network

*Open to Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
women only*

13:00

14:00

NETWORK
MEETING

MARIE REAY 302

Community
Services
Network

*Open to community
support workers only*

NETWORK
MEETING

MARIE REAY 502

Employment
Law Network

NETWORK
MEETING

MARIE REAY 303

Older Persons'
Legal Service
Network

NETWORK
MEETING

MARIE REAY 304

Student Legal
Services
Network

NETWORK
MEETING

CANBERRA
COMMUNITY LAW
5/10 Rudd St Canberra

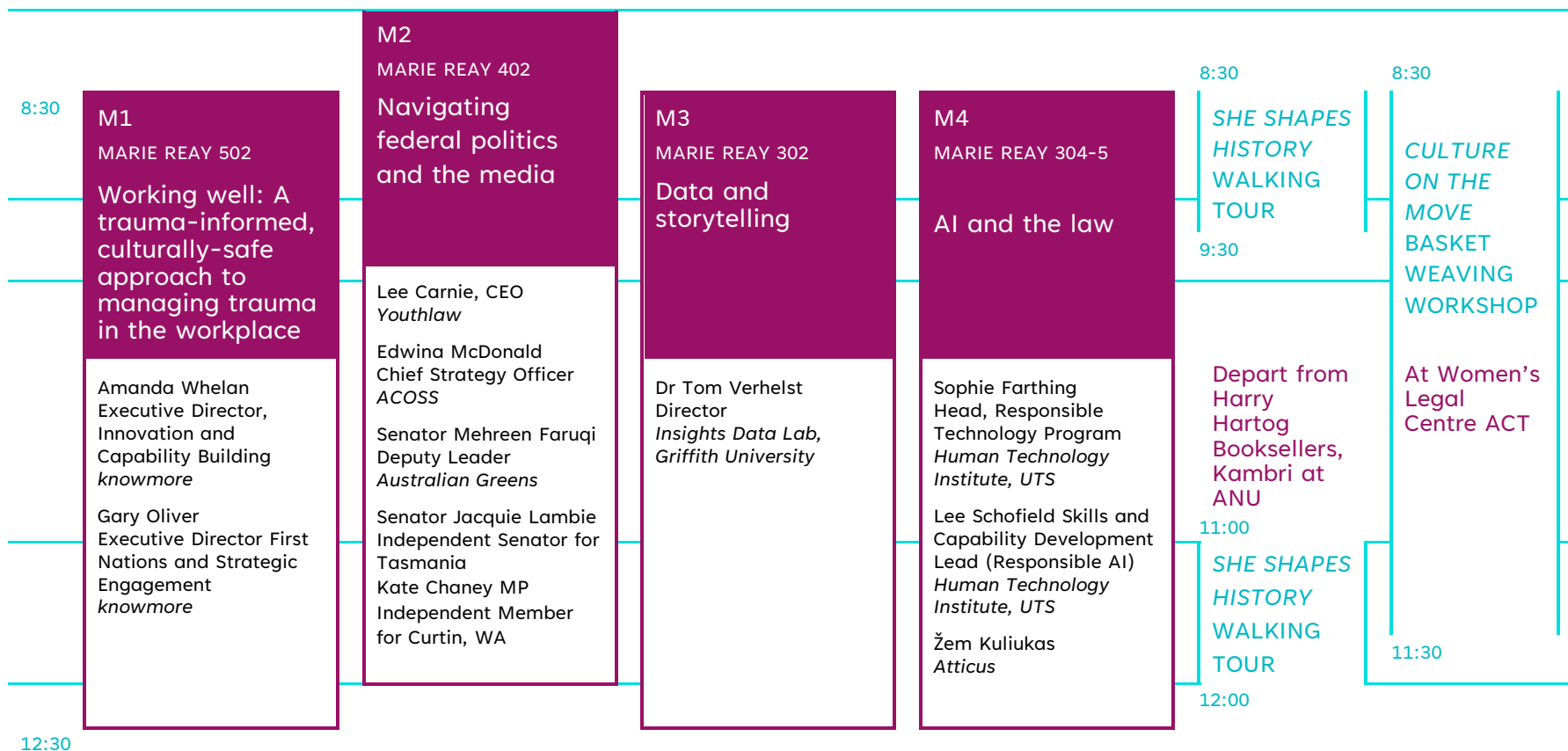
National PII
Network

17:30



Wednesday 3 September MORNING

Masterclasses – Kambri at ANU



MORNING TEA provided for all masterclass attendees.

