

What our clients are saying:

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“The person I spoke with listened to me and was knowledgeable about my situation. They provided me with realistic steps that I could implement myself to follow up.”

“I liked that the centre asked for my pronouns and gender identity during the intake. I liked the volunteer lawyer I got – he was frank about what he was able to do and not able to do, he was very friendly. I was able to get a resolution quickly.”

“The information I got from my lawyer was very helpful and the information I got was clear to understand. She was open and respectful, and I feel empowered me to finish this legal battle.”

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Impact on the justice system and laws

Community Legal Centres contribute to effective policy and laws to create positive change in the community. They engage and collaborate with organisations in the justice system to make them more effective, efficient and fair. Justice system partners are courts and tribunals, government (elected, departmental, statutory agencies and government services) and other legal assistance services.

Effective policy and practice

During the 2022-23 financial year, Community Legal Centres took part in more than **696** law reform projects and **3291** stakeholder engagements.

Law reforms topics included:

- Environment
- Domestic and family violence
- Discrimination
- Legal services/getting legal help
- Australian legal system
- Guardianship for adults
- Domestic violence protection orders
- Employment
- Wills and estates
- Health
- Sexual assault and related offences
- Immigration law
- Mental health.





Advocating for stronger not tougher youth laws

Community Legal Centres Queensland along with eight other Community Legal Centres including **Youth Advocacy Centre, Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Centre** and **YFS** wrote a submission in response to the Strengthening Community Safety Bill. In its submission, Community Legal Centres Queensland called upon the Queensland Government to genuinely engage and consult with experts in the field, including Community Legal Centres and First Nations communities and community-controlled organisations, to protect the rights of children, victims of crime and the broader community, and to immediately address the inhumane treatment of children who are currently being detained for weeks on end in Queensland watch houses.

Community Legal Centres stand for the decriminalisation of public drunkenness

Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service along with **Caxton Legal Centre** and the **Institute for Urban Indigenous Health** appeared before the Queensland Parliamentary Community Services and Safety Committee to support the decriminalisation of public drunkenness and begging in Queensland. QIFVLS had provided submissions to the Inquiry which raised concerns about the approach that the Government takes with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



people when trying to reduce public offences. QIFVLS advocated for a co-responder model which would see police assisted by health and allied health professionals and a First Nations community member.

A Right to Learn

Youth Advocacy Centre (YAC) and **Queensland Advocacy for Inclusion (QAI)** are part of a community coalition that have launched a campaign, "A Right to Learn". The coalition is calling on the Queensland Government to conduct an inquiry into the use of school disciplinary absences in Queensland State Schools, as students with disability receive 46% of all short-term suspensions, despite only being about 17% of the Queensland school population.

Landmark win for climate and human rights

In a landmark win for climate and human rights, a Queensland court found that Clive Palmer's proposed Galilee Coal Project should be rejected. **Environmental Defender's Office (EDO)** with clients, Youth Verdict and The Bimblebox Alliance, fought long and hard to stop the mine from destroying culture, climate and wildlife. Youth Verdict's First Nations-led case was the first time a coal mine has been challenged on human rights grounds in Australia. This was also the first time an Australian court has heard evidence on-Country against a coal mine and according to First Nations protocols.



Making renting fair for all

There is no place like home and fair rental laws are at the heart of making houses into homes for renters. **Tenants Queensland** has been spearheading and guiding the Make Renting Fair campaign since late 2018 to advocate for stronger tenancy laws to protect renters. As part of its advocacy, Tenants Queensland joined other key community and government stakeholders at the Queensland Housing Summit.