

What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

An education kit about common
legal issues in Australia





How *What's the law?* can help

People who arrive in Australia with limited or no English often encounter legal problems because they are unaware of Australian laws and customs. New arrivals often do not realise that their problem may be a legal one and, as a result, do not seek legal help. If ignored, legal problems can escalate and cause stress and hardship. Many of these legal problems can be prevented with early information and support.

What's the law? can help:

- you to give new arrivals basic information about some common legal issues
- new arrivals identify legal problems and know how to get free legal help.

How to use the package

What's the law? contains 10 photo stories, activity sheets and information for presenters for each story. This education kit is flexible and can be used in any way that works for you:

- for an audience with limited English skills, you could play one story on the DVD and go through the activity sheet to check for understanding
- for an audience with more English skills, you could play the DVD from start to finish, with time for questions at the end
- you could invite a speaker to discuss a particular legal issue.

You don't need to be an expert in the law to show the DVD. You are there to help new arrivals understand the stories. If you need help, contact Legal Aid NSW to find out if a community legal education worker is available to assist you.





How to deal with legal questions

You are not expected to know the law to use What's the law? You may know the answer to some questions but if you don't know the answer, say so. Don't be tempted to tell people something you think might be right. If you need help to answer a question, contact Legal Aid NSW.

Sometimes people try and answer a legal question based on their own experience. While this can be a good way to start a discussion, every legal problem is different and the law in every state and territory is different. Only a lawyer can give professional legal advice after hearing about a person's particular circumstances.

How to refer new arrivals to a service that can help

If someone has a legal problem, you can give them a 'warm' referral by:

1. identifying a suitable legal service provider
2. suggesting the person phone the service for help
3. offering to help the person make the call, or finding someone else in your organisation who can give them this support
4. following up by asking if they got the help they needed, and whether the problem has resolved. If not, think about helping them get more advice.

More information

Contact LawAccess NSW on 1300 888 529 for legal information and/or referrals over the telephone. Non-English speakers can call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 13 14 50 and ask for LawAccess NSW.

Legal Aid NSW publishes a range of free fact sheets and booklets about common legal problems. Some of these are translated into community languages. For more information visit www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/publications





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Legal Aid
NEW SOUTH WALES

This DVD contains 10 photo stories in basic English, activity sheets and information for presenters. It can help people gain basic knowledge about the law, identify legal problems and where to get free legal help. It can be used in information sessions with community groups or English classes.

To find out more information visit www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/education email cle@legalaid.nsw.gov.au or call **9219 5921**.

Photo story

Australia's legal system
Driving
Car accident
Buying a car
Police
Renting
Centrelink
Child protection
Family law
Family violence

Running time

1:35 minutes
2:25 minutes
2:32 minutes
4:20 minutes
3:05 minutes
3:12 minutes
3:28 minutes
2:27 minutes
3:22 minutes
2:50 minutes

The information on this DVD is intended as a general guide to the law. It should not be relied on as legal advice and it is recommended that you talk to a lawyer about your particular situation. The information recorded is correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change. If you need more help, contact LawAccess NSW on 1300 888 529.

More copies of this DVD and certificates of attendance can be obtained online at www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/publications or email publications@legalaid.nsw.gov.au or call **9219 5028**.

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