




**Community
Legal Centres
Queensland**

Disaster Resilience & Capacity Building Project

Insights, lessons, next steps

CLCQ 2024 State Conference

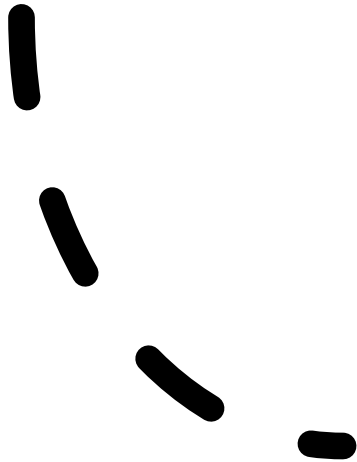
22 May 2024



Community Legal Centres Queensland pay our deepest respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the land in Australia, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of First Nations peoples and commit to fostering a culture of learning and working together in the spirit of reconciliation and access to justice.



What were our project aims and objectives?

Support the knowledge and capability of CLC lawyers, staff, volunteers and organisations to deliver targeted and effective place-based legal support across all phases of the disaster cycle.

Project aims:

- Build a Community of Practice for Queensland CLCs to effectively respond to the legal needs of communities impacted by disasters.
- Support CLCs to strengthen organisational processes, practices and internal resilience to be better prepared for disasters.
- Build resilience through preventative legal work to mitigate harm to people and communities to help reduce the burden on government-led responses.

Guiding principles



First Nations expertise must be at the heart of our response to the climate crisis.

