



The Hon Philip Ruddock MP
Attorney General
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

30 March 2007

Dear

Please find attached NACLC's response to the Attorney General's review of the Commonwealth Community Legal Services Program announced on 30 October 2007.

The National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) welcomes the invitation from the Attorney General to provide a response to the Review. One of NACLC's organisational objectives is to advance the interests of centres and their clients and communities. NACLC views this Review as an opportunity to consider the exemplary quality and quantity of service delivery provided by Community Legal Centres and their contribution to a fair and just society.

It has been a long process. We have done a lot of research as part of preparing this response. And it has been a very useful process, particularly the discussions with centres. Usually when I meet with centres it is to talk about a specific matter so I don't often get to hear details about the work that they are doing. It has been inspiring to hear this and to be reminded of the dedication and commitment of CLC staff and volunteers to their clients and community.

Finally, Community Legal Centres and Government are engaged in a vital partnership to deliver government policy objectives. The co-operation and collaboration between the Attorney General's Department and CLCs has been strong and efficient. In particular a strong culture of mutual respect and compliance assistance has been developed throughout the Program. The only barrier to more effective service delivery and attainment of policy goals has been insufficient resourcing.

Yours sincerely

Julie Bishop
Director