

**Guide to Legal Services  
for Aboriginal People  
in NSW and the ACT**

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### ***Cover***

The artwork on the cover of the original publication is entitled "Memory".

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## **PREFACE**

The following information is a guide to legal services available to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Aboriginal) residents of New South Wales (NSW) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The organisations included provide legal services at little or no cost to clients.

The idea for this Guide was born of the first meeting of the New South Wales Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF) Working Group on Aboriginal Clients, held on Tuesday, 24 January 2006. In attendance at this meeting were representatives of the Coalition of Aboriginal Legal Services of NSW (COALS), the Legal Aid Commission of NSW, Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, Women's Legal Service NSW – Indigenous Women's Program, Law and Justice Foundation, Arts Law Centre of Australia, Public Interest Law Clearing House and the Redfern Legal Centre.

Participants agreed that there was much unmet need among Aboriginal residents of NSW and the ACT in relation to Civil Law services but felt that it lacked sufficient comprehensive knowledge about the Civil Law services that *are* available in order to determine exactly how it could fill the remaining gaps. Part I of the following Guide is intended to provide the required knowledge about Civil Law services currently available to Aboriginal residents of NSW and the ACT.

Details of Criminal Law services available to Aboriginal people in NSW and the ACT are listed in Part II.

The information contained in the Guide is divided into four regions. These are:

1. **Central South Eastern NSW:**  
From Wyong and Hawkesbury southwards, including the Blue Mountains, to the Victorian border and across to Gundagai and Tumut.
2. **Northern NSW:**  
From Lake Macquarie to the Queensland border and across to Coonamble.

3. **Western NSW:**  
From Lithgow to the South Australian border.

4. **ACT.**

(See attached map of NSW and the ACT).

The information also includes details of legal services which are not *specifically* aimed at Aboriginal people but which Aboriginal people may access. The Guide specifies whether or not Aboriginal people are considered a main priority of such services.

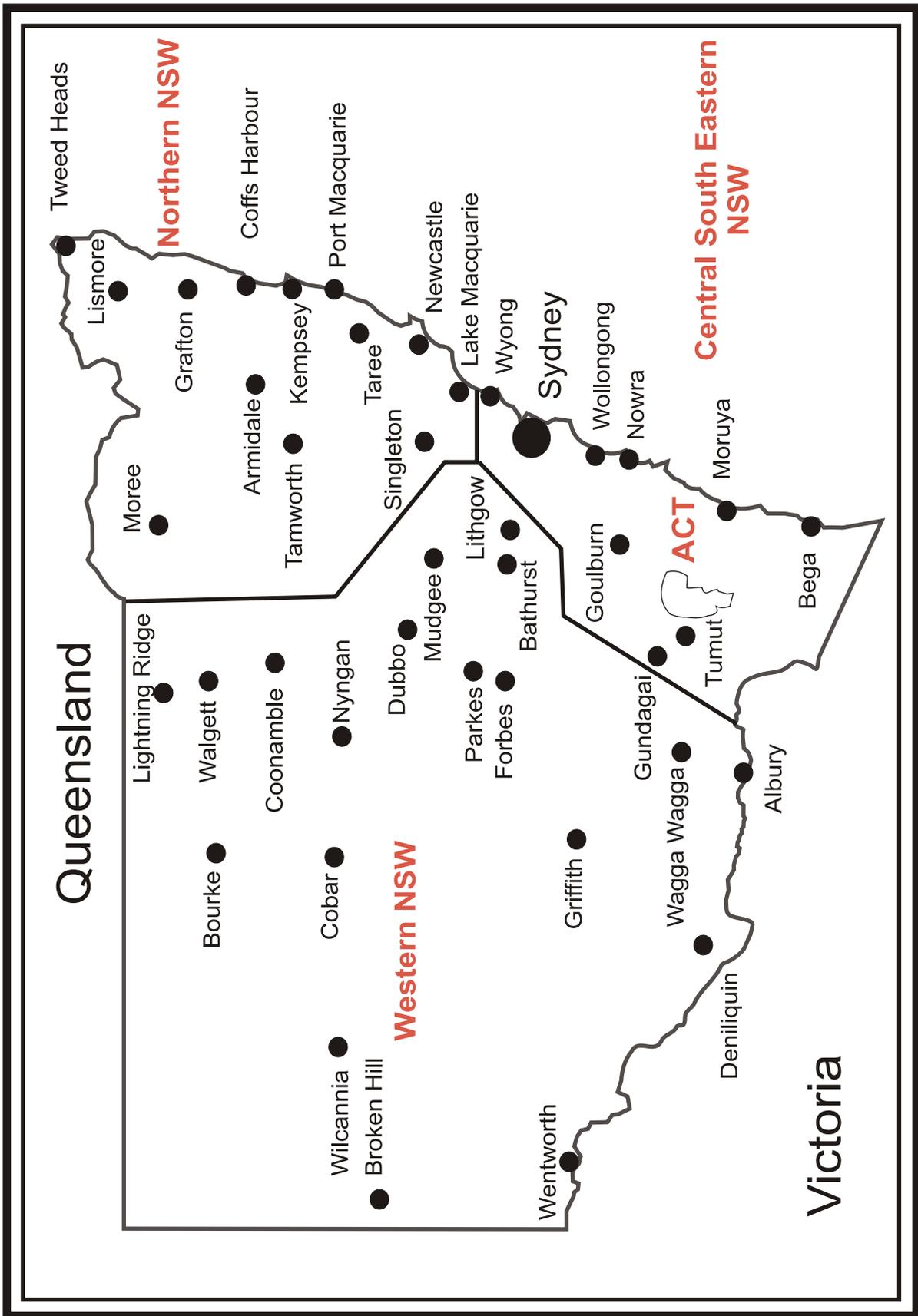
The NLA Working Group on Aboriginal Clients hopes that you and/or your organisation will find the information contained in this Guide of use either to locate appropriate legal services or to lobby for services where they are lacking.

Sincerely,



**Sheryn Omeri**  
Policy and Law Reform Legal Officer  
Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited  
Chair of the NLA Working Group on Aboriginal Clients (2005-2006)

# MAP





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## **List of Terms**

*The following is a list of terms used in this Guide along with an explanation of what each term means.*

### **Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited (ALS):**

The ALS is a community-controlled organisation responsible for providing legal aid services to Aboriginal people in NSW and the ACT. The Board of the ALS is made up of 13 Aboriginal Directors, representing every major Aboriginal community in NSW and the ACT.

The ALS has approximately 24 offices across NSW and the ACT from which it provides legal advice, referral and casework assistance in the fields of Criminal and Family Law (including Care and Protection). With the assistance of the Legal Aid Commission of NSW, the ALS is also able to provide advice in Civil Law matters from certain of its offices. Clients seeking assistance from the ALS must meet a means and merit test. In some cases, clients will be required to make financial contributions to the cost of their case.

### **Bar Association:**

The NSW Bar Association is a voluntary association of practising barristers. Its aims include:

- to promote the administration of justice;
- to make recommendations to government in relation to legislation, law reform and court procedures;
- to seek to ensure that the benefits of the administration of justice are equally available to all members of the community.

### **Civil Law:**

See “What is Civil Law?”

## **Community Legal Centres (CLCs):**

Community Legal Centres are not-for-profit community organisations that provide legal advice, information and referral services to disadvantaged people. CLCs also provide limited casework assistance and conduct law reform and community legal education projects.

There are currently 38 CLCs in NSW and 5 in the ACT.

There are two kinds of CLCs, generalist legal centres and specialist legal centres.

Generalist legal centres provide advice to people within a certain geographic region (e.g Western NSW).

Specialist legal centres provide advice to certain groups of people (e.g Tenants Union of NSW) or on certain subjects (e.g Consumer Credit Legal Centre).

CLCs vary in size from 3 to 30 staff. There is no means testing for services, but as centres have limited funding, each centre has policies on how much assistance they can give each client.

## **Criminal Law:**

See “What is Criminal Law?”

## **LawAccess NSW:**

LawAccess NSW is a Business Centre of the Attorney-General’s Department of NSW. It provides free legal information, advice, assistance and referrals to other legal services over the telephone to people who live in NSW or who have a legal problem in NSW.

LawAccess NSW Customer Service Officers assist customers making inquiries via the telephone and telephone typewriter (TTY) with legal information and referrals. LawAccess NSW Legal Officers provide legal advice to ‘priority customers’ over the telephone. ‘Priority customers’ are those customers who experience most disadvantage in accessing legal services, and whose legal problem can be dealt with appropriately over the telephone. Aboriginal people are considered ‘priority customers’.

LawAccess NSW is an initiative of the Legal Aid Commission of NSW, the Attorney-General's Department of NSW, the Law Society of NSW and the NSW Bar Association, and works in close partnership with those organisations to assist people find the help they need.

LawAccess NSW also indexes over 1800 plain language legal information resources on its website, LawAccess Online at [www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au).

### **Law Society of NSW:**

The Law Society of NSW is the organisation responsible for the registration and regulation of solicitors in NSW. Its members include solicitors who live and work throughout the State and who join the Law Society voluntarily. The main objects of the Law Society are:

- To promote improvements in the law
- To improve the administration of justice
- To represent the views of solicitors
- To deal with dishonourable practices of some solicitors
- To deal with matters affecting the professional interests of solicitors.

The Community Referral Department of the Law Society of NSW provides a range of services that aim to assist the public. They include:

1) Solicitor Referral Service – The Law Society can refer callers to over 1,500 private firms. The service refers callers to three firms which practice in the required area of the law conveniently located for the caller more information can be accessed at [www.lawsociety.com.au](http://www.lawsociety.com.au).

2) Pro Bono Scheme – The Scheme is available to eligible members of the community who cannot afford the cost of a solicitor and are not eligible for Legal Aid. Pro Bono legal work is done at a substantially reduced rate or in some circumstances, at no cost. More information can be accessed at [www.lawsociety.com.au](http://www.lawsociety.com.au).

3) The Dispute Resolution Department offers the mediation program – Mediation is a voluntary and confidential conference, where all the participants have agreed to attend and to cooperate in good faith to resolve the dispute between them. A mediator appointed by the Law Society of New South Wales assists the parties to discuss, negotiate and

achieve a solution. More information on this service can be accessed at [www.lawsociety.com.au/mediation](http://www.lawsociety.com.au/mediation).

### **Legal Aid Commission of NSW (LAC):**

The Legal Aid Commission of NSW is established under the *Legal Aid Commission Act 1979* (NSW) and is an independent statutory body. It provides legal aid and other legal services to disadvantaged people. Ten Board Members, appointed by the NSW Attorney-General, govern the Commission and determine its policies. The Board represents a range of key groups including the Law Society of NSW, welfare groups and the NSW Bar Association.

The Commission provides free legal advice and minor assistance in Criminal Law, Family Law and Civil Law matters at its head office in Sydney as well as at 20 metropolitan and regional offices, located at Bankstown, Blacktown, Burwood, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Liverpool, Manly, Parramatta, Penrith, Sutherland, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Gosford, Lismore, Newcastle, Nowra, Orange, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga and Wollongong.

If more than legal advice is needed, the Commission may be able to provide casework assistance. The Commission provides grants of legal aid for many Civil, Family, Criminal, Administrative, Mental Health and Veteran's matters. For most services, clients must meet a means and a merit test. Normally, they also have to pay some money towards the cost of their case. In some cases, clients repay the full cost of their case when it is finalised.

The Commission also administers funding for Community Legal Centres as well as Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Schemes at many Local Courts.

## **INDEX OF LEGAL PROBLEMS**

*If you have a legal problem that falls into one of the categories listed below, you can contact any of the organisations listed beside it for assistance.*

● *indicates that the organisation provides services exclusively to Aboriginal people or in some other way prioritises the needs of Aboriginal people.*

*Note - This index is intended as a general guide only. If you cannot find the type of legal problem for which you need assistance, please do not assume that no one can help you. Similarly, if you cannot find a legal service provider in a particular area, please do not assume that there is not one. In either of these situations, you should call **LawAccess NSW** on **1300 888 529**.*

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# **PART I**

# **CIVIL LAW SERVICES**

## What is “Civil Law”?

Civil Law is the body of law that covers relationships between individuals, between organisations, and between individuals and organisations which **do not** involve criminal behaviour.

Unlike in the Criminal Law, Civil Law court cases are not initiated by the Police but by one individual against another individual, for example.

Civil Law covers many different and specific areas of law such as:

- Arts Law
- Bankruptcy
- Business Contracts
- Consumer Protection and Product Safety
- Coronial Inquests
- Credit
- Debt
- Discrimination
- Employment
- Environmental Law (including cultural heritage claims)
- Government (Freedom of Information, Ombudsman, Privacy)
- Health (HIV/AIDS, Drugs, Mental Health)
- Housing
- Immigration
- Insurance
- Land Rights (Native Title)
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Neighbourhood Disputes (Animals, Fences, Noise)
- Pensions and Allowances
- Sport
- Stolen Wages
- Taxation
- Victims’ Compensation
- Wills and Estates (Funerals, Power of Attorney)
- Workers’ Compensation

and others.

Many people see Family Law (including the custody of children) as being separate from Civil Law. This Guide states whether a listed organisation provides legal services in the field of Family Law. If Family Law is not specifically mentioned in the entry for an organisation, that organisation does **not** provide Family Law services.

## CENTRAL SOUTH EASTERN NSW

### **(NSW) Bar Association Legal Assistance Referral Scheme (LARS)**

Address: 174 Phillip St  
Sydney NSW 2000

Telephone: (02) 9232 4055

Fax: (02) 9221 1149

Email/Website: [hsare@nswbar.asn.au](mailto:hsare@nswbar.asn.au)  
  
[http://www.nswbar.asn.au/Public/LegalAssistance/content\\_legass.php](http://www.nswbar.asn.au/Public/LegalAssistance/content_legass.php)  
  
(link to application form on right-hand side,  
half-way down the page)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

In order to be eligible for assistance from the NSW Bar Association's Legal Assistance Referral Scheme, a person seeking assistance must fill out an application form (available on the website) and **not** fall into any one of the following categories:

- was refused assistance by the Legal Aid Commission because matter lacks merit

- has a gross household income of more than \$1,000 per week
- is a plaintiff in a personal injury or medical negligence application
- requires assistance in relation to a neighbourhood dispute
- requires assistance in relation to an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO).

