

MESSAGE TEMPLATE

Writing to the Australian Government

Subject: Protect children's access to legal services

Dear [insert title of who you're writing to]

I recently found out that Youth Law Australia's (YLA's) services will be greatly reduced and that as many as 3,300 children, young people and families may need to be turned away after 30 June.

I'm writing to urge you to fund all the vital services that YLA provides. YLA gives children advice about child abuse and neglect, cyberbullying, family violence, exclusion from school and education, exploitation at work, sexual harassment, image-based abuse and more. These are issues that children are often too embarrassed or scared to talk to anyone else about.

Every year in Australia more than 1.2 million children and young people have a legal problem. YLA's team is small (only 2 to 3 full time lawyers supported by volunteers and interns) – yet they manage to deliver a national service and help more children (under 18 years) than any other community legal centre in Australia. In 2019, they advised 1654 children and young people and provided legal information and referrals to 666 others, including parents and youth workers.

Without YLA, many children and young people may not have anywhere to go where they feel safe talking about their problems.

Please don't let this happen. Please make sure YLA receives sustainable funding beyond 30 June so they can continue ensuring all children and young people in Australia who contact them can understand their legal rights and have access to advice and help when they need it most.

Thank you,
[your name]