

# NT Legal Aid regional and remote projects

By NT Legal Aid

The NT Legal Aid Commission has commenced a number of projects which will expand the services we provide to regional and remote communities. In recognition of the unique geographic, social and cultural demographic of the Territory population, Indigenous individuals, families and communities will be the focus of the expansion.

The project will facilitate the provision of coordinated Community Legal Education in relation to issues regarding families and law and mediation.

The Community Legal Education team facilitated a Family and Law workshop in Tennant Creek on the 13 and 14 June 2007.

The workshop focussed on presenting information to the Tennant Creek community, regarding what services are available in relation to family issues, restraining orders, domestic violence orders, access to children when parents separate, how the law works and legal rights.

Service providers which participated were; Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Services (CAALAS), Central Australian Women's Legal Services (CAWLS) Council of Elders and Respected Persons, Central Australian Aboriginal Family Violence Unit (CAAFVU) Stronger Families Anyinginyi, Family and Community Services (FACS), Family Court, Police, Papulu Apparr Kari.

The workshop was conducted at the Tennant Creek High School conference room, and was filmed by the Apparr Kari Language Multimedia Unit.

The information gathered from the workshop will be used as the content for the Family Law Community Legal Educational DVD.



*Chooky McDowell from the FRC, Penny Fielding from CAWLS and Vannessa Lethlean from CAFLU*

Apparr Kari Language Multimedia Unit has been contracted to produce this. The dialog will be in languages relevant to the Barkly region.

It is anticipated that the DVD will be available at the end of September.

The learning from this important workshop was two-way. We, the service providers, learnt just as much as the community members who attended.

A particularly important area of learning was around the use of interpreters, how little they are used by the services, how much further training is needed for both users and interpreters themselves and how crucial it is to people successfully accessing legal services.

It was a great exercise for all involved, and we are looking forward to reporting on the progress of our video production in Tennant Creek.



*Interpreters in Tennant Creek*