



CENTRAL TABLELANDS AND BLUE MOUNTAINS Community Legal Centre

CASE *for*
SUPPORT





Central Tablelands and Blue Mountains Community Legal Centre works with socially and economically disadvantaged people in the Central Tablelands and Blue Mountains region to improve their legal and tenancy outcomes.

We do this by taking an integrated approach to supporting a person's legal, economic and social needs.

Who are we?

In the Blue Mountains, Oberon, Lithgow, Bathurst and Orange regions, distance, housing stress and limited services can leave people isolated and at their most vulnerable. We stand alongside people facing family violence, financial hardship and complex legal problems. Every year, the Centre supports women, children and families who are navigating unsafe relationships, debt, tenancy instability and fear of the legal system. Many arrive overwhelmed and unsure of their rights.

Through trauma-informed legal advice, strong advocacy and close collaboration with local support services, the Centre helps people regain safety, stability and control over their lives. The impact is deeply human: fewer families facing eviction, fewer women left unprotected, fewer people burdened with avoidable criminal records, and more individuals moving from crisis toward confidence, security and hope.



Kylie's Story

Last financial year, we successfully had AVO orders withdrawn in 15 out of 17 misidentification cases. Kylie (not her real name) was one of these women. We represented her in Court, successfully preventing an order being made against her, and as trust grew, Kylie disclosed the significant family violence she had experienced from her husband and sons. With our support, she found the courage to leave the relationship and secure safe housing. She continues to receive assistance with Victim Services, divorce and property matters.

"If I hadn't seen your service that first time in court, I would not have known these services exist. I was able to feel like I could leave the relationship, because there were people to help me."





The challenge we see every day

The people who come to us are not dealing with “just” a legal problem.

Every single one of our casework clients has experienced family or gender-based violence. Almost all are facing serious financial hardship. More than a quarter are in immediate danger when they first reach out.

“Without you, I probably would have still been in the same situation getting the shit beaten out of me”.

Behind every statistic is someone trying to keep themselves and their children safe while navigating fear, trauma and uncertainty.

Legal issues rarely stand alone. They sit alongside social isolation, poor mental health, disability, low literacy, housing stress and limited access to services. Many people have had difficult or harmful experiences with institutions in the past. Some fear child removal, criminalisation or further violence if they seek help. Others simply cannot access services in time because of geography, cost, waitlists or system complexity.

Without the right support at the right time, legal problems escalate. Safety deteriorates. Homelessness becomes more likely. Cycles of violence and poverty deepen.

What we do

We meet people where they are.

We build trust. We listen. We provide trauma-informed legal advice and practical support. We help clients understand their rights and options, represent them where needed, and connect them with the social supports that strengthen safety and stability.

We don't treat legal issues in isolation. We recognise that resolving a tenancy dispute, fine, debt or protection matter can be the difference between stability and crisis. We help our clients find their voice in a system that has often silenced them.



What changes in the short term

Clients feel heard and respected. They gain clarity about their rights and options, moving from a state of paralysing uncertainty to being active participants in the decisions that affect their lives. They begin to feel safer. They know someone is standing beside them.

What changes over time

Clients become better connected to the social and legal services they need. They build confidence to advocate for themselves and engage earlier with systems, rather than only in crisis. Legal matters are resolved in ways that reduce stress and uncertainty.

The longer-term impact

Safety improves. Stability grows.

Safety & Security: Through early intervention, we ensure women and children are protected from ongoing violence and empowered to make informed decisions about their futures.

“I could be dead. I think your service is absolutely wonderful”.

