



Thursday, 12 June 2008

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## **Doug Parkinson, MLC**

Leader for the Government in the Legislative Council

### **Funding For Community Legal Centres**

The Hobart and North West Community Legal Centres will receive \$200,000 per annum in extra funding.

The Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Doug Parkinson, said the funding, announced in today's State Budget, would be a lifeline for the two centres.

"These Centres provide a range of important legal services to individuals and communities, including legal representation, preventative services, community legal education as well as contributing to law and policy reform," Mr Parkinson said.

"By delivering information, advice and support on community based legal issues, Community Legal Centres aim to reduce existing barriers of access to justice such as distance, inability to access Legal Aid grants, and a lack of knowledge or external advice.

"Over the years the funding provided by the Australian Government has not kept pace with the cost of running the Centres and meeting the increasing demand for services.

"The Centres may have had to close or scale down services over the next 12 months without this assistance."

Mr Parkinson said the funding would be provided to each Centre through the Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania.

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