

Attributable to Attorney-General, Marie-Clare Boothby:

“I was advised last week of Legal Aid NT’s decision to temporarily reduce some services. I have spoken with the Board Chair and will meet with Legal Aid again this week.

“Legal Aid NT manages its own service delivery and is best placed to explain the operational reasons and impact behind this decision. One issue raised with me was the increase in referrals from NAAJA.

“Legal Aid NT has received significant NT Government support, including:

- \$3.743 million in 2023-24;
- A further \$9 million in 2024-25;
- A permanent \$5.5 million per year baseline increase; and
- An overall 87% increase to baseline funding since we came to government - the largest in its history.

“Both Legal Aid NT and NAAJA also receive substantial Commonwealth funding - Legal Aid NT receives around \$10.5 million per year.

“Legal Aid supported NAAJA during its staffing and governance challenges in 2023 and 2024. Now that NAAJA is back to full operations, I have encouraged them to support Legal Aid in return, so clients are not left without representation.

“We are disappointed by the timing of this service reduction, given the significant and ongoing NT Government investment. I also expect all publicly funded legal assistance providers to operate a sustainable model and to take the necessary steps to ensure long-term financial stability.

“My expectation is that Legal Aid NT, NAAJA and the broader profession work together to ensure Territorians can access legal assistance and victims receive faster justice.”