If a person does not fall into one of these categories, an attempt will be made to refer the matter to a barrister who will assess the merits of the case.

From this point, the Bar Association will determine whether it will provide assistance.

#### Details of Civil Law services provided:

The NSW Bar Association's Legal Assistance Referral Scheme provides legal representation by a barrister in all areas of law **except**:

- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs) (in the first instance)
- Long trials
- Matters which do not involve going to court
- Medical negligence
- Neighbourhood disputes
- Personal injury.

#### Cross-references:

The NSW Bar Association is a NSW-wide organisation. Its members include barristers living and practising throughout the State. As a result, it may be possible to obtain assistance for matters which involve appearing at a court outside of the Sydney region.

## Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre

Address: 4 Station St  
Katoomba NSW 2780

Telephone: (02) 4782 4155

Fax: (02) 4782 4384

Email/Website: tracey@eeclc.org.au  
[www.naclc.org.au/directory/nsw.html#6](http://www.naclc.org.au/directory/nsw.html#6)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility Requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living in the Blue Mountains.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Centre provides legal assistance in the following areas:

- Accidents and Compensation
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Banking and Finance
- Children and Young People
- Consumers
- Employment
- Environmental Law
- Family Law and Relationships
- Housing, Neighbours, Property and Development
- Human Rights
- Wills and Estates.

Cross-references:

None.

## Hawkesbury-Nepean Community Legal Centre

Address: 13 Bosworth St  
Richmond NSW 2753

Telephone: (02) 4588 5618

Fax: (02) 4588 5671

Email/Website: Hawkesbury\_NSW@clc.net.au

### Aboriginal specific?:

Though the Centre does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal people, they are a priority for the Centre. The Centre offers an Aboriginal Legal Access Service and Aboriginal clients are able to contact the Service Co-ordinator directly.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living in the Hawkesbury-Nepean area.

### Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Centre provides legal assistance in the following areas:

- Accidents and compensation
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Banking and Finance
- Children and Young People
- Consumers
- Employment
- Family Law and Relationships
- Human Rights
- Immigration and Citizenship
- Neighbours.

### Cross-references:

None.

## Inner City Legal Centre

Address: 6A/6B  
First Floor  
66 Oxford St  
Darlinghurst NSW 2010

Telephone: (02) 9332 1966

Fax: (02) 9360 5941

Email/Website: inner\_city@clc.net.au  
  
www.iclc.org.au

### Aboriginal specific?:

Though the Centre does not provide legal assistance exclusively to Aboriginal people, they are encouraged to drop in and be seen anytime.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living in inner Sydney.

### Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Centre provides legal advice, assistance and referral in the following areas of law:

- Accidents and Compensation
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Banking and Finance

- Children and Young People
- Consumers
- Credit and Debt
- Discrimination
- Employment
- Family Law and Relationships
- Health
- Human Rights
- Lesbian and Gay legal issues
- Neighbours
- Social Services
- Transport
- Victims' Compensation
- Wills and Estates.

Cross-references:

None.

## Kingsford Legal Centre

Address: The Law Building  
Ground Floor  
University of NSW  
NSW 2052

Telephone: (02) 9385 9572  
(02) 9398 6366

Fax: (02) 9385 9583  
(02) 9399 6683

Email/Website: legal@unsw.edu.au  
  
www.kingsfordlegalcentre.org

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides assistance to residents of the local area. It also takes on cases where there is no other source of assistance or where acting for the client will benefit the community.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Centre provides legal assistance in the following areas:

- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Banking and Finance
- Children and Young People

- Consumers
- Credit and Debt
- Discrimination – NSW-wide service
- Domestic Violence
- Employment
- Environmental Law
- Human Rights
- Motor Traffic Matters
- Neighbours
- Social Services
- Tenancy
- Victims' Compensation

Cross-references:

None.

## Law Society of NSW Pro Bono Scheme

Address: 170 Phillip St  
Sydney NSW 2000

Telephone: (02) 9926 0364

Fax: (02) 9231 5809

Email/Website: [www.lawsociety.com.au/legalhelp](http://www.lawsociety.com.au/legalhelp)  
(Click "Pro Bono Scheme under [Find a Lawyer])

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Law Society of NSW Pro Bono Scheme is for members of the community who cannot afford the cost of a solicitor and who are not eligible for Legal Aid.

The first step in gaining assistance from the Scheme is to fill out an application form (available on website).

Application forms will be assessed by the Law Society. If a person is successful in their application for assistance, the Law Society will try to match the matter with an appropriate firm of solicitors.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Law Society of NSW Pro Bono Scheme provides advice, assistance with preparing documents and representation in court in the following areas of law:

- Administrative Law
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Business Law for non-profit organisations
- Child care and protection
- Discrimination
- Debt and credit
- Employment
- Family Law (contact and residence orders only)
- Immigration
- Tenancy
- Wills and Estates.

Cross-references:

The Law Society of NSW is a NSW-wide organisation. Its members include solicitors living and practising throughout NSW. As a result, it may be possible to obtain assistance for people living both inside and outside of the Sydney region.

## Legal Aid Commission of NSW

Address: 323 Castlereagh St  
Sydney NSW 2000

+ offices at Bankstown, Blacktown,  
Burwood, Campbelltown, Fairfield,  
Liverpool, Manly, Parramatta, Penrith,  
Sutherland, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo,  
Gosford, Lismore, Newcastle, Nowra,  
Orange, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga,  
Wollongong.

Telephone: (02) 9519 5000

1300 888 529

Fax: (02) 9219 5935

Email/Website: [www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au)

### Aboriginal specific?:

Although the Legal Aid Commission of NSW does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal people, it has identified Aboriginal clients as a priority for service provision and also conducts a number of Aboriginal-specific Civil Law programmes.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Legal Aid Commission has guidelines which set out the eligibility requirements for grants of aid in each area of law. These can be found on the Commission's website (see above).

The Commission provides free advice and minor assistance in Civil and Family Law matters to most people. The Commission also provides legal representation in some types of Civil Law and Family Law matters, subject to a means and a merit test. Representation can be provided by

solicitors employed by the Commission or by private solicitors funded by a grant of legal aid.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

Civil Law advice is provided in all Civil Law matters at Commission offices where a Civil Law practice is located (see above).

Representation is available in the following type of Civil Law matters:

- Civil liberties such as wrongful arrest and malicious prosecution
- Consumer protection
- Discrimination
- Housing and loss of dwelling
- Mental health advocacy
- Social security
- Some migration matters
- Public interest coronial inquests
- Public interest environmental matters
- Public interest human rights matters
- Veteran's entitlements

Note - Where a client is a child or has a disability, aid is available in a wider range of Civil Law matters.

Solicitors employed by the Commission provide Civil Law assistance on a regular basis at offices of the Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited (ALS) located at Redfern, Blacktown, Wollongong, Lismore and Coffs Harbour pursuant to a Protocol between the Commission and the ALS.

Civil Law services are provided to women, including Aboriginal women in various women's gaols in NSW. These gaols are Berrima, Dillwynia, Emu Plains, Mid North Coast and Mulawa Correctional Centres.

Cross-references:

The Legal Aid Commission is a NSW-wide service. For information about the Commission's services in other parts of NSW, see **Northern NSW** and **Western NSW**.

## Macarthur Legal Centre

Address: 4 Broughton St  
Campbelltown NSW 2560

Telephone: (02) 4628 2042

Fax: (02) 4628 0771

Email/Website: [www.macarthurlegal.org.au](http://www.macarthurlegal.org.au)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides assistance to people living in the Campbelltown, Wollondilly and Camden regions.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Centre provides legal assistance in the following areas:

- Accidents and Compensation
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Banking and Finance
- Child Support
- Children and Young People
- Children's Court Assistance Scheme
- Credit and Debt
- Discrimination
- Employment

- Environmental Law
- Family Law and Relationships
- Health
- Housing, Property and Development
- Human Rights
- Immigration and Citizenship
- Neighbours
- Social Services
- Tenancy
- Transport
- Unfair Dismissal
- Victims' Compensation
- Wills and Estates
- Youth Law (Children's solicitor).

Cross-references:

None.

## Macquarie Legal Centre

Address: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
250 Pitt St  
Merrylands NSW 2160

Telephone: (02) 9760 2211  
(02) 9760 0111 (Advice)

Fax: (02) 9760 2255

Email/Website: Macquarie\_NSW@clc.net.au  
  
www.macquarielegal.org.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Macquarie Legal Centre provides assistance to low income earners living in the Western Sydney Region.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Macquarie Legal Centre provides generalist legal advice in the following areas of law:

- Accidents and Compensation
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Children and Young People
- Children's Court Assistance Scheme (Lidcombe court)

- Consumers
- Employment
- Family Law and Relationships
- Neighbours
- Wills and Estates
- Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme (Parramatta and Ryde courts).

Cross-references:

None.

## Marrickville Legal Centre (MLC)

Address: 338 Illawarra Rd  
Marrickville NSW 2204

Telephone: (02) 9559 2899

Fax: (02) 9558 5213

Email/Website: [www.mlc.asn.au](http://www.mlc.asn.au)

### Aboriginal specific?:

Although the MLC does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal clients, it does undertake Aboriginal-specific projects. In addition, Aboriginal people are encouraged to drop in and be seen anytime. Aboriginal clients are also given priority in casework intake.

### Eligibility requirements:

The MLC provides assistance to people living in the Marrickville community.

### Details of Civil Law services provided:

The MLC provides free advice and information in relation to the following areas:

- Accidents and Compensation
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Banking and Finance
- Children and Young People
- Children's Court Assistance Scheme (under 18s, NSW-wide)
- Consumers

- Credit and Debt
- Discrimination
- Employment
- Family Law and Relationships
- Fines
- Health
- Human Rights
- Inner West Tenancy Advice Service (Ashfield, Canada Bay, Marrickville, Strathfield and Burwood)
- Outreach at St George Migrant Resource Centre
- Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme (Newtown court).

The MLC also runs an Aboriginal Victims Compensation Project.

Cross-references:

None.

## Mt Druitt and Area Community Legal Centre

Address: 76 Rooty Hill Rd North  
Rooty Hill NSW 2766

Telephone: (02) 9675 2009

Fax: (02) 9675 2110

Email/Website: N/A.

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living in the Mt Druitt area who are on low or no income who may not be able to afford a private solicitor.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Centre provides legal advice, referral and casework in the following areas of law:

- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Child Support
- Children and Young People
- Complaints against solicitors and government departments
- Consumers
- Employment

- Family Law and Relationships
- Financial Services
- Human Rights
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Neighbourhood Disputes
- Social Services
- Wills and Estates.

Cross-references:

None.

## Redfern Legal Centre

Address: 73 Pitt St  
Redfern NSW 2016

Telephone: (02) 9698 7277

Fax: (02) 9310 3586

Email/Website: info@rlc.org.au

www.rlc.org.au

### Aboriginal specific?:

Although the Redfern Legal Centre does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal people, it has identified Aboriginal clients as a priority for service provision.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Redfern Legal Centre provides free legal advice and assistance to people living in Sydney, Botany and Leichhardt Local Government Areas.

### Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Redfern Legal Centre provides advice and assistance in relation to the following areas of law:

- Credit and Debt
- Criminal matters (limited)
- Complaints against police, solicitors, government departments
- Consumer Complaints
- Discrimination

- Domestic Violence
- Employment (not Workers' Compensation)
- Family Law (limited)
- Insurance (not Workers Compensation)
- Legal Aid
- Mental Health
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Prison
- Social Security and legal issues affecting community groups
- Superannuation
- Tenancy
- Unfair Dismissal
- Victims Compensation.

Face-to-face and telephone advice sessions are held from Monday to Thursday from 6:30 – 8:30pm. Limited daytime appointments are also available.

Cross-references:

None.

## Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre

Address: 50 Junction St  
Nowra NSW 2541

Telephone: (02) 4422 9529  
1800 229 529 (Ulladulla to Bega)

Fax: (02) 4422 7573

Email/Website: Shoalcoast\_NSW@clc.net.au  
  
www.shoalcoast.org.au

### Aboriginal specific?:

Although the Shoalcoast CLC does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal clients, it undertakes Aboriginal-specific projects. The Shoalcoast CLC has employs an Indigenous Legal Service Trainee and has submitted an application for funding for an Indigenous paralegal.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Shoalcoast CLC provides free legal assistance to residents of the Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Local Government Areas who are unable to afford a solicitor.

### Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Shoalcoast CLC provides free legal assistance in the following areas:

- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Banking and Finance
- Consumers
- Employment

- Environmental Law
- Family Law and Relationships
- Health
- Housing
- Human Rights
- Neighbours
- Racial Discrimination
- Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Compensation
- Social Services
- Transport
- Young People.

The Shoalcoast CLC also has a Koori Law and Justice Leadership project.

Cross-references:

None.

## South West Sydney Legal Centre

Address: 30 Pirie St  
Liverpool NSW 2170

Telephone: (02) 9601 7777

Fax: (02) 9601 7400

Email/Website: info@swwslc.org.au  
www.swwslc.org.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living in the Fairfield, Liverpool and Bankstown Local Government Areas.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Centre provides legal assistance in the following areas:

- Accidents and Compensation
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Child Support
- Consumers
- Employment
- Health
- Family Law and Relationships

- Human Rights
- Neighbours
- Outreach (at Youth Gap and Bankstown Women's Health Centre)
- Social Services
- Transport
- Wills and Estates
- Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme (Liverpool and Fairfield residents).

Cross-references:

None.

