



# Plain Language Law

**NO. 73, JANUARY 2015** | A newsletter that aims to keep community, legal and government sectors up-to-date with a selection of recent plain language law resources produced in NSW. To browse our online database of recent and past products visit [www.lawfoundation.net.au/pllsearch](http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/pllsearch)

## LJF GENERAL GRANTS NOW OPEN

The Law and Justice Foundation (LJF) is pleased to announce that the March round of the 2015 General Grants program is now open.

The grants program is aimed at projects that will identify effective reforms, initiatives and programs to address legal need.

Not for profits and community organisations are able to apply. For more information, see the [Grants page of the LJF website](#) or contact the grants team on [grants@lawfoundation.net.au](mailto:grants@lawfoundation.net.au)

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## COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

**Energy and water information session (Katoomba NSW)**, 2015, [Workshop], Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW, Free

<http://www.ewon.com.au/ewon/assets/File/Events/Katoomba%20Library%202015I.pdf>

This free information session run by the Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW will provide consumers with energy and water saving tips plus information about: current energy rebates; hardship programs offered by energy retailers; tips for dealing with energy and water suppliers; energy marketing and scams; common problems and how they can be resolved; and how to lodge a complaint with EWON. Thursday 26 February 2015 from 10:30 at Katoomba Library meeting rooms, 30 Parke Street, Katoomba. Phone Katoomba Library to register on 02 4780 5750. Bookings are essential.

**Know your consumer rights seminar for community workers (Wyang NSW)**, 2015, [Workshop], NSW Fair Trading, Free, 13 32 20,

[www.events.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](http://www.events.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au)

This free information session for community workers will be presented by NSW Fair Trading, in collaboration with the Energy and Water Ombudsman (EWON), NSW Office of State Revenue - State Debt Recovery, Central Coast Legal Centre and Central Coast Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service. Each organisation will provide information about what they do and how they can help

with legal advice, consumer rights, state debts, and tenancy rights. Thursday 19 February from 9:30am to 12:30pm at Mingara Recreation Club Mingara Drive Tumbi Umbi 2261. Registration is essential. Morning tea will be provided.

### Law for community sector workers: debt issues

**(Bankstown NSW)**, 2015, [Workshop], Legal Aid NSW, Free, 02 9219 5879, [cle@legalaid.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cle@legalaid.nsw.gov.au)

<http://laxextra.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ClemsPub/Web/EventDetails/EventDetails.aspx?e=10696&calType=2>

This workshop is about consumer law and insurance, personal loans, and mortgages. It will cover dispute resolution processes, bankruptcy and where legal help can be accessed. Wednesday 25 February from 12:30pm to 3:30pm at Bankstown Sports Club 8 Greenfield parade Bankstown 2200. Registration is essential as places are limited.

### Law for community sector workers: employment rights

**(Dubbo NSW)**, 2015, [Workshop], Legal Aid NSW, Free, 02 9219 5879, [cle@legalaid.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cle@legalaid.nsw.gov.au)

<http://laxextra.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ClemsPub/Web/EventDetails/EventDetails.aspx?e=10712&calType=2>

This free workshop about employment rights will cover: employment entitlements, the National Employment Standards (NES), employment protections, casual work and recovery of unpaid wages and where legal help can be accessed.

Wednesday 25 March from 12:30pm to 3:30pm at the Western Plains Cultural Centre 76 Wingewarra Street Dubbo 2830.

Registration is essential as places are limited.

### Law for community sector workers: family law (Sydney

**CBD NSW)**, 2015, [Workshop], Legal Aid NSW, Free, 02 9219 5879, [cle@legalaid.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cle@legalaid.nsw.gov.au)

<http://laxextra.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ClemsPub/Web/EventDetails/EventDetails.aspx?e=10691&calType=2>

This free workshop will cover issues stemming from separation and divorce including: arrangements for children and family dispute resolution, property settlement and where legal help can be accessed.

Tuesday 17 February from 9:30am to 12:30pm at Legal Aid NSW Sydney City Office Training Centre level 12, 323 Castlereagh Street Haymarket 2000. Registration is essential as places are limited.



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**Law for community sector workers: social security (Bathurst NSW)**, 2015, [Workshop], Legal Aid NSW, Free, 02 9219 5879, [cle@legalaid.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cle@legalaid.nsw.gov.au)  
<http://lacextra.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ClemsPub/Web/EventDetails/EventDetails.aspx?e=10694&calType=2>

This workshop is an overview of the social security system. Delivered by Legal Aid Lawyers with extensive experience in civil law, the workshop will provide information about common issues for social security recipients including Centrelink debts, review rights and where they can get legal help. Monday 16 February from 12:30pm to 3:30pm at Bathurst Golf Club 136 Victoria Street Bathurst 2795. Registration is essential as places are limited. To register, visit the above URL.

