



For immediate release  
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## **Diary Alert**

### **Media, MPs and lawyers to discuss lack of legal assistance**

Members of Parliament, their staff and community lawyers are meeting in Parliament on Tuesday 11 October to find a solution for Queenslanders with a legal problem who can't get help. Media staff are invited to attend the meeting to participate in the discussions.

The meeting is taking place from 8.00am to 9.30am at the Parliamentary Annex of Queensland Parliament House and will see Queensland State MPs meeting with lawyers and social workers to overcome the barriers faced by vulnerable people with legal problems, trying to navigate complex and inaccessible systems and institutions.

The meeting will see Mark Furner MP (Member for Ferny Grove) and Michael Crandon MP (Member for Coomera) comment on the work of community legal centres. Anne Lewis, Director of the North Queensland Women's Legal Service; and Bill Mitchell, Principal Solicitor, Townsville Community Legal Service will be available to talk about the challenges of providing legal help in regional Queensland.

James Farrell, Director of Community Legal Centres Queensland commented, "This meeting is an opportunity to discuss with decision makers the ways that the Queensland government can work with community legal centre to ensure that people are able to get access to legal help, when they need it.

Mr Farrell went onto say, 'Fifty per cent of Queenslanders will experience a legal problem this year and we can only see three out of five people who ask us for help. Queensland's community legal centres turn away more clients than any other state, and tens of thousands of people are missing out on the help they need. If you are a refugee, a woman leaving a violent relationship, an employee who has been unfairly dismissed or a consumer who's entered into a dodgy contract there is little chance that you will be able to get an appointment with one of our lawyers.'

The event is being organised by Community Legal Centres Queensland, the state-wide peak body representing community legal centres in Queensland and is sponsored by Clayton Utz Law firm.

**Ends**

**Media interested in attending this event should contact:**

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