

Strategic priorities 2017–22

PRIORITY
1

Increase access to justice and secure housing for the most vulnerable individuals in regional and rural Victoria

We will:

- be innovative and dynamic, providing a quality response which is tailored to the needs of local communities across our vast geographical area
- embed monitoring and evaluation across all programs, learning from our experience to increase our impact
- increase our capacity to meet the legal and tenancy support needs within our catchment area through a strong commitment to organisational sustainability
- provide community education to promote awareness and realisation of legal rights and responsibilities
- be accessible, inclusive, non-discriminatory and responsive to diverse groups
- ensure our intake systems triage access to support for the most vulnerable community members
- foster partnerships with local Aboriginal organisations and communities in our area.

PRIORITY
2

Our services will recognise and address the interconnectedness between social and economic circumstances, physical and psychological health and our clients' interaction with the legal system and housing

We will:

- embed an organisational practice model which ensures a holistic approach to all of our work
- challenge and strive to address practices, structures and models which do not support a holistic approach
- work with community members and our partners to identify and address legal and housing issues at the earliest opportunity
- develop and foster partnerships with a broad range of community organisations and groups to promote seamless support for individuals across agencies.

The experience and expertise of our local communities will guide our work

PRIORITY
3

We will:

- engage community members as equals
- ensure that the communities we target are able to speak for themselves and contribute to solutions
- collaborate with First Peoples and ensure our work supports their aspirations for their communities
- embed client and broader community feedback loops across all of our programs and utilise this to improve our work.

Advocate for systemic change that enhances the rights of rural and regional Victorians

PRIORITY
4

We will:

- actively contribute to law reform and systemic advocacy which aligns to the priorities of the communities we work with and utilises our evidence base
- be strategic in our advocacy, targeting resources where we believe they can have the most impact
- adopt a whole-of-organisation approach to achieving systemic change
- facilitate community awareness so that rights and responsibilities are understood, valued and defended by individuals and the community
- develop, deliver and document high-quality innovative programs and practices which can be shared with others.

Build our organisation's capacity to achieve its purpose

PRIORITY
5

We will:

- embed our principles across all areas of our work and organisational culture
- diversify our funding streams by fostering partnerships with a broad range of funding bodies who share our vision
- build and strengthen partnerships of mutual benefit which promote our sustainability and ability to achieve our vision
- increase meaningful volunteer and student participation across our organisation
- be an employer of choice by: committing to a workplace culture of respect, integrity, excellence and collaboration; investing in training and development; providing career-progression opportunities where possible; and prioritising employment security and flexible working conditions
- continue to improve efficiency and invest in operational support
- invest in strong organisational governance and leadership capability
- actively participate in sector-wide activities to promote the importance of GLCs and tenancy support services.



ARC Justice Strategic Plan 2017–22



ARC Justice Strategic Plan 2017–22

Who we are

ARC Justice is an independent, not-for-profit, human rights organisation. Our programs deliver accessible legal services, tenancy advice and support to those in our community in the greatest need. We deliver community education and advocate for systemic change that enhances the rights of rural and regional Victorians. We recognise that housing and legal issues do not occur in isolation and we work with local partners to ensure a whole-of-person approach to our work.

Where we work

Our service covers a large part of central and northern Victoria. Our Bendigo-based Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre and Housing Justice operate primarily in the Loddon Campaspe region, comprising the local government areas of Greater Bendigo, Loddon, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander. Our Shepparton-based Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre operates across the local government areas of Greater Shepparton, Mitchell, Strathbogie, Moira, Benalla and Mansfield.

Vision

An inclusive community built on a foundation of human rights and equality before the law.

Purpose

We promote equality before the law for people in rural and regional Victoria by: providing legal, advocacy and support services; elevating justice as an issue in public discourse; and advocating for systemic change that upholds human rights.

Principles that underpin our work

COMMUNITY:

We serve, build capacity and are accountable to the community to which we belong.

LEARNING:

We are inquisitive and receptive to new ideas, use evidence-based practice and share our knowledge to achieve the greatest impact for our communities. We learn from both our successes and mistakes.

PARTNERSHIP:

We believe partnership and collaboration with individuals, communities and organisations is the only way to create meaningful and sustainable change.

PEOPLE:

We are committed to ethical and sustainable practice that values our people in achieving our purpose.

RECOGNITION OF FIRST PEOPLES:

We celebrate the strength, culture and contribution of our First Peoples. We recognise the systemic injustices brought against them, and work in partnership with local Aboriginal communities to bring justice.

RESPECT:

In all of our work, we show respect. We value diversity and acknowledge differences, knowing these strengthen our community.

