



## **Human Rights champion inspires lawyers**

Community Legal Centres Queensland are delighted that, Former President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Professor Gillian Triggs has agreed to give the keynote address at this year's State Conference, which is taking place at the Oakwood Hotel in Brisbane on 8 to 9 March, 2018.

Professor Triggs, who is currently Vice-Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Melbourne, will draw on her long career as a distinguished academic in international and human rights law to speak to community legal centre workers attending the event.

Professor Triggs' keynote address will focus on the importance of strong and active civil society, including the vital role of community legal centres speaking up for everyday people with legal problems.

Professor Triggs commented, 'Every day community legal centre staff hear from people who have had their basic human rights violated. My presentation is an opportunity to encourage them to continue to be the voice for their clients and let governments know how their decisions impact people's daily lives'

The conference gives delegates the chance to meet with a diverse range of people that work in community legal centres. With panel discussions, guest speakers, presentations and a Conference Trivia competition, there will be ample opportunity for delegates to network and broaden their skills and knowledge.

Other presenters at the conference include Professor Adrian Evans from Monash University; Australian Law Reform Commissioner, Helen Rhoades and the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman, Judi Jones.

James Farrell, Director, Community Legal Centres Queensland commented, 'It is a real honour to have Gillian attend our event. As communities groups are faced with tighter restrictions on our advocacy work, we are looking forward to hearing Gillian reflect on the important role of community legal centres in advocating for access to justice. Gillian is a strong voice for vulnerable and marginalised Australians – the type of people that access community legal services every day.'

'The Queensland Government has committed to stronger laws to protect and promote human rights, and we stand with Gillian in supporting this sensible and important reform,' said Mr Farrell. 'We are delighted that Gillian Triggs accepted our invitation to speak, which recognises community legal centres' roles of protecting and promoting Queenslanders' human rights.'

**Ends**

### **NOTES:**

1. 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](http://www.communitylegalqld.org.au)
2. For further information about the conference go to: <http://communitylegalqld.org.au/node/1843>

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