

NEWS

Free legal advice centre flood with inquiries after cyclone



Campbell Gellie | 18th Apr 2017 6:00 AM



Principal solicitor Jessica Brake from Mackay Regional Community Legal Centre.

Tony Martin

MACKAY Regional Community Legal Centre already has a five-week waiting list and after Cyclone Debbie it has been inundated with requests for more advice.

The free legal centre offers more than 850 legal advices each year and following the cyclone principal solicitor Jessica Brake has noticed an increase in tenancy requests.

She said this was due to people not knowing their rights with owner repairing the property, suspicions over asbestos in the building and cleaning up the yard.

It's a valuable service for the Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac regions with the centre's clients usually not owning enough money to pay for a solicitor's initial advice fee.

"If they can afford it then we tell them to go to another solicitor," Ms Brake said.

And there will be a little bit more money coming into the centre next year too, with its annual budget increasing from \$313,000 to \$323,000 from July 1.

Ms Brake said the most common things people seek advice on is: family law, domestic violence, residential and tenancy law, employment law, neighbourhood disputes, debt, consumer complaints, guardianship, and contract disputes.



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