# #35

### COMPLETE

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Page 1: Ninth Session of the OEWG on Ageing 23-26 July 2018, UN Headquarters, New York

### Q1 Name of the organization:

Caxton Legal Centre Inc.

### Q2 The purpose of the organization:

Established in 1976, Caxton Legal Centre is an independent, non-profit community organisation that provides free legal advice, social work services, information and referrals. Caxton is the oldest non-profit, community-based legal service provider in the State of Queensland.

#### Our mission is to:

- 1. promote access to justice
- 2. provide free legal advice and information
- 3. empower people to address their legal problems
- 4. increase community awareness of the law
- 5. produce plain-English publications
- 6. work to change unfair laws.

#### Our vision is to:

- build a just and inclusive society that values difference and diversity and the rights of all people and their communities to the social and economic resources they need to exercise their human rights
- influence the development of law to recognise the needs of people who are socially or economically disadvantaged
- Assist people who would otherwise be denied access to justice due to social or economic disadvantage to exercise their legal rights.

Q3 Information as to the programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the human rights of older persons:

Caxton Legal Centre operates a generalist legal service with a number of specialist programs that seek to enhance the protection and fulfilment of the human rights of older persons:

Seniors Legal And Support Service (SLASS):

This multi-disciplinary service targets older persons (aged 60+) experiencing or at risk of experiencing elder abuse by engaging lawyers and social workers to conduct home visits. The SLASS service model was developed by Caxton Legal Centre in the early 2000's and has since been expanded to other community legal centres throughout Queensland. The Commonwealth Government has very recently announced funding to expand and evaluate the service model as part of its response to the Australian Law Reform Commission's Report on Elder Abuse.

Caxton Legal Centre is currently engaged in a process of co-designing a financial protections outreach model to better protect older persons.

### Consumer Law:

Caxton Legal Centre has specialist expertise in consumer law which it regularly draws upon to protect the financial interests of older persons, particularly those involved in disputes with banking and insurance institutions.

#### Discrimination Law:

Caxton Legal Centre has conducted a number of matters in this jurisdiction including for older clients with disability who have been denied access to government services.

Retirement Village and Manufactured Homes Service:

Caxton Legal Centre operates a service providing information and advice to older persons about their contractual and statutory rights related to these forms of residential accommodation.

In addition to the above, Caxton is also involved in the following activities relevant to the human rights of older persons -

- The Director of Caxton is the convenor of the National Older Persons Legal Services Network
- Caxton is playing a key role in the State Human Rights Act campaign
- Caxton is co-hosting the 2019 National Elder Abuse Conference

Q4 Confirmation of the activities of the organization at the national, regional or international level:

Caxton Legal Centre is active in the development of research and policy in elder abuse at a state (provincial) and national level. The Centre's Director, Scott McDougall, is a founding director of Elder Abuse Action Australia Ltd (EAAA), a not for profit organisation recently established as a national peak to, inter alia:

- · Promote the safety, dignity, equality, health and independence of vulnerable older Australians; and
- Promote the rights of older Australians to live free from abuse and neglect.

The EAAA has recently been granted funding from the Commonwealth Government of Australia to work with the Government on the National Plan to Protect Older Australians, and to co-design an Elder Abuse Knowledge Hub.

Caxton Legal Centre has for many years been actively involved in the Older Persons Legal Services Network operated by the National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC). Mr McDougall is currently acting as co-convenor of this network. Mr McDougall contributed to the NACLC submissions to the Australian Law Reform Commission's Inquiry into Elder Abuse and Caxton Legal Centre's submission.

Since 2009, Caxton Legal Centre has convened annual training and professional development for the regional elder abuse (SLASS) services throughout Queensland.

Caxton Legal Centre is co-hosting Australia's National Elder Abuse Conference in Brisbane in July 2019.

Q5 A list of members of the governing body of the organization and their countries of nationality:

President : Mark Thomas - Australian Secretary : Dan Rogers - Australian Treasurer : Louise Cox - Australian

General Members
Barbara Kent – Australian
Matt Woods – Australian
Wendy Mulcahy – Australian
Margaret Arthur – Australian
Alf Davis – Australian
Kevin Lambkin – Australian

**Q6** List of financial sources and contributions, including governmental contributions:

- Government funding: A\$2,797,567
- Public donations: A\$9,416

Q7 Copies of the annual or other reports of the organization with financial statements (File size limit is 16MB):

CAXTON Annual Report 2016-17.pdf (2.6MB)

**Q8** Please attach additional copies if needed (File size limit is 16MB):

Respondent skipped this question

**Q9** Please attach additional copies if needed (File size limit is 16MB):

Respondent skipped this question

**Q10** A description of the membership of the organization, indicating the total number of members, the names of organizations that are members and their geographical distribution:

Caxton has approximately 30 members - all of whom are individuals and reside in Australia. Our members are comprised of:

- · General members;
- · Management Committee members; and
- Volunteer

Q11 A copy of the constitution and/or by-laws of the organization (File size limit is 16MB):

### Caxton Constitution.pdf (3.6MB)

**Q12** Please attach additional copies if needed (File size limit is 16MB):

Respondent skipped this question

**Q13** Please attach additional copies if needed (File size limit is 16MB):

Respondent skipped this question

### **Q14** Contact information:

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#### Q15 Website

https://caxton.org.au