



Comments in relation to questionnaire – access to legal services

Please note that the questionnaire was tabled at the Belyuen Council meeting in January.

Basic response “what legal service”, “nobody comes out here”

1. No lawyers available to community people.  
NAALAS should come and visit the community – monthly basis – help people who have to go to court.

2. No service in the community

3. Community people come to the Council Office and use Council phone when they need to phone Legal Aide

4. No lawyers attend the community

5. No circuit courts

6. Do not know - would have to ask individuals

7. Interpreters are needed – particularly as lot of people speak kriol and sometimes do not understand the words used by lawyers/judge. Need someone from the community who can help them understand.

8. Legal aide is available for non criminal cases.

9. Domestic Violence organize assistance for the women

One of the big problems is when people have to go to court – cost lot of money for ferry and mini bus – then the court gets adjourned and they have to find the money again to go back to court – this can happen over and over. Most people only on Centrelink payments they do not have money all the time and have to borrow from family. Sometime people have to get themselves to Port Keats – this costs a lot of money then sometimes that court is adjourned.

Cathy Winsley  
Council Clerk

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