



Plain Language Law

NO. 83, OCTOBER 2016 | A newsletter that aims to keep you up-to-date with a selection of recent plain language law resources produced about the law in NSW. To browse our online database of recent and past products visit www.lawfoundation.net.au/pllsearch

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Community legal education

Advanced media skills (NSW), 2016, [Workshop], Public Interest Advocacy Centre – Workshops, \$400, 02 8898 6503, piac@piac.asn.au

This training workshop is for anyone who has to face the media. Group size is limited to 12 participants, all of whom will practise audio and video interview skills and receive individual feedback. The workshop is presented by Don Palmer and Sarah Ludowici and includes guidelines for media releases, making the most of social media, preparing for TV and TV interviews. It will be held on 12 October from 9.00am to 4.30pm. For more information contact PIAC senior training officer Sarah Ludowici.

Advanced negotiation skills (NSW), 2016, [Workshop], Public Interest Advocacy Centre – Workshops, \$250, 02 8898 6503, piac@piac.asn.au

This practical one-day workshop includes the 'principled' or 'interest-based' negotiation approach from the work of the Harvard Negotiation Project. The workshop includes how to understand core concerns of your opposition prior to the meeting, how to create opportunity for yourself and the other party, managing impasse and creative solutions. It takes place on 18 October from 9.00am to 4.30pm. For further details contact senior training officer Sarah Ludowici.

Divorce class - various locations (NSW only) (NSW), 2016, [Workshop], Legal Aid NSW – public workshops, Free, cle@legalaid.nsw.gov.au

This two-hour workshop is open to the public and provides information about divorce. It will be presented in various locations in NSW over the next two months. It shows how to fill out and lodge divorce application forms, gives step-by-step explanations of the divorce process and information about service of documents and the hearing. Workshops will be held in both Sydney and Bankstown on 4 October and 1 November, Parramatta on 5 October and 2 November, Gosford on 18 October and 15 November, Blacktown on 25 October and 29 November, Newcastle on 26 October and 30 November, Port Macquarie on October 28 and 25 November, and Lismore on 9 November. Check details and information on registration online.

Female genital mutilation – the law in NSW (NSW), 2016, [Webinar], Women’s Legal Services NSW, 02 8745 6900, reception@wlsnsw.org.au

Ina Gaha from the NSW Education Program on female genital mutilation (FGM) is guest speaker at this webinar which looks at basic information about the practice of FGM, communities settled in NSW affected by the practice, the *Crimes (Female Genital Mutilation) Act 1996* and Amendment 2014, information about the first recent prosecution under the Act and mandatory reporting responsibilities for girls identified at risk. The webinar will be held on 29 September from 11:00 to 11:30am. Register online.

Law check-up webinar for community workers (NSW), 2016, [Webinar], Legal Aid NSW, 02 9219 5028

This webinar is for community workers and non-legal caseworkers who have contact with disadvantaged clients experiencing problems with debt, fines, housing, employment, social security, immigration, discrimination and more. It shows how to use the 'Law Check-Up' to identify typical legal problems experienced by clients so they can access earlier referral to legal assistance services. It will take place on Tuesday 25 October from 11.00am to 11.30am. Register online.

Talking law series: Housing and tenancy problems (NSW), 2016, [Workshop], Central Coast Community Legal Centre, 02 4353 4988, centralcoast@clc.net.au

The next seminar in the Talking law series for community workers on housing and tenancy problems will be held on Monday 24 October from 10.00am to 12.30pm at the Central Coast Community Legal Centre, 31 Alison Road, Wyong. Numbers are limited so register in advance by phone on 02 4353 4988 or email centralcoast@clc.net.au.

Talking law series: Supporting clients living with mental illness with their legal problems (NSW), 2016, [Workshop], Central Coast Community Legal Centre, 02 4353 4988, centralcoast@clc.net.au

The November talk in the Talking law series for community workers on supporting clients living with mental illness with their legal problems will be held on Wednesday 23 November from 10.00am to 12.30pm at the Central Coast Community Legal Centre, 31 Alison Road, Wyong. Numbers are limited so register in advance by phone on 02 4353 4988 or email centralcoast@clc.net.au

Working with other not-for-profits (NSW), 2016, [Webinar], Justice Connect (NSW), \$20, 02 9114 1793, admin@justiceconnect.org.au

This webinar will help you to make the right decisions for your group about working with others, from sharing



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funding and resources to increasing reach in the community. It will be held on Wednesday 9 November 12.45pm to 2pm. For further details contact Not-for-profit Law at nfptraining@justiceconnect.org.au, phone 03 8636 4448.

