

FOURTH QUARTER: April - June 2020

Covid restrictions and social distancing measures

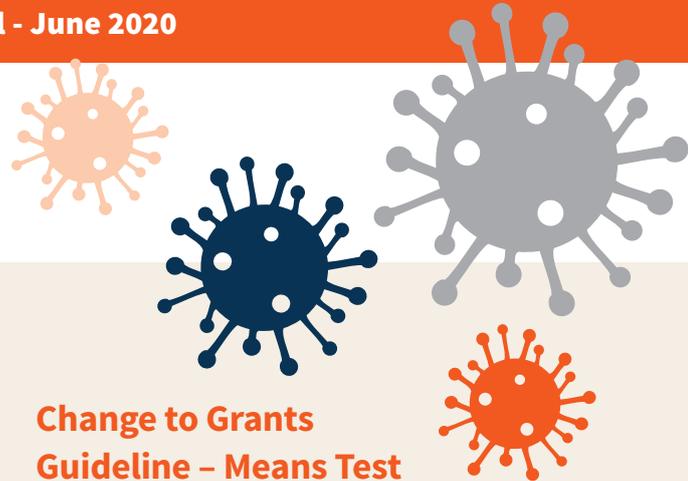
Change to the way Legal Aid delivers services

Covid-19 restrictions and physical distancing requirements caused us to suspend face to face client services. Fortunately we were able to adapt quickly and continue providing services. Technology such as video conferencing allowed us to continue providing information, advice and representation in court.

We added Covid 19 information to our website to help people understand their rights in the changing legal situation – **CLICK HERE**.

Our collaboration with Community Legal Centres meant that we were able to work effectively to get information to the community.

With the easing of restrictions our offices have reopened.



Change to Grants Guideline – Means Test

Treatment of COVID-19 financial assistance

Legal Aid acknowledges that many people will be struggling financially due to the measures implemented to contain Covid-19. The Commonwealth income supplements such as Jobkeeper and Jobseeker may be assisting. We have changed our means test to minimise the impact of these payments on eligibility for a grant of legal assistance.

Details can be found **HERE** or by calling

1300 366 611.

Service Delivery at a Glance

(Statistics for fourth quarter only)

- **1,198** new grants of aid
- **100** Family Dispute Resolution mediation conferences
- Safe at Home services **108** new files
- **97** new Mental Health Tribunal files
- **1,217** duty lawyer services
- **733** face-to-face advice services
- **4** reviews of grants officer's decisions. 1 review was set aside and 3 reviews were upheld.
- **63%** of new grants assigned to the private profession



Memorandum of Understanding with Women's Legal Service Tasmania

Family violence is a major problem affecting the lives of many of our clients, whether they are victims or perpetrators of violence. We aim to reduce the impact of violence on the lives of Tasmanians. Our new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Women's Legal Service Tasmania reflects a joint commitment to effective and responsive services that address family violence.

The MOU builds on the strong existing relationship between the two organisations which has seen us deliver joint outreach and community legal education sessions



At the signing of the MOU: Tasmania Legal Aid Director Vincenzo Caltabiano and Chair of the Board Patrick Lunn and Women's Legal Service Tasmania CEO Yvette Cehtel and Chair of the Board Sonia Shimeld.

Your story

Your Story Disability Legal Support (YSDLS) helps people living with disability and their supporters telling their story to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (the Royal Commission).

YSDLS includes David Cocker (TLA) and Josie Short from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service.

YSDLS can:

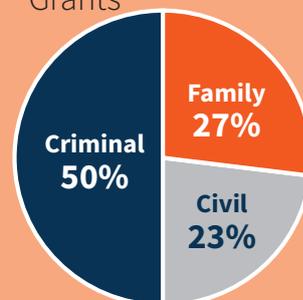
- give advice about how to engage with the Royal Commission safely
- help prepare for private sessions with the Royal Commission
- help find representation for Royal Commission hearings
- give advice and assistance on related legal issues and
- provide referrals for personal injuries claims and to specialist advocacy and counselling services

You can email David at **YourStory.Disability@legalaid.tas.gov.au**.

More information on Your Story Disability Legal Support go to **yourstorydisabilitylegal.org.au** and for free legal advice call **1800 77 1800**.

Client Services

Grants



Advice



Summary of Financial Performance

At the end of June 2020, Legal Aid Tasmania expenditure was above the budget set by the Board in May 2019.

Demand for grants of aid remained high in the quarter, continuing the yearly trend. Payments for legal services for 2019-20 were almost \$1M higher than in 2018-19.

Financial Summary*	
Commonwealth Funding	\$7,570,714
State Funding	\$8,355,446
Other Income	\$1,288,547
TOTAL INCOME	\$17,214,707
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$17,201,801
Cap Management movement: Increase of \$12,906	

* The figures will be finalised and reported in the annual report.