

## Our contact details

**Phone:** (02) 6218 7900

**FreeCall:** 1800 787 529 or 1800 445 665

**Fax:** (02) 6247 2816

**Email:** [info@canberracommunitylaw.org.au](mailto:info@canberracommunitylaw.org.au)

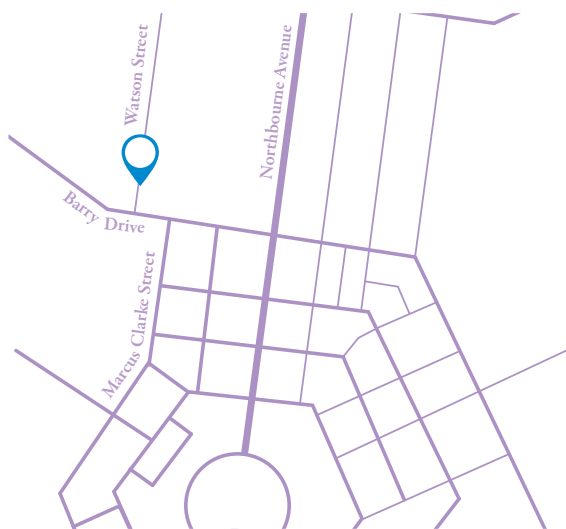
**Website:** [www.canberracommunitylaw.org.au](http://www.canberracommunitylaw.org.au)

**Postal Address:** PO Box 547, Canberra ACT 2601

**Street Address:** 1st Floor, 21 Barry Drive, Turner ACT (We are located in the Templar House building, on the corner of Watson Street and Barry Drive)

For disability access please use the intercom outside the building entrance. If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450 and ask them to ring us.

If you are deaf or have a hearing impairment or speech impairment contact us through the National Relay Service at [www.relayservice.gov.au](http://www.relayservice.gov.au)



## What other services does Canberra Community Law provide?

### Disability Discrimination Law

Legal advice and assistance in disability discrimination matters — (02) 6218 7900.

### Street Law

Outreach legal service for people who are experiencing homelessness — 1800 STRLAW (1800 787 529) or (02) 6218 7900.

### Socio-Legal Practice Clinic

Legal and social worker support for people over 18 who have a high degree of vulnerability and have housing, Centrelink or disability discrimination issues — (02) 6218 7900. Referral must be made by a Canberra Community Law lawyer.

### Night Time Legal Advice Service

Legal advice and referrals — please call (02) 6218 7900 on Tuesday night between 6pm to 7pm.

### Feedback welcome!

Canberra Community Law welcomes your feedback. You can telephone the Executive Director/Principal Solicitor on (02) 6218 7900 or by mail at PO Box 547, Canberra ACT, 2601.

Alternatively you can write to the Chairperson care of our postal address marking your letter “Confidential”.

# CANBERRA COMMUNITY LAW

Domestic Violence —  
Housing and Social Security  
Legal Help



## Who are we?

Domestic violence can have a big impact on your housing situation and can cause problems with Centrelink and Public Housing.

Canberra Community Law is a specialist legal service that can provide free advice and assistance with Public Housing and Centrelink. We also have a dedicated service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients.

## Public Housing

Experiencing domestic violence can have a big impact on your housing situation. Getting into public housing can be difficult.

If you are already a public housing tenant, you may need to move properties or you may have a debt if your partner has damaged the property.

Some examples of common housing issues for people experiencing domestic violence include:

- Problems getting into public housing
- Problems getting a transfer
- Housing repair debts

## Social Security (Centrelink)

Domestic violence can cause problems with Centrelink. These problems can occur for many reasons, including:

- the way that Centrelink calculates your income and assets
- whether Centrelink think you are a member of a couple
- any rules that affect whether you can apply for a payment

Some examples of common Centrelink and social security issues for people escaping domestic violence include:

- Claims refused because of a partner's income
- Debt recovery because Centrelink thinks you have been overpaid
- Problems with Parenting Payment and Family Tax Benefit
- Not being able to claim Centrelink because of a compensation preclusion period

## How can we help?

We can provide you with free legal advice on your situation and the options you have.

In some cases, we may also be able to:

- Talk to Housing ACT or Centrelink on your behalf
- Help you to make an application for public housing or Centrelink
- Help you to appeal decisions
- Represent you in the Tribunal

## Getting in touch with us:

**Social Security and Housing Law**

Phone: (02) 6218 7900



## Dhurrawang Aboriginal Human Rights Program

### Artwork Acknowledgement



We acknowledge Wiradjuri artist Leanne Pope for the use of her artwork 'Fresh Life After Rain' 2017 for our identifier, marketing and promotional materials.

The original artwork is located at the offices of Canberra Community Law, Canberra ACT.

Legal advice and assistance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT on housing, Centrelink and race discrimination issues on (02) 6218 7900.

We also have a series of factsheets on common problems faced by people in public housing and common issues with Centrelink. These are available from our office (on request) and can be found on our website at [www.canberracommunitylaw.org.au](http://www.canberracommunitylaw.org.au)

*Canberra Community Law acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work in the ACT and surrounding region and pay our respects to the Ngunnawal elders past, present and future for they hold the stories, traditions, and the cultures of their people. We are grateful that we share this land and express our sorrow for the costs of this sharing to Australia's First Peoples. We will continue to acknowledge the legacy of our history and strive in our goals to empower our community through social justice. We hope that our efforts will continue to a realisation of equity, justice and partnership with Traditional Custodians of this land.*

