



Culturally Proficient Legal Services for Our People

ATSILS Qld takes lead role in child protection



ATSILS Qld hosted a Civil and Family Law Workshop for staff from across the state (see page 3) last year. Since then ATSILS Qld has played an key role in presenting evidence throughout the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry, which was established in July 2012 to review the State's child protection system (see page 12).

A WORD FROM ATSILS QLD CEO: SHANE DUFFY

Firstly, I would like to thank all of my staff for their passion, commitment and professionalism in the delivery of services across the state.

Each year the organisation awards staff who display exemplary qualities in providing services on a day-to-day basis and a preparedness to go above and beyond to meet the needs of our clients.

The award recipients continually demonstrate the values of our organisation – to care, share and respect. Our winners from 2011 and 2012 are on page 2.

A special mention goes to Will Hayward who received the Lisa Watson Memorial Award for his fantastic work in the child protection space. More about that in a couple of special articles about the organisation's former Chair on pages 10-11.

ATSILS strives to provide culturally competent legal services to our clients by providing timely, essential face-to-face and telephone advice across criminal, civil and family law areas. We continue to develop and foster effective partnerships and collaborative relationships with a broad range of service providers so we can refer clients to an array of services aiming to address the diverse range of our clients' non-legal needs. Prisoner Throughcare services are also profiled in this edition on page 13. Our Throughcare Officers are situated in Cairns, Townsville (adult and juvenile), Beenleigh, Strathpine and

Ipswich (juvenile). Regional Manager and Aboriginal Barrister Martin Doyle from our Mackay Office tells us a bit about himself on pages 4-5. Board member Leon Yeatman, who is also the CEO of Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council, is profiled on page 7, while former community justice group coordinator and local Mapoon Shire Council Councillor Ricky Guivarra is profiled on pages 8-9. Finally, we see how our Thursday Island team does its work across the Torres Straits on pages 14-15.



2011 ATSILS Qld Award Winners 2012

Administration Officers

- Rose Mather - Samantha Walsh-McCormack -

Court Support/Field Officers

- Chris Congoo - Kayleen Chapman -

Legal Practitioner (Criminal Law)

- Terry Morgans -

Legal Practitioner (Civil/Family Law)

- Juergen Kaehne -

Para-Legal

- My Khuu -

Lisa Watson Memorial Award

(see page 10)

- Lyle Parker -

Regional Manager

- Sunil Dutt -

Administration Officers

- Tassie Sellars - Shaye Pigliafiori -

Court Support / Field Officers

- Jakelene McGuire - Joh-Ann Coates -

Legal Practitioner (Criminal Law)

- Lewis Shillito -

Legal Practitioner (Civil/Family Law)

- Jay (Javvab) Bates -

Specialist Services Officer

- Fiona Campbell -

Para Legal / Junior Lawyer

- Graham Gross -

Lisa Watson Memorial Award - William Hayward -

Regional Manager (see page 4)

- Martin Doyle -

ATSILS Qld has 83 legal practitioners in criminal, civil and family law based all over Queensland across our 27 offices...leading the charge on these fronts are our directors. We'd like to introduce you to...

...Andrew Hackett Director of Criminal Law

"We're ATSILS, everyone is busy, it's as simple as that, and I have a number of functions," Andrew says.

"There is a casework side of what I do. In addition to that I have over arching responsibilities with respect to the practice of Criminal Law within the organisation, so I oversee that.

"A third aspect to what I do might be called stakeholder engagement and there's also an aspect of law reform."



...Jennifer Ekanayake Director of Family Law



"Most of our family lawyers do civil, part-time and that means they're Civil Family Lawyers," Jennifer says.

"Child safety is high on our agenda including looking at the ways and means of working more with the department, discussions and legal action, legal proceedings and where other options can be considered by all parties. 37 per cent, of children in care are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and that's really too high compared to the rest of the population."

...and Maria Rinaudo Lewis Director of Civil Law, Barrister-at-Law

"The civil area really is extremely broad so it's a term that covers all law not able to be described as family or criminal law," Maria says.

"Civil can actually cover areas that one might think are otherwise criminal, but they're not because there's no crime involved.

"Hundreds and hundreds, if not thousands of pieces of legislation could possibly arise in a civil dispute."



