

LEGAL AID MATTERS

THE SOLUTION

The next Federal Government needs to:

1. Increase the Commonwealth's share of legal aid commission funding to 50 per cent with the States and Territories. This would amount to an additional \$126m in the 2016 Commonwealth Budget.
2. Immediately provide a further \$120 million to cover civil legal assistance, with the States and Territories contributing \$80 million, comprising a total of \$200 million, as recommended by the Productivity Commission.
3. Immediately reverse further Commonwealth funding cuts to legal assistance services announced in 2014, due to take effect from July 2017. These include:
 - a. \$12.1 million in cuts to community legal centres
 - b. \$4 million on cuts to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services; and
 - c. all cuts directed at policy and advocacy work conducted by legal assistance bodies, as recommended by the Productivity Commission.