Working with volunteers: emerging issues (NSW), 2016, [Webinar], Justice Connect (NSW), \$20, 02 9114 1793, admin@justiceconnect.org.au

This webinar provides the latest cases, issues and changes to the law relating to the engagement of volunteers. It will be held on Wednesday 19 October 12.45pm to 2pm. For further information contact Not-for-profit Law on nfptraining@justiceconnect.org.au, phone 03 8636 4448.

Forthcoming publications

Dealing with FaCS: top ten tips (NSW), 2016, [Booklet], Women's Legal Services NSW, 02 8745 6900, reception@wlsnsw.org.au

This booklet is intended to help women and families deal with Family and Community Services (FaCS), the department in charge of keeping children safe, which used to be called DoCS (Department of Community Services). The booklet explains the different types of actions FaCS can take at the early stages of their contact with families. It also includes a diary for recording details about contact with FaCS.

Guides to the law

Case study of 'below the belt' phone app (Vic), 2016, [Online], Victoria Legal Aid, 03 9269 0120, publications@vla.vic.gov.au

This 'warts and all' analysis of a tech community legal education (CLE) project that did not work is a tool for other project makers. Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) had developed an interactive mobile phone app offering targeted, relevant and free legal information to young people on legal issues that affect them. The project cost over \$40,000 in app development, shared between six commissions, but had low uptake and its use was suspended for an internal evaluation. Subtitled 'Learning from projects that don't meet expectations', the case study looks at why the project failed and things to do differently in the future. The experience was considered instructive and invaluable and has already guided other fruitful projects. The VLA published the study to share the lessons learnt for the benefit of other project makers.

Changes to NSW associations incorporation laws (NSW), 2016, [Web page], Justice Connect (NSW), 02 9114 1793, admin@justiceconnect.org.au

Changes to the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* (NSW) and the new Associations Incorporation Regulation 2016 (NSW) commenced on 1 September 2016 and include amendments to the model constitution, new matters that must be addressed in constitutions, provisions allowing for electronic ballots, clarification of the duties of committee members, allowance for financial records to be kept electronically, and changes to the fee schedule. Information on how the amended Act and new Regulations affect your incorporated association is available on the Not-for-profit Law information hub. A webinar is also planned on the new laws and their implications.

Debt dating (NSW), 2016, [Video & Website], Financial Rights Legal Centre, 1800 007 007

The video and accompanying website are part of a new financial literacy campaign aimed at steering consumers away from 'debt management firms' using high pressure sales techniques to sell unsuitable products towards free and independent financial counselling services. Debt management firms include credit repair companies who claim to fix credit ratings; money managers who charge to manage your income, bills and debts; debt negotiators who present debt negotiating as something they do as a 'professional'; and debt agreement brokers who direct people into debt agreements, a form of insolvency. For further information, contact Drew MacRae, Policy and Advocacy Officer at the Financial Rights Legal Centre, on 02 8204 1386.

Divorce and separation financial checklist and the asset stocktake calculator (NSW), 2016, [Web page], Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC), 1300 300 630

Two new online resources, the divorce and separation financial checklist and the asset stocktake calculator, have been developed by ASIC to help people navigate the financial aspects of divorce and separation. They provide guidance on separating finances and getting money on track, post separation and divorce and beginning the property settlement process, by providing a summary of assets and debts. The resources are supported by a video featuring Anne Hollonds who explains how the divorce and separation financial checklist can help navigate finances when a relationship ends. Available online.

Drugs, driving and you (NSW), 2016, 12pp, [Pamphlet], Legal Aid NSW, Free, 02 9219 5028

The online updated popular pamphlet has a new look and its 12 pages contain the latest law, regulations and penalties for this offence. The pamphlet explains what to do when pleading guilty to a charge of driving under the influence or a drug charge. It is available in English, Arabic, Chinese and Vietnamese. Available online.

