



Speech By  
**Joan Pease**


**MEMBER FOR LYTTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2018

## ADJOURNMENT

### Bayside Community Legal Service

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (7.21 pm): For over 30 years in Australia community legal centres have operated and, each year, they help over 200,000 people and leverage more than \$20 million worth of legal assistance. The bayside is really fortunate to have Anna, Candice and her team at the Bayside Community Legal Service operating at the Wynnum Community Centre. The BCLS is a not-for-profit community based organisation that provides free legal and related services to locals, focusing on disadvantaged people. The clients of the Bayside Community Legal Service come from a range of circumstances and are often facing economic, social or cultural disadvantage and experiencing multiple interrelated problems. These are complex legal problems that affect not only their own lives but often the entire life circumstances of their families. That is what makes community legal services different from other legal services. It is service that recognises that clients' problems are not only legal and that it has to respond to the interrelated needs of its clients.

These individuals and their families are often in crisis, having been rejected for assistance elsewhere. The Bayside Community Legal Service provides an important service. It does not leave these people behind. It helps to resolve these people's legal problems and all of their related problems, which often prevents an escalation of the problems that they are experiencing.

The Bayside Community Legal Service provides access to justice, which makes vulnerable and often disadvantaged clients feel socially included, and allows them to exercise their rights within a fair and balanced system of justice. Baysiders are incredibly fortunate to have this fabulous legal service, which is critical in upholding the rule of law through its rights based approach. This is particularly important in my local bayside area. The Bayside Community Legal Service has forged great relationships with many community groups, service providers and agencies providing assistance and referrals to vulnerable people who are in crisis. Unfortunately, many of these services were ripped out of our communities during the Campbell Newman years.

My office has a wonderful collaborative relationship with the Bayside Community Legal Service, which works so hard in my community to ensure that the people of my community are being looked after. I am always confident to be able to refer constituents to the service, because I know that they will be treated respectfully and be supported respectfully. The Bayside Community Legal Service is an integral service in my community that serves baysiders. I look forward to continuing to work with Anna, Candice and the team, who do the great work for the service.