


Request for Costing an Election Commitment

Name of election commitment:	Community Legal Centre Hub					
Person and party requesting costing:	Meredith Hunter, ACT Greens Parliamentary Leader					
Date of public release of election commitment, including source:	9 th August 2012 http://act.greens.org.au/content/justice-0 (page 1, point 1)					
Summary of election commitment:	A grant to establish a Community Legal Centre Hub that provides new accommodation for Canberra's community legal centres that better meets their needs.					
Intention of election commitment:	The new accommodation will allow CLCs to better utilise offers of pro bono legal assistance and, in the process, increase the supply of legal assistance for people who cannot afford a private lawyer.					
Signature of person requesting costing:						
Date of request for costing:	10/10/12					
What are the key assumptions that have been made in the election commitment?						
<p>Note: that where the request to cost an election commitment differs from the public announcement, the costing will be on the basis of information provided in the costing request.</p> <p>Note: it will be up to the professional judgment of the Director-General as to whether these assumptions are adopted in the costing of the election commitment.</p>						
Where relevant, is the funding for the policy to be demand driven or a capped amount?						
A capped amount.						
Will third parties, for instance the Commonwealth or other State/Territories, have a role in funding or delivering the election commitment?						
No.						
Will funding/the cost require indexation?						
Yes, a proportion of the funding is designed to assist CLCs pay rent. A 2011 Government paper: Study of options and feasibility for a community legal centre hub adopted a rent escalator of approximately 2.38% and this has been adopted.						
What are the estimated revenue and operating costs each year (if available) and what are the capital requirements for this election commitment and estimated costs each year (if available)?						
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue ^(a)						
Expenses ^(a)		-2,111	-111	-113	-116	-2,451
Capital						
(a) A negative number indicates a decrease in revenue or an increase in expenses.						
What is the likely take up?						
N/A.						
Any other assumptions?						
- The funding will be provided to CLCs as a grant to help them move away from their current						

office accommodation at Havelock House and establish a CLC Hub elsewhere

- The grant is to cover costs once off costs in 2013/14 such as fit out costs, moving fees, procurement fees and insurance fees, as well as additional payments in 2014/15 – 2016/17 to assist with rent
- The two key criteria on which the grant is provided is that it be used to establish a CLC Hub that (a) collocates, at a minimum, the Women’s Legal Centre, the Tenants Union, the Welfare Rights and Legal Centre (including Street Law); and (b) that the site chosen be easily accessible by clients.
- Outside of these two key criteria, the CLCs are free to develop a CLC Hub configuration of their choice. For example, while 1,094.4 square meters is the floor space recommended by the Government in the paper: *Study of options and feasibility for a community legal centre hub*, CLCs will be free decide a location with a smaller floor space is appropriate. Also, the 3 CLCs currently at Havelock House would be able to enter discussions with other CLCs such as the Environmental Defenders Office and the Consumer Law Centre to discuss four or more of the CLCs being collocated.
- The Justice and Community Safety Directorate will assist CLCs in making decisions regarding the establishment of the Hub
- This commitment of \$2,451,000 is in addition to the \$666,000 already included in the 2012/13 ACT Government budget for office accommodation issues at Havelock House and the two commitments would be pooled together to form one grant to CLCs
- This commitment assumes that the Women’s Legal Centre will not split up from the Tenants Union and the Welfare Rights Legal Centre, as the \$666,000 is designed to facilitate. Instead, this commitment assumes the three CLCs will remain collocated.

Administration of the election commitment

How will the election commitment be administered?

The grant will be overseen by the Justice and Community Safety

Who will administer the election commitment?

JACS.

Has an allowance been made for expenses necessary to support the implementation of this election commitment?

- If no, will the government agency be expected to absorb expenses associated with this election commitment?
- If yes, please specify the key assumptions.

No. JACS has had ongoing discussions with CLS regarding office accommodation and this commitment assumes those directorate resources would continue the necessary discussions and implementation work.

What is the intended implementation date of the election commitment?

From the start of the 2013-14 financial year.

Are there transitional arrangements associated with election commitment implementation?

N/A.

Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered?

No.

When is the election commitment expected to be fully operational?

Please provide further details i.e. start and end dates, the level of commitment during each period etc?

From the start of the 2013-14 financial year.

Will the election commitment cease and if so when?

N/A