



Community legal services

Request of Government

We are seeking ongoing funding of \$350,000 per annum from the Federal and State Government to establish community legal services in Manningham.

The problem

- ▶ There is no dedicated community legal service located in Manningham. With limited public transport available, our residents face extensive travel times to access the closest available community legal service (in Box Hill, Boronia and Healesville) where there are already extensive waiting lists.
- ▶ **Manningham has a high percentage of overseas born residents (44%) and an increasing number of very low-income residents (25%).** These factors indicate that our population has a range of vulnerabilities and needs for a legal service that provides free or low-cost assistance that caters for cultural and linguistic diversity.
- ▶ Manningham Council currently contributes \$50,000 per annum to the Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC), however this is insufficient to establish a dedicated service within Manningham.

The solution

- ▶ We need a dedicated community legal centre based in Manningham, that provides general legal services. A part time service of several days per week would meet local needs.
- ▶ Community legal centres take a multi-disciplinary approach and are therefore uniquely placed to improve social and emotional wellbeing in our community. Clients are provided a wrap-around service with access to social workers, advocates, financial counsellors, educators which in turn provides stronger, holistic wellbeing outcomes.

- ▶ The need for community legal services exists now. We are also seeking support for the Mabels service (a legal advice and support service within a Maternal and Child Health setting), however, a generalist service could be timed to follow the development of a Mabels service (or vice versa). Council will provide a venue in a central and accessible location for the legal service, therefore only operational funding is required.

Project benefits

- ▶ Provision of access to quality legal advice and multi-disciplinary support for Manningham residents within Manningham will increase access to ECLC's specialised programs; and support better health and wellbeing outcomes for the community.

Project contact

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