



14 February 2017

Yvette D'ath  
Attorney General  
Queensland Government

Dear Yvette,

We write to you regarding the 30% cut to community legal centre federal funding due on 1 July 2017.

We are deeply concerned these cuts will adversely affect access to justice for Queenslanders, some of whom are among the most disadvantaged Australians.

We are currently experiencing significant delays in providing legal services due to under resourcing and the old axiom 'justice delayed is justice denied' has never been more salient.

There is a high level of disadvantage especially in far North communities. Especially amongst low income earners and the unemployed, Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities and women and men who are at great risk from domestic and family violence, all who will face even greater struggles and risk of harm without this vital legal service to protect them.

We are aware that community legal centres do not have clarity over how the cuts will manifest and affect ability to pay legal staff. There is a lot of uncertainty for planning and budgets. If 30% is cut from funding, more than one full time staff member will be lost from community legal centres, resulting in around 400 clients being turned away per year.

We urge you, the Queensland government and sitting members to put pressure on the Turnbull government to clarify its intentions and reconsider the cuts for our region.

The Queensland Parliament has this opportunity to protect our most vulnerable constituents and their right to access affordable legal advice and representation.

Yours Sincerely,

Rob Pyne  
Member for Cairns

Shane Knut  
Member for Dalrymple

Billy Gordon  
Member for Cook

Robert Katter  
Member for Mt Isa

Steve Dickson  
Member for Buderim