



Australian  
National  
University



AN ACTIVE APPROACH  
TO STUDYING LAW

ANU College of  
Law

# AN ACTIVE APPROACH TO STUDYING LAW

## **Opportunities for ANU law students**

This guide provides law students with information about how to take an active approach to studying law, and useful contacts for legal organisations in Canberra that accept student volunteers.



Published as a Law Reform & Social Justice activity of the ANU College of Law.

Originally researched and compiled by Judy Harrison in 2010 and updated by Justine Poon in 2014.

This guide can be viewed online: [law.anu.edu.au/lrsj](http://law.anu.edu.au/lrsj)

This guide is current as at 1 January 2014.

This guide relies on information provided by the agencies and organisations referred to, on request. Descriptions of the activities, and details of contact information, may have changed since they were provided.

If you have updates or additions for inclusion in *An Active Approach* please let us know at: [lrsj@anu.edu.au](mailto:lrsj@anu.edu.au)

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# WHY AN ACTIVE APPROACH?



## Don't know why you're studying law?

'I fell into the law degree. I got the marks and I figured I'd choose something at the top of the range. I don't know what I want to do. I don't know if I want to be a lawyer or what kind of lawyer I want to be. I don't really know what kind of work lawyers do, or whether I'd even like it.'



## Studying law to secure your future?

'I chose law because I want a good career and a secure future. People with legal skills, whether working as lawyers or not, have good incomes. Law is a safe option and it has status'.



## **Studying law to make a difference?**

**‘I chose law because I want to make a difference. The law connects to everything. I feel angry when I see injustice or things that aren’t as good as they could be. I want to use my knowledge and skills to make a difference’.**



## **Being the best you can?**

**‘I want to do the best I can regardless of the area of law I go into, or whether I even continue with law as a career. I enjoy studying but sometimes I’m not sure if I’m making progress’.**



## **Losing your way?**

**‘Sometimes I’m not sure why I’m studying law. Sometimes I’m quite lonely – there is a lot of time being one person in very large groups. I think I need more interaction, more variation and more things to help me stay motivated’.**

## **No time?**

**‘I work to get myself through uni and I don’t have spare time to do extra things. Sometimes I don’t even feel like a law student because I’m racing to get to lectures and I don’t know a lot of people. I can’t see any connection between the paid work I do and the law. My employment is to pay the bills and it doesn’t have anything to do with preparing for the future’.**



## **Helping family and friends?**

**‘Now I’m studying law my family and friends keep asking me legal questions assuming I can advise them. I know I can’t advise until I have a legal practicing certificate but it’s embarrassing and I don’t know what to say’.**

## Some reasons to take an active approach to studying law

- > Build your knowledge and skills
- > Try out different things
- > Provide a context for your law study
- > Prepare for your future
- > Be useful!

## Some ways to make it happen

- > Look for opportunities
- > Choose things to be involved in
- > Plan to do different things over the course of your degree
- > Connect the knowledge and skills you develop in other contexts to preparing yourself (easily done e.g. if you are working in hospitality, providing support to friends, being on a working group or committee).

## Law students as conduits to legal help

### Roles that law students can play

- > Know what legal services are available in the ACT and elsewhere
- > Give information about available legal services
- > Help assemble information about the problem

- > If appropriate, offer to accompany the person to the lawyer/service.

## What legal help is available?

### Private lawyers

- > Look in the Yellow Pages under 'Solicitors' – note which provide initial advice for free
- > Phone the Law Society for the State or Territory – ask for the names of firms practicing in a particular location or area of law
- > Check the relevant Law Society web site. Use the Law Council of Australia web site for links to its constituent bodies:

### More information

- > [lawcouncil.asn.au/lawcouncil/index.php/about-the-law-council-of-australia/constituent-bodies-and-directors](http://lawcouncil.asn.au/lawcouncil/index.php/about-the-law-council-of-australia/constituent-bodies-and-directors)

## Free legal help and legal aid

### Legal Aid Commissions (LACs)

- > There are eight LACs in Australia – one for each State and Territory. All have branch offices

- > All LACs provide free initial legal advice and referral by telephone and by face to face appointment
- > LACs provide free duty lawyer help at some Courts
- > LACs grant legal aid for ongoing legal help but eligibility criteria apply
- > Look in the White Pages under 'Legal Aid' or use the National Legal Aid web site which includes a directory of LACs and their regional offices.