Workshop lays groundwork for ground-breaking Inquiry



Principal Legal Officer Greg Shadbolt (pictured above with Will Hayward) said the workshop's first day was focussed on child protection, particularly the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children 'in care'.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children consist of 6.5 % of Queensland's children and young people; and yet, quite alarmingly, they make up 37.2% or 3086 of children subject to child protection orders," he said. "This unacceptable rate of over-representation brings a distinctive set of historical and modern challenges into sharp focus – challenges, which our organisation is uniquely positioned to address – in terms of geographic coverage; cultural competency; a 24-hour service delivery capability and a raft of other considerations, not the least of which are dedicated staff who actually give a damn.

"Our management, led by our CEO and supported by our Board of Directors, are also passionate about closing what is more than a "gap", but rather a gaping chasm of inequality." The following is a summary of what was covered in the workshops, and likely follow-up areas:



Day 1:

- Addressing concern re over-representation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander kids in care - potential for offering to organise a "magistrate awareness" seminar + training for Recognised Entities (a better appreciation of their role). A related issue of networking other agencies on a region by region basis – as well as cultural support.
- Feedback from staff of our draft Child Protection Case Management Standards. Standards to also include links to other position papers and relevant resources.
- Instigation of a Child Protection Working Group within the family law team.

Day 2:

- Identifying areas of common legal service demand (civil law area) – with prioritising of same - with a view to further "how to" resource kits being developed for staff.
- Drafting of regional referral agencies.
- Budgetary follow-up (eg. outlays and expert report costs – and potential Legal Aid assistance).
- QCAT – develop "Fact Sheets" for unrepresented applicants/respondents.
- Organise a video hook-up for Lexis Nexis to demonstrate on-line usage of internet resources.

Day 3:

- Identify (regional basis) experts on cultural considerations re evidence in court/affidavit.
- Updating our Family Law Case Management Standards (based upon staff feedback etc).
- Investigate the potential for utilising "Chinese Walls" within the Organisation (to facilitate dual representation of opposing parties) – and draft procedures etc.
- Investigate data base considerations re identifying potential conflicts of interest.

Mr Shadbolt said he especially wanted to acknowledge Maria Rinaudo (Director of Civil Law); Jennifer Ekanayake (Director of Family Law) and Will Hayward (Law and Justice Advocacy Development Officer), for their invaluable assistance with putting together the three-day workshop program, held in Brisbane last March. He also said the workshop was an opportunity for many of our legal practitioners working on the front lines to meet for the first time, assisting in team building as well as providing an educational and networking opportunity for everyone concerned.



PROFILE: Martin Doyle

Barrister-at-Law

Mackay Office

I am a descendent of the Iman tribe of south west Queensland through my father who was born in Woorabinda in the 1940s. My mother is also of Aboriginal descent and is of the Wulli Wulli tribe which neighbours my father's country.

I, however, was raised in Brisbane with my six older brothers and sisters as my parents moved to the city in search of better jobs.

My mother and father divorced when I was still quite young and my mother was mainly responsible for my upbringing.

She was very radical politically, and raised me to have strong beliefs particularly about Indigenous justice.

I was fortunate in that despite mum and dad being divorced I was raised with all my cousins and extended family and very grateful that I am part of a big 'mob' that is the Doyle family. I got into law because of some of the things I saw my family go through as I was growing up. My older brothers and cousins had a terrible time with the police, they were often accused of crimes they didn't commit.

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Sometimes the police even bashed them and forced them to sign dodgy confessions. One of my brothers was successful in suing the Police Service for creating false confessional statements. These days confessional evidence is something of a personal interest of mine. From the day I decided to go to university, my goal was to work for an Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander legal service and be part of the fight for Indigenous rights. But because I was only interested in rugby league and hanging out with mates in school, I only passed two subjects in Grade 12 which meant I couldn't get straight into a law degree, I had to study Arts first. But I was very good at reading and writing and as a mature-age student, I realised as long as I could read and write, the rest was just a matter of how committed and determined I

was prepared to be. Working for ATSILS, first as a field officer and now as a lawyer, is a dream come true. Most days I feel lucky and privileged to have the job that I have. I am employed as a family/civil lawyer, but I still do a fair bit of criminal law as well, mainly hearings or higher court matters. I am currently working with the local Elders and justice group to try and organise an Adult Murri Court for the Mackay/Whitsunday region, which is greatly needed. I enjoy all areas of law immensely. It doesn't matter whether you're helping someone have contact with their children or keeping someone out of jail or standing up against discrimination, everything an ATSILS lawyer does brings with it a great sense of satisfaction.



