

# 2020 COMMUNITY LAWYERS CPD DAY

Monday February 24

## SESSIONS

### Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to CPD Day

Natalie Hallam, Accreditation &  
Capacity Building  
Federation of Community Legal  
Centres, Victoria

### Session 1 - Committee Update

#### Brendan Lacota, Professional Standards and Support Committee

Brendan Lacota is the Co-Chair of the Professional Standards and Support Committee (PSS), of the Federation of Community Legal Centres. The PSS Committee helps community legal centres comply with their requirements under the Risk Management Guide through support and identifying areas for training across the sector.

### Session 2 - The state of the legal profession in 2020

The Legal Services Board &  
Commissioner is represented by  
Michelle Marfurt, Manager Policy  
and Regulatory Strategy

Ethics & Professional Responsibility  
1/2 CPD Point

An overview of the Legal Services Board + Commissioners' areas of priority for the year, in particular their sexual harassment and lawyer well-being projects. This is presented by Michelle Marfurt, Manager Policy and Regulatory Strategy VLSB+C.

### Session 3 - Get to know your neighbours: lessons from Australia's only community justice court

Beth King, Senior Community Lawyer,  
Fitzroy Legal Service  
Charlie Watson, Senior Lawyer,  
Victoria Legal Aid

Cameron Wallace, Client Services  
Manager, Neighbourhood Justice Centre  
Rebecca Hicks, Manager of Education &  
Public Programs, Neighbourhood Justice  
Centre

Professional Skills  
1 CPD Point

Members of the Neighbourhood Justice Centre's (NJC), specialist multijurisdictional team will discuss the NJC's community justice model, therapeutic jurisprudence in practice, NJC innovations for export, and lessons and recommendations for community lawyers working in Magistrates' Courts across Victoria.

### Session 4 - Data Project

Cosi McRae, Senior Researcher  
Victoria Law Foundation

Practice Management and Business  
Skills  
1 CPD Point

The Foundation is currently undertaking a project to map the administrative data collected by the Victorian civil justice sector. By administrative data they mean the data that civil justice bodies, including courts, tribunals and the legal assistance sector routinely collects, for example about clients or matters. A total of 29 legal assistance organisations, mostly community legal centres, participated in the first phase of the project. We aim to understand what data exists, and how it is being used at both the local organisation and sector levels. This presentation will provide some insights into the project findings, including the role of data in organisational planning and monitoring and evaluation.



one  
day =  
6 points

ALL FOUR COMPULSORY FIELDS

# 2020 COMMUNITY LAWYERS CPD DAY

Monday February 24

## SESSIONS

### Session 5 - Five strikes for rent arrears

**Ben Cording, Principal Solicitor,  
Tenants Victoria**

Substantive Law  
1 CPD Point

The Residential Tenancies Act 1997, which defines the rights and duties of tenants and landlords, has recently undergone major reform. The reforms are the most significant legislative change to this Act in over 20 years are due to commence 1 July 2020. With almost one third of Victorians renting their homes, these changes will affect a great number of people. One area of change is the way evictions relating to rent arrears are to be treated. Tenants Victoria will be providing an outline of how rent arrears are currently dealt with and what to expect from 1 July 2020.

### Session 6 - It's time to act: CLC practice in a climate impacted world

**Nicola Rivers, Director of  
Advocacy and Research, Lawyer,  
Environmental Justice Australia**

Practice Management & Business  
Skills  
1 CPD Point

The climate crisis is impacting all Victorians. This interactive workshop will help CLC's understand how climate change will impact their practice and their clients, and start planning how their practice can change to meet these new needs.

### Session 7 - Life in the fast lane

**Amanda Storey, Director  
Legal Practice,  
Consumer Action Law Centre**

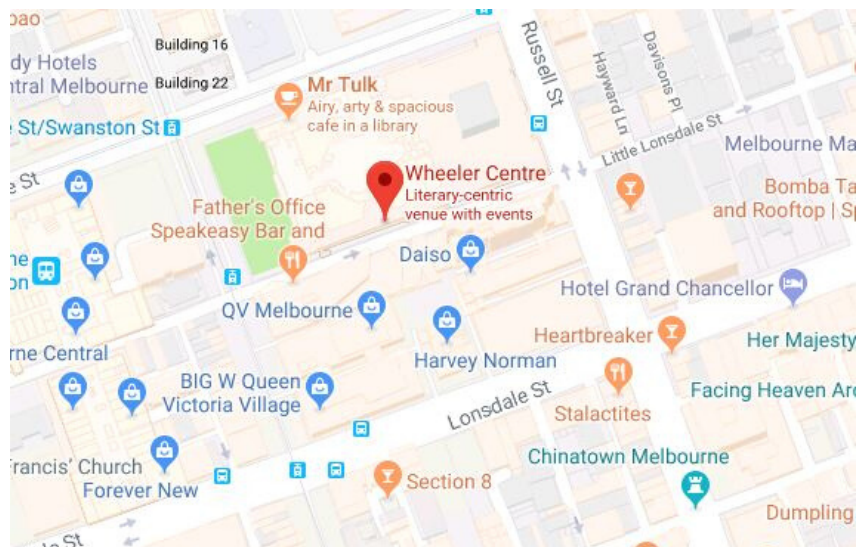
Substantive Law 1 CPD Point

Insights into participating in the Banking Royal Commission, including supporting vulnerable clients to give evidence, resourcing implications for the sector and subsequent law reform.



