

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE IN NEED OF SUPPORT

The WLAQ and Women's Legal Service (WLS) Queensland have shared a close and supportive relationship for many years. In the wake of the recent highly publicised and horrific acts of domestic violence in Queensland it is appropriate that we highlight the great work done by WLS and call for greatly needed assistance.

The WLS provides free legal and welfare help to Queensland women and their children who experience domestic violence. Each year, more than 3,700 women located throughout Queensland are assisted by WLS, however, due to a lack of funding and resources the service is only able to answer 5% of calls for help.

President, Amelia Trotman, said *"Access to legal advice and support is essential for the safety of women and children who either have left or are attempting to leave a domestically violent relationship. Without Women's Legal Service and other community legal centres in and around Queensland, these women would have nowhere to turn."*

"It is essential that the Queensland legal community support Women's Legal Service as much as possible through volunteering at legal advice clinics, sponsorship/fundraising and simply by raising awareness."

WLS is launching a new Help Line in 2016 which will generate a 700% increase in the number of calls able to be answered. The service is seeking donations to support this important initiative and has called on the Queensland Government for funding to ensure the Service can continue to provide vital assistance to women in need.

WLAQ and WLS will again be running the "Corporate Clothing Pop-Up" on 20 May 2016, and hopes to better the 2015 event which saw over \$8,000 raised for WLS.

WLAQ encourages all of its members to speak out against domestic violence and show their support for the work of WLS through volunteering your time, or making a monetary donation.

Direct donations to WLS can be made at: <https://www.wlsq.org.au/support-us/donate>.

29 September 2015

For further information, please contact admin@wlaq.com.au.