Our Organisation is committed to reducing recidivism and incarceration

rates by supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners and detainees (pre- and post- release) and their families through the delivery of intensive, high-quality case management Prisoner Throughcare Services.

Prisoner Throughcare

To achieve this goal our Organisation employs, at strategic locations, highly skilled Prisoner Throughcare Officers (mostly with a background in Social Work). To maximize efficiencies and quality outcomes these Officers focus upon strategic categories of clients (males; females; adults and juveniles) – targeted on a regional basis (largely dependent upon the geographic location of detention and correctional facilities).

The length of each client's case-managed Program will vary depending upon individual client needs. The average Program is likely to run for approximately six months in total per client (both before and after release).

Gerald Warner, the latest addition to our Prisoner Throughcare crew. Gerald

brings with him a wealth of experience in this area and we are very pleased to be able to welcome him into the team.

THROUGH-CARE BASICS

Due to limited resources and the targeted nature of the Program – only a limited number of adult prisoners or youth detainees can participate in the Program at any one time – with the focus upon repeat offenders.

Other matters are also taken into consideration – such as the attitude of the potential client to address recidivist behaviour and the likely location of their place of residence upon release (for example, will they be relocating far away such that post-release case management will not be possible).

As would be expected, it is a matter for each prisoner

or detainee who is offered a place in our Program as to whether or not they wish to participate. Further, any client can withdraw part-way through the Program if they decide to do so.

ATSILS reserves the right to withdraw a grant of casework assistance in relation to this Program for any legitimate reason (e.g. lack of resources; non-compliance by the client; the Program has been successfully concluded).

It is also recognised that the best outcomes for our clients will be based upon a holistic approach – working closely or cooperatively with other stakeholders where available and appropriate. However, our Program is separate from anything the Correctional Institution/Centre might itself be running with a prisoner/detainee.

Throughcare FAQs...

What is ATSILS' Prisoner Throughcare Program all about?

The goal of the Throughcare Program is to support prisoners and youth detainees

How will this goal be achieved?

The focus will be upon our Prisoner Throughcare Officers assisting a number of targeted clients.

Is the Program voluntary?

Yes – it is a matter for each prisoner who is offered a place in the Throughcare Program as to whether or not they want to participate.

Is the Program available to all prisoners or youth detainees?

No – due to limited resources and the targeted nature of the Programs.

How long would the Program go for if I am accepted?

The length of each client's case-managed Program will vary depending upon individual client needs.

Which Institutions/Centres have an ATSILS' Throughcare Officer assigned to them?

Borallon Correctional Centre; Brisbane Correctional Centre; Brisbane Youth Detention Centre; Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre, Cleveland Youth Detention Centre; Lotus Glen Correctional Centre; Townsville Correctional Centre; Wolston Correctional Centre.

We acknowledge with appreciation funding from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department which supports this Program.



Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council CEO Leon Yeatman is serving his second term as a member of the ATSILS Qld Board.



He and his wife Avril are parents to four children and now living on Cape York, north of Weipa, after Leon spent more than a decade as Council CEO in his home town of Yarrabah.

The former-NRL contracted player was recognised in 2010 as Queensland Rural/Remote Manager of the Year by the Australian Institute of Management Management Excellence Awards.

"I was invited to be on the ATSILS Board just before the last elections," he said. "The board has a rotational system and initially I was invited to be a non-voting member to replace Lisa Watson, who is sorely missed.

"They had me appointed on a three-year term.

"Some of my core skills include strong experience in governance, planning, policy reviews and working in a team environment.

"Technically, I could be seen as a representative of the Far North, north of Townsville and through the Wet Tropics. The idea was to have someone who has their finger on the pulse of what it's like to be up here.

"Some of the work I've done with Justice Groups and other community programs I have been responsible for as a CEO have given me some great insights.

"And because of that role there's a lot of connectivity with other Councils and towns on a Local Government level. Now being at Mapoon there's a great emphasis on having that Cape York voice at the Board level and

providing some insights to what the issues are for remote clients of ATSILS.

"They were also particularly looking for someone with executive skills and perhaps some of the strategic insight involved in more than just the legal side.

"So my presence on the Board is complementary to the other Board members.

"Having said that, ATSILS has a very good administrative team so we are always mindful it's not our role to be involved with the day-to-day, we are there more for the strategic insight and for stability.

