

# Community Legal Education Collaboration Fund

Round 4 report (2014–15)



## Background

Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ) established the Community Legal Education (CLE) Collaboration Fund to resource collaborative initiatives and partnerships to extend the reach of our CLE work, in line with our CLE Strategy.

The fund's objective is to resource CLE initiatives and projects that:

- promote collaboration between legal assistance and community based services
- help people identify legal problems early, understand their legal rights and responsibilities, and how to access legal help.

The collaboration fund is funded by LAQ from federal government funding through the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Legal Assistance Services. \$100,000 was made available for each funding round.

We have distributed five funding rounds to grant recipients:

- round 1: \$88,332.20 distributed in December 2011
- round 2: \$78,159 distributed in June 2012
- round 3: \$96,007 distributed in June 2013
- round 4: \$110,850<sup>1</sup> distributed in June 2014
- round 5: \$120,248<sup>1</sup> distributed in June 2015.

This report will focus on the collaboration fund's fourth round. The round 4 projects were undertaken between 1 July 2014 and 31 August 2015 with one large project continuing past this date.

## Application process

In round 4, we invited eligible community legal centres (CLCs) that are incorporated, CLCs that are sponsored by an incorporated body, and Regional Legal Assistance Forums (RLAFs) to submit proposals for project grants of up to \$20,000. Project proposals had to meet the fund guidelines to be eligible. The fund guidelines outlined the fund's objectives, eligible projects, grant criteria, examples of projects that would be considered, grant conditions, eligible costs, timeframes and accountability requirements.

A panel of LAQ staff assessed applications received against the fund guidelines and made recommendations to the chief executive officer about the preferred projects. Ten projects met the application criteria and were recommended for grants. We allocated \$104,850 to these 10 projects. A list of project grant recipients is provided on the following page, along with a summary of their project results.

Applicants were also encouraged to apply for one of three \$3000 external evaluation grants to appoint an external evaluator, experienced in conducting project/program evaluations in the community sector, to evaluate their project. Three project grant recipients applied for external evaluation grants—two of these applications were approved and we allocated \$6000 in total to these two projects. The external evaluation grant recipients are listed on page 5 of this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: Legal Aid Queensland supplemented the \$100,000 funding pool to resource Regional Legal Assistance Forum projects and external evaluation grants.

## Project grants summary

Grant recipient	Project results	Grant amount
Carers Queensland	<p>Carers Queensland collaborated with Queensland Aged and Disability Advocacy (QADA), the Public Trustee, the Public Guardian and the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) to develop a series of five videos to help people better understand advocacy and legal services available in relation to guardianship. The five videos explain the services offered by each of these organisations.</p> <p>Carers Queensland sought input from carers and people with disabilities into the video content, which use simple English and animation to explain complex legal guardianship issues. The videos are available on Carers Queensland's <a href="#">YouTube channel</a>.</p>	18,000
Nundah Community Legal Service	Nundah Community Legal Service delivered 15 information sessions on common legal issues including family law, employment law, older people's legal rights and neighbourhood issues. The sessions were delivered to 61 attendees in the north Brisbane area.	10,000
Queensland Aged and Disability Advocacy (QADA)	QADA is partnering with Queensland Advocacy Incorporated to deliver workshops explaining Queensland's Guardianship Framework to people with mental health issues and their families or carer. This project is currently in progress with the workshops to be delivered by June 2016. The workshops are being delivered across metropolitan and regional Queensland.	17,000
Refugee and Immigration Legal Service (RAILS)	<p>RAILS partnered with the Queensland African Communities Council and a multicultural troupe of young actors to produce and perform three <i>Help Me!</i> legal education theatre workshops to 180 members of emerging African communities. The performances explored domestic and family violence and parent/child conflict and included facilitated dialogue and practical strategies to achieve audience engagement.</p> <p>RAILS consulted with the Brisbane Domestic Violence Service, Legal Aid Queensland, the Immigrant Women's Support Service, Queensland Police, a perpetrator support group, theatre and law academics and actors to develop the performance script. RAILS used an additional Disability Support Services grant (\$12,000) to produce a video of the theatre performance, available on the RAILS <a href="#">YouTube channel</a>.</p>	12,000
Mackay Regional Community Legal Centre (CLC)	<p>Mackay Regional CLC delivered 11 'Workplace rights for teens' information sessions to high school students in grades 9–12, to increase young people's knowledge about their rights, obligations and responsibilities before they enter the workforce, and where to get help if they need it. The sessions were delivered to 1091 students and teachers at various high schools in the Mackay region.</p> <p>Additional school sessions are scheduled for early 2016.</p>	5000

