

Justice Connect Homeless Law's services

A guide to eligibility

1. Is the person 'homeless' or 'at risk of homelessness'?

This includes where a person is without conventional accommodation (e.g. sleeping in a park or car), moving frequently between temporary accommodation (e.g. refuges/emergency housing or friends) or living in marginal accommodation on a medium to long term basis (e.g. rooming houses, transitional housing or caravan parks).

'At risk of homelessness' includes where a person has circumstances (e.g. mental illness, age, financial hardship or domestic violence) or a legal issue that make it difficult to access or maintain secure accommodation.

2. Does the matter fall within Homeless Law's areas of expertise?

Housing & Tenancy

Focusing on homelessness prevention eg:

- Landlord eviction proceedings/possession orders
- Landlord compliance orders
- Landlord compensation/debt claims
- Changes to fixed term lease due to family violence
- Creation and transfer of a tenancy

Fines & Infringements

Where 50% or more of the person's infringements are directly related to their homelessness eg:

- Public transport fines
- Being drunk in public
- Begging
- Littering
- Unregistered vehicle or parking fines

Guardianship & Administration

Assistance to people who want to change or amend a guardianship or administration order, or facing an application for such an order.

Credit & Debt

- Utilities and telco debts
- Consumer credit issues with financial institutions
- Judgment debts
- Debt collectors seeking payment

3. Representation by Homeless Law

Eligible clients will be booked into one of Homeless Law's 7 weekly outreach clinics and can receive ongoing legal representation, including advice, negotiation and representation at courts and VCAT.

Programs and services

Clients may also benefit from Homeless Law's targeted programs and services:

Women's Homelessness Prevention Project (WHPP)

The WHPP provides women with legal representation in relation to tenancy legal issues (e.g. eviction and housing debts). WHPP clients also receive social work support.

Criminal legal representation

A criminal lawyer is available to provide advice and representation to existing Homeless Law clients facing criminal charges in the Magistrates' Court (subject to certain eligibility criteria).

Tenancy legal help for prisoners

Homeless Law provides specialist legal representation relating to housing & tenancy matters, particularly evictions, housing debts and temporary absences, to Victorian prisoners.

Homeless Persons' Liaison Officer (HPLO)

The HPLO can assist people who are homeless or at risk, and who have matters in Victorian Courts/Tribunals to access the justice system and address non-legal needs.

Phone: 1800 606 313* or 03 8636 4408

* freecall from landlines



This is only a guide. Homeless Law's services are also subject to merits and means tests and capacity. Please contact Justice Connect Homeless Law to determine whether eligibility criteria are satisfied.