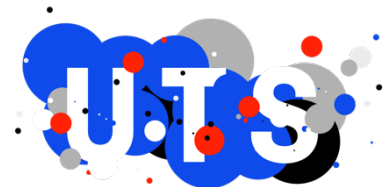


SUBMISSION TO THE LAW COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

IN RESPONSE TO THE

'HOMELESS PERSONS' CONSULTATION PAPER

October 2017



Introduction to the National Study on the Criminalisation of Poverty and Homelessness

In June 2017, the Australian Research Council announced that it would fund our National Study on the Criminalisation of Poverty and Homelessness under its 'Linkage' Grant Scheme. The ARC Linkage scheme supports research that is conducted by academics in partnership with industry.

Our project is the first national study of how 21st century criminal laws and police powers impact on individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness. This study is being conducted by four law schools, in partnership with 10 community legal centres from around Australia. Together, we will collect and analyse data on the impact of the criminal justice system on the lives of Australians experiencing poverty and homelessness. Every State and Territory in Australia is represented in this study, with project sites in both urban and regional areas.

Our focus is on criminal laws and police powers that regulate individuals' presence in, and movement around, public spaces. We will examine whether the criminal justice system impacts differently upon people experiencing poverty and homelessness in different States and Territories, and among cohorts within the homeless population (such as Indigenous people, women and children, and people with mental illness).

Our goal is to identify best practice policing and enforcement models, with a particular focus on decriminalisation, diversion and therapeutic jurisprudence, and to develop options for the reform of laws, policies and practices that contribute to the criminalisation of people experiencing homelessness.

The specific aims of the project are to:

1. assess the impact of low level criminal offences (eg. public nuisance, offensive behaviour, obstruct/disobey police, breach of bail, shoplifting, fare evasion, welfare fraud) on individuals experiencing homelessness;
2. document the lived experience of people experiencing poverty and homelessness in relation to the operation of the criminal law and interactions with police;
3. explain the different 'points' in the criminal justice system at which people experiencing homelessness are at greater risk of criminalisation (eg. street policing of anti-social behaviour, bail, post-prison release conditions);
4. highlight the specific experiences of different cohorts of people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, with a focus on Indigenous peoples, women and children, and people with mental illness; and
5. make recommendations for law and policy reform (including pro-active crime prevention), and improvements to policing and sentencing practices.

The academic team members are:

- A/Prof Tamara Walsh, TC Beirne School of Law, The University of Queensland
- A/Prof Thalia Anthony, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney
- Prof Luke McNamara, Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales
- A/Prof Julia Quilter, School of Law, University of Wollongong

The community legal centres involved in the project include all of the specialist homelessness legal services in Australia. They are:

Justice Connect, Homeless Law (Melbourne)

Justice Connect Homeless Law (Homeless Law) is a not-for-profit, community-based legal organisation delivering legal and other services to disadvantaged people in Victoria. Established in 2001, Homeless Law works with pro-bono lawyers from eight member law firms to provide legal representation and social work support to approximately 500 clients experiencing or at risk of homelessness each year.

Homeless Persons Legal Service, Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) (Sydney)

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) is a not-for-profit, community-based legal organisation delivering legal and other services to disadvantaged people in New South Wales. In 2004, PIAC established the Homeless Persons' Legal Service (HPLS). Since it commenced the HPLS has provided legal assistance to more than 5,400 people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, on over 10,000 occasions.

Homeless Persons Legal Clinic, LawRight (Brisbane)

In 2002, QPILCH (as it then was) established the Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic (HPLC), which provides pro bono legal representation and advice to people experiencing homelessness and related vulnerabilities. The HPLC partners with 28 private law firms and over 30 community agencies to operate 21 outreach legal clinics across Queensland. Each year, the HPLC effectively addresses over 1700 new client files, achieving holistic outcomes for those most marginalised in the community.

Housing Legal Clinic (Adelaide)

The HLC (formerly managed by the Welfare Rights Centre SA) has provided pro bono legal advice and minor representation to those experiencing homelessness, or at risk of experiencing homelessness in South Australia for 10 years.

