

# DCLS's Older Persons Legal Project

By Darwin Community Legal Service (DCLS)

Darwin Community legal Service Inc. is conducting a project focusing on the legal and consumer needs of older people (aged 55 and over) in the Top End of the Northern Territory.

The project aims to identify barriers to, and gaps in provision of, appropriate legal and consumer services to older people, and to establish appropriate mechanisms to address those needs.

The project is being co-ordinated by DCLS staff Kala Marshall, Outreach Solicitor, and Lorraine Gibbs, Senior Aged and Disability Advocate.

We aim to consult with as many members of organisations and agencies who represent, advocate or have an interest in the legal and/or consumer needs of older people, as well as individuals in the age group.

We will conduct a community forum from 10.30am -12.30pm on Tuesday 17 March 2009 at Spillet House in Smith Street, Darwin (Council on the Ageing). Lunch will be provided at the end of the forum.

## DRAFT Project outline

### Aim

Identify legal needs of older people in the NT and options for meeting those needs.

### Process

Conduct research into legal needs of older members of NT community and develop options for meeting that need; run a pilot legal service; develop recommendations and prepare submission for funding for an Elder Legal Service based on project findings.

## Establish pilot legal advice clinic for older people

Research to include, but not limited to:

- look at interstate examples (reports, submissions etc);
- literature review – related to legal need, issues for older people;
- analysis of data including DCLS client data, 2006 census data and other relevant data;
- identify existing services and networks;
- identify current government (NT and Federal) policy statements etc. regarding older people;
- community and stakeholder consultation;

establish a pilot legal advice clinic. Soon after initial research has begun, and after consultation with identified stakeholders, establish a pilot legal service. The purpose of running a pilot service is to test early research/ideas about areas of legal need, access issues, service delivery options etc.)

## Project outputs

A report that describes the process (ie. research (literature, data), networking, community consultation, stakeholder consultation; analyses the information (particularly in regard to identified legal needs) and recommends options for service delivery (include information about limitations of pilot and/or options etc.

DCLS may decide to prepare a funding submission on the basis of the report's recommendations.

The project will take place in three phases (it commenced on 8 September 2008).

### Phase 1

Research (literature survey, interstate reports, government



priorities, census data, DCLS data, and set up.

### Phase 2

More research and run pilot legal advice clinic.

Identify location, referral process.

### Phase 3

Analysis and recommendations; prepare funding submission.

For further information on project, contact DCIS on 8982 1111.



## Volunteer Lawyers

Volunteer lawyers are needed for the free Legal Advice Sessions run by Darwin Community Legal Service:

- \* Monday in Palmerston 6.30-7.30pm
- \* Thursday in Darwin 5.30-7.00pm
- \* Saturday in Casuarina 10.00-11.45am

Lawyers usually commit to monthly or bi-monthly sessions Support the community that supports you. Please contact DCLS on 8982 1111.