Draft templated media release for Community Legal Centres to distribute to their local media

Date

**<Name of CLC> urges residents to act now**

The <insert your name> is urging local residents impacted by flooding to take action now to protect their legal rights.

<Insert name of your Director/CEO/Spokesperson> said Legal Aid Queensland and community legal centres can help with crisis legal needs and are also around for problems that emerge after the chaos.

“Queenslanders <or insert your local areas> who were flooded are facing more than they know,” he/she said.

“These types of disasters cause legal problems and make some worse, like housing, family law, and child protection arrangements.”

Actions flood victims can take now to protect their legal rights include:

* Take photos and lodge an insurance claim, even if your insurer says you are not covered for flood.
* Talk to your lender or bank, local council, telephone, internet and utility companies to ask for financial hardship help.
* If you are a tenant, contact your real estate agent or housing provider to let them know you have been affected.
* Ask the Department of Human Services if you are eligible for any government assistance.
* If your capacity to work has been impacted, talk to your employer.
* Get legal advice if your parenting and personal relationships have become unsafe or complicated.

“If you or someone you care for is unsure about legal rights, has been given confusing information, refused help or treated unfairly, contact <insert CLC details> or Legal Aid Queensland on 1300 527 700.”

Further information about Community Legal Centres can be found at <https://www.communitylegalqld.org.au/find-legal-help/> or by calling 3392 0092.

Media contact: <insert your contact details>