Street Law Centre WA (Perth)

Street Law Centre WA Inc (Street Law) is a not-for-profit, community-based legal organisation delivering legal and other services to disadvantaged people in Western Australia. Street Law is the only specialised legal service that provides outreach legal services to the homeless and those at risk of experiencing homelessness in WA. The legal services provided include advice, case work, negotiation and sourcing pro bono representation when required.

Street Law, Canberra Community Law (Canberra)

Canberra Community Law is a not-for-profit, community-based legal organisation delivering legal and other services to disadvantaged people in the Australian Capital Territory. These services include the Street Law program which provides legal help to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

In addition to these organisations, a number of generalist community legal services from other parts of Australia are also partners in this research. They are:

Darwin Community Legal Service

Darwin Community Legal Service Inc (DCLS) is a not-for-profit, community-based legal organisation delivering legal and other services to disadvantaged people in the Northern Territory. DCLS is a generalist service that provides free legal information and advice in most areas of civil law, including issues arising from homelessness.

Hobart Community Legal Service

Hobart Community Legal Service Inc is a not-for-profit, community-based legal organisation delivering legal and other services to disadvantaged people in Southern Tasmania. The Hobart Community Legal Service Inc. provides advice and limited representation in Consumer matters, Fair Work industrial matters, minor criminal matters, welfare rights, child support matters, family violence and some family law matters.

Townsville Community Legal Service

Townsville Community Legal Service Inc is a generalist not-for-profit, community-based legal organisation delivering legal and other services to disadvantaged people in northern Queensland.

Illawarra Legal Centre

Illawarra Legal Centre is a not-for-profit, community-based legal organisation delivering legal and other services to disadvantaged people in NSW. They provide free legal services to the public by telephone, our centre and a range of outreach locations. They focus on helping people living with disadvantage and people with special needs.

This project is a three-year project, so the projected completion date is September 2020.

The project's design centres on the collection and analysis of qualitative data drawn from semi-structured interviews with individuals who have experienced homelessness. These unique qualitative data will be triangulated with: qualitative data drawn from interviews with expert stakeholders in the criminal justice system (police, lawyers and magistrates); public domain quantitative data on recorded crime and criminal charges; and published reports from oversight and review bodies (such as the Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission, and the Victorian Ombudsman). Analysis and synthesis of the complete dataset will inform the design of a justice reinvestment approach, which will be put forward as a possible alternative to the current criminalisation approach. Our findings will be disseminated through a succinct plain-English overview for participants, reports to stakeholders (including relevant government Departments) and academic outputs for the scholarly community.

The contributions of specialist homelessness legal services in Australia

The high costs of private legal services and the challenges accessing grants of legal assistance mean that many homeless people are denied access to legal assistance, advice and representation. Given their multiple, complex legal and non-legal needs, homeless persons benefit from appropriate services that are: located in an accessible place (near or co-located with generalist social security and health services); provide less formal and longer appointment times; offer holistic support through connecting clients to non-legal services (for example accommodation and rehabilitation); and focus on empowering clients to identify legal problems and assert their legal rights. Specialist homelessness legal services can deliver legal information and assistance that is client-focused and targeted to the needs and capabilities of homeless persons.¹

The contribution that specialist homelessness legal services make to disadvantaged clients are substantial, both in human and monetary terms. The data that we have collected to date suggests that Australia's specialist homelessness legal services assist over 3000 clients per year, and provide legal advice and assistance with a commercial value of many millions of dollars (see pp11-13).

¹ L Adams and K Ho, *Under One Roof: Embedding Legal Services to Make Justice Accessible for Homeless Clients*, 2016 (Melbourne: Justice Connect).

However, most specialist homelessness legal services in Australia are significantly under-funded, and rely on volunteer lawyers to deliver legal services on a pro bono basis, often with the help of law students. Many services face an uncertain future, as their funding arrangements are often short-term and insecure. We urge the Law Council to advocate for greater capacity and certainty in the resourcing of homeless legal services to build on their delivery of legal and related services to people experiencing homelessness.