#### More information

- > [nationallegalaid.org](http://nationallegalaid.org)

## Community Legal Centres

- > There are over 200 CLCs in Australia. Many specialise in particular areas of law and/or focus on particular groups.
- > All CLC's provide free initial legal advice and referral by telephone and face to face appointments in areas of law in which they have expertise
- > CLC's provide ongoing legal help in their specialist area of law / for their target groups, eligibility criteria apply
- > The National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) web site includes a directory of CLC's around Australia and contacts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services and Family Violence Prevention Legal Services

#### More information

- > [naclc.org.au](http://naclc.org.au)

## Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (ATSILS)

- > There are ATSILS in each State and Territory, most have branch offices
- > ATSILS provide free legal help to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The main focus is representation in relation to criminal charges but ATSILS also provide advice in other areas of law.
- > Contacts are in the NACLC services directory and on the Commonwealth Attorney-General's web site

#### More information

- > [naclc.org.au](http://naclc.org.au)
- > [ag.gov.au/LegalSystem/Legalaidprograms/Pages/IndigenousLegalAssistanceAndPolicyReformProgram.aspx](http://ag.gov.au/LegalSystem/Legalaidprograms/Pages/IndigenousLegalAssistanceAndPolicyReformProgram.aspx)

## Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS)

- > There are over 30 FVPLS that provide legal help to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- > Most have very large service areas e.g. the two based in Cairns aim to provide help to the East and West side of Cape York respectively
- > Contacts are in the NACLC services directory and on the Commonwealth Attorney-General's web site

### More information

- > [naclc.org.au](http://naclc.org.au)
- > [nationalfvpls.org/index.php](http://nationalfvpls.org/index.php)

### Pro bono and public interest

- > Many law firms provide free help to some clients on an informal, selective and unadvertised basis
- > Most very big firms have formal Pro Bono Programs (check the web site for the firm)
- > In the ACT and some States, Pro Bono Schemes (often called a Pro Bono Clearinghouse) operate to provide a channel to match pro bono applications with lawyers willing to help for free
- > Check the web site for the Law Society in the State or Territory for local information
- > Check the National Pro Bono Legal Resource Centre web site for information

### More information

- > [nationalprobono.org.au](http://nationalprobono.org.au)

## Non-profit legal services in the ACT Region

### Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT)

An Indigenous organisation providing legal advice, duty lawyer assistance, representation and referral for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They provide advice on criminal law, children's care and protection law and family law. Information and referral advice is also provided in relation to civil law matters. Confidential general legal advice can be obtained over the phone, or by making an appointment to see a lawyer. The Canberra office is in the Central South Eastern Zone. Other branch offices in this zone are in Nowra and Moruya

### More information

- > 02 6249 8488 (ACT Office)
- > [alsnswact.org.au](http://alsnswact.org.au)

### Legal Aid ACT

Free services include: legal information by telephone and advice by face to face appointment; duty lawyer services in the criminal jurisdiction (adult and young people), domestic violence matters, family law and mental health proceedings. Legal advice is available at outreach services, and information is also provided through community legal education. Grants of aid

for representation are subject to eligibility and available in criminal law, family law and some civil matters.

#### More information

- > 02 6243 3411 (general number)
- > 1300 653 314 (Helpline)
- > 0429 440 084 (after hours advice)
- > [legallaidact.org.au](http://legallaidact.org.au)

## ACT Law Society Lunch Time Legal Advice Bureau

Solicitors willing to contribute their time are rostered to provide free 15 minutes legal advice appointments weekdays between 12–2.30pm with Wednesdays reserved for Family Law matters only. Lawyers at this service are not available for court appearances or drafting of documents.

#### More information

- > 02 6247 5700
- > [actlawsociety.asn.au](http://actlawsociety.asn.au) (under the community services option)

## ANUSA / PARSA Legal Service

Provides free legal advice and referral to ANU students. Open Monday to Wednesday all day.

#### More information

- > 02 6125 2444 (for appointments)
- > [sa.legal@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.legal@anu.edu.au)
- > [anusa.com.au/help-for-students](http://anusa.com.au/help-for-students)

## AIDS Action Council of the ACT – Legal Service

The AIDS Action Council provides services to the ACT community, aimed at eliminating further transmission of HIV and minimising the personal and social impacts of HIV and AIDS.

The Action Council provides a free initial legal advice service in conjunction with Herm Law and Migration Services for members and clients. That is, for people living with HIV and their friends and families, sex workers, and the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities.

The service is normally available on Thursday afternoons with an evening service operating on the 4th Thursday of each month. Phone the Action Council to check appointment times.

#### More information

- > 02 6257 2855
- > [aidsaction.org.au](http://aidsaction.org.au)

## Consumer Law Centre of the ACT

A free Community Legal Centre providing legal assistance and advice to low to moderate income consumers, primarily in relation to consumer credit, telecommunications and utilities plus fair trading and consumer protection. The Centre also works towards improving legal protection for consumers, and raising awareness and understanding

of consumers' rights in the ACT. Appointments are made through duty information worker. Phone Monday to Friday 9am–12pm.

#### More information

- > 02 6257 1788
- > carefcs.org

## Disability Discrimination Legal Service (ACT)

A free legal service providing legal advice and assistance to people with a disability and their associates about their legal rights under disability Discrimination law. The service offers telephone advice and limited casework assistance. Priority is given to public interest cases. Telephone advice and intake by telephone on Tuesday 9.30am–1pm and Thursday 2.30–4.30pm

#### More information

- > 02 6128 7918 (TTY and translating services are available on request). Provided by Welfare Rights and Legal Centre.
- > welfarerightsact.org

## Environmental Defender's Office (ACT)

A Community Legal Centre advising on environmental and planning law to assist and increase public awareness of environmental laws and remedies. The

service offers free telephone advice on environmental law questions. Appointments with the EDO solicitor are also available.

