

Funding announcement welcomed by Cairns Community Legal Centre

Cairns Community Legal Centres welcomed the Queensland Attorney General, Yvette D'Ath announcement on Monday that \$4.25 million has been allocated to their community legal centre for the 2020-2025 period.

The certainty of five-year funding will ensure that Cairns Community Legal Centres can continue to provide free legal services to the people of Cairns, and surrounding areas.

There will always be a need for local community legal services, whether that be in response to health crises like COVID-19, or otherwise. With the Cairns Community Legal Centre being the only Generalist Legal Service in the Far North, local people rely on being able to contact the Cairns Community Legal Centre to help them with legal issues. This includes domestic violence and safety at home, credit and debt, discrimination and human rights matters, family law and child protection matters and guardianship.

Giselle Negri, Director, Cairns Community Legal Centre, said, 'The funding will go part way to meeting the needs of these people, and we will always strive to do more. It is encouraging that we have been supported by the government to continue with our work.'

'I have seen time and again when someone receives the help, they need in a prompt and professional that it can make such a difference for them, and the broader community benefits from this too.'

Ends

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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

MEDIA CONTACT:

Catherine Baker, Communications Manager, Community Legal Centres Queensland
Email: Communications@communitylegalqld.org.au / Phone: (07) 3392 0092 / 0432 105 415