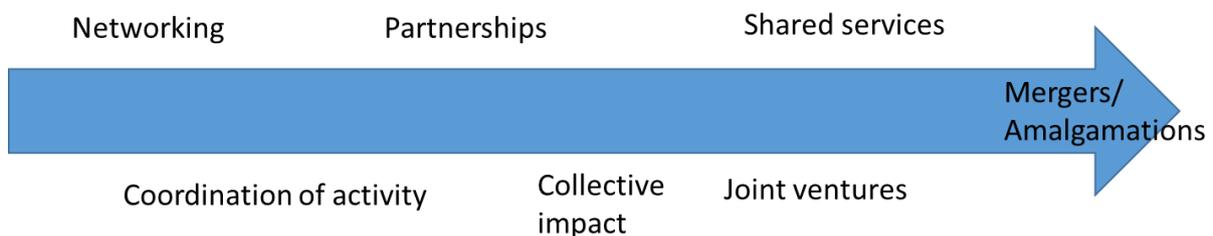




## Sector Sustainability

The *Models for Sustainability* project is exploring sustainability within the sector from a particular perspective - that the community legal services that people experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage require, are provided to them in an effective and consistent structure. It refers to the



sustainability of services to people, rather than the sustainability of an individual service or centre.

The Association does not believe that the current level and quality of community legal services provided is sustainable in the sense of this definition. Community legal centres are not currently sufficiently funded for the work that they do. The recommendations resulting from this project are trying to support organisations to work towards sustainability in terms of this definition, whilst simultaneously acknowledging that internal changes will only go so far in a challenging external funding and operating environment. Change in both internal and external operating environments is required to fully achieve sustainability.

The ultimate output of the *Models of Sustainability* project will be an analysis of 2-3 potential models for 'sustainability' in the sense described above. However, other key outputs of the project will be the development of critical underpinning materials, including:

- mapping current types of CLCs and/or how legal support is currently provided in WA;
  - mapping nationally what specialist peaks exist and why, and how this compares to WA;
  - draft theory of change logic model for CLCs to take and use for their own purposes, which assists to address the question: *What does an effective system for the provision of legal advice to vulnerable and disadvantaged people look like?; and*
  - key clients pathways and stories to understand what structures would make sense;
- as well as addressing specific initiatives such as shared services.

National and international research on what work has been done on the sustainability of community law in other jurisdictions is also informing this project, as are the findings from related projects being undertaken in several of our counterpart state associations.