



## Attorney General & Justice

19 May 2011

### FREE LEGAL HELP IN BEGA

People in Bega can now obtain free legal help as part of a new service announced today by the Chief Executive Officer of Legal Aid NSW, Alan Kirkland.

From today, lawyers funded by Legal Aid NSW will be on hand on the third Thursday of each month to provide legal advice and assistance for a range of problems such as:

- credit and debt,
- Centrelink benefits disputes,
- tenancy,
- discrimination,
- victims compensation,
- family law and care and protection matters; and,
- Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders.

Mr Kirkland said the new service has been established to respond to gaps in the availability of legal assistance, particularly in rural communities.

“The nearest Legal Aid civil law service is over 260 km away in Nowra. Through this program we can provide a regular service to people living in and around Bega particularly those who can’t afford to see a private lawyer,” Mr Kirkland said.

“Legal advice can help if, for example, you are having trouble paying your credit card bills, have separated from a partner and need advice about care arrangements for children, or if you are having problems with Centrelink.

“If a client has a problem which needs to be pursued, they will be referred to an appropriate service that can provide further help.”

The free legal advice and minor assistance clinic will be held on the third Thursday of every month at the:

Far South Community College

32 Church Street, Bega

From 10 am – 1 pm

To make an appointment call (02) 4474 0700