

Question on Notice

No. 573

Asked on 22 May 2025

MR P RUSSO ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR INTEGRITY (HON D FRECKLINGTON)

QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General advise what free or subsidised legal services are available to assist communities to appeal planning and/or development applications?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Toohey for his question.

The Crisafulli Government recognises the critical role that community legal services play in providing vulnerable Queenslanders with access to justice.

On 27 November 2024, I signed the *National Access to Justice Partnership 2025-30* on behalf of Queensland, securing \$827 million in vital Commonwealth funding for Queensland's legal assistance sector.

To unlock this funding, the Crisafulli Government committed an additional \$142 million in dedicated State funding, lifting Queensland's total investment in the sector to \$1 billion over 2025-30.

This decisive action restored certainty and stability to the sector, after the former government failed to allocate the necessary State funding to unlock federal funding, placing frontline community legal services at risk.

I am advised that this funding supports the delivery of legal services by Legal Aid Queensland, Community Legal Centres, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, Women's Legal Services, and Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services.

I am further advised these legal assistance services provide free or subsidised legal advice, representation, and referrals across a wide range of matters, including some that do so for planning, development and infrastructure matters.