



# THE WORD ON THE STREET

## RENOVATIONS

Issue 10

Autumn/Winter 2009

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The Attorney General the Hon Robert McClelland officiating at the opening of the renovations of he Sussex Street offices.

We were honoured to have the Attorney General the Honourable Robert McClelland open our newly renovated offices on Wed 22 April. In his response to the welcome by our Chairperson Jane Timmermanis, Mr McClelland that the service is not just about bricks and mortar or salaries, its about helping the less well off people in society. We do this with the support of government but it is nowhere near the level it should be. We run our work on the oil of a smelly rag.

Sussex Street has been going through renovations since November 2008, now that might only be 6 months but when you have to live and work through the experience then it seems like it has been forever.

The aim of the renovations is to provide additional office space for caseworkers, if fact we will get two

new offices. The Assistant Manager and the staff room have been moved into the newly renovated administration area freeing up two offices for casework.

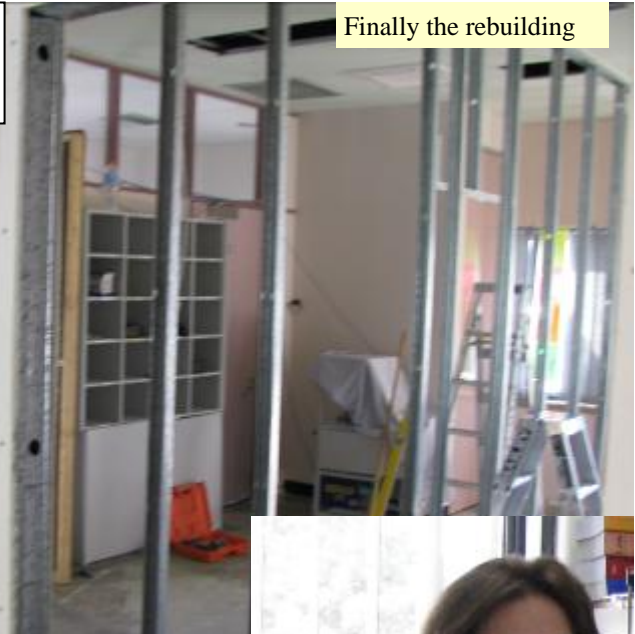
The reception and admin areas were large and underutilised. The new configuration will see a much reduced reception area and a more compact administration, however this will result in 3 offices a kitchen and meeting area.

The existing offices have been painted and had new carpet and blinds. Reception has been bought into the 20th century with feature walls where our much valued Aboriginal art has taken pride of place in the reception area which reflects the colours of the artwork.

# From this.....



The admin area gutted and waiting for the renovations

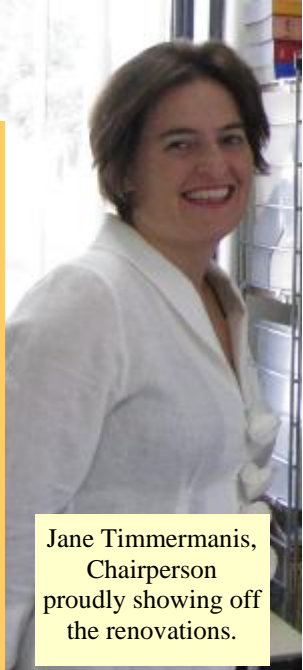


Finally the rebuilding



The courtyard during renovations.

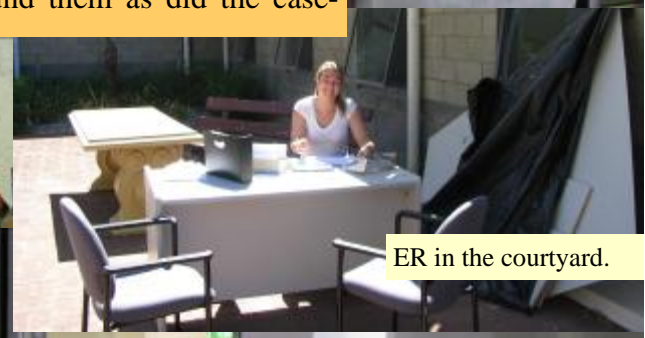
These photos show some of what clients and staff have put up with during the renovations, congratulations to all who have survived with a sense of humour and a smile still intact. As can be seen we had a real building site for a long time with mess everywhere, however the builders and our staff worked around each other with good humour and patience. The Admin staff were crowded into a small office with all sorts of miscellaneous items crowded all around them as did the case-



Jane Timmermanis, Chairperson proudly showing off the renovations.



Steen Johansen amid the boxes.



ER in the courtyard.



Ella the Receptionist working under trying conditions.



Tim Hammond, secretary Rebecca Tedder David Pugh solicitors Allison Currie Legal Aid WA and Denise Beer Assistant Manager



Jane Gilmour, Tracey Glass Dept of Child Protection and Marion Leach Gosnells Community Legal Centre enjoy the opportunity to network

workers who had boxes of files in their offices. In fact ER was run from the courtyard for a couple of weeks.

The final result we kept telling ourselves would be worth it. Well finally we can say it is all over and the trials and tribulations fade into insignificance as we look around and see the final result with the new front reception and all offices now feeling clean, bright and easy to work in.

Congratulations to everyone for keeping their cool and to the Board for finally bringing the renovations to fruition.

Board, Staff members and guests including many of our funding bodies and CLC colleagues enjoy the celebrations.



Volunteer Emily Campbell with Board members GiGi Visscher and Pam Kaye and Helen Turner General Manager.



Karen Merrin, Northern Suburbs CLC and Penny Robbins Women's Law Centre of WA (ex Staff member).

..... to this

## Editors Bits

### Hello

**Pauline German** commenced working as a Restricted Practitioner in the Generalist program in March. We will profile Pauline in our next edition. In the meantime Pauline is quickly getting her head around work in a community legal centre working on family and civil law advices and casework and has been involved with the Midland outreach service. Welcome to Sussex Street Pauline

### And Goodbye

**Rebecca Tedder** came to us as a second-ee for 12 months from Freehills legal firm and stayed on as an employee. She has now decided to take up a position with the Industrial Relations Manager with the National Electrical and Communications Association. Rebecca was most recently employed in the Disability Discrimination Unit where she covered the position whilst Cheryl Collier was on maternity leave.

We wish Rebecca all the best as she takes the next step in her career.

### Contact Details

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## Family Law Information Sessions

Sussex Street commenced Family Law Information Sessions in March. These sessions are approved by the Family Court. The attendees will receive a certificate approved by the Family Court for attending the session.

Sessions are held in the mornings and evening, upcoming dates are

8 July	Children	10.00 - 11.00 am
29 July	Children	6.00 - 7.00 pm
	Property	7.00 - 8.00 pm
12 Aug	Children	10.00 - 11.00 am
26 Aug	Children	6.00 - 7.00 pm
	Property	7.00 - 8.00 pm
16 Sept	Children	10.00 - 11.00 am
30 Sept	Children	6.00 - 7.00 pm
	Property	7.00 - 8.00 am
14 Oct	Children	10.00-11.00am
28 Oct	Children	6.00 - 7.00pm
	Property	7.00 - 8.00pm

Interested people can contact the office on 6253 9500 to make a booking.

## NEW GENERAL MANAGER AND PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR



Helen Turner comes to Sussex Street bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience in family and criminal law. Helen has over 19 years experience as a solicitor working in both the community sector and private practice across the width and breadth of Australia.

If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter directly by email or post contact Denise Beer see above for details.