Marrickville Legal Centre
From the inner west, serving NSW

MLC NEWS
June Edition

MLC News - June Edition

In this month's edition of MLC News, we're reflecting on our most successful Table Tennis Tournament yet, answering frequently asked questions about service in family law, promoting our upcoming Victims Services workshop, and recognising our volunteer of the month, Nicola Riley.

Wrapping up our most successful Table Tennis Tournament yet!

What a night! Thanks to the generosity of our pro bono partners, community, and supporters at our biggest Table Tennis Tournament yet, we raised $12,449 for our Youth Legal Service!

19 teams from our pro bono and community partners came together for an

unforgettable evening of friendly competition, with Alex Poulikakos from Ethnic Community Services taking out the championship.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this special event, especially Addi Road for supporting the venue and catering, the NSW Veterans Table Tennis Association for umpiring the tournament, and volunteers Bec and Hayden for assisting on the night.

We'd also like to thank some incredible local businesses who generously donated raffle prizes:

- Bar Planet
- BlocHaus
- Gelato Messina
- Goblin Wine Shop
- Inner Fit
- Newtown Gym
- Roastville
- Souvlaki Boys
- Vineria Luisa
- Where's Nick

Service in family law matters: a guide

Service is the process of providing court documents to the other party or parties involved in a matter. Service is important because it makes sure all parties are aware that they have a matter with the Court.

In the latest article on our website, we break down substituted service and dispensation of service, and answer some frequently asked questions about service.

Read the full guide

Victims Services Training for Community Workers

Victims Services Training for Community Workers is coming to Marrickville in June!

This training will help community workers navigate the Victims Support Scheme application process and ensure that victim survivors are receiving the payment they are owed. The process of applying for financial recognition is complex and small mistakes often lead to applications being denied.

The workshop details are as follows:

Monday 22nd June 9:30am – 4:30pm
Marrickville Library and Pavilion
313 Marrickville Road, Marrickville NSW 2204

Bookings are essential: please book through the link below.

Book your spot

Vollie Vox: Nicola Riley

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Marrickville Legal Centre, helping us connect more people in the community to justice. Vollie Vox is our monthly series spotlighting one outstanding volunteer.

This month we're celebrating Nicola Riley, who has volunteered with Marrickville Legal Centre as a Client Intake Officer since May last year. Nicola was nominated

for her professionalism, the quality of her intake work, and her enthusiasm in supporting newer volunteers.

What inspired you to start volunteering at MLC, and what keeps you coming back?

A colleague recommended MLC to me after their sibling had a great experience volunteering here. I was looking for a way to gain first-hand legal experience while combining my passion for social justice with my studies. Working in a medical centre, I saw how many people in the community struggle to access legal help because of financial barriers and how this impacts their health. That really motivated me to get involved. What keeps me coming back is the supportive community at MLC, who are always happy to answer my questions and provide invaluable learning opportunities.

How do you feel your role makes a difference for our clients and community?

It feels important to offer real human connection when AI, social media and technology are changing the way we interact. A real human connection is personal, and it makes a difference. Speaking directly with clients, hearing their stories and helping them take that first, and potentially daunting step toward support, makes a tangible difference. Being able to provide a calm and supportive voice at the end of the phone and a clear pathway to legal assistance may be the first moment they feel heard.

What skills have you gained while volunteering at MLC?

I have gained so many practical and interpersonal skills. I've learned how to communicate both empathically and effectively with clients who may be heightened or distressed. I have also learnt, how to guide conversations toward the key legal issues, and how to accurately convey this information. MLC has given me opportunity to develop a broader understanding of a wide range of legal issues, and that learning continues every shift. The exposure to real legal issues has been invaluable.

What's something that surprised you when you first started volunteering at MLC?

I was genuinely surprised by how kind, collaborative and approachable everyone is – staff and volunteers alike. The staff are incredibly supportive and always willing to help, explain or teach. It's a very open environment where questions are encouraged. I also didn't expect the level of learning opportunities available. The training sessions on different areas of law and the occasional chance to sit in on advice appointments have been highlights.

How would you describe MLC to someone thinking about getting involved?
MLC is a deeply supportive community committed to promoting access to justice, especially for people who might otherwise fall through the cracks. The culture is warm, inclusive and genuinely invested in both the volunteers and the clients. If you're looking for a place where you can learn, contribute and be part of meaningful work, MLC is the place to be.

Ordinary Member, Extraordinary Impact

You don't need to be a lawyer to change someone's life.

Joining Marrickville Legal Centre as an Ordinary Member gives you access to exclusive benefits and the opportunity to help shape our impact in the community:

- Members have the opportunity to vote at general meetings, allowing you to directly influence decisions and policies that affect the direction and initiatives of Marrickville Legal Centre.
- Members gain access to exclusive MLC events, such as seminars, workshops, and networking opportunities.
- Members receive a copy of our comprehensive Annual Report, offering transparency into our achievements, challenges, and financial performance throughout the year.
- Members have the privilege to review and provide input on the MLC Constitution, the foundational document that outlines our mission, values, and governance structure.

Join us today and help strengthen access to justice in our community.

Become an MLC Member today

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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