Wednesday 3 September AFTERNOON

Conference opening, plenaries, Welcome Reception – Kambri at ANU

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 13:30 | Smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country | AMPHITHEATRE |
| | Smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country by Joel Bulger and Selina Walker, emerging Ngunnawal Elder and community leader Response by Emma Towney and Rachael Clark <i>Dhurrawang Aboriginal Human Rights Program, Canberra Community Law</i> | |
| 14:15 | Opening addresses | MANNING CLARK |
| | Honourable Michelle Rowland, Attorney-General (video message) Arlia Fleming, Chair <i>CLCs Australia</i> Dr Tim Leach, CEO <i>CLCs Australia</i> | |
| 14:45 | PLENARY 1 First Nations justice | MANNING CLARK |
| | Selina Walker, emerging Ngunnawal Elder and community leader | |
| 15:45 | AFTERNOON TEA | |
| 16:15 | PLENARY 2 Will we ever win fair funding? | MANNING CLARK |
| | Dr Warren Mundy, independent reviewer of the National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP) 2020-25 Zoe Daniel, journalist, former independent member of Federal Parliament Rosslyn Munro, Executive Director <i>Community Legal Centres Queensland</i> Daniel Scoullar, Director <i>Social Change Projects</i> Dr Tim Leach, CEO <i>CLCs Australia</i> | |
| 17:30 | | |
| 18:00 | WELCOME RECEPTION | LOWITJA O'DONOGHUE CULTURAL CENTRE FOYER |
| | Justice Louise Taylor, Justice of the <i>ACT Supreme Court</i> Arlia Fleming, Chair <i>CLCs Australia</i> | |
| 19:30 | | |



Thursday 4 September MORNING

Breakouts, lunchtime sessions – Kambri at ANU

| | LAWS | ADVOCACY AND SYSTEM REFORM | WORKING HOLISTICALLY | STAYING STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE | LOOKING TO THE FUTURE |
|-------|---|--|--|--|--|
| 9:00 | B01 CINEMA Waging lawfare or making law fair? Controversies surrounding access to justice in public interest litigation Nicole Sommer Eleanor Fenge Belinda Rayment Revel Pointon <i>Environmental Defenders Office</i> | B02 DRAMA THEATRE Supporting people with lived experience to engage with the media Chantelle Lines Rochelle Allison-Moore <i>Community Legal WA</i> | B03 MANNING CLARK Integration in action – How multidisciplinary practice impacts people and communities and strengthens collaboration Marika Manioudakis <i>Eastern CLC</i> Cathy Bucolo <i>Health Justice Australia</i> Deborah Fisher <i>Hume Riverina CLC</i> Jenna Conway-Jones <i>knowmore</i> Suzie Nesbitt <i>Women's Legal Services Vic</i> Sarah Lefevre <i>Federation of CLCs (Vic)</i> Katherine Ogilvie <i>Centre for Innovation Justice, RMIT University</i> Paul Were <i>Eastern CLC</i> | B04 T2 Digital transformation in our sector and the National Data Repository Neil Graham, Digital Transformation Manager Suzanne Slegers, Data Manager Chris Dubrow, ICT Team Leader <i>CLCs Australia</i> | B05 GALLERY Facilitating access to justice, legal support and safety through strategic partnerships with community legal centres Claudia Fatone <i>Women's Legal Service Vic</i> Roshan Bhandary <i>Women's Legal Service Vic</i> Jess DeVries <i>Women's Legal Service Vic</i> Louisa Gibbs <i>Federation of CLCs (Vic)</i> Lynne Haultain <i>Victoria Law Foundation</i> Sandra Roennfeldt <i>Gippsland CLC</i> Belquis Obura <i>Gippsland CLC</i> |
| 10:15 | MORNING TEA | | | | |