#### More information

- > 02 6243 3460
- > edo.org.au/edoact

## Night Time Legal Advice Service

Provides free advice in most areas of law. Open 6–8pm Tuesdays as a phone or drop-in service. The service is run with the help of volunteer solicitors and law students.

#### More information

- > 02 6218 7999 (Provided by Welfare Rights and Legal Centre)
- > welfarerightsact.org

## Tenants' Advice Service ACT

The Tenants' Advice Service ACT (TAS) is provided by the Tenants Union Act. TAS provides free, confidential legal advice for people renting in the ACT (private, public community housing or other accommodation types such as boarding houses and student accommodation). See the tenancy tip sheets on the web site. To obtain legal advice, call the advice line on weekdays between the hours of 10–11.30am. You will be asked to leave your details and an advice worker will call you back.

### More information

- > 02 6247 2011
- > [tenantsact.org.au](http://tenantsact.org.au)

## Welfare Rights Legal and Legal Centre

A Community Legal Centre providing free legal advice and assistance in social security, residential tenancy and public housing. Telephone advice line operates Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:30am – 1pm. There is no telephone advice service on Wednesdays.

### More information

- > 02 6218 7900
- > [welfarerightsact.org](http://welfarerightsact.org)

## Women's Legal Service ACT & Region

The Women's Legal Centre provides legal advice and representation in family, employment, discrimination and victims of crime law. The Centre also provides information and referrals in all other areas of law. The centre provides free telephone advice Monday to Friday from 9.30am – 12pm.

### More information

- > 02 6257 4499 or toll free 1800 634 669
- > [womenslegalact.org](http://womenslegalact.org)

## Youth Law Centre ACT

A free legal service for young people aged 12–25 years that provides legal advice and referral by phone, email and in person. The telephone advice line and drop in service can be accessed from 9am–5pm Monday to Friday.

### More information

- > 02 6173 5410
- > [contact@youthlawact.org.au](mailto:contact@youthlawact.org.au)
- > [youthlawact.org.au](http://youthlawact.org.au)

## ACT Pro Bono Clearinghouse

Receives applications for pro bono assistance from individuals and organisations who are not eligible for legal aid. Where pro bono assistance applications meet the eligibility criteria of the Clearinghouse, the Clearinghouse refers the client to a community legal centre or lawyer willing to assist pro bono. The Clearinghouse will assist applicants where: it is a public interest law matter that affects a significant number of people or raises a matter of broad public concern; or where it is a private interest matter with a reasonable prospect of success. To request pro bono assistance use the application form on the web site below.

### More information

- > 02 6247 5700
- > [actlawsociety.asn.au/public-information/act-pro-bono-clearinghouse](http://actlawsociety.asn.au/public-information/act-pro-bono-clearinghouse)

## Other key agencies in the ACT

### ACT Human Rights Commission

The ACT Human Rights Commission promotes the human rights and welfare of people living in the ACT and provides an independent, fair and accessible one-stop shop for complaints of unlawful discrimination, and complaints regarding health services, services for older people, disability services and services for children and young people. A person can ring or email the Commission about making a complaint.

The Human Rights & Discrimination Commissioner's role is to promote human rights protection and compliance in the ACT under the Discrimination Act 1991, Human Rights Act 2004 and the Human Rights Commission Act 2005. The Commissioner handles discrimination, sexual harassment, vilification, and victimisation complaints, as well as human rights inquiries. The Commission also provides human rights and anti-discrimination education, and advises the Attorney-General, including audits on the effect of laws, eg. detention facilities.

The Human Rights Commissioner can seek leave to intervene in human rights court cases, and Guidelines for this function is on the Commission's website. More information about the Commission

can be found on its website, including publications, complaint forms, training information and subscriptions to its free newsletter *Humanity*.

#### More information

- > 02 6205 2222
- > TTY: 02 6205 1666
- > [human.rights@act.gov.au](mailto:human.rights@act.gov.au)
- > [hrc.act.gov.au](http://hrc.act.gov.au)

### Fair Trading Advice and Complaints Unit

The ACT Office of Fair Trading Advice and Complaints Unit operates an inquiry line each Monday to Friday from 9am–4.30pm. Inquiries can also be made by email. Fair Trading staff can explain rights and responsibilities Australian Consumer Law but are unable to give legal advice.

The Office also investigates breaches of fair trading laws, the safety of goods and takes compliance action. This can include cautioning the trader, publicly naming the trader, referring the trader to dispute resolution, obtaining enforceable undertakings or prosecuting.

#### More information

- > 02 6207 3000 (press option 8)
- > [ors@act.gov.au](mailto:ors@act.gov.au)
- > [ors.act.gov.au/community/fair\\_trading](http://ors.act.gov.au/community/fair_trading)

## Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services of the ACT

Migration Advice at the Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services (MARSS) of the ACT.

