



Media
Release

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Labor commits \$300,000 legal help for the Moreton Bay area

People in the Moreton Bay area needing access to free legal advice and assistance, particularly with regard to family and domestic violence will benefit from yesterday's ALP commitment to provide additional funding for the Pine Rivers Community Legal Service.

In Strathpine yesterday, Linda Lavarch, ALP Candidate for Dickson committed \$300,000 to fund the Pine Rivers Community Legal Service over the next three years.

"This service has assisted 4,800 people over the last eleven months with legal advice and information, and there is a growing need for families who are struggling to make ends meet to access legal advice," said Louise Skidmore, Principal Solicitor, Pine Rivers Community Legal Service.

"We cannot meet the needs of our community to access legal advice without continued and increased funding. Already we have a waiting list of over a month for an appointment and our free 'walk in' legal advice service is at capacity. The increased funding will help us to continue to provide professional and supportive advice to people in our community who would not otherwise have been able to access it," Ms Skidmore went on to say.

James Farrell, Director of Community Legal Centres Queensland, echoed Ms Skidmore's comments. "This commitment to the Pine Rivers Community Legal Centre is part of the ALP's larger commitment to providing legal help for people in Queensland," said Mr Farrell. "Demand for these services has doubled in the last year across Queensland, and our services are struggling to meet the community's need."

"There is however still tremendous uncertainty around funding for these important services, with a funding cut of 30% scheduled for next year, and commitments from Labor and the Coalition focussed on legal help for people affected by domestic and family violence," said Mr Farrell. "Community legal centres, and the communities that rely on our services, need certainty, to ensure that services will continue to be delivered."

"These vital services shouldn't be a political football – we need all of our political leaders to commit to supporting to the hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders who have a legal problem each year," said Mr Farrell. "While this is an important announcement, we call on all of our political leaders to work with us to ensure access to justice for all Queenslanders."

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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