9. What about Central Station and other train stations?

Central Station is public property and is on government-owned land. Normal police powers apply.

Rail safety officers have powers to make sure stations are safe. They can give you a notice that says you can't do something (called a 'prohibition notice') if they think something dangerous is happening or about to happen. They can give you this notice verbally but they also have to give you a copy in writing. If you don't do what they say, they can get the police involved.

You need a valid ticket to go on to a train or through the turnstiles, but you do not need an Opal card to hang around Central or any other train station.

10. Where can I get help?

If you get in trouble with the police or council, or if you get a fine, you should get legal advice as soon as possible about what to do next. You can see the Homeless Persons' Legal Service at one of our clinics around the city. See the back of this brochure for Sydney locations, or scan the code below on a smart device to go to the full list on our website.

For immediate phone advice, you can call Law Access on **1300 888 529**.

Scan me

We are also available at the clinics if you think you might have an issue – always better to check than have it blow up later!

HPLS CLINIC TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Weekly, and drop-in unless otherwise specified

Call us on **8898 6545**

Monday	10 am - 12 noon	**The Station Ltd** 82 Erskine Street, Sydney
Monday	10 am - 12 noon	**Wayside Chapel** 29 Hughes Street, Potts Point
Tuesday	11 am - 1 pm	**Matthew Talbot Hostel** 22 Talbot Lane, Woolloomooloo
Wednesday	11.30 am - 1 pm	**Parramatta Mission** 119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta
Wednesday, fortnightly	10 am - 12 pm	**The Haymarket Centre** 136-138 Regent Street, Chippendale
Wednesday Fortnightly service for Aboriginal clients	12:30 - 1:30 pm	**Mob Lunch at Wayside Chapel** 29 Hughes Street, Potts Point
Thursday	11 am - 12 noon	**Wayside Chapel Community Service Centre (Norman Andrews House)** 77 Roscoe Street, Bondi Beach
Thursday	1 pm - 3 pm	**Edward Eagar Lodge** 348a Bourke Street, Surry Hills
Thursday - by appointment Call 8093 6798	12 pm - 2pm	**Vincentian House** Address provided when appointment made
Thursday - by appointment Call 9356 0600	12 pm - 2pm	**Mission Australia Centre (MAC)** 19 Denham Street, Surry Hills
Friday	1.30 pm - 2.30 pm	**Newtown Mission** 280A King Street, Newtown

Know your rights in public spaces

Homeless Persons' Legal Service

Legal help for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness

An initiative of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre Ltd

1. You have a right to use and enjoy public spaces

Everyone has a right to use and enjoy public spaces. Public spaces include places like parks, streets and beaches.

In NSW, there are laws about what you can do in public spaces. There are also laws that apply to the police, council workers and transport safety officers.

2. What powers do police have?

Like other members of the public you are allowed to hang around in public places; you do not need a special reason to be there.

Police can't tell you to move on unless they have a reason.

The police must have a reason to tell you to move on. Some reasons include:

- Getting in the way of people or traffic,
- Harassing anyone or making other people afraid,
- Being about to commit an offence like buying or selling drugs,
- Being drunk and disorderly, or
- Acting in a way that is a risk to other people.

If one of these reasons applies, police can tell a person or group to move away from a public place for a period of time. If you disobey, you can be fined.

3. Can the police take your stuff?

In general, police can't take your stuff without a warrant.

In most cases, for police to lawfully remove your property from public land, they have to get a warrant from the court.

4. Police have extra power to take away alcohol near alcohol free zones

If you drink in an alcohol free zone, police and some council workers can take your alcohol. They can also take your alcohol if they think you have been drinking recently, or are about to drink alcohol, in the alcohol free zone.

5. Police have some extra powers in Martin Place

A new law was made about Martin Place in 2017. That law only applies to Martin Place.

Under the new law, police can tell someone to leave Martin Place for up to six hours if the person is interfering with other people enjoying the space, or if the person is doing something unlawful. Police have to be reasonable when they make this kind of direction.

If you disobey such a direction, you can be fined.

In Martin Place, police can also take your stuff (including a tent, goods or other things) if they believe this:

- Is necessary, or
- Will help prevent interference with public enjoyment, or
- Will help prevent unlawful occupation.

In these cases, if you try to stop a police officer taking your goods, you can be fined.

6. What if the police take my stuff?

Police may return the goods to you or dispose of them. If the police have confiscated your belongings and you need help getting them back, you should get legal advice.

7. What powers do local councils have?

As long as you don't break the law, cause a nuisance or pose a threat to anyone, council workers should leave you alone.

Some local councils have made local by-laws about conduct in some public places, such as saying you can't drink in certain areas. This should be on signs in those areas, and on the council's website.

Council workers do have some powers, but only in certain cases.

Council can...	But only if...
Tell you to stop doing something	What you are doing may threaten public health or safety, or threaten someone's life
Tell you to move on	You are using public space in a way that makes it inconvenient or difficult to move your belongings
Remove your belongings, or ask you to remove them	Your belongings create a public nuisance – this means your belongings might be in the way of other people's comfort, convenience or safety

8. When can you be fined by council workers?

You can be fined by the council or police for doing some things in public places:

- Damaging or taking plants, animals, soil or rocks without lawful excuse,
- Breaking glass or syringes without lawful excuse,
- Polluting or damaging places you can swim publicly (or swimming nude), and
- Disobeying notices about banned behaviour.