"Overall we've had some contact over the years, with Shane and a few of the other board members, from way back.

"My wife Avril actually used to work at ATSILS back in the early 1990s, she was a legal stenographer for about four years."

ATSILS Qld Governance

Our Board comprises nine directors elected from the membership.

A specialist director is also appointed to provide additional guidance in the areas of finance and corporate governance.

Our operational management team is comprised of a Chief Executive Officer, Principal Legal Officer; and Chief Financial Officer who look to our Board of Directors for strategic guidance.

Management is further assisted by a team of regional office managers and Directors of Criminal, Civil and Family Law.



Councillor Ricky Guivarra is the Mapoon Council's Justice, Arts and Housing, none of which are surprising of working in all three areas – justice in particular. Community Justice Group for seven years...

These days he's content to sit as chair of the CJG, as well as secretary of the Mapoon Men's Group Indigenous Corporation.

"I'm semi-retired," he quips.

He said the Justice Group was started in 2003 as part of a Local Justice Initiative Program.

"There's been lots of changes since then all right," he said.

"We negotiated a localised alcohol management plan, we've interacted with other Justice Groups, we've done things like gone to the Lotus Glen Prison – we've done that every year for the last eight or nine years and that's been wonderful.

"I was the Cape York representative for a group called SWRG, which is a statewide reference and advisory group to the Department of Justice and the Attorney-General's office."

Mr Guivarra moved to Mapoon in 2002 after working in Cairns in a variety of roles.

"I ran a housing co-op for a dozen years, I was coordinator of the Youth Welfare Company in Cairns for a number of years, and I was the coordinator of the Cairns Indigenous Men's Group for a while there," he said.

"I've also been involved in lots of voluntary things, I was on the board of the legal service

in Cairns before it was ATSILS, and a lot of work around child protection."

He said he was given his first job by Uncle Joe



MY PROFILE: Micky Guivarra Mapoon

**Representative for
rising given a long history
, after coordinating the**



McGinness. "He was my mentor," he said. "He was on the board of the legal services too, but he was also the Regional Manager of Aboriginal



Hostels and I was the admin officer. "I grew up with Uncle Joe for as long as I can remember and thanks to him I've met people in my lifetime I've been very fortunate to meet - all those people who came to visit Uncle Joe, like Xavier Herbert, Charlie Perkins. I admired them and what they've done. "Back in those days if you marched down the street they'd arrest you, so we used to march with the unions on May Day for protection - I'm talking about the late 1950s and early 1960s here. "People like Micky Miller and Clarry Grogan did their best towards the struggle - we go back quite a long way with some of this voluntary work and agitating, if that's a good word for it." At the end of the day Mr Guivarra said he might describe himself as a "semi-retired agitator". "They might consider me that in the community too, because I tell you what, I'm one of the few that ask the hard questions and don't mind the implications of it," he said. "Whether I make friends or lose friends or get the departmental inquiries - I couldn't care less, you know, they can't come and kill me for it. "The worst they could probably do is bust me out of office which only means I can continue to say what I like, when I like."



Remembering our beautiful sister Lisa Irlene Watson



Lisa was born in Brisbane to Ron and Flo Watson. Along with her mum she is a Ghunghanghi woman from Yarrabah and a Kuku-Yelanji woman from the Laura/Maytown area around the Palmer River. Her father's family are from city and country NSW. Lisa's family includes her sister Michelle, daughters Hailee and Caitlin, nieces Brooke and Kyra Scott and nephew Ronnie Watson.

The Lisa Watson Memorial Award

Senior ATSILS solicitor for criminal matters, Lyle Parker, was shocked and honoured to be the first recipient of the Lisa Watson Memorial Award in 2011.

The award was presented to a staff member of the organisation who had shown commitment and dedication to clients beyond the ordinary call of duty, much as Lisa always had.

"It's amazing to be the first person to be given that award," Mr Parker said. "It means such a lot to our organisation.

"The fact that a white fellow got the award is really something, and just shows after all that no matter who you are, if you're working hard for the clients and the team that's very much appreciated.

"Lisa Watson was a very special person, a very strong Aboriginal woman who was the first person to be appointed to the Criminal Justice Commission, which later turned into the Criminal Misconduct Commission. She also worked hard as a Board member and as a Field Officer of the Legal Service, and she always had the clients' interest at heart. The Lisa Watson Award is really the highest that this Legal Service can give to anyone, and the fact that I received it was not only a shock but a tremendous privilege for me, it is such a momentous award."