## UTS Community Law Centre

Address: Building B1  
Blackfriars Campus  
Blackfriars St  
Chippendale NSW 2007

Telephone: (02) 9514 2914

Fax: (02) 9514 2919

Email/Website: [utsclc@law.uts.edu.au](mailto:utsclc@law.uts.edu.au)  
[www.law.uts.edu.au/clc](http://www.law.uts.edu.au/clc)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to all UTS and TAFE Sydney Institute staff and students.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Centre provides free legal advice in the following areas:

- Credit and Debt
- Discrimination
- Domestic Violence
- Employment
- Family Law
- Mental Health

- Neighbourhood Disputes
- Police Powers
- Social Security
- Tenancy.

Cross-references:

None.

## NORTHERN NSW

### Central Coast Community Legal Centre

Address: “The Green House”  
1 River Rd  
Wyong NSW 2259

Telephone: (02) 4353 4988

Fax: (02) 4353 4680

Email/Website: central\_coast\_nsw@clc.net.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living on the Central Coast.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides legal information, advice, referral and some casework in the following areas:

- Accidents and Compensation
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Banking and Finance
- Children and Young People (operates a Children’s Court Assistance Scheme at Wyong and Woy Woy courts)

- Consumers
- Employment
- Environmental Law
- Family Law and Relationships
- Health
- Housing, Property and Development
- Human Rights
- Immigration and Citizenship
- Neighbours
- Social Services
- Transport
- Wills and Estates.

Cross-references:

None.

## Hunter Community Legal Centre

Address: Suite 76  
Level 2  
Market Square  
Hunter Street Mall  
Newcastle NSW 2300

Telephone: (02) 4926 3220  
1800 650 073 (Rural callers)

Fax: (02) 4929 7996

Email/Website: Hunter\_NSW@clc.net.au

### Aboriginal specific?:

Though the Centre does not provide assistance exclusively to Aboriginal people it encourages them to drop in and be seen anytime.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living in the Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Great Lakes, Taree and Upper and Lower Hunter areas of NSW.

### Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Centre provides legal assistance in the following areas:

- Accidents and Compensation
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Banking and Finance
- Children and Young People
- Children's Court Assistance Scheme

- Consumers
- Employment
- Environmental Law
- Family Law and Relationships
- Health
- Housing, Property and Development
- Human Rights
- Neighbours
- Social Services
- Transport
- Wills and Estates.

Cross-references:

None.

## Illawarra Legal Centre

Address: 7 Greene St  
Warrawong NSW 2502

Telephone: (02) 4276 2535  
(02) 4276 1939 (Tenancy line)

Fax: (02) 4276 1978

Email/Website: [www.illawarralegalcentre.org.au](http://www.illawarralegalcentre.org.au)

### Aboriginal specific?:

Though the Centre does not provide legal assistance exclusively to Aboriginal people, they are encouraged to drop in and be seen anytime.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living in the Illawarra region.

### Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Centre provides legal advice, advocacy and casework in the following areas:

- Accidents and Compensation
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Banking and Finance
- Child Support
- Children and Young People
- Children's Court Assistance Scheme – Port Kembla
- Consumers

- Credit and Debt
- Discrimination
- Employment
- Environmental Law
- Family Law and Relationships
- Financial counselling
- Health
- Human Rights
- Neighbours
- Social Services
- Transport
- Unfair Dismissal
- Victims' Compensation
- Welfare rights
- Wills and Estates.

Cross-references:

None.

## Legal Aid Commission of NSW

Address: 4 Park Ave  
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

Suite 6, Level 4  
29 Molesworth St  
Lismore NSW 2480

300 King St  
Newcastle NSW 2300

Telephone: (02) 6651 7899 (Coffs Harbour)  
(02) 6621 2082 (Lismore)  
(02) 4921 8801 (Newcastle)

Fax: (02) 6651 7897 (Coffs Harbour)  
(02) 6621 9874 (Lismore)  
(02) 4921 8866 (Newcastle)

Email/Website: [www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au)

### Aboriginal specific?:

Although the Legal Aid Commission of NSW does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal people, it has identified Aboriginal clients as a priority for service provision and also conducts a number of Aboriginal-specific Civil Law programmes.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Legal Aid Commission has guidelines which set out the eligibility requirements for grants of aid in each area of law. These can be found on the Commission's website (see above).

The Commission provides free advice and minor assistance in Civil and Family Law matters to most people. The Commission also provides legal representation in some types of Civil Law and Family Law matters,

subject to a means and a merit test. Representation can be provided by solicitors employed by the Commission or by private solicitors funded by a grant of legal aid.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

Civil Law advice is provided in all Civil Law matters at Commission offices where a Civil Law practice is located (see above).

Representation is available in the following type of Civil Law matters:

- Civil liberties such as wrongful arrest and malicious prosecution
- Consumer Protection
- Discrimination
- Housing and Loss of Dwelling
- Mental Health Advocacy
- Social Security
- Some Migration Matters
- Public Interest Coronial Inquests
- Public Interest Environmental Matters
- Public Interest Human Rights Matters
- Veteran's Entitlements.

Note - Where a client is a child or has a disability, aid is available in a wider range of Civil Law matters.

Solicitors employed by the Commission provide Civil Law assistance on a regular basis at offices of the Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited (ALS) located at Redfern, Blacktown, Wollongong, Lismore and Coffs Harbour pursuant to a Protocol between the Commission and the ALS.

Civil Law services are provided to women, including Aboriginal women, in various women's gaols in NSW. These gaols are Berrima, Dillwynia, Emu Plains, Mid North Coast and Mulawa Correctional Centres.

Cross-references:

The Legal Aid Commission is a NSW-wide service. For information about the Commission's services in other parts of NSW, see **Central South Eastern NSW** and **Western NSW**.

## North and North West Community Legal Service

Address: Minto Building  
161 Rusden St  
Armidale NSW 2350

Telephone: (02) 6772 8100  
1800 687 687

Fax: (02) 6772 2999

Email/Website: [nnwcls@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nnwcls@bigpond.net.au)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The North and North West Community Legal Service provides generalist legal services to people living in the New England and North West regions of NSW.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The North and North West Community Legal Service provides assistance in the following areas of law:

- Accidents and Compensation
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Banking and Finance

- Children and Young People
- Consumers
- Employment
- Environmental Law
- Family Law and Relationships
- Neighbours
- Social Services
- Wills and Estates.

Cross-references:

None.

## Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre

Address: 10 Club Lane  
Lismore NSW 2480

Telephone: (02) 6621 1000  
1800 689 889  
(02) 6621 1022 (Tenancy)  
1800 649 135 (Tenancy)  
1300 720 606 (DV Court Assistance)

Fax: (02) 6621 1011

Email/Website: nrclc@spot.com.au

### Aboriginal specific?:

Though the Centre does not provide legal assistance exclusively to Aboriginal people, they are given priority in casework intake.

The Centre also runs the Mirrung Ngu Wanjarri Family Violence Project.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living in the Northern Rivers area.

### Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Centre provides legal assistance in the following areas:

- Accidents and Compensation
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Banking and Finance

- Children and Young People
- Consumers
- Employment
- Health
- Human Rights
- Neighbours
- Northern Rivers Tenants Advice Service (for Casino, Lismore, Mullumbimby, Muwullumbah, Tweed Heads, Kyogle, Ballina, Byron Bay and Clarence Valley)
- Northern Rivers Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme (Casino, Lismore, Mullumbimby, Muwillumbah, Tweed Heads, Kyogle, Ballina and Byron Bay)
- Social Services
- Transport
- Wills and Estates.

Cross-references:

None.

## WESTERN NSW

### **Albury Wodonga Community Legal Service**

Address: 29 Stanley St  
Wodonga VIC 3690

558 Mitchell St  
Albury NSW 2640

Telephone: (02) 6056 8210

Fax: (02) 6022 8099

Email/Website: [cls@umfc.com.au](mailto:cls@umfc.com.au)

[www.communitylaw.org.au/alburywodonga](http://www.communitylaw.org.au/alburywodonga)

#### Aboriginal specific?:

No. However, Aboriginal people are given priority in the making of appointments.

#### Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides legal assistance to people living in the Albury and Wodonga areas.

#### Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides legal assistance in the following areas:

- Accidents and Compensation
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Banking and Finance
- Children and Young People
- Consumers
- Employment
- Family Law and Relationships
- Health
- Housing, Property and Development
- Neighbours
- Social Services
- Transport
- Wills and Estates.

Cross-references:

None.

## Far West Community Legal Centre

Address: 5 Chloride St  
Broken Hill NSW 2880

Telephone: (08) 8088 2020  
1800 300 036

Fax: (08) 8088 2060

Email/Website: reception@farwestclc.org.au  
www.farwestclc.org.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living in Far West NSW including Broken Hill, Wilcannia, Wentworth, Tibooburra, White Cliffs, Wanaaring and Ivanhoe.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Centre provides legal assistance in the following areas:

- Accidents and Compensation
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Banking and Finance
- Children and Young People

- Consumers
- Employment
- Family Law and Relationships
- Health
- Housing, Property and Development
- Human Rights
- Immigration and Citizenship
- Neighbours
- Social Services
- Transport
- Wills and Estates.

Cross-references:

None.

## Legal Aid Commission of NSW

Address: 64 Talbragar St  
Dubbo NSW 2830

Telephone: (02) 6885 4233

Fax: (02) 6885 4240

Email/Website: [www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au)

### Aboriginal specific?:

Although the Legal Aid Commission of NSW does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal people, it has identified Aboriginal clients as a priority for service provision and also conducts a number of Aboriginal-specific Civil Law programmes.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Legal Aid Commission has guidelines which set out the eligibility requirements for grants of aid in each area of law. These can be found on the Commission's website (see above).

The Commission provides free advice and minor assistance in Civil and Family Law matters to most people. The Commission also provides legal representation in some types of Civil Law and Family Law matters, subject to a means and a merit test. Representation can be provided by solicitors employed by the Commission or by private solicitors funded by a grant of legal aid.

### Details of Civil Law services provided:

Civil Law advice is provided in all Civil Law matters at Commission offices where a Civil Law practice is located (see above).

Representation is available in the following type of Civil Law matters:

- Civil Liberties such as wrongful arrest and malicious prosecution
- Consumer Protection
- Discrimination
- Housing and Loss of Dwelling
- Mental Health Advocacy
- Social Security
- Some Migration Matters
- Public Interest Coronial Inquests
- Public Interest Environmental Matters
- Public Interest Human Rights Matters
- Veteran's Entitlements.

Note - Where a client is a child or has a disability, aid is available in a wider range of Civil Law matters.

Solicitors employed by the Commission provide Civil Law assistance on a regular basis at offices of the Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited (ALS) located at Redfern, Blacktown, Wollongong, Lismore and Coffs Harbour pursuant to a Protocol between the Commission and the ALS.

Civil Law services are provided to women, including Aboriginal women, in various women's gaols in NSW. These gaols are Berrima, Dillwynia, Emu Plains, Mid North Coast and Mulawa Correctional Centres.

#### Cross-references:

The Legal Aid Commission of NSW is a State-wide service. For information about the Commission's services in other parts of NSW, see **Central South Easter NSW** and **Northern NSW**.

## Western NSW Community Legal Centre

Address: 51 Bultje St  
Dubbo NSW 2830

Telephone: (02) 6884 9422  
1800 655 927

Fax: (02) 6884 9397

Email/Website: western\_nsw@clc.net.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Western NSW Community Legal Centre provides free legal advice, referral, some casework and community legal education to people living in the Western region of NSW.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Centre provides assistance in the following areas of law:

- Accidents and Compensation
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Banking and Finance
- Children and Young People
- Consumer
- Employment
- Environmental Law

- Family Law and Relationships
- Health
- Housing, Property and Development
- Human Rights
- Immigration and Citizenship
- Neighbours
- Social Services
- Transport
- Wills and Estates.

Special projects include the Rural Women's Outreach Program and financial counselling.

Cross-references:

None.

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY (ACT)

### **ACT Law Society Pro Bono Clearing House (PBCH)**

Address: Level 3, 11 London Circuit  
Canberra City ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6247 5700

Fax: (02) 6247 3754

Email/Website: mail@actlawsociety.asn.au  
www.actlawsociety.asn.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The PBCH is for people who cannot afford a solicitor and who are not eligible for Legal Aid. Its services are also available to not-for-profit organisations and community groups.

The first step to gaining assistance from the PBCH is to complete an application form which is available on the website. An application form can also be emailed or posted out.

Applications are assessed by a panel of three volunteer lawyers. If the application is successful the PBCH will try to match the matter with an appropriate firm of solicitors which has indicated that it will accept referrals from the PBCH.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The PBCH will provide assistance in two types of matter:

- ‘public interest’ law matters that affect a significant number of people or that raise a matter of broad public concern; and
- ‘private interest’ law matters that have reasonable prospects of success.

Cross-references:

The PBCH is an ACT-wide service.

## Consumer Law Centre of the ACT

Address: Waldorf Apartments  
Shop 16  
First Floor  
1 Akuna St  
Canberra City ACT 2608

Telephone: (02) 6257 1788 (Advice)

Fax: (02) 6257 1452

Email/Website: admin@carefcs.org  
www.carefcs.org

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Consumer Law Centre of the ACT provides legal assistance to low or moderate income consumers.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Consumer Law Centre of the ACT provides free legal advice in the following areas:

- Consumer credit
- General fair trading and consumer protection
- Telecommunications and utilities.

Cross-references:

None.

## **Disability Discrimination Legal Service (ACT)**

Address: Havelock House  
Gould St  
Turner ACT 2612

Telephone: (02) 6247 2018

Fax: (02) 6257 4801

Email/Website: [wrlc@netspeed.com.au](mailto:wrlc@netspeed.com.au)  
[www.welfarerightsact.org](http://www.welfarerightsact.org)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides legal advice to people with a disability in the ACT who wish to make a complaint about disability discrimination.

