



Australian Government Solicitor



DEBT ENFORCEMENT CLINIC- PRO BONO PARTNERSHIP- AGS AND CONSUMER LAW CENTRE- ACT

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Primary Aim of clinic

Assist with supporting clients where enforcement of judgement debt action is being taken- what are options eg action to set aside debt; negotiate an instalment payment

The challenges

The easy part- established relationship between AGS and CLC

- Scoping the need/demand for services- gut sense the debt clinic would be very beneficial but needed verification- talked to Magistrates Court and Legal Aid to ensure there was a genuine need within the community for the proposed clinic and sufficient population in need of these services
- Considered issues such as:
 - eligibility criteria
 - frequency of clinic- once a week/fortnight- timing-daytime/night time?
 - Venue- at the Court/CLC?
 - Required resourcing- additional lawyers (AGS secondees); fact sheets including on enforcement process; what to do in court and smart template court documents- eg application to set aside judgement debt; supporting affidavit; application for instalment order and supporting affidavit



- What would be the demand- start as a pilot for 6 months to see take up
- How to publicise- talk to stakeholders like the Magistrates Court; ACAT and Legal Aid
- Official launch; article in ACT Law Society magazine/Heresay; brochures given to Magistrates Court/ACAT/Legal Aid

Outcome

- Initiative has been successful and will be extending it till end of December 2019

