

To contact HPLS

Visit one of the HPLS Clinics.

Phone: (02) 8898 6545

E-mail: homelessproject@piac.asn.au

For an electronic copy of this newsletter send us an e-mail to the above address.

Contributors to this edition of STREETRIGHTS_{NSW}

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Acknowledgements

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THE HPLS CLINICS

Day (weekly)	Time	Location
Monday	10:00 am - 12:00 noon	The Station Ltd 82 Erskine Street, Sydney
Monday	10:00 am - 12:00 noon	Wayside Chapel 29 Hughes Street, Potts Point
Tuesday	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Matthew Talbot Hostel 22 Talbot Lane, Woolloomooloo
Tuesday	12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Norman Andrews House 77 Roscoe Street, Bondi
Wednesday	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Parramatta Mission 119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta
Wednesday	12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Salvation Army Streetlevel Derby Lane (off Albion St), Surry Hills
Thursday	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Vincentian House 361 Crown Street, Surry Hills
Thursday	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Edward Eagar Lodge 348a Bourke Street, Darlinghurst
Friday	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Women's & Girls' Emergency Centre 361 Riley Street, Surry Hills
Friday	1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Newtown Mission 280a King Street, Newtown

Street Rights NSW in 2010!

Hi and welcome to the second edition of *Street Rights NSW* for 2010.

In this edition there is some information about consumer representation on the new Premier's Council on Homelessness. Make sure you have a read of the Legal Beagle, where your rights under the Homeless Protocol are explained. And finally in our Policy Corner we have a look at some possible changes around how services are run.

Please also remember that we are always on the look-out for ideas and contributions from our readers. So if you have anything you would like to share, please e-mail us at homelessproject@piac.asn.au

Cheers

Julie, Chris and Jeremy
The HPLS Team

**Street Care on the Premier's Council**

HPLS is very excited to announce that two Street Care members, Veronica and Kevin, have been selected to represent homeless people on the new NSW Premier's Council on Homelessness. They will work together with nine other experts from government and homelessness services.

As you may know, Street Care is a group of people who have experienced homelessness and who now work as advocates to make sure that the voices of homeless people are heard by government departments and homeless services. The role of the Premier's Council is to give information and advice to the NSW Government about laws and policies that impact on people living on the street and what changes should be made to make things better.

Veronica and Kevin have very different experiences of homelessness. HPLS believes they will be very

good representatives and will be able to provide the NSW Government with advice that comes straight from people with personal experience of what it is like to be homeless and how hard it is sometimes to get help. At the first Premier's Council meeting in March 2010, Kevin spoke about the need for boarding houses to be regulated so they all meet a minimum standard of safety, security and cleanliness. Veronica spoke about how frustrating it is being turned away from services that are full or cannot provide the help you need and having to repeat your story many times over.

This is a great achievement for Street Care, but it is also a great opportunity to make some important changes to protect the rights of homeless people.

If you want to contact Street Care please send an e-mail to streetcare@piac.asn.au.

Legal Beagle: Know your rights!

In the Legal Beagle's report we will keep you up to date with changes to the law and your rights!

In this edition of the Legal Beagle, we are looking at the Homeless Protocol.

Homeless Protocol

The Protocol for Homeless People in Public Places is an agreement signed by the City of Sydney and some NSW Government agencies that is meant to protect people living on the street from being hassled unnecessarily if they are in a public space in NSW. It does not apply on private property.

The Protocol says that a person who is homeless should be left alone unless:

1. they say they need help;
2. they appear to be in need of help or assistance;
3. they are threatening the safety of others; or
4. they are damaging property or the environment.

The police have the power to ask any person in a public space to 'move on' if they reasonably believe that person is blocking other people or traffic; is harrasing or intimidating other people; or is buying or selling drugs. You could be fined if you refuse to follow a direction from a police officer to move on without a reasonable excuse.

