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# JCU set to widen free law service

**CHARLIE PEEL**

AFTER 20 years of its final-year law students providing free legal advice to the Townsville community, James Cook University is set to expand its pro bono program.

JCU head of law Mandy Shircore said the current crop of students had been receiving guidance from lecturers and solicitors to prepare them to offer free advice to clients in conjunction with the Townsville Community Legal Service.

The clinics will cover family law, social security and employment law and general law, and are held in the JCU city campus and at the TCLS office.

Since its inception in 1995, JCU students have provided free legal advice for more than 5000 people who couldn't afford it otherwise.

The clinic programs will extend to other legal services including the North Queensland Women's Legal Service, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Service NQ, and the Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House.

Students Adam Moschella and Sharon Sangha said the practical experience would be beneficial to the budding lawyers and their clients.

North Queensland residents seeking free legal advice can contact TCLS on 4721 5511.