Marrickville Legal Centre
From the inner west, serving NSW

MLC NEWS
August Edition

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In this month's edition of MLC News, we celebrate the launch of our 2026-2028 Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan, share an update on two important NSW strata law reforms, and recognise our Volunteer of the Month, Stephanie Kent.

Marrickville Legal Centre launches Innovate RAP to help close the justice gap

MLC has officially launched its 2026-2028 Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), marking a significant step in our commitment to closing the justice gap for

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Innovate RAP, launched on Friday 31st July, outlines MLC's commitment to breaking down systemic barriers that prevent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from accessing justice and strengthening the cultural safety, accessibility, and responsiveness of our services.

The artwork depicted on the front of the Innovate RAP was created by local artist Stephen Morgan, a proud Kamilaroi man who has lived in the Inner West region for more than 20 years and was specially commissioned by MLC.

Read the media release

NSW strata law reforms: what lot owners need to know

On 1 April 2026, the strata laws in New South Wales underwent further reform and changes to better meet the needs of strata communities across the state.

Our latest article explains two important strata law reforms and what they mean for lot owners across NSW.

Read the media release

Vollie Vox: Stephanie Kent

VOLLIE VOX

Stephanie Kent

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 Stephanie Kent, who has volunteered with Marrickville Legal Centre as a Legal Assistant since June. Stephanie was nominated for her politeness, reliability, organisational skills, and strong rapport with clients.

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

I wanted to get some practical experience in the legal field in a way that contributed to my community, and a friend of mine had volunteered at MLC several years ago and recommended it. Having lived in the Inner West and surrounds for many years, MLC was a great fit for me as I love contributing to my community. I keep coming back because the people are great and I feel like I'm making a difference while still learning a lot and improving my skills and knowledge of how community legal centres function.

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

I think that being a compassionate and efficient point of contact for our clients is incredibly valuable. When a client is calling us, it's likely currently the biggest

stress in their life. To be able to offer reassurance and empathy while still helping them get closer to the advice or support they need is an important contribution to the work of MLC. By being empathetic and efficient, our clients feel understood.

What skills have you gained while volunteering at MLC?
The biggest skill I've acquired is in how I talk to clients and get the information we need to triage their matter. Being able to get the important facts from a client in a relatively short amount of time is a skill that hasn't always come easily to me, but MLC has given me a lot of time and support to work on improving it. Similarly, being able to then summarise a matter quickly when needing to consult with a supervisor or a lawyer is a separate skill that I am learning at MLC. Every shift I learn more about how the legal issues apply to our clients and that helps me be better at my role.

What's something that surprised you when you first started volunteering at MLC?
I think how welcoming everyone is and how willing to help was the biggest surprise. Everyone is busy but will make the time for a curly question or if I need a bit of extra help in how to manage an enquiry. The supervisors give feedback in a very constructive way, so even when I make mistakes I don't feel as though I have created a big problem, instead, I'm just given what I need to avoid it in the future.

How would you describe MLC to someone thinking about getting involved?
MLC is an organisation that is working tirelessly to deliver excellent legal services to its community, and everyone I've met shares that commitment. It's a warm group of people who always do their best to help you and the client you have on the phone, so you don't need to be intimidated about getting involved. I truly feel like they care about my development as an individual as well. Volunteering at MLC is truly a win-win when it comes to developing your own skills while contributing to an important organisation.

Ordinary Member, Extraordinary Impact

You don’t need to be a lawyer to help strengthen access to justice.

By becoming an Ordinary Member of MLC, you join a community of people who believe everyone deserves access to legal support, regardless of income or background. As a Member you can:

- Vote at general meetings, and help shape MLC’s direction
- Attend member events, seminars, and networking opportunities
- Receive MLC’s Annual Report and stay informed about our impact
- Contribute to discussions about MLC’s Constitution, governance, and future.

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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