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### Community legal and health service collaboration – the way forward

This afternoon, delegates at the [National Community Legal Centres Conference](#) will hear about exciting new models of collaboration occurring between Community Legal Centres (CLCs) and health organisations and professionals to provide better health outcomes and access to justice for patients with legal problems.

Speakers involved in the session include Dr Tessa Boyd-Caine, CEO of the National Centre for Health Justice Partnerships, Daniel Stubbs, CEO of Inner Melbourne Community Legal and Valda Duffield, Director of Allied Health at King Edward Memorial Hospital.

“We know that disability and chronic illness are associated with increased rates of multiple and significant legal issues. We also know that people with a legal problem are likely to talk to a health professional rather than seek out legal assistance, which means engaging with health professionals is absolutely crucial to ensuring people get the legal help they need” said Daniel Stubbs, NACLC National Spokesperson.

“This type of early intervention and prevention work is an example of the innovative approaches CLCs take to ensuring the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the community can access legal help” added Mr Stubbs.

“CLCs have strong connections to local communities, know the value of holistic and interdisciplinary practices, and work closely with a range of other community organisations. That’s why CLCs are ideally placed to partner with local health organisations to provide timely assistance for people engaged with health professionals, who they trust, in a setting where they feel safe” he said.

“We welcome Federal Government investment in Health Justice Partnerships (HJP), and a range of CLCs across Australia now have HJPs, including as a result of funding under the Women’s Safety Package. Unfortunately however, many of the HJPs are funded as pilots and/or in centres that are facing broader funding cuts of 30% from 1 July next year” he added.

“If the Federal Government is serious about addressing legal problems for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our community, then funding CLCs and HJPs should be a priority” concluded Mr Stubbs.

Open the link to view a short video about a Health Justice Partnership between: [Inner Melbourne CLC: and Royal Women’s Hospital](#)

#### **For further information or to arrange an interview contact:**

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*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.*