

Question on Notice

No. 405

Asked on Tuesday 28 March 2006

MRS DESLEY SCOTT asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General (Mrs Lavarch):

QUESTION:

What assistance is being provided to refugees in the Woodridge Electorate in regards to legal services and family reunification?

ANSWER:

Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ) has a regional office in Woodridge. It is located at:

1st Floor, Woodridge Place
Corner Ewing Road and Carmody Street
Woodridge

The office is within walking distance of most government and community services, including both Access Inc and Multilink, the two refugee and immigrant services in Woodridge. The Woodridge LAQ office provides legal advice, legal information and legal representation in family law, civil law and criminal law areas. Both refugees and newly arrived immigrants access the Woodridge Legal Aid Office LAQ for advice and representation in these areas of law. As well, there is a strong network of preferred suppliers in the Woodridge area who conduct legal aid work on behalf of Legal Aid Queensland LAQ in these areas of law.

Any advice sought by refugees specifically on immigration law and refugee matters, including family reunification advices, requires a migration agent to provide the advice and this is not a service offered by the Woodridge LAQ office. These clients are referred to the Refugee and Immigration Legal Service (RAILS) which is located at:

1st Floor, Boundary Chambers
170 Boundary Road
West End

RAILS provides both a telephone (non Brisbane Metro clients only) and face-to-face legal advice service for refugees from 9.00 a.m to 5.00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Women's Legal Aid is a specialist unit of Legal Aid Queensland LAQ and is also situated at the Woodridge Legal Aid LAQ. office. Refugee and migrant women are a large proportion of the clients who use Women's Legal Aid. Women's Legal Aid also receives referrals from the Immigrant Women's Support Service in West End which provides support to non-English women experiencing sexual assault and domestic violence.

Legal Aid Queensland LAQ offers a free telephone legal advice service on its 1300 05 11 88 number which can be accessed by any person in Queensland. RAILS can be contacted during its business hours on (07) 3846 3189.

Both the Woodridge Legal Aid Office LAQ and RAILS provide interpreter services if required.