

broadcast clip

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| Station : | ABC Tropical North | Program : | Breakfast |
| Location : | Mackay | Producer : | Mr Meecham Philpott |
| Aired On : | 20/01/2017 7:15:15 AM | Duration : | 8 mins 15 secs |
| Compere : | Meecham Philpott | Summary ID : | X00069051221 |
| Demographics : | Male 16+ 3000 | Female 16+ 2600 | |
| Interviewees : | James Farrell, Director, Community Legal Centres Queensland | | |
| Interviewees : | Melissa Maddison, ABC | | |

Philpott is joined by Melissa Maddison. Maddison says community legal centres around Qld has released information yesterday regarding the number of requests for help on domestic violence cases they've had over the past five years. She notes there's been a 608% increase for ongoing support representation and case works from 2011 and adds there's also been a significant number of people they weren't able to help as they had to turn away nearly 55,000 last financial year. She plays her interview with James Farrell, the director of Community Legal Centres Queensland, who says they're not surprised that there's been a significant increase in the number of people seeking help with family violence and expects more people will reach out for help. He suggests it reflects that more people understand that support services exist but notes it also shows an alarming rate of domestic violence in the community. He further says that the rise in case works show that more people require more intensive support. He mentions the centres are currently underfunded and that they turned away half of the people who reached out for help due to lack of resources. He also says they expect a 30% cut in federal funding from July and notes the Federal Government has committed to it. He notes the funding cuts will further reduce the number of people they can help. He explains what happens to people who can't get help from a community legal centre. He says it's vital for DV victims to get the support services they need in a responsive and holistic way to improve their safety. He further says lawyers already donate more than 100,000 hours of their time to the centres. He also explains the purpose of legal information to the victims. He notes they expect to see similar increases in the number of case work over the coming years. Maddison says the Federal Attorney General has said that they've increased funding for legal aid, CLCs and Indigenous legal assistance between 2015 to 2020 and for frontline legal assistance for victims of family violence and women victims of DV. She says the office has provided \$63,000 to the Mackay Regional CLC in the 2014-2015 financial year while \$65,000 was given in the next financial year.