



PILBARA COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our July PCLS newsletter!

As we have currently do not have a wills and estate lawyer, we regret to inform that we have had to suspend our wills and estate service until further notice. We are able to assist with referrals to appropriate legal services. Please contact us on 9185 5899.

When the service resumes, PCLS will be assisting clients with the preparation of simple wills, probate and letters of administration applications to the Supreme Court of WA upon the death of the testator; Enduring Power of Attorney and Enduring Power of Guardianship.

WHAT HAPPENED IN JULY AT PCLS

- PCLS offices had the new WebEx system set up.
- Our South Hedland admin Jen spent time in our Karratha office.

Housing support worker Anne and admin Jen from our Hedland office at the Fire Warden Training.



DV worker Sara and tenant advocate Kailene joined in on the Karratha Girls Academy NAIDOC walk.



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Pilbara Community Legal Service Inc. (PCLS) is a not-for-profit, government-funded community organisation. Our main objective is to provide services to reduce disadvantage, increase the capacity of individuals to understand their rights and obligations and to empower people to manage their lives effectively.

We are located in: Karratha, Roebourne, South Hedland and Newman. PCLS also delivers outreach services around the Pilbara to isolated communities which include; Marble Bar, Nullagine, Jigalong, Onslow, Tom Price and Paraburdoo.

We assist with: Financial Counselling, Tenant Advice and Education, Housing Support, Domestic Violence, Redress Scheme, Disability Advocacy, Community Migrant Settlement and Legal— in the areas of family law, criminal injuries compensation and Wills and Deceased Estates

To find out more about our service:

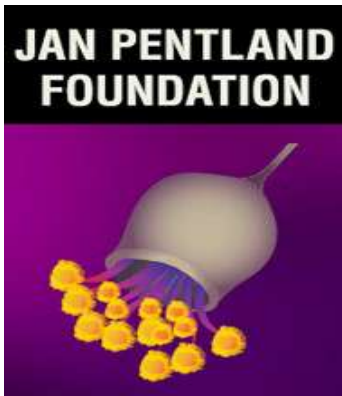
- Visit our website: www.pcls.net.au
- Like us on Facebook



FINANCIAL COUNSELLING

Susanne, Karen, and Jayne are the Financial Counsellors for PCLS. They offer information, conduct assessments and provide options and support to assist clients, address identified problems and manage financial situations more effectively. To make an appointment please contact Susanne in Karratha on **(08) 9185 5899**, Karen in Roebourne on **(08) 6149 2031** and Jayne in South Hedland on **(08) 9140 1613**. If you are located in Newman, please contact Jayne in South Hedland.

Jan Pentland Scholarship



Each year, the Jan Pentland Foundation awards a number of scholarships to help cover the costs of studying the CHC51115 Diploma of Financial Counselling.

The foundation also annually awards the Jan Pentland Prize, which recognises the outstanding advocacy and service of a financial counsellor.

We would like to congratulate our Roebourne financial counsellor Karen who was awarded the Jan Pentland Scholarship this year!

The scholarship provides financial assistance to those studying or intending to study financial counselling.

The criteria includes financial need and the ability to make a significant contribution to financial counselling.



Financial Counsellors go to Prison



Our financial counsellors Sue and Karen are not actually in prison but they have teamed up with the Roebourne Prison to assist prisoners with their financial issues.

People in prison are punished twice by being caught in a debt trap while they serve their time.

Early intervention and putting steps in place to deal with debts while in prison will help to reduce stress on the person and assist to reintegrate them into society without the added pressure of debts.

Prisoners can gain face to face assistance from our financial counsellors when they visit the Prison on a Wednesday.

Appointments can be made through the Employment and Transitional Service Manager at Roebourne Prison.

Our Financial Counsellors can assist with:

- Cancelling direct debits, Cancelling Electricity connections.
- Requesting financial hardship assistance from creditors. This will stop debts escalating while in Prison and to stop debts being sold to Debt Collectors.
- Assisting with vehicle loans and repossessions.

- Dealing with phone contracts
- Providing bankruptcy information and assistance
- Providing options and information to deal with financial issues and allow the client to be empowered and make informed decisions on their finances.



TENANT ADVICE AND EDUCATION SERVICE

Kailene and Kelly are the Tenant Advice and Education Service Workers. Their role is to advocate, support and educate tenants in relation to their rights and responsibilities in accordance with the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA). They cannot provide advice to landlords or commercial tenants. To make an appointment please contact Kailene in Karratha on **(08) 9185 5899** or contact Kelly in South Hedland on **(08) 9140 1613**



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

HEALTH CLINIC

FREE SERVICE

Supported by IBN Karratha and Mawarnkarra Health Service

**The third Tuesday of every month. Commencing
18th August 10:00am until 3.30pm.**

- Child Health / School health Checks
- Immunisations
- Flu Vaccines
- Sexual Health Screen
- Pregnancy advice
- Referrals
-and so much more!



No APPOINTMENT NEEDED

**Come and see us at IBN Karratha office
3/ 4 Welcome Road**



HOUSING SUPPORT WORKER

Karla, Angie, Lisa, Anne and Tamara are the Housing Support workers. The Housing Support Workers assist people having difficulty securing or maintaining stable accommodation. The program is for people who are at risk of or are experiencing any type of homelessness issue. To make an appointment please contact Karla in Karratha on **(08) 9185 5899**, Angie in Roebourne **(08) 6149 2031**, Lisa or Anne in South Hedland on **(08) 9140 1613** or Tamara in Newman on **(08) 9175 0148**

LEGAL TEAM

Julie (Principal Solicitor), Carolyn, Sabrina and Kayla are the solicitors for PCLS. Our solicitors offer free legal assistance and assist clients who are needing advice or help in the areas of family law, criminal injuries compensation, Wills and deceased estates. If you are needing assistance with any of the above please call Julie or Carolyn in our Karratha office on **(08) 9185 5899**, Sabrina or Kayla in our South Hedland office on **(08) 9140 1613**.

