



Commissioner Warren Mundy  
Level 2, 15 Moore Street  
Canberra City ACT 2600, Australia

2 July 2014

Dear Commissioner Mundy,

We are writing in response to questions taken on notice at the Public Hearing in Perth on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014 relating to the Community Legal Centre Association WA's (CLCA WA) response to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Access to Justice Arrangements

Specifically, we will respond to the following questions (as we recorded them):

1. Can you give a breakdown of your Member's federal and state funding levels?
2. Do any CLCA WA members employ less than 5 staff? or around 5?
3. Do any CLCA WA members offer services related to estate planning and resolution? Is this an emerging area of legal need?
4. Can you explain the situation of the Environmental Defender's Office in WA and what the future holds for that service? "I would prefer to ask the question of them directly however [CLCA WA] is the closest relative witness I have available to ask, as the EDO did not enter a submission."

**Question 1: Can you give a breakdown of your Member's federal and state funding levels?**

CLCA WA can confirm that the funding arrangements for CLCs in Western Australia vary widely. Some CLCA WA members are 100% federally funded and some are 100% state funded. Generally there is a mix of funding sources based on the various programs and services a particular centre may run. With respect to CLSP funding however the average mix is 54% federal and 42% state with 4% coming from other sources.

**Question 2: Do any CLCA WA members employ less than 5 staff? or around 5?**

CLCA WA can confirm that two specialist CLCs in WA have six FTE though generally most member centres have between ten and twenty FTE.

**3. Do any CLCA WA members offer services related to estate planning and resolution? Is this an emerging area of legal need?**

Many CLCA WA members do not offer estate planning services, as they are not funded to do so and they are advertised as such.

CLCs who have seen a high increase in demand for these services are generally those in Regional, Rural and Remote areas. Our member centres have indicated that there is a high level of unmet need for assistance with estate planning and deceased estate dispute resolution however this demand has remained high and unmet over a period of time.

**4. Can you explain the situation of the Environmental Defender's Office (EDO) in WA and what the future holds for that service?**

We have contacted the Environmental Defenders Office on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014 to pass on the Productivity Commission's query regarding EDO's response to the loss of federal funding. We spoke with Patrick Pearlman, EDO Principal Solicitor, who indicated he would contact the centre's Management Committee to prepare a response.

Finally, as indicated in our primary submission, the CLC sector in WA wishes to continue to work in partnership with government as plans for future service delivery are made. Please do not hesitate to contact us with further opportunities to assist (

Yours sincerely,

**Philip Kieran**  
**Executive Director**