The government agencies that have said they will follow this agreement include NSW Police, Housing NSW, RailCorp and the State Transit Authority.

More than just a piece of paper?

We hear stories about people on the street still being hassled despite the Protocol being in place. But you do have rights. If you are living on the street and have been told to move on without a good reason you might have a right to complain. You should talk an HPLS lawyer at one of our free legal clinics if you would like us to help.

Please also see a HPLS lawyer or e-mail the Legal Beagle at homelessproject@piac.asn.au if you would like to get a copy of the Homeless Protocol.



In the next edition... Housing Pathways

In the next edition of *Street Rights NSW* we will explain the new Housing NSW policy called 'Housing Pathways' that was launched in April 2010.

The main change for homeless people is that there is now only one waiting list for all social housing stock. This means that Housing NSW and 27 other community housing providers will all share the same application form. Now you only have to fill in one form instead of three or four.

If you were already approved for wait-turn public housing, you should have got a letter from Housing NSW telling you about the changes. If you did not get a letter, you should talk an HPLS lawyer at one of our free legal clinics.

HPLS Policy Corner

In this edition's Policy Corner we are looking at a really hot topic: the quality standard for homelessness services.

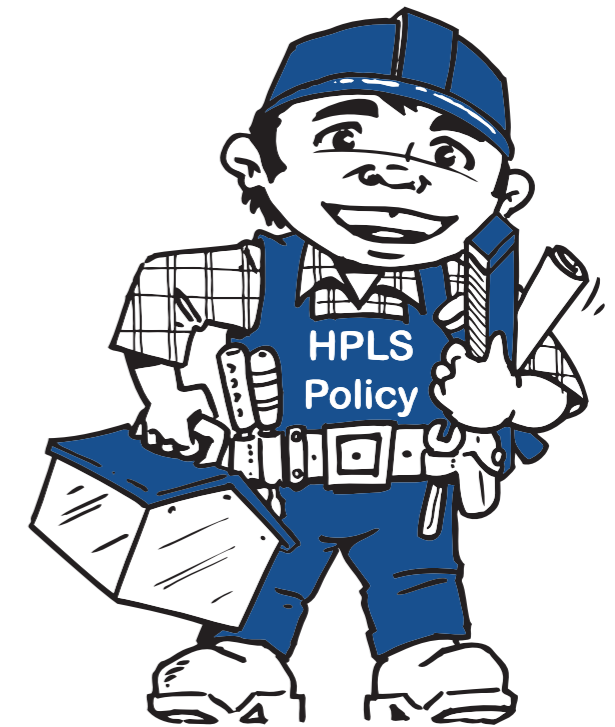
Most of the services out there do a great job on very little funding. But there is always room for them to be improved.

The Federal Government has recently announced a National Quality Framework process that is going to look at current standards within homelessness services and how they could be improved.

HPLS has told the Government that we believe that the type of service offered to a homeless person should be based on what they actually need. We have also told them that there is a real problem with people being excluded from some services and that there needs to be more funding so that services can provide better quality of support to people who are homeless.

HPLS has believed for a long time that users of these services, homeless people themselves, should have input into the way they are run. With the support of Street Care, we have already held a few discussions with people on the street to get their ideas.

If you also have some ideas that you would like to share with us at Policy Corner, please send us an e-mail at homelessproject@piac.asn.au



We can fix it!

What you can expect from Homeless Persons' Legal Service

- Legal help from HPLS is free.
- HPLS will respect your right to privacy: everything you talk about with the lawyer will be confidential unless you agree otherwise.
- HPLS will treat you with respect.
- HPLS will give you advice, but it is your decision how you use it.
- If HPLS can't help with your legal problem, we will tell you who can.

HPLS is very keen to get contributions from people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to *STREETRIGHTS NSW*. If you have a comment about anything that's covered in this newsletter please e-mail us at homelessproject@piac.asn.au

DROP US A LINE!