



**Mark Speakman**  
Attorney General

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **REVIEW TO IMPROVE DELIVERY OF FREE LEGAL HELP**

NSW Law Reform Commission Chair Alan Cameron AO will review NSW government support for Community Legal Centre (CLC) services to ensure legal assistance is directed to people most in need, improve CLC service provision and assist government in settling an approach to funding allocation.

Attorney General Mark Speakman said “CLCs play a critical role in delivering access to justice for those in need of a helping hand. This review will strengthen CLCs as they continue to help vulnerable people, while also looking to aid their delivery of more targeted services that effect measurable change for the better.”

Mr Cameron, who is acting independently of his role at the Law Reform Commission, will begin the review immediately and deliver a report to the Attorney General by mid-December.

The review will examine the type, scope and geographic spread of activities of CLCs in NSW and consider a range of issues, including the most significant legal needs of disadvantaged people arising from the operation of State law. The review will identify gaps in legal service provision in the sector and examine all types of legal assistance services CLCs offer.

“When it comes to improving access to justice, CLCs continually punch above their weight, which is why the NSW Government stepped in earlier this year with a \$6 million rescue package when they were facing a funding crisis,” Mr Speakman said.

Every year, CLCs provide free legal support to 55,000 disadvantaged people at more than 30 locations in metropolitan, regional and rural NSW.

“The review will be finalised quickly to give CLCs certainty around how their funds will be allocated so they can plan for the future,” Mr Speakman said.

The Review invites submissions from today until 23 October 2017, and will consult with stakeholders until early November. Further details are available on the [Department of Justice website](#).

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