

## **Community heroes assemble in Townsville**

Community lawyers who help disadvantaged people to navigate complex legal processes will gather in Townsville later this week. The meeting will take place at the Community Legal Centres Queensland Leadership Forum at The Metropole Hotel on 19 to 20 October, 2017.

People attending the meeting include Department of Justice staff, lawyers and social workers from community legal centres from throughout Queensland. Speakers travelling to the forum include Professor Adrian Evans from Monash University; Nassim Arrage, CEO, National Association Community Legal Centres and Amanda Whelan, Team Leader from Knowmore Legal Service.

Rosslyn Monro, Acting Director of Community Legal Centres Queensland, 'Lawyers working for community legal centres are often the unsung heroes in their communities. They help people access their legal rights and collaborate with social workers, health professionals and other community workers to help to eliminate or reduce the negative impacts of future legal problems. The forum is an opportunity to discuss the barriers faced by vulnerable people with legal problems, trying to navigate complex and inaccessible systems.

Community legal heroes attending the forum includes Townsville local, Bill Mitchell, who has contributed to the global push for a Convention on the Rights of Older Persons to ensure stronger protection of the rights of older people.

'The conference gives people working in the community legal sector a chance to touch base with colleagues and find out about the great work everyone has done over the past year. We can exchange ideas and discuss issues and ways to progress with our community work,' Ms Monro went on to say.

**Ends**

**NOTES:**

1. Community Legal Centres Queensland is the state-wide peak body representing community legal centres in Queensland. Queensland community legal centres have 40 years of service delivery experience providing free information, advice and referral, casework and representation to the community. [www.communitylegalqld.org.au](http://www.communitylegalqld.org.au)
2. For further information about the forum go to: <http://communitylegalqld.org.au/node/1756>

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