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Legal Services to Continue in the Region

Communities in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) will have continued access to legal services thanks to a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Torres Strait Regional Authority and Attorney-General's Department.

Since 2011 the agencies have cooperated to fund the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (QLD) Ltd (ATSILS), to deliver Indigenous legal services in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area region.

Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, said the partnership is an important step in ensuring quality legal assistance, advice and representation for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal clients in the region.

"The renewed MOU between the TSRA and Attorney-General's Department secures the funding for Indigenous legal services in the Torres Strait and NPA until 2018," Mr Elu said.

"ATSILS receives funding each year from the TSRA to enable them to provide of these services."

The ATSILS works together with Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal communities, key government and non-government stakeholders to manage the delivery of services in a professional, culturally competent and community-sensitive manner, to influence policy change, and to deliver high quality legal services for Indigenous people within or exposed to the justice system.

"ATSILS staff in the region provide vital services in criminal, civil and family law and plays an important role in delivering education programs to enhance individuals' understanding of the legal system," Mr Elu said.

"The TSRA looks forward to its continued partnership with the Attorney-General's Department and ATSILS in delivering quality legal services in our region."

Community members in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area can contact ATSILS by calling 07 4069 1091 (Thursday Island office) or 07 4069 3970 (Bamaga office).

ENDS

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