Homelessness, legal need and access to justice

The Law Council of Australia has correctly identified that people who are homeless frequently experience multiple legal problems simultaneously, often as a direct result of their vulnerability. Homeless persons interact with the legal system as both defendants and victims of crime, and it may be difficult to separate the social problems they experience – including social exclusion, isolation, physical health problems, and mental health disorders – from their legal difficulties. It is also difficult to distinguish between legal problems that cause homelessness and legal problems that maintain and entrench homelessness as they are often interrelated. For example, homelessness may occur as a consequence of family violence, debt, criminalisation or eviction, but on the other hand, fines, child protection interventions and criminal charges may occur as a direct result of a person's state of homelessness.

The experience of homelessness can increase the risk of further legal problems, and homelessness legal services are required to respond to a wide range of legal issues when working with clients experiencing homelessness. The most common legal problems experienced by people experiencing homelessness include debt and fines, housing and tenancy, family violence and criminalisation. However, different demographic groups of homeless persons face distinct legal problems. People experiencing entrenched homelessness are more likely to experience problems related to the criminal law, while women and children experiencing homelessness are more likely to experience family violence and child protection interventions. Many people experiencing homelessness prioritise more basic and pressing non-legal needs and, as a result, do not take action in response to their legal problems until they reach a point of crisis.

All Australian states and territories have laws which have the effect of criminalising homelessness and poverty. In 2006, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, Miloon Kothari, concluded that the enforcement of public space laws in Australia 'criminalises the homeless and may violate civil rights, including the right to be free from inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment'.² In 2009, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth recommended that the Australian Government, in cooperation with state and territory governments, conduct an audit of laws and policies that impact disproportionately on people experiencing homelessness. To date, this audit has not been conducted – our project will respond to this, and contribute towards filling this gap in the research.

The Law Council's 'Priorities for discussion'

There is widespread support amongst our group for the priorities identified by the Law Council of Australia in its 'Homeless Persons' Consultation Paper. At a recent roundtable discussion,³ representatives from the organisations participating in this research offered the following reflections in relation to them:

² M Kothari, *United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing: Mission to Australia*, 2006.

³ The first roundtable discussion for this research project was held at the University of Queensland on 15 September 2017.

1. *Future government policies that address homelessness should recognise the essential role legal assistance plays in preventing and reducing homelessness, and resources should be allocated accordingly.*

An ongoing problem faced by most of the specialist homelessness legal services is unreliable and insecure funding arrangements. This significantly detracts from the capacity of core staff members to deliver services to homeless clients, and to develop and implement longer-term strategic plans.

For example, in September 2017, LawRight in Brisbane was informed that its Townsville Homeless Persons Legal Clinic had been defunded, as had its 'LegalPod' program. 'LegalPod' was a specialised project connected with the Brisbane homelessness outreach clinics, targeted specifically at young people exiting the child protection system. In June 2017, the Welfare Rights Centre (SA) was defunded. The Welfare Rights Centre had previously managed the Housing Legal Clinic in Adelaide, and whilst the Clinic is still operating, its future remains uncertain as its funding cycle ends on 30 June 2018. PIAC's Homeless Persons Legal Service's funding is not certain beyond June 2018, and Street Law Centre WA's core funding is only secure until 30 June 2018. Further, a recent review recommended a 30% cut to the Illawarra Legal Centre's core funding.

In this environment, it is difficult to guarantee that specialised homelessness legal services will continue across Australia beyond next year. Ensuring recurrent funding of these services is, therefore, our most pressing concern.

2. *Investment in safe, secure and appropriate housing for vulnerable groups who are at risk of homelessness, including women and children fleeing domestic and family violence, children transition from State care, recently released prisoners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, especially those living in regional, rural and remote communities. Investment in housing has the potential to improve social, health and legal outcomes for vulnerable groups and generate public cost savings.*

We strongly support increased investment in long-term, secure accommodation for vulnerable people. Housing insecurity and housing stress both cause and perpetuate homelessness. Public housing, once a true safety net for those at risk of homelessness, has been increasingly restricted to those with complex needs, and it is well-established that demand considerably outstrips supply, particularly in Australia's larger capital cities. A lack of safe and secure housing can make it difficult to make long-term decisions, undertake paid work and maintain family stability. Having a secure, affordable place to live can have an enormous stabilising effect on people's lives.

