

Reading Guide for CLC Workers

Version 5, 20 November 2012

(Thanks to everyone around the country who has contributed to this)

The legal aid system and CLC history

Highly recommended Jude McCulloch and Megan Blair "From Maverick to Mainstream: Forty years of Community Legal Centres" 12 *Alternative Law Journal* Vol 37:1 2012.

Noone M.A. & Tomsen S. *Lawyers in Conflict: Australian Lawyers and Legal Aid* (2006). This is a great overview of the development of CLCs and legal aid in Australia. Has a good chapter on CLCs which can be read here:

http://books.google.com.au/books?id=Ve85dIGrXvUC&pg=PA199&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=3#v=onepage&q&f=false

Wexler S, 'Practising Law for Poor People' (1974) 79 *Yale Law Journal* 1049-1067. More of a historical and philosophical read, this is for people who want to understand the thinking behind the emergence of CLCs in the US in the 70's. Email the Federation if you can't access a copy of this article; administration@fclc.org.au.

There are also a number of published histories of various CLCs including Fitzroy Legal Service, Springvale Monash, Kingsford and Peninsula CLC which are available for reading. Contact the Federation for a copy if you are interested.

Poverty, disadvantage and legal assistance

Highly recommended Coumarelos, C, Macourt D, People J, MacDonald, HM, Wei, Z, Iriana, R & Ramsey, S, 2012, *Legal Australia-Wide Survey: legal need in Australia*, Law and Justice Foundation of NSW

<http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/ljf/app/6DDF12F188975AC9CA257A910006089D.html>

This highly influential study looks at how people identify legal problems and what they do in response to them. Compulsory reading for anyone who wants to know how to best help our clients. You can stick to the executive summary if you are pressed for time.

Serr K., 'Concepts of Poverty' (pp 49 – 65) in Serr K.,(ed) *Thinking about Poverty* (2006) Federation Press.

http://books.google.com.au/books?id=p4KRwtgiVawC&pg=PA1&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=3#v=onepage&q&f=false This is a great introduction to understanding poverty outside of the legal context.

Walsh T, 'Policing Disadvantage: Giving voice to those affected by the politics of law and order' (2008) 33(3) *Alternative Law Journal* 160. This good article looks at the impact of the law on entrenching poverty and disadvantage. It examines Queensland research on the experiences of people disproportionately affected by policing. If you don't have access to the ALJ, email administration@fclc.org.au for a copy of this article.

Social justice lawyering

Highly recommended William Quigley, "Letter to a Law Student Interested in Social Justice," (2007) 1 *DePaul Journal for Social Justice* 7. <http://www.uchastings.edu/faculty-administration/faculty/piomelli/class-website/docs/Quigley-Letter-to-a-Law%20Student-Interested-in-Social-Justice.pdf>

This is an easy read by US CLC legend Bill Quigley and nicely explains the context of CLC work against the backdrop of Hurricane Katrina.



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Patrick J. Schiltz, 'On Being a Happy, Healthy, and Ethical Member of an Unhappy, Unhealthy, and Unethical Profession', (1999) 52 *Vanderbilt Law Review* 871.

http://www.vallexfund.com/download/Being_Happy_Healthy_Ethical_Member.pdf

This US journal article explains why working in CLCs is the key to be happy, health and ethical.

Paula O'Brien, 'Changing Public Interest Law: Overcoming the law's barriers to social change lawyering' 2011 36(2) *Alternative Law Journal* 82. This article discusses the importance of social change lawyering and its focus on addressing systemic injustice, and identifies some of the barriers to engaging in social change lawyering. If you don't have access to the ALJ, email administration@fclc.org.au for a copy of this article.

Jeff Giddings, 'Casework, bloody casework', (1992) 17:6 *Alternative Law Journal* 261.

CLC practice, models and identity

Highly recommended Simon Rice, "The challenge of remaining 'unfinished' in the campaign for justice", paper presented to the 2010 National CLC Conference. This thought provoking paper looks at CLC identify and explores whether CLCs have been captured by the system and are therefore less able to pursue the radical reform necessary for justice. See also Simon's article "Are CLCs Finished?" 12 *Alternative Law Journal* Vol 37:1 (2012) 17.

Highly recommended Peter Noble, "The Future of Community Legal Centres" 12 *Alternative Law Journal* Vol 37:1 (2012) 22.

