

Community Law Australia–Fund Equal Justice Community Legal Centres Federal Election Scorecard 2016

OVERALL SCORECARD

CLC ELECTION PRIORITIES	COALITION	ALP	GREENS
Broad reversal of funding cuts to CLCs	✗	✗	✓
Implement Productivity Commission recommendation – \$120M per year to legal assistance, including min \$14.4M to CLCs	✗	✗	✓
Other additional funding for CLCs	✓	✓	✓
Removal of restriction on use of Commonwealth funds for policy, advocacy and law reform	✗	✓	✓
Funding for other legal assistance providers	✓	✓	✓

CLC FUNDING TRACKER

	WHAT WE NEED! ¹	WHAT WE GET		\$ CUT AMOUNT	COALITION Extra \$ Commitments	ALP Extra \$ Commitments	GREENS Extra \$ Commitments
		Core Cth \$ under NPA ²	Women's Safety Package \$ ³				
2016–17	\$61.6M	\$42.2M	\$5.0M		Some part of \$10.0M for family violence services (Shortfall = \$4.4M to \$14.4M)	Some part of \$10.0M (Shortfall = \$4.4M to \$14.4M)	\$14.45M (Surplus = \$0.05M)
2017–18	\$61.6M	\$30.1M	\$5.0M	\$12.1M ✂	Some part of \$10.0M for family violence services (Shortfall = \$16.5M to \$26.5M)	Some part of \$10.0M plus additional \$13.0M (Shortfall = \$3.5M to \$13.5M)	\$26.55M (Surplus = \$0.05M)
2018–19	\$61.6M	\$30.6M		\$11.6M ✂	Some part of \$10.0M for family violence services (Shortfall = \$21.0M to \$31.0M)	Some part of \$10.0M plus additional \$13.1M (Shortfall = \$7.9M to \$17.9)	\$26.05M (Surplus of \$0.05M to Shortfall of \$4.95M)
2019–20	\$61.6M	\$31.0M		\$11.1M ✂	(Shortfall = \$30.6M)	\$13.2M (Shortfall = \$17.4M)	\$25.55M (Surplus of \$0.05M to Shortfall of \$4.95M)
OVER FOUR YEARS	\$246.4M	\$133.9M	\$10.0M	\$34.8M ✂	Commitment is some part of \$30.0M for family violence services Shortfall = \$72.5M to \$102.5M	Commitment is \$39.3M plus some part of \$30.0M Shortfall = \$33.2M to \$63.2M	Commitment is \$92.6M Surplus of \$0.2M to Shortfall of \$9.8M ⁴

1. \$61.6M = Core Cth \$ under NPA at 2016–17 level + \$5M Women's Safety Package per year + \$ Cut Amount + \$14.4M per year (as recommended by the Productivity Commission, Access to Justice Arrangements Report, 2014). This amount is the immediate funding injection required, noting the need to properly measure legal need to determine long-term funding.
 2. Commonwealth funding provided under the National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services 2015–2020.
 3. September 2015 announcement of \$5.0M per year over 3 years to a small number of CLCs and Legal Aid Commissions for family violence-related services from 2015–16 (already completed) to 2017–18.
 4. Figures may not add up due to rounding. Possible shortfall arises as information not publicly available on Greens position on continuing \$5M Women's Safety Package pilot funding per year beyond 2018–19 when it expires.

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1 Broad reversal of funding cuts to CLCs

Reversal of the broad national Commonwealth funding cuts for CLCs under the National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance amounting to \$34.83M over the period 2017/18 to 2019/20.

PARTY POSITIONS:

►Coalition

- No broad reversal of NPA funding cuts.

►ALP

- No broad reversal of NPA funding cuts.
- However, other additional funding commitments include \$39.3M in family violence-related funding for CLCs, plus some part of \$30M over 3 years, which amounts to more than the cuts.

►Greens

- Full reversal of broad funding cuts.

2 Implement Productivity Commission recommendations

An immediate injection of \$120M per year into the legal assistance sector, which would include a minimum of \$14.4M million per year for CLCs. [Note the full recommendation was for an additional \$200M per year to be shared between the Commonwealth (60%) and the States and Territories (40%)].

PARTY POSITIONS:

►Coalition

- No implementation.

►ALP

- No implementation.

►Greens

- Full implementation.

3 Other additional funding for CLCs

PARTY POSITIONS:

►Coalition

- CLCs jointly with FVPLS, ATSILS and Legal Aid: Share of \$30M family-violence related funding over 3 years.

►ALP

- CLCs jointly with FVPLS, ATSILS and Legal Aid: Share of \$30M family-violence related funding over 3 years.

In addition:

- CLCs: \$39.3M family-violence related funding over 3 years.
- Environmental Defenders Offices: \$10.8M over 4 years.

►Greens

- Environmental Defenders Offices: \$14.5M over 4 years.
- NACLCL (peak body): \$1.67M over 4 years.

4 Removal of restriction on use of Commonwealth funds for policy, advocacy and law reform

PARTY POSITIONS:

►Coalition

- No commitment to removing restriction.

►ALP

- Committed to removing restriction.

►Greens

- Committed to removing restriction.

5 Funding for other legal assistance services

PARTY POSITIONS:

►Coalition

- FVPLS, ATSILS and Legal Aid jointly with CLCs: Share of \$30M family violence-related funding over 3 years.
- FVPLS and ATSILS: Possibly some share of \$25M Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family violence-related funding over 3 years.

►ALP

- FVPLS, ATSILS and Legal Aid jointly with CLCs: Share of \$30M family-violence related funding over 3 years.
- FVPLS and ATSILS: Possibly some share of \$25M Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family violence-related funding over 3 years.

In addition:

- FVPLS: \$4.5M over 3 years.
- ATSILS: \$18.18M over 3 years.
- ATSILS: \$3.6M for family violence-related work over 3 years.
- NATSILS (peak body): \$2.25M over 3 years.

►Greens

- FVPLS: \$144.36M over 4 years.
- NFVPLS (peak body): \$4.5M over 4 years.
- ATSILS: \$183.09M over 4 years.
- NATSILS (peak body): \$0.82M over 4 years.
- Legal Aid: \$290.04M over 4 years.