



Marrickville Legal Centre

From the inner west,
serving NSW

February Update

The MLC team has had a fantastic start to the year, answering more than **3,500** calls from the public since reopening our doors earlier this year.

In this month's edition, we're bringing you the story of how we supported our client James, answering young people's most commonly asked questions about contracts, showcasing recent changes to strata law thanks to our Strata Law Service team, and more!

James' story

Retired man James* was referred to the Debt Crisis Legal Service (DCLS) after being admitted to a mental health unit with severe depression and suicidal ideation. James was battling a gambling addiction and owed tens of thousands of dollars on his credit card.



Armed with a medical letter from the hospital social worker that referred James to the service, the DCLS team wrote to James' bank to request that he be released from liability for the credit card debt.

This was a difficult topic for the team to approach, as James was not in arrears with his credit card or mortgage and the bank could have argued there were no financial hardship red flags.

However, James' debt was easily attributable to his gambling addiction through numerous credit card and bank statements revealing the true extent of his addiction. Thanks to the DCLS team, the bank **agreed to write off James' debt on compassionate grounds.**

** name changed and stock image used to preserve anonymity*

Contracts and your rights as a young person



In today's digital age, misinformation spreads like wildfire across social media. This is particularly true when it comes to understanding contracts, an area full of legal jargon and complex terms.

For young people, navigating this landscape can be especially challenging.

Our Youth Legal Service team have put together an article answering some of the most common questions relating to contracts we're asked by young people.

WHS training with Bill Kritharas



We would like to thank Sparke Helmore Lawyers Partner Bill Kritharas for facilitating our Work Health and Safety Committee training at the end of February.

The training covered the latest work health and safety legislation, how it applies to the workplace, and what it means to effectively run a WHS committee.

Changes to strata law are here...



...and more are coming!

After years of submissions and advocacy from our Strata Law Service to improve the legal protections for rights for those living in strata schemes, we are pleased that the *Strata Schemes Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* was passed by the NSW Parliament on 18 February 2025.

This Bill includes the most significant reforms since 2015. You can read more [on the factsheet on our website.](#)

Want to make a difference?



Buy some MLC merch today to look fashionable while helping us provide free legal and related services to the most vulnerable in our community.

All proceeds go towards keeping the Centre's doors open and helping to provide access to #JusticeForUsAll.

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Thank you for all of your support so far! If you haven't yet, please make sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [TikTok](#) to get more updates on the Centre and our services.

Warm regards,

The MLC team



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