



## Marrickville Legal Centre

### Strategic Statement 2014 - 2017

#### Our Vision

Marrickville Legal Centre (MLC) seeks to promote social justice and provide free and accessible legal services to people who experience social and economic disadvantage.

#### Our Values

MLC believes that people have a right to legal information, advice, advocacy and representation which is accessible and relevant to their lives. It aims to utilise both legal and community processes to promote an agenda of social justice and to work towards fairer legal and social outcomes for those most disadvantaged in our community. It is committed to providing the community with a wide range of legal services that are delivered in diverse ways and in co-operation with community networks and resources.

#### Our Mission

To provide free and accessible legal and related services, which are responsive to the needs of those most disadvantaged and which promote just and lasting solutions to legal and social issues in our community.

#### Service Delivery

MLC provides generalist and employment legal services to 12 Local Government Areas: Ashfield, Auburn, Bankstown, Burwood; Canada Bay; Canterbury, Hurstville, Kogarah, Marrickville, Rockdale, Strathfield and Sutherland. MLC also provides a statewide Youth Legal Service.

MLC provides the specialist tenancy services of the Inner West Tenants' Advice & Advocacy Service (IWTAAS) and the Northern Sydney Area Tenants' Service (NSATS). IWTAAS services the Local Government Areas of Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Marrickville and Strathfield. NSATS is based in Chatswood and services the Local Government Areas of Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Pittwater, Ryde, Warringah and Willoughby.

MLC also provides community legal education and participates in local, statewide and national committees, interagencies and networks to undertake community development and law reform activities.

Recognising barriers to access to justice, MLC prioritises service delivery to: indigenous people, young people, boarding house residents and people facing homelessness, people with a disability, people with a mental illness, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, older people; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people, and people who have experienced family violence.

## Objectives & Strategies

Objectives	Strategies
1. To promote social justice and provide free and accessible legal services to people who experience social and economic disadvantage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a Generalist Legal Service</li> <li>• Provide a statewide Youth Legal Service</li> <li>• Provide specialist tenancy services in the Inner West and Northern Sydney Areas</li> <li>• Provide an integrated response to socially and economically disadvantaged clients</li> </ul>
2. To involve people experiencing social and economic disadvantage in the recognition, understanding and solution of legal problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in community development projects in partnership with local organisations</li> </ul>
3. To provide community legal education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify major legal issues for disadvantaged groups and provide community-based legal education through various modes and formats</li> </ul>
4. To participate in law reform, social change and changes to other policies and practices which adversely affect MLC's clients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in law reform and social change arising from the Centre's casework and the principles of equity and access to justice</li> </ul>
5. To develop and work collaboratively with networks, communities and key stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote MLC's services in a range of accessible modes and formats</li> <li>• Develop and maintain relationships with local, statewide and national committees, interagencies and networks to undertake community development and law reform activities.</li> </ul>
6. To create and maintain an effective infrastructure to resource and support staff and to ensure effective service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure staff have the resources required to perform their duties</li> <li>• Ensure appropriate composition of and support for the Board</li> <li>• Strengthen the financial viability of MLC</li> <li>• Encourage volunteer engagement within MLC to enhance service capacity</li> <li>• Ensure that systems within MLC support service delivery</li> <li>• Evaluate service outcomes and quality and use results to make service improvements</li> </ul>