MARSS is a non profit service which provides settlement and related services for migrants, refugees, and humanitarian entrants in the ACT and region. MARSS provides programs for migrants of all ages to assist with language, welfare, employment, access and equity for people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

### More information

- > 02 6248 8577
- > marss@marss.org.au
- > marss.org.au

## Conflict Resolution Service

The Conflict Resolution Service (CRS) is a non-profit community organisation providing dispute counselling, mediation, facilitation, community education, information/ referral and training (including accredited mediation training) to assist in preventing, managing and resolving conflict within the wider ACT community.

Types of disputes CRS can assist with include Family Law matters, property settlements, neighbourhood, workplace, youth/school, service provider/client,

business/commercial, large/small organisations, family, wills/estates.

In 2008–09 88% of mediated disputes reached agreement. CRS provides a confidential and impartial service, and is free or low cost for most disputes.

### More information

- > 02 6162 4050
- > mediation@crs.org.au
- > crs.org.au

## ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal

ACAT exercises jurisdiction in matters such as: guardianship and management of property; mental health; residential tenancies; small claims (under \$10,000); hardship and other applications regarding essential services (gas, water and electricity) etc. See the web site for information about filing applications and procedures.

### More information

- > 02 62071740
- > acat.act.gov.au

## ACT Ombudsman

The ACT Ombudsman's office is co-located with the Commonwealth Ombudsman and one person holds the positions of Commonwealth and ACT Ombudsman.

The ACT Ombudsman can investigate complaints about the actions and decisions of ACT departments and authorities to see if they are wrong, unjust, unlawful, discriminatory or unfair. This includes problems with: parking; public housing; debt recovery; dog control; building licenses and inspections; motor vehicle registry; contract/tender disputes with ACT Government agencies; public transport; planning, electricity or water supply; and Legal Aid. The Ombudsman also seeks remedies for those affected by administration deficiencies, and acts to improve public administration generally. The ACT Ombudsman can also investigate complaints about the Australian Federal Police (AFP) in its ACT community policing role, complaints concerning requests under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* and will accept complaints from “whistleblowers” concerning issues of public interest.

Complaints to the ACT Ombudsman can be made in writing, by phone, in person or using the form on the web site. The Ombudsman’s services are free.

#### More information

- > 1300 362 072
- > [ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au)
- > [ombudsman.act.gov.au](http://ombudsman.act.gov.au)

## Commonwealth Ombudsman

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can investigate complaints about the

administrative actions and decisions of Australian Government agencies to see if they are wrong, unjust, unlawful or discriminatory. This includes Centrelink, the Child Support Agency, Medicare, the Australian Federal Police and Freedom of Information complaints. The Commonwealth Ombudsman is also the Defence Force Ombudsman, the Immigration Ombudsman, the Postal Industry Ombudsman and the Taxation Ombudsman. The Ombudsman is independent and impartial, and works to improve public administration generally.

Complaints to the Commonwealth Ombudsman can be made in writing, by phone, in person or using the form on the web site. The Ombudsman’s services are free.

#### More information

- > 1300 362 072 (free call)
- > [ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au)
- > [ombudsman.gov.au](http://ombudsman.gov.au)

## Industry-sponsored Ombudsman schemes

These are industry-sponsored self-regulatory schemes which handle complaints for services such as banking, telecommunications, health insurance, and superannuation, eg:

## **Banking and Financial Services Ombudsman**

For complaints by individuals and small businesses about a bank or non-bank member or affiliates e.g. unauthorised transactions, maladministration in granting credit, incorrect or excessive bank fees.

### **More information**

- > 1300 780 808 (free call)
- > fos.org.au

## **Credit Ombudsman Service**

For complaints by consumers regarding disputes with COS members operating in the credit marketplace (mainly relates to mortgages) e.g. breach of law, breach of a recognised Code of Practice, breach of standards of good practice, or unfair treatment.

### **More information**

- > 1800 138 422
- > cosl.com.au/contact
- > cosl.com.au

## **Private Health Insurance Ombudsman**

For complaints about private health insurance or a related matter e.g. complaints about a private health fund, a broker, a hospital, a medical practitioner, a dentist or other practitioners (as long as the complaint relates to private health insurance).

### **More information**

- > 1800 640 695 (free call)
- > info@phio.gov.au
- > phio.org.au

## **Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman**

For complaints by residential consumers and small businesses about provision or supply of their telephone or internet services. This includes the standard of telephone service; credit management; provision of phone or internet services; pay-phones; delays in telephone connections; privacy and breaches of the Customer Service Guarantee and industry Codes of Practice.

### **More information**

- > 1800 062 058 (free call)
- > tio@tio.com.au
- > tio.com.au

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTARY LEGAL WORK

Student pro-bono is where students (without payment, reward or academic credit) provide or help provide services that enhance access to justice for:

- > low income and disadvantaged people
- > non-profit organisations that work for disadvantaged or marginalised, or that work for the public good

Some non-profit legal services accept motivated volunteers.

## Opportunities in the ACT

Current as at April 2014.

### Aboriginal legal Service (NSW/ACT)

Law student volunteers assist the ALS with legal research, preparing legal documents, correspondence and administrative tasks. Students usually volunteer one day per week. Students wishing to complete their practical legal placement for Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice are preferred. Full time volunteering may be arranged for GDLP students.

