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Dear Ms Loftus

Review of National Competency Standards

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the issues raised in the Discussion Paper. We make the following brief comments in relation to Propositions 6 and 8.

In relation to determining core practice areas and the electives, we believe it is important to provide breadth so as to enhance students' awareness of different career options open to them including in the public and community sectors and to equip students with relevant knowledge and skills to work in those sectors and/or to provide volunteer and pro bono services to clients of community legal centres and other publicly funded legal services.

Proposition 6 suggests retaining the 3 existing core practice areas. Given the commercial nature of these, we think it particularly important for the electives to focus on other, less commercially-oriented practice areas such as the current electives. We support greater choice within the existing electives so that students could undertake, for example, both Family Law Practice and Criminal Law Practice. We also support the retention of Administrative Law Practice as an elective given its adjectival relevance to legal practice, including on behalf of clients of publicly funded legal services.

Yours sincerely,

Julia Hall
Executive Director
National Association of Community Legal Centres Inc

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.