10:45

| B06 | CINEMA | B07 | DRAMA THEATRE | B08 | GALLERY | B09 | T2 | B10 | MANNING CLARK |
|---|--------|--|---------------|---|---------|--|----|---|---------------|
| Protecting the rights of older people and people with disability: Supported decision making and issues for people with disability as tenants Naomi Anderson <i>Villamanta Disability LS</i> Sian Thomas <i>Queensland Advocacy for Inclusion</i> Ken Beilby <i>Seniors Rights Service NSW</i> | | Justice where you live: Workshop with the 4Rs Network and Economic Justice Australia Judy Harrison <i>4Rs Network</i> Taylah Bell <i>Economic Justice Australia</i> Katherine Boyle <i>Welfare Rights Centre NSW</i> James Farrell <i>Basic Rights Queensland</i> Brianna Bell <i>KWILS</i> Allienttia Weldon-Oti <i>Welfare Rights Centre NSW</i> Catherine Eagle <i>Welfare Rights and Advocacy Service WA</i> Siobhan Mackay <i>Women's Legal Service Tasmania</i> Corina Martin <i>Aboriginal Family Legal Services WA</i> | | From crisis to recovery to healing through holistic, trauma-informed client care and fearless advocacy Melissa Hardham <i>Westjustice</i> Cleona Fueurring <i>Westjustice</i> Westjustice client | | Best practice in governance for community legal centres Michelle Cutler | | Futureproofing climate justice Michael Smith <i>Eastern CLC</i> Kate Gibson <i>Eastern CLC</i> Kate Clohesy <i>ARC Justice</i> Louisa Gibbs <i>Federation of CLCs (Vic)</i> | |

12:00 LUNCH

12:30

| MANNING CLARK | CINEMA | DRAMA THEATRE | T2 | GALLERY |
|---|--|---|---|-------------------|
| Australian Services Union meeting: Building power through union action | Film screening: <i>Finding Affection</i> Dr Manjula Connor <i>AustralAsian Centre for Health and Human Rights</i> | LexisNexis training Nicole Mulvana <i>LexisNexis</i> | Citation Group HR training Adrian Turner <i>Citation Group</i> | Craft & Community |
| | | | | |

13:15



Thursday 4 September AFTERNOON

Breakouts – Kambri at ANU

13:30

| B11 | CINEMA | B12 | MANNING CLARK | B13 | DRAMA THEATRE | B14 | T2 | B15 | GALLERY |
|--|--------|---|---------------|--|---------------|---|----|--|---------|
| Creatively engaging at-risk youth with theatre and legal support | | Justice responses to sexual violence – Insights from Women's Legal Services supporting victims and survivors through the justice system | | By, with and for: Integrated approaches to working with people with disability and mental ill-health | | Confronting concerns about legal professional privilege, and professional obligations in integrated services | | Measuring outcomes: It's not that hard | |
| Guglielmo Plain <i>Uniting Communities LC</i> Kirsten Young <i>Peninsula CLC</i> Ian Frost, actor Maree Barnett, actor | | Lara Freidin <i>Women's Legal Services Australia</i> Olivia Tan <i>Women's Legal Service WA</i> Jess De Vries <i>Women's Legal Service Vic</i> Tahlia Drumgold <i>Women's Legal Centre ACT</i> | | Karyn Gellie <i>Health Justice Australia</i> Anisha Hegde <i>Canberra Community Law</i> Charlotte Jones <i>Mental Health Legal Centre</i> Isabel Moss <i>Canberra Community Law</i> Bryony Wilson, lived and living experience consumer consultant Kate Windmill <i>Mental Health Legal Centre</i> | | Sarah Toovey <i>Ruah Legal Services</i> Luke Cassidy <i>Ruah Legal Services</i> Garth Tinsley <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i> | | Katy Welch <i>Circle Green</i> Rohini Thomas <i>Circle Green</i> Jess Moniodis <i>Circle Green</i> Dr Hugh McDonald <i>Victorian Law Foundation</i> Tim McMahon <i>Federation of CLCs (Vic)</i> Skye Forster <i>Federation of CLCs (Vic)</i> | |

