

CPD 2024

26 FEBRUARY – 8 MARCH

KEY INFORMATION

This year, the Federation will be hosting a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) event, with 10 sessions available across two weeks. All CPD sessions will be hosted online. Sessions are free for Federation members. For non-members, session costs vary between \$25-\$75.

All sessions begin promptly at 2pm.

Register [here](#).

EVENT SPEAKERS

Elise Almond, Charlotte Jones and Kerry McLinden

Emma Svehla and Bethany Rose

Gerard Brody, Carolyn Bond, Ebony Bake and Mengistu Weldemariam

Kate Windmill, Maggie Toko, James Roughley, Briony Wilson and Rhian Peterson

Angus Woodward and Stephen Turner

Sarah Schwartz

Michelle D'Vaz and Louise Curran

Tim Hutton, Sam Coleman and Elyce Sandri

Marika Manioudakis, Katherine Ogilvie, Suzie Nesbitt, Ashleigh Newnham and Debi Fisher

Cristina Tambasco



FEDERATION
OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES VIC

SESSION 1

Mon 26 February | 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Shove it in their face: Alternative strategies for advocacy when conventional methods fail

Ethics & Professional Responsibility; Professional Skills - 1 CPD point

Presented by Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc, Mental Health Legal Centre, Southern Disability Advocacy

SESSION 2

Tue 27 February | 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Intersections with migration law: a toolkit

Professional Skills; Substantive Law - 1 CPD point

Presented by Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

SESSION 3

Wed 28 February | 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Financial counselling in CLCs – rewards and challenges

Practice Management and Business Skills - 1 CPD point

Presented by Gerard Brody, Carolyn Bond, Mortgage Stress Victoria, a program under WEstjustice

SESSION 4

Thurs 29 February | 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Working with clients experiencing mental distress or mental ill-health: assessing capacity, taking instructions and ethical considerations

Ethics & Professional Responsibility; Professional Skills - 1.5 CPD points

Presented by Mental Health Legal Centre, Mental Health & Wellbeing Commission, Lived and Living Experience Consultant and Mental Health Nurse

SESSION 5

Fri 1 March | 2:00PM - 3:00PM

WEstjustice – Collaborative & innovative early intervention and prevention projects

Professional Skills - 1 CPD point

Presented by WEstjustice, Victoria Police

SESSION 6

Mon 4 March | 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Working with families to achieve systemic change in Coronial Inquests

Substantive Law - 1.5 CPD points

Presented by Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service

SESSION 7

Tues 5 March | 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Family Law Amendments - Parenting

Substantive Law - 1 CPD point

Presented by Women's Legal Service Victoria

SESSION 8

Wed 6 March | 2pm - 3pm

The value of early intervention criminal work – a crash course for non-crime specialists

Substantive Law - 1 CPD point

Presented by Youthlaw

SESSION 9

Thurs 7 March | 2pm - 3:30pm

Impact & Influence – Building knowledge and skills in integrated legal practice

Professional Skills - 1.5 CPD points

Eastern Community Legal Centre
Centre for Innovative Justice RMIT University, Women's Legal Service Victoria, South-East Monash Legal Service, Hume Riverina Community Legal Service

SESSION 10

Fri 8 March | 2pm - 3pm

Justice at Home: Remote Hearing Research

Practice Management & Business Skills; Professional Skills - 1 CPD point

Presented by Northern Community Legal Centre



Session 1 | Monday 26 February | 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Shove it in their face: Alternative strategies for advocacy when conventional methods fail

Topics: Ethics & Professional Responsibility; Professional Skills | 60 minutes | 1 CPD point

Presented by Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc, Mental Health Legal Centre, Southern Disability Advocacy

"They don't do anything unless you shove it in their face"

KW's daughter was horrified to be told that at the time of her death in a Supported Residential Service (SRS) she was "very dirty," with "matted" hair and dirt under her nails and all over her hands, legs, neck and face. In evidence to the Disability Royal Commission the SRS regulator confirmed they have the power to issue notices, but in the three years he had been in the role, had not issued any. The SRS where KW died for example, had not breached the law as the regulator formed the view that, because she "was deceased, technically meant they were no longer a resident".

