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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Wednesday 24 July 2013**

#### **NACLC welcomes \$33.5m additional funding for Community Legal Centres**

Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus QC today announced a funding increase for the community legal centre sector of \$33.5m over four years.

The National Association of Community Legal Centres Inc (NACLC) enthusiastically welcomed the Attorney-General's announcement.

The additional funding for community legal centres is a landmark announcement by the Attorney-General. This major boost represents a 25% increase in Commonwealth funding and recognises both the huge demand for legal help and the value of community legal centres to the community needing assistance. NACLC is encouraged by the confidence the government continues to show in the work of community legal centres across Australia.

This is the largest increase to CLCs in memory and demonstrates a strong practical commitment to access to justice by the Attorney and the Commonwealth Government. While there is more to do, this additional funding will make a real difference to many communities needing legal help said NACLC National Convenor Michael Smith.

Funding initiatives for the Legal Assistance Services sector outlined by the Attorney-General and welcomed by NACLC included;

- \$4 million allocated over four years to support unrepresented litigants in civil law matters in the Federal Court and Federal Circuit Courts across Australia
- \$1.1 million for a second round of grants in the National Broadband Network Regional Legal Assistance Program to trial projects developed by community legal centres and other legal assistance providers to increase access to legal assistance in rural, regional and remote Australia through technology
- \$18 million over four years to establish and implement **knowmore**, the independent service giving free legal advice to people who are considering telling their story or providing information to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

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For further information or to arrange an interview contact  
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