The Service also provides legal advice to family and friends of people with a disability in the ACT who wish to bring an end to the relevant disability discrimination.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides legal advice and advocacy in the area of disability discrimination law.

Cross-references:

None.

## Environmental Defender's Office (ACT) Inc.

Address: First Floor,  
4 Mort St  
Canberra City ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6247 9420 (Advice)

Fax: (02) 6247 9582

Email/Website: edoact@edo.org.au  
  
www.edo.org.au/edoact/

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The EDO ACT assists individuals and community groups working to protect the environment in the ACT.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The EDO ACT provides legal advice and casework on environmental law issues.

Cross-references:

See EDO (NSW) under **Specialist Legal Services**.

## Legal Aid Commission (ACT)

Address: 4 Mort Street  
Braddon ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6243 3471  
1300 654 314

Fax: (02) 6247 5446

Email/Website: legalaid@legalaid.canberra.net.au  
  
www.legalaid.canberra.net.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Legal Aid Commission (ACT) has guidelines which set out the eligibility requirements for grants of aid. This information can be found on the website (see above). To be eligible, applicants must meet a means and a merits test and the matter must fall within the guidelines.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

See website at [www.legalaid.canberra.net.au](http://www.legalaid.canberra.net.au) (under “Legal Aid Services”).

Cross-references:

See Legal Aid Commission of NSW under **Central South Eastern NSW**, **Northern NSW**, **Western NSW**.

## Tenants Union (ACT)

Address: PO Box 8  
Civic Square ACT 2608

Telephone: (02) 6247 1026 (Advice)

Fax: (02) 6257 4801

Email/Website: [www.tenantsact.org.au](http://www.tenantsact.org.au)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Tenants Union provides legal assistance to people dealing with private and public rentals in the ACT.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Tenants Union provides legal assistance through its telephone advice line in the areas of public and private rentals in the ACT.

Cross-references:

See Tenants Union NSW under **Specialist Legal Services**.

## Welfare Rights and Legal Centre (ACT)

Address: Havelock House  
Gould St  
Turner ACT 2612

Telephone: (02) 6247 2177  
1800 445 665

Fax: (02) 6257 4801

Email/Website: [wrlc@netspeed.com.au](mailto:wrlc@netspeed.com.au)  
[www.welfarerightsact.org](http://www.welfarerightsact.org)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living in the ACT and in Albury, Bega, Orange and Wagga Wagga.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Centre provides legal advice and casework assistance in the following areas of law:

- Social Security
- Tenancy.

Cross-references:

See Welfare Rights Centre (NSW) under **Specialist Legal Services**.

## Women's Legal Centre (ACT and Region)

Address: GPO Box 1726  
Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6257 4499 (Advice)  
1800 634 669

Fax: (02) 6247 0848

Email/Website: co-ordinator@womenslegalact.org  
www.womenslegalact.org

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to women living in the ACT.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Centre provides advice, referrals and information in the following areas:

- Discrimination
- Employment Law
- Family Law.

Cross-references:

See Women's Legal Services NSW under **Specialist Legal Services**.

## **SPECIALIST LEGAL SERVICES**

### **Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited (ALS)**

Address:

Level 1,  
619 Elizabeth St  
Redfern NSW 2016

Suite 1,  
9 Patrick St  
Blacktown NSW 2148

3/15 Molesworth St  
Lismore NSW 2480

23-25 Carrington Ave  
Dubbo NSW 2830

(\*the ALS operates from a number of offices around NSW and the ACT. However, these are the only offices from which Civil Law services are provided)

Telephone:

(02) 9318 2122 (Redfern)  
(02) 9621 1653 (Blacktown)  
(02) 6622 7088 (Lismore)  
(02) 6882 6966 (Dubbo)

Fax:

(02) 9319 2630 (Redfern)  
(02) 9621 4830 (Blacktown)  
(02) 6622 7087 (Lismore)  
(02) 6882 0726 (Dubbo)

Email/Website:

[www.coalsnsw.com.au](http://www.coalsnsw.com.au)

### Aboriginal specific?:

Yes. The ALS provides legal services to Aboriginal people and Aboriginal organisations subject to a verification of Aboriginality.

Occasionally, the ALS will also provide legal services to non-Aboriginal people where this would be in the interests of the Aboriginal community.

The Board of the ALS is comprised entirely of Aboriginal representatives of various communities in NSW and the ACT.

### Eligibility requirements:

In order to receive services from the ALS, a person must prove both that they identify as an Aboriginal person and that they are recognised as such by the relevant Aboriginal community. Non-Aboriginal applicants for assistance must establish that assisting them would be in the interests of the Aboriginal community.

A person who has successfully completed a verification of Aboriginality must then undergo a means test to determine whether they are eligible for assistance from a financial perspective.

### Details of Civil Law services provided:

Civil Law services provided from the Dubbo office of the ALS are provided by two solicitors employed by the ALS. They include, minor assistance, referral and advice. Major casework is **not** undertaken by these ALS solicitors.

Civil Law services provided from the Redfern, Blacktown and Lismore offices of the ALS are provided by solicitors employed by the Legal Aid Commission of NSW. Such services include minor assistance, referral and advice. Casework may be undertaken where clients meet the eligibility requirements of the Legal Aid Commission and where their matter falls within the guidelines of the Commission.

### Cross- references:

None.

## Aboriginal Resource Unit 'Dtarawarra'

Address: PO Box 126  
Jannali NSW 2226

Telephone: (02) 9589 1839

Fax: (02) 9589 3962

Email/Website: N/A.

Aboriginal specific?:

Yes.

Eligibility requirements:

Dtarawarra provides assistance to all Aboriginal Tenancy Services around NSW.

Details of Civil Law Services provided:

Dtarawarra provides specialist support that recognises the differing needs of Aboriginal Tenancy workers, their client group and their auspice bodies.

Cross-references:

None.

## Aged-Care Rights Service Inc.

Address: Level 4  
418A Elizabeth St  
Surry Hills NSW 2010

Telephone: (02) 9281 3600  
1800 424 079 (NSW country callers)

Fax: (02) 9281 3672

Email/Website: tars@tars.com.au  
  
www.tars.com.au

Aboriginal-specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Aged-Care Rights Service provides assistance to people in NSW aged 55 years and above who live in or plan to live in supported accommodation, such as retirement villages, serviced apartments, hostels and nursing homes. The Service may also provide advice to young people with disabilities in particular circumstances.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Aged-Care Rights Service provides telephone advice and limited representation at meetings, hearings and mediations in relation to the following:

- Accommodation for the Aged
- Guardianship
- Financial Management.

Cross-references:

The Aged-Care Rights Services is a NSW-wide service.

## Arts Law Centre of Australia

Address: The Gunnery  
43 – 51 Cowper Wharf Road  
Woolloomooloo NSW 2011

Telephone: (02) 9356 2566  
1800 221 457

Fax: (02) 9358 6475

Email/Website: artslaw@artslaw.com.au  
  
www.artslaw.com.au

### Aboriginal specific?:

The Arts Law Centre offers an Aboriginal-specific service called ‘Artists in the Black’. This service provides legal assistance to Aboriginal artists, communities and arts organisations on arts law matters.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Arts Law Centre advises artists and art organisations across all art sectors. It reserves the right to conduct a merit test where appropriate.

### Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Arts Law Centre provides advice to those involved in the arts sector in relation to:

- Business Structures
- Contracts
- Copyright

- Defamation
- Employment
- Tax
- Trade Marks.

‘Artists in the Black’ has been operating since 2004 providing legal assistance to Aboriginal artists, communities and arts organisation.

The Arts Law Centre/‘Artists in the Black’ offer free generalist telephone advice. An extended service is offered to Arts Law subscribers on a cost basis. The benefits of subscription include: review of legal documentation; discounts on publications (such as sample agreements) and Arts Law’s newsletter ‘Art + Law’ which is distributed quarterly. The Arts Law Centre fully subsidises subscription for Aboriginal artists, communities and arts organisations.

‘Artists in the Black’ provides limited case work assistance where the matter is of public interest.

#### Cross-references:

The Arts Law Centre of Australia is a nation-wide service.

## **Binaal Billa Family Violence Legal Service**

Address: 18 Spring St  
Forbes NSW 2871

Telephone: (02) 6851 5111

Fax: (02) 6851 6860

Email/Website: bbfvls@bigpond.net.au

Aboriginal specific?:

Yes. The Service focuses on Aboriginal clients.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to Aboriginal victims of family violence and sexual assault.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides legal assistance in the following areas:

- Family Law
- Child Protection
- Housing
- Centrelink Crisis Payments
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Victim's Compensation.

The Service also provides counselling in the areas of:

- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Grief and Loss
- Stress.

Cross-references:

None.

## Bourke Family Violence Prevention Service

Address: 45 Mertin St  
Bourke NSW 2840

Telephone: (02) 6872 2440

Fax: (02) 6872 2445

Email/Website: rene\_adams@clc.net.au

Aboriginal specific?:

Yes. The Service focuses on Aboriginal clients.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to Aboriginal victims of family violence and sexual assault.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides legal assistance in the following areas:

- Family Law
- Child Protection
- Housing
- Centrelink Crisis Payments
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Victim's Compensation

The Service also provides counselling in the areas of:

- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Grief and Loss
- Stress.

Cross-references:

None.

## Central Coast Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Service

Address: 82 Pacific Highway  
Wyong NSW 2259

Telephone: (02) 4353 5515

Fax: (02) 4353 5525

Email/Website: <http://users.bigpond.net.au/cctaas/>

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to people living in Gosford and Wyong.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides legal advice to tenants and park residents as well as representation and assistance at hearings of the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal.

Cross-references:

None.

## Communications Law Centre

Address: The White House  
University of NSW  
Sydney 2052

Telephone: (02) 9385 7385

Fax: (02) 9385 7375

Email/Website: [www.comslaw.org.au](http://www.comslaw.org.au)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Communications Law Centre provides free legal information about internet and e-commerce-related law to individuals, small business, internet service providers, start-ups and community non-profit organisations.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Communications Law Centre provides legal information about the following areas:

- Broadcasting
- Defamation
- E-commerce-related law
- Free Speech
- Internet
- Media Ownership
- Privacy
- Telecommunications.

Cross-references:

None.

## Community Justice Centres

Address:

**CJCs Directorate**

Level 8, Goodsell Building  
8-12 Chifley Square  
Sydney NSW 2000

**Sydney CJCs**

First Floor, Bankstown Court  
363 Chapel Road North  
Bankstown NSW 2200

**Northern CJCs**

Cnr Bolton & Church Streets  
Newcastle NSW 2300

**Western CJCs**

Level 1, 311 High Street  
Penrith NSW 2750

**Southern CJCs**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Transport House  
1 Rawson Street  
Wollongong NSW 2500

Telephone:

(02) 9228 7455 (Directorate)  
(02) 9790 0656 (Sydney CJCs)  
(02) 4925 0333 (Northern CJCs)  
1800 252 736 (Western CJCs)  
1800 650 987 (Southern CJCs)

Fax:

(02) 9228 7456 (Directorate)  
(02) 9796 3258 (Sydney CJCs)  
(02) 4925 0300 (Northern CJCs)  
(02) 4731 3578 (Western CJCs)  
(02) 4226 3630 (Southern CJCs)

Email/Website: cjc\_info@agd.nsw.gov.au  
www.cjc.nsw.gov.au

Aboriginal specific?:

CJCs' Aboriginal programme began in 2002. To date, CJCs have employed 63 Aboriginal mediators who are available to mediate on a range of issues throughout NSW. CJCs have a cross-border accreditation with the ACT allowing its mediators to mediate in the ACT when required.

Eligibility requirements:

CJCs are accessible to anyone in any community who requires assistance in resolving most types of dispute. CJCs do not mediate on domestic violence (and there are some restrictions in mediating APVOs).

There are no waiting lists or time limits.

No means or merit test is required.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

CJCs provide free mediation, facilitation and conflict management services. In CJC mediations, clients receive the services of two impartial mediators. Mediation sessions can take place in a local community or at another location at the client's request. Pre-mediation is part of the intake process.

Face to face pre-mediation may be arranged by an intake officer. A mediator is assigned to meet with the parties to determine the issues and parties involved to ensure the parties understand the process and services provided by CJCs before mediation commences.

CJCs provide general mediation services of the following kind:

- Large community disputes
- Mediation in Apprehended Personal Violence Orders (APVOs)

- Tenancy
- Consumer Goods
- Employment
- Neighbour Disputes
- Family Matters
- Workplace
- Councils
- Money Matters
- Disputes with Government Agencies.

Cross-references:

The Community Justice Centres are a NSW-wide service.

## Consumer Credit Legal Centre (NSW) Inc.

Address: Level 1  
72-80 Cooper St  
Surry Hills NSW 2010

Telephone: (02) 9212 4216  
(02) 9212 4111 (Advice)  
1800 808 488 (Credit and Debt Hotline)

Fax: (02) 9212 4711

Email/Website: CCLC\_NSW@fcl.fl.asn.au  
www.cclcnsw.org.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Consumer Credit Legal Centre provides free legal advice to NSW consumers with particular emphasis on low income and otherwise disadvantaged consumers.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Consumer Credit Legal Centre provides free legal advice in the following areas:

- Banking
- Bankruptcy
- Borrowers' Rights
- Consumer credit/debt problems,
- Repossession.

The Centre also undertakes casework and litigation in these areas.

The Debt Hotline is available exclusively to assist people living in rural and regional NSW.

Cross-references:

The Consumer Credit Legal Centre provides a NSW-wide service.

## Court Support Scheme

Address: 174 Broadway (cnr Shepherd St)  
Broadway NSW 2007

Telephone: (02) 9288 8700

Fax: (02) 9211 6518

Email/Website: [info@crc.nsw.org.au](mailto:info@crc.nsw.org.au)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Court Support Scheme provides assistance to people attending local courts in NSW.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Court Support Scheme does not provide legal advice or case-work assistance. Rather, it provides information, support and referrals to people attending local courts in NSW through a network of 40 volunteers.