Three advocates will discuss their work to ensure justice, safety, and dignity to SRS residents, and the strategies they used to highlight the issues, including:

- Using relationships & presence to give residents some reassurance
- Using the power of the Royal Commission and the media to bring scrutiny
- Follow the money – involving the Commonwealth to investigate fraud

Elise Almond



Senior Lawyer
Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc

Elise has worked closely with people with disability as a member of Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service's legal team for four and a half years. Villamanta specialises in disability related justice issues, including the rights of residents living in Specialist Disability Accommodation and SRSSs. Elise is a senior lawyer and Acting Legal Practice Manager, as required. Elise is experienced in representing and collaborating closely with people who have lived disability experience, primarily those with intellectual or cognitive disability, and varying communication needs.

Kerry McLinden



Program Manager
Southern Disability Advocacy

Kerry has provided advocacy for people with disability, including residents of Supported Residential Services (SRS) since prior to commencing at Southern Disability Advocacy in 1999. Southern Disability Advocacy is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services via the National Disability Advocacy Program, to advocate for the rights & interests of people with disability.

Residents of SRS are notable part of the organisation's caseload, as they often have no family to advocate for them and live with cognitive impairments, mental illness and other risk factors which are exacerbated by a lack of regulation in the SRS sector.

Charlotte Jones



CEO
Mental Health Legal Centre

Charlotte has spent the past 25 years working with people with complex presentations in the civil justice system, previously a partner at Duncan Lewis & Co specialising in Judicial Review and for the past 10 years at the MHLC. MHLC has a long standing Health Justice Partnership with Bolton Clarke Homeless Persons Team and it is through this work that the MHLC began to examine more closely the relationship between the NDIS and SRS residents.

+ a lived experience perspective





Session 2 | Tuesday 27 February | 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Intersections with migration law: a toolkit

Topics: Professional Skills; Substantive Law | 60 minutes | 1 CPD point

Presented by Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC)

People without Australian citizenship – whether they are refugees, permanent residents, or without status – face particular barriers to access to justice, as well as severe and unique consequences of interactions with the law including administrative detention, indefinite and unconstitutional detention, refoulement to persecution, and permanent family separation.

This training will equip CLC practitioners with tools to best support their non-citizen clients and ensure they are discharging their obligations. In particular, we will look at intersections with migration law likely to be encountered by CLC practitioners, particularly in the areas of criminal, constitutional and family law, including the ramifications of criminal charges or convictions and family violence and separation. We will include a detailed overview of the migration process, including barriers to security such as visa cancellation and access to citizenship, with reference to key cases and statutory authorities, including the recent decision of the High Court in the case about a Rohingya refugee born in Myanmar, who was identified as 'NZYQ' and with respect to preventative detention laws.

Emma Svehla

Senior Solicitor
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre



Emma Svehla is a senior solicitor who has worked with the ASRC since June 2019. She has managed the triage team at the HRLP (Human Rights Law Program) and has seen the broad range of legal issues that clients seeking asylum face. She has also run many matters in the General Division of the AAT (Administrative Appeals Tribunal) with clients who have committed criminal offences and are now facing visa cancellation or deportation, as well as complex litigation. Before working at ASRC Emma spent two years working in criminal law and six months providing legal assistance to refugees who had recently arrived in Greece.

Bethany Rose

Senior Solicitor
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre



Bethany has been a senior solicitor at the ASRC since July 2022. She maintains a complex caseload across all areas of the refugee status determination process and in character cancellation matters, regularly representing clients in the General Division of the AAT. Bethany previously worked in generalist migration practice in Australia at Clothier Anderson Immigration Lawyers, as a decision maker for the UNHCR in Thailand and as an Associate at the Supreme Court of Victoria. She was the 2022 recipient of the LCA John Gibson Young Australian Immigration Lawyer of the Year.



Session 3 | Wednesday 28 February | 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Financial counselling in CLCs – rewards and challenges

Topics: Practice Management and Business Skills | 60 minutes | 1 CPD point

Presented by Carolyn Bond, Gerard Brody, Mortgage Stress Victoria, a program under WEstjustice

There are many benefits (for clients and CLCs) to integrating community professionals (such as financial counsellors) with legal services. However, informal feedback from lawyers and financial counsellors raises tensions or challenges. This is discussed in a paper [“Financial Counselling in Community Legal Services – Rewards and Challenges”](#) by Carolyn Bond and Denis Nelthorpe. The panel will discuss some of these challenges, how they are addressed in practice, and what CLCs need to consider to maximise the benefits of integrated services.

