

- **To contact HPLS**

Visit one of the HPLS Clinics.

Phone: (02) 8898 6545

E-mail: homelessproject@piac.asn.au

For an electronic copy of this newsletter send us an e-mail to the above address.

Acknowledgements

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Contributors to this edition of *STREETRIGHTS NSW*

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THE HPLS CLINICS

Day (weekly)	Time	Location
Monday	10:00 am - 12:00 noon	The Station Ltd 82 Erskine Street, Sydney
Monday	10:00 am - 12:00 noon	Wayside Chapel 29 Hughes Street, Potts Point
Tuesday	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Matthew Talbot Hostel 22 Talbot Lane, Woolloomooloo
Tuesday	12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Norman Andrews House 77 Roscoe Street, Bondi
Wednesday	11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Parramatta Mission 119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta
Wednesday	12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Salvation Army Streetlevel Derby Lane (off Albion St), Surry Hills
Thursday	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Vincentian House 361 Crown Street, Surry Hills
Thursday	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Edward Eagar Lodge 348a Bourke Street, Darlinghurst
Friday	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Women's & Girls' Emergency Centre 361 Riley Street, Surry Hills
Friday	1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Newtown Mission 280a King Street, Newtown

Street Rights NSW

Hi everyone,

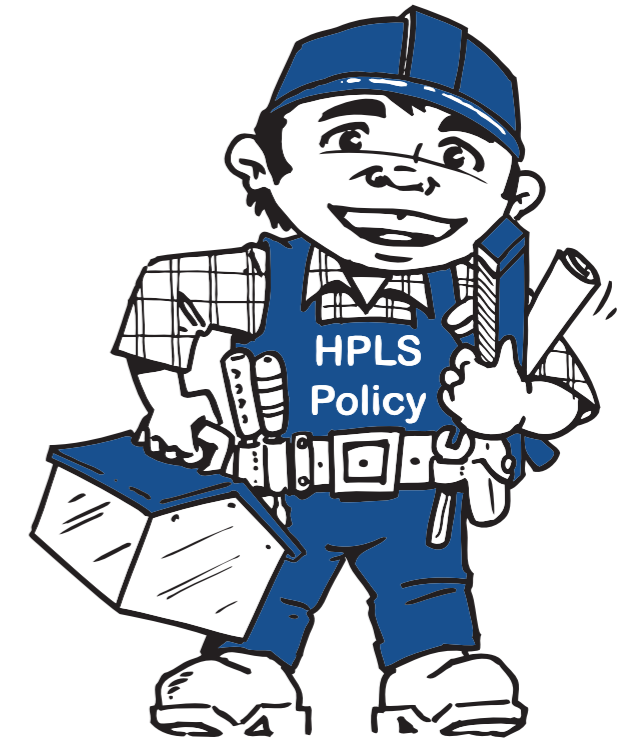
We at HPLS hope that you are doing well! In this month's jam-packed edition of Street Rights, we have an article about the recent Sydney Homeless Connect, HPLS work on violence against people on the street and an update about the criminal record discrimination work.

In our legal beagle section, you will find some information about Housing Pathways and about your rights if you are squatting.

In other news, for those that are internet-savvy please check out our new website, <http://www.piac.asn.au/campaigns/homeless-persons-legal-service>. It has some great information about our work and where you can go to see a HPLS lawyer. As always if you have any ideas, we would love to hear from you by email or by phone!

We hope you enjoy this edition!

Julie, Chris and Jeremy
HPLS Team



HPLS lends a hand at the Sydney Homeless Connect!

On 8 June 2010, 34 HPLS lawyers were available at the Sydney Homeless Connect day that was held at the Town Hall.

For those who were not able to make it, Homeless Connect aimed to bring together people who are homeless and at risk of homelessness in Sydney with the services and support that they need. There were lots of services at the event, including Housing NSW, Centrelink, doctors, dentists, pet care, eye specialists, and clothing companies. Over 600 people who were homeless came along on the day.

HPLS was very happy to be one of the services getting out and providing help to people on the spot.

Legal Beagle: Know your rights!

In this edition of Legal Beagle we look at the new Housing NSW policy called "Housing Pathways" which was launched in April 2010. It has made some big changes to how you apply for public and community housing.

Under the old system, you had to fill out separate application forms for Housing NSW and for each community housing provider you wanted to apply to. In each case there might be slightly different eligibility criteria. If your housing needs were more urgent, you also had to fill out a separate priority housing application form.

Now there is only one application form for Housing NSW and for all the participating community housing providers. The eligibility criteria are the same for all of them. There is no separate form for priority housing. Instead the application form asks for information about the urgency of your housing needs.

For a lot of questions you need to provide evidence for your answer. These questions have a paperclip symbol next to them. You also need to fill out the Social Housing Supplement, which asks questions about the type of housing you need.

If you are assessed as eligible you will be placed on the NSW Housing Register, a single state-wide register for all applicants seeking housing assistance. Every Housing NSW office and all the participating housing providers will be able access the Register when a property becomes available. Under Housing Pathways, there is no waiting list based on the date of application.

Clients will receive an offer based on the urgency of their housing need and the availability of a suitable property.

To meet the basic eligibility requirements, you must be:

- An Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Living in NSW or a NSW border area or need to live in NSW for a reason such as to receive medical services



- 18 years of age or 16-17 years and have your own income.
- Household income within the eligibility limits
- Able to live independently and sustain a tenancy (sometimes with help)
- Not own your own property or part of a property that you could live in.

To meet the priority housing assistance requirements, you must:

- Meet all the basic eligibility requirements (as above).
- Be in urgent need of somewhere to live because you are (or will be) homeless, or have another urgent need for assistance.
- Have looked for but cannot find private rental housing

To be eligible for some rental assistance you must:

- Meet all basic eligibility requirements (as above)
- Have less than \$1000 in savings.

If you have any questions about this new process see one of our lawyers (clinic times are on the back of *StreetRights NSW*).

HPLS Policy Corner

HPLS Violence Project



As many of you may know, HPLS has been doing a lot of work with a researcher, Dr Catherine Robinson, on violence and homelessness. Catherine has been looking not only at the violence people on the street suffer from people outside the homeless community, but also violence people may have suffered before they became homeless. Sometimes violence is the reason people had to leave home and go onto the street.

HPLS is doing this research so that services can be better suited to meet your needs. We are hearing stories of homeless people being attacked by total strangers and the police have done nothing about it. We are also hearing that many homeless drop-in centres and shelters don't really know how to best look after people who have suffered violence when they were kids or before they were homeless.

We really hope that our work on this issue can help to make a positive change. HPLS will keep working with homeless services, NSW Police, Housing NSW, and others to make sure that change happens on this very important issue.

If you would like to know more about our work on this area, you can email Chris at homelessproject@piac.asn.au or check out our new website <http://www.piac.asn.au/campaigns/homeless-persons-legal-service>

HPLS Criminal Record Discrimination

As you will have read in past policy corners, HPLS is hoping to speak to people to get their ideas and stories about criminal record discrimination. So far we have been able to speak to about 80 people, but we are hoping to speak to many more.

We will keep you updated about places where you can share your ideas. If you have access to a computer you can also go to <http://www.homelessnessinfo.net.au/discrimination>

If you have an issue about homelessness that you think needs to be changed please email us at homelessproject@piac.asn.au

The gift that keeps on giving

After looking at your criminal record, I don't think you are suitable for this job. Don't call us, we will call you



DROP US A LINE!

HPLS is very keen to get contributions from people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to *STREETRIGHTS NSW*. If you have a comment about anything that's covered in this newsletter please e-mail us at homelessproject@piac.asn.au