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Where can I find a lawyer?

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre (WBAWLC)

WBAWLC is a community organisation run by Aboriginal women for Aboriginal women and girls under the age of 18 and boys under the age of 16. They give free legal advice on most things other than criminal law. Freecall: **1800 686 587**

Community Legal Centres (CLCs)

Some CLCs are based in your local area and work locally, and others might provide services state-wide. Most CLCs can give advice about many different types of civil law and some do criminal law as well. Some CLCs may have a free number to call.

Aboriginal Legal Services (ALSs)

Aboriginal Legal Services offer free legal services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders only. ALSs have offices around the state and mostly focus on criminal law.

Sydney ALS can be contacted on **(02) 9318 2122**

Legal Aid Commission of NSW

Legal Aid is a government organisation which offers legal help for many different types of legal problems including civil and criminal law.

They have a freecall number for people under 18 which you can ring for some information and advice: **1800 101 810**

Law Access NSW

Law access is a government organisation which offers a free telephone service. They can provide information and referral to services **1300 888 529**

If you need legal advice call:

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre

1800 686 587

Legal Aid Youth Hotline for under 18s

1800 101 810

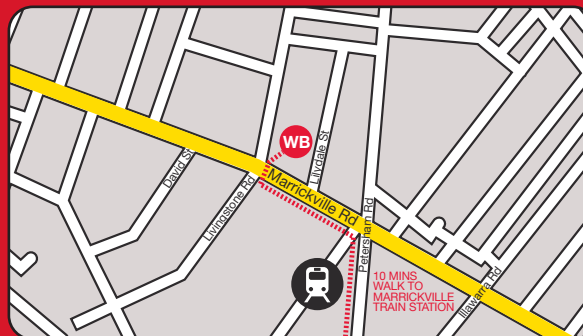
Law Access NSW

1300 888 529

Aboriginal Legal Service

(02) 9318 2122

NEED A LAWYER



This Factsheet was produced by Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre (WBAWLC) and is only meant as a guide to NSW law and cannot replace legal advice. If you have a legal problem you should speak to a lawyer for some legal advice. WBAWLC excludes liability for any loss suffered by any person which results from the use of or reliance upon the information contained in this Factsheet.

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Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre is funded by the NSW Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Factsheets reprinted with funding from the NSW Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Cover art: Jade Quayle

www.wirringabaiya.org.au



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NEED A LAWYER

Types of law

A lawyer is somebody who has studied and knows about the law.

There are different types of law such as

Criminal Law and **Civil Law**:

- ☞ Criminal law is when someone has been charged with an offence eg. assault, theft or robbery
- ☞ Civil law involves things like discrimination, credit and debt, tenancy, victims compensation or divorce and separation.

Types of lawyers

The word lawyer is used for solicitors and barristers. They have studied law and have a special certificate that says they can 'practise' as a solicitor or barrister.

A **solicitor** is a lawyer that most people deal with. A solicitor can:

- ☞ answer questions about the law
- ☞ give legal advice and information
- ☞ get documents ready for you in court
- ☞ appear for you in court.

A **barrister** is a lawyer who is an expert in court work and different areas of law (they sometimes wear the wigs and long black gowns). You would get a barrister if you have a matter that was very serious or very complicated.

When should I speak to a lawyer?

You should speak to a lawyer:

- ☞ if you have a question about your legal rights (lawyers are happy to answer questions, and Wirringa Baiya has a free number you can call just to ask questions)
- ☞ if you think you have a legal problem
- ☞ if you have to go to court
- ☞ before you answer any questions from the police
- ☞ if you're in an unsafe situation and you want to know how the law can protect you.

Dealing with a lawyer

A lawyer should:

- ☞ use plain language and use examples to explain things to you
- ☞ give you time to ask any questions
- ☞ answer any questions you have
- ☞ be polite and respect you and your culture
- ☞ explain what they can and can't do for you
- ☞ explain what needs to happen next
- ☞ keep you up to date on what has happened
- ☞ NOT do or say anything about your case to another person unless you agree. This is called confidentiality.

You should:

- ☞ ask questions if you don't understand something and keep asking until you understand
- ☞ listen to what your lawyer says
- ☞ be polite
- ☞ feel comfortable with your lawyer
- ☞ NOT be afraid to tell your story or your problem
- ☞ NOT tell lies.

Turn over...