



BRIMBANK MELTON  
COMMUNITY  
LEGAL CENTRE

Media release  
For immediate release

Thursday, 8 September 2016

## **commUnity+ backs Mortgage Wellbeing Service**

Comm Unity Plus Services Ltd is proud to announce its ongoing financial support for the Mortgage Wellbeing Service (MWS) for the foreseeable future. The MWS is a project of Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre's (BMCLC) which is a program of Comm Unity Plus Ltd.

The MWS is a health/justice partnership with Djerriwarrh Health Services and it has been providing a holistic service delivery model for people with mortgage stress in the Melton area since early 2015. The project, which uses a joint intake model of a lawyer, social worker and financial counsellor, has been a resounding success with over 90% of the clients able to gain control over the decision to stay in their homes.

To access the mid-project evaluation report on this project please visit our website <http://www.communitywest.org.au/resources/ID1463707560.pdf>

The project has been funded through a generous grant from the Legal Services Board. That funding will soon be exhausted at the end of 2016 and Comm Unity Plus has decided to fully fund the project for a further 12 months.

Comm Unity Plus would like to acknowledge the great work of the staff that have worked on the project in the past. We are in the process of recruiting a project manager to oversee the MWS. Comm Unity Plus is also committed to employ a social worker and a financial counsellor during the tenure of the project to continue to deliver this integrated health justice service.

Andrew Burns, the Interim Director of Legal Practice at BMCLC, will be the project sponsor and lead and will be contacting the project reference group, banks, other creditor organisations and all relevant stakeholders to update them on our plans for the future.

We are excited to be partnering with La Trobe University in evaluating the project success to date. It is our intention to use the learnings from this evaluation to embed the MWS in the community sector on an ongoing basis. It is our intention to roll out the model across the state with other partners so that all Victorians undergoing mortgage stress will have access to this vital and successful service.

*If you have any questions about the project or are interested in partnering with us for its future success please contact Andrew Burns on 8312 2000 or 0413 847 315.*