

Community Legal Centres Funding 2019–22

Factsheet – May 2019



Record funding of more than \$40 million for the NSW community legal sector will help thousands of vulnerable people solve complex legal problems.

Community Legal Centres (CLCs) are independent community organisations that provide free information, legal advice and related services to people and communities facing economic, social or cultural disadvantage.

In September 2017, the NSW Attorney General Mark Speakman appointed Alan Cameron AO to review NSW Government support for CLCs. The aim of the review was to ensure legal assistance is directed to people most in need, to improve CLC service provision and to assist the NSW Government in settling an approach to funding allocations.

The Cameron Review made 12 recommendations, including a new application-based model for State funding to CLCs to ensure funding is better used to

improve access to justice for those who need it most. The Government also accepted a recommendation to establish a first ever three-year funding cycle to provide centres with more financial certainty.

The NSW Government tasked Legal Aid NSW with implementing this new model to determine State funding allocations for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022.

The NSW Government announced that an additional \$5.2 million would be available each year as part of these reforms.

Additionally, the Public Purpose Fund (PPF) Trustees agreed to incorporate the PPF funding to CLCs under the Community Legal Services Program (CLSP) in the application process.

Available funding

The application process consisted of two components:

Core funding ('Pool 1'): up to \$10.5 million per annum for three years, which was available to organisations currently funded under the CLSP for core services and other specific initiatives, and for any enhancements of their services.

Critical service gap funding ('Pool 2'): \$2.2 million per annum for three years, which was available only to the organisations currently funded under the CLSP, members and associate members of Community Legal Centres NSW (CLCNSW), and some CLCs

that did not receive NSW Government funding.

In this funding round allocations have been made to support critical gaps in services to:

- rural, regional and remote areas where legal assistance services are not available or severely limited, particularly on the Mid-North Coast and in Far West NSW;
- women experiencing domestic and family violence, particularly in South West Sydney;
- seniors and their carers in Newcastle and on the Central Coast;
- disadvantaged people experiencing health related legal issues at the Prince of Wales Hospital and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the Sydney Local Health District; and
- migrant workers experiencing employment exploitation across NSW.

The Law and Justice Foundation of NSW developed a Legal Needs Analysis and was also available to provide general information and support to organisations.

Assessment of applications

The NSW Attorney General appointed an independent evaluation panel to assess applications from 41 organisations and make recommendations about the funding allocations. The panel consisted of five members, including two senior NSW Government representatives.

For more information

Visit the website at
www.justice.nsw.gov.au



Information and support

CLCNSW was available to provide general information and support to organisations on the application process. This included information sessions and an Application Resource Guide.