



**Community
Legal Centres
Queensland**

Community Legal Centres Funding Strategy Workshop

CLCQ Conference

May 2024

Acknowledgment

Community Legal Centres Queensland pay our deepest respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the land in Australia, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of First Nations peoples and commit to fostering a culture of learning and working together in the spirit of reconciliation and access to justice.

Closed session for CLC managers/MC



This session

- What should the funding strategy look like in Queensland from July 2025?
- Critical timing issues in the funding landscape
- Where is the NLAP Review process up to?
- What have we learnt from the Federal Budget?
- How will we work together – messaging and strategy?

Qld Funding Strategy under current NLAP

Sarah Chase, Acting Director, Legal Assistance Strategy
and Funding (LASF)

Queensland Funding Strategy – recap on Leadership Forum discussions

Service Delivery funding

If the funding remained the same:

general agreement that the same allocation be made to funded CLC without a tender process with the ability to renegotiate targets as the staffing does not buy the same services

If there was an increase to funding for unspecified purposes:

No consensus, but some support for general uplift to ensure sustainability of the existing service system; (sustainability is expansive – wage gaps, RRR costs, CLASS replacement, other rising operational costs)

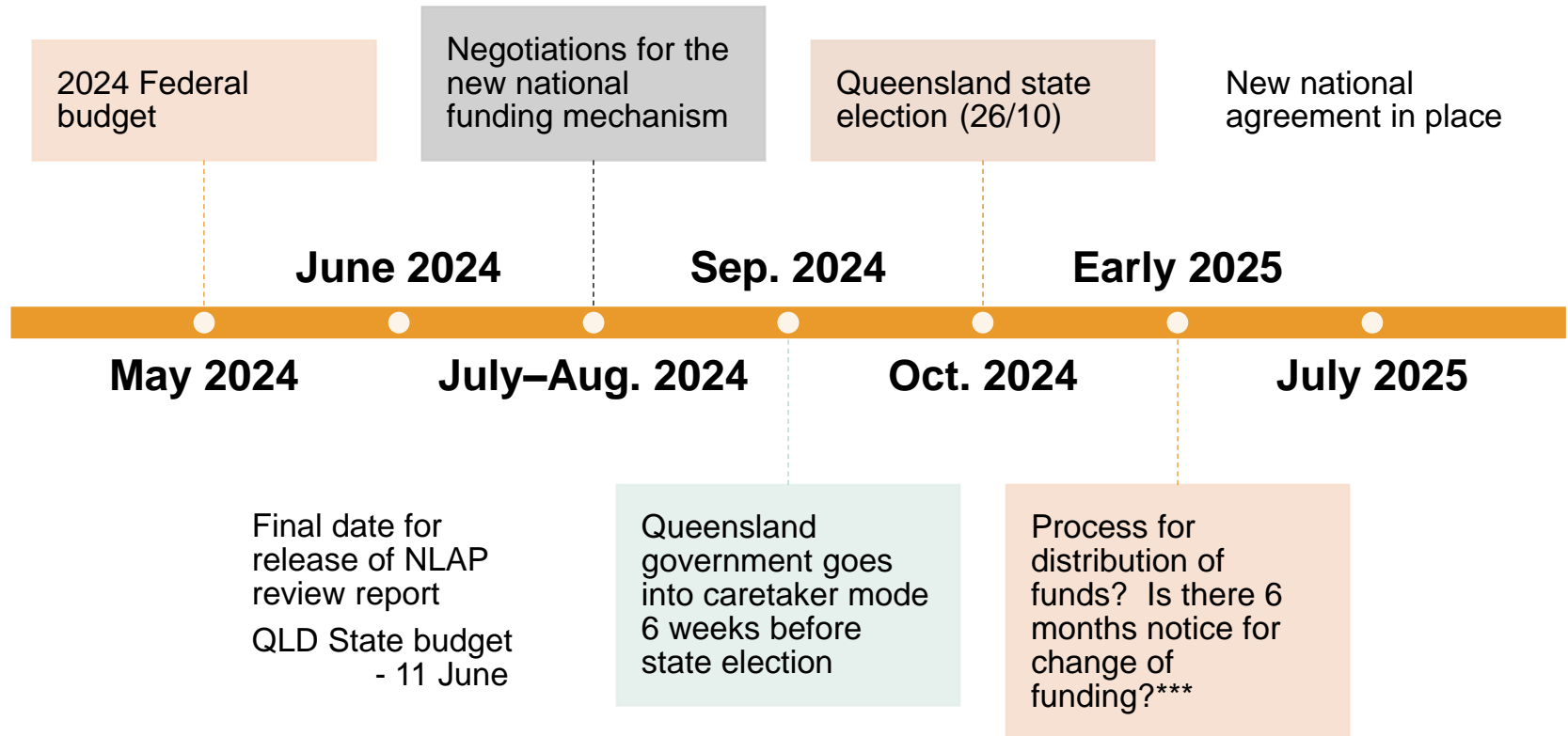
Once sustainability has been achieved support for evidence-based decisions making, driven by legal need and CLCs being able to make the case for additional services

Queensland Funding Strategy 2025-2030

Feedback about:

- Service Delivery funding – is the broad approach to status quo funding and new funding still aligning with your thinking?
- Non-service delivery funding:
 - Should funds be set aside for sundry items, projects, contingency purposes
 - If some cost are not paid for centrally, how would individual CLCs cover the costs?
 - Do we get value for money on EAP?
 - CLCQ's budget relies on project funding is this optimal?

