Dear Sir or Madam,

Workplace Relations Framework Inquiry

Western Community Legal Centre is (WCLC) is a newly formed entity created from the amalgamation of Footscray Community Legal Centre Inc., Wyndham Legal Service Inc. and Western Suburbs Legal Service Inc. Further to our first submission to this Inquiry (as Footscray Community Legal Centre), we welcome the opportunity to provide further comments in response to the Commission’s Draft Report (Draft Report).

WCLC commenced the Employment Law Project (Project) in July 2013. The Project seeks to improve the employment outcomes of newly arrived and refugee communities in the Western suburbs of Melbourne.

The Project initiated a pilot Employment Law Service in May 2014 and has since seen over 125 clients with a wide range of employment law related matters. We have also provided employment law community education sessions to over 500 community members, and conducted focus groups, interviews and surveys with community members and community workers. In April this year, we launched our train the trainer program, working with community leaders from six communities in the West to raise awareness of employment laws and services.

WCLC welcomes the opportunity to make a further submission based on our work as a community legal centre, and particularly through the Employment Law Project. Please find attached a copy of our second submission to the Inquiry, along with a copy of our first submission, and a letter of endorsement from the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria Inc, the peak policy advocacy body for ethnic and multicultural organisations in Victoria.

We look forward to discussing our submissions further at the Hearing on 23 September 2015.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Hemingway
Employment Project Solicitor

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