

## FACTSHEET

### About Youth Law Australia

Since 1993, YLA's national, free legal service has helped children and young people access justice on important issues including sexual abuse, bullying, family violence and online harassment. Through our web form, phone line and email advice service, we offer children a safe, confidential space to talk about their problems without feeling judged or exposed.

### The need

The need that YLA addresses is immense. Research suggests over half of young people aged 18 to 24 experience a legal problem each year. For children under 18 years, we estimate nearly a quarter will have a legal problem.

YLA's small but efficient team strives to help as many of those children and young people as possible with the limited resources we have. In fact, despite only having 2-3 full-time lawyers at any given time, we help more children (under 18 years) than any other community legal centre in Australia.

Children and young people who do not find a way to address their legal problems are more likely to experience homelessness; violence and abuse; poor education outcomes; unemployment; loss of income and financial strain; and mental and physical illness.

And yet, due to inadequate Government funding, YLA estimates that it will need to turn away more than 3,000 children, young people and their parents next financial year.

### Our impact

#### In 2019:

- YLA provided free legal advice, information and referrals to **2320** children, young people and families across Australia.
- **259** children, young people and their advocates contacted us about consent, sexual assault and harassment and **164** contacted us about online violence and abuse such as image-based abuse, "sextortion", grooming and threats.
- YLA helped **233** children and young people at risk of domestic and family violence and **60** young people who experienced bullying. Many children and young people were at imminent risk of (ongoing) harm.
- YLA had over **2 million** pageviews on yla.org.au, which provides factsheets and resources on a range of legal topics.

### What we want Government to do

As a matter of urgency, we urge the Australian Government to confirm YLA will be funded, sustainably, into the future.