



Evidence of legal need in NSW to support the Cameron Review implementation

CLC Application 2019-22 Information Session

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Law and Justice Foundation of NSW

October 2018



Conference paper

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Abstract

The Foundation published the report called Evidence of legal need in NSW to support the Cameron Review implementation in September 2018. The report contains data which is largely based on ABS data from the 2016 Census which is the most reliable and reputable source of demographic data.

Section 1 provides data on priority groups, as well as information on the experience of legal problems and multiple disadvantage. Strategies for making services more appropriate and accessible for each priority group are identified. The Foundation's new Need for Legal Assistance Services (NLAS) community legal centre indicator is introduced. This indicator provides a count of people likely to need legal assistance from a community legal centre if they were to experience a legal problem and can be used to compare potential demand across geographic areas.

Section 2 provides data by 22 catchment regions. There are 18 catchment regions that are covered by a NSW generalist CLC and 4 regions that are not being covered by a generalist CLC. This section includes information on the location of other legal assistance services in each catchment region, as well as data on the priority groups to provide a profile of the catchment region.

Publisher

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Background

- The Cameron Review recommended
 - application-based funding model introduced for NSW CLCs
 - directly linked to NPA requirements
 - evidence-based that is consistent and authoritative.
- This report forms the foundation for the evidence base.
- Produced within a tight timeframe.



Background

- Builds on the existing legal needs work
- Draws on:
 - LJF 2018 Collaborative Planning Resource priority groups
 - LJF Collaborative Planning Resource – Service Planning report
- Format based on the Community Legal Centres Qld Inc. report



The report

- Data is largely based on ABS data from the 2016 Census
- Most reliable and reputable source of demographic data
- Advantages:
 - Almost whole population coverage
 - High completion rate means it is highly representative
 - Available for small areas in a consistent format



Census data

- Limitations
 - Relies on questions being answered, and then answered correctly.
 - Updates to Census data only occur every five years. Data has not been adjusted for any population increases since the 2016 Census.
 - Census data is randomly adjusted by the ABS to avoid the release of confidential data.



Other data

- Not possible to source all of the data that might support this work.
- Information should not be used in isolation – planning benefits from drawing on a range of information sources.
- Other data sources may have local relevance and may be relevant for targeting specific groups or legal issues.
- This report should be treated as a work in progress and one source of information only.



