

BAYSIDE

## Hospital legal service the right cure

QUEENSLAND'S first hospital-based Health Justice Partnership, supporting women experiencing domestic and family violence at Logan Hospital, will be extended to other Metro South Health facilities.

A year after the launch of the initiative, Logan Hospital Health Justice Partnership solicitor Gail Shearer said women needing assistance

at Redland, QEII and Princess Alexandra hospitals would also have access to free, on-site family law, domestic violence and child protection legal advice provided by the Women's Legal Service.

She said she had received 120 referrals over the year.

"While most of the women referred to me have been by hospital staff, 12 women also

self-referred, with four becoming case clients and two ladies requiring further referral to the Women's Legal Service Domestic Violence Unit for intensive legal and social work support," Ms Shearer said.

Metro South Health acting chief executive Robert Mackway-Jones said he was pleased so many women had been helped by the service.



**Gail Shearer, health justice partnership solicitor at Logan Hospital.**

Picture: RIC FREARSON