Community Info Hub

VolunteeringACT

# ACT Legal Services Guide

**This guide has been prepared by VolunteeringACT.**

**Visit the Community Info Hub at the Griffin Centre, 20 Genge Street. You can also contact us via phone (02) 6248 7988 or email us at info@volunteeringact.org.au**

**Our Community Information Guides can be accessed at www.volunteeringact.org.au**

**Information in this guide is current as of 30 October 2026.**

## Legal Advice Helplines

### Legal Aid Helpline

**Phone:** 1300 654 314
**Service Hours:** Mon-Thurs 8.30am-7pm, Fri 8.30am-5pm
**Police Apprehension / After-Hours Advice:** Legal Aid ACT provides an after-hours advice service for individuals apprehended by police. Ask police at the station to contact the duty lawyer service.

### Legal Aid: Domestic and Family Violence Unit

**Phone:** (02) 6207 1874
**Service Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm
**Email:** dv@legalaidact.org.au

### Aboriginal Legal Service ACT/NSW

**Phone:** 1800 765 767
**Service Hours:** Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

### Youth Law Centre (under 25s)

**Phone:** 1300 654 314 for specialized legal help for young people.

*If you are in an emergency or life-threatening situation, call the Police on 000 for emergency help.*

**This information guide is an ACT Government funded initiative.**

ACT Government

# Community Legal Services

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

**Phone**: (02) 6249 8488.
1800-765-767 for police charges and court matters.
1800-733-233 for care and protection and family law matters.
**Address:** Level 3, 17-21 University Ave, Canberra, ACT 2600
Provides legal support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Canberra and Queanbeyan. and surrounding regions. This includes legal information and advice, as well as court representation. The ALS also manages the Community Justice Programs.
**E-mail**: canberra@alsnswact.org.au
**Website**: www.alsnswact.org.au

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

**Phone:** (02) 6274 0300
**Office Address:** Level 4,1 Farrell Place, Canberra City, ACT 2601
**Postal Address:** GPO Box 1562, Canberra, ACT 2601
**Operating hours**: Mon-Fri 9am-12:30pm. Please use the website for initial contact.
The ACT Pro Bono Clearing House matches people and organisations in genuine need of pro bono legal assistance with either a law firm or a Community Legal Centre that may be able to help. However, members are not obliged to accept a referral, so they cannot guarantee that legal assistance will be provided in all matters that meet the eligibility criteria. The eligibility criteria and application form can be found on the website.
**Email:** mail@actlawsociety.asn.au or pbch@actlawsociety.asn.au
**Website:** www.actlawsociety.asn.au/ for-the-public/legal-help/clearing-house

## ANU Students Association

**Phone:** (02) 6125 2444
**Address:** Di Riddell Student Centre, Level 2/154 University Ave, Acton, ACT 2601
**Operating Hours:** Mon-Fri 9am-5pm (closed public holidays)
Free and confidential legal advice to currently enrolled ANU students. Student assistance and legal appointments available by request.
**Email:** sa.admin@anu.edu.au
**Website:** https://anusa.com.au/services/legal/

## Canberra Community Law

**Phone:** (02) 6218 7900

**Address:** level 5, 10 Rudd St, Canberra City, ACT 2600

**Postal Address:** GPO Box 547 Canberra, ACT 2601
Free legal advice information and advocacy to disadvantaged and vulnerable people in Canberra.

Contact to make an appointment.

**Email:** info@canberracommunitylaw.org.au

**Website:** www.canberracommunitylaw.org.au

**In addition to the general service listed above, Canberra Community Law provides the following specialised services, all accessible by calling (02) 6218 7900**

- **Dhurrawang Aboriginal Human Rights Program**

Legal help and representation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with housing, Centrelink, and race discrimination matters.
**Website:** https://canberracommunitylaw.org.au/our-legal-services/dhurrawang-aboriginal-human-rights-program/

- **Disability Discrimination Law**

Free legal service assisting people who have experienced discrimination as recognised in legislation.
**Website:** https://canberracommunitylaw.org.au/our-legal-services/disability-discrimination-law/