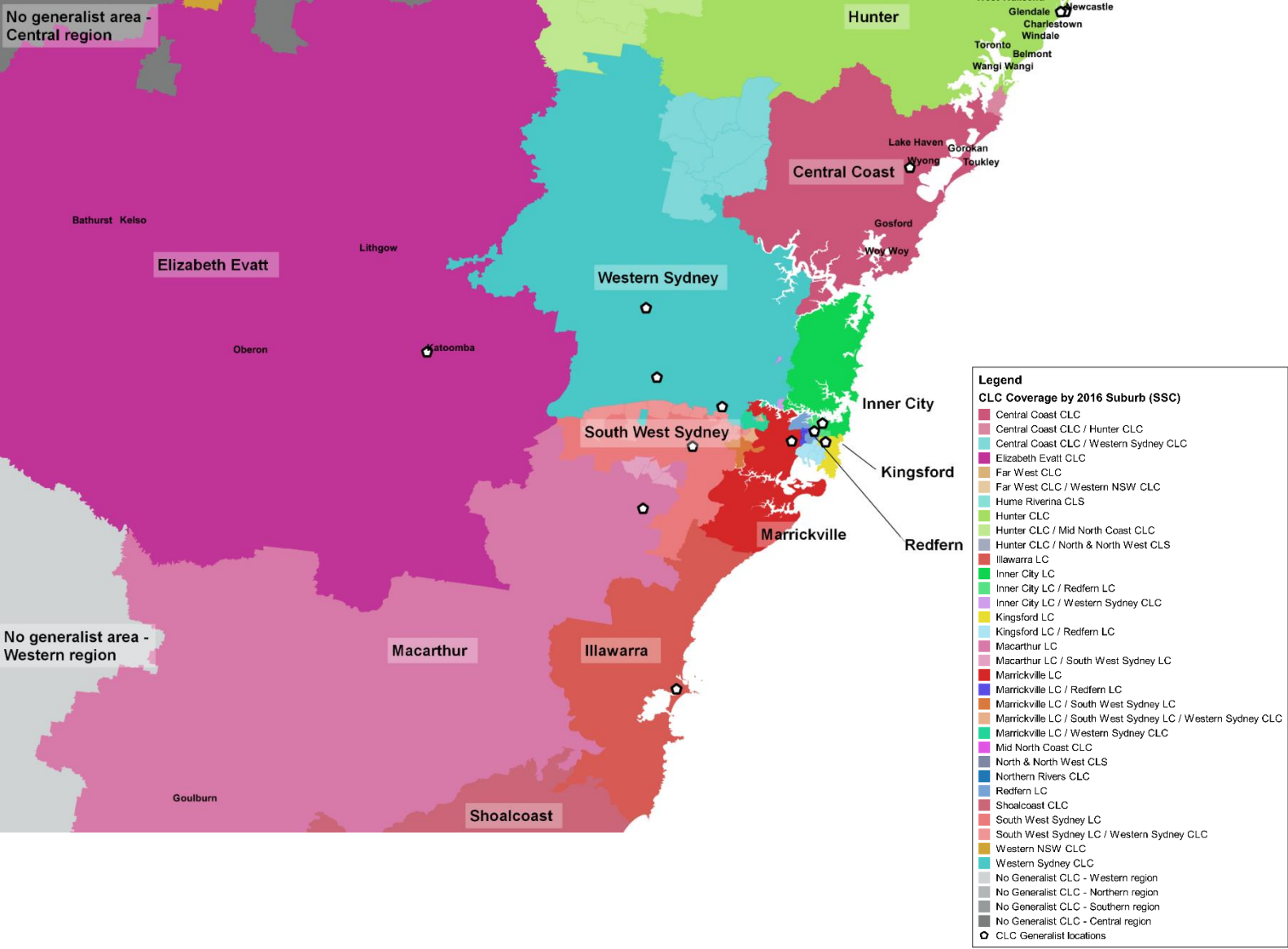
Catchment regions

- October 2017 – LJF asked by CLCNSW to map the catchment regions of generalist CLCs for Cameron Review submission.
- December 2017 – finalised maps were provided to CLCNSW and to the NSW Department of Justice.
- Early August 2018 – catchment regions circulated again to CLCs by CLCNSW and feedback was provided to the LJF.
- 10 August 2018 – catchment regions finalised for inclusion in the report.



Catchment regions

- 18 regions covered by a NSW generalist CLC and 4 regions identified as ‘No generalist’ coverage areas.
- Coverage overlap
- This resource recognises that specialist services:
 - are provided statewide in specific areas of law, or targeting specific priority groups.
 - are likely to be available to residents in all catchments delivering services through a variety of methods.
- Information on priority groups is provided on a statewide basis where possible.





The report

- Information and data is provided in 2 sections
 - Section 1: by NPA priority group
 - Section 2: by catchment region
- 3 appendices to the report
 - Summary of strategies which can assist legal assistance services to be more appropriate and accessible
 - Overlap between priority demographic groups
 - Map of Statistical Area 4 (SA4) regions relative to catchment regions



Section 1

- Data on the NPA priority groups
- Information on the experience of legal problems and multiple disadvantage.
- Brief summaries of strategies identified to make services more appropriate and accessible for each priority group.
- The LJF's NLAS community legal centre (CLC) indicator is introduced in this section.



Need for legal assistance services (NLAS) indicators

- Proxy measures, developed in 2015 from legal needs research, of the relative demand for services by geography
- A count of the number of people likely to require legal assistance services should they experience a legal problem, with separate counts of those likely to require culturally appropriate services.
- Assumptions:
 - Experience of legal problems is widespread so finding people with problems is not a challenge
 - Legal assistance services should be targeted at those with the lowest legal capability
 - Financial resources, educational attainment, cultural diversity and ATSI are reasonable proxies for legal capability
- NLAS indicators provide information on how potential demand for services is likely to vary geographically.