After graduating Lisa spent the next few years trying different jobs in various government agencies until she was employed by the Legal Service in 1998.

"I quickly found my passion was to be Social Justice," she said. "So I left the Legal Service in 2002 to take up the inaugural position of Indigenous Complaints Officer for the Crime and Misconduct Commission. I was subsequently

elected as a Director of the ATSILS board in November 2002. Shane Duffy was appointed Chief Executive Officer in 2004 and with the Board of Directors support changed the long term focus of the service."

Lisa was still active as a Director until she passed on in 2010.

She is still very much missed by all who knew her and worked with her.

A tribute to Lisa from the CEO

"I used to call her 'Yarrabah' and she used to call me 'Kalkadoon'," ATSILS' CEO Shane Duffy recalls. "And I had to take her name out of my phone because whenever I needed a sounding board I'd go to ring her, even a long time after she passed, because she always knew what to do."

Mr Duffy said she never asked for anything. "Lisa lived and breathed the Legal Service, even at her sickest times with her chemo, she'd still turn up for the Board meetings, still chair the meetings, still keep everyone in line, still set the rules, govern the organisation," he said.

"She was always committed and passionate for her mob.

"She was like my sister, and she provided a really, really robust leadership; very, very well respected.

"She was really strong for the Palm Island community through their sorry business.

"And given that she was working at the CMC while she was a chairperson of ATSILS, the things she knew that she

always took with her – her confidentiality and professionalism – she never, ever spoke between the two and I just can't even imagine what she held inside.

"She was sometimes taken in the wrong way because of her two roles, but I always knew where her fights stood, and she still provided leadership in the organisation, not only in Queensland but across the national level as well.

"Whenever any of the Commonwealth reps come up, Lisa was always there, standing up and fighting for the troops."

"She lived a very simple life; it was all about her family and she didn't want anybody to feel sorry for her.

"She was an amazing woman."

2012 winner fuelled by child protection issues

ATSILS Qld Law and Justice Advocacy Development Officer William Hayward was the 2012 Lisa Watson Memorial Award recipient.

Mr Hayward said he was deeply honoured.

Since July last year he has been working with teams all over the state on the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry.

"Our main focus now is ensuring we give a strong closing argument which will achieve reform in the best interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

and young people," he said.

"I would say that we face an epidemic in child protection with the current rates of our representation reaching 40 per cent and the projections by 2015 reaching 60 per cent.

"We need a fundamental restructure and reform of the child protection system to better respond to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families."

He also said there had been undeniable evidence throughout the Inquiry which highlighted the need for our professionals to be granted and assisted to take on greater authority in case management, in case-work activities.

For more information on the Inquiry see page 12.



ATSILS Qld has played an key role in presenting evidence throughout the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry, which was established on 1 July 2012 to review State's child protection system.

The Hon Tim Carmody SC was appointed Commissioner and was asked to provide a written report with recommendations to the Premier by 30 April 2013.

The Commissioner's brief was to include recommendations in his report on issues including:

- any reforms to ensure the child protection system achieves the best possible outcomes to protect children and support families;
- strategies to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system; and,
- legislative reforms.

ATSILS Qld was granted leave to appear before the Commission under the terms of reference.

ATSILS has therefore represented children and young peoples interest throughout the inquiry and in particular at hearings in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville, Beenleigh, Aurukun, Mt Isa, Rockhampton and Ipswich. ATSILS also had the benefit of engaging directly with the Commission in private meetings as well as public consultation forums. The informal process implemented by the Inquiry has promoted community engagement and comprehensive meetings with key stakeholders.

Emerging trends ATSILS has actively sought to inform the Commission of include:

- Highlighting the significant and alarming rates of over-representation;
- The unique cultural legal rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the context of statutory child protection;
- Cultural competency as an essential framework to engage families, and most importantly children and young people;
- Low socio-economic and poverty status as a major influence in child neglect rates;
- Adaption or review of decision-making tools and deficit-based approaches to create a more balanced assessment process and diversion to supports;
- Family Group Meeting processes which have an overtly punitive approach and require a shift towards a more family-centred and child-focused approaches instead of reflecting statutory requirements;
- The correlation between over-representation and child protection and youth justice systems;
- Highlighting the significant role and required need for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander professionals in Government and non-government agencies; for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander agencies, and for significant law reform of the

Child Protection Act; and,

- A call for structural reform to foster and kinship care services to allow for a blend of culturally proficient practice methods, support models and standardised service.

