



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Community Lawyer and Sector Leader to lead Community Legal Centre Peak

The National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) is delighted to announce that it has appointed Polly Porteous as CEO for the next 12 months.

Ms Porteous's extensive experience includes roles as a manager, lawyer, policy and governance consultant, tenants' advocate and human rights officer. Most recently Polly has been working as a Senior Legal Officer within state government. She was formerly the Director of Community Legal Centres NSW. Her education includes law and post-graduate qualifications in community legal education and business.

"On behalf of the Board, we are most excited that Polly Porteous has agreed to serve as the NACLC CEO," said Michael Smith, NACLC Chairperson.

"Polly has outstanding skills as leader, advocate and manager and most importantly in building strong working relationships with both CLCs and our many partners and stakeholders. She also brings great knowledge of the legal and legal assistance sectors."

Ms Porteous expressed her enthusiasm for the new role: "I am overjoyed to be returning to the community legal sector. Several years in the private and government sectors have taught me how important it is for non-government organisations to have a strong voice, a clear vision, and collaborative partnerships. These are challenging times for the legal assistance sector and I hope I can make a difference."

"We are very much looking forward to working with Polly to continue NACLC's strong leadership of the CLC sector that provides critical services to people from communities experiencing disadvantage." Mr Smith concluded.

Polly Porteous will commence at the beginning of May.

For further information or to arrange an interview contact Chairperson Michael Smith 0421 437 883

*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.*