

Pro bono – selected referral and other schemes

National Pro Bono Resource Centre

The White House

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This role of this Centre is to support and promote pro bono services and access to such services. The Centre's website provides various resources of use to pro bono practitioners, CLCs and others. It is not a referral agency.

Referral Schemes

The following is a list of key pro bono referral schemes and some free or reduced-fee services coordinated by legal professional associations.

New South Wales

Law Society of NSW

The Pro Bono Solicitor

Law Society of New South Wales

170 Phillip Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Tel: 02 9926 0364

Fax: 02 9231 5809

Email: probonoscheme@lawsocnsw.asn.au

Web: www.lawsociety.com.au (go to "Information for the Public" then Pro Bono Scheme)

Means and merits tests applied. Application form and supporting documents required.

NSW Bar Association

NSW Bar Association Legal Assistance Referral Scheme

Selborne Chambers

Lower Ground Floor, 174 Phillip St, Sydney NSW 2000

Tel: 02 9232 4055,

Fax: 9221 1149

Email: legalassist@nswbar.asn.au

Web: www.nswbar.asn.au

Means and merits tests applied. Application form and supporting documents required.

Public Interest Law Clearing House NSW

Level 9, 299 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Tel: 02 8898 6550

Fax: 02 8898 6555

Email: pilchsecondee@piac.asn.au

Web: www.piac.asn.au/legal/pilchhelp.html

PILCH assesses requests for legal assistance for matters that are in the public interest against its eligibility criteria and refers eligible requests to its members, who provide assistance on a no charge or reduced-fee basis.

Homeless Persons' Legal Service (HPLS)

Level 9, 299 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Tel: (02) 8898 6500

Fax: (02) 8898 6555

Email: homelessproject@piac.asn.au

Web: <http://www.piac.asn.au/legal/hpls.html>

HPLS provides free legal assistance to, and advocacy on behalf of, people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Legal services are provided by pro bono lawyers at crisis accommodation centres and welfare agencies. Contact HPLS for more information.

Law Access NSW provides legal information and referrals in NSW (including to pro bono schemes where appropriate) and will provide telephone legal advice in some cases (eg where the caller is disadvantaged in their access to the law)

Tel: 1300 888 529, TTY 1300 889 529

Web: www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au

Duty Lawyer Schemes

Duty solicitor and barrister schemes operate out of some courts and tribunals in NSW.

For example, the City of Sydney Law Society and the NSW Bar Association operate duty solicitor and barrister schemes at the Downing Centre Local and District Courts in Sydney.

The Bar Association also rosters lawyers at the Industrial Relations Commission of NSW.

Tel: (02) 9232 4055 (Bar Association)

Web: <http://www.nswbar.asn.au/Public/LegalAssistance/dutybar.htm>

Victoria

Public Interest Law Clearing House (Vic) (PILCH)

PO Box 13121, Law Courts, Melbourne Vic 3000

DX 38227 Flagstaff

Tel: (03) 9225 6680

Fax: (03) 9225 6686

Email: pilch@vicbar.com.au

Web: www.pilch.org.au

PILCH is a partnership of CLCs, private law firms, the Victorian Bar, the Law Institute of Victoria, and a number of corporate members. PILCH assesses requests for assistance and refers cases of public interest to barristers and law firms, who act for the client free of charge. PILCH also administers the Victorian Bar Legal Assistance Scheme and the Law Institute of Victoria Legal Assistance Scheme and co-ordinates the Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic.

PILCH applies a merits, income and public interest test to applications for assistance.

Law Institute of Victoria Legal Assistance Scheme (LIVLAS)

PO Box 13121, Law Courts Melbourne VIC 3000

Tel: (03) 9225 6675

Fax: (03) 9225 6678

Email: livlas@vicbar.com.au

Web: www.liv.asn.au or www.pilch.org.au

LIVLAS provides advice and assistance in any area of law except personal injury provided these matters meet income and merits criteria.

Victorian Bar Legal Assistance Scheme (VBLAS)

PO Box 13121, Law Courts Melbourne VIC 3000

Tel: (03) 9225 6687

Fax: (03) 9225 6686

Email: administrator.vblas@vicbar.com.au

Web: www.vicbar.com.au or www.pilch.org.au

VBLAS provides advice in any area of law and representation in federal and state courts and tribunals provided the matter meets means and merits criteria.

Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic (HPLC)

PO Box 13121, Law Courts Melbourne VIC 3000

Tel: (03) 9225 6684

Fax: (03) 9225 6686

Email: projects.pilch@vicbar.com.au

Web: www.pilch.org.au

HPLC provides free legal assistance to, and advocacy on behalf of, people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Civil and administrative legal services are provided by pro bono lawyers at crisis accommodation centres and welfare agencies. Contact HPLC for more information.

Queensland

Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House Incorporated (QPILCH)

GPO Box 1543, Brisbane QLD 4001

Tel: (07) 3012 9773

Fax: (07) 3012 9774

Email: contact@qpilch.org.au

Web: www.qpilch.org.au

QPILCH is a research, assessment and referral service, referring public interest cases with legal merit to member barristers and law firms for pro bono assistance. QPILCH also conducts direct services through its Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic, Consumer Advice Clinic and Administrative Law Clinic.

Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic (HPLC)

GPO Box 1543, Brisbane QLD, 4001

Tel: (07) 3012 9773

Fax: (07) 3012 9774

Email: hplc@qpilch.org.au

Web: <http://www.qpilch.org.au/HPLC.htm>

Pro bono lawyers provide advice in all areas of law (excluding family or criminal law) to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness at welfare agencies and may assist clients on an ongoing basis by undertaking research and/or casework. Contact HPLC above, or see web for details of locations.

Queensland Bar Association

Chief Executive Officer

Bar Association of Queensland

Level 5, Inns of Court, 107 North Quay, Brisbane QLD 4000

Tel: (07) 3238 5100

Fax: (07) 3236 1180

Email: qldbar@qldbar.asn.au

Applications for pro bono assistance must be in writing – by letter, fax or email.

Australian Capital Territory

ACT Pro Bono Clearing House

ACT Law Society

GPO Box 1562, Canberra ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6247 5700

Fax: (02) 6247 3754

Email: email@actlawsociety.asn.au

Web: <http://www.actlawsociety.asn.au/content/public2/public2.asp>

Run by the ACT Law Society, the Clearing House will deal with public and private interest matters, subject to guidelines. By application only to the Clearing House Administrator.

The Law Society of the ACT also operates the **Legal Advice Bureau** that offers free lunch time legal advice from solicitors who volunteer their time on a roster basis from 12.30 - 2pm, Monday to Friday. Wednesday is Family Law only. By appointment only to the Law Society (02) 6247 5700.

South Australia

The Law Society of South Australia (LSSA)

124 Waymouth Street, Adelaide SA 5000

Tel: (08) 8229 0222

Fax: (08) 8231 1929

Email: email@lssa.asn.au

Web: <http://www.lssa.asn.au/>

The Law Society of South Australia does not have a pro bono referral scheme but co-ordinates the following reduced-fee services:

Legal Advisory Service at the Law Society, 5.30-7.30 pm, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 20 minutes costs \$22 (\$10 concession); and

First Interview Scheme – participating firms provide initial advice at the rate of \$33 for the first half-hour

Adelaide Legal Outreach Service (ALOS)

216 Wright Street Adelaide SA 5000

Tel: (08) 8303 5722, or (08) 8231 2850 (*Fridays only*)

Fax: (08) 8212 6457

Email: margaret.castles@adelaide.edu.au
Web: <http://www.law.adelaide.edu.au/alos/>

ALOS is a referral and legal advice service for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Operates on Fridays out of the Westcare Centre, 212 Wright St, Adelaide. Run by the University of Adelaide Law School, advice and assistance is provided by law students under the supervision of volunteer lawyers.

Western Australia

Law Access - Public Interest Law Clearing House

Ground Floor, 89 St Georges Tce Perth WA 6000

PO Box Z5345 Perth WA 6831

Tel: (08) 9322 4911

Fax: (08) 9322 7544

Email: mcole@lawsocietywa.asn.au

Web: www.lawsocietywa.asn.au/access.html

This service is operated by the Law Society of WA and refers public interest as well as non-public interest matters. Public interest matters will be given priority, but matters without 'public interest' will still be referred to participating lawyers if means and merits tests are satisfied.

The Law Society also operates a reduced fee advice service - \$25 for 20 minutes. Call the Law Society on (08) 9322 4911

The Western Australian Bar Association (Inc)

Level 23, Allendale Square, 77 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000

GPO Box C122, Perth, WA 6839

Tel: (08) 9220 0532

Fax: (08) 9325 9111

Email: info@wabar.asn.au

Web: <http://www.wabar.asn.au/>

Applications for pro bono assistance are to be made in writing – by letter or email for the attention of the President.

Human Rights Western Australia (HRWA)

HRWA is a voluntary organisation that will facilitate pro bono referrals of matters that have a public interest or human rights test case focus. HRWA can be contacted by fax.

Fax: (08) 9272 8866

Northern Territory

The Law Society of the Northern Territory

GPO Box 2388, Darwin. NT

Tel: (08) 8981 5104

Fax: (08) 8941 1623

Email: lawsoc@lawsocnt.asn.au,

Web: www.lawsocnt.asn.au

The Northern Territory does not have a pro bono referral scheme. The Law Society operates a 'First Interview Scheme' whereby participating law firms agree to provide a first half-hour consultation for \$77. Contact the law society for a list of firms.

Court pro bono referral schemes

Some courts have established pro bono schemes under their rules to provide assistance to self-represented litigants. For example, a judge in the Federal Court (pursuant to Order 80 Federal Court Rules) or a Magistrate in the Federal Magistrates Court (FMC)(under Part 12 of the FMC Rules) may decide that a litigant should be referred for pro bono assistance, in which case a Registrar will arrange the referral. This is most likely to occur in human rights and refugee cases. Schemes also operate in the Supreme Court of NSW (Part 66A Supreme Court Rules) and the District Court of NSW (Part 28C District Court Rules). For information on some of these schemes see *The Australian Pro Bono Manual* Part 4.2, available online at http://www.nationalprobono.org.au/probonomanual/ProBono_Manual_04.htm#2

Prepared by the National Pro Bono Resource Centre