MLC News - May Edition

In this month's edition of MLC News, we're promoting our upcoming Table Tennis Tournament, celebrating NSW Law Week 2026, unpacking the difference between unfair dismissal and general protections claims, and recognising our volunteer of the month, Cynthia Nwankwo.

Have you secured your Table Tennis Tournament tickets yet?

Join us for a fun night of food, drinks, raffles and fierce competition, all while raising vital funds for Marrickville Legal Centre's Youth Legal Service. It's set to be

our biggest tournament yet.

Get your tickets NOW!

Get ready for NSW Law Week 2026!

Held each May, Law Week NSW is an annual festival that is all about creating greater access to justice for Australians.

It features community events and activities designed to help people understand their rights, the law, the legal system and the legal profession.

Courts, community legal centres, law firms, solicitors, barristers, police, community services, education institutions and libraries are all encouraged to get involved. Together, let's promote access to justice in NSW.

Find a Law Week event near you

Spot the difference: Unfair dismissal vs general protections claims

If you've lost your job, you might be wondering whether to file for unfair dismissal (Form 2) OR general protections (Form 8) in the Fair Work Commission.

In the latest article on our website, we explain the key differences between these two claims in simple terms.

Read more on our website

Vollie Vox: Cynthia Nwankwo

VOLLIE VOX

Cynthia Nwankwo

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 Cynthia Nwankwo, who started volunteering at Marrickville Legal Centre back in February this year. Cynthia was nominated for her kindness, enthusiasm, and passion in supporting our clients and the community.

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

I've always held a great interest in the law, but I wanted to apply myself to the discipline in a way that intersects with some of my greatest passions – advocacy and community building. The support from my supervisors and solicitors has made me feel like this is a team effort, making me more confident as a volunteer to have difficult conversations with complex matters and never feel like I'm on my own. This, along with the shared passion of my fellow vollies keeps me going!

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

Being the first line of communication for people in incredibly stressful situations is certainly a significant place to be. I feel like my role has such a value in setting a client and the solicitor up for success, offering clarity, empathy, and a plan that they can look forward to and get the most out of their experience at MLC. I believe building that trust and relationship inevitably helps heal some of the vulnerabilities within the community— we all want to know there's a shoulder to

lean on that will treat us with dignity and respect above all, and I think this role is critical to establishing that relationship.

What skills have you gained while volunteering at MLC?
I have become much more effective in my communication from volunteering at MLC. I understand the importance of specificity, concision, and direction better each and every shift. I've become more confident in tackling challenging scenarios without getting overwhelmed. Finally, I've become someone who sees asking questions as a show of effective work, and confidence, never shying away from requesting clarification on any task or matter.

What's something that surprised you when you first started volunteering at MLC?
I was surprised at how much of an impact I could make on clients with incredibly difficult matters just through communication. The importance of being heard for people in vulnerable situations became incredibly clear to me after just a couple of shifts, and it made me feel proud to be part of that sense of relief and hope in any way. Additionally, I found that despite how heavy matters can be, everyone at MLC maintained this innate positivity and drive to keep pursuing this work each day with palpable energy.

How would you describe MLC to someone thinking about getting involved?
I would describe this as one of the most fulfilling experiences I've ever taken part in without having a significant barrier to entry. I came in without a great deal of experience with Australian law, just a desire to help and interest in learning. From the jump, I was given opportunities to learn by doing which made things stick and allowed me to understand the process very quickly. The supervisors are so incredibly knowledgeable and always willing to help, making it easy to get started. The environment of the office is very comfortable and inviting, offering an opportunity to take a breather or a beat whenever you need to. Very quickly, I realized that any free morning or afternoon I had, I wanted to spend it at MLC!

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 not only grants you access to exclusive perks, but also empowers you to shape the impact our organisation has within 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 be a part of the positive change we’re making together.

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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