ATSILS Qld submitted witness statements in the areas of:

- Strategic policy and program development;
- the history of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector;
- Proficient best practice in child protection agencies; and,
- A legal advocate's perspective of Queensland legal processes in child protection.

In addition, ATSILS will make a final inquiry submission outlining boarder legislative reforms, and summarising key solution-focused recommendations.

Inquiry community legal education sessions were held in November at the Independent Murri School based in Brisbane's south. The session included an individual letter writing exercise, allowing children to express what they see as important in a future child protection system.

ATSILS hopes to hand up the correspondence as an exhibit on behalf of Murri school children and young people.

Compiled by William Hayward, , ATSILS Qld Law and Justice Advocacy Development Officer



Award-winning work for Kelly

With thanks to the Queensland Law Society and the Queensland Supreme Court Library for the bio material and pic below.

Twenty years of service working for ATSILS Qld has earned Brisbane solicitor Kelly Roggenkamp the 2012 Queensland Law Society Agnes McWhinney Award.

The award, named for Australia's first female solicitor, recognises outstanding professional or community contribution by a woman lawyer and the significant involvement of women in the legal profession and the community.

Queensland Law Society (QLS) Deputy President Annette Bradfield said there were a number of outstanding entries for the award this year, but Ms Roggenkamp was chosen for her professional and community leadership, passion for community welfare, significant contribution to improving access to justice and building the perception of the legal profession.

"Her longevity in such a unique and challenging work environment coupled with her ability to maintain the highest of professional standards is testament to her professionalism and skill as a practitioner," Ms Bradfield said.

QLS said it was proud to announce Kelly as the 2012 winner.

"Kelly oversees all adult criminal superior court files within ATSILS' Brisbane Office – a demanding role in which her leadership and passion for community welfare shines," QLS said.

"We congratulate Kelly on her well-deserved win and are proud to have her as a member of Queensland's legal community."

Agnes McWhinney wanted to be a doctor after she graduated from Townsville Grammar School. However the nearest medical school was in Sydney and was very expensive. Her brother, Joseph, worked as a solicitor at Ryan Wilson & Grose in Townsville and watching him work, Agnes developed an interest in law. She was, "a remarkable and strong-minded young woman with confidence in her own ability, determined to succeed".

In 1910, Ryan Wilson & Grose accepted Agnes as an articled clerk, a revolutionary step. At that time the only qualified women in law in Australia were Greta Flos Grieg, who had been admitted to practise in Victoria in 1905, and Eda Evans who had graduated from the University of Sydney in 1902 but was not permitted to practise until 1921.

On 7 December 1915, Agnes McWhinney was admitted to practise as a solicitor, the first woman in Queensland to achieve this distinction.

It is possible that Agnes was the second woman to practise law in Australia, although this is not certain due to a lack of records.

Agnes continued to practise as a solicitor with the firm until 1919 when she decided to marry. Agnes was married in March 1920 and, as was the custom of the time, she gave up her work. She and her husband ran a farm near Sandgate for a number of years. Agnes died on 4 August 1985.



Above: Agnes McWhinney's grandson Ross Landsberg of Minter Ellison Lawyers, Kelly Roggenkamp & QLS president Ms Annette Bradfield (Pic courtesy QLS)

ATSILS Director of Criminal Law Andrew Hackett said it was obvious Kel was highly regarded by her peers, "which won't be a surprise to any of us".

"Agnes McWhinney was a true pioneer and the extent of Kel's achievement can be seen in context from the story below," Mr Hackett said.

"Kel always set the bar very high so I know you will all join with me in expressing our pride at Kel's achievement and congratulating her for this sterling achievement.

"Well done, Kel."



OFFICE PROFILE: Thursday Island



Our Torres Strait regional office on Thursday Island is managed by C'Zarke Maza, a descendant of the Meriam people of Murray Island and Yidinji people from the coast of Cairns.

He is also the proud son of activist, actor, writer and director Bob Maza, who was born on Palm Island.

C'Zarke was admitted as a solicitor and barrister in 2002 and now has three University degrees: a Bachelor of Indigenous Studies (Major in Law); Bachelor of Laws; and a Master of Laws. He said he loves working on TI.