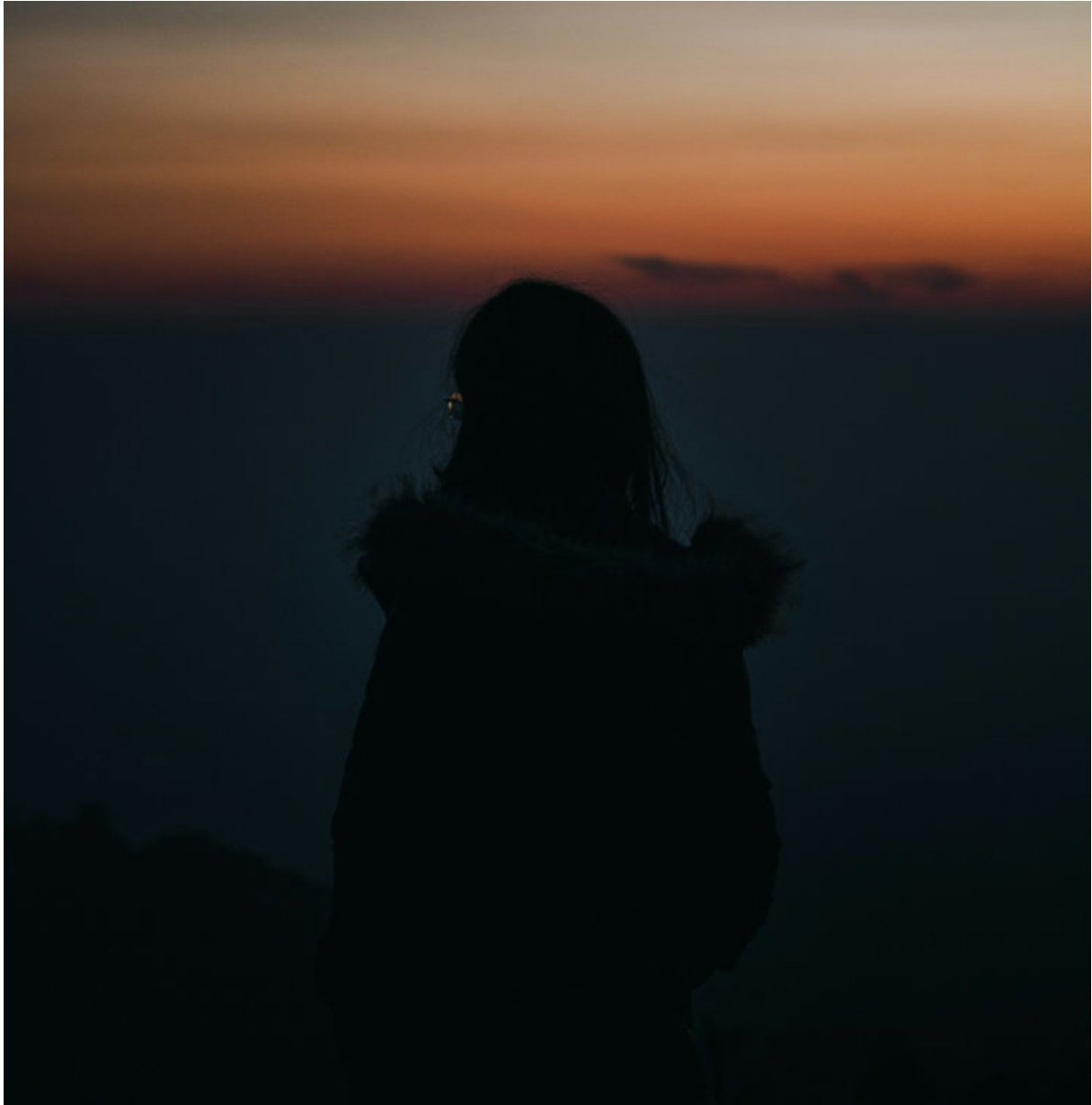
Systemic Justice: We prevent the "unfair" outcomes, like inappropriate Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs) or avoidable criminal records, that often act as long-term barriers to housing and employment.

Economic Freedom: As we resolve the financial barriers of debt and housing instability due to tenancy issues, the risk of homelessness and ongoing financial difficulties recedes.

Emotional Wellbeing: With the resolution of legal uncertainty, our clients report profound improvements in their mental and physical health. They feel more confident navigating systems and making decisions that prioritise their safety and their children's futures.

