

## Sam Biondo

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**From:** Sam Biondo  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 December 2003 11:57 AM  
**To:** Phillip.Bailey@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** Regarding question on Notice from Sam Biondo

Please find attached my answer to the following question on notice at the recent Inquiry Hearing in Melbourne on 12th November 2003.

**ANSWER:**

Generally speaking CLCs including the Welfare rights Unit don't do AAT hearings in the Social Security area. If the Fitzroy Legal Service, or the Welfare rights unit did do so there would be a significant tradeoff, for many other clients who would miss out on assistance because of the lack of capacity. Because of this lack of capacity clients are generally referred to the Victoria Legal Aid Social Security Clinic. While the clinic is also stretched it is not as stretched as say the Welfare rights Unit in Vicotria which has effectively got a 2.4 EFT staffing complement. The overall lack of capacity in the community sector to undertake appeal work could be resolved through specific allocations of funds to increase staffing, or maybe even a per capita payment per person assisted. In terms of how stretched the overall funding by the Commonwealth of these sorts of cases is, it might be best to get this information from Victoria Legal Aid.

Sam Biondo