Attendees will better understand:

- some of the tensions and challenges and how others addressed them
- that many centres and staff experience similar challenges
- how CLCs take different approaches to service structure and processes, and risk management
- the role of management and the importance of honest relationships between professionals

Gerard Brody

Independent Consultant

Gerard is a consumer advocate and lawyer. He was CEO of Consumer Action Law Centre for 10 years and is currently the chair of Community Legal Centres Australia and Consumers' Federation of Australia.

Carolyn Bond

Carolyn Bond Consulting

Carolyn has worked in consumer policy and advocacy roles for over 40 years, mainly within the financial counselling and community legal services sector. She is past co-CEO of Consumer Action Law Centre and most recently helped develop and facilitate the work of the Economic Abuse Reference Group (EARG), based at Women's Legal Service Victoria. Carolyn is on the board of the Financial Counselling Foundation which provides funding for the provision of financial counselling.

Ebony Bake

Program Manager - Legal
Mortgage Stress Victoria, a program under
WEstjustice

Ebony Bake is the Program Manager of Mortgage Stress Victoria's Legal team. She has worked in the community sector for nine years supporting clients with issues relating to economic justice and housing security.

WEstjustice

Mengistu Weldemariam

Program Manager - Financial
Counselling
Mortgage Stress Victoria, a
program under WEstjustice

Mengistu has over 15 years' experience in strategic leadership, business consultancy and financial counselling program delivery. Having previously worked in the big four consultancy firms, Mengistu brings a wealth of practical experience and expertise in financial resilience and wellbeing as an accredited financial counsellor and professional supervisor.

Mengistu established the financial counselling service within Tenants Queensland, and has led a team of 15 financial counsellors supporting small businesses across southern Queensland within an integrated practice model. Mengistu is passionate about social justice and improving systems and is dedicated to helping others achieve financial wellbeing. By implementing a client centred approach, Mengistu aims to empower clients to improve their sustainability and create lasting change.



Session 4 | Thursday 29 February | 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Working with clients experiencing mental distress or mental ill-health: assessing capacity, taking instructions and ethical considerations

Topics: Ethics & Professional Responsibility; Professional Skills | 90 minutes | 1.5 CPD points

Presented by Mental Health Legal Centre, Mental Health & Wellbeing Commission, Lived and Living Experience Consultant and Mental Health Nurse

Mental Health Legal Centre has extensive experience working with people experiencing mental distress, fluid capacity, psychosis and mental ill health. This session will give triage staff, paralegals and lawyers an opportunity to hear the lived experience of people experiencing mental ill health or psychological distress together with the lawyers and nurses who support them.

In collaboration with a lived experience consumer consultant, a Mental Health and Wellbeing Commissioner, a lawyer, and an outreach nurse, we will discuss ways to:

- Build rapport with people experiencing mental distress and/or mental ill health
- De-escalate heightened consumers
- Assess and demystify 'capacity'
- Understand the impact of medications and other treatments on consumers and their ability to provide instructions
- Fearlessly uphold the human rights of clients
- Provide holistic lawyering in complex times
- Self-care, support, and supervision
- Spot ethical issues

Kate Windmill

Director of Legal Practice
Mental Health Legal Centre



Kate has dedicated her career to the legal assistance sector, with a particular passion for diversity, inclusion, courage, and vulnerability. She leads the legal practice at the Mental Health Legal Centre, including the education program, and remains hopelessly altruistic in all things.

James Roughley

Principal Lawyer
Mental Health Legal Centre



James oversees MHLC's Mental Health Tribunals and Prisons programs. Law is a second career for James, having previously spent three decades as a nurse and hospital administrator. James is passionate about human rights and is a highly skilled advocate, particularly in Mental Health Tribunal matters.

Maggie Toko

Commissioner - Lived Experience
Mental Health and Wellbeing
Commission

Maggie is a Commissioner of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission who brings her lived experience of mental illness to her role. She has experience from a variety of positions ranging from work as a consumer consultant to roles in not-for-profit leadership. She is the former CEO of the Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council (VMIAC) and most recently, the Assistant Commissioner of the Mental Health Complaints Commissioner.

