



# Quarterly Report

FIRST QUARTER: July – September 2019


## Service Delivery at a Glance

(Statistics for first quarter only)

- **1,346** new grants of aid
- **1,517** duty lawyer services
- **74** Family Dispute Resolution mediation conferences
- **96** new files
- **65** new Mental Health Tribunal files
- **1,247** face-to-face advice services
- **55%** of new grants assigned to the private profession
- **98%** of law firm bills paid within one working day



**13,930**  
telephone  
advice services



**186,069**  
website  
page views



**100%** of  
applications for  
legal aid considered  
within one day

## NAIDOC Week: 7 – 14 July

The Theme for the 2019 NAIDOC Week was - Voice. Treaty. Truth. Let's work together for a shared future.

A number of great events were held around Tasmania. A moving flag raising ceremony at Risdon Cove was attended by some of our staff where they enjoyed listening to a group of pre-schoolers singing in language – true hope for the future.



## Criminal Practice Manager appointed

It is very pleasing to advise that Alan Hensley has been appointed as the Criminal Practice Manager, for the Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania.

Alan has been with the Commission since July 2012, joining us from the Director of Public Prosecutions. Alan worked in Launceston for a number of years before taking on the Practice Manager role. He is a very experienced lawyer and an effective leader who has built a stable, dedicated and skilful team.

## Disability Royal Commission Advice Line

National Legal Aid has received funding to establish a telephone advice service to help people who want to participate in the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

The service provides advice to people with disability, and their families, carers, supporters and advocates. It will be able to explain legal rights and the options available to engage with the Royal Commission, including by making a submission, participating in a community forum, providing evidence at a hearing and sharing information about experiences. It will also be able to make referrals to counselling and other support services.

More info available at <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/civil-law/disability-royal-commission>

## FASS Funding News

Additional funding from the Commonwealth Government allowed us to expand the Family Advocacy and Support Service (FASS). FASS has been successful in supporting people involved in family law cases who have experienced family violence. The funding has allowed us to partner with Anglicare Tasmania to increase the number of days and to include a men's worker.

More information is available:  
<https://www.legalaid.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/FASS-Mens-Brochure-Sep-2019.pdf>

## Legal Aid Board goes to Prison

In line with the commitment to gain a deeper understanding of the work we do and the challenges faced by our clients the Legal Aid Board held its July meeting at Risdon Prison.

Board members had an extensive tour of the prison which took in the different security areas, visitors centre, medical facilities and education resources. Following the tour we spoke with Ian Thomas, Director of Prisons.

It is always sobering to visit the prison but the tour provided a great insight into another aspect of the lives of many of our clients and their families.

## Family Violence and Cross-Examination of Parties Scheme

People involved in Family Law proceedings, where allegations of family violence have been made, can no longer be directly cross-examined by the other parties. From 10 September 2019 where a cross-examination ban order is made any unrepresented parties will need to get a lawyer. Parties can apply for legal representation under the Commonwealth Family Violence and Cross Examination of Parties Scheme. A Register of Lawyers able to do this work has been created by Legal Aid.

There have been a number of orders made and we have already arranged representation for parties. We appreciate the support of private practitioners in establishing the scheme.

## Community Legal Education Steering Group

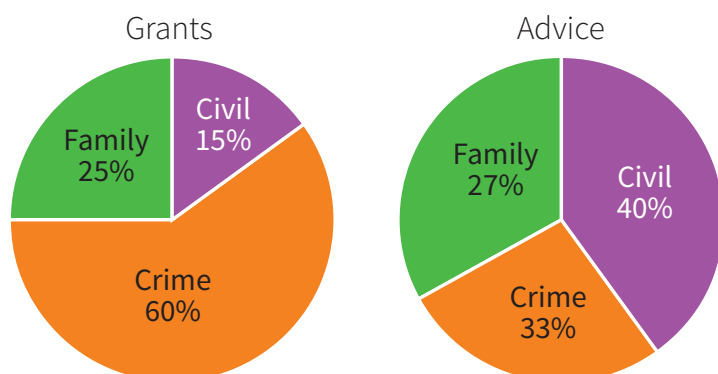
We were pleased to host the first Community Legal Education (CLE) Steering Group meeting on 30 July.

Legal Aid joined with Community Legal Centres from across Tasmania to talk about what CLE we each provide and how we can work together to reach more people.

An audit of the CLE provided by Legal Aid and CLCs indicates that there is very little overlap. Information sheets are often used by many agencies and referrals are made to specialist services where necessary.

Legal Aid has been proud to join with the Women's Legal Service to deliver CLE sessions at Sheffield and Circular Head.

## Client Services



## Summary of Financial Performance

At the end of September 2019, Legal Aid Tasmania is tracking within the budget set by the Board in May 2019.

### Financial Summary\*

Commonwealth Funding	\$1,764,917
State Funding	\$2,063,321
Other Income	\$331,663
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$4,159,901</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$4,003,487</b>

**Capital Management Plan to contend with systemic risk in the Legal Aid Sector: \$156,414**

\* Note these are management figures and have not been audited.