Agency: Clients achieve greater housing stability, are better connected to trusted support networks, feel safe, informed and supported to make their own decisions, take action on their rights, and shape their future rather than simply reacting to crisis.

For women who have experienced violence, this can be transformational: moving from survival to stability, from fear to agency, from isolation to connection and from a state of crisis to a future characterised by safety, dignity, and hope.



Tia's Story

Tia (not her real name) is an Aboriginal woman from a regional area who had experienced violence from the father of her children. After separation, the absence of any structured arrangements was causing ongoing stress and safety concerns for her and her children. We represented Tia at mediation and continued negotiating on her behalf afterwards, ultimately securing Consent Orders in the Family Court that established clear structure and boundaries, ensuring safety for Tia and her children while still enabling a meaningful relationship with their father.

"[If it wasn't for the support of the CLC] There would still be major dramas still with the kids and their dad. The lawyer was amazing with everything they helped me with."

Ultimately, the Central Tablelands and Blue Mountains Community Legal Centre helps break cycles of harm. We reduce reliance on crisis systems and support safer, healthier futures for individuals, families and communities.



With your support

Central Tablelands and Blue Mountains Community Legal Centre is a lifeline for people facing some of the hardest moments of their lives. For four decades, we've been there when families are breaking down, when domestic violence makes home unsafe, when tenancy disputes threaten someone's housing, providing free legal help to those who need it most. Our clients often tell us we save their lives - not through big courtroom victories, but through appointments where someone listens, face-to-face support that builds trust, and practical help that creates pathways to safety.

“I would have been stressed and possibly bullied into an unsafe situation if I did not understand my rights.”

In 2025, we were the first port of call for over 1000 people, giving people information and referrals so they could take their first step. However, for every person we represent, there are many more we can only advise. For every person who receives advice, there are others we can only refer on. For every person who received information and referral we have no way of knowing if they were able to resolve their legal issues.



Our Priority Projects



Domestic Violence Support for Women

The Blue Mountains and Central Tablelands Community Legal Centre is the primary legal safety net for women in our region who have experienced violence. Through our duty lawyer program, we show up for women in crisis, at court, in parenting mediations, and in the complex aftermath of violence. We specialise in supporting women who have been wrongly identified by Police as the primary aggressor, and we have an excellent track record in having these AVOs withdrawn. We also help women access the victims' compensation they deserve.

“There would have been escalating abuse from partner. More threats and I would have felt extremely intimidated not knowing what I was doing was right.”

The need is urgent and growing. Every day we face painful decisions about who we can help, because demand far outstrips our capacity. Additional funding would mean more women get support at the moments it matters most, and that geography and resources are never the reason justice is out of reach.



The Advocacy, Voice, Access Program

Women in residential rehabilitation are navigating recovery and serious legal challenges at the same time. Family law disputes, AVOs, child protection proceedings and victims' compensation issues don't wait, and without timely support, they can derail safety, disrupt parenting and prolong trauma.

This project places lawyers directly inside the rehabilitation service in Orange, offering clinics, representation at parenting mediations, and urgent duty lawyer support. For mothers involved in child protection matters, we help navigate restoration pathways and engage with authorities. We also run joint sessions with non-legal providers to build a shared, coordinated approach, because women deserve a team around them, not a fragmented system.



Community Support Program

Legal wins only go so far when a woman is still struggling to access housing, Centrelink or the NDIS. Our Community Support Program would place a dedicated service navigator alongside our clients, someone who can cut through bureaucracy, open doors and make sure the legal progress we achieve isn't undermined by unmet social and economic needs. Because real safety and stability depend on more than legal outcomes alone.

“If I hadn't spoken to you, I would have been left in a constant state of anxiety and would not have been able to access the proper health care for my children.”