"I think it's a bit of a personal touch for me because I have ancestry up here, my father's from Murray Island," he said. "It's a busy little office, we have our lawyers Andrew Fleming and Cassandra Fleming, two field officers, Sonia Townson and Margaret Musu, and our admin officer Katherine Gela.

"Ultimately, we are responsible for providing legal services to the two main courts in Thursday Island and Bamaga, which also have periodic District Court sittings. We also have the outer island circuit, which includes the Western Islands (Boigu, Saibai Mabuiag and Badu), Central Islands (Iama, Masig, Poruma and Warraber) & the Eastern Islands (Mer and Erub).

"Access to the outer island circuits is largely affected by weather and there



Pictured Above:

C'Zarke Maza;

Left: Margaret

Musu; Below Left:

Sonia Townson;

Below: Mer

Island Court;

Next Page:

Top: Warraber

Island Court;

Far Right:

Thursday Island;

Below: Warraber
Island.

Pics courtesy

C'Zarke Maza &
team!





has been the rare occasion when I can recall our pilot returning to Horn Island when the weather became a bit hairy.

"I understand that the court's operating on the outer island circuit was originally aimed at reducing the costs and dangers experienced by defendants from remote islands travelling either by air or in open dinghies to the courthouse on Thursday Island.

"There are no actual courthouses on any of the outer islands, so we often use their community halls ... with ocean views that can often be quite distracting during court proceedings."



ATSILS Qld's Role

Our organisation is at the forefront of innovative, professional and culturally competent legal services for our people. We have a deep respect for cultural protocols, and an inherent understanding and appreciation of the psychological and sociological problems and challenges that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and work efficiently within the justice system advocating the legal rights of our clients.

Our role is to:

- Ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients and their families receive high quality legal assistance, advice and representation if they come into contact with the justice system;
- Assist and inform Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, through community legal education programs, to enhance their understanding of the justice system;
- Influence positive change within the justice system to reflect a better understanding and appreciation of the culturally specific and diverse challenges and circumstances that impact upon Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities;
- Provide quality evidenced-based research, advice and direction to rectify policies and practices that impact adversely and disproportionately on the legal rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people under Australian law;
- Maintain a proactive focus and monitoring role to ensure accountability in the implementation of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody recommendations; and
- Ensure the ongoing development and continuous improvement of the LAPR Program and its outcomes.

ATSILS works together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, key government and non-government stakeholders to manage the delivery of services in a professional, culturally competent and community sensitive manner. Our criminal, civil and family law services are delivered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people throughout Queensland. We also have state-wide jurisdiction in the following areas:

- Monitoring Indigenous Australian Deaths in Custody;
- Community Legal Education;
- Law Reform; and
- Prisoner Throughcare services - the case management (pre- and post-release) of selected prisoners with the goal of addressing recidivism.



This ATSILS Qld Newsletter was written, produced, photographed and edited, by Christine Howes except where otherwise stated.

Our Vision

To lead in the delivery of innovative, professional and culturally competent legal services.

Our Mission

ATSILS fosters productive community and stakeholder relationships and partnerships to deliver quality legal assistance, advice and representation, and advocate law reform and policy development to rectify legal policies that impact adversely and disproportionately on the legal rights of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people.

Our Values

The traditional values of Care, Share and Respect form the foundation for our organisation and underpin our commitment. At ATSILS:

- We **Care** for the human and legal rights, safety and psychological well-being of our clients, their families and communities.
- We **Share** a common understanding of our clients' challenges and needs and diligently strive to deliver the highest quality of legal services.
- We **Respect** the cultural diversity, values and beliefs of our clients and aim to sustain the delivery of confidential, innovative, professional and culturally competent legal services.

Strategic Priority Areas: (2011-2014)

ATSILS will contribute to the achievement of outcomes across six strategic goals:

- Cultural Leadership and Governance
- Quality Legal Services
- Dedicated, Highly Skilled & Professional Staff
- Community Legal Education and Advocacy, Law Reform and Policy Development
- Productive Community and Stakeholder Relationships and Partnerships
- Quality Promotions, Marketing and Media

Key Areas of Service Delivery

- Indigenous Legal Assistance
- Law Reform and Policy Development
- Throughcare Services
- Deaths in Custody monitoring
- 24-hour assistance at police stations
- Community Legal Education