

QLD NEWS

Qld Government increase funding for community legal centres

A long awaited multi-million dollar funding boost for community legal centres throughout Queensland will be rolled out across the next five years.

Alexandria Utting, The Courier-Mail

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QUEENSLAND community legal centres will receive more than \$119 million in funding across the next five years.

The long-awaited announcement today made by Attorney-General and Minister Justice Yvette D'Ath is a joint State-Commonwealth injection of funds, which will be provided to legal assistance services throughout the state - including those in regional centres such as Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone and Hervey Bay.



Attorney-General and Minister Justice and Minister Training and Skills Yvette D'Ath.

"Queensland's community legal sector delivers vital services to thousands of Queenslanders," Mrs D'Ath said.

"Our community legal centres provide advice and assistance to some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

"This package is worth \$119 million over five years and it will give our community legal centres the certainty they need to continue their great work."

The announcement was made after consultation with the sector's peak body, Community Legal Centres Queensland, Ms D'Ath said.

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"With the impacts of COVID-19, a lot of Queenslanders are struggling to make ends meet right now, but many still need access to quality legal services," the State Attorney-General said.

This is the first time the funding commitment has been for five years, previously only covering a three-year period.

The Courier-Mail understands community legal centres had been anxiously awaiting today's funding announcement after expecting the news in March.

Those in the sector said they had been unsure about whether to renew contracts for staff as they did not know when the funding would be announced.