2018 NLAS indicators from the LJF Collaborative Planning Resource

- **NLAS(Capability)** – a count of people aged 15 to 64 who are likely to need legal assistance should they experience a problem due to their low level of personal income and educational attainment
- **NLAS(ATSI)** – a count of people identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait islander aged 15 and over with a low personal income
- **NLAS(CALD)** – a count of people for whom English is not their main language, aged 15 and over with a low personal income
- **NLAS(65+)** – a count of people aged 65 and over with low personal income and educational attainment
- **NLAS(\$52K)** – a count of people aged 15 to 64 with moderate personal income and low educational attainment



A new NLAS:

Need for Legal Assistance Services (NLAS): CLC indicator

- Provides a count of people *likely* to need legal assistance from a community legal centre *if* they were to experience a legal problem and uses educational attainment and income as a proxy for legal capability.
- Can be used to compare potential demand across geographic areas.

NLAS(CLC) is defined as people aged 15 years and over who:

- are living in a household with an income equivalent to a single person income of less than \$52,000 per year
- highest year of school completion ranges from Year 12 (ages 15-39), Year 11 (ages 40-49), Year 10 (ages 50-64), Year 9 (ages 65-74), to Year 8 (ages 75+).
- are not currently a full time or part time student
- highest non-school qualification is either a Certificate I or II.



Numbers and rates

- For planning purposes, the **number** in a particular area is likely to be most useful for determining the amount of likely demand for services.
- Numbers may be small in some areas, but lack of options for assistance may increase the priority of providing services



Numbers and rates

- **Rates** indicate the percentage or proportion of a particular population (the denominator) that has a particular characteristic.
- Careful consideration should be given to the choice of denominator
- Rates will tend to be smaller in more mixed communities, such as in inner city areas.
- Areas with high rates on indicators of need or disadvantage may present their own intrinsic problems.
- Reference should always be made to absolute **numbers**



Section 1

Data on NPA priority groups:

- People who are financially disadvantaged
- Children and young people
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Older people
- People experiencing, or at risk of family violence
- People experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness
- People in custody and prisoners
- People residing in rural or remote areas
- People who are culturally or linguistically diverse
- People with a disability or mental illness
- People with low education levels
- Single parents



Table 3: NLAS(CLC) population, by catchment region (number and proportion of NSW)

Catchment	Total Population		NLAS(CLC)	
	N		N	% of NSW
Central Coast	333,425		46,855	5.2%
Elizabeth Evatt	195,975		23,890	2.6%
Far West	20,270		5,050	0.6%
Hume Riverina	186,900		29,900	3.3%
Hunter	653,605		100,895	11.1%
Illawarra	293,515		40,240	4.4%
Inner City	710,065		22,320	2.5%
Kingsford	174,400		10,075	1.1%
Macarthur	351,680		45,840	5.1%
Marrickville	934,880		89,895	9.9%
Mid North Coast	157,730		29,580	3.3%
North & North West	179,600		33,525	3.7%
Northern Rivers	290,135		47,330	5.2%
Redfern	231,945		12,335	1.4%
Shoalcoast	173,845		29,800	3.3%
South West Sydney	550,600		102,620	11.3%
Western NSW	138,470		27,255	3.0%
Western Sydney	1,543,705		160,485	17.7%
No Generalist – Central region	13,830		2,225	0.2%
No Generalist – Northern region	106,025		17,605	1.9%
No Generalist – Southern region	65,930		6,455	0.7%
No Generalist – Western region	161,215		31,470	3.5%
NSW	7,480,230		907,205	100.0%



