



Brad Hazzard MP

Attorney General

Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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LEGAL AID – LEGAL CHAMPIONS OF THE COMMUNITY

Attorney General and Minister for Justice Brad Hazzard today thanked Legal Aid NSW for delivering a record one million services in civil, family and criminal law last financial year.

“As shown in the annual report released yesterday, legal aid lawyers are on the frontline across a range of areas helping people - whether they are facing mortgage default, divorce or child support issues, harassment at work, or problems with a faulty product, Legal Aid solicitors can help,” Mr Hazzard said.

“Legal Aid lawyers really do make a difference often picking up cases at short notice and having to come to grips with complex issues that are weighing down people’s lives.

“With the doubling of early intervention services over the past few years Legal Aid has been able to help many people resolve their problems long before they get to court.

“In a world where we don’t have endless amounts of money Legal Aid lawyers keep up the enthusiasm that has seen them deliver a record number of services.

“Legal Aid lawyers are constantly lifting people out of what appears to be insurmountable legal problems – they are champions fighting on behalf of the community.

Legal Aid Chief Executive Officer Bill Grant said the organisation’s Civil Law services – which include consumer law, housing and guardianship law - grew by over six per cent last year and since January it had staffed a pilot advice service at the new NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

“We do so much more than many people realise – we want to spread the word that Legal Aid isn’t just for people going to court on criminal matters,” Mr Grant said.

“Our lawyers now regularly come to community and neighbourhood centres, court houses or libraries in 194 locations around the state - last year they delivered 15,558 advice services from Broken Hill to Bega and to Byron Bay – about 20 per cent more than the previous year.”

Legal Aid’s legal advice and minor assistance services are free and are not means tested. Its website also contains basic legal information and links to more detailed publications in English and several community languages.

For more information go to www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au