

TO THE HONORABLE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of the citizens who live in or support the communities of Far West New South Wales, including Broken Hill, Wilcannia, Wentworth, Ivanhoe, Menindee and other centres, draws to the attention of the House of Representatives the critical funding shortfall affecting the Far West Community Legal Centre (FWCLC). The community is concerned that this financial shortfall will result in an acute reduction, or cessation, of localised and outreach legal service provision.

The removal of face-to-face legal services places unnecessary strain on persons already suffering from disadvantage; the removal of such services would be devastating for remote and isolated residents of the Far West.

In order to continue with the provision of such services, the FWCLC seeks recurrent, annual funding of \$433,000 as part of the Commonwealth Community Legal Service Program (CLSP).

We therefore ask the House to consider the face-to-face legal needs of the communities of Far West of New South Wales and to pledge that sufficient funding levels are provided for the continuation of appropriate service provision by the Far West Community Legal Centre.