

Attorney-General
Minister for Justice
Minister for Corrections
Minister for the Arts
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council



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Mr Benedict Coyne
President
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07 JUN 2016

By email: president@alhr.org.au

Dear Mr Coyne

Thank you for your letter of 8 May 2016 regarding Victorian Legal Aid's Legacy Caseload Initiative. At present there are no plans to implement an initiative on that scale in Tasmania. However, the Tasmanian Government recognises the importance of providing assistance to refugees living in the community.

To that end I recently approved funding to the Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service to allow that organisation to better provide legal services to refugees, asylum seekers and other humanitarian entrants living in Tasmania. Specifically the funding will be used to employ a registered migration agent on a casual basis to provide ongoing casework for clients of that Service.

Further, I also recently approved funding to the Hobart Community Legal Service to allow them to employ a full-time legal officer tasked with delivering services aimed at improving relationships between refugee communities and the justice system, as well as providing legal assistance to members of the refugee community.

Given the size of the Tasmanian jurisdiction relative to Victoria, the above represents a genuine commitment to provide assistance to what is a vulnerable group within the Tasmanian community.

Thank you again for your correspondence, and I take this opportunity to commend your organisation for the important role that they play in the Australian community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vanessa Goodwin".

Dr Vanessa Goodwin MLC
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice

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M16/13388