



Our Ref: Ross Lee
Your Ref: Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

19 December 2014

The Research Director
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House, George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

BY EMAIL lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir / Madam

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO s289 LEGAL PROFESSION ACT 2007 – LAW REFORM

Robina Community Legal Centre Inc. (RCLC) commenced operations in February this year. Since then we have been audited twice for professional indemnity insurance purposes and once for NACLC accreditation purposes. We passed those audits and despite the considerable regulation and compliance requirements of this sector, managed to provide 649 individual client advice sessions in 2014 start-up. Those advices and back office services in support were exclusively provided by volunteers. Disappointingly, RCLC receives no state or federal funding in what is a priority need area. We are only the second CLC in Australia's sixth largest city.

We understand the proposed amendment of section 289 is to the effect of preventing LPITAF funding of law reform by community organisations such as community legal centres. On 18 December 2014 QAILS wrote to the Honourable Premier (copy to the Honourable Attorney-General) on this topic, copy **enclosed**. Broadly, we agree with its submissions.

However to us CLC's are just a type of law firm. We engage in legal practice, not law reform advocacy. We believe that developing policies and responses to government on proposed statutory changes should be done by QAILS for CLC's; much as the Queensland Law Society has this role for law firms generally. The QLS has a very good system of members and District Law Associations feeding up information to its specialist Committees and those Committees working with QLS Advocacy to lodge submissions. QAILS should have the same role for CLC's.

RCLC has no interest in law reform advocacy - now or in the foreseeable future. However, we are happy to feed up information to QAILS and the QLS.

Yours faithfully,

Ross Lee
President

ROBINA COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC.