



Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services Inc

4 December 2014

VOCA Act Review
Department of Justice and Attorney-General
GPO Box 149
Brisbane QLD 4001

By email only: VOCAARReview@justice.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Review of the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009

Thank you for inviting the Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services Inc (**QAILS**) to contribute to the review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* (**VOCA Act**).

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 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. This enables community legal centres to identify where the law is operating unfairly or with unintended consequences, and we therefore hold information which would be relevant in addressing those difficulties.

Community legal centres generally record victims of crime compensation matters under 'injuries' problem types in the Community Legal Services Information System (**CLSIS**). 2013-14 CLSIS data shows that community legal centres are providing 33% more advices and 95% more casework in 'injuries' matters since 2008-09, when the VOCA Act was introduced.

However, without non-government resources to develop responses to these systemic problems, QAILS is unable to provide further information or evidence that could assist the Department in this review.

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

Yours sincerely,



James Farrell
Director