- **Housing Law**

Housing information and advocacy including when dealing with a community housing provider in the ACT. The Public Housing Duty Lawyer is on duty at the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) each Thursday.
**Website:** https://canberracommunitylaw.org.au/our-legal-services/housing-law/

- **Night Time Legal Advice Service**

Service of Canberra community law. Offer information, referral and one-off legal advice. Available via phone Tues 6pm-8pm. Assist with issues other than immigration and refugee legal issues.
**Email:** NTLAS@canberracommunitylaw.org.au

- **Law Public Housing Duty Lawyer**

Free, independent and confidential duty lawyer service at the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) each Thursday for the residential tenancy public housing list.
**Website:** https://canberracommunitylaw.org.au/our-legal-services/public-housing-duty-lawyer/

- **Social Security Law**

Advice and support for matters relating to Centrelink and Social Security people. Offers legal and social work assessment with possibility of case management.
**Website:** https://canberracommunitylaw.org.au/our-legal-services/social-security-law/

- **Socio-Legal Practice Clinic**

Provides intensive social work services and support for people over 18 years who have urgent housing, disability discrimination, and Centrelink problems, are vulnerable and have no support.
**Website:** https://canberracommunitylaw.org.au/our-legal-services/social-security-law/

- **Street Law**

**Phone:**1800 787 529
**Drop in:** Level 1, 21 Barry Drive, Turner
Street Law helps people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. A person is experiencing homelessness or is at risk of homelessness if they do not have adequate access to safe and secure housing including access to adequate amenities or housing is unsafe. Help also available to clients living in Queanbeyan.
**Email:** streetlaw@canberracommunitylaw.org.au

## Care Financial Counselling and Consumer Law Centre (CLC)

**Phone:** (02) 6143 0044
**Address:** Ground Floor 19-23 Moore St, Turner, ACT 2612.
**Hours:** Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9am-5pm, Wed: 9am- 6:30pm
A community legal centre providing free legal advice and assistance on consumer and credit law, contracts, fair trading, debt, bankruptcy, insurance, and other consumer related disputes.
**Clinic hours:** every second Friday from 9:30-12pm by appointment
**Email:** clc.admin@carefcs.org
**Website:** www.carefcs.org/consumer-law-centre

## Defined Benefits Information Service (DBIS)

**Phone:** 1300 209 642
**Service Hours:** Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Location: 19/23 Moore Street, Turner ACT 2612
A free confidential service operated by Care Consumer Law for the ACT Motor Accident Injuries Commission. It provides information, legal advice, and support regarding access to defined benefits under the ACT Motor Accident Injuries (MAI) Scheme. Includes assistance with hospital bills, treatment and recover costs following a motor accident.
**Email:** dbis@carefcs.org
**Website:** www.carefcs.org/dbis

## Domestic Violence Crisis Service

**Phone:** (02) 6280 0900

**Service Hours:** Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Court Advocacy Program provides support, information, advocacy, safety planning and referrals during the court process for those that have experienced domestic and family violence. The Court Advocacy Team can help with:

- applying or family violence orders
- connecting with solicitors and support during meetings
- help with victim impact statements
- provide information about what will happen and what to expect if you need to go to court
- referrals to other support services as needed

**Email:** admin@dvcs.org.au

**Website:** https://www.dvcs.org.au/

## Domestic Violence and Personal Protection Order Unit

**Text:** 0458 737 732

**Call:** 1800 737 732

Located at the ACT Magistrates Court. Walk-in service – no appointments needed.

**Website:** https://1800respect.org.au/contact-us

## Environmental Defenders Office

**Phone:** 1800 626 239

**Postal Address:** GPO Box 488, Canberra, ACT 2601

**Service Hours:** Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Independent community legal centre specialising in environmental law. EDO lawyers provide up to 15 minutes of free legal advice on certain planning and environmental law matters.

**Email:** canberra@edoact.org.au

**Website:** www.edoact.org.au

## Legal Aid ACT

**Phone:** (02) 6243 3411

**Legal Aid Helpline:** 1300 654 314

**Office Address**: 2 Allsop St, Canberra, ACT 2601

**Postal Address:** GPO Box 512, Canberra, ACT 2601

**Service Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm

Legal Aid ACT provides free or low-cost legal help to people who are socially or economically disadvantaged, or who cannot afford a private lawyer including advice and assistance regarding issues in civil, criminal, and family law. Legal representation is also available (means and merits tested). Legal aid also provides free community programs such Community Legal Education and free information sessions on family law.

**Website:** https://www.legalaidact.org.au/

**In addition to the general service listed above, Legal Aid ACT provides the following specialised services:**

- **Domestic and Family Violence Unit**

**Phone:** (02) 6207 1874
**Helpline:** 1300 654 314
**Service Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm
**Email:** DV@legalaidact.org.au

- **Migration Clinic**

**Phone:** 1300 654 314
**TIS:** 131 450 (interpretation service)
A specialist service within Legal Aid ACT providing legal advice and information about refugee law and other immigration matters.
**E-mail:** migration@legalaidact.org.au

- **Older Persons ACT Legal Service (OPALS)**

**Phone:** (02) 6243 3436
**National Elder Abuse Hotline:** 1800 ELDER Help (1800 353 374)
**Service Hours:** Mon-Thurs 8:30am-7pm, Fri 8:30-5pm
OPALS is a specialist service within Legal Aid ACT which aims to provide assistance to older people in the Canberra Region with legal problems.
**E-mail:** opals@legalaidact.org.au

- **Small Business Clinic**

**Phone:** 1300 654 314
**Office Address:** 2 Allsop St, Canberra, ACT 2601
**Service Hours:** Thurs 2pm-5pm
Provide small business operators with free information and advice regarding their business. They can give legal advice on winding down a small business, small business leases, understanding employment contracts, debts and general regulations for small business operators.
**E-mail:** legalaid@legalaidact.org.au

- **Tenancy Advisory Service (TAS)**

**Phone:** 1300 402 512
**Postal Address:** GPO Box 512 Canberra, ACT 2601
**Service Hours:** Mon-Thurs 8.30am-7pm, Fri 8.30am-5pm
Our mission is to assist and empower residential tenants and occupants of the ACT to build long-term independence and housing security by providing a wide range of services.
**E-mail:** TAS@legalaidact.org.au
**Live chat:** https://tak.to/tasact

## Youth Law Centre

**Phone:** (02) 6173 5410
**Office Address:** 2 Allsop St, Canberra, ACT 2601
**Drop-in service available:** Mon-Fri 10am-3pm
Free legal service for young people aged 12-25, who may need assistance or information on a range of legal matters.
**Email:** contact@youthlawact.org.au

## Monaro-Hume Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service

**Phone:** (02) 6299 3835
**Service Hours:** Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Support to women in Queanbeyan & SE NSW before, during and after court obtained ADVO's and referrals to other services.
**Email:** wdvcas@molonglo.net.au
**Website:** www.molonglo.net.au/womens-domestic-violence-advocacy-court-service/

## University of Canberra Citizen Centred Justice Legal Clinic (CCJ)

**Phone:** (02) 6201 2351
**Hours:** Mon-Fri 9-5pm, book a face-to-face or telephone appointment during business hours
CCJ provides pro bono legal support, assistance, advocacy, and referral services for clients referred from University of Canberra students and staff, as well as on an ad hoc basis to other vulnerable clients who may be referred to the Clinic from other sources.
**Email:** ccj@canberra.edu.au
**Website:** https://www.canberra.edu.au/on-campus/health-and-support/medical-counselling/citizen-centred-justice-clinic

## Women's Legal Centre

**Phone:** (02) 6257 4377
**Helpline:** 1800 634 669
**Postal Address:** GPO Box 1726 Canberra City, ACT 2601
**Intake and Advice Line:** Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Provides free, confidential advice to women on legal issues and community services in the Canberra region.
**Email:** admin@wlc.org.au
**Website:** https://wlc.org.au

# Community Info Hub

VolunteeringACT




Contact us today to

- Find out more about these and other community services in the Canberra region.
- Add or update your services in our info guides.

**Email**
info@volunteeringact.org.au

**Phone Number**
02 6248 7988

**Website**
www.volunteeringact.org.au

**Opening hours**
Monday to Friday
10am - 4pm

**Location**
Ground floor, Griffin Centre, Genge Street, Canberra City, ACT 2601

