

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

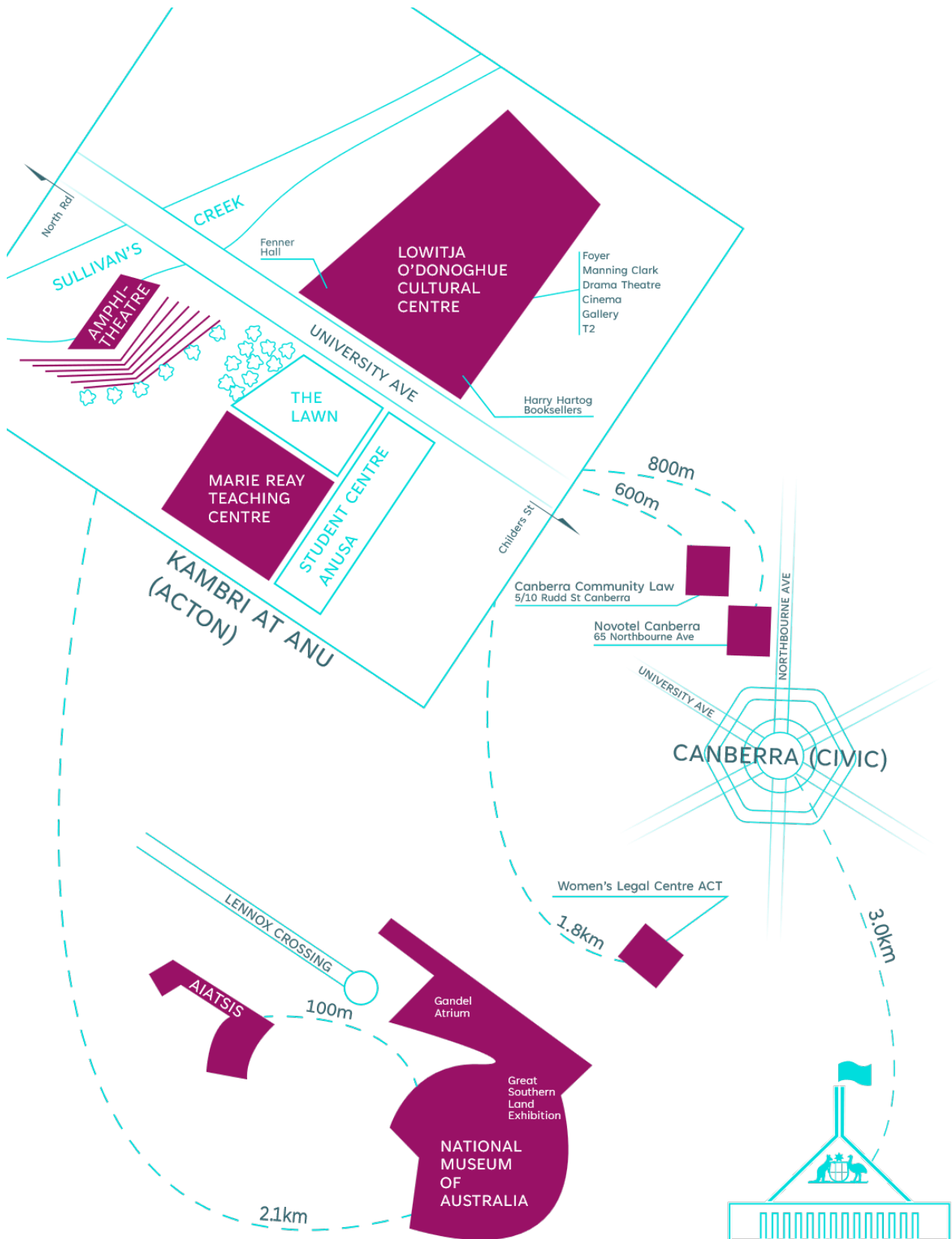
	Tuesday 2/09	Wednesday 3/09	Thursday 4/09	Friday 5/09
Morning	Network meetings	Masterclasses M1-M4	Breakouts B1-B5 Breakouts B6-B10	Plenary 3 Closing session
Afternoon	Network meetings	Smoking ceremony, Welcome to Country Opening addresses Plenary 1 Plenary 2	Lunchtime sessions Breakouts B11-B15 Breakouts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