Cross-references:

The Court Support Scheme provides a NSW-wide service.

## **Disability Discrimination Legal Centre (Inc.) (DDLC)**

Address: PO Box 989  
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

Telephone: (02) 9310 7722  
1800 800 708

Fax: (02) 9310 7788

Email/Website: info@ddlensw.org.au  
www.ddlensw.org.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The DDLC provides legal advice to people with a disability in NSW who wish to make a complaint about disability discrimination.

The DDLC also provides legal advice to family and friends of people with a disability in NSW who wish to bring an end to the relevant disability discrimination.

Within the field of disability discrimination, the work of the DDLC is limited only by the extent of its resources which do not permit it to take on every case. The DDLC will determine whether it will take on a particular client based on how much assistance they require, who else may be able to assist them and how much work the DDLC is already doing.

### Details of Civil Law services provided:

The DDLC provides accurate and easy to comprehend advice to people with a disability in NSW who want to make a complaint of disability discrimination.

The DDLC can:

- provide free legal advice
- run legal cases
- represent people with disability discrimination cases.

The DDLC can also:

- find another lawyer to represent an eligible person
- find an advocate to assist a person with a disability
- write a complaint of disability discrimination
- prepare an eligible person's case.

### Cross-references:

The DDLC is a NSW-wide service.

## Domestic Violence Advocacy Service

Address: PO Box H154  
Harris Park NSW 2150

Telephone: (02) 9637 3741  
1800 810 784

Fax: (02) 9682 3844

Email/Website: [www.dvas.org.au](http://www.dvas.org.au)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Domestic Violence Advocacy Service provides assistance to women in NSW.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Domestic Violence Advocacy Service provides legal advice, information and referral. Where resources permit, the Service is able to represent women applying for Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs). The Service can arrange for a sympathetic private solicitor to act on a woman's behalf and can advocate on behalf of women to relevant services such as NSW Police, courts, government departments etc.

Cross-references:

The Domestic Violence Advocacy Service is a NSW-wide service.

## Eastern Area Tenants' Service (EATS)

Address: Level 2, The Boot Factory  
27-33 Spring St  
Bondi Junction NSW 2022

Telephone: (02) 9386 9147

Fax: (02) 9389 9824

Email/Website: eats\_nsw@fcl.fl.asn.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

EATS provides assistance to people living in Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

EATS provides free legal advice and advocacy on all tenancy matters arising under the *Retail Tenancies Act 1987* (NSW), including terminations, rent increases, repairs, access, rent arrears, and compensation.

Cross-references:

None.

## Environmental Defenders Office (NSW) Ltd (EDO)

Address: Level 1  
89 York St,  
Sydney NSW 2000

PO Box 212  
Lismore NSW 2480

Telephone: (02) 9262 6989 (Sydney)  
1800 626 239 (Sydney)  
1300 369 791 (Lismore)

Fax: (02) 9262 6998 (Sydney)  
(02) 6622 6404 (Lismore)

Email/Website: edonsw@edo.org.au

www.edo.org.au/edonsw

### Aboriginal specific?:

The EDO does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal clients, but has undertaken and continues to undertake work for Aboriginal clients in a variety of areas.

### Eligibility requirements:

The EDO assists individuals and community groups working to protect the environment.

Clients are **not** required to satisfy a means test.

Before the EDO will provide further assistance (e.g written advice or representation in court), the matter must satisfy its casework guidelines, including whether:

1. the matter involves a public interest environmental issue;
2. the matter involves a real threat to the environment; and
3. the EDO has the human and financial resources to properly act.

For more information about the EDO's casework guidelines, please visit:

[www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/casework\\_guidelines.php](http://www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/casework_guidelines.php)

#### Details of Civil Law services provided:

The EDO provides free initial legal advice on planning and Environmental Law matters via its telephone advice line which operates on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:30pm – 5:30pm.

The EDO also provides representation in relation to public interest Environmental Law matters such as:

- Cultural heritage protection
- Development assessment
- Environmental planning
- Natural resource management and voluntary conservation
- Pollution control
- Threatened species protection.

#### Cross-references:

The EDO is a NSW-wide service.

## Greater Sydney Aboriginal Tenants' Service

Address: 26 Lilydale St  
Marrickville NSW 2204

Telephone: (02) 9564 5367  
1800 772 721

Fax: (02) 9572 8699

Email/Website: N/A.

Aboriginal specific?:

Yes.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to Aboriginal people living in the Ashfield, Auburn, Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, Botany Bay, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Burwood, Camden, Campbelltown, Canada Bay, Canterbury, Gosford, Hawkesbury, Fairfield, Helensburgh, Holroyd, Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Hurstville, Kogarah, Ku-ring-gai, Leichhardt, Lane Cove, Liverpool, Manly, Marrickville, Mosman, North Sydney, Parramatta, Penrith, Pittwater, Randwick, Rockdale, Ryde, South Sydney, Strathfield, Sutherland, Sydney City, Waverley, Warringah, Willoughby, Woollahra, Wollondilly and Wyong areas.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides specialist tenancy help for Aboriginal tenants.

Cross-references:

None.

## HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (HALC)

Address: ACON Building,  
9 Commonwealth St,  
Surry Hills NSW 2010

Telephone: (02) 9206 2060  
  
1800 063 060

Fax: (02) 9206 2053

Email/Website: halc@halc.org.au  
  
www.halc.org.au

### Aboriginal specific?:

Although HALC does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal clients, it is planning to undertake an Aboriginal-specific project.

### Eligibility requirements:

HALC is funded to provide free legal services to people with HIV-related legal matters. A legal matter is HIV-related when it arises out of or is related to a person's HIV status. This may include where a person is denied a job because of their HIV status or where they wish to make plans for their medical treatment which may arise in the future because of their HIV status.

Examples of legal matters that are **not** HIV-related include an HIV positive person being involved in a car accident or an HIV positive person being charged with theft.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

HALC provides legal assistance in the following areas:

- Debt
- Disclosure and Confidentiality
- Discrimination and Vilification
- Employment
- Enduring Guardianship
- Immigration
- Medical Treatment Issues
- Powers of Attorney
- Social Security
- Superannuation and Insurance
- Tenancy Disputes
- Wills and Estates.

HALC is preparing a culturally sensitive legal resource designed specifically for Aboriginal people living with HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. HALC is looking to develop this resource in cooperation with legal service providers such as Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre and the Legal Aid Commission of NSW.

Cross-references:

HALC is a NSW-wide service.

## Hunter Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service

Address: 5 William St  
Hamilton NSW 2303

Telephone: (02) 4969 7666  
1800 654 504

Fax: (02) 4969 6088

Email/Website: htaas\_nsw@fcl.fl.asn.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to people living in the Cessnock, Dungog, Gloucester, Great Lakes (except Forster and Tuncurry), Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Murrurundi, Scone, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, Port Stephens and Singleton areas.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides legal information, advice and advocacy for tenants, residential park residents, boarders and lodgers.

Cross-references:

None.

## **Illawarra South Coast Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service**

Address: 7 Greens St  
Warrawong NSW 2502

Telephone: (02) 4274 3475  
1800 807 225

Fax: (02) 4274 3491

Email/Website: N/A.

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to people living in the Bega Valley, Eurobadalla, Kiama, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee and Wollongong areas.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides advice and assistance to tenants and permanent residents of residential parks. It also provides limited advocacy in relation to matters which come before the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal.

Cross-references:

None.

## Immigration Advice and Rights Centre (IARC)

Address: Level 4,  
414-418 Elizabeth St  
Surry Hills NSW 2010

Telephone: (02) 9281 1609  
(02) 9281 8355 (Advice)

Fax: (02) 9281 1638

Email/Website: iarc@iarc.asn.au  
www.iarc.asn.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The IARC provides free legal advice on migration and citizenship law to financially disadvantaged clients. It will only provide casework assistance to clients who meet its casework guidelines.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The IARC provides legal advice over the telephone. It also provides face to face advice in the evenings in its Surry Hills and Parramatta offices.

The IARC deals in the following areas of law:

- Citizenship
- Migration
- Refugee and Humanitarian Status.

Cross-references:

The IARC is a NSW-wide service.

## **Inner Sydney Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Service**

Address: 73 Pitt St  
Redfern NSW 2016

Telephone: (02) 9698 5975  
1800 251 100

Fax: (02) 9310 3586

Email/Website: [www.rlc.org.au/services/tenants](http://www.rlc.org.au/services/tenants)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to people living in the Botany, Leichhardt and Sydney City areas.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides free tenancy advice, assistance and advocacy and community education.

Typical tenancy problems that the Service deals with include:

- Starting a Tenancy
- Bond Money
- Rent Increases
- Rent Arrears
- Getting Repairs Done
- Being Evicted
- Ending a Tenancy
- Going to the Consumer Trader and Tenancy Tribunal
- Going to the Housing Appeals Committee.

Cross-references:

None.

## Inner West Tenancy Advice Service

Address: Marrickville Legal Centre  
Inner West Tenancy Advice Service  
338 Illawarra Rd  
Marrickville NSW 2204

Telephone: (02) 9559 2899

Fax: (02) 9558 5213

Email/Website: [www.mlc.asn.au/tenancy.html](http://www.mlc.asn.au/tenancy.html)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to people living in the Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Drummoyne, Marrickville and Strathfield areas.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service offers legal advice and assistance to tenants on their tenancy rights. It is committed to improving access to tenants' rights, particularly for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Cross-references:

None.

## **Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS) and Criminal Justice Support Network (CJSN)**

Address: Suite 2C,  
199 Regent St  
Redfern NSW 2016

Telephone: (02) 9318 0144  
1300 665 908 (Criminal Justice Support  
Network 24/7)

Fax: (02) 9318 2887

Email/Website: info@idrs.org.au  
  
www.idrs.org.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The IDRS provides legal assistance to people with an intellectual disability directly or through their relatives, friends or carers.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The IDRS provides legal and rights advice. The Criminal Justice Support Network (CJSN) offers support to people with intellectual disabilities at police stations, legal appointments and court hearings.

## LawAccess NSW

Address: PO Box 620  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Telephone: 1300 888 529 (cost of a local call)

Fax: (02) 8833 3101

Email/Website: [www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au)

### Aboriginal specific?:

LawAccess NSW does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal clients. However Aboriginal people are given priority for referral to LawAccess NSW lawyers for telephone legal advice.

LawAccess NSW employs an Indigenous Customer Service Officer who is available to talk to customers who wish to speak to an Aboriginal worker.

### Eligibility requirements:

None.

### Details of Civil Law services provided:

LawAccess NSW provides free telephone information, advice and referral in relation to all types of Civil matters, including:

- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Complaints about Solicitors
- Consumer Complaints
- Credit and Debt
- Discrimination
- Domestic Violence

- Employment
- Family Law
- Fines
- Motor Vehicle Accidents (property damage)
- Neighbourhood Disputes
- Powers of Attorney
- Victim's Compensation
- Wills and Estates.

Where a caller requires legal advice (not just general information about the law) Customer Service Officers will refer callers to a LawAccess NSW Legal Officer for telephone legal advice, if appropriate, or to another legal service provider for face-to-face legal advice or assistance, such as the Legal Aid Commission, a Community Legal Centre, a private solicitor or a Local Court Registry.

People can also search for plain language legal information on a broad range of areas of Civil Law at any time of the day or night by using the LawAccess Website (see above).

#### Cross-references:

LawAccess NSW is a NSW-wide service.

## Many Rivers Violence Prevention Unit

Address: 19 Elbow St  
West Kempsey NSW 2440

Telephone: (02) 6562 5856

Fax: (02) 6562 5896

Email/Website: kimb@manyrivers.com.au

Aboriginal specific?:

Yes. The Unit focuses on Aboriginal clients.

Eligibility requirements:

The Unit provides assistance to Aboriginal victims of family violence and sexual assault.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Unit provides legal assistance in the following areas:

- Family Law
- Child Protection
- Housing
- Centrelink Crisis Payments
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Victims' Compensation

The Unit also provides counselling in the areas of:

- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Grief and Loss
- Stress.

Cross-references:

None.

## Mid Coast Tenants Advice and Advocacy Program

Address: Cnr Muston and Dodds St  
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Telephone: (02) 6583 9866  
1800 777 722

Fax: (02) 6583 9868

Email/Website: N/A.

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Program provides assistance to people living in the Greater Taree, Hastings, Kempsey, Nambucca, Bellingen, Coffs Harbour, Forster and Tuncurry areas.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Program provides legal advice and assistance on all tenancy matters to tenants and caravan park residents.

Cross-references:

None.

## National Children's and Youth Law Centre

Address: Law Building  
First Floor  
University of NSW 2052  
(access via gate 2)

Telephone: (02) 9385 9588

Fax: (02) 9385 9589

Email/Website: [ncylc@unsw.edu.au](mailto:ncylc@unsw.edu.au)

[www.ncylc.org.au](http://www.ncylc.org.au)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides assistance to children and young people in Australia, particularly to disadvantaged young people, under the age of 18. Casework is accepted on the basis of national significance and significance for children and young people generally.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Centre provides free legal information, advice and representation in the following areas of law:

- Administrative Law
- Children in Care (especially State wards)
- Children's Rights generally

- Discrimination
- Education
- Victims' Compensation.

The Centre does **not** undertake representation in simple Family Law or juvenile justice matters, but may be able to advise or assist local legal services.

Cross-references:

The National Children's and Youth Law Centre is a nation-wide service.

## **New England and Western Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service**

Address: Suite 7, Minto Building  
161 Rusden St  
Armidale NSW 2350

51 Bultje St  
Dubbo NSW 2830

5 Chloride St  
Broken Hill NSW 2880

Telephone: 1800 836 268

Fax: (02) 6772 8107

Email/Website: N/A.

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to people living in the New England, North West, Western and Far West of NSW.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides legal advice and assistance in relation to all tenancy matters.