Briony Wilson

Lived and Living Experience Consultant

Rhian Peterson

Outreach Mental Health Nurse
Bolton Clarke



Session 5 | Friday 1 March | 2:00pm - 3:00pm

WEstjustice – Collaborative & innovative early intervention and prevention projects

Topic: Professional Skills | 60 minutes | 1 CPD point
Presented by WEstjustice & Victoria Police

WEstjustice is currently leading an innovative crime prevention project, with a unique level of collaboration with Victoria Police and other key stakeholders, called the 'Youth Crime Prevention and Early Intervention Pilot'. This pilot has seen a significant reduction in court initiations and remand rates for children and young people in Melbourne's west, where crime rates are amongst some of the highest in the State, through the increased use of pre-court cautions, fast-tracked Diversions and youth referrals to appropriate support services.

The session will speak to why this project, and similar projects, have been so successful in creating systemic change – with the hope to inspire our CLC colleagues to pursue similar early intervention crime prevention projects and share in the learnings from our projects.

Angus Woodward

WEstjustice

Lead Criminal Law Counsel
WEstjustice

Angus Woodward is the Lead Criminal Law Counsel at WEstjustice, where he has worked for over seven years. He was previously a Program Manager in the Youth Team and the focus of his work while at WEstjustice has been working in holistic youth service hub settings and in schools providing young people aged 10-25 with legal advice on a range of issues. Angus is an accredited criminal law specialist and has more recently focused his practice on strategic advocacy and policy projects to effect systemic change and help reduce the over-criminalisation, and over-representation, of young people in the justice system.

Stephen Turner

Sergeant, Sunshine Police Station
Victoria Police

Working in the Western suburbs for 13 years, Stephen became very interested in community Policing in 2017 after a spate of street robberies where the identified offenders were all aged 13-17 years old.

After working to redevelop BlueLight and "Police Citizens Youth Clubs for kids" (PCYC) activities in the West he became more intrigued in criminogenic factors driving trending youth crime.

Angus and Stephen met through PCYC, and began discussing issues with youth crime in their area. Whilst having differing points of view in some areas, they have the same drive and passion with regards to identifying opportunities for early intervention and effecting long term social cohesion and community safety. The 'Youth Crime Prevention and Early Intervention Pilot' was born of this partnership.



Session 6 | Monday 4 March | 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Working with families to achieve systemic change in Coronial Inquests

Topic: Substantive Law

90 minutes, 1.5 CPD points

Presented by Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service

This session will provide an overview of the Coronial Inquest process as it applies to families of the deceased, in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, including the law on the rights of interested parties, scope, natural justice, procedure and findings and recommendations.

It will discuss cases where families have fought for Coroners to examine the systemic failures which have led to a loved one's death, including systemic racism.

It will use the Veronica Nelson Inquest as a case study and discuss working with Veronica's family to fight for systemic outcomes in the areas of prison healthcare and bail.

Sarah Schwartz



Principal Managing Lawyer
Wirraway Practice (Police
and Prison Accountability)
Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service

Sarah leads the Wirraway Police and Prison Accountability Practice at the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service where she works with families who have lost loved ones in custody, and in litigation involving police accountability and the rights of people in prison.

Sarah represented Uncle Percy Lovett, Veronica Nelson's partner, in the Coronial Inquest into her passing.

Sarah is also a lecturer at Melbourne Law School and holds a Master of Laws from Harvard Law School, focused on policing, mass incarceration and movement lawyering.





Session 7 | Tuesday 5 March | 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Family Law Amendments - Parenting

Topic: Substantive Law | 60 minutes | 1 CPD point

Presented by Women's Legal Service Victoria

After a significant period of policy review and advocacy by stakeholders, including the community legal assistance sector, on reforms to improve the family law system for children and families, amendments to the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth) will come into effect mid-year. The session will provide an overview of legislative amendments to the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth) for family law parenting matters.

The presentation will assist participants to:

- Navigate through and understand recent legislative amendments for family law parenting matters
- Attain a holistic understanding of the broader policy reform objectives of the legislative amendments
- Reflect on the practical implications of these changes for clients and the provision of family law legal assistance by community sector lawyers.

