



## Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Legal Service

### Important notice for private lawyers with clients funded by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre prior to 1 July 2015

As of 1 July 2015, the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service is funded to deliver legal and justice services to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community of Tasmania. This is under the Indigenous Legal Assistance Program which is funded by the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department.

To deliver services, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Legal Service is being established with offices in Hobart, Launceston, Devonport and Burnie, employing lawyers, client service officers and administrative officers.

Up until 30 June 2015, these services were delivered by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.

#### **The following are interim arrangements with the Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania as the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Legal Service is established.**

Private lawyers who have clients with legal matters that started before the 30 June 2015 AND had funding approved from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre must contact the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre for payment of any legal work done before or on 30 June 2015. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Legal Service will not be covering these legal fees.

If these matters are *continuing after 1 July 2015*, and need funding, private lawyers must contact the Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania to seek funding under these interim arrangements. These will be assessed by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Legal Service (the new service) and if approved, will be funded according to the LACT's schedule of fees.

Private lawyers should email [tacls@legalaid.tas.gov.au](mailto:tacls@legalaid.tas.gov.au) to explain their client's situation.

**Important:** The Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Legal Service is a new organisation. We may not deliver legal services in the same areas of law as the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre. As such we may not authorise funding of all matters which the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre agreed to fund before 30 June 2015.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Legal Service will **not** be giving funding to private lawyers commencing matters after 1 July 2015.

For any queries, please contact the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Legal Service on 1800 064 865 or 0417 003 910 during business hours.