

Legal Assistance Strategy and Action Plan

NATIONAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIP

PRELIMINARIES

- C1 This Schedule outlines the specific conditions on the States in developing their Legal Assistance Strategy and Legal Assistance Action Plan.
- C2 The Commonwealth's estimated financial contribution to the State will not be reduced if the State's Legal Assistance Strategy and Legal Assistance Action Plan does not achieve its stated or intended aim or meet its targets.
- C3 The State's Legal Assistance Strategy and Legal Assistance Action Plan can be contained in a single document or in multiple documents.
- C4 The State must ensure that their Legal Assistance Strategy and Legal Assistance Action Plan:
- (a) is in place as per the dates in Table 6;
 - (b) is available on a publically accessible website, except where it is not reasonable or practicable that these documents are available, including:
 - i. the State is in 'caretaker';
 - ii. the State is developing, reviewing or updating its Strategy or Action Plan; or
 - iii. there is a website outage.

Table 6: Required timeframes

Document	Due date
Legal Assistance Strategy	1 July 2022
Legal Assistance Action Plan	30 September 2022

LEGAL ASSISTANCE STRATEGY

- C5 The State will develop a publically available Legal Assistance Strategy which will apply for the length of the NLAP. Each Legal Assistance Strategy will:
- (a) indicate the estimated level and nature of legal need in the State, including sub-jurisdictional regions where appropriate;
 - (b) indicate the priorities and areas of focus for the delivery of mainstream, specialist and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific legal assistance services in the State;

- (c) include aggregated planned or forecast level of Commonwealth and State funding for legal assistance services;
 - (d) if applicable, information on the nature and extent of the roles and responsibilities the State has delegated to a legal assistance provider as per Clause 27;
 - (e) outline if there are any specific priority client groups relevant to that State;
 - (f) detail how the State will meet the objectives and outcomes of the NLAP in supporting the delivery of mainstream, specialist and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services in addressing the legal needs of national priority client groups (Schedule A) and any State-specific priority client groups; and
 - (g) outline approaches the State will undertake to ensure that mainstream, specialist and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-specific legal assistance services are delivered in a manner consistent with the National Strategic Framework.
- C6 The State will develop its Legal Assistance Strategy in consultation with their legal assistance sector.
- C7 The Legal Assistance Strategy for each State must be approved by their Attorney-General or relevant Minister.
- C8 The State may update its Legal Assistance Strategy at any time over the life of the NLAP, in consultation with their legal assistance sector and subject to the approval of their Attorney-General or relevant Minister.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE ACTION PLAN

- C9 The State will develop at least one publically available Legal Assistance Action Plan which:
- (a) reflect the strategic direction established by the State's Legal Assistance Strategy;
 - (b) outline specific activities, projects, initiatives and reforms to implement the State's Legal Assistance Strategy and meet the objective and outcomes of the NLAP;
 - (c) incorporate the outcomes of jurisdictional, and where relevant, local collaborative service planning;
 - (d) identify a specific plan of action to address the priorities, identified in the State's Legal Assistance Strategy, that includes a range of strategies, such as:
 - i. ensuring an appropriate mix of legal assistance services are delivered which seek to address or prevent legal problems;
 - ii. the development of new, or alteration of existing, referral pathways, networks and links;
 - iii. training and development of legal assistance sector staff; and
 - iv. scoping of new services or activities within available resources.
 - (e) establish reasonable, relevant, specific and measurable targets relevant to the State that are consistent with and support the State's Legal Assistance Strategy.
- C10 The States will develop its Action Plan in consultation with their legal assistance sector.