Key Dates



Advocacy messages

- CLC needs funding security – at least a guarantee of a maintenance of baseline funding under the new funding arrangements to secure the workforce, even if other aspects of the agreement are not settled
- Queensland election makes timing of funding processes difficult and risks there not being a 6 months notice of change in funding
- There is a workforce crisis in CLCs and this is exacerbated by a wage gap of 22% compared with Legal Aid
- CLCs need to make workforce plans as early as January 2025 to meet their obligations to their workforce

NLAP Review

The review report was delivered by Dr Mundy to the Federal Attorney-General on 6 March 2025.

State governments also have the final report.

The report should be publicly available within 3 months on completion of the review, unless it is not reasonable, appropriate or practical to do so at the time.

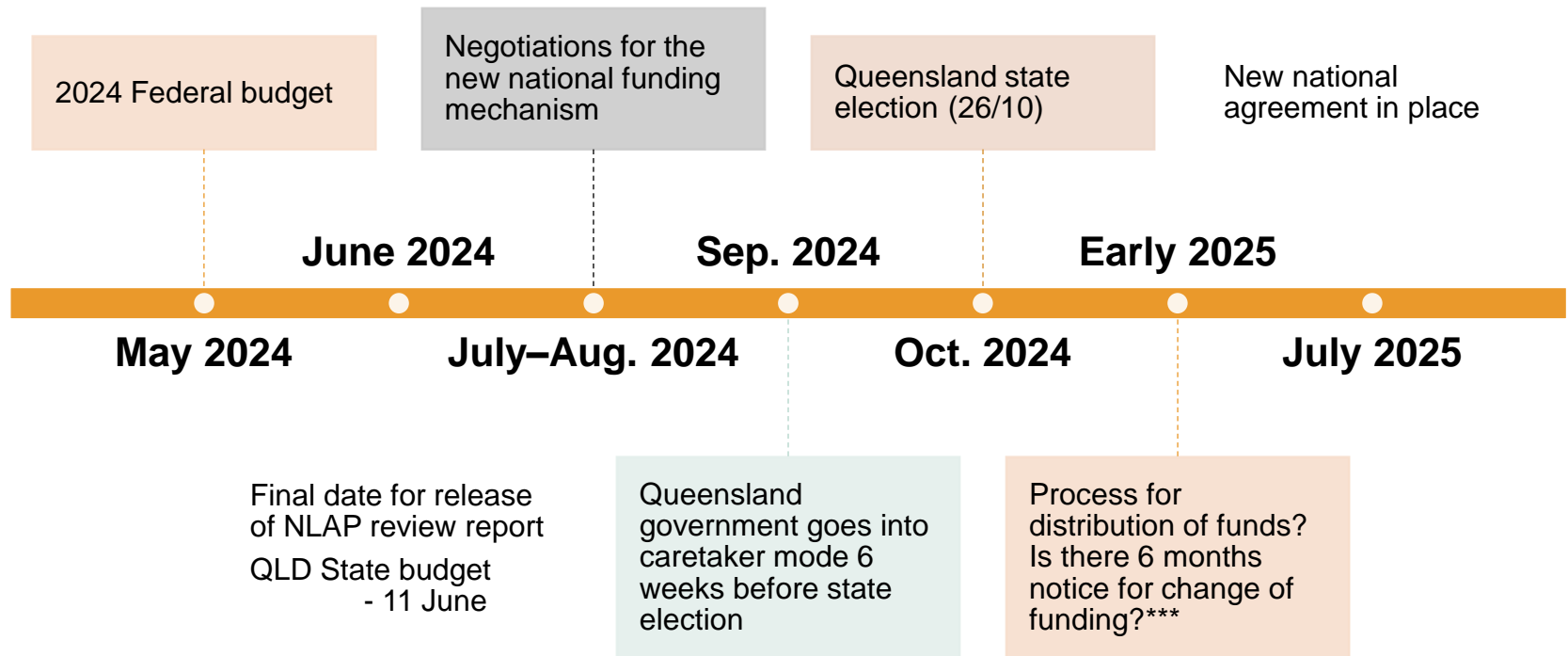
Given the consultation focus, we would expect there will be significant recommendations about workforce, amongst other things.

May 2024 Federal Budget

- Nationally:
 - \$9.3 million for CLCs in total
 - \$2.4 million for indexation on NLAP funding but not all, based on 4% indexation
 - \$6.9 million to assist in reducing pay parity
 - No indication of funding commitment beyond June 2025 in forward estimates
 - Federal A-G still considering the NLAP review report
- Queensland: (still unfolding)
 - based on previous distributions under NLAP, Qld might expect to see approximately 20% ie. >\$2mill

How do we work together?

Key Dates



Scenario: State Budget

State budget doesn't deliver any extra funding in 2024-2025 for CLCs

What are the messages - External?

- Disappointed that the State budget didn't provide funding increases and urge the next Queensland government to provide extra funding under the new national mechanism
- The funding crisis in CLCs needs to be addressed by Government now
- Time is running out for Queensland CLCs

What are the strategies - External?

- Talk to government behind closed doors
- Talk to the LNP as the possible next government and get an election commitment
- Run a media campaign about the crisis in CLCs

Scenario: State Budget

State budget doesn't deliver any extra funding in 2024-2025 for CLCs

What are the messages - Internal?

- Disappointed that the State budget didn't provide funding increases, but nothing changes
- Jobs are secure until June 2025
- We will continue to fight for our community to get the services that it deserves

What are the strategies - Internal?

- Keep staff update to date with any changes
- Worst case scenario plan

Scenarios

State Election

Getting CLC funding issues on the State election agenda

What are our messages?

External

Internal

What are our strategies?

External

Internal

New State Government

New LNP State Government that is only hitting the ground in January 2025

What are our messages?

External

Internal

What are our strategies?

External

Internal

Next steps

- Regular communications – Digest
- Sector online meetings
- What else would be helpful?



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Thank you

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