



press clip

Legal service's efforts lauded

A STONES Corner-based legal service has won a national award at health industry superannuation fund HESTA's Community Sector Awards.

Community Legal Centres Queensland won the Social Impact Award for successfully campaigning for increased government funding for its services, which provide support and advocacy to 33 legal centres across Queensland.

Titled "Reverse the Cuts", the campaign was initiated in response to proposed government funding cuts to its services, which includes the provision of legal advice, information and representation to vulnerable people needing legal help and advice.

After extensive community and government engagement, the campaign resulted in the Federal Government granting \$55.7 million nationally over three years to the legal services sector – \$39 million of which will be directed to Community



Community Legal Centres' Cathy Baker accepts the award.

Legal Centres Queensland, and \$16.7 million to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service.

Communications manager Cathy Baker said the centre started the Queensland component of its campaign so it could continue to provide services that support disadvantaged people.

"In the long queue of women experiencing violence, refugees about to be deported and older people suffering elder abuse we see every day, half will be turned away," Ms Baker said.

"We put a line in the sand and decided we had to do something about it."