**Law webinars for community workers (NSW)**, 2015, [Webinar], Legal Aid NSW, Free, 02 9219 5879, [cle@legalaid.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cle@legalaid.nsw.gov.au)  
<http://legalaid.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/workshops/calendar-community-workers>

These webinars (web seminars) for community workers cover: Domestic violence reforms (Thursday 5 February), Bridging Visa E 'Code of Behaviour' (Thursday 19 February), Domestic violence and Visas (Thursday 19 February), Law check-up (Tuesday 24 February), Fines and Work and Development Orders (Tuesday 3 March), Sexual assault Communications Privilege (Wednesday 25 March) and NDIS (Wednesday 25 March). For details and to register use the URL above. Registration is essential.

**Law webinars for everyone (NSW)**, 2015, [Webinar], Legal Aid NSW - public workshops, Free, [cle@legalaid.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cle@legalaid.nsw.gov.au)  
<http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/workshops/calendar-general-public>

These webinars (web seminars) for the general public run for 30 minutes. They cover: Mortgage stress (Tuesday 3 February and Thursday 12 March), Unfair dismissal (Thursday 19 February and Thursday 19 March), Child support (Thursday 26 February), Divorce (Tuesday 3 March), Fines (Thursday 5 March and Monday 16 March), Drink Driving (Wednesday 11 March and Tuesday 24 March), Sexting and Cyber-bullying (Thursday 12 March and Wednesday 25 March), Understanding your AVO (Tuesday 17 March) and Car accidents (Tuesday 24 March) For details and to register use the URL above. Registration is essential.

## GUIDES TO THE LAW

**Auslan videos (NSW)**, 2014, [Video & Online], Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, 1800 099 340  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/CARoyalComm/about>  
The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to

Child Sexual Abuse has released a number of videos presented in Auslan and captioned. They provide information about The Royal Commission including its purpose, the work it has been doing and how survivors can tell their story to the Commission.

**Discrimination toolkit (NSW)**, 2014, 3rd ed. 204p. [Booklet], Legal Aid NSW, Free, 02 9219 5028, <http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/publications/factsheets-and-resources/discrimination-toolkit>

This booklet explains the grounds for discrimination, what you can do about discrimination, how the courts and tribunals work, and the different choices that can be made, including conciliation or court action. It is available as a downloadable PDF or in HTML format on the Legal Aid NSW website. Braille editions of the toolkit are available from the Association of Blind Citizens' Society Library and at the NSW State Library.

**Getting help (NSW)**, 2014, 2p., [Factsheet], NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, 1300 006 228, [http://www.ncat.nsw.gov.au/agdbasev7wr/\\_assets/ncat/m771022136/getting\\_help\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.ncat.nsw.gov.au/agdbasev7wr/_assets/ncat/m771022136/getting_help_fact_sheet.pdf)

This factsheet lists services that can help with free or low-cost legal information, advice or assistance, including housing, home building, health, pro bono referral schemes, tenancy, aged care, small business and generalist services such as LawAccess NSW.

**Just a piece of paper? Making your AVO work for you (NSW)**, 2014, 3rd ed., 28p. [Booklet], Southern Women's Group Inc. - Bega, Free, [http://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au/guides/just\\_piece\\_of\\_paper/Just\\_piece\\_paper\\_Oct2014.pdf](http://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au/guides/just_piece_of_paper/Just_piece_paper_Oct2014.pdf)

This booklet is intended to help people who already have an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) for their protection and provides information about how AVOs work, how to report breaches and keep evidence of breaches, varying and revoking an AVO, AVOs and family law, immigration and victims support. It is available online as a PDF (see above URL) and in hardcopy at public libraries across NSW as part of the Legal Toolkit.

