

A Step Closer to legal help across the Northern Territory

*Fiona Hussin,
Coordinator, Policy and Projects
Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission*



The NT Legal Aid Commission and Darwin Community Legal Service have produced the 4th Edition *Law Handbook* which is now available for purchase.

The Law Handbook is a practical guide to legal issues which affect people living in the Northern Territory. It includes information on the legal system, marriage, children, credit and debt, criminal proceedings, discrimination, young people, social security, health, copyright and much more.

As well as being a valuable resource for residents of the Territory, local business and service providers, it is

also a great resource for the legal profession.

Michaela Powell, Family Lawyer with the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission, believes the Law Handbook is an extremely valuable resource. Michaela says "As a practitioner new to the Northern Territory, I have found the Law Handbook to be very useful, particularly in relation to Northern Territory issues. As someone who practises in one area of law, I have found the Handbook useful in assisting clients with other problems that are not specifically in my area of expertise, but that impact on the client's case. I frequently

provide advice in clinics with a very limited amount of time and the Law Handbook is often a first point of call to find information about an issue and what legislation in the Northern Territory relates to it. I think the Handbook is an essential legal resource for practitioners."

The Law Handbook may be purchased from the Darwin Community Legal Service, 8 Manton Street, Darwin at a cost of \$100.00 per book (plus postage). To order a copy call Darwin Community Legal Service on 8982 1111, or download an order form from the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission's website at www.ntlac.nt.gov.au.

Barkly Region Legal Services Poster

Where can you go to for help with legal problems in the Barkly Region? Many people who have legal problems don't know what services are available to them or which is the most appropriate to help with their problem.

At times the law and legal system can be complicated and overwhelming for people who don't know where to turn. For this reason, the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission in conjunction with legal services in the region have created a poster for the Barkly Region promoting legal services and advertising their contact details. The Poster

was launched in Tennant Creek in September.

The Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission, Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service, Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit and Central Australian Women's Legal Service deliver a range of services which include, legal resources, information and initial advice, assisting people at court for criminal matters, advice and representation in family law, domestic violence and children's matters. Also, the public can contact them to speak to someone about employment issues, compensation, complaints, welfare

matters, motor vehicle accidents or anything else they are unsure about.

These organisations know how vital it is for people to have access to help and information that can explain their rights and obligations and provide confidential help in culturally appropriate ways. This poster is a valuable community tool and will be displayed by many organisations in the region.

For copies of the poster, you can drop in to any of the legal services in the Barkly Region or call Wendy Vismans at the NT Legal Aid Commission on (08) 8962 0100.