

# Suncoast Legal Service reaches new heights

A LEGAL service providing free advice to disadvantaged and marginalised members of the Sunshine Coast community is celebrating after data shows it exceeded its service targets in the 2015-16 financial year.

The targets are established under the organisation's funding agreement with Legal Aid Queensland.

Highlights of its end-of-financial-year report to LAQ include:

- 3076 personalised legal advices were delivered to

clients (target of 2700) – 113%;

- 3527 personal referrals were also given: that is, a client is seen and referred to another community/support organisation or legal professional (target of 1600) – 220%;

- An additional 2160 people received information and/or referral support over the phone (target of 2100) – 102%;

- 143 cases were progressed and closed (target of 90) – 158%.

- Community Legal

Education sessions reached a total audience of 975 attendees at 30 sessions, thanks to the support of local council library services and other community organisations. This target of 26 sessions was exceeded by 121%.

While the service's capacity for casework is relatively limited, exceptions are typically made for clients who have substantial or multiple legal problems and a low capability to resolve these problems effectively.

## Results show need for free legal service

THE Suncoast Community Legal Service has substantially exceeded its service targets for the 2015/16 financial year, underlining the significant and rising demand for the provision of quality free legal advice to disadvantaged and marginalised members of the Sunshine Coast community.

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Service's funding agreement with Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ). Highlights of its end of financial year report to LAQ include:

■ 3076 personalised legal advices were delivered to clients (target of 2700) – 113%.

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■ 143 cases were progressed and closed (target of 90) – 158%.

While the Service's capacity for casework is relatively limited, exceptions are typically made for clients who have substantial or multiple legal problems

and a low capability to resolve these problems effectively.

■ 30 Community Legal Education sessions were conducted, reaching a total audience of 975 attendees thanks to the support of council library services and other community organisations – 121%.

The service has also been recognised as the Sunshine Coast's Community Organisation of the Year.