Conference venues

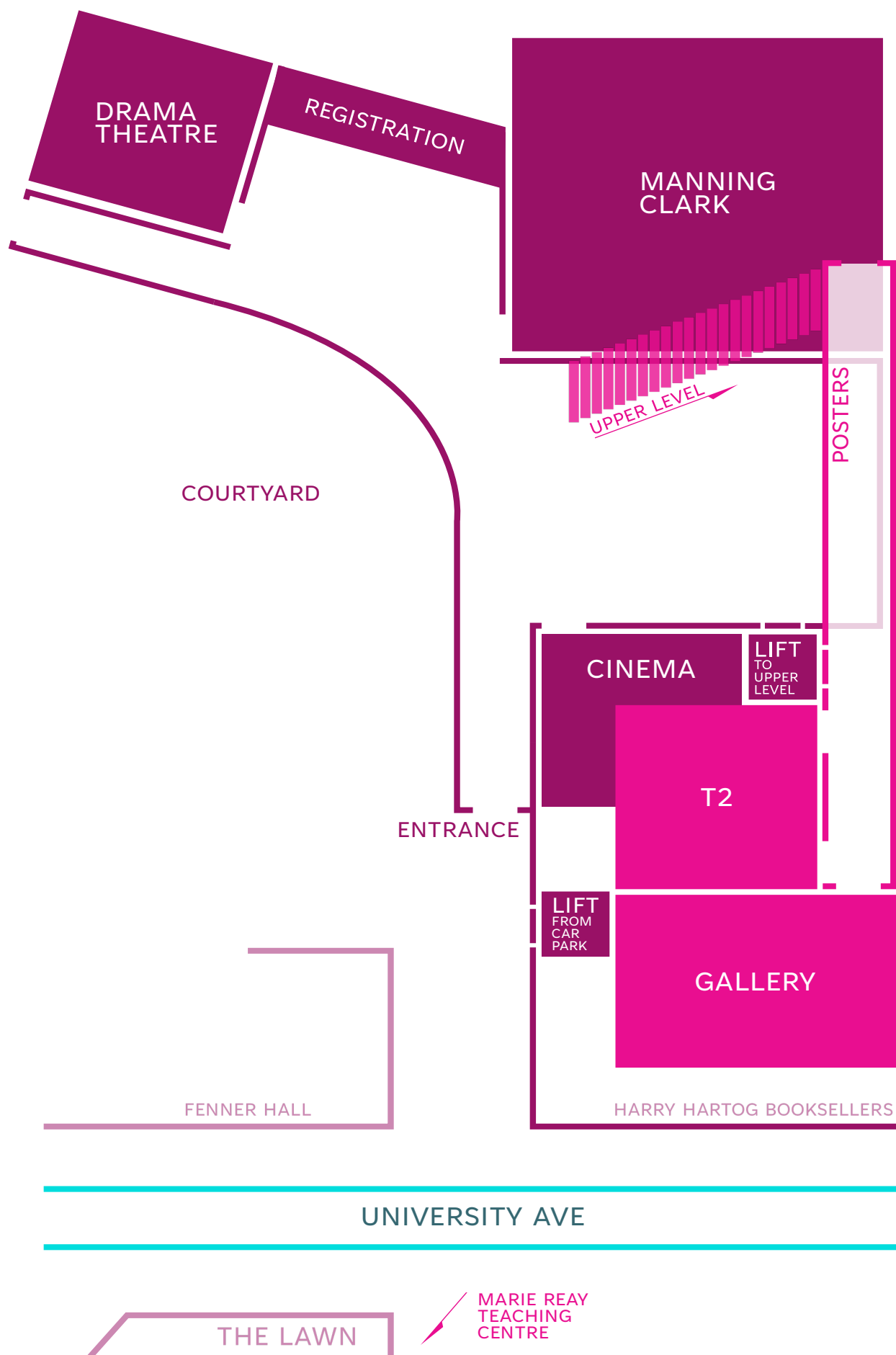
- Kambri at ANU**
 – *University Ave, Australian National University, Acton*
 Amphitheatre
 Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony
 Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre
 Opening, Welcome Reception, plenaries, breakout and lunchtime sessions, walking tours
 Marie Reay Teaching Centre
 Network meetings, 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**
 Basketweaving workshop



