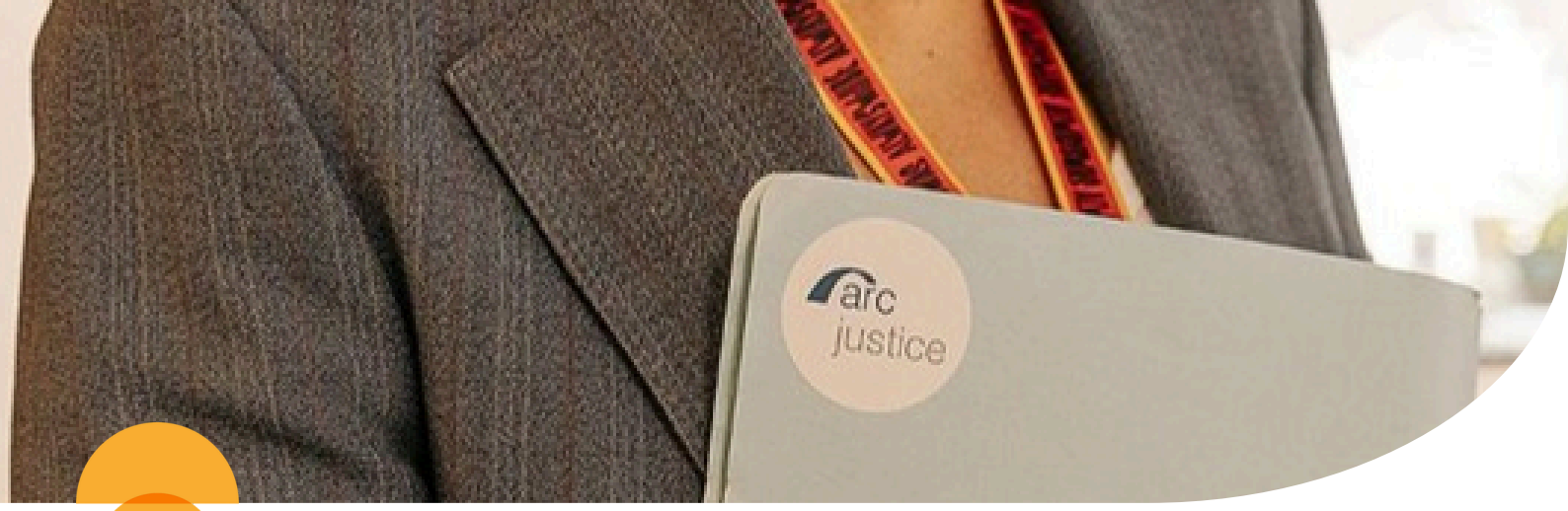


Trusted and authoritative voice on regional social issues, influencing better justice outcomes

Behind the photo: Making regional voices heard

The photo shows ARC Justice CEO Damian Stock with then-Premier Jacinta Allan in her Parliament House office.

Behind it are months of work to put regional women's access to legal help on the agenda.

ARC Justice had been raising concerns about women struggling to get family law advice and representation, particularly when family violence was involved.

Those concerns were raised when government and departmental representatives visited the Bendigo office in April. They were also raised through meetings and correspondence with local MP Maree Edwards and advocacy alongside the community legal sector.

In June, Damian attended the Federation of Community Legal Centres' statewide campaign launch at Parliament House, calling for greater investment in community legal services. There, he met directly with the Premier.

The message was clear: About 80% of the family law matters ARC Justice sees involve family violence, yet many regional women can't get the legal help they need.

The meeting created a chance to put that frontline experience directly before the head of the Victorian Government.



CEO Damian Stock met with then-Premier Jacinta Allan after months of work.

It followed sustained contact with MPs, ministers, departments and sector partners, keeping regional needs in the conversation.

One meeting doesn't change a system. But consistent advocacy builds opportunities to be heard and gives decision-makers evidence they might otherwise miss. For ARC Justice, the work behind the photo matters as much as the meeting itself: turning regional experience into a stronger voice for change.