

For immediate release
10 October 2017

Community Legal Centres Queensland shortlisted for prestigious awards

Community Legal Centres Queensland are in the running to take out the Social Impact award category at the 2017 HESTA Community Sector Awards as a result of their contributions to the successful 'Fund Equal Justice' campaign.

Rosslyn Moro, Acting-Director, Community Legal Centres Queensland commented, 'Our team worked tirelessly on a campaign to reinstate funding to Queensland's community legal centres. The cuts would have drastically reduced services across the state from July this year.'

'The campaign focused on educating members of the Government about the important services provided by community legal centres for everyday Queenslanders, and the impact of any reduction in funding. The campaign included meeting with state and federal MPs, running a media and social media campaign and finding 'friends of the sector' to make public statements in support of our work.'

'This award nomination recognises the hard work undertaken by our team as well as the many, many other community legal centre staff who worked on the campaign. This includes our many supporters that stood with us from the legal profession, church groups, unions, university, community groups, domestic violence advocates and the thousands of clients that rely on our help. It is great to be nominated but the Government's decision to reverse the cuts is already a win for the people of Queensland who can continue to get the legal help that they so desperately need and so rightly deserve.'

HESTA CEO, Debby Blakey said this year's finalists have shown leadership in developing community programs and initiatives that address social inequality and disadvantage. "It's an honour to be able to highlight the amazing work of these organisations and individuals, whose services significantly improve the lives of others," Ms Blakey said.

"They have addressed some of the nation's most important social issues, and have given a voice to people who otherwise might not be heard. Their vital work contributes to a more compassionate, prosperous, and fairer nation. We are proud to be able to recognise them."

The awards shine a spotlight on exceptional service provision, advocacy, innovation and leadership in social justice and community services in Australia, across the categories of Unsung Hero, Outstanding Organisation, and Social Impact.

The winners will be announced at the Sofitel Melbourne on Tuesday, 24 October.

Ends

NOTES:

Community Legal Centres Queensland Inc (formerly QAILS) 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

MEDIA CONTACT:

Catherine Baker, Communications Manager, Community Legal Centres Queensland

Email: Communications@communitylegalqld.org.au / Phone: (07) 3392 0092 / 0432 105 415