Message From Our Disability Advocate Solicitor

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (“NDIS”) provides payments to people with disabilities for any reasonable and necessary supports to help them pursue goals and aspirations and increase independence.

There is a common misconception that NDIS payments will affect Centrelink payments. Payments from the NDIS are not considered ‘income’ by Centrelink, and will not affect your Centrelink payments.

NDIS supports are also exempt from tax. NDIS payments may, however, Mobility Allowance.

We recognise that there are no Local Area Coordinators in the Pilbara to assist people with applying and accessing the NDIS.

To address this barrier, we have developed an NDIS fact sheet (available on our website) www.pcls.net.au to help people understand how to apply

for the NDIS.

If you would like more information on how to access the NDIS, you can book an appointment with our Disability Advocate Solicitor.



PCLS Partnership with WA Curtin University Law School



From May to July Pilbara Community Legal Service partnered with the Curtin University to provide legal placement to two final year law students.

The students gained valuable insights and experience into the contribution that community legal centre’s make in improving access to justice to some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the community.

Due to the lockdowns and social distancing rules, the students were required to do their legal placement via remote participation.

Each week for a total of ten weeks, the Final year Curtin law students were

given an agenda/ program for the day which included anything from;

- Observing client interviews through audio participation
- Conducting legal research for PCLS solicitors
- Developing community legal education programs to be delivered by PCLS solicitors
- Producing legal resources to be made available to the public through our website and Facebook page.

PCLS has entered into a two year agreement with Curtin University to provide legal placements with final year law students. Our hope is to stimulate and encourage graduates to look to the community legal sector for work after graduating and gaining admission to practice law in WA.

Wills & Estate Assistance

PCLS Wills and Estates service is currently on hold.

Here a some services that may be able to assist you with your wills and estate matters.

Citizen Advice Bureau
9221 5711

Stellan Law
0468 496 888

Public Trustee
1300 746 116

We will inform you via this newsletter as soon as we resume our wills and estate service.

STAY TUNED

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT WORKERS

Sara, Dolly and Kody are our domestic violence team at PCLS. Their role involves providing support to victims of family and domestic violence through safety and crisis intervention planning, informal counselling, support planning, advocacy, court support, assistance with Violence Restraining Order applications and education. To make an appointment please call Sara in Karratha on **(08) 91855899** or Dolly and Kody in South Hedland on **(08) 9140 1613**.



GIVIT

PCLS GIVIT Good News Story

The Pilbara Community Service team has signed up to GIVIT to be able to provide better support to our clients in need. Our DV team posted for help on the GIVIT site and they were provided with a \$300 Woolworths voucher to help assist them to buy mobile phones for their domestic violence clients.

If you are an individual that is struggling and needs assistance or an organisation / individual that wants to help those in need visit the GIVIT website <https://www.givit.org.au/> for more information.

Trusted support organisations around Australia tell GIVIT what the people they're helping need right now. We then list those needs on the GIVIT website. Donors can then offer a donation or give money to help GIVIT buy locally.

When you give money to a GIVIT appeal 100% of the money received goes to purchasing items that are needed.

Through GIVIT, thousands of quality items are donated each week to help people in need. They support entire communities as they rebuild after devastating disasters, provide hope and assistance to families battling drought, and proudly work to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

They are also reducing landfill by diverting tonnes of reusable items to help individuals and communities. And they continually ensure the donations do no harm to communities, especially in times of disaster.

How GIVIT works



REDRESS SUPPORT WORKERS

Karla and Tracey are our Redress support team at PCLS. Our redress support workers are here to help survivors of sexual abuse understand the Scheme, talk about feelings and guide them through the whole application process. To make an appointment please call Karla in Karratha on **(08) 91855899**, Tracey in Roebourne on **(08) 6149 2031**

COMMUNITY MIGRANT SERVICE WORKERS

Victoria is our community migrant service worker for the Pilbara. Their role is to provide one-on-one casework, support, information and linkages to other mainstream services to assist migrants. To make an appointment please call Victoria in South Hedland on **(08) 9140 1613**.

My Visa has Expired

You must have a valid visa to stay in Australia. It is unlawful to stay in Australia without a valid visa.

It's important to know when your visa expires so you can take action to remain lawful.

Your visa has expired within the 28 day period.

If your visa has expired within the 28 day period you will need to immediately apply for a Bridging visa E (BVE).

A BVE is a short-term visa that lets you stay lawfully in Australia while you make arrangements to leave, finalise your immigration matter or wait for an immigration decision.

If you want to stay lawfully in Australia, you must apply for a new visa. Your circumstances will determine your visa options and what you must do to remain lawful. Depending on how long ago your visa expired, you may face restrictions on applying for further visas while you are in Australia.

Some services relating to the visa application process may be impacted by COVID-19 and a range of services we rely on (such as medical checks and biometric collection) are increasingly unavailable.

Applicants will be given additional time to complete checks and provide the requested information.

Your visa has expired over the 28 day period.

If your visa expired more than 28 days ago, please contact the Status Resolution Service (SRS) for assistance to resolve your immigration status.



Multicultural Swimming Lessons



The multicultural swimming lessons have begun!
Lessons started on the 19th of July in Hedland.

If you would like more information about the swimming lessons please call Victoria from PCLS on **(08) 9185 5899**



ROYAL LIFE SAVING
AUSTRALIA

Swim
and
Survive

