



MEDIA RELEASE

8 March 2016

Urgent call to fund family violence-related legal help this International Women's Day

The National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) today renews calls on the Australian Government to back up its commitment to addressing family violence with additional funding for legal assistance services.

“Every single day Community Legal Centres (CLCs) across Australia see women and children struggling to deal with family violence and the legal problems caused by family violence. Almost 40% of CLCs offer specialist family violence-related services” said Rosslyn Monro, NACLC Chairperson.

“We welcome the Federal Government’s commitment to addressing family violence, and its provision of some pilot funding to 10 CLCs as part of the Women’s Safety Package. The funding recognises the crucial role CLCs play in a holistic response to family violence” said Ms Monro.

“However, CLCs face a 30% cut to their funding nationally from 2017 under the new National Partnership Agreement for Legal Assistance Services. These cuts dwarf the small amount of funding provided under the Women’s Safety Package, and there are dozens of CLCs currently providing legal services to women who may face closure from 1 July 2017” added Ms Monro.

“International Women’s Day provides an opportunity for all levels of government to back up their commitment to end violence against women and children with funding for legal assistance services, including CLCs and Family Violence Prevention Legal Services” concluded Ms Monro.

NACLC calls on the Federal Government to:

- reverse the national funding cuts to CLCs under the National Partnership Agreement (amounting to \$34.83 million between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2020)
- immediately inject \$120 million per year into the legal assistance sector, consistent with the recommendation made by the Productivity Commission, including at a minimum \$14.4 million per year to CLCs
- commit to developing a process for determining sustainable long-term funding contributions to the legal assistance sector; and

NACLC acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands across Australia and particularly the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, traditional owners of the land on which the NACLC office is situated. We pay deep respect to Elders past and present.

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- provide additional funding for other legal assistance services, including Family Violence Prevention Legal Services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services and Legal Aid Commissions.

Open the link to see: [NACLC's Pre-Budget submission](#)

For further information or to arrange an interview contact:

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