Venue map



Lowitja O'Donohue Cultural Centre map



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 302

Youth
Advocacy
Network

NETWORK
MEETING

MARIE REAY 304

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 402

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

8:00					
8:30	M1 Working well: A trauma-informed, culturally-safe approach to managing trauma in the workplace	M2 MARIE REAY 402 Navigating federal politics and the media	M3 MARIE REAY 302 Data and storytelling	M4 MARIE REAY 304-5 AI and the law	
	Amanda Whelan Executive Director, Innovation and Capability Building <i>knowmore</i> Gary Oliver Executive Director First Nations and Strategic Engagement <i>knowmore</i>	Lee Carnie, CEO <i>Youthlaw</i> Edwina McDonald Chief Strategy Officer <i>ACOSS</i> Senator Mehreen Faruqi Deputy Leader <i>Australian Greens</i> Senator Jacquie Lambie Independent Senator for Tasmania Kate Chaney MP Independent Member for Curtin, WA Clare Armstrong Journalist <i>News Corp Australia</i> Osman Faruqi Co-founder and host, <i>Lamestream Media</i>	Dr Tom Verhelst Director <i>Insights Data Lab, Griffith University</i>	Sophie Farthing Head, Responsible Technology Program <i>Human Technology Institute, UTS</i> Lee Schofield Skills and Capability Development Lead (Responsible AI) <i>Human Technology Institute, UTS</i> Žem Kuliukas <i>Atticus</i> Jen Bradley <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i> Nicole Lojszczyk <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>	9:30 <i>SHE SHAPES HISTORY WALKING TOUR</i> 10:30 11:00 <i>SHE SHAPES HISTORY WALKING TOUR</i> 12:00 Leave from in front of Harry Hartog Booksellers
					9:45 <i>CULTURE ON THE MOVE BASKET WEAVING WORKSHOP</i> 11:45 At Women's Legal Service
12:00					
12:30					

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 Monro, 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		
17:45	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 Simon Suttie <i>Gippsland CLS</i> 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 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	GALLERY	B07	DRAMA THEATRE	B08	CINEMA	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		Justice where you live: Workshop with the 4Rs Network and Economic Justice Australia		From crisis to recovery to healing through holistic, trauma-informed client care and fearless advocacy		Best practice in governance for community legal centres		Futureproofing climate justice	
Naomi Anderson <i>Villamanta Disability LS</i>		Judy Harrison <i>4Rs Network</i>		Melissa Hardham <i>Westjustice</i>		Michelle Cutler		Michael Smith <i>Eastern CLC</i>	
Sian Thomas <i>Queensland Advocacy for Inclusion</i>		Taylah Bell <i>Economic Justice Australia</i>		Cleona Fueerring <i>Westjustice</i>				Kate Gibson <i>Eastern CLC</i>	
Ken Beilby <i>Seniors Rights Service NSW</i>		Katherine Boyle <i>Welfare Rights Centre NSW</i>		Westjustice client				Kate Clohesy <i>ARC Justice</i>	
		James Farrell <i>Basic Rights Queensland</i>						Louisa Gibbs <i>Federation of CLCs (Vic)</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>							

12:00 LUNCH

12:30

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

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 <i>Open to community legal sector workers only</i>		Fighting back against scams	
Jean Kearney <i>Refugee Advice and Casework Service</i> Matilda Alexander <i>LGBTI Legal Service</i> Kurt Maroske <i>LGBTI Legal Service</i> Katie Green <i>Inner City Legal Centre</i>		Emma Golledge <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>		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*

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

Upstairs at Lowitja O'Donohue Cultural Centre

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 Community Legal Centres (Vic)</i>
06	Why do people join the community legal sector? Discovering what motivates community lawyers	<i>Federation of Community Legal Centres (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>