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## Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre to drive housing solutions

Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre has welcomed new funding for a project involving six regional community legal services to tackle housing challenges, strengthen service co-ordination and advocate for better investment.

The \$2.7 million in funding, awarded through the Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner's Advancing Housing Justice Change Grant program, will be shared among the six services over the course of the project.

Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre joins ARC Justice, which has community legal centres in Bendigo and Shepparton, Ballarat and Grampians Community Legal Service, Barwon Community Legal Service, Gippsland Community Legal Service and Hume Riverina Community Legal Service in this collaborative effort.

A key feature of the two-year project will be a regional housing summit in 2026, where the place-based legal services, community organisations and decision-makers will come together to share insights, identify solutions and strengthen the push for systemic change in support for regional renters and others experiencing the housing crisis.

Mallee Family Care CEO Teresa Jayet said the funding recognised the need for regionally driven solutions.

"Housing challenges in regional Victoria are complex and require locally driven responses. By working together, we can highlight what's working, what isn't, and what needs to change," Ms Jayet said.

Each legal service will have a Housing Collaboration Co-ordinator to drive regional action plans, ensuring responses reflect local realities. The project will also fund a Project Lead and an Impact and Evaluation Co-ordinator.

With this funding, the community legal services will work closely with local organisations to develop stronger partnerships and service co-ordination. The project will also build an evidence base that can be used to advocate for better outcomes and funding tailored to regional needs.

### **About Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre**

Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre is a place-based, integrated practice serving communities in the Mallee region, servicing a catchment area of 120,000km<sup>2</sup>. It provides free legal information, advice, education and casework in Mildura, Swan Hill, Kerang and Robinvale.



#### **Media enquiries**

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**About the project**

*Collaborate for Change: Advancing Housing Justice in Regional Victoria* is a two-year project bringing together six regional community legal services to address housing challenges. It will map local issues, strengthen advocacy and host a regional housing summit in 2026. Funding will support dedicated roles to drive community-led solutions and push for better housing policies.

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