

|                       |   |                      |                 |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Station :</b>      | ABC Gold Coast  | <b>Program :</b>     | Drive           |
| <b>Location :</b>     | Gold Coast  | <b>Producer :</b>    |                 |
| <b>Aired On :</b>     | 6/03/2017 5:20:48 PM  | <b>Duration :</b>    | 12 mins 28 secs |
| <b>Compere :</b>      | Matt Webber   | <b>Summary ID :</b>  | X00069594852    |
| <b>Demographics :</b> | Male 16+      2600  | Female 16+      2000 |                 |
| <b>Interviewees :</b> | James Farrell, Director, Community Legal Centres Queensland |                      |                 |

Interview with James Farrell, Director, Community Legal Centres Queensland. Webber asks Farrell about the new legislation introduced to Parliament last week. Farrell says that these new measures are implied to those people who got debts but lacks the capacity to pay for said debts for a variety of reasons. Farrell points out that 'work for the debt' is a form of mutual obligation which also recognises the disadvantage of a particular group of communities, specifically towards their ability to pay their debts. Webber asks Farrell about the proposal that they have made, along with 14 other organisations. Farrell says that the development of the proposal is 'positive'. Farrell says that they have been investigating certain circumstances where debtors are having difficulty in dealing with, such as language barriers and geography, among others. Webber asks Farrell about the people eligible to be a hardship debtor. Farrell says that these include people who were involved in domestic violence, homeless people, mentally-ill individuals, substance victims, people with financial difficulties, among others. Farrell says that there are some clarifications to be made so that the Government and the community may have a clear understanding about their eligibility to the system. Webber asks Farrell about their position regarding the administrative and penalty charges incurred. Farrell says that there a lot of measures to ensure that the people who are suffering outside the community are well-monitored. Webber provides an example to Farrell about a situation where a young man is living inside his car. Farrell says that the police must ensure that the person, who is under that certain or similar circumstance, must be given enough support instead of being given fines. Farrell encourages people to call local homelessness services in order to work out with him. Farrell says that additional help, such as medical and legal services, would be highly appreciated. Webber asks Farrell about the proper services needed for an individual to call to regarding that situation. Farrell says that they don't expect which services is right for each person. Farrell says that the Queensland Police is providing a service called the Support Link Program, which is a system that people can allow to access help as early as they can. Webber commends Ross Lee's job in looking after the Robina Community Centre. Webber asks Farrell about the vulnerability of the community legal centres in Queensland. Farrell says that it is 'rarely rocky' throughout the 33 legal centres across Queensland, with two of them found at the Gold Coast. Farrell says that Lee did a good job at Robina. Farrell says that there are about 120k people with legal problems that has been turned away due to the lack of resources needed to meet their needs. Farrell says that the Federal Government is cutting out the funding by 30% from last year across Australia, equivalent to a \$2m cut in Queensland yearly. Farrell says that there are some uncertainty that something is frightening their services. Webber quotes Lee's findings from the Robina Community Legal Centre that about 40% of incoming clients, in any shape or form, are seeking advice about domestic violence-related matters. Webber asks Farrell about a specific area of concern in terms of service and the attention given to clients. Farrell says that the lack of attention of problem and the quality of the work of how to combat the problem is an enigma for them, especially in the Gold Coast. Farrell says that the legal centres in Southport have an increase of 14x the number of people reaching out for legal help in the area of domestic values in three years. Webber asks Farrell about the Government's justification. Farrell says that the reasons are unclear. Webber mentions that a lot of elderly people have been asking for legal advice as well, primarily those who are victims of elder abuse. Farrell says that there is a 20% increase of people over 65yo reaching out to community legal centres, many of which are elder abuse-related issues. Farrell says that the Queensland Parliament did inquire into financial security for the elderly people of