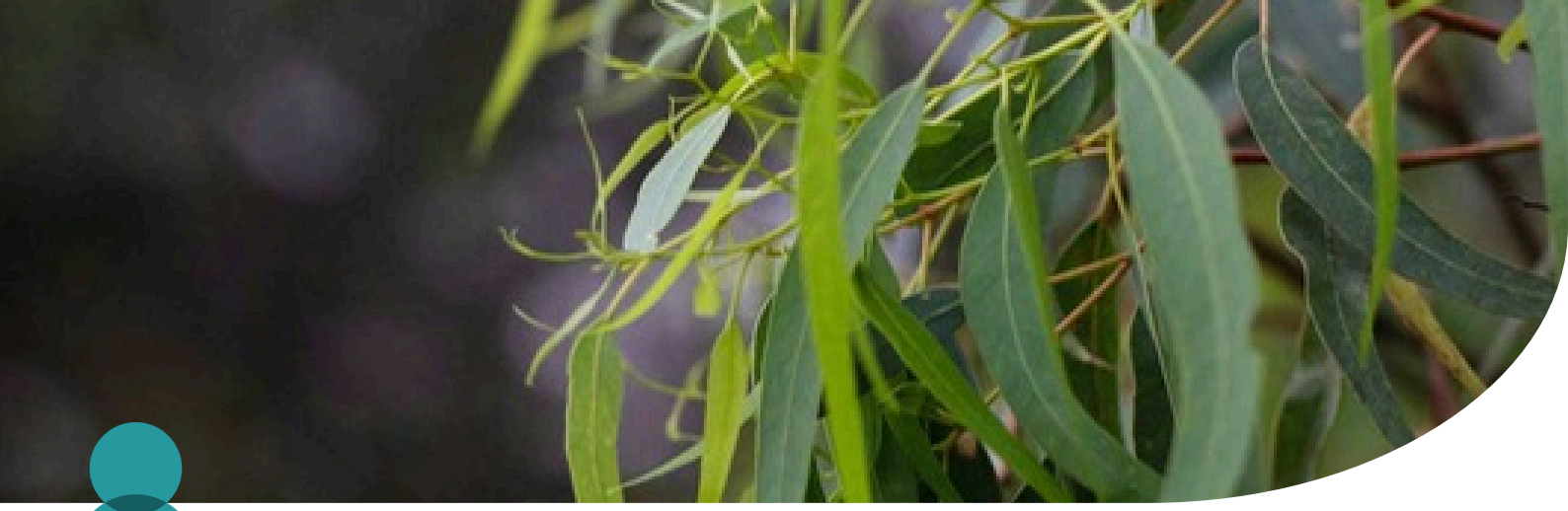


Community members demonstrate increased legal understanding and capability to address or prevent legal problems

Mind Australia partnership: Working together, with people at the centre

Getting the right help often starts with knowing where to turn.



Someone seeking mental health and wellbeing support might also be worried about their housing, struggling with debt, experiencing family violence or dealing with another issue where legal help could make a difference.

They mightn't know legal help is available. But the person they already trust for support might. That's why ARC Justice's partnership with Mind Australia – one of Australia's largest providers of community mental health and psychosocial disability services – matters.

As partners, we're working together to strengthen the connection between mental health and legal support, making it easier for people to get the help they need.

This year, ARC Justice Managing Lawyer (Civil Justice) Carolyn Davey and lawyer Blaine Perkins joined around 60 staff from the Mental Health and Wellbeing Local, with Mind Australia as the lead provider in Bendigo to talk about our work, the legal help available and how Local staff can connect people with ARC Justice. More than 30 questions followed.

For Mind's Service Operations Manager Lisa Henderson, the partnership is about putting the people both organisations support at the centre. "Working closely with ARC Justice helps our staff recognise when there might be a legal issue alongside what someone is already dealing with and can actively support people to know where they can turn for help."

Community legal education is one way the partnership works in practice. It builds knowledge and stronger connections between frontline workers, so they don't need to know the legal answer themselves. They just need to recognise when legal help could make a difference.

For potential clients, that means more opportunities to find the right help, through people they already know and trust.