Importantly, if individuals have a private space to retreat to, they can avoid other legal problems that are associated with having a presence in public space. There are many laws that criminalise behaviour in public spaces that would be lawful if conducted in private, such as urinating, drinking alcohol, sleeping or storing one's possessions.

3. *Improve the legal, policy and service frameworks to avoid unnecessary evictions into homelessness and prioritise homelessness prevention.*

Difficulties related to sustaining tenancies, and dealing with eviction notices, are amongst the most common legal problems dealt with by specialist homelessness legal services across Australia.

In international law, the right to adequate housing is recognised as a derivative of the broader right to an adequate standard of living (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, article 11). However, a focus on emergency relief and crisis accommodation, at the expense of maintaining

tenancies in the long-term, represents a failure to recognise that homelessness is more than just 'houselessness'. As the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has said, the right to adequate housing encompasses an entitlement to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity. 'Adequate' housing requires consideration of security of tenure, as well as affordability, habitability and cultural appropriateness.⁴

There are considerable differences in laws and policies related to tenancies and evictions across the States and Territories, however it is generally agreed that vulnerable people require considerable assistance to navigate the complex laws that apply, as well as advocacy support to maintain precarious tenancy arrangements.

4. Greater resources invested in pre and post-release legal and social programs to prevent homelessness among prisoners and thus reduce re-incarceration rates. For example, greater funding of outreach legal services to prisons to enable prisoners to address any debts, fines and housing problems prior to their release.

There is no doubt that there is a need for resources to be invested in programs that support prisoners to retain their housing where they are serving short sentences, and to obtain housing upon release. Hobart Community Legal Service operates such a service, with a focus on assisting prisoners with fines and providing referrals for temporary accommodation. Justice Connect (Melbourne) also operates a prison project which is aimed at 'closing the revolving door'.⁵

We would add that there is also a need for greater resources to be invested in programs that support young people upon their release from child protection placements. It is well-established that many young people exit the child protection system into homelessness, and there is a particular need for transition services and long-term accommodation to be made available to these vulnerable young people.

5. Consideration by Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments of alternative measures to law enforcement and the criminal justice system to regulate and address homelessness.

Our project is aimed at addressing this very priority. Considerable research has taken place already in relation to the criminalisation of poverty and homelessness, however it has been largely ad hoc and jurisdiction-specific in nature. Our project is the first national study of how 21st century criminal laws and police powers impact on individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness. It builds on the previous research of the academic partners,⁶ and it comes at a critical time, with 'street sweeping' laws being proposed in Melbourne, and passed in New South Wales, in recent months.

⁴ United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *General Comment 4 in Relation to the Right to Adequate Housing*, UN Doc E/CN4/1991/4 (1991).

⁵ S Sowerwine and L Adams, *Debt and Tenancy Legal Help for Prisoners: Twelve Month Project Report*, 2016 (Melbourne: Justice Connect).

⁶ See particularly T Walsh, *Homelessness and the Law*, 2011 (Sydney: The Federation Press); T Anthony, *Indigenous People, Crime and Punishment*, 2013 (New York: Routledge); J Quilter and L McNamara, 'Time to define "the cornerstone of public order legislation": The elements of offensive conduct and language under the *Summary Offences Act 1988* (NSW)' (2013) 36(2) *University of New South Wales Law Journal* 534. See also L Adams, 'In the Public Eye: Addressing the negative impact of laws regulating public space on people experiencing homelessness', 2014 (Churchill Fellowship Report) (Melbourne: Justice Connect).

6. *Consideration by State and Territory Governments of diversion programs and specialist court lists to deal with public space offences that disproportionately affect homeless persons.*

Research suggests that courts should be moving towards different models of enforcement in respect of low-level offenders with complex needs. Problem solving courts provide a successful model because they expand the role of the criminal court beyond the adjudication of guilt and sentencing to encompass a wide range of practices and techniques aimed at addressing the causes of individuals' offending behaviour.

