

# Above and Beyond: Health Justice Partnerships





We acknowledge the traditional custodians and Elders past and present, who have raised children, taught them about the world around them and gave them the gift of culture and language.

We recognise our part in bringing fairness to our Indigenous brothers and sisters and creating a community where all children, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, can 'grow up strong'.



# Session Structure

## Presentation:

- 1.HRCLS philosophy
- 2.The Partnership Champion Group
- 3.How we worked with HJA
- 4.Impacts of this model of practice

## Activity:

- 1.Brainstorm an issue using the Partnership Champion's model
- 2.Group discussion



# Our Philosophy





# Partnership work is hard – Let's share the burden

## WHY WORK IN PARTNERSHIP

- Strategic targeting of our resources to those most in need
- Clients more likely to present through services they trust and feel safe in (generally not legal services)
- Providing holistic/wrap around service for intersecting problems - legal and non-legal

## WHOLE OF SERVICE APPROACH

- All our lawyers work closely with other local services
- Developed the Partnership Champion Group to highlight partnership skill sets and support staff
- Training with HJA about how to best work in partnership



# HRCLS Programs

Holistic Assistance and Legal Outreach  
(HALO)

Invisible Hurdles

Climate Justice (Victorian Outreach)

Centre Against Violence

ONE Program (NSW Outreach)

Bagaraybang Bagaraybang Mayinygalang  
(BBM)

Integrated Family Violence Project

Housing Collaboration Project

Women's Centre

WDVCAS





Tessa Mead, Karlee Hirt, Cathy Bucculo, Becky Smith & Gabby Maginness

# Partnership Champion Group



# Partnership Champion Group - Programs

## BAGARAYBANG BAGARAYBANG MAYINYGALANG

Partnered with Albury Wodonga  
Aboriginal Health Service.

Began in 2023 with a focus on  
mental health.

1 lawyer and part time community  
development worker working  
across Albury, Wodonga, and  
Wangaratta.

## INVISIBLE HURDLES

Partnered with Albury Wodonga  
Aboriginal Health Service, North  
East Support & Action for Youth,  
and Wodonga Flexible Learning  
Centre

Began in 2015 with a focus on  
young people (12-25 years)  
experiencing family violence.

1 lawyer and part time community  
development worker working  
across Wodonga, and Wangaratta.

## HALO

Partnered with Gateway Health and  
Headspace.

Began in 2015 with a focus on  
mental health.

1 lawyer working across Wodonga,  
and Wangaratta with support from  
another program in Myrtleford

## CENTRE AGAINST VIOLENCE

Began in 2016 with a focus on  
family violence and sexual assault

1 lawyer across Wangaratta and  
Wodonga





Alison Maher, Ashley Barcley, Deborah Fisher, Sarah Rodgers

Not in photo: Sara Reid, Jodie Wells, Colette Quin

# Strategic Group

Leadership group within HRCLS comprising of senior management, administration, lawyers and community development representatives.



# How we work together





# Coaching Sessions

Six sessions with Health Justice  
Australia's Cathy Bucolo.

Session structure:

- Check in with everyone
- What problems are we seeing
- Select a problem and discuss
- Develop theories to test
- Summarise



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Issues we discussed:

- Being a new lawyer in an established partnership
- Getting engagement
- How to refresh a partnership
- Triage and referral processes
- How to approach difficult conversations



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What we took away:

- There is no right or wrong answer
- Don't compare successes and progress to other programs
- Being present in the partnership is just as important as seeing clients



# Our Mantras

- Partnership problems need partnership solutions
- No two partnerships are the same
- Never assume – in trying not to burden my partner, I may have decided for them.
- It's ok if you feel like it's hard work. It is!
- Be a face. Be there. Listen
- My partner can upskill me too – we both bring things to the table
- It's ok to do something that only has a 5% improvement
- Go where the love is



# Impacts/Implementation





## HRCLS Service

All staff's responsibility – we all have a role to play

Breakdown of internal silos between programs/partnerships

Efficient and effective service delivery to those most in need

Recognition of the effort and skill it takes to partner

Learning collectively





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## Partnership

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Promoted intentional collaboration with partner organisations

Improved service delivery for partner staff and clients





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## Personal

Increased practitioner wellbeing

Support to discuss creative solutions for partnership problems

Promoted pride in partnership achievements and personal skill sets



# Implementation within HRCLS

## SHORT TERM

- Service wide systems that allow for flexibility to accommodate individual program needs
- Internal conversations and celebrations of outstanding partnership skills
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## LONG TERM

- CLE and Engagement Co-ordinator
- Relevant training for partnership capability development
- Continuation of work with Health Justice Australia
- Recognition in funding agreements for the additional work (beyond clients) required for excellent partnership



# Questions & Comments





# Activity



The logo features a stylized orange graphic that combines a semi-circle with a hand shape, where the hand's fingers curve upwards to complete the circle.

# hume riverina community legal service

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