

For immediate release
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Human Rights champions convene in Cairns

Community lawyers will meet in Cairns later this week to discuss how the Human Rights Act can assist vulnerable and disadvantaged Queenslanders access justice. The meeting will take place at the Community Legal Centres Queensland Leadership Forum at The Holiday Inn, Cairns from 24 to 25 October 2019.

The Human Rights Act will come into effect January 2020 and the Forum is an opportunity for legal staff to equip themselves with the knowledge on how to implement the legislative framework. The Human Rights Act will be another tool community lawyer can use to help people access their legal rights.

Hayley Grainger, North Queensland Women's Legal Service, Cairns, 'In Cairns, we regularly come into contact with women who are having difficulties trying to interact with the Government, legal processes and the law. The training will assist our local lawyers to assist clients with human rights issues.'

Rosslyn Monro, Director, Community Legal Centres Queensland said, 'Community legal centres provided free legal help to nearly 50,000 of the most vulnerable Queenslanders in the last year. Everyday community legal centre staff hear from people who have had their basic human rights violated. The training is an opportunity to encourage community lawyers to use the newly implement Human Rights Act and let governments know how their decisions impact people's daily lives.'

'Human Rights training is also an opportunity to discuss the barrier faced by vulnerable people with legal problems, trying to navigate complex and inaccessible systems. We can exchange ideas and discuss issues with our community work and find solutions to overcome these barriers,' Ms Monro went on to say.

People attending the Forum include social workers, Directors, staff from legal firms and lawyers from community legal centres from throughout Queensland. In addition to the Human Rights Training, there will be panel discussions, guest speakers, presentations and the opportunity for delegates to network and broaden their skills and knowledge.

Ends

NOTES:

1. Community Legal Centres Queensland 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
2. For further information about the forum go here: <https://communitylegalqld.org.au/event/community-legal-centres-queensland-leadership-forum>

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