However, he cautioned that some businesses, such as pubs, may find it more difficult to recover from the economic slump and a longer period of restrictions would only make things tougher.

"I think the longer we leave it the more difficult it gets, not just for business customers but also just for the sanity of our personal customers," Mr Frazis said.

Read the full story here.

Yesterday 5.19pm

Legal centres, turning people away, plea for more funding

By Matt Dennien

Community legal centres across the state have called for extra funding as they are forced to turn increasing numbers of vulnerable people away with unmet needs due to growing demand on their services.

The number of people contacting centres for help and referred elsewhere or given only general information jumped 34 per cent in the three months from January, compared to the same period last year.



Community legal centres are becoming overwhelmed as more people find themselves out of work. JASON SOUTH

Employment law advice given over that time also increased by 13 per cent as many workers face stand-downs or redundancies.

Community Legal Centres Queensland director Rosslyn Monro said with many sites still uploading data, the true number was likely to be even higher.

"The coronavirus will increase the demand even further, but with limited capacity and funding, and with the added disruption caused to centres and their staff transitioning to remote working themselves, it will be impossible to help everyone phoning in for legal advice," she said.

"It is a matter of urgency that we get additional funding to employ more community lawyers who can help this group of vulnerable Queenslanders assert their rights and provide them with essential financial security."

Less ^

Yesterday 5.01pm

Commission to sign off on NRL return with May 21 start earmarked

By Michael Chammas

EXCLUSIVE: The ARL Commission is tomorrow expected to sign off on the return of the NRL competition from as early as May 21.

This publication has been told by sources with knowledge of the negotiations that a Sydney-based, 15-round season is the preferred option of the two proposals that will be discussed at the NRL innovation committee meeting tomorrow morning.

Following the meeting, a recommendation will be put to the commission and a decision on the structure and future of the game is likely to be announced.

The alternative proposal, which was met with resistance from some of the players on an RLPA phone hook-up on Wednesday, is a two-conference system, splitting the competition in half.

Read more from Michael Chammas <u>here</u>.

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