



For immediate release
26 May 2016

Community lawyers gather to discuss lack of legal help for vulnerable Queenslanders

The lack of legal representation for vulnerable Queenslanders will be the focus of discussion at the Community Legal Centres Queensland Conference taking place next week at the Mon Komo Hotel, Redcliffe.

The Community Legal Centres Queensland conference on 30 to 31 May gives delegates the opportunity to develop and strengthen their skill and network with people in the field. With a conference dinner and two packed days of training and information sharing, the conference will be a great event for people working to promote access to justice in Queensland.

James Farrell, Director of Community Legal Centres Queensland, 'The conference gives us a chance to touch base with colleagues and find out about the great work everyone has done over the past year. We can exchange ideas and discuss issues and ways to progress with community work.'

'While we recognise the vital services provided by community legal centres, this conference is overshadowed by federal funding cuts that will decimate our services from July 2017. We call on all major parties to commit to reversing these cuts, and to provide an immediate increase in funds, so people can get legal help when they're in crisis,' said Mr Farrell.

Mr Farrell went on to say, 'It is important that work undertaken by community legal centre staff is recognised by the wider community. The people that community legal centres assist are some of the most vulnerable within our society. The conference will highlight the continuing and desperate need for greater funding for community legal centres so that we can continue to help these people.'

Other speakers at the Community Legal Centres Qld conference include Jessica Lisec, Principal Project Officer of the Department of Justice, Attorney-General, Yvette D'Ath MP; Dr Tessa Boyd-Cain, CEO of the National Centre for Health Justice Partnerships; Mara Basanovic from Volunteering Queensland; Sherele Moody, Journalist with ARM Newsdesk and Tony Keim, Journalist with the Queensland Law Society Pro Bono directors and partners from law firms such as DLA Piper, Colin Biggers & Paisley and Clayton Utz; as well as staff from community legal centres showcasing their work.

Ends

NOTES:

Community Legal Centres Queensland Inc (formerly QAILS) is the state-wide peak body representing community legal centres in Queensland. Queensland community legal centres have 40 years of service delivery experience providing free information, advice and referral, casework and representation to the community. www.communitylegalqld.org.au

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