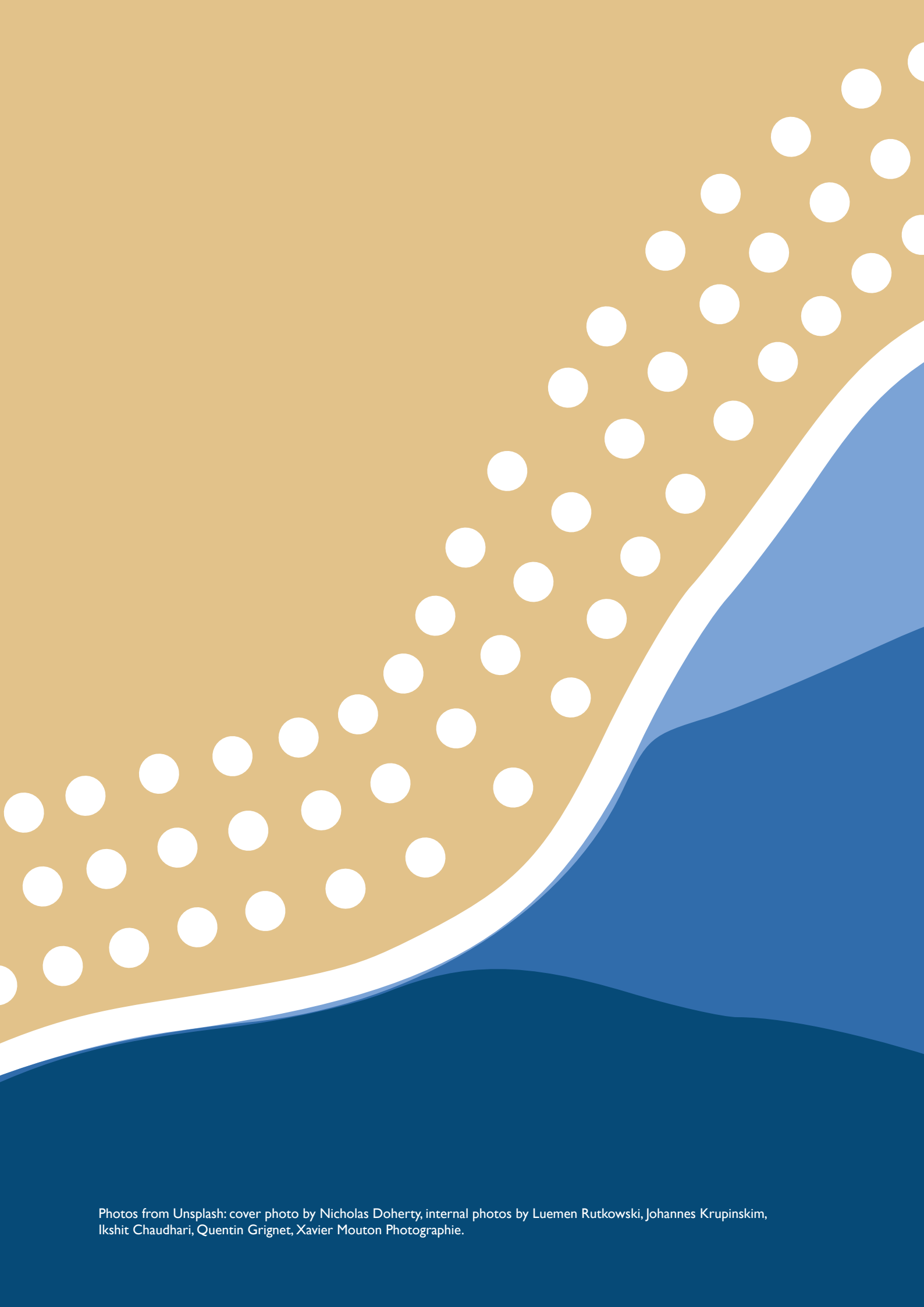




With your support, we can reach more women at the moments when the right help can genuinely change the trajectory of their lives. We'd love to explore what a partnership could look like.

Our CEO, Arlia Fleming, would be delighted to meet with you to share what we're achieving and talk through our plans together.

You can reach Arlia at arlia@ctbmclc.org.au or on **02 4704 0203**



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