



Civil Legal Aid in a Rapidly Changing World

Legal Aid Board Annual Conference
18 June 2014

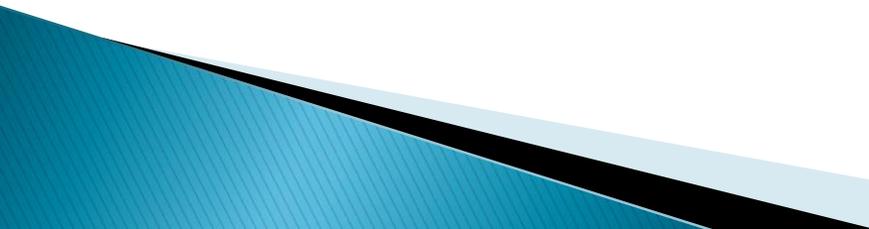
- ▶ Backdrop of considerable change in civil legal aid provision internationally
 - Resources
 - Scope
 - Access
 - Technological
 - Research and understanding
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“It is much less expensive to build a fence at the top of a cliff than to have need of an expensive ambulance at the bottom”



National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services – Australia

“The parties are committed to finding better ways to help people resolve their legal problems... Addressing social inclusion, including indigenous disadvantage, and adopting a more holistic approach to resolving people’s legal problems will improve the way services are provided... The parties to the Agreement recognise that decisions regarding future legal assistance service delivery must be considered in the context of the justice sector as a whole, and support the principles of the Australian Government’s strategic framework for access to justice”.



Objective

A national system of legal assistance that is integrated, efficient and cost-effective, and focused on providing services for disadvantaged Australians in accordance with access to justice principles of accessibility, appropriateness, equity, efficiency and effectiveness.

Outcomes

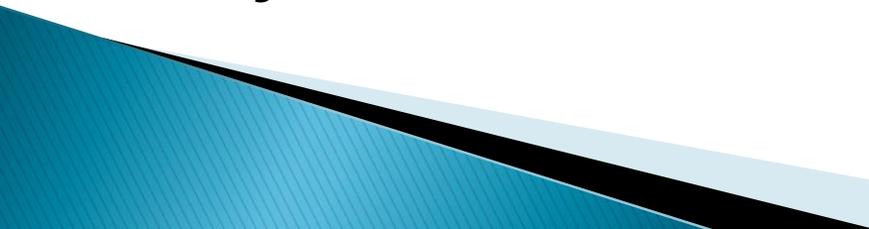
- a) earlier resolution of legal problems for disadvantaged Australians that, when appropriate, avoids the need for litigation**
 - b) more appropriate targeting of legal assistance services to people who experience, or are at risk of experiencing, social exclusion**
 - c) increased collaboration and cooperation between legal assistance providers themselves and with other service providers to ensure clients receive 'joined up' service provision to address legal and other problems, and**
 - d) strategic national response to critical challenges and pressures affecting the legal assistance sector.**
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Access to Civil and Family Justice. A Roadmap for Change – Canada

Let me start by saying that the problem of access to justice is not a new one. As long as justice has existed, there have been those who struggled to access it. But as Canadians celebrated the new millennium, it became clear that we were increasingly failing in our responsibility to provide a justice system that was accessible, responsive and citizen-focused. Reports told us that cost, delays, long trials, complex procedures and other barriers were making it impossible for more and more Canadians to exercise their legal rights.

Fortunately, governments, organizations, and many individuals responded to the plea for change. Across the country they embarked on initiatives aimed at improving access to justice. However, too often, these initiatives proceeded in isolation from one another. Despite much hard work, it became increasingly clear that what was required was a national discussion and a coordinated action strategy to access to justice. So, in 2008, the Action Committee was convened.

Chief Justice



Guiding Principles for Change

1. Put the public first
 2. Collaborate and coordinate
 3. Prevent and educate
 4. Simplify, make coherent, proportional and sustainable
 5. Take action
 6. Focus on outcomes
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