Cross-references:

None.

## **North and North West NSW Aboriginal Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service**

Address: 76 Heber St  
South Grafton NSW 2460

Telephone: (02) 6643 4426  
1800 248 913

Fax: (02) 6643 4862

Email/Website: N/A.

Aboriginal specific?:

Yes.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to Aboriginal people living in the Buladelah, Forster, Muswellbrook, Taree, Tweed Heads, Armidale and Moree areas.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides specialist tenancy help for Aboriginal tenants.

Cross-references:

None.

## Northern Area Tenants Service

Address: Suite 202A  
781 Pacific Highway  
Chatswood NSW 2067

Telephone: (02) 9884 9605

Fax: (02) 9884 8766

Email/Website: [www.tenants.org.au/taap/](http://www.tenants.org.au/taap/)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to people living in the Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Pittwater, Ku-ring-gai, Ryde, Warringah and Willoughby areas.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides information and advocacy on all aspects of tenancy.

Cross-references:

None.

## Northern Rivers Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service

Address: Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre  
10 Club Lane  
Lismore NSW 2480

Telephone: (02) 6621 1022  
1800 649 135

Fax: (02) 6621 1033

Email/Website: N/A.

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to people living in the Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed Heads areas.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides telephone information, legal advice and advocacy to tenants. It also provides limited representation before the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal.

The Service also conducts community education programmes for tenants and community workers in small group workshops and distributes its videos on:

- Tenants' Rights for Young People;
- Aboriginal Tenants Going to the Tribunal; and
- Caravan Park residents.

Cross-references:

None.

## NSW Native Title Services Ltd (NSW NTS)

Address: Suite 15  
245 Chalmers St  
Redfern NSW 2016

Telephone: (02) 9310 3188  
  
1800 111 844  
(outside the Sydney metropolitan area)

Fax: (02) 9310 4177

Email/ Website: [info@nswnts.com.au](mailto:info@nswnts.com.au)

### Aboriginal specific?:

Yes. NSW NTS is responsible for representing the interests of Aboriginal people who hold or may hold Native Title in NSW or the ACT.

Native Title is the legal recognition of the traditional rights and interests which Aboriginal communities hold in land and water according to their traditional laws and customs.

NSW NTS performs the functions of a Native Title representative body in NSW, including representation of Native Title claims for the recognition and protection of Native Title.

### Eligibility requirements:

NSW NTS generally only provides assistance to:

- cohesive and inclusive traditional owner communities;
- in areas where there are no serious disputes between or within Native Title groups. If serious disputes exist, only limited assistance may be provided to facilitate resolution of the dispute; and

- claims with merit including where the group shows continuing connection to country and where there are no obvious legal difficulties in bringing the claim, such as extinguishment.

Whether assistance will be provided by NSW NTS and the level of that assistance is determined in accordance with NSW NTS' *Facilitation and Assistance Policy* and other relevant policies and procedures. NSW NTS has a system of prioritising current matters and requests for assistance.

#### Details of Civil Law services provided:

The services offered by NSW NTS include:

- facilitation and assistance to research and prepare Native Title applications and conduct consultations, mediations, negotiations and litigation proceedings;
- dispute resolution and agreement-making between Native Title groups and other parties by way of Indigenous Land Use Agreements and other agreements with parties such as miners, farmers and governments in relation to proposed activities or developments on land or waters that may affect native title rights and interests, or rights of access or other matters relating to Native Title; and
- receiving and distributing notices such as future act notices, including notice of mining applications and developments, that may affect the Native Title rights and interests of groups in the area.

#### Cross-references:

NSW NTS is a NSW-wide service.

## Older Persons Tenants Service

Address: Level 3  
25 Cooper St  
Surry Hills NSW 2010

Telephone: (02) 9281 9804  
1800 451 488

Fax: (02) 9281 6875

Email/Website: [opts@cpsa.org.au](mailto:opts@cpsa.org.au)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to tenants who are over 55 years of age and who live anywhere in NSW. It also assists protected tenants in NSW regardless of their age.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service works in cooperation with local tenants services to cater for the specific needs of older tenants.

Cross-references:

None.

## **Parks and Village Service (PAVS)**

Address: Level 3  
25 Cooper St  
Surry Hills NSW 2010

Telephone: (02) 9281 7967

Fax: (02) 9281 9729

Email/Website: pavs@cpsa.org.au  
[http://www.cpsa.org.au/PAVS/P\\_Home.html](http://www.cpsa.org.au/PAVS/P_Home.html)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

PAVS provides assistance to people living in residential parks.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

PAVS provides legal information and advice on the rights and responsibilities of residents of residential parks and manufactured home estates. It also provides casework support, including advocacy.

Cross-references:

None.

## Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC)

Address: Level 9  
299 Elizabeth St,  
Sydney NSW 2000

Telephone: (02) 8898 6500

Fax: (02) 8898 6555

Email/Website: piac@piac.asn.au  
  
www.piac.asn.au

### Aboriginal specific?:

Whilst PIAC does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal clients, it employs an Aboriginal solicitor who conducts its **Indigenous Justice Project** and offers a number of Aboriginal-specific Civil Law services.

### Eligibility requirements:

PIAC identifies public interest issues and works co-operatively with other organisations to advocate for individuals and groups affected. In 2001, PIAC developed the Indigenous Justice Project to provide legal advice, referral and casework to Aboriginal people throughout NSW.

### Details of Civil Law services provided:

PIAC provides legal assistance when this is in the public interest in the following areas:

- Accountability of Government
- Detention Utilities
- Discrimination

- Health
- Human Rights
- Indigenous Justice
- Trade.

**Indigenous Justice Project currently focuses on the following areas:**

- Stolen Wages – Assistance with applications to recover unpaid trust fund money from the NSW government through the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme;
- Police Complaints – Complaints to the Ombudsman and litigation against the police for unlawful conduct;
- Discrimination – Complaints to the Anti-Discrimination Board and Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

**Homeless Persons’ Legal Service (HPLS)**

This service provides free advice and representation through six legal clinics operating in community agencies that provide services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Cross-references:

None.

## Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH)

Address: Level 9  
299 Elizabeth St  
Sydney NSW 2000

Telephone: (02) 8898 6550

Fax: (02) 8898 6555

Email/Website: pilch@piac.asn.au  
[www.piac.asn.au/legal/pilchhelp.html](http://www.piac.asn.au/legal/pilchhelp.html)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

To be eligible for assistance through PILCH, applicants must demonstrate that they are unable to afford legal services and that their legal issue requires addressing in the public interest.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

PILCH operates an assessment and referral service, referring requests for legal assistance to its member firms and barristers who provide assistance at a no charge (pro bono) or reduced fee basis.

**PILCH provides advice and representation in the following areas of law:**

For individuals:

- Defamation
- Discrimination
- Personal Injury

For non-profit organisations:

- Confidentiality Obligations
- Contracts and Funding Agreements
- Corporate Governance
- Income Tax Exemptions
- Incorporation and Restructures
- Insurance
- Intellectual Property
- Leases
- Memoranda of Understanding
- Privacy Compliance
- Workplace Relations.

### **Children in Detention Advocacy Project (CIDnAP):**

This project provides Civil Law advice and representation for clients, including Aboriginal clients, who have been unlawfully detained as minors by NSW Police, transit officers and security guards. All assistance through PILCH is via referral from the Legal Aid Commission of NSW. These cases generally involve the following categories of allegations:

- cases where minors have been arrested on warrants and then it has been found that there are deficiencies in the warrant, resulting in the minor spending time in custody unlawfully;
- excessive force used in the arrest, investigation or detention process;
- problems with the issuing of bail conditions by courts, that require minors to reside at places directed by Juvenile Justice or the Department of Community Services, where no appropriate place can be found and the young person remains in custody.

### **Homeless Persons' Legal Service (HPLS)**

PILCH also accepts matters for referral from the Homeless Persons Legal Service (HPLS) for Aboriginal and other clients in Civil and Administrative Law matters.

#### Cross-references:

PILCH is a NSW-wide service.

## Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS)

Address: Level 8  
Suite 8C  
45-56 Kippax St  
Surry Hills NSW 2010

Telephone: (02) 9211 4001

Fax: (02) 9281 0878

Email/Website: admin@racs.org.au

www.racs.org.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

RACS provides assistance to asylum-seekers, either in the community or in immigration detention, who wish to apply for refugee status.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

RACS specialises in providing assistance in completing applications for refugee status, face-to-face advice, telephone advice and referrals.

Cross-references:

RACS is a nation-wide service.

## Shopfront Youth Legal Centre

Address: 356 Victoria St  
Darlinghurst NSW 2000

Telephone: (02) 9360 1847, 0418 407 290

Fax: (02) 9331 3287

Email/Website: shopfront@freehills.com  
www.theshopfront.org

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Shopfront provides assistance to young people.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Shopfront provides legal advice and representation to young people in relation to the following areas of law:

- Complaints against Government Agencies
- Criminal Law
- Debt
- Discrimination
- Employment Law
- Family and Child Welfare Law
- Family Violence
- Housing
- Immigration
- Social Security
- Victims' Compensation.

Cross-references:

None.

## South West (NSW) Tenant Advice Service

Address: Shop 3, The Piazza  
42-52 Bayliss St  
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

442 Swift St  
Albury NSW 2640

Shop 1, Leagues Plaza  
146 Monaro St  
Queanbeyan NSW 2620

21-29 William St  
Orange NSW 2800

Telephone: (02) 6931 9666 (Wagga Wagga)  
(02) 6041 6699 (Albury)  
(02) 6284 3388 (Queanbeyan)  
(02) 6361 5307 (Orange)  
1800 642 609 (Orange Freecall)

Fax: (02) 6931 9865 (Wagga Wagga)  
(02) 6023 5511 (Albury)  
(02) 6284 4477 (Queanbeyan)  
(02) 6361 8543 (Orange)

Email/Website: N/A.

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to people living in the Orange, Cowra, Young, Parkes, Forbes, Condobolin, Cootamundra, Deniliquin, Griffith, Leeton, Goulburn, Hay, Queanbeyan, Cooma, Tumut, Lake Cargelligo, West Wyalong, Yass, Albury, Wagga Wagga, Bathurst, Lithgow, Wentworth, Balranald, Dareton and Buronga areas.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides legal advice and advocacy on tenancy matters. It is able to represent clients at Residential Tribunals.

Cross-references:

None.

## **South West Sydney Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service**

Address: Macarthur Legal Centre  
4 Broughton St  
Campbelltown NSW 2560

Telephone: (02) 4628 1678  
1800 631 993

Fax: (02) 4628 0771

Email/Website: [www.tenants.org.au/taap/](http://www.tenants.org.au/taap/)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to people living in the Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Liverpool and Wollondilly areas.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides legal advice and assistance in relation to all tenancy matters.

Cross-references:

None.

**Southern NSW Aboriginal Tenants  
Advice and Advocacy Service 'Murra Mia'**

Address: Unit 1, 25 Gregory St  
Batemans Bay NSW 2536

Telephone: (02) 4472 9363  
1800 672 185

Fax: (02) 4472 6487

Email/Website: taaps@bigpond.com

Aboriginal specific?:

Yes.

Eligibility requirements:

Murra Mia provides assistance to Aboriginal people living in the Illawarra, Queanbeyan, Southern Tablelands, Lower South Coast, Snowy, Central Murrumbidgee, Albury, Upper Murray and Central Murray areas.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

Murra Mia provides legal advice and advocacy to Aboriginal people living in private rented accommodation and Department of Housing accommodation. It also provides advice to the Land Councils and to Aboriginal Housing Corporations, Community Housing and Caravan Parks.

Cross-references:

None.

## **Southern Sydney Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service**

Address: Level 2, 59-63 Evaline St  
Campsie NSW 2194

Telephone: (02) 9787 4679

Fax: (02) 9718 0236

Email/Website: [cbmrcnsw@cbmrc.org.au](mailto:cbmrcnsw@cbmrc.org.au)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to people living in the Bankstown, Canterbury, Hurstville, Kogarah, Rockdale and Sutherland areas.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides free legal information and advice on the rights and obligations of tenants. It also may also provide casework and advocacy services.

Cross-references:

None.

## Tenants' Union of NSW

Address: 68 Bettington St  
Millers Point NSW 2000

Telephone: (02) 9247 3813

Fax: (02) 9252 1648

Email/Website: [tunsw@fcl.fl.asn.au](mailto:tunsw@fcl.fl.asn.au)  
[www.tenants.org.au](http://www.tenants.org.au)

### Aboriginal specific?:

Although the Tenants' Union does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal clients, it does undertake Aboriginal-specific projects.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Tenants' Union is the current peak resource unit for the Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Program (TAAP) across NSW and is also a specialist Community Legal Centre.

It represents the interests of all tenants in NSW including those living in public and private housing as well as borders and lodgers and caravan park residents.

### Details of Civil Law services provided:

Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Services (TAAP) provide services to tenants who have problems with Real Estate Agents, Landlords, the Department of Housing, Community Housing Providers and Residential Park Managers.

Central South Eastern offices include:

- Eastern Area Tenants Service
- Inner Sydney Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service
- Inner West Tenancy Advice Service
- Northern Area Tenants Service
- Southern Sydney Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service
- Western Sydney Tenants' Service
- Southwest (NSW) Tenant Advice Service
- Central Coast Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service
- Illawarra South Coast Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service
- Southern NSW Aboriginal Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service 'Murra Mia'.

The Tenants' Union also provides specialist advice to Aboriginal people through agencies such as the Aboriginal Resource Unit - Dtarawarra, the Greater Sydney Aboriginal Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Service at Batemans Bay and the Western NSW TAAS at Dubbo.

## Thiyama-li Family Violence Service

Address: 30 Gwydir St  
Moree NSW 2400

Telephone: (02) 6751 1400

Fax: (02) 6751 1045

Email/Website: noeline.carr@kamilaroi.com.au

Aboriginal specific?:

Yes. The Service focuses on Aboriginal clients.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to Aboriginal victims of family violence and sexual assault.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides legal assistance in the following areas:

- Family Law
- Child Protection
- Housing
- Centrelink Crisis Payments
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Victims' Compensation.