Problem solving courts with a homelessness focus have been successfully trialled in Australia. For example, an evaluation of the Brisbane Special Circumstances Court in 2011 found that defendants and service providers were overwhelmingly supportive of its therapeutic approach.⁷ The Neighbourhood Justice Centre in Melbourne has also received favourable reviews.⁸

Problem solving courts are often criticised for being expensive to run, however the Neighbourhood Justice Centre has argued that it is 'cost neutral' due to the savings that a therapeutic approach can bring about in other areas through crime prevention and compliance with community-based orders.⁹

7. *Consideration by Commonwealth, State and Territory governments of investment in specialist, targeted, integrated legal services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including how existing specialist homeless legal services can be supported to better serve the legal needs of homeless persons in regional, rural and remote areas.*

By including the Townsville Community Legal Service and Illawarra Legal Centre as partners in this research, our project will examine the extent to which specialist legal services are delivered to people experiencing homelessness in regional areas, and the nature of the investment that is required to better support them. Whilst the Townsville Community Legal Service and Illawarra Legal Centre do not deliver specialist homeless legal clinics, they undertake a considerable amount of work with people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, as part of their generalist case load. It is anticipated that the recent withdrawal of funds from the Townsville Homeless Persons Legal Clinic, formerly operated by LawRight, will place a substantial burden upon the Townsville Community Legal Service, and may have a particular impact upon Indigenous people experiencing homelessness in the Townsville area.

8. *The Tasmanian government should consider funding the establishment of a specialist homeless persons' legal clinic to meet the needs of homeless persons in Tasmania.*

It should be noted that Tasmania is not the only jurisdiction that lacks a specialist homeless persons legal clinic. Although Darwin Community Legal Centre, NAAJA and other organisations based in the Northern Territory deliver legal services to people experiencing homelessness, to our knowledge, there is no homeless persons legal clinic operating out of Darwin.

The Hobart Community Legal Service does not specifically have a homelessness outreach program, however many of their clients do experience homelessness, or are at risk of homelessness. Certainly, the Hobart Community Legal Service would welcome targeted funding to assist them to meet the legal needs of their homeless clients.

⁷ T Walsh, *A Special Court for Special Cases*, 2011 (Brisbane: University of Queensland).

⁸ S Ross, M Halsey, D Bamford, N Cameron and A King, *Evaluation of the Neighbourhood Justice Centre, City of Yarra: Final Report*, 2009 (Melbourne: Department of Justice).

⁹ See further A Morgan and R Brown, 'Estimating the costs associated with community justice' (2015) 507 *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice* (Australian Institute of Criminology).

9. *Investment in further quantitative research into the legal needs of homeless persons and the development of a model for cost-benefit analysis of the throughput and outcome assumptions that flow from legal services that are aimed at issues that contribute to homelessness.*

Our project will go some way towards filling the gaps in our knowledge regarding the legal needs of people experiencing homelessness, and the extent to which existing services are able to address the causes and effects of their criminalisation. However, significant gaps in the research remain. In particular, tenancy and eviction are regularly cited as key areas of legal need that remain under-researched. The associations between family violence, child protection intervention and homelessness are also under-researched from a legal perspective. Importantly, the effectiveness of human rights legislation in Victoria and the ACT in alleviating and addressing the legal problems faced by people experiencing homelessness also remains under-researched. Targeted funding of research on these topics would substantially improve our understanding of the legal needs of people experiencing homelessness, and the extent to which current legal responses address or perpetuate the problems.

