



Law for Non-Lawyers for Aboriginal communities in the Northern Rivers area

Suggested dates: two consecutive days during week beginning 29 June 2009, days to be decided.

Location: Northern Rivers area, venue to be decided.

Aim: to resource Aboriginal community members, and Aboriginal workers in community agencies, to be a source of information and referral for local community members who have legal problems.

Please note: In line with the findings of the Northern Rivers Consultations instigated by the NLA Working Group on Aboriginal Clients, the Law for Non-Lawyers (LFNL) training will consider civil law issues in an holistic way, in the context of the range of legal problems that community members might have, which will also include criminal and family law.

Objectives

By the end of the training participants will be able to:

- feel more confident when dealing with the legal system;
- decide when a problem has a legal aspect and when someone's rights are being infringed;
- determine what kind of law covers the problem;
- decide when a legal issue is serious enough to seek further assistance;
- determine what kind of legal assistance may be needed to deal with the problem: information, advice or representation;
- identify appropriate and affordable sources of legal assistance and make contact with them;
- prepare to attend an interview with a lawyer; and
- prepare to attend court.

Draft Course Outline

(program may need to be modified depending on availability of presenters)

	<i>Day One</i>
9.00 – 9.30	Welcome to country and introductions
9.30 – 12.00	Introduction to the law and the legal system (includes break)
12.00 – 1.00	Lunch
1.00 – 2.30	Credit and debt, including contracts, mobile phones etc
2.30 – 2.45	Break
2.45 – 4.30	Family law, including care and protection (includes break)
4.30	Finish

	<i>Day Two</i>
9.00 – 9.30	Recap on Day One – questions and discussion
9.30 – 11.30	Criminal law, including apprehended violence orders, fines, court process, police and arrest (includes break)
11.30 – 12.45	Legal problem solving and referral – Kingsford Legal Centre DVD and case studies
12.45 – 1.30	Lunch
1.30 – 3.30	Where to go for help (includes break) (Presenters to be confirmed – could include reps from Aboriginal Legal Service, LawAccess, Legal Aid NSW (local solicitor), LIAC, legal services for Aboriginal women, Family Violence Prevention Units, PIAC Indigenous Justice Project, local court etc)
3.30	Evaluation, certificates and finish

Some questions:

- Confirm dates. Will these dates work with local community members and agencies?
- Confirm location of the training.
- Should we include a guided court visit or would this be too threatening to participants?
- Confirm the content (remembering that we won't be able to cover all topics of interest in the given time). If we increase people's understanding, skills and contacts then they can seek help with any other legal problems.
- Do people have thoughts about the training materials that should be provided?

Some issues that we need local assistance with

- Are there any local presenters who might be interested in being included?
- Which local agencies should be invited to participate in the 'Where to go for help' session?
- How will participants be recruited and who will do this? Who will undertake administration of registrations?
- Who will locate and organise venue