How Legal Aid can help you (NSW), 2016, [Factsheet], Legal Aid NSW, Free, 02 9219 5028

This new brochure about Legal Aid NSW services and where to get legal help is a revision of the familiar green brochure 'Do you have a legal problem?' and is available in 25 languages: Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese (sim), Croatian, Dari/Farsi, English, Greek, Hindi, Khmer, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Laotian, Macedonian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Tamil, Thai, Turkish, Urdu and Vietnamese. View or order copies on the Legal Aid NSW website under new & updated resources.

Inclusion hub (NSW), 2016, [Website], Early Childhood Intervention Australia

The Inclusion hub is a new online tool to provide Australian families, early childhood intervention practitioners and communities with resources to navigate the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The site has been developed by Early Childhood Intervention Australia (ECIA) to make it easy to access material in one place. It includes a resource directory, glossary of common terms, webinars, articles and newsletters.



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NCAT videos (NSW), 2016, [Video], NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT), Free, 1300 006 228

NCAT has launched a series of four online videos to help people representing themselves before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) prepare for their hearing. The scenario-based videos dramatise each step of the NCAT process from lodging an application through to case preparation, the hearing and the decision. The four videos deal with common matters heard by NCAT – on tenancy: 'Long overdue rent', guardianship: 'Managing my sister's affairs', home building: 'My home has not been built properly' and review of administrative decisions: 'A licensing issue'. Videos are captioned and are available in English, Mandarin, Arabic, Greek and Vietnamese. View via the NCAT website or NSW Justice YouTube Channel.

New Indigenous MoneySmart videos (Australia), 2016, [Video], Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC), 1300 300 630

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission has launched three new videos to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in remote and regional areas with information on motor vehicle finance, renting appliances, and using book up (running a tab or a store account). The animations are available on ASIC's MoneySmart website and social media channels.

Podcast – DIY usability testing (NSW), 2016, [Audio download], Victoria Law Foundation, 03 9604 8100, contact@victorialaw.org.au

This podcast presents top five tips to ensure any website or app you produce for the community is designed appropriately for your audience. Gerry Gaffney is a user experience and usability consultant in Melbourne whose company works with clients such as the Courts and Tribunal Services NSW. In this podcast he talks to the Victoria Law Foundation's deputy director, manager of online strategy and publishing, Elisa Berg, about what usability testing is and how to do it simply and cost-effectively, the number one tip being don't be afraid to get started. Hear the advice online.

'Rent to buy' home purchase (NSW), 2016, [Booklet], Legal Aid NSW, 02 9219 5028

This new double-sided brochure looks at things you need to know about the risky side of renting to buy. It covers the legal issues around a 'rent to buy' home loan purchase, including hidden fees and charges, who legally owns the property and the high weekly repayments involved.

Sexual assault: your rights and the law (NSW), 2016, [Booklet], Women's Legal Services NSW, 02 8745 6900, reception@wlsnsw.org.au

This booklet has information for women and girls who have been sexually assaulted including what sexual assault means, getting medical help and counselling after a sexual assault, reporting to the police, legal process and your rights. There is also a contacts section at the end to assist with finding help.

Updated Tenants' rights manual: a practical guide to renting in NSW (NSW), 2016, 4th edition ed., [Web page], Tenants' Union of NSW, 02 8117 3700 contact@tenantsunion.org.au

An updated version of the manual was placed online in August 2016. Changes include the introduction of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT), which replaced the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal (CTTT), and changes to the law dealing with public housing, boarding houses, and residential parks. Copies of this book are also available in the Tool Kit at local libraries.

Searchable Plain Language Law (PLL) database

Resources included in past editions of the newsletter can be found in our PLL Database which contains over 1,350 resources and is searchable using the PLL search tool by format (e.g. DVD, booklet, etc.), language, law type and target group.

About PLL

PLL is produced by June McGowan and Jane Kenny, Law and Justice Foundation of NSW, (02) 8227 3200, with assistance from the Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC). Additional sources of plain language law material can be found at LIAC's website, www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au, or call LawAccess on 1300 888 529 or check their website at www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au.

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