Other priorities identified

Whilst the organisations involved in this research support the priorities identified by the Law Council of Australia in its 'Homeless Persons' Consultation Paper, we have identified some additional issues that might also be considered priorities. They are:

- **The impact of penalty/infringement notices upon people experiencing homelessness** – As has been identified, people experiencing homelessness are charged with minor criminal offences at a disproportionate rate, particularly public nuisance/offensive behaviour, begging, public urination and fare evasion. These offences are often punishable by infringement notice. People experiencing homelessness may receive a large number of infringement notices for repeated offences of this nature. It is not uncommon for lawyers to encounter clients who have amassed infringement notices totaling many thousands of dollars. In some jurisdictions, debt recovery offices have the power to waive fines on the basis of 'hardship', however it may be difficult to obtain a waiver without a strong legal advocate. In jurisdictions without waiver provisions, there may be alternative sentences available, but individuals may not be aware of them, or know how to access them. Where non-payment of fines results in the suspension of a person's license, their capacity to maintain employment may be restricted, which can cause, or entrench, homelessness. Therefore, the increased use of penalty/infringement notices across Australia to respond to low level criminal behaviour is an important national issue for people experiencing homelessness.¹⁰
- **Major events and 'street sweeping' offences** – We are also concerned about the impact that punitive legislation introduced during major events can have on people experiencing homelessness, particularly those sleeping rough. The Sydney Olympics (1999), Brisbane G20 (2014), Gold Coast Commonwealth Games (2018) and other large-scale events have resulted in the passing of legislation aimed at 'sweeping the streets' of people sleeping rough, by criminalising behaviour directly associated with homelessness. We note that, often, such legislation is not repealed after the event, which means that these laws remain on the statute books. This is an important issue that we believe should be monitored.

¹⁰ Indeed, the lack of awareness about alternative sentencing options to fines extends to the courts and community corrections, and a lack of secure accommodation restricts offenders' access to bail in some jurisdictions. This will be an important focus of our research.

- **Domestic violence reforms** – Another emerging issue in homelessness is the impact that Federal, State and Territory domestic violence laws and programs are having on people experiencing homelessness. Family violence is one of the primary causes of homelessness for both victims and offenders, and legal and policy responses to domestic violence must be finely balanced. Women and children must be protected from family violence, and it is well-established that there is a shortage of crisis accommodation and legal support for victims. We are also concerned that the recent changes to laws, policies and funding arrangements may have unintended consequences. Broadening the definition of domestic violence has a net-widening effect, and can have the effect of bringing a family to the attention of child protection authorities. This can result in the removal of a child at the expense of family preservation strategies. Further, offender programs, both inside and outside of prisons, remain under-funded.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to 'The Justice Project'. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any further queries.

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Service Name	Location	Number of Outreach Locations	Approximate Number of Clients Assisted per Year	Key Areas of Law (And % if Available)	Approx. No. of Pro Bono Lawyers Working with Your Clients	Approx. No. of Hours of pro Bono Work for Clients in 2016-17	Approx. Commercial \$ Value of this Pro Bono Work in 2016-17	Funding Security
Welfare Rights Centre (Housing Legal Clinic)	South Australia	7 locations, 2 are fortnightly, 1 is by appointment only.	725 clients in the 2016/2017 financial year.	Tenancy (eviction, compensation), criminal, debt, family.	Approximately 70 pro bono lawyers from 6 different firms.	Approx. 1000 hours of pro bono work for clients.	Unknown	Our funding cycle ends in June 2018, no advice on re-funding at this stage. Additionally, our host organisation has lost all its funding, we are starting the process of looking for a new host organisation.
LawRight (formerly QPILCH)	Queensland	8 outreach locations in Brisbane and 6 across Queensland (some weekly, some fortnightly others monthly). The HPLC also operates two outreach locations for people experiencing mental health concerns and one outreach location for refugees. Many of the clients that access these clinics are also at risk of homelessness.	Approximately 950 clients across the 14 outreach locations that target homelessness.	Credit and Consumer Protection, State Fines, Tenancy and Housing, Mental Health & supported decision making, and Government Decisions.	362 pro bono lawyers across the either Brisbane locations that target homelessness (this does not include our regional clinics or our mental health or refugees civil law clinics).	9,624.98 hours (this does not include our regional clinics or our mental health or refugees civil law clinics).	\$3,088,207 (this does not include our regional clinics or our mental health or refugees civil law clinics).	Funding provided until 2020.
Canberra Community Law, Street Law	Australian Capital Territory	7 outreach locations (some weekly, some fortnightly others monthly). Street Law also offers a 'call out' outreach service to other community service organisation on an 'as needed' basis.	206 clients (251 advices, 35 duty lawyers services, 117 cases, 6 task assistance matters) NB No. of cases refers to cases closed during FY16-17.	Housing (23.5%), Social Security (19.5%), Other Civil (16.7%) Traffic fines (9.6%), credit and debt (5.6%).	3 pro bono secondment placements from 3 firms + 14 student volunteers.	855 hours from firms + 1515 hours from student volunteers.	Unknown	Recurrent funding provided by the ACT Government. Additional funding provided through the Commonwealth National Partnership Agreement on legal assistance services (expires 30 June 2020).