Michelle D'Vaz

Legal Counsel
Women's Legal Service Victoria



Michelle is Legal Counsel in the Education and Engagement team. Prior to joining Women's Legal, Michelle was a Senior Family Lawyer at Victoria Legal Aid where she also worked in the Child Support Legal Service team, Internal Legal Services team and Family Violence policy team. Michelle has previously worked with Community Legal Centres, private law firms and the Department of Justice and Community Safety, undertaking litigation and policy work. Michelle is passionate about providing holistic, effective and efficient resolutions to client needs.

Louise Curran

Senior Counsel
Women's Legal Service Victoria



Louise is a Senior Lawyer in the Education and Engagement team. She previously worked in private firms, specialising in Family Law, Child Protection, and Family Violence matters. Throughout her career, Louise has worked with both Applicants and Respondents in these matters. Before working at Women's Legal, Louise was a Senior Legal Aid lawyer, who managed her own files across an array of legal areas, as well as training and mentoring graduate and junior lawyers. With a background in Sociology, Louise is passionate about providing pragmatic, and considered legal advice, which empowers a client to reach a resolution which is best for them.





Session 8 | Wednesday 6 March | 2:00pm - 3:00pm

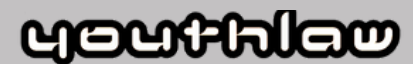
The value of early intervention criminal work – a crash course for non-crime specialists

Topic: Substantive Law | **60 minutes** | **1 CPD point**
Presented by Youthlaw

This session will highlight the value of early intervention work in the criminal space, particularly for vulnerable people who have minimal or no criminal justice system history.

Presenters will explore issues with the criminal justice system, how early intervention work can mitigate these, the sorts of outcomes that can be obtained and the detrimental impacts that involvement in the criminal justice system can have on a young vulnerable person. Tips, pointers and guidance will be provided for those not experienced in criminal law, assisting attendees to gain confidence in doing some low level early intervention criminal work as part of their practice, particularly for highly vulnerable clients.

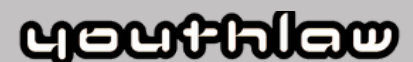
Tim Hutton



Principal Lawyer (Crime)
Youthlaw

Tim manages the criminal practice at Youthlaw and was previously in an outreach role with Youthlaw. Tim has been at Youthlaw for over three years, leading a team dedicated to providing excellent criminal law services to the most vulnerable young people in our community. Prior to this, Tim was a criminal lawyer at Victoria Legal Aid, with experience across multiple offices.

Sam Coleman



Senior Criminal Lawyer
Youthlaw

Sam is an experienced senior criminal lawyer at Youthlaw. Sam moved into this position recently after previously being in an outreach role with Youthlaw for 18 months, where he visited various youth centres around Victoria providing services to young people and staff. In his current role, Sam represents extremely vulnerable young people in criminal matters at various courts across Victoria. Previous to his experience at Youthlaw, Sam practiced as a criminal lawyer at a private law firm.

Elyce Sandri



Senior Social Worker
Youthlaw

Elyce is a social worker with 10 years of experience across the family violence sector, including within specialist family violence services, youth services and Court Services Victoria. Elyce is an experienced project officer, with a focus on change management and project implementation, and is currently completing a PhD focusing on family violence and disability at RMIT University.



Session 9 | Thursday 7 March | 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Impact & Influence – Building knowledge and skills in integrated legal practice

Topic: Professional Skills | 90 minutes | 1.5 CPD points

Presented by Eastern Community Legal Centre, Centre for Innovative Justice RMIT University, Women's Legal Service Victoria, South-East Monash Legal Service, Hume Riverina Community Legal Service

A range of CLC leaders from the Integrated Legal Practice – Impact & Influence Project Advisory Group will share their perspectives and experiences in designing and delivering integrated, multidisciplinary practice programs. A practical walk-through of how different CLCs have gone about developing integrated practice within our own services.

By discussing examples from our own service design and practice, we will highlight tips and tricks to assist other community legal services to build their own skills when designing and delivering integrated practice programs.

This session will support leaders or practitioners looking to further develop their integrated practice work (including collaborative ways of working and partnership skills). It will explore the structural, cultural and practice enablers which support multidisciplinary ways of working, and which help to strengthen and grow integrated legal practice in different settings.

