

Celebrating 30YEARS



Inverting the non-profit legal service delivery model in the Northern Territory

Matthew Shaw and Judy Harrison 25 Oct 2021 (PowerPoint relates to Matthew's paper of the same title)

DCLS operates on Larrakia country. We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region and pay our respects to Larrakia elders past and present. We are committed to a positive future for the Aboriginal community.

INTRODUCTION

Darwin Community LEGAL SERVICE

• Who's covered?









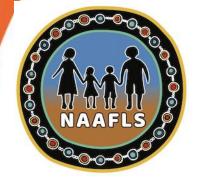


TOP END WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE INC.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE FOR WOMEN

Advice | Information | Referral | Advocacy







CURRENT MODEL

- Hub-centric (Darwin, Alice, Tennant, Katherine)
- Large geographic regions
- Services are systemically underfunded and tied to burdensome obligations
 - Leads to sacrificing services in some areas for others, or sacrificing communities altogether
- Relies on 'outreach' to bridge the divide
- Outreach does not allow the development of meaningful community presence

CONSULTATIONS AND FINDING A NEW WAY

- 'Consultation' is not working people are fatigued and sick of nothing being done
- Box of Veggies a powerful case study in explaining why
- Deficit discourse permeates existing approaches unhelpful at best, harmful at worst
- Moving forward in new model, must not fall into these two traps



HOW A NEW MODEL SHOULD LOOK & HOW TO GET THERE

- Communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives must be at the centre
- Must take stock of existing strengths and assets already in community (local knowledge and expertise)
- More resources are essential the whole pie must be increased
 - Likely requires at least doubling of current funding
- Scope for change via the new Remote Jobs Program?
- Scope for change via NTG Local Decision Making agreements?
- Scope to invert power relations for improved accountability and impacts?

IDEAS / THOUGHTS / QUESTIONS?

- Open space for discussion ...
- What makes certain things 'unthinkable'?
- What changes in NT non-profit legal service delivery models would you like to see in the next 2, 5, 10 or 20 years?

