

## Myths about Legal Aid ACT

When we are out in the community, we hear a lot of myths about Legal Aid ACT and the ways that we can or cannot help people.

If you are not sure if Legal Aid ACT can help you with your legal problem, please contact us by calling the Legal Aid Helpline on **1300 654 314**.

### “Legal Aid can only help you if you are on a very low income”

This is not true.

Legal Aid ACT has FREE services that offer ONE-OFF legal advice no matter what your income is. We know that legal problems can be very stressful, and it can sometimes be very hard to resolve a legal problem without getting advice from a lawyer.

Call the Legal Aid Helpline on **1300 654 314** if you need FREE one-off legal advice. If you need ongoing legal assistance, you will need to apply for a grant of legal assistance.

### “Legal Aid only helps with criminal law problems”

This is not true.

We provide advice on a range of different legal problems:

- Care and Protection (when CYF is involved)
- Criminal law
- Debt
- Discrimination
- Employment law (for employees)
- Elder Abuse
- Family Law
- Family Violence and Personal Protection
- Guardianship

- Immigration and refugee applications
- Mental Health orders
- NDIS – National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Neighbourhood disputes
- Small business matters
- Tenancy (for tenants)

We may also be able to provide advice on other legal issues depending on the circumstances. Please contact us to find out how we can help you with your legal problem.

### “Legal Aid can only help you if you are over 18”

This is not true.

Our Youth Law Centre is a free and confidential legal service for young people aged 12 to 25 years in the ACT.

#### Youth Law Centre (YLC)

Free legal service for young people aged 12-25

[www.legalaidact.org.au](http://www.legalaidact.org.au)

Phone: **(02) 6173 5410** or **1300 654 314**

Email: [ylc@legalaidact.org.au](mailto:ylc@legalaidact.org.au)

We also assist people under the age of 18 through our specialised practices (e.g. our Criminal Law Practice or Family Litigation Practice).

### “If you apply for a grant of legal assistance, we only care about your income”

This is not true.

If you apply for a grant of legal assistance, we will look at a whole range of information, not just your income. We look at:

- Your ability to pay for your legal fees;
- The likelihood of your case succeeding;

## How can we help you?

- The benefit you might gain in the case compared to the cost to us; or
- What your case is about.

### Useful Contacts

#### Legal Aid ACT

Office hours: 8:30am – 5:00pm Monday - Friday

[www.legalaidact.org.au](http://www.legalaidact.org.au)

Phone: **1300 654 314**

Phone hours: 8:30am – 7:00pm Monday –  
Thursday, 8:30am – 5:00pm Friday

#### Legal Aid ACT

Domestic Violence and Personal Protection Unit

ACT Magistrates Court

Monday to Friday: 9:00am to 4:00pm

[www.legalaidact.org.au](http://www.legalaidact.org.au)

Phone: **1300 654 314** or **(02) 6207 1874**

**No appointment necessary!**

#### Legal Aid ACT

Family Law Duty Service

Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia

Monday to Friday: 9:00am to 3:00pm

[www.legalaidact.org.au](http://www.legalaidact.org.au)

Phone: **1300 654 314** or **(02) 6207 1874**

**No appointment necessary!**