The Service also provides counselling in the areas of:

- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Stress; Grief and Loss.

Thiyama-li conducts outreach at Moree, Mungindu, Boggabilla and Toomelah.

Cross-references:

None.

## **Walanbaa Yinnar Wahroo – Walgett Family Violence Prevention Unit**

Address: 21 Wee Waa St  
Walgett NSW 2832

Telephone: (02) 6828 3143

Fax: (02) 6828 3148

Email/Website: kylie\_pallister@fcl.fl.asn.au

Aboriginal specific?:

Yes. The Unit focuses on Aboriginal clients.

Eligibility requirements:

The Unit provides assistance to Aboriginal victims of family violence and sexual assault.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Unit provides legal assistance in the following areas:

- Family Law
- Child Protection
- Housing
- Centrelink Crisis Payments
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Victim's Compensation.

The Unit also provides counselling in the areas of:

- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Stress; Grief and Loss.

Cross-references:

None.

## Welfare Rights Centre

Address: Level 5,  
414 Elizabeth St  
Surry Hills NSW 2010

Telephone: (02) 9211 5300

Fax: (02) 9211 5268

Email/Website: [welfarerights@welfarerights.org.au](mailto:welfarerights@welfarerights.org.au)  
[www.welfarerights.org.au](http://www.welfarerights.org.au)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Welfare Rights Centre provides legal assistance to people experiencing difficulties with social security.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Welfare Rights Centre provides advice and representation on all Social Security matters. It can advise clients of their rights and entitlements and assist them to appeal against Centrelink decisions with which they disagree. The Centre also provides assistance to the community through community development, community education and training, law reform and lobbying.

Cross-references:

The Welfare Rights Centre is a NSW-wide service.

## Western Aboriginal Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service

Address: 69 Church St  
Dubbo NSW 2830

Telephone: (02) 6882 5435  
1800 810 233

Fax: (02) 6885 3611

Email/Website: N/A.

Aboriginal specific?:

Yes.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to Aboriginal people living in areas with the following postcodes:

2357, 2388, 2396, 2405, 2648, 2671, 2672, 2675, 2680, 2711, 2715, 2717, 2790, 2794, 2795, 2797, 2799, 2800, 2804, 2806, 2810, 2820, 2821, 2824, 2825, 2827-2836, 2839, 2840, 2842-2844, 2849, 2950, 2866, 2869-2871, 2877-2880.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides legal advice and assistance in relation to all tenancy matters.

Cross-references:

None.

## Western Sydney Tenants Service

Address: 44 Station St East  
Harris Park NSW 2150

Telephone: (02) 9891 6377  
1800 625 956

Fax: (02) 9635 8548

Email/Website: WESTS\_NSW@fcl.fl.asn.au/  
[www.unitingcarenswact.org.au/wests](http://www.unitingcarenswact.org.au/wests)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides assistance to people living in residential parks in the Auburn, Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Holroyd, Parramatta and Penrith areas.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Service provides legal advice, advocacy and representation in relation to cases coming before the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal.

Cross-references:

None.

## Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre

Address: Cnr Marrickville Rd and Livingstone Rd  
Marrickville NSW 2204

Telephone: (02) 9569 3847  
1800 686 587 (NSW only)

Fax: (02) 9569 4210

Email/Website: Christine\_Robinson@fcl.fl.asn.au  
www.wirringabaiya.org.au

Aboriginal specific?:

Yes.

Eligibility requirements:

Wirringa Baiya works specifically with Aboriginal Women, Children and Youth. It specialises in the areas of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Victims' Compensation.

Details of Civil Law services provided:

Wirringa Baiya provides **advice and information** only in the following areas of law:

- Child Support
- Complaints against Doctors and Nurses
- Credit and Debt
- Family Law
- Guardianship Tribunal matters

- Legal Aid (how to get it)
- Medical Negligence
- Neighbourhood Disputes
- Personal Injury and Accidents
- Tenancy/Housing
- Wills and Estates.

Wurringa Baiya provides **advice and casework** in the following areas:

- Abuse problems in relation to young people (e.g complaints against the Department of Juvenile Justice)
- Care and Protection matters
- Complaints against the Police and the NSW Department of Corrective Services
- Discrimination
- Domestic Violence
- Freedom of Information applications
- Sexual Assault
- Victims' Compensation.

Cross-references:

Wurringa Baiya is a NSW-wide service.

## Women's Legal Resources Centre

Address: PO Box 206  
Lidcombe NSW 1825

Telephone: (02) 9749 5533 (Advice line)  
1800 801 501 (Rural freecall)  
1800 674 333 (Aboriginal Women's  
Contact line)

Fax: (02) 9749 4433

Email/Website: Womens\_NSW@fcl.fl.asn.au  
  
www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au

### Aboriginal specific?:

Women's Legal Services operates an Aboriginal Women's Program aimed at specifically targeting legal needs of Aboriginal women.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides advice to women in NSW.

### Details of Civil Law services provided:

The Centre provides free advice on all aspects of the law as it affects women in NSW. Referral is available to sympathetic lawyers and other support services. The Centre specialises in the following areas of law:

- Buying a House
- Debt
- Discrimination
- Domestic Violence

- Family Law
- Sexual Assault
- Tenancy
- Victims' Compensation.
- Welfare
- Wills and Estates.

Cross-references:

The Women's Legal Resource Centre is a NSW-wide service.

# **PART II**

# **CRIMINAL LAW SERVICES**

## **What is “Criminal Law”?**

The expression “Criminal Law” covers all areas of law which do not fall into the definition of “Civil Law”. Criminal Law court cases are always initiated by the Police. If a court case has not been started by Police then it is not a criminal matter.

A ‘crime’ is considered to be an offence against the State, rather than simply an offence against another person, even though the immediate victim of the offence may be another person.

## **CENTRAL SOUTH EASTERN NSW**

### **Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited (ALS)**

Address: Suite 1,  
9 Patrick St  
Blacktown NSW 2148

8 Mirrabooka Ave  
Moruya NSW 2537

77 Osbourne St  
Nowra NSW 2541

Level 1,  
619 Elizabeth St  
Redfern NSW 2016

Suite 10,  
39 Market St  
Wollongong NSW 2500

Telephone: (02) 9621 1653 (Blacktown)  
(02) 4474 2400 (Moruya)  
(02) 4422 3255 (Nowra)  
(02) 9318 2122 (Redfern)  
(02) 4225 7977 (Wollongong)

Fax: (02) 9621 4830 (Blacktown)  
(02) 4474 2091 (Moruya)  
(02) 4422 3256 (Nowra)  
(02) 9319 2630 (Redfern)  
(02) 4229 7138 (Wollongong)

Email/Website: [www.coalsnsw.com.au](http://www.coalsnsw.com.au)

Aboriginal specific?:

Yes. The ALS provides legal services to Aboriginal people and Aboriginal organisations subject to a verification of Aboriginality.

Occasionally, the ALS will also provide legal services to non-Aboriginal people where this would be in the interests of the Aboriginal community.

The Board of the ALS is comprised entirely of Aboriginal representatives of various communities in NSW and the ACT.

Eligibility requirements:

In order to receive services from the ALS, a person must prove both that they identify as an Aboriginal person and that they are recognised as such by the relevant Aboriginal community. Non-Aboriginal applicants for assistance must establish that assisting them would be in the interests of the Aboriginal community.

A person who has successfully completed a verification of Aboriginality must then undergo a means test to determine whether they are eligible for assistance from a financial perspective.

Cross-references:

The ALS is a NSW- and ACT-wide service. For information about the ALS's Criminal Law services in other parts of NSW, see **Northern NSW** and **Western NSW**.

## LawAccess NSW

Address: PO Box 620  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Telephone: 1300 888 529 (cost of a local call)

Fax: (02) 8833 3101

Email/Website: [www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au)

### Aboriginal specific?:

LawAccess NSW does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal clients. However Aboriginal people are given priority for referral to LawAccess NSW lawyers for telephone legal advice.

LawAccess NSW employs an Indigenous Customer Service Officer who is available to talk to customers who wish to speak to an Aboriginal worker.

### Eligibility requirements:

None.

### Details of Criminal Law services provided:

LawAccess NSW provides free telephone information, advice and referral in relation to Criminal Law, including:

- Traffic Offences
- Other offences such as drink driving, drug, theft and assault offences
- Bail

- Warrants
- What to do if police want to talk to you
- What to do if you have been taken into police custody.

Where a caller requires legal advice (not just general information about the law) Customer Service Officers will refer callers to a LawAccess NSW specialist Criminal Law Legal Officer for telephone legal advice, if appropriate, or to another legal service provider for face-to-face legal advice or assistance, such as the Legal Aid Commission or the ALS.

People can also search for plain language legal information about Criminal Law at any time of the day or night by using the LawAccess Website (see above).

Cross-references:

LawAccess NSW is a NSW-wide service.

## Legal Aid Commission of NSW

Address: 323 Castlereagh St  
Sydney NSW 2000

+ offices at Bankstown, Blacktown,  
Burwood, Campbelltown, Fairfield,  
Gosford, Liverpool, Manly, Parramatta,  
Penrith, Sutherland, Wollongong

Telephone: (02) 9519 5000

Fax: (02) 9219 5935

Email/Website: [www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au)

### Aboriginal specific?:

Although the Legal Aid Commission of NSW does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal people, it has identified Aboriginal clients as a priority for service provision.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Legal Aid Commission has guidelines which set out the eligibility requirements for grants of aid in each area of law. These can be found on the Commission's website (see above).

### Cross-references:

The Legal Aid Commission is a NSW-wide service.

## Central Coast Community Legal Centre

Address: "The Green House"  
1 River Rd  
Wyong NSW 2259

Telephone: (02) 4353 4988

Fax: (02) 4353 4680

Email/Website: central\_coast\_nsw@clc.net.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living on the Central Coast.

## Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre

Address: 4 Station St  
Katoomba NSW 2780

Telephone: (02) 4782 4155

Fax: (02) 4782 4384

Email/Website: tracey@eeclc.org.au  
www.eeclc.org.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility Requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living in the Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Oberon and Bathurst regions.

## Hawkesbury-Nepean Community Legal Centre

Address: 13 Bosworth St  
Richmond NSW 2753

Telephone: (02) 4588 5618

Fax: (02) 4588 5671

Email/Website: Hawkesbury\_NSW@clc.net.au

### Aboriginal specific?:

Though the Centre does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal people, they are a priority for the Centre. The Centre offers an Aboriginal Legal Access Service and Aboriginal clients are able to contact the Service co-ordinator directly.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living in the Hawkesbury-Nepean area.

## Inner City Legal Centre

Address: 6A/6B  
First Floor  
66 Oxford St  
Darlinghurst NSW 2010

Telephone: (02) 9332 1966

Fax: (02) 9360 5941

Email/Website: inner\_city@clc.net.au  
  
www.iclc.org.au

### Aboriginal specific?:

Though the Centre does not provide legal assistance exclusively to Aboriginal people, they are encouraged to drop in and be seen anytime.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living in inner Sydney.

## Kingsford Legal Centre

Address: The Law Building,  
Ground Floor,  
University of NSW  
NSW 2052

Telephone: (02) 9385 9572

Fax: (02) 9385 9583

Email/Website: legal@unsw.edu.au  
www.kingsfordlegalcentre.org

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides assistance to residents of the local area. It also takes on cases where there is no other source of assistance or where acting for the client will benefit the community.

## Law Society of NSW Pro Bono Scheme

Address: 170 Phillip St  
Sydney NSW 2000

Telephone: (02) 9926 0364

Fax: (02) 9231 5809

Email/Website: [www.lawsociety.com.au/legalhelp](http://www.lawsociety.com.au/legalhelp)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Law Society of NSW Pro Bono Scheme is for members of the community who cannot afford the cost of a solicitor and who are not eligible for Legal Aid.

The first step in gaining assistance from the Scheme is to fill out an application form (available on the website).

Application forms will be assessed by the Law Society. If a person is successful in their application for assistance, the Law Society will try to match the matter with an appropriate firm of solicitors.

Cross-references:

The Law Society of NSW is a NSW-wide organisation. Its members include solicitors living and practising throughout NSW. As a result, it may be possible to obtain assistance for people living both inside and outside of the Sydney region.

## Macarthur Legal Centre

Address: 4 Broughton St  
Campbelltown NSW 2560

Telephone: (02) 4628 2042

Fax: (02) 4628 0771

Email/Website: [www.macarthurlegal.org.au](http://www.macarthurlegal.org.au)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides free legal advice to all community members who live in the Campbelltown, Wollondilly and Camden regions and possible on-going assistance to low income earning people.

Cross-references:

None.

## Macquarie Legal Centre

Address: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
250 Pitt St  
Merrylands NSW 2160

Telephone: (02) 9760 2211  
(02) 9760 0111 (Advice)

Fax: (02) 9760 2255

Email/Website: Macquarie\_NSW@clc.net.au  
[www.macquarielegal.org.au](http://www.macquarielegal.org.au)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Macquarie Legal Centre provides assistance to low income earners living in the Western Sydney Region.

Cross-references:

None.

## Marrickville Legal Centre (MLC)

Address: 338 Illawarra Rd  
Marrickville NSW 2204

Telephone: (02) 9559 2899

Fax: (02) 9558 5213

Email/Website: [www.mlc.asn.au](http://www.mlc.asn.au)

### Aboriginal specific?:

Although the MLC does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal clients, it does undertake Aboriginal-specific projects. In addition, Aboriginal people are encouraged to drop in and be seen anytime. Aboriginal clients are also given priority in casework intake.

### Eligibility requirements:

The MLC provides assistance to people living in the Marrickville community.

### Cross-references:

None.

