



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

A scenic sunset over a river, with trees in the foreground and a colorful sky.

Our Philosophy

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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



Strategic Group

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

Alison Maher, Ashley Barcley, Deborah Fisher, Sarah Rodgers

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



How we work together

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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

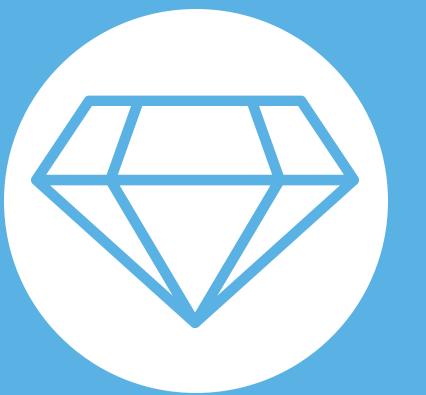
Our Mantras

- 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

A scenic landscape featuring a river in the foreground, a large tree trunk on the left, and a bridge in the background under a clear sky.

Impacts/Implementation





HRCLS Service

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

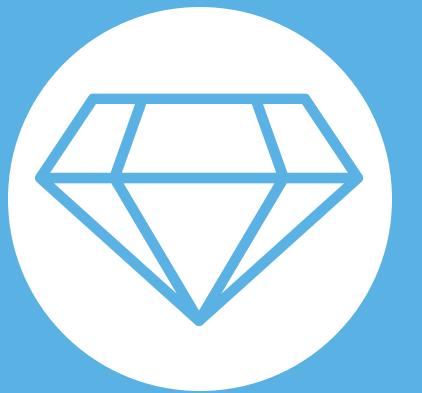
Breakdown of internal silos between programs/partnerships

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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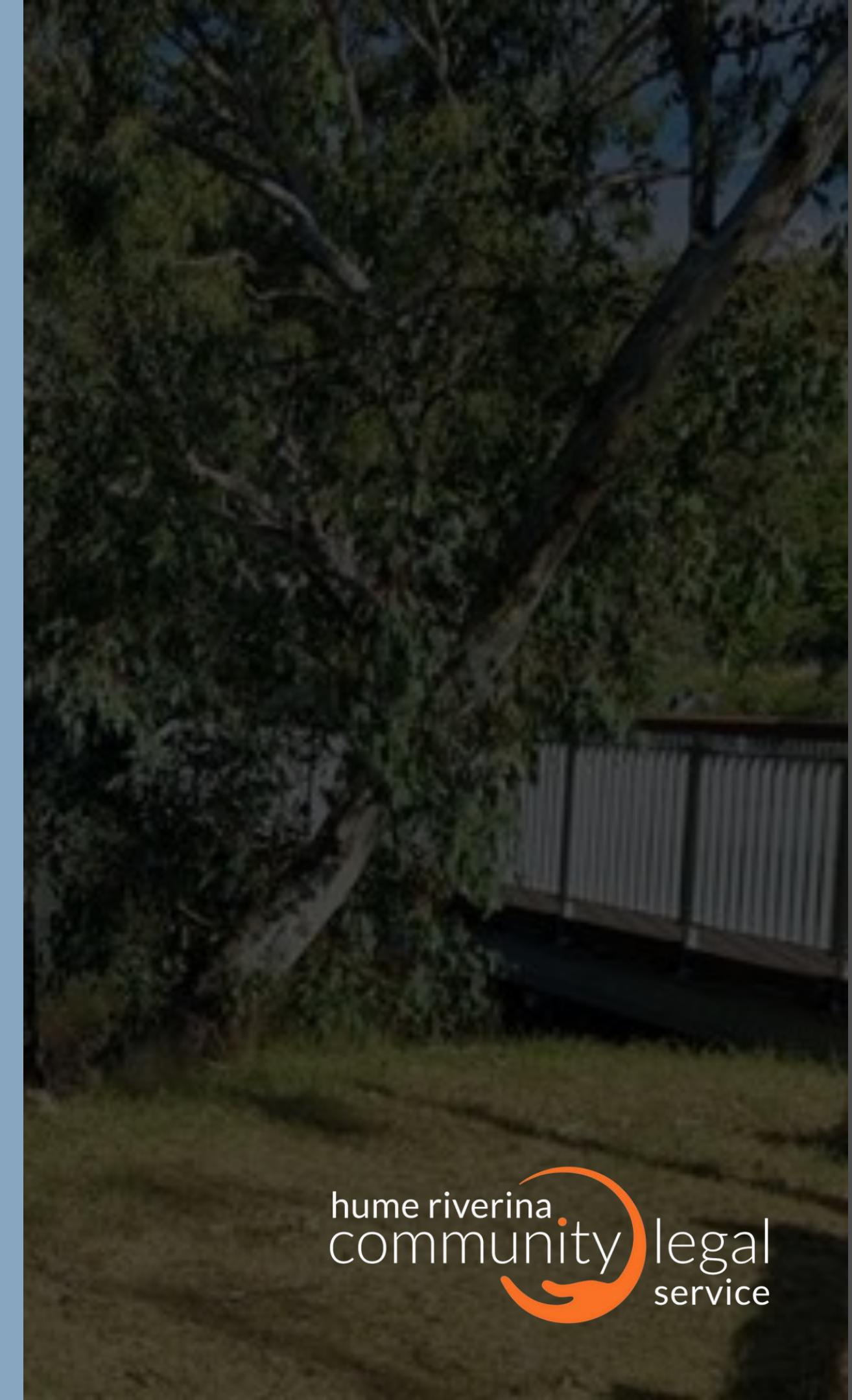


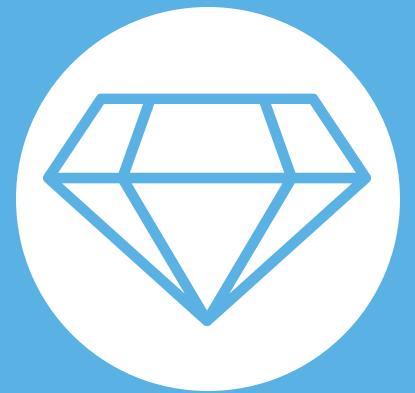
Partnership

Creatively solved partnership problems using Champion Group shared learnings / suggestions

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
- Continuation of the Champion Group

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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

A scenic view of a river flowing through a lush green landscape. The river is filled with rocks of various sizes, and the surrounding area is covered in tall grasses and bushes. The lighting suggests it might be late afternoon or early evening.

Questions & Comments

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A scenic view of a river flowing through a lush green landscape. The river is lined with large, smooth stones and surrounded by tall, dense grasses. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Activity

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