**Expressions of interest and CV should be sent to:**

- > Aboriginal Legal Service  
Level 3, Colonial Mutual Building  
17-21 University Avenue  
Canberra ACT 2601

### ANU Student Association Legal Service

The ANUSA Legal Advice Service, is assisted by later year ANU law students with legal research, preparing material to answer common legal questions and promoting the service.

**More information**

- > [sa.legal@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.legal@anu.edu.au)
- > [anusa.com.au/help-for-students](http://anusa.com.au/help-for-students)

### Australian Red Cross International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

The ACT Red Cross IHL initiative welcomes volunteers to promote awareness of IHL in the ACT. There is a high demand for volunteer positions.

Positions are advertised through a newsletter which you can subscribe to at:

- > [redcross.org.au/subscribe-wlh.aspx](http://redcross.org.au/subscribe-wlh.aspx)

### Conflict Resolution Service

The Conflict Resolution Service is actively seeking volunteers to assist with administrative tasks relating to the operation and provision of the service.

**More information**

- > 02 6162 4050
- > [executive@crs.org.au](mailto:executive@crs.org.au)
- > [crs.org.au](http://crs.org.au)

## Environmental Defender's Office

The EDO welcomes applications from law students for volunteering opportunities. Students who have studied environmental law and people with skills in education are encouraged to join our volunteer program, either by working at the EDO or providing pro bono services.

Volunteers assist with many tasks, including:

- > legal research
- > general office duties
- > drafting law reform submissions
- > IT and computing assistance
- > fundraising
- > scientific research

Volunteering allows you to share your ideas and volunteer your time and skills to help the EDO, your environment and your community. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to protect the environment to benefit your community.

### More information

- > 02 6243 3460
- > [edoact@edo.org.au](mailto:edoact@edo.org.au) (briefly outlining your relevant skills and experience and attaching a CV)
- > [edo.org.au/edoact](http://edo.org.au/edoact)

## Tenants' Union ACT

The Tenants' Union ACT manages the Tenants' Advice Service, which provides advice and assistance to tenants in private and public rental housing in the ACT. The Tenants' Union runs a Tuesday Night Tenants' Advice Service. This service provides phone advice to tenants in the ACT between the hours of 4:30 and 7:30pm. This service is provided by supervised volunteers. Volunteers are required to attend at least one training session, and to be able to commit to at least one shift a month.

Occasionally, there are opportunities for students to be involved in work relating to the Tenants' Union's Management Committee. Work on the committee includes attendance at monthly meetings, as well as proposing and following up on projects related to tenancy issues.

### More information

- > 02 6247 1026
- > [info@tenantsact.org.au](mailto:info@tenantsact.org.au)
- > [tenantsact.org.au](http://tenantsact.org.au)

## Legal Aid ACT

Legal Aid ACT works with law students in a range of ways, including through the ANU Clinical Programs and the Law Internship Program. Outside these programs, Legal Aid encourages volunteers and workshop placements, although capacity is limited. Preference is given to qualified lawyers

and students who are near completion of their law degree. To apply for a volunteer placement, email your resume to [hr@legalaidact.org.au](mailto:hr@legalaidact.org.au). Resumes should include your current qualification/year of study, your previous experience, preference for placement (civil, criminal or family) and your availability.

### More information

- > 02 6243 3411
- > [hr@legalaidact.org.au](mailto:hr@legalaidact.org.au)
- > [legalaidact.org.au](http://legalaidact.org.au)

## Welfare Rights Night Time Legal Service

This service is provided every Tuesday night from 6–8pm by volunteer solicitors and law students. The service offers one off advice and referral in all areas of law with a special focus on advice to employees about their rights. Volunteers must participate in an induction session and a waiting list applies.

### More information

- > [wrlc@netspeed.com.au](mailto:wrlc@netspeed.com.au)
- > [welfareightsact.org](http://welfareightsact.org)

## Women's Legal Centre ACT & Region

The Women's Legal Centre provides legal advice and representation in family, employment, discrimination and victims

of crime law. The Centre also provides information and referrals in all other areas of law. Volunteers start by undertaking assorted administrative work and may progress to undertaking legal research and assistance for solicitors. If a student wishes to volunteer, the Centre sends them a volunteer information pack which sets out all details of the program.

### More information

- > [coordinator@womenslegalact.org](mailto:coordinator@womenslegalact.org)
- > [womenslegalact.org](http://womenslegalact.org)

## Youth Law Centre ACT

The Youth Law Centre ACT relies on ANU law student volunteers to provide paralegal support during periods when the Clinical Youth Law Program is not operating i.e. each year in the summer break and the mid year break between semesters.

To be eligible to volunteer you must have completed at least 4 law subjects. Past clinical students or students who have relevant experience at a legal service are also welcome. Volunteers usually work one afternoon a week from 1–5pm and gain experience in legal office work practices, working with young clients, legal writing, legal research and youth justice issues.

### More information

- > 02 6173 5410
- > [coordinator@youthlawact.org.au](mailto:coordinator@youthlawact.org.au)
- > [youthlawact.org.au](http://youthlawact.org.au)

## UNHCR Regional Office in Canberra

UNHCR internships with the Legal Protection Unit involves legal and policy work relating to the legal protection of refugees and others of concern to the office in the South Pacific region and globally. Internships are full-time voluntary positions with 4 intakes a year.