**The law handbook: your practical guide to the law in NSW (NSW)**, 2014, 13th ed., [Book & Online], Thomson Reuters, available to download free online  
[http://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au/guides/law\\_handbook/index.html](http://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au/guides/law_handbook/index.html)

This plain English guide covers all aspects of the law in NSW including appearing in court, contracts, credit and debt, children and the law, drug offences, accidents and compensation, family law, immigration and refugees, social security, wills, estates and funerals, internet law, defamation and copyright. Available in PDF from Find



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Legal Answers (URL above) or in hardcopy in public libraries across NSW, or to purchase in hard copy from Thomson Reuters  
<http://www.thomsonreuters.com.au/the-law-handbook-13th-edition-your-practical-guide-to-the-law-in-new-south-wale/productdetail/122372>

**Making Sense (NSW)**, 2014, [Website], Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS), 02 9318 0144, [info@idrs.org.au](mailto:info@idrs.org.au)  
<http://idrs.org.au/makingsense/>

This website provides information to lawyers, magistrates, court staff and community workers who are working with parents with an intellectual disability who are going through the care and protection system.

**NDIS rights (NSW)**, 2014, [Website], Community Legal Centres

This website provides factsheets and information on the legal rights of those accessing the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The website was a joint production between Redfern (NSW), Hobart (TAS), and Fitzroy (VIC) CLCs.

**New online forms for NSW Supreme, District and Local Courts now available (NSW)**, 2015, [Online & Form], Attorney-General's Department

<https://onlineregistry.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/content/>  
More than 55 online court forms are now available on the NSW Online Registry website. In addition to paying by Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Diners credit/debit cards court clients can also register their credit/debit card, which means card details do not have to be entered each time court documents are filed. Court clients can also arrange to pay by direct debit by emailing the online support team on [onlineregistry\\_support@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:onlineregistry_support@agd.nsw.gov.au).

**NSW Online Registry YouTube Channel (NSW)**, 2014, [Video & Online], Attorney-General's Department, Free, 02 6141 6666, [enquiries@ag.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@ag.gov.au)  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChDtIPYulcNhpByUI4LN6LQ>

The NSW online registry YouTube channel has a number of short instructional videos to help clients register, file specific forms and use the website.

**Older persons diary (NSW)**, 2015, 168p., [Booklet], Legal Aid NSW, 02 9219 5028,  
<http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/publications/factsheets-and-resources>

This diary features information on important legal topics relevant to older people. Maximum of 60 copies per order.

**Pre-employment screening: working with children checks and police checks (Australia)**, 2014, [Web page], Australian Institute of Family Studies, 03 9214 7888,  
<https://www3.aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/pre-employment-screening-working-children-checks-and-p>  
A guide to the various child safety screening programs in each Australian state and territory, including the difference between a police check and a working with children check.

**Search NSW court lists (NSW)**, 2014, [Application], Attorney-General's Department, Free, 02 6141 6666, [enquiries@ag.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@ag.gov.au)  
<https://onlineregistry.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/content/court-lists>

The 'Search NSW Court Lists' app allows users to search court lists for the NSW Supreme, District, Local and Coroner's Courts up to two weeks in advance and one week in the past. Users can use a range of search criteria including: location, court, presiding officer (judge, magistrate or coroner), civil or criminal jurisdiction, case number and party name. Users can view the court location on an interactive map such as Google maps and make enquiries with the NSW courts via email or telephone from within the app. Information is updated every 60 seconds so it provides the most up to date information available. The app can be downloaded from Google Play and the App Store.

**What is an 'indictable' appeal? (NSW)**, 2015, 16p., [Factsheet], Legal Aid NSW, Free, 02 9219 5028,  
<http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/publications/factsheets-and-resources/a-guide-to-indictable-appeals>

This factsheet explains the indictable appeals process and how to apply for legal aid. It is intended for prisoners, lawyers and Corrective Services staff. Legal Aid NSW indictable lawyers are responsible for representing applicants in the Court of Criminal Appeal, Supreme Court and High Court. This includes preparing briefs to Counsel to determine merit and instructing Counsel. The factsheet will be distributed to all NSW jails. It is available in HTML format or can be downloaded as a PDF.

## ABOUT PLL

Plain Language Law (PLL) is produced by Anna Russell and Harriet Pocock, Law and Justice Foundation of NSW, phone (02) 8227 3200 or visit [www.lawfoundation.net.au](http://www.lawfoundation.net.au), with assistance from the Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC). Additional sources of plain language law material can be found at LIAC – call (02) 9273 1558 or visit [www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au), or LawAccess – call 1300 888 529 or visit [www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au)



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## SEARCHABLE PLL DATABASE

[www.lawfoundation.net.au/pllsearch](http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/pllsearch)

Resources included in recent and past editions of the PLL newsletter are catalogued in our PLL Database, which contains over 1000 resources and is searchable using the PLL search tool. The database was designed to assist workers looking to develop a new plain language law product and the resources are searchable by format (e.g. DVD, booklet, etc.), language, law type and target group.

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