## THE WHEELER CENTRE

176 Little Lonsdale  
Street Melbourne



UNLOCK  
*your*  
LAW



**LAWWEEK**  
18-24 MAY 2020

**LAWWEEK.NET.AU**

# 2020 COMMUNITY LAWYERS CPD DAY

Monday February 24

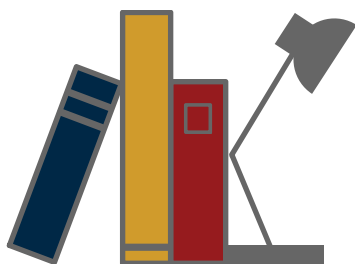
## SESSIONS

**Session 8 - Integrated Practice: Our experience. Managing conflicting priorities, professional obligations and outcomes**

**Belinda Lo, Director legal Services and Principal Lawyer**  
**Marika Manioudakis, Manager, Family Violence Initiatives**  
**Anita Koochew, Coordinator, Community Development Yarra Ranges**  
**Eastern Community Legal Centre**

Ethics and Professional Responsibility & Professional Skills  
1 CPD Point

Exploring integrated practice in greater detail including benefits and challenges, multidisciplinary decision making, client directed services, balancing professional and ethical obligations, management of client information and escalation of safety concerns.



## SCHEDULE

0830 REGISTRATIONS

0845 OPENING

0850 SESSION ONE

0900 SESSION TWO

0930 SESSION THREE

1030 MORNING TEA

1100 SESSION FOUR

1130 SESSION FIVE

1230 LUNCH

1315 SESSION SIX

1415 SESSION SEVEN

1515 AFTERNOON TEA

1535 SESSION EIGHT

1635 CLOSE

# 2020 COMMUNITY LAWYERS CPD DAY

Monday February 24

## *Introducing the Presenters*

### **BRENDAN LACOTA**

Brendan Lacota is a co-chair of the Professional Standards and Support (PSS) committee of the Federation of Community Legal Centres. The PSS helps community legal centres comply with their requirements under the Risk Management Guide (RMG) through support and identifying areas for training across the sector.

Brendan is the Manager of Public Interest Law at Justice Connect, Vice President of the Law Institute of Victoria and champion of the adoption of human centred design in legal services.

### **MICHELLE MARFURT**

Michelle Marfurt is Manager, Policy & Regulatory Strategy, Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner. Michelle has significant regulatory, policy and legislative experience, having worked for various Victorian government regulators in her 15 year career with the Victorian Public Service.



### **DR. CAMERON WALLACE**

Dr. Cameron Wallace is the Client Services Manager for the Neighbourhood Justice Centre (NJC), and manages NJC's social service providers. He and his team provide their clients with wrap-around treatment and support. Cameron works closely with their Magistrate, Community Correctional Services, court administrators, Victoria Police, the legal profession, and agencies across justice. Cameron has been with the NJC since day one and is a passionate advocate for restorative, therapeutic and problem-solving justice.

### **REBECCA HICKS**

Rebecca Hicks is Manager, Education & Public Programs at Neighbourhood Justice Centre (NJC). Rebecca joined the team in 2018. Prior to working at the NJC, Rebecca has worked across the non-for-profit and public sector for 22 years on a broad range of education program and projects. Since commencing at the NJC, Rebecca's key priorities have included the development of programs and initiatives to activate the NJC's status and engagement as an International Mentor Community Court. She is committed to supporting improved social outcomes for members of the community and enjoys dialogue with diverse stakeholders to identify and understand the needs and priorities across the sector.

### **BETH KING**

Beth King is the Senior Community Lawyer for Fitzroy Legal Service at the Neighbourhood Justice Centre (NJC). Beth joined Fitzroy Legal Service (then Darebin Community Legal Centre) as an Outreach Lawyer in late 2016, and started at the NJC in July 2019. Prior to this, she worked as a community lawyer across a number of Victorian community legal centres, including Footscray CLC (now West Justice), Barwon CLS, Women's Legal Service Victoria, InTouch, and Eastern CLC.

### **CHARLIE WATSON**

Charlie Watson is the Senior Lawyer for Victoria Legal Aid at the Neighbourhood Justice Centre (NJC). Charlie has been at the NJC since July 2018. Charlie was admitted as a solicitor in 2005 and is an LIV accredited criminal law specialist. Prior to the NJC, Charlie was the Managing Lawyer of WEstjustice's Sunshine Youth Office at the Sunshine Visy Cares Hub from 2016-2018.