### More information

- > 02 6260 3411
- > [aulca@unhcr.org](mailto:aulca@unhcr.org)
- > [unhcr.org.au/unhcr/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=59&Itemid=73](http://unhcr.org.au/unhcr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=59&Itemid=73)

## Victims of Crime Assistance League (VOCAL ACT)

A non-profit community group that offers assistance and support to ACT victims of crime. This includes court support for victims on contact or referral by ACT government agencies. Contact with victims is by phone and in person. Training and supervision for volunteers is available. Other activities include advocacy for victims, responding to policy proposals, writing submissions, fundraising and general office work.

### More information

- > 02 6295 9600
- > [vocalact@gmail.com](mailto:vocalact@gmail.com)
- > [vocalact.webs.com](http://vocalact.webs.com)

# OPPORTUNITIES AROUND AUSTRALIA

## The Aurora Project Native Title Internship Program

This internship introduces students to career opportunities in native title and Indigenous affairs, and primarily provides assistance to under resourced and over-worked Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) lawyers.

Applications are open to law students who have completed, or are currently completing, the property law component of their legal studies. There are two intakes for interns: during the summer (6 to 8 weeks) and winter (5 weeks) university breaks. Longer locum opportunities of up to 6 months may also be available.

Internships are with NTRBs and other Indigenous policy organisations or other organisations working in Native Title and related areas located around Australia. Locations of organisations that have participated in the Program include: Adelaide, Alice Springs, Brisbane, Broome, Bundaberg, Cairns, Canberra, Darwin, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Mackay, Melbourne, Perth, Port Hedland, Sydney, Thursday Island.

In some circumstances ANU students may be able to obtain course credit for Aurora internships i.e. as a Law Internship if the internship is primarily research based and the time frames fit or, if primarily legal practice based, then via concurrent enrolment in the Graduate Diploma of Legal Workshop (see the information about LLB

Course Credit and Concurrent Enrolment in the GDLP below).

### More information

- > [auroraproject.com.au](http://auroraproject.com.au)
- > ANU students should contact: Professor Simon Rice  
[simon.rice@anu.edu.au](mailto:simon.rice@anu.edu.au)

## Community Legal Centres

The National Association of Community Legal Centres website includes a directory of Community Legal Centres and other non-profit legal services around Australia.

- > [naclc.org.au](http://naclc.org.au)

CLC Volunteers advertises volunteer opportunities:

- > [clcvolunteers.net.au](http://clcvolunteers.net.au)

Australian Law Students' Association 'My Legal Career':

- > [alsa.net.au/careers](http://alsa.net.au/careers)

If seeking to volunteer, make it easy for the service by sending a short CV and indicate your availability.

## Legal Aid Commissions

The National Legal Aid website includes a directory of Legal Aid Commissions and their regional offices around Australia. If seeking to volunteer follow the routine suggested above in relation to Community Legal Centres.

### **More information**

> [nationallegalaid.org](http://nationallegalaid.org)

## **National Pro Bono Resource Centre**

The Pro Bono Resource Centre's website provides information for law students interested in volunteering. It produces a guide to social justice opportunities for students and also provides information on community legal centre opportunities around Australia.

### **More information**

> [nationalprobono.org.au](http://nationalprobono.org.au)

# OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

## CDNet

The Canberra Community Development Network promotes social wellbeing and inclusion in the ACT and region. Anyone can join the CDNet email list which averages about 10 postings a day relating to community happenings and opportunities in the ACT and region. Many local non-profits advertise for volunteers via the CDNet email list.

### More information

> [cdnet.org.au](http://cdnet.org.au)

## Australian Red Cross ACT

The Australian Red Cross offers a variety of non-legal volunteer opportunities across their program areas. Volunteer positions are advertised on their website.

### More information

> 02 6234 7600  
> [redcross.org.au/volunteering.aspx](http://redcross.org.au/volunteering.aspx)

## Prisoners AiD ACT

Prisoners Aid ACT provides a variety of different services that offer support to prisoners and their visitors. They do not provide legal advice, but offer a variety of services including: a court assistance and referral service, visiting prisoners at the AMC, and providing support on release. They regularly seek volunteers.

### More information

> 0450 960 896  
> [paact.org.au](http://paact.org.au)

## Volunteering ACT

Volunteering ACT is a membership based not-for-profit organisation. They are the peak body in the ACT representing volunteers and volunteer involving organisations. They operate a volunteer referral service, linking interested volunteer with volunteer opportunities amongst their membership.

### More information

> [volunteeringact.org.au](http://volunteeringact.org.au)

## Go Volunteer

An initiative of Volunteering Australia, this database lists volunteer opportunities around Australia and provides online resources and information for interested volunteers.

### More information

> [govolunteer.com.au](http://govolunteer.com.au)

## Indigenous Community Volunteers

Indigenous Community Volunteers is a not-for-profit organisation that works to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to develop community and

human capacity to improve quality of life, health and social and economic wellbeing. Working at the request of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, ICV unites communities with a national network of skilled volunteers. Applications for volunteering can be made online.