14:45 AFTERNOON TEA

15:15

| B16 | CINEMA | B17 | T2 | B18 | MANNING CLARK | B19 | GALLERY | B20 | DRAMA THEATRE |
|--|--------|---|----|--|---------------|---|---------|---|---------------|
| Now more than ever: Supporting LGBTIQ+ people in the legal system | | When change happens – Reflections on sexual harassment law reform | | Session presented by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Network | | National PII policy and legal practice | | Fighting back against scams | |
| Jean Kearney <i>Refugee Advice and Casework Service</i> Matilda Alexander <i>LGBTI Legal Service</i> Julie Howes <i>LGBTI Legal Service</i> Katie Green <i>Inner City Legal Centre</i> | | Emma Gollidge <i>Kingsford Legal Centre</i> Diane Anagnos <i>Kingsford Legal Centre</i> Katherine McKernan <i>National Legal Aid</i> Melanie Schleiger <i>Victoria Legal Aid</i> | | Emma Towney <i>Canberra Community Law</i> Celeste Woolfe <i>Southern Aboriginal Corporation FVPLS</i> Lauren Rose <i>Southern Aboriginal Corporation FVPLS</i> | | Open to community legal sector workers only Catherine Eagle Network Chair <i>Welfare Rights and Advocacy Service</i> National PII Network representatives | | Lucas Rutten Su Robertson <i>Consumer Action Law Centre</i> | |

16:30

Thursday 4 September EVENING

Conference Dinner – National Museum of Australia

18:30

PRE-DINNER DRINKS

GANDELL ATRIUM, GREAT SOUTHERN LAND GALLERY

19:30

CONFERENCE DINNER

GANDELL ATRIUM

22:30

Friday 5 September MORNING

Third plenary, closing session– Kambri at ANU

9:30

PLENARY 3

MANNING CLARK

The personal is political: (Re)building communities through solidarity, accountability and self-determination

Antoinette Lattouf, journalist and podcaster

Robin M Eames, poet and historian

Bee Charika, peer worker *Vixen*

Kayla Glynn-Braun, co-founder and Managing Director *Her Story Consulting*

Blake Cansdale, president Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation

10:45

MORNING TEA

11:15

CLOSING SESSION

MANNING CLARK

In conversation with Felicia Djamirze

Dr Erin O'Dwyer, journalist, author and editor

Felicia Djamirze, First Nations woman, author of *Accessory*, CEO *Neuro Vitality* and *Trauma Recovery Network*

12:30



Posters

On display Wednesday 3 to Friday 5 September

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 01 | Roll the dice: Community legal education as gameplay | Moses Florendo, Tanya Stelmach <i>Whittlesea Community Connections</i> |
| 02 | Beyond borders: Challenges of cross-jurisdictional minor civil claims | Murtaza Dostdar <i>Uniting Communities Law Centre</i> |
| 03 | Embedding LGBTQI+ specialist lead roles into CLCs: Impacts and outcomes in refugee law | Sarah Pickles, Rohini Thomas, <i>Circle Green Community Legal</i> |
| 04 | Towards truth: How laws and policies have impacted First Nations lives since 1788 | Elizabeth Clark, Bridget Cama <i>Justice and Equity Centre and Indigenous Law Centre UNSW</i> |
| 05 | Mastering media month: Building the community legal sector's media skills to amplify impact | <i>Federation of CLCs (Vic)</i> |
| 06 | Why do people join the community legal sector? Discovering what motivates community lawyers | <i>Federation of CLCs (Vic)</i> |
| 07 | A climate justice journey: Five years working with disaster affected communities | Sara Reid, Debi Fisher <i>Hume Riverina CLS</i> |
| 08 | Ten years of overcoming the invisible hurdles to justice for young people in North-East Victoria | Sara Reid, Debi Fisher <i>Hume Riverina CLS</i> |
| 09 | A Decade of HALO – How the holistic approach to legal problems improves lives | Karlee Hirt, Debi Fisher <i>Hume Riverina CLS</i> |
| 10 | Love Shouldn't Hurt | Joanna Collins, Mark Jeffreys, Sara Makeham, Bianca Lambert, Sophie Kawadza, Sylvia Iradukunda, Adam Hankinson, Clare McKelvey <i>Pilbara CLS</i> |
| 11 | Small Steps, Safe Workplaces sexual harassment conference | <i>Women's Legal Service Tasmania</i> |