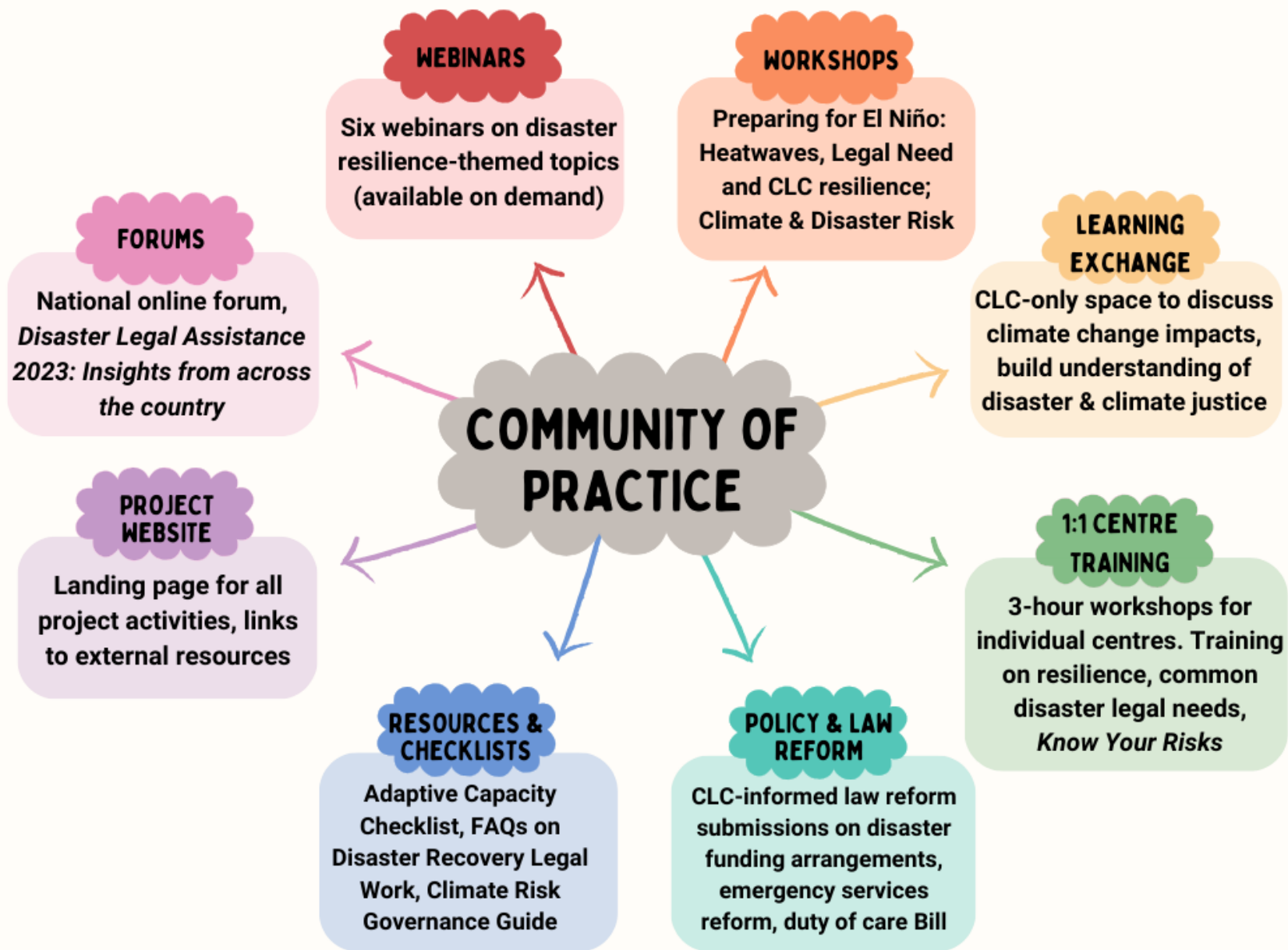


Climate change exacerbates inequality and injustice across our social, legal, economic, and political systems.



The best assurance against harm from climate change is deep and sustained greenhouse gas emissions reduction.







CLCs and disaster management sector

- **Every** local council has a disaster management/recovery/resilience team.
- *It is their job to engage with the community.* Make it your business to get to know them.
- CLC involvement on human & social recovery groups = a lens on justice, human rights in disasters.
- Best time for networking? Autumn, Winter

Community legal sector	Disaster management sector
Central Queensland CLC	Rockhampton Regional Council
Cairns CLC	Australian Red Cross Emergency Services
Mackay Regional CLC	Mackay Regional Council
TASC Ipswich	Ipswich City Council
TASC Toowoomba	Toowoomba Regional Council
Suncoast CLC	Sunshine Coast Council



Project highlights

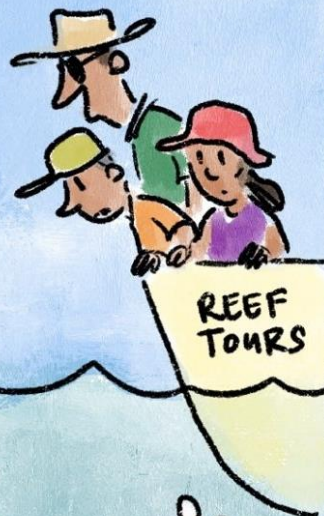
- ✓ Individual centre 1:1 training
- ✓ Workshops and forums
- ✓ Stakeholder engagement – disaster management, community sector
- ✓ Pro bono partnerships and support