#### **More information**

- > [volunteer@icv.com.au](mailto:volunteer@icv.com.au)
- > [icv.com.au](http://icv.com.au)

## **Youth Ambassadors for Development**

The Australian Youth Ambassadors Program (AYAD) aims to strengthen mutual understanding between Australia and the countries of Asia, the Pacific and Africa. The program places skilled young Australians (18-30) on short term assignments in developing countries in these regions every year.

#### **More information**

- > [ayad.com.au](http://ayad.com.au)

## **Human Rights Opportunities Database**

Compiled by NSW Young Lawyers

#### **More information**

- > [lawsociety.com.au/about/YoungLawyers/Committees/HumanRights/OpportunitiesDatabase/index.htm](http://lawsociety.com.au/about/YoungLawyers/Committees/HumanRights/OpportunitiesDatabase/index.htm)

## **Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services (MARSS) of the ACT Inc.**

MARSS provides settlement and related services for migrants, refugees and humanitarian entrants in the ACT and region. They have volunteer opportunities across a variety of their programs. Further information can be found on their website.

#### **More information**

- > 02 6248 8577
- > [marss@marss.org.au](mailto:marss@marss.org.au)
- > [marss.org.au/index.php/volunteer](http://marss.org.au/index.php/volunteer)

# PAID LAW-RELATED OR OTHER RELEVANT WORK

## Local law firms and the ACT Law Society Law Student Employment Register

Some law students work for local firms and legal practices as rounds clerks (collect mail / file court documents) legal secretaries, paralegals or research assistants.

Law students looking for this type of paid work with local law firms can register with the ACT Law Society. Do this by completing the form on the Law Society web site, then take it or post it to the ACT Law Society.

### More information

- > 02 62475700
- > Level 3, 11 London Circuit, Canberra City (enter via Farrell Place)

## Indigenous Cadetships in public or private legal practice

The National Indigenous Cadetship Program (NICP) links Indigenous tertiary students with employers involving full-time study and 12 weeks (or equivalent) paid work placement each year. The work placement compliments the student's studies. There is an expectation that the cadet will be employed by the employer on completion.

### More information

- > [ics.deewr.gov.au](http://ics.deewr.gov.au)

## Summer Clerkships

Many major law firms and the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department participate in the Summer Clerkship Scheme to recruit law students for employment over the summer break.

### More information

- > [careers.anu.edu.au/students/gaining\\_experience/law\\_clerkships](http://careers.anu.edu.au/students/gaining_experience/law_clerkships)

## Community Legal Centres

For jobs in Community Legal Centres Australia wide, the National Association of Community Legal Centres maintains a database of job and volunteer opportunity listings.

- > [naclc.org.au/cb\\_pages/clc\\_jobs.php](http://naclc.org.au/cb_pages/clc_jobs.php)

## Conflict Resolution Service

The Conflict Resolution Service periodically offers a Certificate IV in Community Mediation. A person who has completed an appropriate training course can be registered as a mediator under the ACT Mediation Act by an approved agency such as CRS. Once registered the mediator can seek employment with mediation agencies. This usually involves a specific assessment and selection process to ensure that the

applicant suits the agency. In CRS' case, when there are vacancies on its mediation panel applicants can seek one of those places.

For information about training programs, Certificate IV in Community Mediation or to register interest in becoming a mediator with CRS, contact the CRS Training & Professional Standards Officer.

### **More information**

- > 02 6162 4050 (general switchboard)
- > [executive@crs.org.au](mailto:executive@crs.org.au)
- > [crs.org.au](http://crs.org.au)

# CAREERS HELP

## **ANU Law Students' Society Careers Information**

The LSS Careers team works hard all year round to bring students updates about casual and part-time jobs, work placements, government internships, clerkships and graduate positions. We are your go-to people for any concerns you may have about finding work experience and legal work at the end of your degree—be it in a firm, a government department or an NGO, in Australia or overseas! We are always eager to hear any ideas you have about how we can best serve you as law students and members of the legal community. We also promote fun and rewarding volunteer opportunities, and contests and scholarships with a careers focus.

### **More information**

> [anulss.com/careers](http://anulss.com/careers)

## **ANU Careers Centre**

The University's Careers Centre is available to assist with a wide range of queries - from the general exploration of career ideas and the career implications of subject choices, to details of specific jobs, employers, or postgraduate courses. Our resources are available to current students and recent graduates.

We also provide employers with advice on recruitment strategies, how to maintain a profile on campus and assistance with targeting suitably qualified and motivated students and graduates.

### **More information**

> [anu.edu.au/careers](http://anu.edu.au/careers)

# FOR LLB / JD COURSE CREDIT

Did you know . . .

**Through ANU College of Law clinical courses law students help provide free legal help to almost 1000 people a year in the ACT.**

And that is the tip of the iceberg because ANU law students also contribute as volunteers in ACT non-profit legal services and in many other ways.

## Clinical Law Courses

'Clinical' courses involve students working with real clients, real legal problems and real deadlines. Clinical courses also enable students to explore justice, access to justice, ethical and professional issues.