# 2020 COMMUNITY LAWYERS CPD DAY

Monday February 24

## *Introducing the Presenters*

### **COSI MCRAE**

Cosi McRae is a Senior Researcher within the research team at Victoria Law Foundation. Cosi has worked on gender equality and access to justice projects in both academia and the public sector. She has extensive experience looking at the law through the lens of human rights, particularly gender equality, LGBTIQ rights and Indigenous sovereignty. Most recently Cosi worked on the Independent Review into Victoria Police at the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission.

### **BEN CORDING**

Ben Cording is the Principal Solicitor for Tenants Victoria. Tenants Victoria was formed over 40 years ago to promote and protect the rights of tenants and residents in all forms of residential accommodation in Victoria. It is the aim of Tenants Victoria to inform and educate tenants about their rights and work for social change to improve conditions for all.



### **AMANDA STOREY**

Amanda Storey is the Director of Legal Practice of the Consumer Action Law Centre which provides specialist consumer credit law, consumer law and insurance law advice. She leads a team of 13 lawyers who are dedicated to making life easier for people experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage. Consumer Action strives to create a just marketplace where people who have power and businesses play fair. In 2018, Consumer Action acted for 5 clients who gave evidence before the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services. Consumer Action was awarded the 2019 Law Institute of Victoria Access to Justice Award in its work for supporting their clients as witnesses before the Royal Commission and the 2018 Tim McCoy Prize for outstanding work by a community legal centre for advancing the rights of vulnerable Victorians for banking misconduct. Prior to joining Consumer Action, Amanda worked in private practice as a litigator specialising in banking, bankruptcy and insolvency. Amanda holds a Masters in Law specialising in commercial law and is a member of the Law Council of Australia Australian Consumer Law Committee and co-chairs the Federation of Community Legal Centre's Professional Standards and Support Committee.

### **NICOLA RIVERS**

Nicola Rivers is the Director of Advocacy and Research at Environmental Justice Australia, working to improve environmental laws. Her work on their clean air campaign has seen her engaging with grassroots environment groups and local communities around Australia to protect our right to clean air. She has also lead EJA's advocacy on a range of issues such as Victorian climate and water law, and national biodiversity laws. Prior to joining our team, she worked as a senior lawyer with the Environment Department of Western Australia. She has also worked for the Federal Attorney General's department and as a policy officer for the Federal Environment Department. Nicola is a Fellow of the Centre for Sustainability Leadership. Not content with being named after rivers, in her spare time, Nicola heads up the Riparian Project, which uses art as a communication tool to raise awareness about river health.





# 2020 COMMUNITY LAWYERS CPD DAY

Monday February 24

## Introducing the Presenters

### NATALIE HALLAM

Natalie Hallam joined the Federation in 2017 from the Victorian public health sector with a background in quality & risk, clinical governance, program redesign and ICT. Natalie's previous experiences with disadvantaged communities was primarily within clinical social work for at-risk infants and their families in the Child Protection system, providing specialised mandated assessments and skill development services. She is pleased to be utilising her collective experiences contributing to the overall identification of community legal sector challenges and opportunities, continuous improvement functions and enhancing excellence in service delivery. Natalie is on the Board of a NFP organisation for Victorian children entering foster care and emergency accommodation, which works in partnership with crisis facilities, front line emergency services and the Department of Health and Human Services.



### BELINDA LO

Belinda Lo is the Director of Legal Services and Principal Lawyer at the Eastern Community Legal Centre. Belinda's original training was as a family law litigator, but she left private practice in 2001, and since then, she has worked and volunteered in a range of community legal centres. Belinda's work has mainly focused on advocating for the rights of victims of family violence and sexual assault through service provision, law reform, community legal education and conducting professional development.

### MARIKA MANIOUDAKIS

Marika Manioudakis is the Manager, Family Violence Initiatives at the Eastern Community Legal Centre which includes the legal centres integrated legal programs for women experiencing family violence, Mabels, WELS and SAGE. With an educational background in Behavioural Science, Marika's work over the last 9 years has primarily been focussed on working with women experiencing family violence and more specifically within their experience of the legal system.

### ANITA KOOCHEW

Anita Koochew is the Co-ordinator, Yarra Ranges at Eastern Community Legal Centre. She has been a lawyer for over 10 years, largely practising in family violence matters within integrated practice teams. She was also co-ordinator for ECLC's Mabels program for several years.



### Take part in Law Week 2020

Running a Law Week event is a great way to connect with your local community.

Events can be simple activities you already undertake day to day, such as legal health checks.

Register an event on  
[lawweek.net.au](http://lawweek.net.au) by 13 March,  
and join the 2020 program

**LAWWEEK.NET.AU**