Marrickville Legal Centre
From the inner west, serving NSW

MLC NEWS
July Edition

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In this month's edition of MLC News, we welcome technology and business improvement expert Mark Lewis to our Board, celebrate the launch our new pro bono partnership with leading law firm Barry Nilsson, share a practical guide to camera-recorded offences and nominations, and recognise our Volunteer of the Month, Clémence Motsch.

Marrickville Legal Centre strengthens exceptional Board with appointment of tech expert Mark Lewis

Marrickville Legal Centre has appointed technology and business process improvement expert Mark Lewis to its Board, strengthening MLC's capacity to respond to growing community demand through better systems, strategy, and organisational design.

Mark is the CEO of performance management platform Crewmojo and brings deep expertise in business strategy, organisational growth, and technology and process improvement. His appointment follows the recent appointment of long-standing Board Director Catherine Kelso, Gilbert + Tobin's Partner in Disputes and Investigations, as MLC Board Chair.

Mark's experience will support MLC as we continue strengthening the systems and capacity in a sector defined by limited resources, high demand, and the need to respond effectively to clients facing complex legal and social challenges.

Read the media release

Marrickville Legal Centre and Barry Nilsson launch pro bono partnership to improve access to justice

Marrickville Legal Centre has launched a new pro bono partnership with leading law firm Barry Nilsson to help meet growing demand for free and affordable legal assistance.

Through the partnership, Barry Nilsson will provide graduate secondments to MLC, giving early-career lawyers hands-on community legal experience while increasing MLC's capacity to support people facing complex legal issues. Tu Le, Marrickville Legal Centre's Strategic Partnerships Manager, reflected on the new collaboration: "This partnership reflects MLC's strategic commitment to collaboration, early intervention, and improving access to justice for communities experiencing disadvantage."

"By working with Barry Nilsson, we can extend our reach and connect more people with high-quality legal support, particularly in complex matters where timely assistance can make a critical difference."

Read the media release

What you need to know about camera-recorded offences and nominations

Many traffic offences are now recorded by camera, with penalty notices sent to the registered owner of the vehicle. But what happens if you were not the driver?

Our latest guide explains how camera-recorded offences work, when a nomination may be required, and why it is important to respond before the deadline.

Read the full guide

Vollie Vox: Clémence Motsch

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 Clémence Motsch, who has volunteered with Marrickville Legal Centre as a Legal Assistant since March. Clémence was nominated for her reliability, her professionalism, high quality intake work, and enthusiasm in supporting newer volunteers.

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

I started volunteering at MLC because I wanted to learn more about the Australian legal system and how a community legal centre operates, while also contributing to improving access to justice. As someone who studied law in France, I was eager to see how legal assistance is delivered in a different jurisdiction and to develop practical experience in a client-facing role.

What keeps me coming back to MLC is the possibility to contribute through meaningful work and to speak with clients from different backgrounds. Each client has their own story, and each matter involves different areas of law, which gives

me the opportunity to learn more about the Australian legal landscape. I also really appreciate the supportive environment at MLC. I have learned a lot from the solicitors and supervisors, and volunteering at MLC is one of the most rewarding parts of my time in Australia.

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

As the first point of contact for people seeking legal help, I often speak with clients who are under stress, and navigating the legal system can be overwhelming for them. My role as a legal assistant allows me to listen to people facing difficult situations and, by identifying their legal issues, I direct them to the appropriate solicitor or support service so they can receive legal advice. I have found that actively listening and showing empathy can make a real difference during that first interaction.

Moreover, I feel that my role helps ensure clients receive the support they need as quickly as possible. This helps reduce uncertainty for clients and contributes to making legal assistance more accessible and efficient for the community.

What skills have you gained while volunteering at MLC?

I have learned a lot while volunteering at MLC. This experience has strengthened my communication skills and increased my confidence working professionally in English as my second language. Through conducting client intake interviews, I have also become more detail-oriented and developed my ability to identify key legal issues from a client's explanation, even when the facts are initially unclear. The role has taught me to ask specific questions, assess what information is legally relevant, and communicate it clearly so that solicitors can later provide effective legal advice. Finally, working in a legal system different from the one I studied has reinforced my ability to adapt quickly to new legal frameworks.

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

When I first started volunteering at MLC, I was surprised by how supportive and patient the supervisors were while I was learning. Even when mistakes happen, they take the time to explain how to improve in a constructive and encouraging way. I was also struck by how approachable and welcoming everyone is, from fellow volunteers to the solicitors. It creates a genuinely positive workplace, and one that I look forward to being part of every week.

How would you describe MLC to someone thinking about getting involved?

I would describe MLC as a welcoming and rewarding place to volunteer. By being part of MLC, you have the opportunity to make a positive difference for people facing legal issues while developing your communication and client-facing skills. Volunteers are trusted to conduct client intake interviews, giving them real hands-

on experience while always being supported by experienced supervisors. It also provides valuable exposure to the Australian legal system.

Volunteering at MLC has been one of the highlights of my time in Australia. I am very grateful for the opportunity to learn from experienced legal professionals in such a supportive environment.

Ordinary Member, Extraordinary Impact

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

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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