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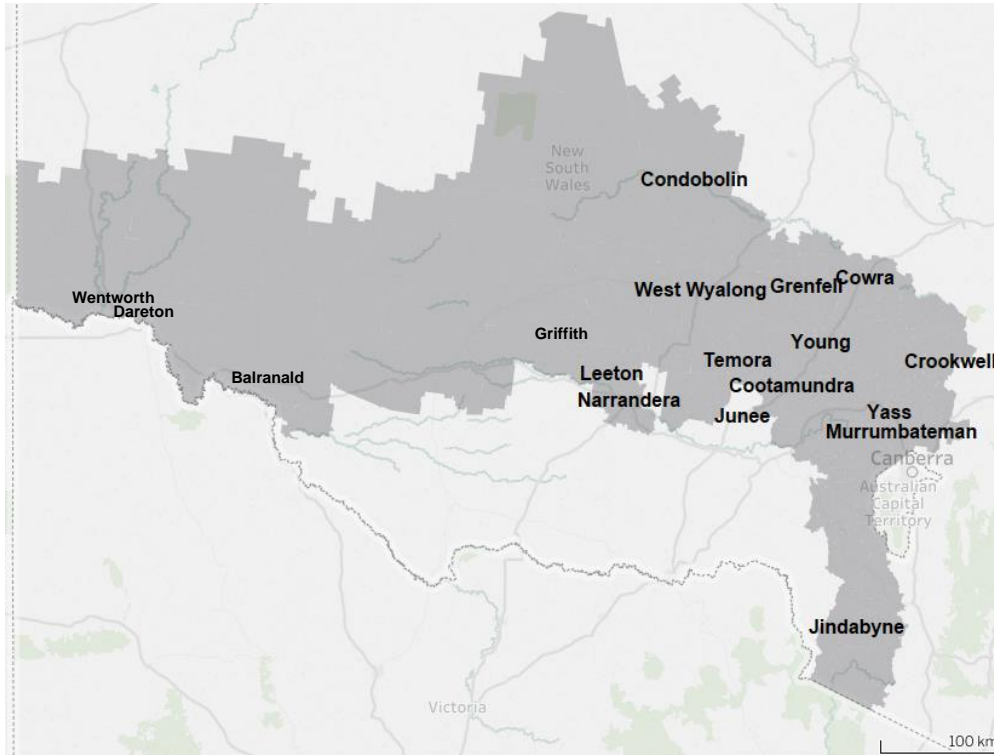


Section 2

- Information in this section is provided by catchment region.
- Each region includes:
 - a map with selected town/suburb names
 - information about the available services (by location)
 - data on the priority groups (where available) to provide a profile of the catchment region.



Section 2 excerpt: No Generalist – Western region





Group	Number	% of catchment	NSW average (%)
Total population	161,215	100.0%	
NLAS(CLC) (15+)	31,470	19.5%	12.1%
<i>Financially disadvantaged (15+)</i>			
Personal income <\$26,000/year	47,495	29.5%	30.2%
Personal income <\$52,000/year	81,995	50.9%	48.7%
Household income <\$26,000/year	27,045	16.8%	14.3%
Household income <\$52,000/year	64,580	40.1%	35.9%
Children & young people (0-24)	49,500	30.7%	31.1%
Disengaged youth (15-24)	585	0.4%	0.4%
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people (<15)	3,095	1.9%	1.0%
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people (15+)	5,910	3.7%	1.9%
NLAS(ATSI) (15+)	2,945	1.8%	0.9%
Older people (60+)	43,135	26.8%	21.9%
Older people (65+)	32,375	20.1%	16.3%
Number of AVOs issued (2017)	1,449	-	-
People residing in rural or remote areas	160,910	99.8%	25.0%
CALD people (15+)	8,210	5.1%	21.2%
NLAS(CALD) (15+)	3,510	2.2%	9.8%
People with a disability (<15)	670	0.4%	0.5%
People with a disability (15-64)	3,210	2.0%	2.0%
Low education (15-64)	27,600	17.1%	13.2%
Single parents (15+)	6,045	3.7%	4.2%



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Summary

- Largely provides ABS Census data at the state level and by catchment region
- Information and data is provided in 2 sections
 - Section 1: by NPA priority group
 - Section 2: by catchment region
- Forms the foundation of the evidence base for the application process, and we recommend using the information in this report alongside other information sources



Enquiries?

Please send any enquiries and feedback to:

datadigest@lawfoundation.net.au

Link to further information:

<http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/reports/clclegalneednsw>