Marika Manioudakis

Director – Family Violence Initiatives (Principal Integrated Practice)
Eastern Community Legal Centre



As Director of Family Violence Initiatives and Principal of Integrated Practice, Marika leads Eastern Community Legal Centre's development of multidisciplinary service design and practice, particularly through the programs and initiatives which seek to respond to the intertwined family violence legal and social support needs of women and their children.

With an educational background in Behavioural Science, Marika began her career working with people experiencing complex trauma, mental health challenges and substance misuse. However, the focus of her work over the last 14 years has been on improving services and support available to women and children experiencing family violence through the legal system.

Katherine Ogilvie

Social Work and Integrated Practice Manager
Centre for Innovative Justice, RMIT University



Kat Ogilvie has worked at RMIT's Centre for Innovative Justice (CIJ) since 2016 and as part of the role, has been able to work across multiple CLCs supporting new, emerging and established integrated practices. Kat has worked in integrated practices in Victoria and Queensland and has seen the numerous benefits and occasional challenges of social workers working in an integrated way with lawyers.

Kat is informed by the experiences of people receiving support and also works closely with RMIT social work students on placement at CIJ's partner CLCs, promoting integrated practice as an emerging area of social work practice.



Suzie Nesbitt

Integrated Programs Manager
Women's Legal Service Victoria



Suzie manages the social work and financial counselling team at Women's Legal Service Victoria and is responsible for the Health Justice Partnership and Domestic Violence Unit Link Program.

Her more than 25-year career in community service spans mental health, homelessness, and family violence support. She has worked as a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner and Child Inclusive Practitioner. As a manager, Suzie has led Family Relationship Centres and helped set up Northeast Melbourne Orange Door and led practice development as the Integrated Practice Leader for over five years.

Suzie is an accredited Safe and Together trainer and a qualified group supervisor with a special interest in communities of practice and reflective practice facilitation.

Ashleigh Newnham

Director of Advocacy and Development
South-East Monash Legal Service



Ashleigh Newnham is the Director of Advocacy and Development at South-East Monash Legal Service. She has worked in program development and management, strategic planning, legal education, policy and law reform, engagement, and evaluation. She is passionate about building client focussed, evidence-based programs and partnerships and driving effective strategy.

Debi Fisher

Managing Lawyer – Generalist Services
Hume Riverina Community Legal Service



Debi is the Managing Lawyer of Generalist Services at HRCLS and has been a practitioner in the HALO HJP with Gateway Health for the past eight years and manager of it for the past five. She also manages Invisible Hurdles (a youth family violence integrated partnership), Bagaraybang bagaraybang mayinygalang (BBM) Empowering and alleviating (a Health Justice Partnership with a local, cross border Aboriginal health service) and the Disaster Recovery Program at HRCLS. She previously worked at the Legal Services Commission of SA for 12 years and in private (generalist) practice in rural NSW before that. She is passionate about collaborative work, reflective practice and continuous learning.



Session 10 | Friday 8 March | 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Justice at Home: Remote Hearing Research

Topics: Practice Management & Business Skills; Professional Skills

60 minutes, 1 CPD point

Presented by Northern Community Legal Centre

This session will present findings from the 'Justice at Home: Remote Hearing' research project, which examined affected family members' (AFMs) and practitioners' experiences of participating in family violence intervention orders (FVIO) hearings online through WebEx. Based upon interviews with legal practitioners and AFMs across four court locations, the presentation will explore the benefits and challenges experienced by AFMs participating in remote hearings, particularly in relation to physical and emotional safety, effective participation, communication with legal practitioners, support needs, and legal outcomes.

Learning outcomes:

- Practitioners have a strong understanding of the challenges AFMs may experience with remote participation.
- Practitioners feel confident to provide trauma informed support for AFMs who opt to participate remotely.
- Practitioners are better able to advocate for the needs of their clients attending court remotely to promote safe and effective participation.



Cristina Tambasco

Research Officer
Northern Community Legal
Centre

Cristina Tambasco is an early career researcher in criminology who completed her PhD at the University of Melbourne.

Presently, Cristina's research at the Northern Community Legal Centre focuses on women's experiences of remote participation for family violence intervention order hearings, and culturally and linguistically diverse women's experiences navigating the digital forms involved in making an online intervention order application.

More broadly, Cristina's research interests include family violence, child-to-parent abuse, gender-based violence, and service system responses.

