

National Association of Community Legal Centres
ACN 163 101 737 ABN 67 757 001 303
Tel: 61 2 9264 9595
Fax: 61 2 9264 9594
Email: naclc@clc.net.au
Twitter: [Twitter.com/NACLCComms](https://twitter.com/NACLCComms)
Web: www.naclc.org.au
Mail: PO Box A2245 Sydney South NSW 1235 Australia



MEDIA RELEASE

15 October 2015

Community legal centres welcome Senate motion calling for additional funding

The National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) and the Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services (QAILS) welcomed the motion passed by the Senate yesterday calling for urgent additional funding for Queensland community legal centres.

The motion, led by Greens Senator Larissa Waters, acknowledged the “crucial work done by community legal centres across Australia in assisting victims and survivors of domestic violence” and called for additional funding of community legal centres, referring to the Productivity Commission recommendation for an immediate injection of \$200 million per annum to legal assistance services.

“Community legal centres play a vital role in assisting vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the community. We are pleased this motion has acknowledged that role and the need for additional funding” said Michael Smith, NACLC Chair.

James Farrell, Director of QAILS commented, ‘fifty per cent of Queenslanders will experience a legal problem this year and of this group we can only see six out of ten people. Queensland’s community legal centres turn away more clients than any other state. This motion is an important one and could help encourage all levels of Government to commit additional funding that would ensure CLCs could help people missing out on the legal help they need”.

“Importantly however, CLCs across Australia are facing increasing demand with limited resources and a 40% cut to funding nationally from 2017. As a result, while formal support from the Senate is welcome there is a need for urgent additional funding for legal assistance services, including CLCs in across Australia” added Mr Smith. “NACLC and QAILS echo the Senate’s call for the Commonwealth Government to abandon the funding cuts planned for 2017, and work with state governments to increase funding to community legal centres” concluded Mr Smith.

For further information or to arrange an interview contact NACLC Chairperson Michael Smith 0421 437 883 or QAILS Director James Farrell 0411 206 835