



Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services Inc

4 December 2014

David Groth  
Acting Director  
Queensland Law Reform Commission  
Department of Justice and Attorney-General  
Level 30, 400 George St  
Brisbane QLD 4000

**By email only: David.Groth@justice.qld.gov.au**

Dear David,

**Review of the *Neighbourhood Disputes (Dividing Fences and Trees) Act 2011***

Thank you for inviting the Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services Inc (**QAILS**) to contribute to the Queensland Law Reform Commission's review of the *Neighbourhood Disputes (Dividing Fences and Trees) Act 2011*.

Unfortunately, due to provisions contained in our funding agreement with the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments, QAILS and its member community legal centres are not able to engage in law reform activities which involve the use of government monies.

QAILS and some of its members community legal centres, and, are able to access other resources from time to time that allow them to participate in law reform activities, including providing submissions to reviews like this one. However, as QAILS currently does not have any additional funding which can be used for this purpose, it has to decline this opportunity to contribute its views.

In 2013-14, Queensland's community legal centres assisted over 46,000 vulnerable Queenslanders with legal problems, providing over 100,000 pieces of legal information and advice, and opening over 9,000 new cases to provide ongoing help. Where we see the law operating unfairly or with unintended consequences, community legal centres can contribute to improving those errors.

In 2013-14, Queensland community legal centres provided 1,785 pieces of legal information and 1,605 instances of legal advice in relation to 'neighbourhood dispute' problems, and opened 89 new cases. Over a quarter of the calls to QAILS in 2012-2014 were in relation to neighbourhood disputes, and we developed the [www.qldneighbourhoods.com](http://www.qldneighbourhoods.com) website to provide online legal information to people with neighbourhood problems, with financial support from the Brisbane City Council and significant in-kind legal services from Holding Redlich.

However, without the resources to develop a formal response to your review, QAILS is unable to provide further evidence that would assist the Commission in its deliberations.

I regret that QAILS is unable to participate more fully in discussion on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Farrell', with a large circular flourish at the end.

**James Farrell**  
QAILS Director