

About Law Access

Law Access is a pro bono referral service that matches applications for pro bono (free) legal assistance from individuals and not-for-profit organisations to lawyers in the profession.

Law Access assists some of the most vulnerable people in Western Australia to obtain access to justice. We help those people who are unable to get assistance from a Community Legal Centre, ALS or Legal Aid WA and who would otherwise be unable to obtain legal assistance. We receive referrals from the Courts, Tribunals and many legal assistance providers and welfare organisations.

We receive applications in all areas of the law, from all over the State, and try to match applicants who will most benefit from legal assistance with lawyers willing to provide their legal services on a pro bono basis as a service to the community. All applicants must pass a stringent means and merits test before we try to refer them.

How to Make an Effective Referral to Law Access

Refer a matter

Some of our best referrals come from community service providers. In order to make an effective warm referral, service providers should complete our online [Refer a Matter form](#).

If your service has already completed a means or merits test, please provide Law Access with the relevant information to avoid duplication (either upload via the online form or email us).

For individuals

Does the matter fall within our [eligibility criteria](#)? We do not assist with defended VROs, native title, or matter types where no win no fee lawyers are available such as personal injury and negligence claims.

We are a service of last resort. Have applicants have exhausted all possible legal assistance avenues (Aboriginal Legal Service, community legal centres and Legal Aid)?

For not-for-profit groups

Do they meet our [eligibility criteria](#) for not-for-profit groups seeking pro bono assistance? For example, we won't help the local golf club with their constitution, but we will help a community group whose purpose involves poverty relief.

Please make sure your clients have realistic expectations about:

- The high demand for the service and the way we assess, prioritise and refer applicants.
- That in family law, current demand vastly outstrips the pro bono family lawyers available even though most family law matters merit representation.
- We cannot refer matters urgently and we cannot guarantee that a matter, even if assessed as meritorious, can be placed at all.

- It is important that applicants continue to meet all court commitments or commence any necessary legal action within statutory time limits, even if they have submitted an application to Law Access.

Public Interest Matters

Law Access is also very interested in potential public interest cases that community service providers might refer. A matter may be of public interest if it affects a significant number of people, raises matters of broad public concern, and requires a legal intervention to avoid a significant or avoidable injustice, or particularly impacts on disadvantaged or marginalised groups.

We also advise unsuccessful applicants about why their matter has not been able to be referred. This can assist applicants whose matters lack merit to avoid costly self-representation.

The [Our Impact](#) page on our website contains Examples of the types of individuals that Law Access assists.

Contact Law Access

Information for new applicants

First contact should be through:

- our online application form on our website lawaccess.org.au
- calling us on (08) 6488 6813 between 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Email: lawaccess@lawaccess.org.au

Direct phone line for community organisations, lawyers and courts

Law Access operates with minimal administrative support so we ask that you do not give out our direct line to individual clients of your service. Law Access recognises that many of our best referrals come from community organisations and we welcome calls on our direct line (08) 6488 8725 from staff of community organisations. When we are on another call or in a meeting the phone diverts to message bank. We check messages regularly throughout the day.

If your organisation is in need of legal help

If your community legal centre or community service organisation is itself in need of legal assistance, please view our [eligibility criteria](#) and if you are eligible please complete an [online application form for not-for-profits](#).

Assisting people to make their own applications to Law Access

We prefer warm referrals but if you need an individual to submit their own application please direct them to our online application form (see [Find Legal Help](#)). If someone does not have access to the internet or does not have an email address, they can download and complete our hardcopy forms ([view here](#)).

Phone: (08) 6488 8725 | **Fax:** (08) 9324 8699

Email: lawaccess@lawaccess.org.au | **Website:** lawaccess.org.au

Please address all correspondence to Law Access, PO Box Z5345, Perth WA 6831



ACN 602 771 068

Alternatively, you can also direct them to call Law Access and one of our paralegal volunteers can assist them to complete the online application form. New applicants can call us on (08) 6488 6813 between 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For responses to common questions, please see our [Frequently Asked Questions](#). We also have some information in our [Support and Resources](#) section of our website for individuals and not-for-profits seeking legal help.