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Dean Logan's Blog: Tobin-Tyler Explains Medical-Legal Partnerships (MLPs), from Boston to Melbourne

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Liz Tobin Tyler recently shared her expertise about Medical-Legal Partnerships (MLPs) at a national conference at Northeastern Law School and in a week-long visit to Australia. On November 2nd, she spoke on a panel entitled, “Health and the Human Rights Framework in Practice” at the Institute on Human Rights and the Social Determinants of Health sponsored by Northeastern’s program on Human Rights and the Global Economy. The Institute featured health and human rights scholars and practitioners from across the country.

Liz then traveled to Australia where she met with leaders from legal services programs, law firms, law schools, health care institutions, medical schools, and funders and policymakers interested in adopting the Medical-Legal Partnerships. She was invited by Peter Noble of Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre, who visited the U.S. last spring to study MLPs, which are now in 37 states at 264 health care institutions, 104 legal aid agencies, 44 law schools and 38 medical schools (including RWU). His blog and final report, Advocacy Health Alliances: Better Health through Medical-Legal Partnership (http://advocacyhealth.net.au/) highlights the RWU Medical-Legal Partnership at Hasbro Children’s Hospital, where our students serve each semester.

Liz’s trip was sponsored by the law firm of Clayton Utz, which has invested in the promotion of the MLP model in Australia. Liz and Dr. Ed Paul, Director of Medical Education at Yuma Regional Medical Center in Arizona started their trip in Sydney, where they spoke at Legal Aid NSW, alongside Professor Pascoe Pleasence, from the University College London. They then flew to Melbourne where they met with administrators, faculty, and staff from multiple legal and health care sites and universities, including Banyule Community Health Centre in West Heidelberg, just outside of Melbourne.

At the end of the week, Liz and Dr. Paul were keynote speakers at the Advocacy Health Alliances Symposium in Melbourne, which included presentations at the major international law firm Baker and McKenzie and at a full day conference of 100 leaders interested in developing the MLP model in Australia.
With Dr. Ed Paul, speaking at Banyule Community Health Center in West Heidelberg

With Dr. Ed Paul and staff from Banyule Community Health Centre, West Heidelberg Legal Services, and the LaTrobe University Law School Clinic
Talking with La Trobe law students and Dan Nicholson from Victoria Legal Aid

With Dr. Ed Paul (left) and Peter Noble, lawyer at Lodden Community Legal Centre in Bendigo.

Peter has been at the forefront of the movement to develop MLP in Australia
Keynote speakers at the Advocacy Health Alliances Symposium in Melbourne (Left to right: Professor Mary Anne Noone, La Trobe University Law School, Dr. Ed Paul, Liz, Christine Coumarelos, Principal Researcher, Law and Justice Foundation, and Professor Pascoe Pleasence, University College London)