## **Mt Druitt and Area Community Legal Centre**

Address: 76 Rooty Hill Rd North  
Rooty Hill NSW 2766

Telephone: (02) 9675 2009

Fax: (02) 9675 2110

Email/Website: N/A.

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living in the Mt Druitt area.

Cross-references:

None.

## Redfern Legal Centre

Address: 73 Pitt St  
Redfern NSW 2016

Telephone: (02) 9698 7277

Fax: (02) 9310 3586

Email/Website: info@rlc.org.au

www.rlc.org.au

### Aboriginal specific?:

Although the Redfern Legal Centre does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal people, it has identified Aboriginal clients as a priority for service provision.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Redfern Legal Centre provides free legal advice and assistance to people living in Sydney, Botany and Leichhardt Local Government Areas.

### Cross-references:

None.

## Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre

Address: 50 Junction St  
Nowra NSW 2541

Telephone: (02) 4422 9529  
1800 229 529 (Ulladulla to Bega)

Fax: (02) 4422 7573

Email/Website: Shoalcoast\_NSW@clc.net.au  
www.shoalcoast.org.au

### Aboriginal specific?:

Although the Shoalcoast CLC does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal clients, it undertakes Aboriginal-specific projects. It employs an Indigenous Legal Service Trainee and has submitted an application for funding for an Indigenous paralegal.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Shoalcoast CLC provides free legal assistance to residents of the Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Local Government Areas who are unable to afford a solicitor.

### Cross-references:

None.

## **Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program (WDVCAP)**

Address: Legal Aid Commission of NSW  
WDVCAP Management Team  
Level 20, 323 Castlereagh Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Telephone: (02) 9219 5943

(02) 9219 5983

Fax: (02) 9219 5038

Email/Website:

<http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=597>

Aboriginal specific?:

There are 33 Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Schemes (WDVCASs) across NSW funded under the Program. Schemes that operate in areas with a high percentage of Aboriginal people are funded to employ Specialist Aboriginal Workers (currently Armidale, Bourke/Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Dubbo, Kempsey, Moree, Northern Rivers, Nowra, Redfern, Taree and Wagga Wagga). Several also employ Aboriginal women in the WDVCAS Coordinator positions. WDVCAS Coordinators coordinate a roster of trained social welfare professionals from local community agencies to provide assistance to women seeking ADVOs in the Local Court(s). Many of these workers are drawn from local Aboriginal community organisations.

Eligibility requirements:

The WDVAP provides assistance to women and children experiencing family (or domestic) violence.

### Details of services provided:

The Program currently funds 33 Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Schemes (WDVCASs) across NSW, servicing 55 local courts. The Program assists women and children to obtain legal protection from domestic violence from the courts through an integrated system of legal representation, specialised support and advocacy and information and referrals to appropriate services for their other needs.

Most of the funding is used to fund community agencies to employ a WDVCAS Coordinator. Their role is to coordinate a roster of trained social welfare professionals and solicitors to provide assistance to women seeking ADVOs in the Local Court(s). Workers are usually drawn from local community agencies such as family support services, refuges and community health centres, who provide their time as part of their paid employment. Schemes that operate in areas with a high percentage of Aboriginal people are funded to employ specialist Aboriginal workers.

The WDVCAP Management Team at the Legal Aid Commission administers funding for the Program, monitors the financial and strategic performance of Schemes, coordinate the annual WDVCAP Conference, and produces publications for clients, including a publication titled *Not Our Culture, Not Our Way, You Can Break the Cycle* designed specifically for Aboriginal women.

For contact details for specific Schemes, see the Legal Aid Commission website or contact:

**Domestic Violence Advocacy Service Advice Line:**  
(02) 8745 6999/1800 810 784/1800 626 267 (TTY)

**Domestic Violence Line:**  
1800 656 463/1800 671 442 (TTY)

**Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre:**  
(02) 9569 3847

**Indigenous Women's Program Contact Line:**  
1800 639 784

## Women's Legal Resources Centre

Address: PO Box 206  
Lidcombe NSW 1825

Telephone: (02) 9749 5533 (Advice line)  
1800 801 501 (Rural freecall)  
1800 674 333 (Aboriginal Women's  
Contact line)

Fax: (02) 9749 4433

Email/Website: [www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au](http://www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au)

### Aboriginal specific?:

Women's Legal Services operates an Aboriginal Women's Program aimed at specifically targeting legal needs of Aboriginal women.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides advice to women in NSW.

### Cross-references:

The Women's Legal Resource Centre is a NSW-wide service.

## NORTHERN NSW

### Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited (ALS)

<u>Address:</u>	Level 2, 300 King St Newcastle NSW 2302
	Shop 2, 41 Belgrave St Kempsey NSW 2440
	Suite 1/80, Wynter St Taree NSW 2430
	3/15 Molesworth St Lismore NSW 2480
	76 Heber St South Grafton NSW 2460
	117 Faulkner St Armidale NSW 2350
	Shop 5, 96 Balo St Moree NSW 2400
	395 Peel St Tamworth NSW 2340
<u>Telephone:</u>	(02) 4921 8815 (Newcastle) (02) 6562 5990 (Kempsey) (02) 6551 3928 (Taree) (02) 6622 7088 (Lismore) (02) 6643 4851 (Grafton) (02) 6772 5990 (Armidale) (02) 6752 5700 (Moree) (02) 6761 3766 (Tamworth)

Fax: (02) 4921 8830 (Newcastle)  
(02) 6562 5991 (Kempsey)  
(02) 6651 3727 (Taree)  
(02) 6622 7087 (Lismore)  
(02) 6643 4381 (Grafton)  
(02) 6771 2444 (Armidale)  
(02) 6752 5701 (Moree)  
(02) 6761 3767 (Tamworth)

Email/Website: [www.coalsnsw.com.au](http://www.coalsnsw.com.au)

Aboriginal specific?:

Yes. The ALS provides legal services to Aboriginal people and Aboriginal organisations subject to a verification of Aboriginality.

Occasionally, the ALS will also provide legal services to non-Aboriginal people where this would be in the interests of the Aboriginal community.

The Board of the ALS is comprised entirely of Aboriginal representatives of various communities in NSW and the ACT.

Eligibility requirements:

In order to receive services from the ALS, a person must prove both that they identify as an Aboriginal person and that they are recognised as such by the relevant Aboriginal community. Non-Aboriginal applicants for assistance must establish that assisting them would be in the interests of the Aboriginal community.

A person who has successfully completed a verification of Aboriginality must then undergo a means test to determine whether they are eligible for assistance from a financial perspective.

Cross-references:

The ALS is a NSW- and ACT-wide service. For information about the ALS's Criminal Law services in other areas, see **Central South Eastern NSW** and **Western NSW** and **ACT**.

## Illawarra Legal Centre

Address: 7 Greene St  
Warrawong NSW 2502

Telephone: (02) 4276 2535  
(02) 4276 1939 (Tenancy line)

Fax: (02) 4276 1978

Email/Website: [www.illawarralegalcentre.org.au](http://www.illawarralegalcentre.org.au)

### Aboriginal specific?:

Though the Centre does not provide legal assistance exclusively to Aboriginal people, they are encouraged to drop in and be seen anytime.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living in the Illawarra region.

## Legal Aid Commission of NSW

Address: 4 Park Ave  
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

Suite 3 & 6, Level 4  
29 Molesworth St  
Lismore NSW 2480

51-55 Bolton St  
Newcastle NSW 2300

Level 3, 424-426 Peel St  
Tamworth NSW 2340

Telephone: (02) 6651 7899 (Coffs Harbour)  
(02) 6621 2082 (Lismore)  
(02) 4929 5482 (Newcastle)  
(02) 6766 6322 (Tamworth)

Fax: (02) 6651 7897 (Coffs Harbour)  
(02) 6621 9874 (Lismore)  
(02) 4929 3347 (Newcastle)  
(02) 6766 8303 (Tamworth)

Email/Website: [www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au)

### Aboriginal specific?:

Although the Legal Aid Commission of NSW does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal people, it has identified Aboriginal clients as a priority for service provision.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Legal Aid Commission has guidelines which set out the eligibility requirements for grants of aid in each area of law. These can be found on the Commission's website (see above).

### Cross-references:

The Legal Aid Commission is a NSW-wide service.

## North and North West Community Legal Service

Address: Minto Building  
161 Rusden St  
Armidale NSW 2350

Telephone: (02) 6772 8100  
1800 687 687

Fax: (02) 6772 2999

Email/Website: [nnwcls@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nnwcls@bigpond.net.au)

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The North and North West Community Legal Service provides generalist legal services to people living in the New England and North West regions of NSW.

Cross-references:

None.

## Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre

Address: 10 Club Lane  
Lismore NSW 2480

Telephone: (02) 6621 1000  
1800 689 889  
(02) 6621 1022 (Tenancy)  
1800 649 135 (Tenancy)  
1300 720 606 (DV Court Assistance)

Fax: (02) 6621 1011

Email/Website: nrclc@spot.com.au

### Aboriginal specific?:

Though the Centre does not provide legal assistance exclusively to Aboriginal people, they are given priority in casework intake.

The Centre also runs the Mirrung Ngu Wanjarri Family Violence Project.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living in the Northern Rivers area.

### Cross-references:

None.

## WESTERN NSW

### Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited (ALS)

Address: 23-25 Carrington Ave  
Dubbo NSW 2830

19 Trail St  
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

67 Yanbil St  
Griffith NSW 2680

63 Fox St  
Walgett NSW 2832

18 Richard St  
Bourke NSW 2840

35 Sulphide St  
Broken Hill NSW 2880

Telephone: (02) 6882 6966 (Dubbo)  
(02) 6921 9230 (Wagga Wagga)  
(02) 6962 7675 (Griffith)  
(02) 6828 2039 (Walgett)  
(02) 6872 2200 (Bourke)  
(08) 8087 3233 (Broken Hill)

Fax: (02) 6882 6880 (Dubbo)  
(02) 6921 9340 (Wagga Wagga)  
(02) 6962 5456 (Griffith)  
(02) 6828 1900 (Walgett)  
(02) 6872 2472 (Bourke)  
(02) 6828 1900 (Broken Hill)

Email/Website: [www.coalsnsw.com.au](http://www.coalsnsw.com.au)

Aboriginal specific?:

Yes. The ALS provides legal services to Aboriginal people and Aboriginal organisations subject to a verification of Aboriginality.

Occasionally, the ALS will also provide legal services to non-Aboriginal people where this would be in the interests of the Aboriginal community.

The Board of the ALS is comprised entirely of Aboriginal representatives of various communities in NSW and the ACT.

Eligibility requirements:

In order to receive services from the ALS, a person must prove both that they identify as an Aboriginal person and that they are recognised as such by the relevant Aboriginal community. Non-Aboriginal applicants for assistance must establish that assisting them would be in the interests of the Aboriginal community.

A person who has successfully completed a verification of Aboriginality must then undergo a means test to determine whether they are eligible for assistance from a financial perspective.

Cross-references:

The ALS is a NSW- and ACT-wide service. For information about the ALS's Criminal Law services in other areas, see **Central South Eastern NSW** and **Northern NSW** and **ACT**.

## Albury Wodonga Community Legal Service

Address: 29 Stanley St  
Wodonga VIC 3690

558 Mitchell St  
Albury NSW 2640

Telephone: (02) 6056 8210

Fax: (02) 6022 8099

Email/Website: [cls@umfc.com.au](mailto:cls@umfc.com.au)

[www.communitylaw.org.au/alburywodonga](http://www.communitylaw.org.au/alburywodonga)

Aboriginal specific?:

No. However, Aboriginal people are given priority in the making of appointments.

Eligibility requirements:

The Service provides legal assistance to people living in the Albury and Wodonga areas.

## Far West Community Legal Centre

Address: 5 Chloride St  
Broken Hill NSW 2880

Telephone: (08) 8088 2020  
1300 300 036

Fax: (08) 8088 2060

Email/Website: reception@farwestclc.org.au  
www.farwestclc.org.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Centre provides legal assistance to people living in Far West NSW.

## Legal Aid Commission of NSW

Address: 64 Talbragar St  
Dubbo NSW 2830

121 Byng St  
Orange NSW 2800

Ground Floor, Suite F  
Best Place Centre, Morrow St  
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Telephone: (02) 6885 4233 (Dubbo)  
(02) 6362 8022 (Orange)  
(02) 6921 6588 (Wagga Wagga)

Fax: (02) 6885 4240 (Dubbo)  
(02) 6361 3983 (Orange)  
(02) 6921 7106 (Wagga Wagga)

Email/Website: [www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au)

### Aboriginal specific?:

Although the Legal Aid Commission of NSW does not provide services exclusively to Aboriginal people, it has identified Aboriginal clients as a priority for service provision.

### Eligibility requirements:

The Legal Aid Commission has guidelines which set out the eligibility requirements for grants of aid in each area of law. These can be found on the Commission's website (see above).

### Cross-references:

The Legal Aid Commission is a NSW-wide service.

## Western NSW Community Legal Centre

Address: 51 Bultje St  
Dubbo NSW 2830

Telephone: (02) 6884 9422  
1800 655 927

Fax: (02) 6884 9397

Email/Website: western\_nsw@clc.net.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Western NSW Community Legal Centre provides legal assistance to people living in the Western region of NSW.

Cross-references:

None.

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY (ACT)

### **Legal Aid Commission (ACT)**

Address: 4 Mort Street  
Braddon ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6243 3471

Fax: (02) 6247 5446

Email/Website: legalaid@legalaid.canberra.net.au  
www.legalaid.canberra.net.au

Aboriginal specific?:

No.

Eligibility requirements:

The Legal Aid Commission (ACT) has guidelines which set out the eligibility requirements for grants of aid. This information can be found on the website (see above). To be eligible, applicants must meet a means and a merits test and the matter must fall within the guidelines.

Cross-references:

See Legal Aid Commission of NSW under **Central South Eastern NSW, Northern NSW, Western NSW.**