



THE WORD ON THE STREET

Issue 1

May 2006



NIGHT LEGAL SERVICE

Sussex Street Community Law Service currently runs a night legal service on Monday and Thursday evenings for advice appointments. This service has been running for a long time and has been very successful. We are however on the lookout for more solicitors to be on the volunteer roster. The night legal service deals mainly in family and civil issues. If you are available approximately one evening per 6 weeks we would value your help. Please contact:

Denise Beer— Acting General Manager

Tel: 94702676

Fax: 94701805

Email: sscls@sscls.asn.au

NEW STAFF

Sussex Street Community Law Service has recently undergone some staff changes and they will be profiled over the coming months.

Karen Sapsworth—Reception

James Kirton—Tenancy Advocate

Penny Robbins—Welfare Rights Advocate

Rachael Lewis—Family Lawyer

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Rachael completed a Bachelor of Law from James Cook University in Townsville. After completing her articles of clerkship Rachael worked as a

solicitor for the Townsville Community Legal Service. She then moved to Perth. After working at Citizens Advice Bureau as a family lawyer she came on board with Sussex Street. Rachael intends to get the

family law information sessions up and running again at Sussex Street and is going to resume Midland outreach office on a weekly basis.



WA LAW HANDBOOK 5TH EDITION



The law underpins our society and it affects our lives at every turn. It is vital, more now than ever, that we have some understanding of the law and the legal system...

The Hon. John Toohey

The Law Handbook is an indispensable plain English guide to the laws in WA, with contributions from more than 70 lawyers and other experts. It outlines, in practical terms, the main areas of law you are likely to encounter in WA and provides information on where to go for more help.

Sussex Street Community Law Service launched the book last October and we were lucky enough to have The Honourable John Toohey who forwards the book to help us.

The book is available to purchase by contacting us on 94702676.

PRICE

Student/Concession	\$60.00
Individual/Community Organisation	\$95.00
Commercial/Government	\$140.00



WA LAW WEEK

WA Law Week was celebrated in conjunction with the Town of Victoria on 10th May. Our program included information sessions on:

- Family Law
- Financial Counselling
- Welfare Rights—Welfare to Work (new legislation)
- Disability Discrimination and Advocacy
- Tenancy—Ten most common problems
- Civil Law—Motor Vehicle Accidents, Violence
- Restraining Orders and Neighbourhood disputes.

Feedback included comments such as “I was unaware of this, it was a really good idea and hope you have more of this type of sessions”.

CONSUMER CREDIT AND FINANCIAL COUNSELLING ACCESS PROJECT

This edition we are profiling our Consumer Credit and Financial Counselling Access Project run by Andrea Highman.

Andrea Highman has been a financial counsellor for over twelve years and has served the Victoria Park community for seven years before taking up the Consumer Credit and Financial Counselling Access Project. She has also worked as the Welfare Rights Advocate at Sussex Street as well as delivering training to Emergency Relief workers and other financial counsellors. She enjoys working on publications and talking with clients but what she loves best about Sussex Street is the relaxed, family friendly work environment and the staff's positive spirit.



The Consumer Credit and Financial Counselling Access Project is funded by the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection to provide training and support to non-metropolitan Western Australian consumers and community workers in the area of credit and debt.

It was established because it has been recognised for some years that financial counselling services in WA are unable to assist the number of people demanding service with some having waiting lists of over a month. In regional, rural and remote areas access to a financial counselling service can be extremely difficult due to the distances involved to reach a service, that is, if you are able to get an appointment in the first place.

The two major functions of the project have been:

- 1 To provide a telephone advice line the public living in regional, rural and remote WA on credit and debt matters such as preparing a household budget, identifying the cause of the crisis, understanding legal and financial documents, communicating with creditors facing court action and bankruptcy.
- 2 To travel to regional WA to deliver training to local community service workers working with clients who are likely to have debt issues, to provide the workers with written resources, sources of further information and follow up telephone support.

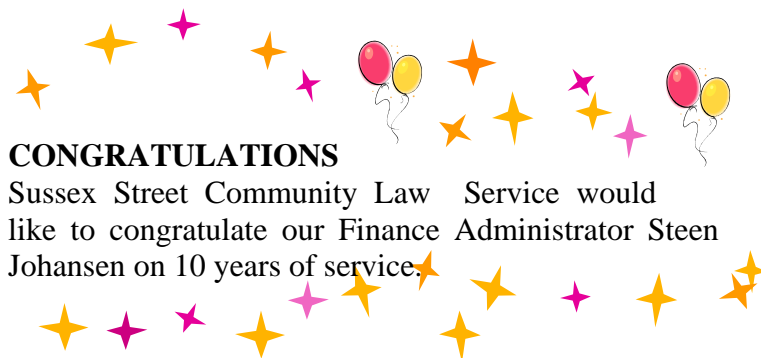
This project helps to address access issues by offering direct service to consumers in their homes, and by training other workers to assist their own clients to do some of the initial work themselves in preparation for an appointment with a financial counsellor.

During the project, the co-ordinator, Andrea Highman and Financial Counsellor, Iris Watt, between them travelled to ten country locations from Kunnurra to Albany delivering training to over eighty people

working in areas such as emergency relief, health, housing, domestic violence and disability services. The sessions were found to be informative and thought provoking, and provided opportunities for local people to get together and share concerns as well as ideas to help their clients.

The project commenced in August 2004 but is finishing at the end of July 2006 as the funding was a one off grant. To enable the project to continue to assist consumers the resource kit produced for the training sessions is to be reworked into the 'My Money Book' that will be available to the general public.

The project is seeking funds to continue the telephone advice line and have the resource professionally published. Anyone offering to help fund either aspects of this project can contact the service on 94702676.



CONGRATULATIONS

Sussex Street Community Law Service would like to congratulate our Finance Administrator Steen Johansen on 10 years of service.

STREET COMMUNITY LAW SERVICE INC.

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