<p>South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre (CLC)</p>	<p>South West Brisbane CLC delivered six child protection information sessions to 77 community workers who work with parents, children, kinship carers and other carers. The sessions covered a range of common child protection issues to provide support workers with a thorough understanding of their role in supporting and advocating for their clients. South West Brisbane CLC used its existing <a href="#">Child protection for workers</a> information kit during the sessions.</p> <p>The sessions were delivered in regional Queensland including Cunnamulla, Roma, Mount Isa, Townsville and Gayndah. Additional information sessions have been scheduled in Rockhampton and Cairns.</p>	<p>15,000</p>
<p>Basic Rights Queensland</p>	<p>Basic Rights Queensland (BRQ) partnered with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (ATSILS) to deliver 11 social security advocacy sessions to 82 community workers in regional Queensland. The sessions sought to increase community workers' capacity to assist clients with social security and financial problems, and included referral pathways to BRQ.</p> <p>The sessions were delivered in Roma, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Yeppoon, Rockhampton, Gladstone and Woorabinda. BRQ returned their remaining \$2929 unspent grant monies to Legal Aid Queensland.</p>	<p>7850</p>
<p>Bundaberg Regional Legal Assistance Forum (RLAF)</p>	<p>The Bundaberg RLAF partnered with the Bundaberg Family Law Pathways Network to deliver seven legal information sessions to 161 community workers, other professionals and community members. Each session was developed in response to community need with topics including youth justice, consumer issues, Indigenous families and the family law courts, domestic and family violence, family law, mental illness and disability.</p> <p>Many of the sessions were co-presented by RLAF partners and were delivered in Bundaberg, Maryborough, Hervey Bay and Gayndah.</p>	<p>12,000</p>
<p>Regional Legal Assistance Forums (RLAFs) special project</p>	<p>The South West Queensland RLAF partnered with The Advocacy and Support Centre (TASC) to develop a <a href="#">Cyber bullying, sexting and Facebook—Know the law, know your rights</a> booklet. The booklet is an educational resource that supports the RLAF's existing 'safe use of social media' information sessions, delivered to high school students in the Toowoomba region.</p> <p>The booklet was launched during Law Week 2015 and is now one of the most popular publications ordered from the LAQ website.</p>	<p>4000</p>
<p>South West Queensland Regional Legal Assistance Forum (RLAF)</p>	<p>The South West Queensland RLAF partnered with TASC to deliver nine information sessions to 518 students at schools and community centres in Chinchilla, Warwick, Tara, Miles and Cunnamulla. The session topics included safe use of social media and general criminal law. The <i>Cyber bullying, sexting and Facebook</i> booklet developed by the RLAF was used as a supporting resource in the sessions.</p>	<p>4000</p>
<p><b>Total</b></p>		<p><b>104,850</b></p>

## External evaluation grants summary

Grant recipient	Project description	Grant amount
Carers Queensland	<p>Carers Queensland’s external evaluation focused on assessing the content development process for the five service overview videos developed about Carers Queensland, QADA, the Public Trustee, the Public Guardian and the QCAT. The evaluation sought to determine if the diversity of the videos’ target audience was represented.</p> <p>Carers Queensland held a number of focus groups with carers and people with a disability to inform the video content. Carers Queensland chose focus groups as the most appropriate way to engage with the target audience due to the nature of the information sought and the participants’ circumstances.</p> <p>The focus group facilitator set clear boundaries about the group’s information sharing process, project timelines and confidentiality, which enabled participants to confidently share relevant and meaningful information to be included in the video scripts. Each partner organisation also provided a brief to the video production company to assist with the video script development.</p> <p>The five videos produced provide succinct, clear information about each organisation, in line with the audience’s needs. The stakeholders undertook a promotional campaign to launch the videos and raise awareness with key audiences and have seen continued growth in awareness of the videos as measured by video views and other social media metrics.</p>	3000
Queensland Aged and Disability Advocacy (QADA)	<p>QADA’s project is currently in progress so the external evaluation has not been completed.</p> <p>The external evaluation will focus on assessing if the target audience (people with mental health issues and their families or carers) found the information session’s content and delivery effective and useful. The evaluation will identify if CLE is helping people to understand their legal rights, and progress or resolve their legal problems.</p>	3000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$6000</b>

## Summary results

The round 4 projects delivered cost effective, targeted CLE to key audiences in metropolitan and regional Queensland.

Round 4 project outputs aligned with the Commonwealth legal aid service priorities noted in the NPA, a key requirement of the CLE Collaboration Fund guidelines.

The \$110,850 investment in round 4 projects allowed LAQ to:

- extend the geographic reach, scope and scale of its CLE program—using grant recipients' subject matter expertise, professional networks and established grassroots relationships to engage with and deliver CLE to vulnerable people and communities
- fund two external project evaluations to improve our understanding of 'what works' in the CLE space and enhance reporting of CLE outcomes.

## Summary round 4 project outputs

- Of the 10 round 4 projects, nine projects were completed and one project will be completed by 30 June 2016 (QADA project) in line with the grant conditions.
- 62 CLE sessions were delivered to 2170 attendees.
- Eight new resources were produced including the series of five videos explaining the services of QADA, the Public Trustee, the Public Guardian and the QCAT; the *Cyber bullying, sexting and Facebook* booklet; the *Help Me!* legal education theatre video and related workshop materials; and a 'Workplace rights for teens' PowerPoint presentation.
- The majority (71 percent/44 sessions) of the 62 CLE sessions were delivered in regional Queensland. The other 18 sessions were delivered in Brisbane.

## Collaboration

As in previous rounds, the round 4 projects facilitated collaboration between legal assistance services, community service providers and support workers, government workers (eg QCAT) and other stakeholders. Examples of collaboration in action included:

- South West Brisbane CLC partnered with the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Service and other support organisations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to deliver child protection information sessions to community workers who work with parents, children, kinship carers and other carers.
- RAILS consulted with the Queensland African Communities Council, the Brisbane Domestic Violence Service, LAQ's Family Law Services division, the Immigrant Women's Support Service, a perpetrator support group, Queensland Police, and theatre and law academics to develop the script for their *Help Me!* legal education theatre workshops.
- Basic Rights Queensland (BRQ) partnered with the ATSILS to deliver social security advocacy sessions to community workers in regional Queensland. Both organisations consulted with local CLCs and support services in the planning stage of the project to determine the need for CLE in particular regions.
- The South West Queensland RLAQ partnered with The Advocacy and Support Centre (TASC) to develop a *Cyber bullying, sexting and Facebook* booklet. Legal Aid Queensland edited the booklet and consulted with the Department of Education and Queensland Police to ensure the booklet was providing consistent messages about cyber safety to young people.

As in previous rounds, a number of round 4 projects worked with non-legal professionals (eg community sector workers and teachers) to engage with key target audiences for CLE (eg young people and Indigenous people).