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Justice Connect, Homeless Law	Victoria	7 weekly outreach legal clinics (2 – 3 clients seen at each, by appointment); 2 co-locations of staff one day each / week.	406 clients (some had multiple legal matters), 51 advices, 472 new files for ongoing legal casework/ representation, 199 people provided with social work assistance by in-house social workers (note these figures are new matters opened in 2016 – 17, does not include ongoing files opened in previous years).	Tenancy (eviction prevention and housing debts) 64%; Fines and infringements 13%; Criminal 15%; Credit and debt 8%	504 pro bono lawyers from 7 law firms	21,622 hours	8,006,302 (figures provided by law firms)	Approximately 50% government funding; 50% membership fees and short-term, project based funding (primarily philanthropic)
Street Law Centre	Western Australia	1 weekly outreach legal clinic and 3 fortnightlies. New program Safe as Houses negotiating a health justice partnership with King Edward Memorial Hospital, will initially commence attending upon patient requests (likely fortnightly attendance). Training social workers on the use of legal health check to facilitate this process.	205 clients assisted (some had multiple matters), 225 advices, 83 new files opened for this period, for court tribunal services and other representation services.		4 Pro bono law firms that allow law graduates to second on one day per week at Street Law's office. Also volunteer law students.	1,093.50 hours volunteer secondment at Street Law's offices from law firms and 349.50 hours from volunteer law students.	The value of volunteer secondment hours which total 1443 has not been quantified. Street Law has received pro bono assistance on client case work from various Barristers and law firms.	Core funding until 30 June 2018

Service Name	Location	Number of Outreach Locations	Approximate Number of Clients Assisted per Year	Key Areas of Law (And % if Available)	Approx. No. of Pro Bono Lawyers Working with Your Clients	Approx. No. of Hours of pro Bono Work for Clients in 2016-17	Approx. Commercial \$ Value of this Pro Bono Work in 2016-17	Funding Security
Homeless Persons Legal Service, PIAC	New South Wales	14 regular outreach clinics (9 weekly clinics, others on a fortnightly or monthly basis).	Approximately 800 clients (809 in 2015-16), with a mix of advices and legal casework matters.	Criminal law 20%, tenancy 15%, financial legal issues (fines, credit and debt) 14%, family law 9%, consumer issues 7%, other civil (including victim's compensation, wills, social security, employment law) 35%	Approx. 500 pro bono lawyers from 14 law firms & 1 full time secondee solicitor.	Approx. 1000 clinic hours plus casework hours completed by pro bono lawyers and a full time secondee.	Approx. 500 pro bono lawyers from 14 law firms & 1 full time secondee solicitor.	We receive a mix of funding from Commonwealth, state (particularly from the NSW public purposes fund) and philanthropic funding. Some firms make financial contributions to our work. Funding is not certain beyond June 2018.
Illawarra Legal Centre	New South Wales	22 outreach locations of which 1 is at a homeless hub and others are at drug rehabilitation facilities and community organisations.	2,500	Credit and debt (32%), social security (21%), family law (13%), tenancy (10%), consumer and employment law (8%), penalty notice offences (5%).	18 lawyers from 13 firms.	200 hrs	\$64,000	Core funding to 30 June 2018 and a draft review had proposed a greater than 30% cut.