Kevin Bell, 'Breaking the funding nexus' (1983) 2 *Legal Services Bulletin* 20. This article by former CLC pioneer and now Supreme Court Judge Kevin Bell argues for a different CLC model where the CLC is self-funded by profit generating activities. Move forward 30 or so years and you have Salvos Legal implementing a version of this model. If you don't have access to the Legal Services Bulletin, email administration@fclc.org.au for a copy of this article.

Mary Anne Noone, ' "They all come in the one door" The transformative potential of an integrated service model: A study of the West Heidelberg Community Legal Service' in Pleasence, Buck & Balmer, (eds) , *Transforming Lives: Law and Social Process*, UK The Stationary Office. Email the Federation for a copy of this report; administration@fclc.org.au. See also Mary Anne's article "Integrated Legal Services: Lessons from West Heidelberg CLS" 12 *Alternative Law Journal* Vol 37:1 (2012) 26.

Jeff Giddings and Mary Anne Noone, "Australian community legal centres move into the twenty-first century" *International Journal of the the Legal Profession*, Vol 11, No 3, November 2004

David Neal "On tap, not on top: Legal centres in Australia, 1972-1982", edited by David Neal, *Legal Services Bulletin*, 1984

CLC law reform work

Highly recommended Nicole Rich, *Reclaiming Community Legal Centres: Maximising our potential so we can help our clients realise theirs* (2009) Consumer Action Law Centre and Victoria Law Foundation. <http://consumeraction.org.au/downloads/VLFCLCFellowship07-08reportWebFinal.pdf> This report by Nicole Rich, formerly of Consumer Action Law Centre, argues that CLCs need to refocus on law reform work to have greater impact. It argues for law reform work which engages with and empowers our clients and advocates for greater planning and evaluation. If you're pressed for time, read the first and last chapters.

Phillip Ruddock, 'Community Legal Centre Reform', (2006) *The Party Room* 4, 4-5.
<http://www.andrewrobb.com.au/Portals/0/Files/PartyRoomVol4Spring2006.pdf>

This article by the former Australian Attorney General criticises some CLCs for pursuing political agendas instead of "serving clients". It highlights some of the political risks around law reform work and will reinforce for you why CLCs need to effectively communicate the reasons we do law reform work (eg: we're not serving our clients properly if we are not doing this work). Ties in well with *Forces for Good* (see below).

Liz Curran, *Making the Legal System More Responsive to Community: A Report on the Impact of Victorian Community Legal Centre Law Reform Initiatives* (2007) This article by former CLC worker and academic Liz Curran looks at the positive impact of CLC law reform work over an extended period of time. It will reinforce for you why we need to undertake law reform work and how we need to get smarter about evaluating our impact. An article by Liz on the report is here: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/news/articles/2008/opinion/community-legal-centres-lead-on-law-reform> If you would like a copy of the full report, email administration@fclc.org.au.

Sackville, R. , 'From Law and Poverty to Access to Justice' (1995) (20) 5 *Alternative Law Journal* 212. If you don't have access to the ALJ, email administration@fclc.org.au for a copy of this article.

Non profit leadership and practice

Highly recommended Jim Collins, *Good to Great and the Social Sectors: Why business thinking is not the answer* (2005) www.jimcollins.com/books/g2g-ss.html for a summary. Only 35 pages long. Easy to read with good lessons backed by good examples. Will inspire you to build great CLC organisations.

Leslie Crutchfield and Heather McLeod Grant, *Forces for Good: The six practices of high-impact non-profits* (2008) www.forcesforgood.net/ for a summary. Based on heaps of detailed research, this book distils the 6 key practices of high-impact non-profits. It endorses lots of what CLCs do, including combining systemic advocacy with individual client services, and will strengthen your resolve to build partnerships for positive change.

Larry Richard, "Herding cats: The lawyer personality revealed", (2008) 7(1) Winter, *Personality & Practice* (LAWPRO Magazine) http://www.practicepro.ca/LawPROmag/Richard_HerdingCats.pdf

Heather McLeod and Leslie Crutchfield, "Creating High-Impact Nonprofits" *Stanford Social Innovation Review* Fall 2007

John Kania and Mark Kramer, "Collective Impact" *Stanford Social Innovation Review* Winter 2011

Fay Hanley Brown, John Kania, Mark Kramer "Channeling Change: Making Collective Impact Work", *Stanford Social Innovation Review* Winter 2012

Ronald Heifertz, John Kania and Mark Kramer "Leading Boldly" *Stanford Social Innovation Review* Winter 2004