Reflections, lessons learned

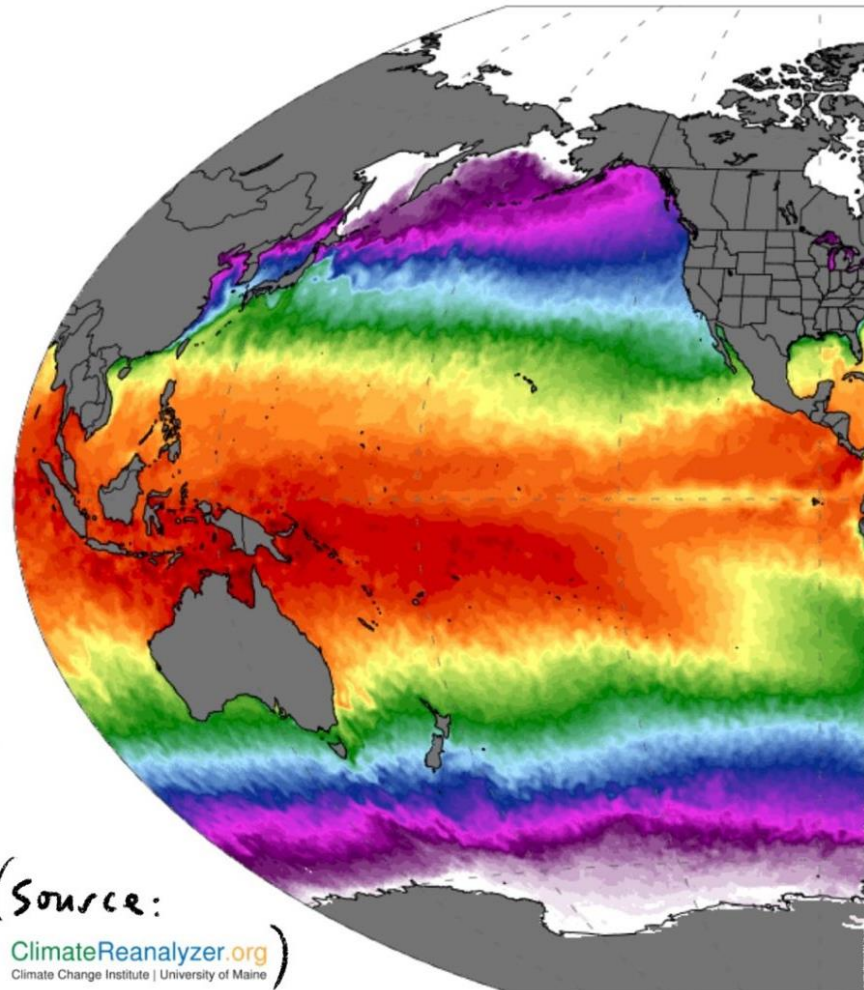
- 📢 Big appetite nationally for this work
- ⌚ Busy CLC workloads = targeted content and participation most useful
- 🔥 Disasters = effective entry point for climate justice consciousness
- 🎓 Best teachable moments are when disasters strike, or BAU relevance
- 💚 Explore working directly with First Nations centres/staff
- ⚖️ Legal issues not well understood by disaster management sector
- 😬 More questions than answers about legal service coordination



Where has all
the colour gone?



NOAA OISST V2.1 Sea Surface Temperature (°C)
Sat, Mar 09, 2024 | preliminary



(Source:
[ClimateReanalyzer.org](https://climate.reanalyzer.org)
Climate Change Institute | University of Maine)



WIKCOX

... where has all the funding gone?

Good news, there is more \$ than ever before to support community disaster preparedness, recovery

- Queensland Reconstruction Authority (Qld)
- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Disaster Ready Fund (Cth)
- Funding for adaptation? Philanthropic avenues?

Interstate inspiration...

- “ARC Justice (central and northern Victoria) \$1m grant to integrate climate justice into their offerings, addressing the challenges of adaptability and affordability exacerbated by climate change and reinforced by the 2022 Victorian flood disaster.” Funded under the *Victorian Legal Services Board + Commissioner Stronger Foundations Grants*
- “New functions and capacity to further our understanding of the impact of the climate crisis on access to justice and allow us to invest in capability building.”
– Damian Stock CEO

2023-24 Qld disaster activations

If your CLC, and the community you serve, has not already been impacted - it is only a matter of time.

Are you ready?
What do you need from your peak body?

<https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/disaster-funding-activations/activations> (Website snip, accessed 16 May 2024)

2023-2024



Tropical Cyclone Kirrily, Associated Rainfall and Flooding, 25 January - 26 February 2024
1.6 MB



North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 12 - 22 January 2024
1.28 MB



South West Queensland Flooding, 6 - 23 January 2024
1.31 MB



South Queensland Severe Storms and Rainfall, 24 December 2023 - 3 January 2024
1.42 MB



Brisbane and Ipswich Severe Storms, 15 - 16 December 2023
1.26 MB



Tropical Cyclone Jasper, Associated Rainfall and Flooding, 13 - 28 December 2023
2.33 MB



Queensland Low Pressure Trough, 20 November - 1 December 2023
1.38 MB



The Pines and Condamine Farms Bushfire, 19 November - 1 December 2023
1.31 MB



Mount Isa Bushfire, 23 October - 1 November 2023
1.2 MB



Northern Queensland Bushfires, 18 October - 8 December 2023
1.4 MB



Nome and Julago Bushfire, 16 - 24 September 2023
1.28 MB



Southern Queensland Bushfires, 8 September - 7 November 2023
1.6 MB

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 Mentimeter

Imagine it is 2026. We've had 2 years to build sector capability on disaster/climate justice. What do you see?

All responses to your question
will be shown here

Each response can be up to
200 characters long

Turn on voting in Interactivity to
let participants vote for their
favorites



Community Legal Centres Queensland



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Thank you

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