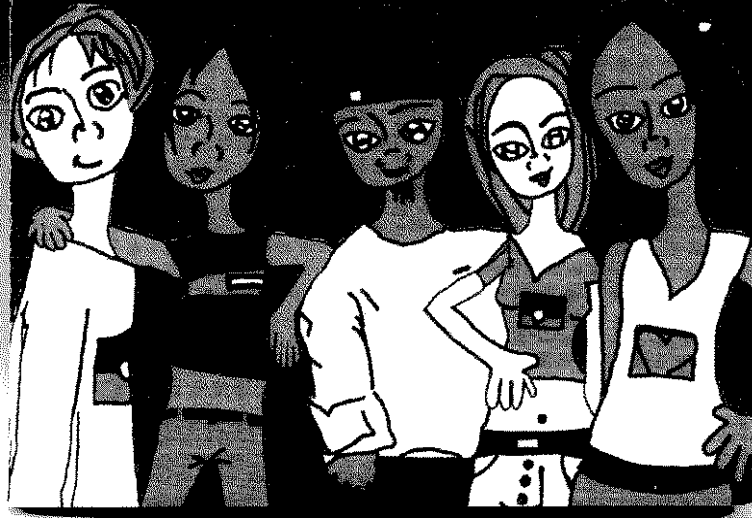


ME AND THE GUNJIES



ME AND THE GUNJIES

The gunjies want my ID

You don't have to give it to them unless you:

- ☞ are driving a car
- ☞ are under 18 and drinking alcohol in a public space
- ☞ are on public transport
- ☞ are suspected of being involved in or having witnessed a serious crime
- ☞ have unpaid fines and the gunjies or a sheriff serves a court order on you about those fines.

Telling the gunjies a false name is not a good idea as it can work against you later.



The gunjies want to question me

Get legal advice BEFORE you answer any questions.

You don't have to answer any of the gunjies questions (except to give your ID in the situations described). But it's a good idea to give your name, address and age.

If you're under 16 a parent or guardian should be with you while you are questioned or they can give permission for someone else to be there with you.

If you're 16 or 17 an independent adult, chosen by you, must be with you while you are questioned. The independent adult should be someone you trust and know well. If you don't trust them ask for someone else. They cannot be a gunjie. They could be a youth worker, family member, lawyer or a friend who is over 18.

The gunjies can stop, search and detain you if they have a search warrant (which they must show you) OR they believe you have:

- ☞ stolen or illegally obtained items
- ☞ things they believe could be used illegally, e.g. tools for breaking and entering
- ☞ weapons or knives
- ☞ drugs.

In these situations gunjies are allowed by law to:

- ☞ pat you down
- ☞ look in your bags and pockets
- ☞ search your car.

If you refuse to be searched you can be arrested. So go along with it, but tell them that you don't agree. The gunjies can use force to search you.

If they do search you, the gunjies must:

- ☞ tell you why you're being searched
- ☞ warn you that if you refuse to be searched you are committing an offence
- ☞ show their ID if they're not in uniform
- ☞ give you their name and badge number when you ask.

If these things don't happen the search is illegal and you can make a complaint.

Turn over...

The gunjies have arrested me

Some good advice...

- ☞ Don't resist arrest.
- ☞ Ask what the charge is.
- ☞ Don't use offensive language.
- ☞ Only give your name, age and address.
- ☞ Ask them to call your parents or an adult you trust.

If you're arrested the gunjies MUST:

- ