



2021

# Aboriginal Family Law Conference

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WORKBOOK

2021

**Aboriginal  
Family Law  
Conference**

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WORKBOOK

## Acknowledgements

Funded by the Australian Government, the Greater Sydney Family Law Pathways Network is a coordinated network of service providers operating within the broader Family Law system in the Greater Sydney region.

The aim of the Network is to foster dialogue and collaboration between organisations with a view to helping separated families access services.

By encouraging collaborative referrals and enhancing the understanding of available services, the Network represents an essential component of the Government's commitment to an accessible Justice System that meets the needs of Australian families.

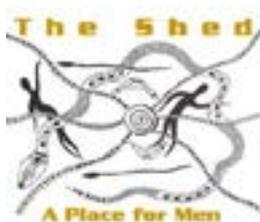
## Special Acknowledgements

This publication has been produced with funding from the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department.

Thank you to the members of the Aboriginal Family Law Pathways Committee and Greater Sydney Family Law Pathways Network committee members along with representatives from various Aboriginal networks across Sydney for their passion, dedication and assistance.

Special thank you to CLC NSW and Michelle Hayward and Kyron McGrath from ALS for assistance in updating this workbook.

For further information, please contact Greater Sydney Family Law Pathways Network on 0400 919 098.



GREATER  
SYDNEY



An Australian Government Initiative

# Foreword

The Aboriginal Family Law Conference follows the State-wide Conference held in 2017. The event planning and implementation has involved the Aboriginal Family Law Pathways committee, which is made up of representatives of several services including:

- Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
- Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation
- Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT
- The Shed
- Relationships Australia NSW
- Uniting Counselling & Mediation
- Women's Legal Service NSW
- Legal Aid NSW
- Community Restorative Centre
- Community Legal Centres NSW
- South West Sydney Legal Centre

The primary focus of the conference is to provide legal education for the Aboriginal Community to look at ways to improve Aboriginal people's access to Family Law services and Post-Separation Family Support service.

## Introduction to the Aboriginal Family Law Conference

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we live and work. This conference occurs on the lands of the people of the Eora Nation and we pay our respect to the many different language groups and mobs of the Eora Nation.

We recognise the social, cultural, and economic context many Aboriginal communities, families and peoples exist in 2021. We recognise the history of dispossession in Australia, the impact of the Stolen Generations; and the legacy of our history in outcomes Aboriginal peoples experience today in the Justice system.

We are overrepresented in the criminal justice system, overrepresented in the child protection system and underrepresented in the family law system, despite making up a very small percentage of the overall population in this country.

We recognise the work, advocacy, and resilience of Aboriginal communities in working to remedy the generally poor outcomes for Aboriginal people in the Justice System today.

The purpose of the Aboriginal Family Law Conference is not only about improving Aboriginal peoples access to the Family Law and Child Protection system, but it is also about how to utilise those systems to improve outcomes for our children and ensure they get the best start in life.

This includes strategies to encourage parents to engage with support services and deal with issues they may have that will improve their family life. Aboriginal families dealing with the court systems are at a critical point where services need to offer culturally appropriate early intervention supports and provide a safe space to engage with families to work towards improving the lives of our kids.

We have been privileged to be joined by representatives from the Federal Circuit Court of Australia, the Family Court of Australia, the Children’s Court of NSW, the Local Court of NSW, the NSW District Court along with representatives from the Family Relationship Services sector, Department of Communities and Justice, Wirringa Baiya, Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation, Community Restorative Centre, Illawarra Koori Men’s Support Group, Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW / ACT) Ltd, Legal Aid NSW and the Office of the Children’s Guardian.

This is an opportunity for the Aboriginal community to come together to consider and explore all options available for the care and welfare of our kids and make our own decisions about the care and welfare of Aboriginal kids focusing on key factors such as safety, social and emotional wellbeing, environment, and culture.

In this booklet you will find resources and services to help assist your communities in navigating the family law and child protection systems. Please take a moment to read about the services available and consider which may be of benefit to you, your families and your communities. There is space for you to make notes about what you learn at the conference and things you might find interesting.

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# Conference Program

## Day 1: Wednesday 23 June - Crime and Care & Protection

**Facilitators:** Kyron McGrath and Melissa Merritt

*Hemisphere Room, Level 1 Skye Hotel Parramatta 30 Hunter St, Parramatta NSW*

|       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:45  | Welcome and Opening – Kinchela Boys Home Survivors                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 9:00  | Deputy Chief Justice McClelland - Introduction of Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation                                                                                                                         |
| 9:10  | Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10:00 | Magistrate Fiona Toose - Update: what is happening in Local Courts in NSW                                                                                                                                           |
| 10:30 | Morning Tea - Hemisphere Lounge Area, Level 1                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 11:00 | Community Restorative Centre – Melissa Merritt & Gail Gray                                                                                                                                                          |
| 11:45 | Illawarra Koori Men's Support Group - Uncle Gerald Brown, James Mulholland & Michael Willis Brothers Against Domestic Violence (BAD V)                                                                              |
| 12:30 | Lunch - Bayti Restaurant, Ground Floor, Skye Hotel                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1:15  | Judge Dina Yehia - Walama Court                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1:45  | Office of the Children's Guardian                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2:15  | Department of Communities and Justice - Catherine Samuels and Skye Hipwell                                                                                                                                          |
| 2:45  | Afternoon Tea - Hemisphere Lounge Area, Level 1                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 3:15  | Magistrate Sue Duncombe - Youth Koori Court                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 4:00  | Summary of the Day and Reflections                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 4:30  | The Glen Men's Dance Performance                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 5:00  | 1 hour break before dinner                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 6:00  | Dinner - Hemisphere Room, Level 1                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 6:30  | Panel Discussion during dinner on Indigenous Children's Cultural Rights - Judge Matthew Myers, Janet Carmichael, Judge Peter Johnstone, Rick Welsh, Deb Swan and Petrice Manton. Facilitated by Shaquille Robinson. |

## Day 2: Thursday 24 June - Family Law

**Facilitators:** Rick Welsh and Christine Robinson

*Hemisphere Room, Level 1 Skye Hotel Parramatta 30 Hunter St, Parramatta NSW*

|       |                                                                                                                  |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:45  | Welcome                                                                                                          |
| 9:00  | Sonja Stewart - CEO Law Society of NSW                                                                           |
| 9:30  | Robyn Sexton – Former Judge of the Federal Circuit Court – Introduction to the Our Kids Film                     |
| 9:45  | Screening of the Film ‘Our Kids’                                                                                 |
| 10:00 | Judge Elizabeth Boyle – Federal Circuit Court of Australia                                                       |
| 10:30 | Morning Tea - Hemisphere Lounge Area, Level 1                                                                    |
| 11:00 | Karen Barker and Jennifer Richards – Family Courts - Role of Family Consultants                                  |
| 11:30 | Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women’s Legal Centre – Helen Taranto and Kalarnna Hardy                                |
| 12:00 | Legal Aid NSW Early Intervention Unit                                                                            |
| 12:30 | Lunch - Bayti Restaurant, Ground Floor, Skye Hotel                                                               |
| 1:15  | Lauren Barr, Charmaine Weldon, Louise Elkington – Relationships Australia NSW Walking Together Mediation Program |
| 1:45  | Rick Welsh and Shaquille Robinson - Cultural Planning                                                            |
| 2:15  | Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT                                                                                 |
| 2:45  | Afternoon Tea - Hemisphere Lounge Area, Level 1                                                                  |
| 3:00  | Summary and Recommendations                                                                                      |
| 4:00  | Close                                                                                                            |

\* Conference program is subject to change after this workbook has been finalised

## Aim of Conference

This conference aims to look at the three main areas of law that regulate Aboriginal families in NSW and show how these different legal systems interact to produce known negative outcomes for Aboriginal families and kids reflected in statistics.

With the assistance of the Judiciary, lawyers and legal services, we will look at these legal systems and work together towards better understandings and outcomes for our families, kids and communities.

There are three areas of laws that most commonly affect Aboriginal families (sometimes all at the same time);

- The Criminal Law system, particularly Family and Domestic Violence laws – Local Court.
- The Care and Protection (DCJ) laws – Children’s Court which can be in a Local Court.
- The Family Law system – Federal Circuit Court or Family Court (to be merged in mid-to-late 2021).

## Who decides which court?

Which Court a family goes to depends on who starts the proceedings and what the proceedings are about.

- Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (“ADVO”) proceedings are public law matters that are usually commenced by the State Police and often have associated criminal proceedings. Police always start criminal proceedings (which go to a Local Court).
- Care and Protection proceedings are also public law matters that are usually started by the state child protection agency responsible for investigating whether a child is in need of care and protection. In NSW the Department of Communities and Justice (“DCJ”) – formerly known as FaCS or DoCS - is responsible for investigating child welfare complaints, known as a child may be ‘at risk of significant harm’.
- Family Law parenting proceedings are private disputes that are usually commenced by a parent following separation or a relative who has been involved in the care of the kids in their family.

## Criminal Law - Family and Domestic Violence

- Orders are made by a Local Court for the protection of a named person or person/s through providing conditions around and/or limiting contact between the person or person/s and the defendant (usually intimate partners or family members).
- Orders can include kids as a protected person and a defendant parent may have to stay away from their kids.
- If the Police are asking the court for the Order, they tell the court what Orders they think should be made, not what Order the protected person and/or the defendant say should be made.
- Final Orders are usually made for a period of 2 years.

## State Welfare - Care and Protection Law

- Parental Responsibility for kids can be allocated by an order to the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, a parent, or another suitable person. Parental Responsibility can be given to a combination of these persons (joint parent responsibility) or to one of them (sole parental responsibility).
- Parental responsibility includes the practical arrangements for kids, such as where kids live and who they spend time with, as well as power to make decisions about their care, welfare, and development.
- Final orders are usually made until a child or young person turns 18 years of age;
- Contact between kids and their family is sometimes by way of a Court order but is usually set out in a Care Plan (which is decided by DCJ);
- Unless in a Court order, the contact arrangements are not legally enforceable. You can apply to rescind or vary a contact Court order if it is not being complied with or you want to change it;
- Once final orders have been made, the leave of the Court is required to change those orders;
- You can apply to Legal Aid NSW for a conference with the DCJ and/or Out of Home Care agencies to review contact (called Contact Mediation).

When our kids go into care, even kinship care, the carer is expected to meet the day to day care needs of kids placed with them; they receive an allowance from DCJ to do this.

This often means that our kids' relationship with their parents, families and Aboriginal communities they come from are managed by DCJ or an Out of Home Care Service.

## Family Law

- Family Law focusses on the rights of our kids and the responsibilities parents have towards their kids. Family Law Parenting Orders address things such as who has responsibility for making important decisions about the kids (parental responsibility), who kids live with or spend time with and who they communicate with.
- Parental Responsibility is about making important decisions for kids, including their cultural upbringing, education and major health decisions. Parental responsibility is not about who the kids live with or spend time with.
- Parental Responsibility can be given to one person (sole parental responsibility) or shared equally between two or more persons (equal shared parental responsibility).
- You do not have to be a parent to access the family law system and a grandparent, aunt, uncle or a relative who has been involved in the care of kids in their family can apply to the family law courts for parenting orders.
- Family Law provides for different amounts of time spent safely with both parents and other relatives, with the focus being to build meaningful relationships and not just spend time.
- Parenting Orders about who the kids live with and spend time with are legally enforceable.
- Parents and carers of kids are encouraged to work together.
- It is not unusual for parents to come back to court or renegotiate arrangements if the Parenting Orders no longer work as there has been a significant change in circumstances.

## Time for Change

The statistics show us that Aboriginal families and decisions about the welfare and care of our kids are still largely being dealt with through the public law systems of the Criminal Courts and Children's Court. We can change this through learning and understanding our legal rights and responsibilities and cause change to the way we deal with the legal system and the way the legal system deals with us.

Aboriginal people know what is best for our kids. We have the strength and resilience necessary to deal with the issues caused by inter-generational trauma, over-incarceration and marginalisation affecting our families today. We can create and demand Aboriginal led services that we can safely engage with to support us to look after our kids, on our own.

Part of this change is learning how to access and effectively use the Family Law system to support the existing strengths of Aboriginal families and communities. The family law system, when accessed effectively, nurtures positive outcomes for Aboriginal families through self-determination and keeping our kids with their family and community. This self-determination is essential in an environment of over representation of Aboriginal people in the Care and Protection and Criminal Law systems.

For the kids that remain in out of home care, we need to do the best we can to maintain connection to community and family so they have the best prospects they can in an out of home situation.





# Program Day 1: Crime



Day 1 - 9:10am

## Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation

Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation (KBHAC) was established by survivors of Kinchela Aboriginal Boys Training Home (KBH), a ‘home’ run by the NSW Government for over 50 years to house Aboriginal boys forcibly removed from their families.

KBHAC has developed a unique approach to its governance and healing described as Survivor led. The approach to organisational governance and practice built on and informed by the guidance and unique insights of survivors and which, contributes to the social and emotional wellbeing of survivors, their communities, and cultures. The KBH survivors and KBHAC own their stories and healing, leading from a place of self-determination.

The vision of KBHAC is to improve the social, emotional, cultural and spiritual wellbeing of the KBH survivors and their families in a meaningful way. This takes a strength-based focus on healing persistent grief, trauma and intergenerational trauma as experienced by each KBH survivor and his family.

KBHAC is committed to empowering, positive, healthy peer support models that enable greater social inclusion in community life. These models address the rebuilding and strengthening of identity and family structures.



## Notes

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Day 1 - 10:00am

### **Magistrate Fiona Toose - Update: what is happening in Local Courts in NSW**

Magistrate Fiona Toose was admitted as a Solicitor in NSW in 1983 and has practised Law continuously from 1983 to 2002 in private and corporate practice as well as presiding on Tribunals.

In 2002, Fiona was appointed a Magistrate of the Local Court of New South Wales, and is presently presiding at Penrith Local Court. During her time on the Local Court Bench Magistrate Toose has sat at a number of locations including Walgett and Lightning Ridge for many years, introducing Circle Sentencing at those locations and presiding on many family court matters at those locations. With Magistrate Ian McRae, Magistrate Toose introduced Circle Sentencing to Mt Druitt Local Court where she presided for five years.

Whilst at Mt Druitt, Magistrate Toose worked with Rick Welsh of the Men's Shed at Emerton and Mary Gleeson Solicitor (formerly of Legal Aid NSW and now Registrar of the Children's Court at Parramatta) on the Domestic Violence/ Family Law Pilot Scheme seeking to provide an effective and holistic solution to parties' issues and arranged for the Registry at Mt Druitt to accept and process family law applications with respect to parenting and property.

Magistrate Toose is a promoter of the Family Law jurisdiction of the Local Court as a speedy and effective way to resolve parties family law issues with respect to parenting and property and has sat and continues to sit on Law Society Committees pertaining to family law issues. Magistrate Toose has presented papers to the Aboriginal Family Law Conference many times over the years and is delighted to present her paper to the 2021 Conference.



#### **Notes**

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Day 1 - 11:00am



**Community Restorative Centre – Melissa Merritt and Gail Gray**

The Community Restorative Centre (CRC) is the lead organisation in NSW providing specialist support to people on release from prison, and their families. All CRC programs aim to reduce crime and break entrenched cycles of criminal justice system involvement.

**The Miranda Project** supports women in contact with or at risk of contact with the criminal justice system who have been impacted by domestic and family violence. It aims to halt the increase in the NSW women’s prison population and reduce the risk of violence through the provision of genuine support and the development of alternative pathways within the community.

Miranda Project is collocated with Penrith Women’s Health Centre (PWHC) to provide ease of access to services and co-located with other organisations to provide holistic wrap around supports.

At the core of the Miranda Project is the provision of trauma informed holistic and inclusive support, case management and referral. Skilled caseworkers work with women to address a broad range of issues and be the interface to connect women to services to have their needs met.

**The Pathways Home Program** is an outreach case management support program for young people aged 10-24, residing in Western Sydney who have been involved with the criminal justice system and need support for drug and/or alcohol misuse.

The Pathways Home Program works with young people whilst in custody and post-release in the community. Transitional workers offer pre-release support, planning, and long-term holistic case management in the community.

Pathways Home supports young people in Parramatta, Cumberland, Blacktown and The Hills Shire. The Program recognise the hurdles many young people face on their release from custody. A history of involvement with the criminal justice system can make it difficult to access support services. Workers can visit and support young people in correctional or juvenile justice centres on a pre-release basis, and on an outreach basis in the community.

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Day 1 - 11:45am

**Illawarra Koori Men’s Support Group -  
Uncle Gerald Brown, James Mulholland  
& Michael Willis - Brothers Against  
Domestic Violence (BAD V)**



The Brothers Against Domestic Violence or BAD V program is delivered by the IKMSG on a weekly basis on Tuesdays. The program was established in 2007. It focuses on the prevention of violent behaviour and the impacts of these behaviours on the individual, family and community. BAD V is a holistic program that addresses the health and family concerns of Aboriginal male. It aims to create better emotional, spiritual and cultural wellbeing for men, their families and the community by empowering them to regain their dignity, determination, health and wellbeing. The project aims to: improve access to all community and government services; educate Aboriginal male youth; and give men a safe place to discuss their issues.

BADV is a holistic program which seeks to enhance male emotional, spiritual and cultural wellbeing by equipping them with skills to control and manage behaviours that lead to acts of violence. The program is targeted to local Aboriginal men of all ages, and include recent parolees who are particularly vulnerable as they have limited social supports and resources.



**Notes**

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Day 1 - 1:15pm

**Judge Dina Yehia - NSW District Court and Walama Court**

Judge Yehia SC was admitted as a solicitor in 1989. Her first position as a solicitor was with the Western Aboriginal Legal Service from 1990 until 1996. In that capacity she represented thousands of Aboriginal people in the Local, District and Supreme Court.

Her Honour was also the solicitor appearing on behalf of the Boney family in the hearings before the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. In her time in Western New South Wales she was regularly involved with community initiatives concerned with reducing the incarceration rate of indigenous people.

Her Honour continued to appear on behalf of Aboriginal people in various jurisdictions including in the High Court in the case of *Bugmy v The Queen* in 2013. She argued that the High Court should endorse an approach to sentencing indigenous offenders similar to that approved by the Canadian Supreme Court, namely recognising the unique systemic factors caused by a history of dispossession and colonisation and how that history has led to the socio economic disadvantages impacting on some communities today.

She is the Chairperson of the Walama Court Working Group. The Working Party has submitted a proposal to the NSW Government calling for the Walama Court to be established within the NSW District Court. The proposal is to have a list that deals with sentencing matters involving indigenous offenders. The model includes the involvement of Elders and respected community members together with a holistic approach to treatment of the participant.

**Notes**

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# What is an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO)?

An Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) is a Court order made to protect a person (the Protected Person) against acts of violence such as physical assault, non-physical abuse such as harassment or intimidation, or damage or threatened damage to property by another person (the Defendant).

The Defendant and the Protected Person/s must be in a domestic relationship. Persons in a domestic relationship are persons who are related (including a parent and child), living together, in an intimate relationship or have previously been in this situation. An ADVO can also be made between your current partner and your ex-partner.

The ADVO itself does not give the Defendant a criminal record. However, a breach of the ADVO is a criminal offence and the police may arrest and charge a Defendant who breaches the order.

## How is an ADVO made?

An ADVO is usually made by application to the Court (usually the Local Court) by the Police but can also be made by a guardian under a guardianship order or a private individual.

There are different rules about an ADVO where a Protected Person is a child and the Police MUST apply for an ADVO to protect a child if they are, have been or likely to be a victim of physical or sexual abuse, emotional or psychological harm or harm to their physical development.

## Orders made by the court in ADVO matters

An ADVO must include orders which prohibit behaviour of the Defendant known as mandatory orders. These are Orders 1 (a), (b) and (c) on the ADVO. The mandatory orders or orders about behaviour includes that the Defendant must not assault or threaten, harass or intimidate or damage property of the Protected Person.

If the ADVO only contains the Mandatory Orders, the Defendant can continue to live with and communicate with the Protected Person.

The court or police may make a number of additional orders about contact with the Protected Person, family law and parenting, about where the Defendant can go and about weapons of the Defendant.

If the Protected Person and the Defendant share the care of kids, then the Court may make Order 6, which provides that:

You must not approach the protected person or contact them in any way, unless the contact is:

- a) through a lawyer, or
- b) to attend accredited or court-approved counselling, mediation and/or conciliation, or
- c) as ordered by this or another court about contact with child/ren, or
- d) as agreed in writing between you and the parent(s) about contact with child/ren, or
- e) as agreed in writing between you and the parent(s) and the person with parental responsibility for the child/ren about contact with the child/ren.

## **Is it common for Children to be named on ADVOs?**

Children can be specifically named on an ADVO or can be covered by an ADVO as a person with whom the victim has a domestic relationship.

If children under 16 are specifically named on the ADVO or an order is taken out for their protection only, that application can only be made by a police officer.

It is much more likely these days for children to be named as protected persons on an ADVO. Sometimes children are added to ADVO's as a matter of course.

If a child is specifically named on an ADVO then an application to have that child's name removed can only be made by police.

## **Family Law and ADVOs**

Parenting orders are affected by ADVOs made after the date of the Parenting orders. This means that you **MUST** comply with the orders of the ADVO even if this makes it impossible to comply with the parenting orders. If the ADVO prevents you from attending the home of your ex-partner but you are to collect the kids from your ex-partner's home, then you must make arrangements to collect the kids somewhere else or for someone to collect them on your behalf.

You **MUST NOT** breach the ADVO and should seek the advice of a family lawyer as soon as possible to ensure that arrangements can be made for you to continue to spend time with or be involved with the care of your kids without resulting in criminal charges for breaching the ADVO.

The family law courts should not make orders that could result in a breach the ADVO and if they do, they must provide reasons as to why they have done so.

The family law courts must give consideration to any ADVO in place involving the parties to the dispute, the parents and/or the kids. It is important that you get advice from a family lawyer about the effect of the ADVO on parenting arrangements as soon as possible and definitely before a Final ADVO is made.

## Tips to avoid breaching an ADVO

- Go through each order with your lawyer to make sure you understand what you can and cannot do.
- Keep a copy of the ADVO with you or in a safe place so you have it available to show Police if there is a problem.
- Do what the order says, even if your partner / ex-partner says it is okay not to. The ADVO is a legal and enforceable order made by a Magistrate not by the protected person (like an ex-partner) which means that your ex-partner cannot give you permission to breach the ADVO, only a Magistrate can vary or discharge orders contained in the ADVO.
  - If the protected person invites you over contrary to the ADVO the protected person is not in breach of the ADVO.
  - If the protected person sends you a text message or calls you, if there is an order that says you cannot have any contact or communicate with them, you CANNOT answer the call or respond to the text message. The protected person will not breach the ADVO by contacting you, but you can breach the ADVO if you respond.
- If you breach the ADVO by an act of violence or intimidation (for example a threat) you will likely be sent to jail. If the Magistrate chooses not to send you to jail, they must give detailed reasons for them making that decision in the circumstances of the case.



# Program - Day 1: Care and Protection

Day 1 - 1:45pm **Office of the Children’s Guardian**

**Notes**

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Day 1 - 2:15pm **Department of Communities and Justice - Catherine Samuels and Skye Hipwell**

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Day 1 - 3:15pm **Magistrate Sue Duncombe – Youth Koori Court**

**Notes**

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# The Care and Protection System

## What does it mean when the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) workers contact you?

Generally, it means that they have received information that your kid/s may be at risk of harm. They will want to assess if they are ok.

If this happens you need to listen to what they are saying and cooperate with the assessment. You need to get legal advice as soon as possible.

## Who can make reports about a child being at risk?

Anybody can make a report if they believe a child is at risk of harm. Reports can be made about kids before they are born or after they have been born.

Reports are generally split into two main categories depending on the person that made the report: being either "mandatory reporters" or "non- mandatory reporters". The identity of a person making a report cannot be disclosed.

## Who are Mandatory Reporters?

If a person, in the course of their professional work or paid employment delivers health care, welfare, education, children's services, residential services, or law enforcement, wholly or partly, to children then they are Mandatory Reporters and must report any concerns of serious harm to DCJ or a Child Wellbeing Unit.

This means most service agencies are mandatory reporters. They are required by law to make a report if they believe children are at "risk of significant harm" often called a ROSH report, and this arises during the course of the person's work.

DCJ will decide what action to take after receiving a report. They may decide a report needs to be investigated immediately, or within a certain period of time, or they may decide to take no action.

## Do agencies share information?

If DCJ receive a report about a child, they may talk to other service providers involved with the family such as childcare workers, schools and education providers, medical services and get information about a family.

DCJ can also exchange information with the Police. This information is usually provided to investigate risk to a child and assess any services that need to be provided or to manage risk to a child or young person.

Courts can also share information about a family. For instance, the family law courts can make an order to get information from DCJ.

## Are there early intervention options DCJ can use so kids are not removed?

If DCJ has concerns about how a kid is being cared for or about a baby before it is born, they can look at early intervention options to work with a family.

These can include:

- Referrals to intensive support services;
- Use of a Parental Responsibility contracts;
- Use of a Safety Plan;
- Application for a Parental Capacity Order.

If DCJ refer you to an **intensive support service**, such as the Brighter Futures program, this means that there has been reports about your family and there are concerns about the care of the kids. This is red flag for a family that they need to work with therapeutic services to address the worries DCJ have about the care of a kid.

A **parent responsibility contract** is an agreement between DCJ and one or more parents that requires that parent to do something or comply with conditions. A parent must be given the opportunity to get independent advice before signing the contract. Not agreeing to sign the contract or breaching the contract can be used in evidence if DCJ decides to remove the kids and take court action.

A parent responsibility contract can deal with things like:

- Attendance to treatment for alcohol, drug, or other substance abuse;
- Attending counselling;
- Requirements relating to alcohol or drug testing that a parent must undergo during the term of the contract;
- Permitting information about the contract (including compliance with the contract) to be shared;
- Participation in courses (including, for example, courses relating to behavioural management and financial management).

DCJ will monitor compliance with the terms the contract.

If DCJ have concerns about children about their immediate safety, they can ask you to enter into a safety plan. A **safety plan** tells you what DCJ want you to address about the care of the children, and should provide information about:

- What are the changes or improvements DCJ want to see?
- Who will be responsible for making changes and who will help that person make the changes and improvements (if appropriate)?
- Who is responsible for making sure the safety plan is being complied with?

If you are given a safety plan you need to get legal advice urgently.

These are some examples of things you might be asked to do in a Safety Plan (they are not the only things that can be required by DCJ):

- Clean up the house or yard if DCJ believe the home / yard present a risk to the children;
- Give up drugs or alcohol or go to a service or get counselling to help you give up drugs or alcohol;
- Stay with another family member or in some other alternative accommodation if they are worried about violence in the home;
- Ask someone else to care for the kids if you are going to use drugs or alcohol or until you find a safer place to live;
- Work with another service to improve your parenting.

**A Parent Capacity Order ('PCO')** can be applied for if DCJ thinks a parent will not comply with a request to take action to make life and home safer for their kids.

A parent capacity order is an order requiring a parent or primary care giver to participate in a program, service or course or engage in therapy or treatment aimed at building or enhancing his or her parenting skills.

A PCO is a lot like a parental responsibility contract and can ask you to do a lot of the same things. The difference is a PCO is an order made by the Court, which means you must follow it or DCJ may decide to remove the kids; whereas a Parental Responsibility Contact is something you agree to do.

All forms of early intervention by DCJ can be stressful and difficult times in the lives of families and children; and parents and family often find it hard to work with DCJ, especially Aboriginal families.

***A good rule is: if DCJ come knocking, call a lawyer and get legal advice about what they are asking you to do!***

# Family Group Conferencing

## What is family group conferencing?

Family group conferencing is a way to bring family members together with an independent facilitator to make a plan for their child.

## How does family group conferencing work?

If you agree to participate in a family group conference, a DCJ caseworker will connect you with an independent facilitator who will organise the family group conference and make sure everyone who is at the conference is able to speak and be heard.

The facilitators aren't involved in making any decisions about your children or family. They're there to support your family to develop a plan that has the wellbeing of your child or young person in mind. Everything that's said in the family group conference is confidential.

## Who can attend a family group conference?

Before the family group conference is held, the facilitator will spend time with you and ask who you want to attend. This could include members of your family, extended family and kin, a support person or a community elder. You may also want to invite agencies that have been working with you.

Children and young people may attend the family group conference. This will depend on their age, maturity and what needs to be discussed. They can also write down their thoughts and someone else attending the conference can read this out for them.

The 3 stages of a family group conference

1. Information sharing – everyone introduces themselves and talks about the difficulties the family is having and why this is a concern.
2. Family time – is private time for only the family to discuss and develop a plan about the concerns that were raised.
3. Agreeing to the plan – the plan has to say what needs to be done, by who, and when these actions need to be taken. This will ensure the safety and wellbeing of your child or young person. All participants need to agree to the plan and all will receive a signed copy of the plan.

The facilitator will ask the family when they would like a review meeting. This is an opportunity for the caseworker, your family and other agencies working with your family to meet and talk about progress of the plan.

## What happens when children are removed?

Children can be removed by DCJ caseworkers, by Police or both. It is not uncommon for DCJ caseworkers to come to a family's home with Police if they are worried about their safety. Kids can also be removed from hospitals (for instance after they have been born), and from schools or day cares.

Kids can be removed by DCJ with or without a warrant, it will depend on how serious DCJ believe the risk/s are to the kids.

Generally once DCJ remove a kid, they have three working days to file an application with the Children's Court telling the Court (the parents and the lawyer for the children) why they decided to remove the children.

The Children's Court must then list the matter (court case) within three working days.

### Emergency removals of children

In some cases, a child can be removed by the caseworker from DCJ or Police without going to Court if a DCJ Caseworker or a police officer is satisfied on reasonable grounds that:

- A child or young person is at immediate risk of serious harm; and
- The making of an apprehended violence order would not be sufficient to protect the child or young person from risk.

This kind of application is normally made if DCJ do not have much background on a family and are concerned about children following a serious incident.

The law says if a child is removed on the grounds outlined above, then the child will be under the care of DCJ for 14 days. If they say the child still needs care and protection beyond 14 days, then they must make an application to the Children's Court.

### What can parents do at the time kids are removed?

The best thing parents can do is co-operate with the caseworkers from DCJ and/or the Police. Even though it is hard, it is important to put the kids need to feel safe and secure first and attend to their care.

Ask for some time to pack the children's clothes, toys and personal items and make the process as easy for the kids as possible. Tell the caseworkers from DCJ or the Police about any special needs the kids have such as medications or dietary needs.

Parents should then call the Aboriginal Legal Service or Legal Aid NSW (or another legal service or lawyer) for some legal assistance and advice about the removal, and the Court process that follows.

### **Going to the Children's Court after kids are removed**

DCJ can seek a care order from the Children's Court in relation to a child or young person if a child or young person is considered to be in need of care and protection.

This can mean a number of things including:

- There is no parent available to care for the child because of death or incapacity or for any other reason;
- The parents acknowledge that they have serious difficulty in caring for children;
- The child has been or is likely to be physically or sexually abused or ill-treated;
- The child's basic physical, psychological or educational needs are not being met or are not likely to be met;
- The child is living in a household where there have been incidents of domestic violence and, as a consequence, the child is at risk of serious physical or psychological harm;
- A parent or other caregiver has behaved in such a way towards the child that the child has suffered or is at risk of suffering serious psychological harm.

Kids are often removed because parents are using drugs or alcohol, there violence between parents which kids are exposed to, and parent's mental illness. Kids can also be removed if their parents are in jail especially if the reason why they are in jail put the kids at risk of harm.

DCJ can also remove a child if they tried to work with the family, and the family was either unwilling to work with DCJ, or they did not do the things DCJ asked them to do to make home safer for the kids (for example: if they did not comply with a safety plan, parent responsibility contact, or parental capacity order).

For instance, if DCJ ask a parent to go to rehab because they are using methamphetamines (known as "ice") or marijuana (known as cannabis or "yandhi"), and the parent refuses to go to rehab and keeps using drugs; DCJ will normally take the children and go to Court.

### **Going to Court and getting legal representation for parents and adult family members**

Parents will be served with DCJ's application (called "an application initiating care proceedings") and a report (or affidavit) setting out the reasons why DCJ believe the kids are in need of care.

Parents should always call a lawyer (such as the Aboriginal Legal Service or Legal Aid NSW) to get legal advice and representation for Court. Many Courts have duty lawyers who can assist on the day in Court, but it is always better to contact a lawyer as soon as possible.

Parents should always attend Court unless there is a very good reason not to.

You may need to apply for a Legal Aid grant for a lawyer to be able to assist you. You can ask Children's Court staff or call a Legal Aid office to get an application form for Legal Aid.

Children's Court proceedings are very complex. It is always best to get legal advice and representation. A lawyer can help you put forward your case for the children to return home, and give you advice about what you can do to increase your chances of getting the children back in your care.

If it is not possible for kids to be returned home to their parent's care, a lawyer can help you speak to DCJ about family who can care for the kids.

### **Representation of Children in Child Protection Proceedings**

Children are appointed a legal representative on the first day that the matter is in Court. This is arranged by Legal Aid NSW.

Young people over 12 are given a Direct Legal Representative. This means the lawyer is directly instructed by the young person and the lawyer must follow their instructions.

Children under 12 are given an Independent Legal Representative. This means the lawyer decides what is in the child's best interests; they can meet with a child and take into account what the child says, but they do not have to follow the child's wishes.

### **Joinder Applications (other family joining the case)**

Family members or other people with a genuine concern for the children can ask the Magistrate for permission to join the proceedings and ask for orders about the children.

If you are on a low income or a benefit you can ask the ALS to represent you, or apply for Legal Aid and you may be represented by a Legal Aid lawyer or another private lawyer paid by Legal Aid.

You can join the proceedings to ask the Court:

- for parental responsibility of the child (either full parental responsibility, or for an aspect of parental responsibility including but not limited to contact, residence and / or culture);
- to make orders for you to spend time with the children; or
- to hear what you have to say about arrangements being made for the children if you have something important to say (for instance: about contact with their family, or how their cultural needs will be met).

## **The law about where a child should be placed**

DCJ is required to find a permanent placement for children in care. This means a long-term placement that provides a "safe, nurturing, stable and secure environment" for a child or young person.

The law outlines what is called the "permanent placement principles", which should be considered together with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principles (discussed below).

The Permanent Placement Principles say children should be placed in the following order (depending on whether the placement is in the children's best interests):

1. Children should be restored to their parents if it safe to do so and in their best interests;
2. If children cannot be restored to their parent's care, they should be placed with a relative, kin or other suitable person under what is called a "Guardianship order";
3. If children cannot be placed under a Guardianship order with a relative, kin or other suitable person, then **(except in the case of an Aboriginal child)** adoption is the next preference;
4. If none of these placements are practicable and in the children's best interest, then the last preference is for the child to be placed under the Minister's care.

It is important to note adoption is not often considered a preferred option for Aboriginal children, but there are some cases where Aboriginal children are adopted.

A **Guardianship Order** is a final order giving all aspects of parental responsibility for a child or young person to a guardian or to guardians. A guardian can be a member of family or kin or any other suitable person; and that person is responsible for meeting a child's needs and making decisions for them.

The Court must be satisfied that they provide a safe, nurturing, stable and secure environment for the child or young person and will do so into the future.

An order for **Parental Responsibility to the Minister** means parental responsibility for a child or young person is allocated to the Minister for Families, Community and Disability Services. Aboriginal peoples (and other people) used to call this being a 'state ward'. This means the Minister is responsible for meeting a child's needs and making decisions for them.

## Aboriginal Child Placement Principle

It is important that Aboriginal children removed from their parents are allowed to maintain a connection with their family for many reasons. One of the most important reasons for Aboriginal peoples today is that our children need to be able to maintain a connection to and understand their culture.

Aboriginal children should have the opportunity to grow up knowing they are Aboriginal, knowing where and who they come from; and be able to learn, share and enjoy their culture with their Aboriginal family and other Aboriginal people.

The law says Aboriginal children should be placed in the following order (depending on whether it is practicable and in the best interests of children):

1. They should be returned to their parents if it is safe and in their best interests;
2. They should be placed with their Aboriginal family or kin recognised by the Aboriginal community to which they belong;
3. They should be placed with an Aboriginal person who is a member of the Aboriginal community which they belong.

4. A member of another Aboriginal family residing near the child's usual place of residence.

The last preferred placement for an Aboriginal child is a suitable person approved by DCJ in consultation with:

- Members of the child's extended family or kinship group recognised by the Aboriginal community to which the child belongs; and
- Other Aboriginal organisations as are appropriate.

## **What if a child has Aboriginal parents, but the parents are from different areas, language groups or mobs?**

If a child has two Aboriginal parents, but they are from different areas, language groups or mobs, then the placement principles above are still followed. The important difference is that the area, language or mob that is preferred is the one that will be in the child's best interests.

## **What if a child has one Aboriginal parent, and one non-Aboriginal parent?**

The child will be placed according to their best interests. This means that DCJ and the Court do not have to follow the placement principles above strictly; meaning they can be placed with non-Aboriginal family depending on the circumstances.

If a child is placed with non-Aboriginal carers or family, then the law says arrangements should be made for the child to have continuing contact with their Aboriginal family, community, and culture.

## **Principles about Aboriginal self-determination and participation in decision making**

The law also contains principles about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination and participation in decision making about our children.

The law says that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are to participate in the care and protection of their children with as much self-determination as possible and are to be given the opportunity to participate in decisions about the placement of children and other significant decisions made about them.

## General information about Court proceedings

The best action you can take if your children have been removed is to call a lawyer. This is also the best thing you can do if you are a family member who needs advice after a child has been removed.

Lawyers are the best people to speak to about how the Court process works, and what you need to do as a parent or a family member who requires information about what happens after children are removed.

Some general guidelines and helpful information include:

- Court proceedings can take anywhere from a short time, to a very long time. It is hard to know how long Court will take because it always depends on the circumstances of the case. The law says Court proceedings for children under the age of 2 years should be finished within 6 months, and for kids over the age of 2, Court should be finished within 12 months. This is not always followed depending on the circumstance of each individual child and case.
- Always ask your family if anyone can care for the children either while you're in Court, or for the long term as soon as possible. Assessments of family members can take a long time.
- If a family member cannot be found when DCJ remove children, then they are often placed in foster care (with people who can either care for them in the short term, or the long term).
- It is bad for children to be moved around to different carers, and so it is best to find someone who can care for the kids as soon as possible so the children are not disrupted.
- It may be very difficult but working with the children's caseworker is often advisable. Sometimes this may not be able to happen, and you can request an Aboriginal caseworker or another caseworker. However, you need to remember DCJ do not have to change the caseworker and they are in charge of making that decision;
- If DCJ remove children because of things like drug use, mental illness, violence, neglect or because the children have been abused or mistreated in any other way, they will often ask you to take certain actions to make life safer if you want the children to come home.
- These actions might be things like: complete a drug and alcohol or mental health assessment, go to drug and alcohol counselling or counselling for your mental health, attend detoxification or rehabilitation for drug or alcohol use, attend urinalysis appointment or other drug testing, and do courses or counselling for domestic violence. DCJ will also often ask parents to go to parenting courses or programs to help learn how to be better parents. Parents often also need to get suitable housing if they are homeless or living between homes.
- You should get legal advice on whether or not there is a good reason for DCJ to ask you to do these things. Lawyers also often know what services are available to help you in the communities they work in.

- If your lawyer tells you that you need to do the things DCJ are asking you to do (outlined above), then it is important you commit to it. If you want the children to be returned to your care, the Court needs to see that you are working on and addressing the issues that led to the removal.
- Unless there is a very good reason why children should not spend time with their parents, you will be able to see your children while the matter is in Court. This might mean you get to see the children once, or a few times a week for a couple of hours.
- Contact is often supervised by someone from DCJ (or someone they give permission to supervise like another agency or a family member).
- The location often starts off at a Community Services office (or a contact agency) but can progress to being in different locations such as a place in the community or a family members house depending on the case.
- You should talk to your lawyer about seeing the children, and whether or not you can see them more often or for a longer period of time. You can also talk to your lawyer about whether contact needs to be supervised. Your lawyer should give you advice about this and be able to talk to DCJ about what you want. There is no harm in asking.
- When you have contact do not show up alcohol or drug affected. Do not be violent, aggressive or use bad language. You should try not to ask the children anything that might be considered inappropriate such as where they are living (unless you have otherwise been told this). You should keep conversations and interactions child focused and show that you are able to care for them and meet their needs during contact.
- If you do show up as drug affected, are violent or aggressive or behave inappropriately at contact then DCJ may reduce the time you spend with your children.

## **Placing the children with family members**

DCJ caseworkers should ask parents about details of family members who might be able to take the children. It is important that parents act as soon as possible and give as much information about family who can take the children.

It is not uncommon for DCJ to place children in out of home care with non- Aboriginal carers. These placements are often short term (for a few weeks – months) until an appropriate and safe family member can be found.

It is important to remember the family you select should be safe and appropriate to care for children. They should not be using drugs or alcohol, have criminal records related to violence or offences related to children, and are people that look after their own children well and keep them safe (if they have children).

DCJ can assess family members to care for children, but they must be able to pass checks on their Police and criminal record, as well as Child Protection records. They should also have a Working with Children's Check or be willing and able to get one.

## Orders for Parental Responsibility that can be made by the Children's Court

The best thing you can do is speak to a lawyer about what orders the Children's Court can make.

Child Protection proceedings finish with the Court making orders for who holds parental responsibility for a child.

The Court can make the following orders:

- Restoration to one or both parents.
- Guardianship to a family member or another suitable person. This means whoever is given Guardianship makes the decisions for the children including where they stay, how their cultural need are met, and how much they spend with their family. If DCJ recommend Guardianship and the Court agrees with this, DCJ will also make recommendations around contact.
- Parental Responsibility to a suitable person.

The Court can also make orders that share parental responsibility between the parents (either one or both), the Minister and / or another suitable depending on the circumstances of the case.

Different aspects of parental responsibility can also be allocated to different people. Aspects of parental responsibility include, but are not limited to residence, culture, education and training, religion and cultural and medical and dental treatment.

It is not uncommon for the Court to split aspects of parental responsibility between suitable people and the Minister. For instance, the Court can give parental responsibility for a child to the Minister until they turn 18 years old for everything but for their cultural upbringing, which they can give to a suitable Aboriginal family member like an Aunt, Uncle or Grandparents.

It is important for parents to be able to present evidence about what they or their extended family members have to offer the children when looking at particular aspects of parental responsibility.

Evidence by community members that can support contact is valuable. Orders for contact can be made but if a parent requires supervision, they have to be able to find someone to supervise their contact if DCJ refuses to supervise more contact than what they offer.

## Dispute Resolution Conferences

Dispute Resolution Conferences ("DRCs") are facilitated by Children's Registrars at the Children's Court.

DRCs can take place at any time during proceedings. The aim of a DRC is to provide parties with an opportunity to agree on actions to be taken that are in the best interests of a child or young person who is the subject of Court proceedings.

At DRCs the parties can identify the areas of agreement and the issues in dispute between the parties (for instance between and have the opportunity to reach agreement about how issues in dispute can be resolved.

## **Application for Variation or Rescission (Section 90 Application)**

An application to vary (change) or rescind a care order, known as a “section 90” application can be made by parents asking the Court to restore their children after they have been removed, and the Court decided they could not be returned home.

It is always best to speak to a lawyer and get some advice and representation about going back to Court to make a section 90 application for the kids to come home. This is because these types of applications are very complex and hard to understand, and a lawyer should help you understand the process and give you advice about whether you have a good case or not.

To make a section 90 application a final order you need to apply to the court for leave. This means you must ask the court for permission to reopen the case.

To convince the Court to re- open your case, you need to show there has been a significant change in circumstances since the final order was made, that you have an arguable case and that it is in the best interests of the child to be returned to your care.

It is very important that you can show the Court how you have addressed the reasons leading to the removal of the children.

It is important to know that sometimes parents may have resolved their problems but will still not have any prospects of success. This is sometimes the case when a child is attached and bonded to another carer and the change may not be seen as good for the child.

This usually happens where the child has been with another family member or carer for a number of years and they are going really well in that placement.

You will need legal advice before you file one of these applications as they are very complex and hard to understand at times.

You can call the Aboriginal Legal Service or Legal Aid NSW for some advice and representation or a referral to another service or lawyer who may be able to help you.

## Application for Contact Mediations through Legal Aid

After final orders family members can make an application to Legal Aid and ask that DCJ and any Out of Home Care Agencies review contact.

Applications for these conferences can be made by parents or other family like Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles.

You may make an application for a contact mediation because you want to spend more time with a child, you want to change whether contact is supervised, or because you may have lost your contact for some reason and would like to re- connect with a child.

You can apply for the conference to Legal Aid NSW. The Early Intervention Unit of Legal Aid is able to help with applications.

Sometimes contact mediations do not resolve disputes about contact and then you can make an application for the Court to make an order for contact.

You should always speak to a lawyer about going to contact mediations, and about going back to Court because you want to change the contact arrangements.



# Program - Day 2: Family Law

Day 2 - 9:00am **Sonja Stewart** CEO Law Society of NSW

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Day 2 - 9:30am **Robyn Sexton** - Former Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia

Introduction of the short film *'Our Kids'*





Our Kids was an initiative of the Aboriginal Family Law Pathway Network. It was directed by award winning indigenous filmmaker, Larissa Behrendt AO and produced by Pursekey Productions (who produced "After the Apology"). Aboriginal people were involved at every stage of its making – from the script writing to the production and distribution.

There is a lot of understandable apprehension and misunderstanding in indigenous communities about how to use the law. Many families have seen the law remove their children or lock them up. Our Kids highlights the importance of early intervention. It shows how to take control and get the best outcomes possible for children, particularly in keeping them connected to family and culture.

The film is a practical, effective visual resource aimed at Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander families, front-line community workers, the legal community and support agencies.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQzkqrdnGU4>

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Day 2 - 10:00am **Judge Elizabeth Boyle – Federal Circuit Court of Australia**

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Day 2 - 11:30am

**Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women’s Legal Centre –  
Kalarnna Hardy & Helen Taranto**



Wirringa Baiya is a NSW Statewide community legal centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children and youth. The Centre provides free information, legal advice, casework and education to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children and youth.

Wirringa Baiya is managed by Aboriginal women. The focus of the service is to assist victims of violence, primarily domestic violence, sexual assault and child sexual assault. The Centre is able to assist with other areas of law such as family law, care and protection, discrimination, Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs), and victim’s compensation.

A solicitor and an Aboriginal support worker from Wirringa Baiya attend each Indigenous List Day in Sydney to provide unrepresented Aboriginal women with support, legal advice and representation as needed.

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Day 2 - 12:00pm

**Legal Aid NSW Early Intervention Unit**



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Day 2 - 1:15pm

Lauren Barr, Charmaine Weldon, Louise Elkington –  
Relationships Australia NSW -

**Walking Together Mediation Program**



'Walking Together' is an approach to family dispute resolution (FDR) for families of children from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The approach is reported to be welcoming, safe, and more culturally appropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families than other approaches.

The Walking Together approach, which incorporates child inclusion where appropriate, recognises the powerful potential of FDR to benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families who are navigating family separation and post-separation parenting, providing an opportunity for parents and extended family members to meet, talk, increase understanding and make decisions for children. Importantly, FDR offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families an effective forum where they can resolve parenting and other family disputes without handing decision-making power to non-Aboriginal people.

The key elements of Walking Together are:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients are asked at their first interaction with the FRC if they would like to meet with the Aboriginal Family Advisor.
- Clients may choose not to work with the Aboriginal Family Advisor or participate in Walking Together.
- If the client does want to participate in Walking Together, the client's first session will be with the Family Advisor. It is conducted in person where possible. No non-Aboriginal or non-Torres Strait Islander practitioner present at this session.
- The Aboriginal Family Advisor is present with the client at all stages of the FDR process which might include individual appointments and if appropriate joint session mediation.

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Day 2 - 1:45pm

### **Rick Welsh and Shaquille Robinson - The Shed and Cultural Planning**



The Shed is an Aboriginal male targeted suicide prevention service based in Emerton Western Sydney. It is a community based Project and is auspiced by Western Sydney University.

The Shed although male targeted is not male specific and supports Aboriginal male and female clients. The Shed has multiple partnerships with wide range of services that include:

- Legal services (Crime, Care and Protection, Family Law and Civil)
- Housing services
- Health services (Mental and physical health including addictions)
- Financial Counselling
- NDIS providers
- Government (State and Federal)

The Shed is a culturally safe space for the Aboriginal community that allows services to come in that that space to work with Aboriginal people to address needs. This usually occurs on a Wednesday and a free lunch is provided so Clients and Stakeholders can interact and improve retaining engagement.

The Shed continually evaluates the staff from other services and the services through building a mutual rapport with clients (e.g. Buddy, how are you going with your worker from the service, do you see eye to eye with them and are able to connect with them to build trust and address your needs) in the event the connection between client and professional is not adequate for the client, we aim to change the worker, as our priority is to our clients and assist them to stay engaged with therapeutic support to address their respective needs.

The Shed has Aboriginal male staff that include 2 full time staff members and one staff member 3 days per week.

## Notes

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## Indigenous Children's Right to Culture

Both the State and Federal Courts in Australia identify that Indigenous children have a right to access and participate in their culture including the right to enjoy that culture with others in their community. When making decisions around parental responsibility, the Courts have a responsibility to consider any kinship obligations, and child-rearing practices of the child's Indigenous culture.

## Aboriginal Cultural Plans

Cultural plans and culture are not different for each court, the cultural plans are relevant in both the Federal and State Courts.

Who develops Cultural Plans?

The Cultural plans can be developed by:

- Indigenous relatives of the children involved in the court matter;
- By family with the assistance of an Aboriginal Worker;
- By family with the Lawyer involved in the court matter;

We recommend that plans are developed with Aboriginal workers who have had appropriate training in the preparation of the plans.

## How does the plan get before the Magistrate or Judge?

Once the adult involved in the matter is satisfied that the Cultural plan is completed, they can then instruct the lawyer to use it in the court proceedings.

## Indigenous Nations

There are many sovereign Indigenous nations with Australia, when considering this a child's right is to have access to their respective culture/s. there is no general Aboriginal Culture although there are common cultural practices depending the local environments.

Children's right to access and participate in their culture with people of their culture, e.g. if a child has heritage from the Bundjalung nation, their express right is to be able to participate in that Bundjalung culture with kinship on country when possible.

Considerations on who are the cultural leaders in your respective Aboriginal families;

- Elders and respected Aboriginal women teaching younger female about women business;
- Elders and respected Aboriginal men teaching younger males about men's business;
- Aboriginal family members teaching the different aspects of culture;

The context of a cultural plan should be reflective of the child's culture and could include the following activities as an example:

|                         |                  |                    |                       |         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------|------------------------------|
| Language                | Body decorations | Arts               | Sites of significance | Hunting | Bush medicine                |
| Tribe/nations and Clans | Male roles       | Female roles       | Astronomy             | Dance   | Traditional Indigenous Games |
| Food prep               | Trade Routes     | Spirituality       | Dreamtime stories     | Craft   | Tools                        |
| Gatherings              | Song lines       | Kinship/ Genealogy |                       |         |                              |

The use of modern materials for arts and crafts are acceptable.

Cultural plans are not limited to the above and further local cultural practices could be added accordingly.

### **Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations**

An important factor in cultural planning is the use of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCO) such as Aboriginal Medical Services, Local Aboriginal Land Council, preschools (MACS Centres), day care centres, NDIS providers, other Indigenous community-controlled organisation in the community, also bear in mind that these organisations could be used where people currently live or when family are going back on country (e.g. Holidays or ceremonies).

### **Notes**

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Day 2 - 2:15pm



**Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT –  
Michelle Hayward and Kyron McGrath**

Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT is an Aboriginal community organisation giving information, general advice and referral to people with family law issues such as failing relationships, divorce, making financial arrangements, and parenting plans. If you are involved in a court case with DCJ in the Children’s Court, the ALS family lawyers may be able to represent you.

**Notes**

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# Family Law Options

The Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) (the Family Law Act) focusses on the rights of our kids and the responsibilities that their parents and carers have in relation to their care, welfare and development.

You do not have to be a parent to use family law. Family members involved with the care of kids including grandparents, aunties, uncles and adult siblings can use the family law options available to sort out what is best for kids or obtain orders to keep kids safe.

The Family Law Act encourages parents, carers and families to resolve issues about the care, welfare and development of kids without the need to go to court.

Parents and carers are assisted to reach agreement through Family Dispute Resolution (or mediation) where it is safe to do so. Where it is not possible or safe to resolve the dispute through mediation, parents, carers or family can make an application to the family law courts for parenting orders.

A family law court will usually not be able to hear an application for parenting orders unless a certificate from a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner is filed with the court application (known as a Section 60i Certificate) which shows that the parents, family or carers have tried to resolve the issues through mediation or that mediation was not able to occur.

## Family Dispute Resolution

The Family Law Act requires parents, family involved with the care of kids or carers who disagree about the arrangements for kids to attend family dispute resolution before they can go to court (except in limited circumstances).

The options available to resolve a disagreement with the assistance of Family Dispute Resolution should be used early in the dispute and before things reach crisis point. This will help prevent things from becoming worse for your family which may result in the DCJ becoming involved.

Family Dispute Resolution is an effective way of resolving disagreements about the care of kids when parents separate, if a family member or parent has been prevented from spending time with kids or there are non-urgent concerns about risk. It should not be considered as a necessary step to enable you to go to Court but as an option to resolve disagreements privately without the intervention of a Court.

### **Where do you go for Family Dispute Resolution (Mediation)?**

- Family Relationship Centres;
- Private Mediation agencies;
- Legal Aid NSW Family Dispute Resolution program.

## **What happens at a Family Dispute Resolution Conference?**

Conferences can take about half a day. You need to give yourself plenty of time and have arrangements for the care of your kids during this time so you can just concentrate on the conference. You will not be allowed to bring your kids into the conference with you unless they are a baby.

Conferences can occur in person face to face or by phone. Sometimes face to face conferences can involve people being in different rooms if someone does not feel safe or confident in speaking with the other person directly. Due to COVID-19, some services have moved to conferences through video.

## **Lawyer Assisted Legal Aid Conferences**

You, or another person involved in your parenting dispute, must be eligible for a grant of Legal Aid. Legal Aid has a means and merit test to determine if a person is eligible. You can make an application for Legal Aid online, by lodging your application with your nearest Legal Aid office or by sending your application by mail. The application form can be complicated and there are some services available that will assist you to complete and lodge the form.

If you receive a grant of Legal Aid, they will cover the costs of arranging the Family Dispute Resolution conference and for your lawyer to attend.

If the other party has a grant of aid it does not mean you cannot get help from Legal Aid. Legal Aid can be granted for a private lawyer to represent you. These private lawyers must meet certain requirements to receive the grant from Legal Aid.

Conferences can be arranged before a court case and during a court case. Sometimes Legal Aid will require you to attend a conference if Legal Aid is funding your case. Sometimes the court will order you to attend a conference if the court determines that this will assist to resolve the dispute between the parties.

## **When do I go straight to Court?**

There are circumstances when Family Dispute Resolution is not the right option for your family. In these circumstances, the court has discretion to allow you to have "leave" to have your application for parenting orders heard by a Judge without having to go to family dispute resolution.

These circumstances can include where:

- There is an urgency such as one parent has moved away with the kids and the other parent is unable to see them,
- Where the kids are at risk due to unsafe behaviours by a parent or carer;
- Where the kids have been removed from their usual carer without an agreement;
- There are allegations of family or domestic violence or child abuse that make it inappropriate;
- Participation is impractical. This can be because of physical or mental incapacity or a parent is incarcerated.
- There are parenting orders in place that are less than 12 months old and the other party to the orders has not followed the orders.

## Basic Structure of the Different Family Law Courts

There are two main courts dealing with family law parenting cases, the Federal Circuit Court of Australia and the Family Court. These two courts are expected to merge in mid-to-late 2021 to form the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFC).

- The Federal Circuit Court of Australia deals with most of the cases about kids and has circuit courts in most large regional towns. The Sydney Registry of the Federal Circuit Court runs as specialist **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families List**. This is the only specialist family law list for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders in NSW.
- The Family Court sits in the large registries in the capital cities and some major regional towns. Complex matters will transfer from the Federal Circuit Court to the Family Court. These cases will be matters with many parties, international issues or with very serious allegations.

In areas where the Federal Family Law Courts are not available, Local Courts can deal with family law applications on a limited basis. Some regional or remote local courts where there is little access to the Federal courts will accept family law matters. If you are in the metropolitan areas or close to the Federal courts your local court will most likely direct you to make your application with the family law courts.

### Federal Circuit Court of Australia

The Federal Circuit Court of Australia (FCC) deals with most parenting cases. It makes orders under the Family Law Act including:

- **Parenting Orders** - where kids live, what time they spend with parents and other people involved in their care and who makes decisions about them;
- **Property adjustment and financial orders** - including Spouse Maintenance Orders and Adult Child Maintenance Orders (Where the Child/ren over 18 is studying or has a disability)
- **Child Support Orders** - most arrangements for Child Support are dealt with by a government Department called the Department of Human Services, Child Support. The most common orders made by the FCC in relation to child support are where the father is not on a child's birth certificate and does not accept he is a parent of the child for the purposes of child support.
- **Divorce Orders** - this is the legal end of a marriage but does not decide things such as how property is to be divided or what arrangements should occur for the kids.

Proceedings in the FCC (and Family Court) are almost always commenced by private individuals against another private individual and the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) and/or NSW Police are not parties to the proceedings.

The Court can ask the DCJ and NSW Police to share information held by them, but this does not make them a party to the dispute.

The DCJ do not have a right seek parenting orders about kids unless they are invited to intervene in the proceedings by the Court or are joined as an "Intervenor". This may occur if none of the parties are safe to care for the kids or there are serious risk issues which require the assistance of the DCJ to address. It is the exception, not the norm, for the DCJ to be involved in family law proceedings.

## Specialised Aboriginal List – Sydney Registry FCC

The Sydney Registry runs a specialist family law Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families List which is open to matters where one or more of the parties identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

The first Indigenous List (as it was then known) took place on 29 September 2016 after extensive consultation with various members of the community.

The List occurs on a Friday with between 2 to 4 weeks between each List date. On each list day, the Court and parties are supported by solicitors from a number of services including Legal Aid NSW, the Aboriginal Legal Service, Wirringa Baiya as well as several Aboriginal support workers (more information on the support services is available later in this workbook).

The Judge sits at the Bar Table with the parties involved in the dispute. At the beginning of each new matter, the Judge gives an Acknowledgement of Country. Each party, lawyer, support person and family member are then asked to introduce themselves, and the matter proceeds in a relatively informal manner. Apart from Court staff, only those people who are involved in your matter will be in the Court room, so no strangers will hear your private business.

Due to COVID-19, the Aboriginal List currently occurs by Microsoft Teams with the lawyers, support workers and other services available to assist in person or electronically (depending on the COVID-19 policies of the service).

On each List day a representative from the DCJ and NSW Police is available to provide information to the Court to assess risk where the Court may be asked to take urgent action to protect the safety of kids.

### Family Court of Australia (Commonwealth)

The Family Court also makes orders under the Family Law Act but deals with more complex legal disputes and child sexual abuse cases (the Magellan List).



## Parenting Orders

When parents or carers cannot agree on arrangements for kids they can make an application to the court for **Parenting Orders**. Parenting Orders must be in the best interests of the kids and requires the Court to look at a number of things including the kids' right to enjoy and be connected to their culture.

Parenting Orders deal with:

- Who the kids live with (what used to be called custody);
- What time the kids spend with the other parent or people important to them (what used to be called access); and/or
- Who has **parental responsibility** for the kids including whether decisions can be made separately or together (parental responsibility is considered a separate order to where a child lives)

**Parental responsibility** means the duties parents have to their kids and the important decisions parents make about their kids.

Parental responsibility is important for family who are caring for kids as they may not be able to obtain a Medicare Card, access medical services, obtain financial assistance from Centrelink or enrol kids in school as they do not have parental responsibility.

Until it has been changed by a Court order, each parent has shared parental responsibility for their kids. This means that they should make important decisions about the kids together if this is practical. The important decisions include what the child's name is, where they go to school, what medical treatment they should have, what their religious and/or cultural upbringing will be and major changes in living arrangements.

The court can make an order that both parents have equal shared responsibility for making the big decisions about their kids, which means that they **MUST** make decisions together. A Court will consider that both parents should make the big decisions together unless this is not in the best interests of the kids. Circumstances where the Court will consider that parental responsibility should be given to one parent or a person who is not a parent includes where a parent has abused a child, where there has been family violence between the parents or where it is impossible for both parents to make decisions together.

Equal shared parental responsibility does not mean equal shared care or equal time. A court is required to consider whether a shared care arrangement or what is known as substantial and significant time is in the best interests of the kids and practical.

There are no set rules or formula about how many days equal shared care is, or substantial and significant time (though this must include days during the week and the weekend). Nor are there rules about favouring a mother over a father or a parent over a non-parent. The Court will consider all the information available and make orders that are best for the kids.

In the most serious cases of risk to a child, a Court may order that a parent (or other person) have no contact with a child.

## How does the court decide what's best for the kids?

The Court is required to consider two things as the most important, being:

- The benefit to the child of having a meaningful relationship with both parents; and
- The need to protect the child from physical or psychological harm

The need to protect kids from physical or psychological harm (including exposure to family violence) and a child's right to be safe is ALWAYS given priority over the benefit of having a relationship with both child's parents.

Other things considered by the Court include:

- What the kids want (note, there is no set age when a child can decide where they want to live and how much the Court listens to what a child wants will depend on the age and maturity of the child);
- The kids' relationship with each parent and other persons (including any grandparent or other relative of the child);
- The likely effect of any changes in the child's circumstances. This can include the effect of a child being isolated from their community or not being able to be immersed in their Aboriginal culture;
- Practical difficulty and expense such as the distance and cost of travel between the home of the child and the person they spend time with;
- The capacity of each of the child's parents and any other person (including any grandparent or other relative of the child) to provide for the needs of the child;
- The attitude to the child and to the responsibilities of parenthood, demonstrated by each of the child's parents;
- Any family violence involving the child or a member of the child's family;
- Any ADVOs in place
- The child's right to enjoy his or her Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander culture (including the right to enjoy that culture with other people who share that culture).

## What if a Child is Aboriginal or a Torres Strait Islander?

When making parenting orders about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children the Court must consider an Aboriginal Child's or a Torres Strait Islander Child's right to enjoy his or her Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander culture including the right:

- To maintain a connection with culture;
- To have the support, opportunity and encouragement necessary to explore the full extent of that culture, consistent with the child's age and developmental level and the child's views and to develop a positive appreciation of that culture.

These rights apply to the child so even if a parent does not practice culture the Court still needs to consider the child's right.

# Parenting Plans

## What is a Parenting Plan?

A Parenting Plan is a signed and dated written agreement between parents about the arrangements for their kids. Often Parenting Plans are drawn up after parents have been to Family Dispute Resolution (mediation).

A Parenting Plan is usually drawn up by lawyers or family dispute resolution practitioners, but they can be written by parents themselves. These plans create no legal obligation or responsibility on either parent, and are not enforceable by the court. However, they can be shown to a court and are evidence of an agreement between parents if the matter ends up in Court.

A Parenting Plan and Court Orders can be changed by another Parenting Plan. Sometimes a Parenting Plan is all people need to detail their arrangements for kids. If that does not work, then you need to look at going to court.

## How does a Parenting Plan work if there is an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order?

The Local Court can make an Additional Order 6 to allow for arrangements to be made for the kids. It is important that you make sure that this Order is made if the ADVO prevents you from having contact with your ex.

## What are Consent Orders and how are they different from a Parenting Plan?

Consent orders are an agreement is reached between parents but made binding by a Court. Usually they will be drawn up after mediation or an agreement during a court case but before a Judge makes a decision.

A lawyer does not have to draft the Consent orders but it is recommended that you do get a lawyer to do so. This will ensure that the orders are enforceable (you can take action to have the Court enforce the order if the other party does not comply) and have the legal effect that you want. Lawyers and courts often use different words or words can have a different legal meaning to what they usually mean.

Consent Orders are signed by both parties and their lawyers (if they have a lawyer), dated and filed at court in a process where the parents ask the court to approve the agreement.

Once the document is approved by the Court it becomes Consent Orders. Consent Orders create binding legal obligations and responsibilities on parents (and other family members when responsibility goes to them) and can be enforced by the Court.

## Going to Court

### How do I make an Application if we can't agree on what happens to the kids?

If you do not agree at Family Dispute Resolution, or it does not go ahead, you will be issued with a Section 60i Certificate and can make an application to the Court for Parenting Orders. A Section 60i certificate is usually only accepted by the Court for 12 months from the date it is issued, and you will most likely be required to make another attempted at Family Dispute Resolution after this time.

Any application for Parenting Orders made in the Sydney Registry of the Federal Circuit Court should include a request that this is placed in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families List. This is a specialised list for Aboriginal families. There is a link to the video "our kids" which provides some information about what occurs when your case goes to the list.

<https://youtu.be/FQzkqrdnGU4>

Your application will include the following documents:

1. Initiating Application (setting out the Interim and/or Final Orders you are asking the Court to make).
2. An Affidavit setting out the background of your case and placing the Court 'in the picture' as to the parenting issues. Your Affidavit should support the Orders that you are asking the Court to make.
3. Notice of Child Abuse, Family Violence of Risk. This document identifies any risk to the kids.
4. Section 60i Certificate or Affidavit – Non-Filing of Family Dispute Resolution Certificate.

The person who makes the application for parenting orders is "the Applicant". You can make an application jointly with another person, such as your partner if you are a grandparent and your partner will also be involved with the care of the kids. They will be the Second Applicant.

The other parent or persons involved in your dispute are "the Respondent/s". You are required to include both parents, even if a parent has not been involved with the care of the kids. This is because that both parents have parental responsibility for the kids until an order is made changing this by the Court.

The Applicants and Respondents in court proceedings are known as the parties or a party.

### Do I need a lawyer to make an Application or can I appear for myself?

You should get legal advice before deciding what to do. A lawyer can help you understand your legal rights and responsibilities and explain how the law applies to your case. They will help you decide which Court to file in and which forms to fill out.

You can appear for yourself. There are duty solicitors available at the Family Courts in Sydney, Parramatta, Wollongong and Newcastle. Duty Solicitors can give you advice and information about

your case including providing assistance with how to make an application to Legal Aid to have a lawyer represent you if you want this. They may also refer you to other legal services that may help such as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander legal service or your local Community Legal Centre.

## What are Family Consultants?

Parties appearing before the Family Law Courts are often asked to meet with a Court appointed Family Consultant. (a specialised social worker or counsellor employed by the Court) for a child inclusive conference, child dispute conference, or family assessment.

Family Consultants meet separated families and their kids to advise the Court about issues such as the relationships between the parents and kids and what arrangements might work in your family. These meetings will involve discussing personal information about your family and can be upsetting. It is recommended that you bring your social worker or support worker with you to provide you with support.

Your lawyer (if you have one) does not attend the meetings with the Family Consultant.

Everything said to the Family Consultant can be reported to the Court and is NOT confidential. After the meetings, the Family Consultant will provide a document for the court called either a Memorandum or a Family Report depending on the stage of your case. The Family Consultant will provide the Court with their opinion about:

- The relationship between the parents and between the parents and their kids
- The relationship between other carers and family members and the kids;
- How the parents communicate with each other and work together;
- Whether the proposals of each of the parties is suitable for the kids, taking into account things like the age of children and any special needs they may have;
- Whether counselling, parent education, mediation or other services may help the parties;
- Risk issues including family violence, drug or alcohol addiction or mental health concerns.
- Children's issues such as the serious impact of conflict on children, including family violence.

Family Consultants help parties to be child focused by providing important information about meeting the needs of the child. In appropriate cases, they may assist parents to discuss and agree upon arrangements for their kids. The report from the Family Consultant is often the only independent evidence the court has about a family. The Judge will read this report very carefully and respect the views of a family consultant.



## Will there be an Aboriginal worker at the Court?

On Aboriginal List days at the Sydney Registry of the FCC, there are a number of Aboriginal support people and services at the Court including:

- Ricky Welsh – Ricky is an Indigenous man who runs The Shed support service at Mount Druitt. He is a member of the Court's Indigenous Committee and provides support to litigants and family members on list days;
- Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre: provides a lawyer and Aboriginal caseworker to support Aboriginal women on list days;
- The Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited;
- Weave Youth & Community Services;
- A dedicated lawyer from the Early Intervention Unit of Legal Aid NSW.

The following services are also available at other times:

- Early Intervention Unit of Legal Aid NSW (Sydney, Parramatta, Newcastle & Wollongong);
- Family Advocacy & Support Services (FASS)- A specialist family violence service that provides legal and social support services to clients affected by family violence in the Family Law Courts. (Sydney, Parramatta, Newcastle and Wollongong);
- FASS also provide the following specialist services on the following days and time:
  - Tracey Turner – Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Worker (Aboriginal Focus). Friday (Sydney).
  - Specialist Men's Support Worker each Monday (Sydney & Newcastle), Tuesday (Wollongong) and Wednesday (Parramatta).

## Can Grandparents and other family apply to the court to see children?

Grandparents or other family members such as aunts, uncles, cousins or anyone involved with the care of kids can apply to the court. Children have a right to spend time with parents and other significant people in their lives. You need to show that it is in the best interests of the children to have the relationship with you.

## Can my kids make their own decisions when they are 12 years old?

The court will listen to what the kids want but it is the Court, that makes the decision. The importance placed on what the kids want will depend on each child's maturity and level of understanding.

## What is an independent Children's Lawyer?

Sometimes the court will appoint an Independent lawyer for the kids. It is their job to act in the best interests of the child and make sure the Court has all the information necessary to make decisions about what is in the best interests of the kids including keeping them safe.

They can:

- Interview the child or children;
- Contact schools;
- Contact health services;
- Make sure all relevant documents and reports on the kids are before the Judge;
- Ask for the court to appoint an expert to prepare a report to help the Judge make a decision.

Where most family lawyers work directly with their adult clients and follow their instructions, Independent Children's Lawyers do not follow directions from the child but must form their own view about what is in the child's best interests and present this to the Court.

Legal Aid NSW is responsible for providing an Independent Children's Lawyer if this is requested by the Court. Legal Aid NSW has produced **Best for Kids** - a multimedia website with information about the role of the Independent Children's Lawyer and information about the family law system in a child appropriate format [www.bestforkids.org.au](http://www.bestforkids.org.au)

# How Does the Court view Family Violence?

**Family violence is one of the things the court must consider when determining what is in the best interests of the kids.**

The Family Law Act has a very wide view of what family violence and abuse is. The law clearly setting out examples of what behaviour is unacceptable, including physical and emotional abuse and the exposure of children to family violence.

The definition of **Family Violence** is:

*“Violent, threatening and other behaviour by a person that coerces or controls a member of the person’s family or causes the family member to be fearful”*

Examples include (but are not limited to):

- An assault
- A sexual assault or other sexually abusive behaviour or stalking
- Repeated derogatory taunts
- Intentionally damaging or destroying property or
- Intentionally causing death or injury to an animal
- Unreasonably denying a family member financial autonomy
- Unreasonably withholding financial support needed to meet the reasonable living expenses of the family member or his or her child at a time when the family member is entirely or mostly dependent on the person for financial support.

The **definition of abuse** of a child is:

- A person (the first person) involving the child in a sexual activity with the first person or another person in which the child is used, directly or indirectly, as a sexual object by the first person or the other person, and where there is unequal power in the relationship between the child and the first person; or
- Causing the child to suffer serious psychological harm, including (but not limited to) when that harm is caused by the child being subjected to, or exposed to family violence, or
- Serious neglect of the child.

# What does it mean to “Expose” a child to family violence?

**Exposing a child to family violence, includes a child seeing or hearing violence and can include (but not be limited to):**

- Overhearing threats of death or personal injury
- Seeing or hearing an assault between family members
- Comforting or helping the family member who has been the victim of family violence
- Cleaning up after an assault, or damage to property
- Being present when police or ambulance attend an incident of assault

## When to take Family Law Action

1. Whenever a parent or another carer needs the protection of a 'live with' Order to prevent the kids from being removed from their settled living arrangements without agreement;
2. Whenever there is an ADVO and parents are still organising or wanting to organise for the kids to spend time with the other parent;
3. When a parent is not seeing their kids and they want to;
4. When there are concerns about how children are being cared for whether through exposure to violence, abuse, drug & alcohol use or neglect);
5. When there is a disagreement about arrangements for the kids;
6. When a parent wants to move away without the other parent's agreement;
7. When a parent cannot care for their kids and they want to sort something out within the family as;
  - They may be facing going into custody;
  - They may be going into drug rehab
  - They may not be coping due to mental illness
  - They may be in a violent relationship and DCJ may not be satisfied as to arrangements for the kids
  - The DCJ are likely to remove the kids if they remain with the parent/s

Parents grandparents, family members and carers can get legal advice without any pressure to take action of any sort unless or until they are ready. Often cases need to be “prepared” before any steps are taken or any court application is filed or Court can be avoided with an agreement worked out at Family Dispute Resolution.

## Are you going to Court?

Help yourself by:

- Keeping copies of all court documents and letters;
- Lawyers are not all the same. Find a lawyer you like and trust;
- Find an Aboriginal community support worker who can help you through the process;
- Get all the help you need to address any issues you have:
  - Go to rehab if you need it;
  - See a counsellor, psychologist or psychiatrist;
  - Attend your medical appointments especially any anti-natal care;
  - Co-operate with any drug testing that is ordered;
  - Avoid more dispute with the other parties;
- Think about cultural ways or encourage new family rituals to maintain a connection between you and children over distances.

## Family Members going to Court?

- Go with them;
- Drive them to court;
- Help them avoid any more problems or disputes at court;
- Help them organise their paperwork;
- Lend them clothes. Talk to the lawyer about what to wear;
- Encourage parents to come to a reasonable deal;
- Go on affidavit to support cultural issues in a case. Be fair.
- Do NOT make the situation worse by encouraging the dispute with the other party or by making threats or taunts to the other party.

### Little things that can help

- Use a teddy with recording of your voice in it;
- Phone the kids at night for your usual night time ritual;
- Use the post to send small notes and gifts;
- Reasonable use of social media and online communication;
- Reasonable use of text messages.
- Listening to your kids about what is important to them.
- Attending things that are important to your kids.

# Family Relationship Centres (FRCs)

## **1. I understand what you are saying about using the family law system and trying to stay out of the criminal system, but what have the Family Relationship Centres got to do with family law?**

The FRCs can work with you and other family members to come up with an agreement about your family's arrangements.

This can then be made into a legal document by a simple application for a consent order.

So you don't have to go to a hearing and appear before a judge to get a legally binding document.

By using the FRC to come up with the agreement yourself you can ensure that the arrangement is one that will really work for your family.

## **2. But I don't think we will ever agree and I need a judge to tell my partner that he can't do that to the kids**

Sometimes that is the case but the law now requires you to try to work it out yourselves first and FRCs are good places to do that.

They will assist you in getting to court if that is what is appropriate by supplying you with the certificate that the court requires.

## **3. I don't want to do mediation or come up with an agreement. I just want the fighting to stop as it is really upsetting the kids. So what good would the FRC be to me?**

The FRCs do many other things besides mediation – such as connecting you to the right services for your situation and running courses which might help you.

## 4. But the FRC is government and I don't trust government

Actually while the FRCs are government funded they are actually all run by non-government organisations.

Government does not get any information that identifies who FRC clients are.

## 5. How much does it cost?

Much of what the FRC does has no charge. Some FRC services have fees based on a person's income so for low income earners there will be no cost at all.

## 6. What are exceptions to mediation?

- Urgency – not seeing kids; kids at risk; one parent relocating the children without agreement.
- Allegations of violence or abuse that make mediation “inappropriate”
- Participation is impractical



# Useful Numbers and Information

## Legal Advice and Representation

|                                                        |                                                                                                               |                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Aboriginal Legal Service</b>                        | <b>Redfern</b><br>199 Regent St, Redfern                                                                      | <b>02 8303 6600</b>                                                                      | Legal advice and court representation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children and men, in NSW and ACT.                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                        | <b>Parramatta</b><br>Level 8, 33 Argyle St<br>Parramatta                                                      | <b>02 8836 3400</b>                                                                      | Work in three areas of law, Criminal Law, Children's Care and Protection law and Family Law. For Civil law matters, we give information and referral to other legal practices.                                                                                             |
|                                                        | <b>Canberra</b><br>Colonial Mutual Building,<br>Level 3<br>17-21 University Avenue,<br>Canberra City ACT 2601 | <b>02 6120 8800</b>                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                        | <b>Lismore</b><br>3/15 Molesworth Street<br>Lismore NSW 2480                                                  | <b>02 6623 4400</b>                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                        | <b>Newcastle</b><br>Civic Chambers, Level 4<br>456-460 Hunter Street<br>Newcastle NSW 2300                    | <b>02 4914 6500</b>                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                        | <b>Wollongong</b><br>Ground Floor<br>63A Market Street<br>Wollongong NSW 2500                                 | <b>02 4276 7100</b>                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Service</b> | <b>Marrickville</b><br>Building 13<br>Addison Road Centre<br>142 Addison Road<br>Marrickville 2204            | <b>1800 686 587</b><br><b>02 9569 3847</b>                                               | Free legal advice and representation for Aboriginal women and children affected by family violence. Provide legal advice, information and representation with special concern for victims of domestic and sexual violence, and family law and care and protection matters. |
| <b>First Nations Women's Legal Contact Line</b>        |                                                                                                               | <b>1800 639 784</b>                                                                      | This is staffed by Aboriginal women, and is open 10:00am - 12.30pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. You are able to leave a message outside these hours                                                                                                               |
| <b>Welfare Rights Centre</b>                           | <b>Surry Hills</b><br>Suite 102/55 Holt Street,<br>Surry Hills NSW 2010<br>www.welfare-rightscentre.org.au    | <b>1800 226 028 or</b><br><b>02 9211 5300</b><br><br><b>sydney@welfare-rights.org.au</b> | Specialist Community Legal Centre providing free legal information, advice and representation for people in NSW who have a problem with Centrelink. Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer available at the centre.                                                          |

# Legal Aid NSW

Legal Aid provides legal advice and minor assistance, duty services, family dispute resolution and case representation in Commonwealth family law matters, including child support, and in State care and protection matters across NSW.

Specialist services provided by the Family Law section include:

- **Child support** (for carer and paying parents) – call 1800 451 784
- **Domestic Violence Unit** – Call 02 9219 6300
- **Family Law Early Intervention Unit** – call 1800 551 589
- **Family Dispute Resolution** - 02 9219 5118

## Legal Aid Offices

### Sydney Locations and Contact Details

|                               |                                       |                     |                                                      |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Free Legal Advice Line</b> |                                       | <b>1300 888 529</b> | Free legal advice by phone across NSW                |
| <b>Sydney</b>                 | Sydney Legal Aid Office (Head Office) | <b>02 9219 5000</b> | Grd floor, 323 Castlereagh St, Sydney                |
| <b>Inner City</b>             | Burwood Legal Aid Office              | <b>02 9747 6155</b> | Level 4, 74 Burwood Rd, Burwood                      |
| <b>Western Suburbs</b>        | Penrith Legal Aid Office              | <b>02 4732 3077</b> | 95 Henry St, Penrith                                 |
|                               | Blacktown Legal Aid Office            | <b>02 9621 4800</b> | Lvl 2, Suites 36 & 37<br>13-17 Kildare Rd, Blacktown |
|                               | Parramatta Legal Aid Office           | <b>02 9891 1600</b> | Level 5, 91 Phillip St, Parramatta                   |
| <b>South Western Suburbs</b>  | Campbelltown Legal Aid Office         | <b>02 4628 2922</b> | Level 4, 171-179 Queen St, Campbelltown              |
|                               | Bankstown Legal Aid Office            | <b>02 97074555</b>  | Lvl 8, 66-72 Rickard Rd, Bankstown                   |
|                               | Fairfield Legal Aid Office            | <b>02 9727 3777</b> | Suite 1, Level 2, 25 Smart St, Fairfield             |
|                               | Liverpool Legal Aid Office            | <b>02 9601 1200</b> | Lvl 4, 47 Scott St (cnr George St), Liverpool        |
| <b>Southern Suburbs</b>       | Sutherland Legal Aid Office           | <b>02 9521 3733</b> | Grd floor, 3-5 Stapleton Ave, Sutherland             |

## NSW Regional Locations and Contact Details

|                              |                                 |                     |                                                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Coffs Harbour</b>         | Coffs Harbour Legal Aid Office  | <b>02 6651 7899</b> | 41 Little St, Coffs Harbour 2450                    |
| <b>Dubbo</b>                 | Dubbo Legal Aid Office          | <b>6885 4233</b>    | 64 Talbragar St, Dubbo 2830                         |
| <b>Gosford</b>               | Gosford Legal Aid Office        | <b>02 4324 5611</b> | 92 Donnison Street Gosford 2250                     |
| <b>Northern Rivers</b>       | Lismore Legal Aid Office        | <b>02 6621 2082</b> | Suite 6, Lvl 4, 29 Molesworth St, Lismore 2480      |
| <b>Newcastle</b>             | Newcastle Legal Aid Office      | <b>02 4929 5482</b> | Level 2, 51-55 Bolton St, Newcastle 2300            |
| <b>Nowra</b>                 | Nowra Legal Aid Office          | <b>02 4422 4351</b> | Level 2, 59 Berry St, Nowra 2541                    |
| <b>Orange</b>                | Orange Legal Aid Office         | <b>02 6362 8022</b> | Suite 4, 95 Byng St, Orange 2800                    |
| <b>Lower Mid North Coast</b> | Port Macquarie Legal Aid Office | <b>02 5525 1600</b> | 107 William St, Port Macquarie 2444                 |
| <b>Riverina Murray</b>       | Wagga Wagga Legal Aid Office    | <b>02 6921 6588</b> | Ground Floor 74 -76 Fitzmaurice St Wagga Wagga 2650 |
| <b>Tamworth</b>              | Tamworth Legal Aid Office       | <b>02 6766 6322</b> | Lvl 1, 424-426 Peel St, Tamworth 2340               |
| <b>Wollongong</b>            | Wollongong Legal Aid Office     | <b>02 4228 8299</b> | Grd floor, 73 Church St, Wollongong 2500            |

## The Family Law Courts (Sydney Regional)

[www.familylawcourts.gov.au](http://www.familylawcourts.gov.au)

|                            |                                                                                                                           |                     |                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Parramatta Registry</b> | <b>Parramatta</b><br>Garfield Barwick<br>Commonwealth Law Courts<br>Building<br>1-3 George Street,<br>Parramatta NSW 2150 | <b>1300 352 000</b> | Phone line staffed from<br>8.45am – 4:30pm<br><br>Email:<br><a href="mailto:enquiries@familylawcourts.gov.au">enquiries@familylawcourts.gov.au</a> |
| <b>Sydney CBD</b>          | Lionel Bowen Building<br>97-99 Goulburn Street,<br>Sydney NSW 2000                                                        | <b>1300 352 000</b> | Phone line staffed from<br>8.45am – 4:30pm<br><br>Email:<br><a href="mailto:enquiries@familylawcourts.gov.au">enquiries@familylawcourts.gov.au</a> |

## Other types of help available at court

### **Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program**

<https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/community-partnerships/womens-domestic-violence-court-advocacy-program>

Assist women and children experiencing domestic violence at many Local Courts around NSW.

### **Children's Court Assistance Scheme**

<https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/community-partnerships/community-legal-centres-program/childrens-court-assistance-program>

Youth workers from the Children's Court Assistance Scheme assist young people appearing in the Children's Court.

### **Community Legal Centres (CLCs)**

<https://www.clcnsw.org.au/>

Located across NSW and provide free legal assistance along similar lines to Legal Aid NSW.

They are independent community organisations that provide free legal advice and related services to people and communities facing economic, social or cultural disadvantage.

### **Private Legal Representation**

If you need legal help and are looking for a solicitor, the Law Society of NSW's Solicitor Referral Service can provide assistance.

There are three ways you can request a referral:

1. Call (02) 9926 0300. Lines are open 9am–12pm, 1pm–4pm, Mon to Fri.
2. Email [ereferral@lawsociety.com.au](mailto:ereferral@lawsociety.com.au) with your request criteria and contact details.
3. Complete an Online Referral Request. This is available anytime, including weekends. (Online requests will only receive the contact details of one firm.) <https://www.lawsociety.com.au/public/going-court-and-working-with-lawyers/solicitor-referral-service/online-referral-request>

**Collaborative Family Law** involves a commitment to face to face round table negotiations between the parties and their lawyers aimed at settling disputes without going to Court.

For more information, please contact the Law Society of NSW on 9926 0333 or visit <http://www.lawsociety.com.au/ForSolicitors/Education/adr/collaborativelaw/index.htm>

# Specialist Services

## Housing Services

|                                        |                                                        |                     |                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Aboriginal Tenancy Advice</b>       | Across Greater Sydney area                             | <b>02 9833 3314</b> | Housing assistance for Aboriginal families                                           |
| <b>The Shed</b>                        | 9am – 4pm,<br>Wednesdays at<br>254 Luxford Rd, Emerton |                     | Housing assistance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are homeless |
| <b>NSW Homeless Person information</b> | Across NSW                                             | <b>1800 234 566</b> | Homeless assistance service for Aboriginal people 9:00am - 5:00pm                    |

## Counselling and Health Services

|                                                  |                                                         |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Aboriginal Counselling Services (ACS)</b>     | <b>St Marys</b><br>Suite 4, 154-156 Queen St            | <b>0410 539 905</b> | ACS provides crisis intervention and therapeutic counselling for families, individuals and communities within NSW.<br>The ACS supports and assists Aboriginal people in dealing with issues such as grief & loss, drug & alcohol, gambling, financial hardship, family violence, sexual abuse and self-harm. |
| <b>Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation</b>           | <b>Airds</b><br>187 Riverside Dr                        | 02 4628 4837        | Medical, dental, childcare D & A counselling, visiting specialist, visiting allied health providers, transport for medical appointments only.                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation</b> | <b>Waterloo</b><br>139-141 Morehead St<br>Waterloo 2017 | 02 9051 1690        | Programs and projects to address the needs of Kinchela men, their families and future generations. KBHAC aims to meet the needs of those Aboriginal men who were removed from family and community as children and put into Kinchela Boys' Home.                                                             |

## Mediation Services

|                                                              |                     |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Family Relationship Centres (FRCs)</b>                    | Bankstown           | <b>02 9707 8555</b> | The FRCs specialise in family dispute resolution (mediation) and acts as a gateway/pathway to other services.                                                                                                                  |
|                                                              | Blacktown           | <b>02 8811 0000</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                              | Campbelltown        | <b>02 4629 7000</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                              | Fairfield           | <b>02 9794 2000</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                              | Macquarie Park      | <b>02 8874 8088</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                              | Northern Beaches    | <b>02 9981 9799</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                              | Parramatta          | <b>02 9895 8144</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                              | Penrith             | <b>02 4720 4999</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                              | Sutherland          | <b>02 8522 4400</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Sydney City                                                  | <b>02 8235 1500</b> |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Community Justice Centres (CJCs) Aboriginal Mediators</b> |                     | <b>1800 990 777</b> | Bring people together to talk about any conflict problems. If you are arguing with a neighbour or a cousin, you can come together and talk about the problem and work out a way to sort out the problem that suits all of you. |

## Family Violence Services

|                                                        |                                                                                                       |                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Domestic Violence Line (24hr service)</b>           |                                                                                                       | <b>1800 65 64 63</b>                       | Domestic violence counselling, advice and accommodation referral.                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Service</b> | <b>Marrickville</b><br>Building 13<br>Addison Road Centre<br>142 Addison Road<br>Marrickville<br>2204 | <b>1800 686 587</b><br><b>02 9569 3847</b> | Free legal advice and representation for Indigenous women and children affected by family violence. Provide legal advice, information and representation with special concern for victims of violence and sexual assault. |
| <b>Family Advocacy Support Services (FASS)</b>         | Various Locations see below                                                                           | <b>02 9219 6300</b><br><b>1300 003 277</b> | Specialist family violence service that provides legal and social support services to clients affected by family violence in the family law courts. See below for more information.                                       |

## Family Advocacy and Support Service

The Family Advocacy and Support Service (FASS) is a specialist family violence service that provides legal and social support services to clients affected by family violence in the family law courts.

The FASS is made up of lawyers and support workers. Lawyers provide duty services to clients to assist with their family law and family violence issues. There are two social support services. One support service assists women affected by family violence with their social welfare needs, and another support service assists men affected by family violence with their social welfare needs.

There is no cost involved with seeing a lawyer or support service from the FASS. FASS lawyers are separate from other Legal Aid NSW lawyers. This means they can provide assistance even if clients are in dispute with someone who is receiving help from another Legal Aid office.

|                   |                                               |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Parramatta</b> | Level 2, 1 – 3 George Street, Parramatta 2150 |
| <b>Sydney</b>     | Level 4, 97-99 Goulburn Street, Sydney 2000   |
| <b>Newcastle</b>  | Level 4, 61 Bolton Street, Newcastle 2300     |
| <b>Wollongong</b> | Level 1, 43 Burelli Street, Wollongong 2500   |

### For legal assistance:

Monday to Friday, 9:30am - 1:00pm and 2:00pm - 4:00pm.

No appointment required.

For more information, call 02 9219 6300.

### For social support:

Referrals can be made for Social Support at all times by calling 1300 003 277 (1300 00 FASS) or using the phone numbers or emails below:

### Female Clients - No appointment required

|                   |                                                                              |                     |                                                            |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Parramatta</b> |                                                                              | <b>0478 825 759</b> | Monday to Friday<br>9:30am - 1:00pm and<br>2:00pm - 4.00pm |
| <b>Sydney</b>     | Tracey Turner - Specialist<br>Indigenous Support Worker<br>available Fridays | <b>0431 253 289</b> | Monday to Friday<br>9:30am - 1:00pm and<br>2:00pm - 4.00pm |
| <b>Newcastle</b>  |                                                                              | <b>0428 568 207</b> | Monday to Friday<br>9:30am - 1:00pm and<br>2:00pm - 4.00pm |
| <b>Wollongong</b> |                                                                              | <b>0411 103 471</b> | Monday to Friday<br>9:30am - 1:00pm and<br>2:00pm - 4.00pm |

### Male Clients - No appointment required

|                   |                             |  |                                                            |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Parramatta</b> | fassparramatta@ransw.org.au |  | Monday to Friday<br>9:30am - 1:00pm and<br>2:00pm - 4.00pm |
| <b>Sydney</b>     | fasssydney@ransw.org.au     |  | Monday to Friday<br>9:30am - 1:00pm and<br>2:00pm - 4.00pm |
| <b>Newcastle</b>  | fassnewcastle@ransw.org.au  |  | Monday to Friday<br>9:30am - 1:00pm and<br>2:00pm - 4.00pm |
| <b>Wollongong</b> | fasswollongong@ransw.org.au |  | Monday to Friday<br>9:30am - 1:00pm and<br>2:00pm - 4.00pm |

# Support Services

## The Family Relationship Advice Line

**Free Call: 1800 050 321**

The Family Relationship Advice Line offers a first point of contact for families affected by separation. The Family Relationship Advice Line is available from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 4pm on Saturday.

## Family Relationships Online

<https://www.familyrelationships.gov.au/>

Information for all families – whether together or separated – about family relationship issues. Find out about a range of services to assist families manage relationship issues, including helping families agree on arrangements for children after parents separate.

# Department of Human Services



## Child Support

Child Support Agency (<https://www.servicessaustralia.gov.au/individuals/child-support>) can be contacted for advice or an assessment on 131 272.

Free legal advice regarding child support can also be obtained from Legal Aid NSW (1800 451 784).

## Centrelink

Family separation will often have an impact on the income and financial situation of separated families.

This may in turn have an effect on the parties' payments, entitlements or participation responsibilities.

Parties can contact the Centrelink Family Assistance Office on **136 150** or employment services on **132 850** (<https://www.servicessaustralia.gov.au/individuals/centrelink>) to discuss their entitlements and notify Centrelink about changes in their family and financial situation.

# Family Relationship Centres (FRCs)

| Location                | Name                                        | Phone               | Address                                                                               |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bankstown</b>        | Bankstown Family Relationship Centre        | <b>02 9707 8555</b> | Ground Floor, 8 Jacobs St<br>BANKSTOWN 2200                                           |
| <b>Bathurst</b>         | Bathurst Family Relationship Centre         | <b>02 6333 8888</b> | 91 Seymour Street<br>BATHURST NSW 2795                                                |
| <b>Blacktown</b>        | Blacktown Family Relationship Centre        | <b>1300 364 277</b> | Level 2, 125 Main St<br>BLACKTOWN 2148                                                |
| <b>Campbelltown</b>     | Campbelltown Family Relationship Centre     | <b>02 4629 7000</b> | Macarthur Square Shopping Ctr,<br>Level 4, Suite 18 Gilchrist Dr<br>CAMPBELLTOWN 2560 |
| <b>Caringbah</b>        | Interrelate Sydney South FRC                | <b>02 8522 4400</b> | 383 Port Hacking Rd<br>CARINGBAH 2229                                                 |
| <b>Coffs Harbour</b>    | Interrelate Upper Mid North Coast FRC       | <b>1300 473 528</b> | 24 Park Ave<br>COFFS HARBOUR 2450                                                     |
| <b>Dubbo</b>            | Interrelate Central and Far West FRC        | <b>1300 473 528</b> | 138 Darling Street DUBBO 2830                                                         |
| <b>Erina</b>            | Central Coast Family Relationship Centre    | <b>02 4363 8000</b> | 213 The Entrance Road<br>ERINA 2250                                                   |
| <b>Fairfield</b>        | Fairfield Family Relationship Centre        | <b>02 9794 2000</b> | 28 Hamilton Rd<br>FAIRFIELD, NSW 2165                                                 |
| <b>Lismore</b>          | Interrelate Northern NSW FRC                | <b>1300 473 528</b> | 5 Anzac Close LISMORE 2480                                                            |
| <b>Macquarie Park</b>   | Macquarie Park Family Relationship Centre   | <b>02 8874 8088</b> | 1/68 Waterloo Rd Macquarie Park 2113                                                  |
| <b>Newcastle</b>        | Interrelate Hunter FRC                      | <b>1300 473 528</b> | 495 Hunter Street<br>NEWCASTLE 2300                                                   |
| <b>Northern Beaches</b> | Northern Beaches Family Relationship Centre | <b>1300 364 277</b> | Level 1, 651 Pittwater Rd<br>DEE WHY 2099                                             |
| <b>Nowra</b>            | Nowra Family Relationship Centre            | <b>02 4444 2040</b> | 61 North Street<br>NOWRA 2541                                                         |
| <b>Parramatta</b>       | Parramatta Family Relationship Centre       | <b>02 9895 8144</b> | Level 5, 31-39 Macquarie Street<br>PARRAMATTA 2150                                    |

|                    |                                         |                     |                                                                   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Penrith</b>     | Penrith Family Relationship Centre      | <b>02 4720 4999</b> | Level 2, 606 High Street<br>PENRITH 2750                          |
| <b>Sydney City</b> | Relationships Australia Sydney City FRC | <b>1300 364 277</b> | Level 7, 10 Barrack St,<br>SYDNEY 2000                            |
| <b>Tamworth</b>    | Tamworth Family Relationship Centre     | <b>02 6762 9200</b> | V Guy Kable Building, Grd Flr<br>201 Marius Street, Tamworth 2340 |
| <b>Taree</b>       | Taree Family Relationship Centre        | <b>02 6551 1200</b> | Wesley Chambers, 146 Victoria Street<br>TAREE 2430                |
| <b>Wagga Wagga</b> | Wagga Wagga Family Relationship Centre  | <b>02 6923 9100</b> | 36 - 40 Gurwood Street<br>WAGGA WAGGA 2650                        |
| <b>Wollongong</b>  | Wollongong Family Relationship Centre   | <b>02 4220 1100</b> | Grd Flr, 336 Keira Street<br>WOLLONGONG 2500                      |

## Children's Contact Services

Children's contact services (CCS) are an integral part of the Family Law system and offer parents and children a way of spending time together where this otherwise may not be possible. Children's Contact Services assist separated families in two distinct ways: changeovers and supervised contact.

**Changeover services** are typically offered on Friday nights and weekends and allow separated parents to safely transfer their children from one parent to the other without seeing or interacting with each other.

**Supervised contact** allows one parent to spend time with their children under the supervision of a specialised CCS worker.

Current Contact Services in NSW are listed below. The Government has committed to funding an additional 20 Contact Centres across Australia from July 2021. This measure is intended to increase access to CCSs and assist in reducing wait times.

| <b>Location</b>       | <b>Name</b>                 | <b>Phone</b>                        |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Albury/Wodonga</b> | Upper Murray Family Care    | <b>02 6057 5399</b>                 |
| <b>Blacktown</b>      | Relationships Australia NSW | <b>1300 364 277</b>                 |
| <b>Campbelltown</b>   | CatholicCare Campbelltown   | <b>02 4628 0044</b>                 |
| <b>Caringbah</b>      | Interrelate Family Centres  | <b>02 8522 4450 or 1300 473 528</b> |
| <b>Central Coast</b>  | Relationships Australia NSW | <b>1300 364 277</b>                 |

|                         |                             |                                     |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Central West</b>     | Western Sydney CLC          | <b>02 9893 7949</b>                 |
| <b>Coffs Harbour</b>    | Interrelate Family Centres  | <b>02 6659 4150 or 1300 473 528</b> |
| <b>Dubbo</b>            | Interrelate Family Centres  | <b>02 6815 9650 or 1300 473 528</b> |
| <b>Lismore</b>          | Interrelate Family Centres  | <b>02 6623 2750 or 1300 473 528</b> |
| <b>Newcastle</b>        | Relationships Australia NSW | <b>1300 364 277</b>                 |
| <b>Nowra</b>            | CatholicCare Nowra          | <b>02 4227 1122</b>                 |
| <b>Orange</b>           | Interrelate Family Centres  | <b>02 6360 0895 or 1300 473 528</b> |
| <b>Penrith</b>          | Relationships Australia NSW | <b>1300 364 277</b>                 |
| <b>Port Macquarie</b>   | Interrelate Family Centres  | <b>02 5525 3200 or 1300 473 528</b> |
| <b>Sydney (Redfern)</b> | CatholicCare Sydney         | <b>02 9307 8200</b>                 |
| <b>Tamworth</b>         | Tamworth Family Support CCS | <b>1800 073 388</b>                 |
| <b>Wagga Wagga</b>      | Relationships Australia NSW | <b>02 6923 9190</b>                 |
| <b>Wollongong</b>       | CatholicCare                | <b>02 4254 7777</b>                 |

# Aboriginal Holistic Services

## Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services (MACS)

### AIRDS

### Oorunga Wandarrah MACS Centre – Child Care

Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services provide a service to meet the social and developmental needs of indigenous children. Long-day child care is provided to assist families of infants and preschool children 6 weeks to 5 years old. The service particularly assists Aboriginal families. Special-needs care is available.

Phone: (02) 4620 0298

**BATHURST****Towri MACS Centre**

Provides long-day care for indigenous children 12 months to 6 years old. Programs provided include Cultural Identity, Inclusion Support, Health & Nutrition and preschool care & education. Priority is given to Aboriginal children. Transport can also be provided. Special-needs care is available.

Phone: (02) 6332 1467

**COWRA****Yalbillinga Boori Long Day Care Centre**

Multi-functional Aboriginal Children's Services provide a service to meet the social and developmental needs of indigenous children. Long-day child care is provided to assist families of infants and preschool children 6 weeks to 6 years old. Special-needs care is available. The service particularly assists Aboriginal families.

Phone: (02) 6342 1300

**DUBBO****Multi-Purpose Allira Gathering Association**

Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services provide a service to meet the social and developmental needs of indigenous children. The care provided includes long-day care for preschool children.

Phone: (02) 6882 9503

**JERVIS BAY****Gudjahgahmiamia Early Learning Centre**

Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services provide a service to meet the social and developmental needs of indigenous children. The care provided includes various services for infants, preschool and school-age children and also includes nursery care, preschool transition program, long-day care, playgroups and cultural programs. Special-needs care is available. The service particularly assists Aboriginal families. Transport is provided for children over 18 months.

Phone: (02) 4442 1131

**LA PEROUSE Eastern Zone Gujaga Aboriginal Corporation**

Multifunctional Aboriginal Children Services provide a service to meet the social and developmental needs of indigenous children. Long-day child care is provided to assist Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal families. Community languages spoken include the following: English

Phone: (02) 9661 6097

**TAMWORTH Birreelee MACS**

Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services provide a service to meet the social and early educational needs of indigenous children. The care provided includes various services for preschool and school-age children and may also include long-day care, playgroups, outside-school-hours care, vacation care and cultural programs. The service particularly assists Aboriginal families.

Phone: (02) 6765 3470

**WICKHAM Awabakal MACS - Long-Day Child Care**

Long-day child care is available to assist families with infants and children 6 weeks to 5 years old. Awabakal is a multi-purpose Aboriginal children's service and Awabakal-language classes are taught. Priority is given to Aboriginal families on low incomes. Special-needs care is available. Occasional child care may be provided.

Phone: (02) 4918 6429

**WAGGA  
WAGGA Wiradjuri MACS**

Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services provide a long-day care service that meets the social and developmental needs of indigenous children. The service particularly assists Aboriginal families. Special-needs care is available.

Phone: (02) 6921 2108

# NSW AMS (Aboriginal Medical Service)

**ACCHS** Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services

**ACCHRS** Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Related Services

**ACCHC** Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Committee

| Region             | Type of Service | Organisation Name                                                                 | Address                                               | Phone        |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Central Coast      | <b>ACCHRS</b>   | Mindaribba Aboriginal Corporation                                                 | <b>1A Chelmsford Drive,<br/>Metford 2323</b>          | 02 4015 7000 |
|                    | <b>ACCHS</b>    | Awabakal Newcastle Aboriginal Co-Operative Ltd                                    | <b>64 Hannell Street<br/>Wickham 2293</b>             | 02 4907 8555 |
|                    | <b>ACCHS</b>    | Yerin Aboriginal Health Services Incorporation - Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health | <b>37 Alison Road<br/>Wyong 2259</b>                  | 02 4351 1040 |
| Central Tablelands | <b>ACCHS</b>    | Armajun Aboriginal Health Service Incorporated                                    | <b>152 Otho Street<br/>Inverell 2360</b>              | 02 6772 5258 |
|                    | <b>ACCHS</b>    | Armidale Aboriginal Health Service Pat Dixon Medical Centre                       | <b>100 Taylor Street<br/>Armidale 2350</b>            | 02 6772 5258 |
|                    | <b>ACCHS</b>    | Pius X Aboriginal Corporation                                                     | <b>Unit 2 199 Balo Street<br/>Moree 2400</b>          | 02 6752 8432 |
|                    | <b>ACCHS</b>    | Tamworth Aboriginal Medical Service Incorporated                                  | <b>Suite 1, 180 Peel St<br/>Tamworth 2340</b>         | 02 6760 2500 |
|                    | <b>ACCHS</b>    | Walhallow Aboriginal Health Corporation                                           | <b>Shop 6, 8-22 Station Street<br/>Ouirindi, 2343</b> | 02 6746 2001 |
| Central West       | <b>ACCHS</b>    | Coonamble Aboriginal Health Service Incorporated                                  | <b>Shop 5/17 Tooloon St<br/>Coonamble 2829</b>        | 02 6822 0000 |
|                    | <b>ACCHS</b>    | Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health                                          | <b>28 Maxwell Street<br/>Wellington 2820</b>          | 02 6845 4500 |
| Far South Coast    | <b>ACCHS</b>    | Katungul Aboriginal Corporation Community & Medical Services                      | <b>26 Princes Highway<br/>Narooma 2546</b>            | 02 4476 2155 |
| Illawarra          | <b>ACCHRS</b>   | Waminda - South Coast Women's Health & Welfare Aboriginal Corporation             | <b>122 Kinghorne Street<br/>Nowra 2541</b>            | 02 4421 7400 |

| Region             | Type of Service | Organisation Name                                                               | Address                                      | Phone        |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------|
|                    | ACCHS           | Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation                     | 150 Church Street<br>Wollongong 2500         | 02 4229 9495 |
|                    | ACCHS           | South Coast Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation                              | 51-53 Berry Street<br>Nowra 2541             | 1800 215 099 |
|                    | ACCHS           | The Oolong Aboriginal Corporation                                               | 11 Junction Street<br>Nowra 2541             | 02 4422 0644 |
| Lower Central West | ACCHS           | Condobolin Aboriginal Health Service Ltd                                        | 99 Bathurst Street<br>Condobolin 2877        | 02 6895 4311 |
|                    | ACCHS           | Murrin Bridge Aboriginal Health Service Incorporated                            | 36 Nyampa Street<br>Murrin Bridge 2672       | 02 6898 1533 |
|                    | ACCHS           | Orange Aboriginal Health Service Incorporated                                   | 27-31 Perc Griffith Way<br>Orange 2800       | 02 6393 9000 |
|                    | ACCHS           | Peak Hill Aboriginal Medical Service Incorporated                               | 51 Caswell Street<br>Peak Hill 2869          | 02 6869 1144 |
|                    | ACCHS           | Weigelli Centre Aboriginal Corporation                                          | 1474 Pine Mt Rd<br>Woodstock 2793            | 02 6345 1868 |
|                    | ACCHS           | Yoorana-Gunya Family Healing Centre Aboriginal                                  | 40-70 Church Street<br>Forbes 2871           | 02 6850 1222 |
| Metropolitan       | ACCHRS          | Cawarra Women's Refuge Aboriginal Corporation                                   | Po Box 750<br>Kingswood 2750                 | 02 4721 8922 |
|                    | ACCHRS          | Link-Up NSW                                                                     | 4/2 Central Place<br>Ropes Crossing 2760     | 02 9421 4700 |
|                    | ACCHRS          | Marrin Weejali Aboriginal Corporation                                           | 79-81 Jersey Rd<br>Blackett 2770             | 02 9628 3031 |
|                    | ACCHS           | Aboriginal Medical Service Co-Operative Ltd Redfern                             | 36 Turner Street<br>Redfern 2016             | 02 9319 5823 |
|                    | ACCHS           | Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation                                                 | 187 Riverside Drive<br>Airds 2560            | 02 4628 4837 |
| Murray River       | ACCHS           | Cummeragunja Housing & Development Aboriginal Corporation - Viney Morgan Clinic | 10 Tongala Avenue<br>Cummeragunja via Barmah | 03 5869 3343 |
| North Coast        | ACCHRS          | Booroongen Djugun Aboriginal Corporation                                        | 337-351 River Street<br>Greenhill 2440       | 02 6560 2100 |
|                    | ACCHRS          | Namatjira Haven Drug & Alcohol Healing Centre                                   | 108 Whites Lane<br>Alstonville 2477          | 02 6628 1098 |

| Region     | Type of Service | Organisation Name                                                       | Address                                  | Phone        |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------|
|            | ACCHS           | Biripi Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre                            | 2a Edwards Drive<br>Purfleet 2430        | 02 6591 2400 |
|            | ACCHS           | Bulgarr Ngaru Medical Aboriginal Corporation                            | 131-133 Bacon Street<br>Grafton 2460     | 1800 571 117 |
|            | ACCHS           | Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service                                      | 120 Tamar Street<br>Ballina 2478         | 02 6681 5644 |
|            | ACCHS           | Durri Aboriginal Corporation Medical Service                            | 15-19 York Lane<br>Kempsey 2440          | 02 6560 2300 |
|            | ACCHS           | Galambila Aboriginal Health Service Incorporated                        | 9 Boambee St<br>Coffs Harbour 2459       | 02 6652 0800 |
|            | ACCHS           | Tobwabba Aboriginal Medical Service Incorporated                        | 68A McIntosh Street<br>Forster 2428      | 02 6555 6271 |
| North West | ACCHRS          | Orana Haven Aboriginal Corporation                                      | 1 Byrock Road<br>Brewarrin 2839          | 02 6874 4983 |
|            | ACCHS           | Bourke Aboriginal Health Service Limited                                | 61 Oxley Street<br>Bourke 2840           | 02 6872 3088 |
|            | ACCHS           | Brewarrina Aboriginal Service Ltd                                       | 5-7 Sandon Street<br>Brewarrin 2839      | 02 6839 3333 |
|            | ACCHS           | Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Co-Operative Limited                 | 37 Pitt Street<br>Walgett 2832           | 02 6820 3777 |
| Riverina   | ACCHC           | Leeton & District Aboriginal Corporation                                | 1/5 Belah Street<br>Leeton 2705          | 02 6953 4344 |
|            | ACCHC           | Narrandera Family Support For Alcohol & Drug Dependents Aboriginal Corp | 4 Victoria Ave<br>Narrandera 2700        | 02 6959 3844 |
|            | ACCHS           | Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service Inc.                           | 644 Daniel Street<br>Glenroy 2722        | 02 6040 1200 |
|            |                 | Brungle Aboriginal Health Service                                       | Cnr Bray & Adams Streets<br>Brungle 2722 | 02 6944 9036 |
|            |                 | Griffith Aboriginal Medical Service Incorporated                        | 38-42 Jondaryan Avenue<br>Griffith 2680  | 02 6962 0000 |
|            |                 | Riverina Medical & Dental Aboriginal Corporation                        | 271 Edward Street<br>Wagga Wagga 2650    | 02 6923 5200 |

For a full list of services go to <https://www.ahmrc.org.au/about/members/>

# NSW Local Aboriginal Land Councils

| NSW LALC                     | Address                            | Town/<br>Postcode             | Email                       | Office<br>Number |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Albury &amp; District</b> | 917 Chenery Street                 | Glenroy 2640                  | lalcalbury@bigpond.com      | 02 6025 7075     |
| <b>Amaroo</b>                | 36N Derby Street                   | Walcha 2354                   | amaroolalc@bigpond.com      | 02 6777 1100     |
| <b>Anaiwan</b>               | 7 Opal Street                      | Tingha 2360                   | anaiwanalc@tingha.net       | 02 6723 3022     |
| <b>Armidale</b>              | 90 Beardy Street                   | Armidale 2350                 | ceo@alalc.org.au            | 02 6772 2447     |
| <b>Ashford</b>               | 25 Albury Street                   | Ashford 2361                  | landcouncil@ashfordlalc.com | 02 6725 4411     |
| <b>Awabakal</b>              | 127 Maitland Road                  | Islington 2296                | ceo@awabakallalc.com.au     | 02 4965 4532     |
| <b>Bahtabah</b>              | 44 Pacific Highway                 | Blacksmith 2281               | bahtabahmick@hotmail.com    | 02 4971 4800     |
| <b>Balranald</b>             | 200 Church Street                  | Balranald 2715                | blalc@bigpond.com           | 03 5020 1932     |
| <b>Baradine</b>              | 17 Wellington Street               | Baradine 2396                 | baradinelalc@bigpond.com    | 02 6843 1171     |
| <b>Baryulgil Square</b>      | Baryulgil Square<br>Community      | Baryulgil<br>via Grafton 2460 | baryulgillalc@activ8.net.au | 02 6647 2131     |
| <b>Batemans Bay</b>          | Unit 3/34 D Orient Street          | Batemans Bay<br>2536          | bblalc@bigpond.com          | 02 4472 7390     |
| <b>Bathurst</b>              | 149 Russell Street                 | Bathurst 2795                 | bathlalc2@bigpond.com       | 02 6332 6835     |
| <b>Bega</b>                  | 1st Floor, 187 Carp Street         | Bega 2550                     | begalalc@sctelco.net.au     | 02 6492 3950     |
| <b>Biraban</b>               | 68/A Middlepoint Road              | Bolton Point 2283             | biraban.craig@hotmail.com   | 02 9689 4444     |
| <b>Birpai</b>                | 33 Aston Street                    | Port Macquarie<br>2444        | birpailalc@midcoast.com.au  | 02 6584 9066     |
| <b>Birrigan Gargle</b>       | Youth Stadium<br>2 Robinson Street | Yamba 2464                    | n/a                         | 02 6646 1664     |
| <b>Bodalla</b>               | 68 Princess Highway                | Bodalla 2545                  | bodallalalc@bodalla15.com   | 02 4473 5404     |
| <b>Bogal</b>                 | 1 Boxridge Road                    | Coraki 2471                   | bogallalc@bigpond.com       | 02 6683 2510     |
| <b>Bowraville</b>            | 66 High Street                     | Bowraville 2449               | bowralc@bigpond.net.au      | 02 6564 7812     |

| <b>NSW LALC</b>             | <b>Address</b>                                   | <b>Town/<br/>Postcode</b> | <b>Email</b>                       | <b>Office<br/>Number</b> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Brewarrina</b>           | 10 Sandon Street                                 | Brewarrina 2839           | ceo@brelalc.org                    | 02 6839 2273             |
| <b>Broken Hill</b>          | 84 Oxide Street                                  | Broken Hill 2880          | admin@bhalalc.org.au               | 08 8087 7310             |
| <b>Brungle - Tumut</b>      | 55 Merrivale Street                              | Tumut 2720                | btlalc@bigpond.net.au              | 02 6947 4518             |
| <b>Bunyah</b>               | 208 High Street                                  | Wauchope 2446             | admin@bunyah.com.au                | 02 6585 3882             |
| <b>Casino<br/>Boolangle</b> | 93 Barker Street                                 | Casino 2470               | ceo@cblalc.com.au                  | 02 6662 6286             |
| <b>Cobar</b>                | 23 Railway Parade                                | Cobar 2835                | cobarlalc@bigpond.com              | 02 6836 1144             |
| <b>Cobowra</b>              | 193 Vulcan Street                                | Moruya 2537               | ceo@clalc.com.au                   | 02 4474 4188             |
| <b>Coffs Harbour</b>        | Wongala Estate,<br>Arthur Street                 | Coffs Harbour<br>2450     | admin@coffsharburlalc.com.au       | 02 6652 8740             |
| <b>Collarenebri</b>         | 35 Herbert Street                                | Collarenebri 2833         | collarenebrilalc@gmail.com         | 02 6856 2060             |
| <b>Condobolin</b>           | 137 Bathurst Street                              | Condobolin 2877           | condolalc@westserv.net.au          | 02 6895 3639             |
| <b>Coonabarabran</b>        | 30 John Street                                   | Coonabarabran<br>2357     | coonabarabran.lalc@bigpond.<br>com | 02 6842 3137             |
| <b>Coonamble</b>            | 16 Castlereagh Street                            | Coonamble 2829            | lalc2829@bigpond.net.au            | 02 6822 2100             |
| <b>Cowra</b>                | Lot 124 Fishburne St                             | Cowra 2794                | cowralalc@hotmail.com              | 02 6342 3259             |
| <b>Cummeragunja</b>         | Tongala Road<br>Cummeragunja Village             | Moama 2731                | ceo@cummerralalc.com.au            | 03 5869 3372             |
| <b>Dareton</b>              | 14 Merinee Road, New<br>Merinee-Namatjira Avenue | Dareton 2717              | daretonlandcouncil@bigpond.<br>com | 03 5027 4721             |
| <b>Darkinjung</b>           | 168 Pacific Highway                              | Watanobbi 2259            | darkinjung@dlalc.org.au            | 02 4351 2930             |
| <b>Deerubbin</b>            | Level 1, 295 High St                             | Penrith 2751              | reception@deerubbin.org.au         | 02 4724 5600             |
| <b>Deniliquin</b>           | 426 Wood Street                                  | Deniliquin 2710           | lalcd@bigpond.com                  | 03 5881 4891             |
| <b>Dorrigo Plateau</b>      | c/- Showgrounds<br>North Dorrigo Road            | Dorrigo 2453              | dpalc1@aapt.net.au                 | 02 6657 2606             |
| <b>Dubbo</b>                | 99 Wingewarra Street                             | Dubbo 2830                | ceo@dlalc.com.au                   | 02 6884 5276             |
| <b>Eden</b>                 | Jigamy Farm, 4831 Princes<br>Highway             | Eden 2551                 | edenlalc@bigpond.com               | 02 6495 7177             |
| <b>Forster</b>              | 10 Breckenridge St                               | Forster 2428              | ceo@forsterlalc.org.au             | 02 6555 5411             |

| <b>NSW LALC</b>                  | <b>Address</b>          | <b>Town/<br/>Postcode</b>            | <b>Email</b>                         | <b>Office<br/>Number</b> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Gandangara</b>                | 64 Macquarie Street     | Liverpool 2170                       | peterh@smithhancock.com.au           | 02 9602 5280             |
| <b>Gilgandra</b>                 | 114 Warren Road         | Gilgandra 2827                       | gil.lalc@bigpond.com                 | 02 6847 1477             |
| <b>Glen Innes</b>                | 181 Lang Street         | Glen Innes 2370                      | gilalc@northnet.com.au               | 02 6732 1150             |
| <b>Goodooga</b>                  | 6 Warraweena Street     | Goodooga 2831                        | goodooga.lalc@yahoo.com.au           | 02 6829 6345             |
| <b>Grafton Ngerrie</b>           | 50 Wharf Street         | South Grafton<br>2460                | gnlalc@bigpond.com                   | 02 6642 6020             |
| <b>Griffith</b>                  | 5 Wiradjuri Place       | Griffith 2680                        | griffalalc@bigpond.com               | 02 6962 6711             |
| <b>Gugin Gudduba</b>             | Shop 59 Summerland Way  | Kyogle 2474                          | ggilalc@bigpond.net.au               | 02 6632 1056             |
| <b>Guyra</b>                     | 187 Falconer Street     | Guyra 2365                           | jjho@exemail.com.au                  | 02 6779 1803             |
| <b>Hay</b>                       | 412 Belmore Street      | Hay 2711                             | haylalc@tpg.com.au                   | 02 6993 2243             |
| <b>Illawarra</b>                 | 3 Ellen Street          | Wollongong 2500                      | ceo@ilalc.org.au                     | 02 4226 3338             |
| <b>Jali</b>                      | 129 Tamar Street        | Ballina 2478                         | reception@jali.com.au                | 02 6686 7055             |
| <b>Jana Ngalee</b>               | 7679 Clarence Way       | Malabugilmah<br>2460                 | janangalee.council@harboursat.com.au | 02 6647 2209             |
| <b>Jerrinja</b>                  | Corner of Osorva Parade | Culburra Beach<br>540                | jlalc@bigpond.com.au                 | 02 4447 4355             |
| <b>Jubullum</b>                  | 14a Jubullum Street     | Jubullum Village<br>Via Tabulam 2469 | office.jubullum@gmail.com            | 02 6666 1337             |
| <b>Karuah</b>                    | 16 Muston Road          | Karuah 2324                          | office@karuahaboriginal.com.au       | 02 4997 5733             |
| <b>Kempsey</b>                   | Suite 8, 1 John Street  | Kempsey 2440                         | Klalc1@bigpond.com                   | 02 6562 8971             |
| <b>La Perouse</b>                | 1 Elaroo Avenue         | La Perouse 2036                      | Clngrey@laperouse.org.au             | 02 9311 4282             |
| <b>Leeton &amp;<br/>District</b> | Shop 1/5 Belah Street   | Leeton 2705                          | admin@ldlalc.com.au                  | 02 6953 4344             |
| <b>Lightning Ridge</b>           | 12 Pandora Street       | Lightning Ridge<br>2834              | lightningridgelalc@gmail.com         | 02 6829 0105             |
| <b>Menindee</b>                  | Yartla Street           | Menindee 2879                        | menindee.lalc2@bigpond.com           | 08 8091 4541             |
| <b>Merrimans</b>                 | 13 Umbarra Road         | Wallaga Lake<br>2546                 | admin@merrimanslalc.org.au           | 02 4473 7288             |
| <b>Metropolitan</b>              | 72 Renwick Street       | Redfern 2016                         | metrolalc@metrolalc.org.au           | 02 8394 9666             |

| <b>NSW LALC</b>           | <b>Address</b>          | <b>Town/<br/>Postcode</b>           | <b>Email</b>                     | <b>Office<br/>Number</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Mindaribba</b>         | 1A Chelmsford Drive     | Metford 2323                        | admin@mindaribbalalc.org         | 02 4015 7000             |
| <b>Moama</b>              | 52 Chanter Street       | Moama 2731                          | admin@moamalalc.com.au           | 03 5482 6071             |
| <b>Mogo</b>               | 32 Sydney Street        | Mogo 2536                           | mogolalc1@bigpond.com            | 02 4474 5229             |
| <b>Moombahlene</b>        | 299 Rouse Street        | Tenterfield 2372                    | admin@moombahlene.com.au         | 02 6736 3219             |
| <b>Moree</b>              | 51 Auburn Street        | Moree 2400                          | moreelalc@bigpond.com            | 02 6751 1127             |
| <b>Mudgee</b>             | Unit 1/1 Industrial Ave | Mudgee 2850                         | mudgeelalc@bigpond.com           | 02 6372 3511             |
| <b>Muli Muli</b>          | Muli Muli Crescent      | Muli Muli Via<br>Woodenbong<br>2476 | matthew.green@y7mail.com         | 02 6635 1487             |
| <b>Mungindi</b>           | 47 Goondiwindi Street   | Mungindi 2406                       | mungindilalc@gmail.com           | 02 6753 2113             |
| <b>Murrawari</b>          | 17 Fourth Avenue        | Engonnia 2840                       | murrawarilalc@hotmail.com        | 02 6874 7259             |
| <b>Murrin Bridge</b>      | 39 Foster Street        | Lake Cargelligo<br>2672             | murrinbridgelalc@gmail.com       | 02 6898 1119             |
| <b>Mutawintji</b>         | 72 Woore Street         | Broken Hill 2880                    | mutawintjilalc@hotmail.com       | 08 8087 7909             |
| <b>Nambucca<br/>Heads</b> | 159A Mann Street        | Nambucca Heads<br>2448              | ceo@nambuccaheadslalc.com.<br>au | 02 6568 9281             |
| <b>Narrabri</b>           | 96 Barwan Street        | Narrabri 2390                       | admin@narrabrilalc.com.au        | 02 6792 4228             |
| <b>Narrandera</b>         | 172 East Street         | Narrandera 2700                     | nlalc14@bigpond.com              | 02 6959 1823             |
| <b>Narromine</b>          | 13 Burroway Street      | Narromine 2821                      | narrominelalc@bigpond.com        | 02 6889 2340             |
| <b>Ngambri</b>            | 70 Monaro Street        | Queanbeyan<br>2620                  | nlalc1@bigpond.net.au            | 02 6297 4152             |
| <b>Ngulingah</b>          | 53 Conway Street        | Lismore 2480                        | ceo@ngulingah.org.au             | 02 6621 5541             |
| <b>Nowra</b>              | 59 Belinda Street       | Bomaderry 2541                      | nowralalc@bigpond.com            | 02 4423 3163             |
| <b>Nulla Nulla</b>        | 22 Stuart Street        | Bourke 2840                         | nullanullalalc@outlook.com       | 02 6872 1281             |
| <b>Nungaroo</b>           | 2 Station Street        | Quirindi 2343                       | nungaroo@bigpond.com             | 02 6746 2356             |
| <b>Nyngan</b>             | 102 Pangee Street       | Nyngan 2825                         | nynganlalc@bigpond.com           | 02 6832 2639             |
| <b>Onerwal</b>            | 95 Meehan Street        | Yass 2582                           | onerwal1@gmail.com               | 02 6226 5349             |

| <b>NSW LALC</b>             | <b>Address</b>                               | <b>Town/<br/>Postcode</b>     | <b>Email</b>                   | <b>Office<br/>Number</b> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Orange</b>               | 79 Kite Street                               | Orange 2800                   | Reception@olalc.com.au         | 02 6361 4742             |
| <b>Peak Hill</b>            | 88 Caswell Street                            | Peak Hill 2869                | phlalc@yahoo.com.au            | 02 6869 1726             |
| <b>Pejar</b>                | 80 Combermere St                             | Goulburn 2580                 | pejar1@bigpond.com             | 02 4822 3552             |
| <b>Pilliga</b>              | 4 Dangar Street                              | Pilliga 2388                  | pilligalalc@bigpond.com        | 02 6796 4310             |
| <b>Purfleet/Taree</b>       | 1-3 Old Pacific Highway                      | Taree 2430                    | admin@ptlalc.com.au            | 02 6552 4106             |
| <b>Red Chief</b>            | 26 Chandos Street                            | Gunnedah 2380                 | ceo@redchiefalalc.com.au       | 02 6742 3602             |
| <b>Tamworth</b>             | 123 Marius Street                            | Tamworth 2340                 | fiona@tamworthlalc.com.au      | 02 6766 9028             |
| <b>Tharawal</b>             | 220 West Parade                              | Couridjah 2571                | reception@tharawal.com.au      | 02 4681 0059             |
| <b>Thungutti</b>            | Thungutti Village                            | Bellbrook 2440                | Tlalc.lot8@gmail.com           | 02 6567 2050             |
| <b>Tibooburra</b>           | Briscoe Street                               | Tibooburra 2880               | tlalc@bigpond.com              | 08 8091 3435             |
| <b>Toomelah</b>             | Toomelah Reserve                             | Toomelah 2409                 | toomelahlandcouncil@gmail.com  | 07 4676 2348             |
| <b>Trangie</b>              | 48 Dandaloo Street                           | Trangie 2823                  | trangie.lalc@bigpond.com       | 02 6888 7661             |
| <b>Tweed/Byron</b>          | 21/25 Ourimbah Rd                            | Tweed Heads<br>2485           | admin@tblalc.com               | 07 5536 1763             |
| <b>Ulladulla</b>            | 66 Deering Street                            | Ulladulla 2539                | admin@ulladullalalc.com.au     | 02 4455 5883             |
| <b>Unkya</b>                | Shop 7, Skylight Arcade<br>17 Wallace Street | Macksville 2447               | tours@unkya.com                | 02 6568 2786             |
| <b>Wagga Wagga</b>          | 159 Docker Street                            | Wagga Wagga<br>2650           | waggawaggalalc@bigpond.com     | 02 6921 4095             |
| <b>Wagonga</b>              | 16 Canty Street                              | Narooma 2546                  | wlalc@bigpond.net.au           | 02 4476 1144             |
| <b>Walgett</b>              | 87 Fox Street                                | Walgett 2832                  | walgettalalc@outlook.com       | 02 6828 2426             |
| <b>Walhallow</b>            | 1 Hill Street                                | Walhallow via<br>Caroona 2343 | wlalc08@bigpond.com            | 0428 463 578             |
| <b>Wamba Wamba</b>          | 3 Moulamein Road                             | Swan Hill 3585                | ceowwlalc@gmail.com            | 03 5033 3113             |
| <b>Wanaruah</b>             | 17-19 Maitland Street                        | Muswellbrook<br>2333          | ceo@wanaruahlandcouncil.com.au | 02 6543 1288             |
| <b>Warren<br/>Macquarie</b> | 164 Dubbo Street                             | Warren 2824                   | warrenlalc@gmail.com           | 02 6847 4599             |

| <b>NSW LALC</b>     | <b>Address</b>                              | <b>Town/<br/>Postcode</b> | <b>Email</b>              | <b>Office<br/>Number</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Wee Waa</b>      | 63-65 Rose Street                           | Wee Waa 2388              | weewaalc@outlook.com.au   | 02 6795 3735             |
| <b>Weilmoringle</b> | 15A Brown Street                            | Weilmoringle<br>2839      | robynbrown343@gmail.com   | 02 6874 4973             |
| <b>Weilwan</b>      | Cnr Kirban and Yalcogrin<br>Street          | Gulargambone<br>2828      | weilwan@bigpond.com       | 0439 803 077             |
| <b>Wellington</b>   | 163 Simpson Street                          | Wellington 2820           | wellingtonalc@yahoo.com   | 02 6845 2229             |
| <b>West Wyalong</b> | 76-78 Main Street                           | West Wyalong<br>2671      | ww.lalc@bigpond.com       | 02 6972 3493             |
| <b>Wilcannia</b>    | 72, Woore Street                            | Wilcannia 2836            | wilcannialalc@bigpond.com | 08 8091 5828             |
| <b>Worimi</b>       | 2163 Nelson Bay Road                        | Williamtown 2318          | andrew@worimi.org.au      | 02 4033 8800             |
| <b>Yaegl</b>        | Community Hall<br>Jubilee Street, Hillcrest | Macleay 2463              | yaegl@internode.on.net    | 02 6645 3676             |
| <b>Young</b>        | 247 Boorowa Street                          | Young 2594                | younglalc62@gmail.com     | 02 6382 5669             |

For a full list of LALCs go to the NSW Aboriginal Land Council website:  
[https://alc.org.au/land\\_council/](https://alc.org.au/land_council/)

# Sydney Aboriginal Men's Groups

| Name                                                              | Address                                       | Contact                                                            | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Babana Aboriginal Men's Group</b>                              | 186 Glebe Point Rd<br>Glebe NSW 2037          | <b>02 96605012</b><br><b>success@babana.org.au</b>                 | Support services focused on men's health, family relationships, anti-violence, anti-drug and alcohol campaigns and post release programs.                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Dharawal Men's Aboriginal Corporation</b>                      |                                               | <b>02 4628 4837</b><br><b>dmacmob@hotmail.com.au</b>               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Gamarada Community Healing and Cultural Leadership program</b> | Redfern                                       | <b>0433 346 645</b><br><b>Ken.z@gamarada.org.au</b>                | Run over 10 weeks, the program focuses on managing emotions and self-control issues. The sessions encompass Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spiritual and cultural protocols.                                                                                              |
| <b>Illawarra Koori Men's Support Group</b>                        | 2 Wilga Close, Albion<br>Park Rail NSW 2528   | <b>02 4256 9385</b><br><b>coordinator@koorimengroup.ngo.org.au</b> | Provides culturally appropriate educational programs and services to Aboriginal men and male youth living in the Illawarra, focusing on areas of concern which impacts not only the physical but, also the social, emotional and spiritual well-being of the whole community.    |
| <b>Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation</b>                  | 139-141 Morehead St,<br>Waterloo NSW 2017     | <b>699 4119</b><br><b>office@kinchelaboyshome.org.au</b>           | Support for survivors and descendants of the Kinchela Boys Home including social and emotional wellbeing, ageing, disability and housing needs, Identifying, locating and reconnecting KBH survivors' descendants with their families and access to the National Redress Scheme. |
| <b>La Perouse Aboriginal Men's Association</b>                    | La Perouse                                    | <b>0449 255 217</b><br><b>lapamens@gmail.com</b>                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>The Shed</b>                                                   | Emert Parade &<br>Weber Crescent<br>Mr Druitt | <b>0427 859 467</b>                                                | Suicide prevention service for men. Provides assistance and referrals with housing, apprehended violence orders (AVOs), separation from children, employment, financial issues and more.                                                                                         |

# Sydney Aboriginal Women's Groups

| Name                                                   | Address                                                                                        | Contact                                    | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>First Nation's Women's Legal Program</b>            |                                                                                                | <b>1800 639 784</b>                        | <p>Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free legal advice via the First Nations Women's Legal Contact Line</li> <li>• Assistance in finding a lawyer</li> <li>• Training and community workshops across NSW</li> <li>• Resources and information about the law</li> <li>• Face-to-face advice from solicitors through FNWLP Outreach Clinics</li> </ul> |
| <b>KARI Aboriginal Resources Inc</b>                   | 131-135 George St, Liverpool NSW 2170                                                          | <b>02 8782 0300</b>                        | <p>Services include: Out-of-home Care, Carer Recruitment, Family Support, Early Intervention, Leaving Care Program.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Mudgin-Gal Women's Place</b>                        | 233 Abercrombie Street, Darlington NSW 2008                                                    | <b>02 9689 1173</b>                        | <p>Services include: Drop-in Centre, Family Support, 1000 Days Program Domestic Violence, Legal Advice</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia</b>   |                                                                                                | <b>1800 211 028</b>                        | <p>Phone, online and face to face counselling to people of all genders who have experienced sexual, domestic or family violence, and specialist help for their supporters and those experiencing vicarious trauma.</p>                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>The Miranda Project (CRC)</b>                       | 251 Canterbury Rd Canterbury NSW 2193                                                          | <b>02 9288 8700</b>                        | <p>Support for women in contact with or at risk of contact with the criminal justice system who have been impacted by domestic and family violence.<br/>miranda.project@crcnsw.org.au</p>                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Weave Women &amp; Children's Centre</b>             | Waterloo<br>133 Morehead Street, Waterloo, NSW, 2017                                           | <b>02 9699 9036</b>                        | <p>Weave Women &amp; Children's Centre offers a supportive and holistic service. This includes drop in, casework, and group work to women with children aged 0-12, and women experiencing domestic violence.</p>                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Service</b> | Marrickville<br>Building 13<br>Addison Road Centre<br>142 Addison Road<br>Marrickville<br>2204 | <b>1800 686 587</b><br><b>02 9569 3847</b> | <p>Free legal advice and representation for Aboriginal women and children affected by family violence. Provide legal advice, information and representation with special concern for victims of domestic and sexual violence, and family law and care and protection matters.</p>                                                                                                 |

# Aboriginal Holistic Services

## Aboriginal Children's Advancement Society

**Phone:** 02 9522 6241

**Fax:** 02 9522 4085

Kirinari Hostel, Box Rd West, Sylvania NSW 2224

**Mail to:** PO Box 277, Sutherland NSW 1499

**Web:** <http://www.kirinari-acas.com.au>

**Service Description:** Assists Aboriginal children wherever and whenever the need is apparent; initiates and supports proposals designed to advance the health, housing, education, cultural, moral and social well-being of Aborigines; provides and maintain hostels, provides accommodation for students or young Aboriginal workers in necessitous circumstances. Residential hostel caters for 50. Youth to go to parents during school holidays. Long term placement is possible, i.e. students can stay throughout high school years. Limited tutoring is available.

Staff have close links with the schools, and all students are members of local sporting and youth clubs.

**Contact:** General Secretary

**Eligibility:** Indigenous people in necessitous circumstances, aged 11-18+ yrs (Years 7 12)

## Aboriginal Hostels Ltd

**Phone:** 1336 77

**Fax:** 02 9310 3044

**Web:** <http://www.ahl.gov.au>

**Service Description:** Low cost accommodation service for Aboriginal people in various locations throughout Australia. Hostel categories are secondary education, post secondary/tertiary education & transient.

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

**Contact:** Regional Manager

**Fees:** Yes

**Transport:** Central railway station

## Aboriginal Housing Company Ltd

**Phone:** 02 9318 0177

**Fax:** 02 9319 0475

104 Lawson St, Redfern NSW 2016

**Mail to:** PO Box 374, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

**Web:** <http://www.ahc.org.au>

**Service Description:** Provides low cost rental accommodation for Indigenous people. Building partnerships with other service providers.

**Hours:** Mon-Fri 10am-5pm

**Contact:** Company Executive Officer, Project Manager

**Transport:** Redfern railway station

## Aboriginal Tenancy Advice

**Phone:** 02 9698 0873

**Service Description:** Housing assistance for Aboriginal families

**Greater Sydney  
Aboriginal Tenants  
Service****Phone:** 02 9833 3314**Fax:** 02 9572 8699**Service Description:** GSATS is funded by the Department of Fair Trading, under their Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Program. GSATS provides Indigenous tenants within the greater Sydney area help with all their tenancy issues. GSATS is a free service.**Contact:** Co-Ordinator**Area Served:** Sydney Metro**Mark Ella Hostel****Phone:** 02 9637 0932**Fax:** 02 9637 0934

18 Hewlett St, Granville NSW 2142

**Email:** m.ella.hostel@bigpond.com.au**Web:** <http://www.ahl.gov.au>**Service Description:** AHL provides Indigenous students the opportunity to continue with their studies, while receiving subsidised accommodation.**Eligibility:** Tertiary Education Aboriginal students**NSW Aboriginal  
Housing Office****Phone:** 02 8836 9444**Fax:** 02 9635 3400

L6, 33 Argyle St, Parramatta NSW 2150

**Web:** <http://www.aho.nsw.gov.au>**Service Description:** Provides funding to Aboriginal Community Housing Providers to house Indigenous people. Provides training and support for organisations funded by the Aboriginal Housing Office.**Hours:** Mon-Fri 9am-5pm**Contact:** Chief Executive Officer.**NSW Homeless  
Person Information  
Centre****Phone:** 1800 234 566**Service Description:** Homeless assistance service for Aboriginal people, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm**Tony Mundine  
Hostel****Phone:** 02 9550 9095**Fax:** 02 9560 5061

203 Catherine St, Leichhardt NSW 2040

**Mail to:** PO Box 63, Leichhardt NSW 2040**Service Description:** Hostel accommodation for Aborigines, both men and women. Prefer people over 18 years. No post release, post re-hab, couples or children. Transit hostel.**Hours:** 24 hours**Area Served:** Sydney Metro

# Arts and Culture

## 93.7 FM Koori Radio

**Phone:** 02 9384 4000

**Fax:** 02 9564 5450

**Mail to:** 27 Cope Street Redfern 2017

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

**Web:** <http://www.gadigal.org.au>

**Service Description:** Koori Radio brings you a great mix of International and assorted Indigenous music from around the world and across Australia. Koori Radio also brings you live coverage of all the big events as and when they land in Australia providing listeners with a blend of fresh new music and emerging trends in music as the times change.

**Hours:** 24hrs on air, office hours 9.30am - 5.30pm

**Area Served:** National

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board- Australia Council for the Arts

**Phone:** 02 9215 9065

**Fax:** 02 9215 9061

372 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills NSW 2010

**Mail to:** PO Box 788, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

**Email:** mail@australiacouncil.gov.au

**Web:** <http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au>

**Service Description:** Federal funding body specifically for Indigenous arts: visual, performing, multi-arts, literature and arts and crafts. Grants are offered to individuals & organisations involved in Indigenous arts such as crafts, music, drama, literature and the traditional arts.

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

**Fees:** No

Disability Access (accessible toilets, lift, ramp).

**Area Served:** National

## Aboriginal Dance Theatre Redfern (ADTR)

**Phone:** 02 9699 9172

**Fax:** 02 9310 2643

88 Renwick St, Redfern NSW 2016

**Mail to:** PO Box 1093, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

**Email:** adtr@viper.net.au

**Web:** <http://www.adtr.org.au>

**Service Description:** ADTR promotes awareness and access to cultural traditions through dance and performing arts. Provides Aboriginal dance and theatre courses. Full time 3 year course for people 16 years and over. Saturday dance classes for 5-15 year olds.

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

**Transport:** Redfern railway station

**Area Served:** NSW

**Bangarra Dance  
Theatre****Phone:** 02 9251 5333**Fax:** 02 9251 5266

Pier 4/15 Hickson Rd, Walsh Bay NSW 2000

**Email:** bangarra@bangarra.com.au**Web:** <http://www.bangarra.com.au>**Service Description:** Professional indigenous dance company which fuses contemporary movement with ancient myths and traditions to create its uniquely Australian style. Tours internationally, nationally and locally. Mezzanine Function Room and Theatre both available for hire.**Hours:** Mon - Fri 9:30am-5:30pm**Transport:** Bus, Ferry, Train via Circular Quay

Disability Access (ground floor access, accessible toilets).

**Area Served:** National**Eora College****Phone:** 1300 360 601/ 9217 4875**Fax:** 02 9217 4072

333 Abercrombie St, Chippendale NSW 2008

**Mail to:** PO Box 1235, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012**Email:** sieora@tafensw.edu.au**Web:** <http://www.sit.nsw.edu.au>**Service Description:** A centre for Visual and Performing Arts and Aboriginal Studies. Eora College aims to promote and reflect positive images of Australian Aboriginal people and to encourage individual creativity, discipline and self expression. Offers Certificate in Basic and General Education/Visual and Performing Arts. Conference rooms available for hire.**Hours:** Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm**Fees:** Administration fees apply with some exemptions**Transport:** Train to Redfern, Buses - 352, 370, 422, 423, 426, 428

Disability Access (Lift and accessible toilets).

**Area Served:** Sydney Metro**National Aboriginal  
& Islander Skills  
Development  
Association  
(NAISDA) Inc****Phone:** 02 4340 3100, 1800 117 116**Fax:** 02 4340 3160

31/5 The Avenue Mt Penang Parklands, Kariong 2250

**Email:** naisda@naisda.com.au**Web:** <http://www.naisda.com.au>**Service Description:** Australia's national Indigenous dance training institution. Courses in dance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Professional performances on request.**Hours:** Mon-Fri 9am-5pm**Transport:** Woy Woy, Gosford train stations, bus via Kariong

Disability Access (ramp, one level).

**Area Served:** National

# Support

## NSW Aboriginal Safe Gambling Program

**Service Description:** Raise community awareness about gambling, related issues and local interventions for Aboriginal people. Provide information on local gambling related issues and how they can be addressed, helping local gambling services and how we can work together for Aboriginal people – through access, referral, intervention, cultural awareness, etc.

To provide opportunities for Aboriginal Community members and service providers to talk about gambling issues and the impacts on their families.

**Phone:** 0409 245 597 or **Free Call:** 1800 752 948

**Contact:** Mr Ashley Gordon

**Email:** agconsultant@optusnet.com.au

## Gilgai Aboriginal Day Care Centre

**Phone:** 02 9832 3825

**Fax:** 02 9832 3826

2 Bindaree St, Hebersham NSW 2770

**Mail to:** PO Box 66, Mount Druitt NSW 2770

**Email:** gilgai@pnc.com.au

**Service Description:** Provides support, information and advocacy to carers. Also day respite care service for Aboriginal frail aged or those with disabilities and their carers who need additional support to enable them to live comfortably in their own homes. Gilgai is a Day Centre where Koori's can meet and yarn with other Koori's and enjoy activities.

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

**Contact:** Day Care Co-ordinator

**Transport:** Can be provided transport for those attending the Day Centre. Disability Access (Ramp, toilet).

**Eligibility:** From 45 years.

**Area Served:** Auburn LGA, Blacktown LGA, Holroyd LGA, Penrith LGA, Parramatta LGA

## Muru Nanga Mai

Aboriginal Community Support Groups

**Phone:** 1300 002 410

Minto Bush Camps

## Macarthur Family and Youth Services

Aboriginal drug and alcohol counselling

**Phone:** 02 4620 4667

Campbelltown

**Gnarra HACC  
Aboriginal Project****Phone:** 02 9528 0287**Fax:** 02 9528 0828

Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation, 15 Jannali Ave, Jannali NSW 2226

**Mail to:** PO Box 516, Jannali NSW 2226**Email:** admin@kurranulla.ngo.org.au**Service Description:** Gnarra Aboriginal HACC Project is home to the HACC Aboriginal Development Worker who provides information and support for people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) background to empower them to access Home and Community Care services.

Gnarra also provides direct service to clients: \* Case management \* Centre-based day care, with transport to and from home \* Brokerage funds are used to provide culturally appropriate services if existing services cannot meet that need.

**Hours:** Mon-Fri 9am-5pm**Fees:** none**Transport:** Opposite Jannali station; community transport available for HACC clients Disability Access (Accessible toilet, ramps.).**Eligibility:** Frail older persons (45 yrs & older) and people with a disability of Aboriginal background and carers of those or service providers assisting people from Aboriginal communities.**Area Served:** Sutherland Shire, St George**Parent Organisation:** Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation**Community  
Restorative Centre  
(CRC)****Service Description:** Providing specialist support to people on release from prison, and their families. All CRC programs aim to reduce crime and break entrenched cycles of criminal justice system involvement.**Street Address:** 251 Canterbury Rd Canterbury NSW 2193**Postal Address:** PO Box 258 Canterbury NSW 2193**Phone:** (02) 9288 8700**Email:** info@crcnsw.org.au



