

About the Legal Services Commission

*The Commission is committed to
providing the South Australian public
with accessible legal information,
advice and representation.*

*The Commission seeks to ensure that
all people have equal access to justice
within the legal system.*

Legal Services Commission 2015-16

Our Vision

To provide quality, independent legal assistance to South Australians

Our Goals

- *To provide clients with accessible information, advice and representation to meet their legal needs.*
- *To work in partnership with other members of the legal community to deliver to our clients equitable access to the justice system.*
- *To provide a safe, healthy, rewarding, satisfying work environment.*
- *To provide quality legal assistance efficiently and effectively.*
- *To satisfy the community that we fulfil our statutory and contractual obligations and are deserving of ongoing financial support.*
- *To provide timely research and advice on legal issues to the government and the community.*
- *To inform governments of the likely impact on the Legal Services Commission and the community of proposed changes to legislation and policy.*

Functions

The Legal Services Commission is an independent statutory authority established by the Legal Services Commission Act 1977 (the Act) to provide legal assistance to people throughout the State. It is funded by the South Australian Government and the Commonwealth Government. It has the powers, functions and duties prescribed or imposed on it by the Act.

The statutory functions of the Commission are to—

- a) provide, or arrange for the provision of, legal assistance in accordance with the Act;
- b) determine the criteria under which legal assistance is to be granted;
- c) conduct research with a view to ascertaining the needs of the community for legal assistance, and the most effective means of meeting those needs;
- d) establish such offices and other facilities as the Commission considers necessary or desirable;
- e) initiate and carry out educational programs to promote an understanding by the public (and especially those sections of the public who may have special needs) of their rights, powers, privileges and duties under the laws of the Commonwealth or the State;
- f) inform the public by advertisement or other means of the services provided by the Commission, and the conditions upon which those services are provided;
- g) co-operate and make reciprocal arrangements with persons administering schemes of legal assistance in other States and Territories of the Commonwealth or elsewhere;
- h) where it is practicable and appropriate to do so, make use of the services of interpreters, marriage guidance counsellors and social workers for the benefit of assisted persons;
- i) encourage and permit law students to participate, so far as the Commission considers practicable and proper to do so, on a voluntary basis and under professional supervision, in the provision of legal assistance by the Commission;
- j) make grants to any person or body of persons carrying out work that will in the opinion of the Commission advance the objects of the Act;
- k) perform such other functions as the Attorney-General may direct.

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In performing its functions the Commission must—

- a) seek to ensure legal assistance is provided in the most efficient and economical manner; and
- b) use its best endeavours to make legal assistance available to persons throughout the State; and
- c) have regard to the following factors:
 - i. the need for legal assistance to be readily available and easily accessible to disadvantaged persons;
 - ii. the desirability of enabling all assisted persons to obtain the services of legal practitioners of their choice;
 - iii. the importance of maintaining the independence of the legal profession;
 - iv. the desirability of enabling legal practitioners employed by the Commission to utilise and develop their expertise and maintain their professional standards by conducting litigation and doing other kinds of professional legal work.

Offices

The Commission operates from seven offices, located in Adelaide, Elizabeth, Mount Barker, Noarlunga, Port Adelaide, Whyalla and Port Augusta. Regular outreach services are provided at the Murray Bridge Community Centre and the Adelaide Magistrates Court.

Adelaide 159 Gawler Place Adelaide 5000 T: 08 8111 5555 F: 08 8111 5599	Mount Barker 18 Walker Street Mount Barker 5251 T: 08 8111 5320 F: 08 8391 4747	Port Adelaide ANL House 306 Vincent Street Port Adelaide 5015 T: 08 8111 5460 F: 08 8207 6277
Elizabeth Windsor Building Elizabeth Shopping Centre Elizabeth 5112 T: 08 8111 5400 F: 08 8207 9333	Noarlunga Noarlunga House Centro Colonnades Shopping Centre Noarlunga Centre 5168 T: 08 8111 5340 F: 08 8207 3880	Port Augusta 13 Flinders Street Port Augusta 5700 T: 08 8686 2200 F: 08 8648 5370
		Whyalla Tenancy 7 169 Nicolson Avenue Whyalla Norrie 5608 T: 08 8620 8500 F: 08 8648 8950