



THE WORD ON THE STREET

30th Birthday Celebrations

In March 2008 Sussex Street is celebrating its 30th Birthday. The Service was initially set up as a family resource centre under the auspice of the Western Australian Institute of Technology (now the Curtin University of Technology), to provide opportunities for social work students to obtain some practical experience. It has come a long way since then with the introduction of a Night Legal Service in 1982 which continues to operate today.

Sussex Street is now an independent organisation and provides a range of legal and social services to people on low incomes. We provide advice in family, civil and minor criminal law together with



Where we started; 29 Sussex Street (left) was the original address for the Sussex Street Centre. Later through expansion of services 27 Sussex St was obtained prior to building our current premises.

advocacy on welfare rights (Centrelink matters), tenancy and financial counselling. We are the Disability Discrimination Unit for WA and provide disability advocacy in the Great Southern, Mid West and Goldfields region through providers in Albany, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie.

Sussex Street now also provides

outreach in Belmont and Midland.

If you or anyone you know has been involved with Sussex Street in the past as a member of the Board, staff or volunteer please register your interest in being part of the celebrations next year by contacting the office on 9470 2676

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New Staff Arrivals

Since our last edition Sussex Street welcomes the following new staff members. Watch out in future editions for more information on their backgrounds

Marise Resuggan is our new Night Legal Service Liaison Officer. This very important position provides the link between the service and the solicitors who volunteer their valuable time to the night legal service.

Lee McLeay is the new Tenancy Advocate. In the current housing crisis Lee has had little time to spare since joining Sussex Street with numerous enquiries from clients having issues with both private and public rentals.

Karen Bond is the newest member of our staff. A solicitor in family and civil law Karen also does two days a week at the Midland Outreach office. We welcome them all to Sussex Street and hope they enjoy their time with

Tenant Advocacy Gets a Boost

Tenancy Advocacy services in the Inner East Metro region have received a funding increase. Previously this area received funding for .5 FTE this has been increased to .8 FTE. The increase in funding will mean an increase in the hours the service operates and will allow the Tenancy Advocate to provide more community education. Sussex Street offers assistance to tenants in both private and

public housing with advice on various residential issues and also provides advocacy services in relation to Homeswest tenancy applications and appeals.

If any groups would like our advocate, Lee McLeay to speak to them on specific tenancy issues they can contact the office to arrange for her to do a presentation for them.

Editor's Bits

Congratulations to Iris Watt on successfully completing her Diploma of Community Services in Financial Counselling. A Great effort Iris!!

Congratulations to Denise Beer on the birth of her new grand-

daughter Ailia Keelyn. We hope you enjoy your cuddles!

Welcome back to Rose Ngoga who has been on leave of absence for six months spending some valuable time with her family.

Enjoying the sun has become a

pastime for some of the staff with Denise Beer and Iris Watt spending time in Cairns and Shirley Newington sunning herself in Kalbarri. Not so for Steen Johansen he took time off with his family to go skiing in Thredbo.

Staff Departures

LUCY TAYLOR

Lucy had been with Sussex Street for just on eighteen months and had undertaken a number of administrative duties during that time including front reception, Night Legal Service Liaison Officer, editor of 'The Word on the Street' and any other general duties including arranging the catering for special events. Good luck in all you do Lucy.

ANDREA HIGHMAN

In February 1997 Andrea Hall started work at Sussex Street. In the following ten years she would become Andrea Highman and the mother of two boys. She filled numerous roles within the service over the years. These included Financial

Counsellor, Welfare Rights Advocate, Co-ordinator of the Consumer Credit society and Acting Co-ordinator of the Individual Disability Advocacy Service. Andrea was always willing to take on any new position offered to her and during her time became a valuable member of the team. Our best wishes in your new position with Communicare.

TOBY NESBIT

Toby was a family and civil law solicitor and was only with Sussex Street for a short time during which he reestablished the Midland Outreach Service. We thank Toby for his dedication to the service and clients during the he was with us.

JAMES KIRTON

James was our Tenancy Advocate for just on twelve months. He has now moved into the commercial sector and was looking forward to the challenges this would provide.

RACHAEL LEWIS

Rachael decided that the rest of the world was begging and set off to discover its marvels. Rachael had been our family and civil law solicitor at Sussex Street for just on fourteen months. She set up the Belmont Outreach service and did an outstanding job in getting it up and running. Happy travels.

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