LAWS2267 Clinical Youth Law Course is run at the Youth Law Centre ACT, a free legal advice and referral centre for people aged between 12 and 25. This is a 6 unit course that enables students to gain practical experience in dealing with clients and real-life legal issues. Students must have completed 48 units of law courses to apply and are selected on the basis of quality of application and ballot if necessary.

> [programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/course/LAWS2267](http://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/course/LAWS2267)

LAWS2268 Community Law Clinical Course is run at the Welfare Rights and Legal Centre, and is a 12 unit course requiring students to work two days a week onsite. Students gain first hand experience in working with clients and on client files. To enrol, students must have completed 48 units of law courses, including Property and Administrative law. Enrolments are limited and are allocated by ballot.

> [programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/course/LAWS2268](http://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/course/LAWS2268)

LAWS2240 International Social Justice Clinic is a virtual clinic that places law students in non-government organisational activity in developing countries. Students are supervised regularly by NGO staff through online communications technology. Enrolments are limited and are allocated by ballot.

> [programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/course/LAWS2240](http://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/course/LAWS2240)

ANU Law Internship enables students to undertake an internship in government departments, law firms, parliament, non-government organisations and members of the Faculty. The internship involves the completion of a 5000 word research paper under the supervision of a legal professional in the workplace. Students must contact the law school to request a permission code to enrol.

> [programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/course/LAWS2230](http://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/course/LAWS2230)

# CONCURRENT ENROLMENT IN THE GDLP

To practice as a lawyer a person must have completed (i) their LLB or JD and (ii) practical legal training which satisfies requirements for admission to legal practice. The ANU Legal Workshop provides Practical Legal Training (PLT) leading to the award of a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice (GDLP) which meets admission requirements.

Law students who have completed the equivalent of 12 x 6 unit courses of their LLB or JD, may be eligible to enrol concurrently in the GDLP while completing their degree. Students must seek and receive permission from the Sub-Dean to concurrently enrol in the GDLP. Students start the GDLP with the Skills for Practice intensive which is offered 15 times a year (5 times in Canberra and 10 in other locations).

Students enrolled in the Legal Workshop can seek credit for qualifying legal practice placement. Examples include: qualifying summer clerkships, cadetships, internships, clinical programs and volunteer and paid work in legal practice. Where qualifying placement is undertaken before enrolling in the Legal Workshop, at least half of the placement may be counted.

Legal Aid Clinical Program (LAC Program)  
The LAC Program is a clinical program provided by the ANU Legal Workshop in partnership with Legal Aid ACT. Students can choose to undertake this program as part of legal practice experience towards the GDLP. Students help provide free legal advice and short assistance to clients.

Student work is supervised by Legal Workshop teaching lawyers who work the program at Legal Aid. During the program most students also accompany Legal Aid solicitors working in the criminal duty list at the ACT Magistrates Court, the Legal Aid Domestic Violence Service, Family Court / Federal Magistrates Court and the Children's Court.

## More information

- > [law.anu.edu.au/legalworkshop/gdlp/legal-practice-experience](http://law.anu.edu.au/legalworkshop/gdlp/legal-practice-experience)

## Regional, rural and remote CLC Placement

The RRR Community Legal Centres legal practice experience (PLE) initiative is provided by the National Association of Community Legal Centres in partnership with the Legal Workshop. The initiative highlights RRR legal careers against a backdrop of the severe shortage of lawyers in RRR Australia.

Legal Workshop GDLP students can apply to undertake RRR CLC placement and financial assistance may be available. Through this placement GDLP students can complete part or all of the GDLP LPE requirements.

## More information

- > [law.anu.edu.au/legalworkshop/gdlp/regional-rural-remote-lpe](http://law.anu.edu.au/legalworkshop/gdlp/regional-rural-remote-lpe)

## **ANU Legal Workshop**

- > [lwsa@law.anu.edu.au](mailto:lwsa@law.anu.edu.au)
- > [law.anu.edu.au/legalworkshop](http://law.anu.edu.au/legalworkshop)

## **Information about concurrent enrolment**

- > [law.anu.edu.au/legalworkshop/gdlp/concurrent-enrolment-llb-jd](http://law.anu.edu.au/legalworkshop/gdlp/concurrent-enrolment-llb-jd)

## **Legal Practice Experience Rules**

- > [law.anu.edu.au/sites/all/files/legalworkshop/anu\\_gdlp\\_lpe\\_guidelines\\_january\\_20141\\_copy.pdf](http://law.anu.edu.au/sites/all/files/legalworkshop/anu_gdlp_lpe_guidelines_january_20141_copy.pdf)

### **Updating and adding to *An Active Approach***

The most recent published version of *An Active Approach* is on the Law Reform & Social Justice website:

> [law.anu.edu.au/lrsj](http://law.anu.edu.au/lrsj)

Agencies and others with updates or additions for inclusion in *An Active Approach* should contact the Law Reform & Social Justice team at the ANU College of Law.

> [lrsj@anu.edu.au](mailto:lrsj@anu.edu.au)

# CONTACT US

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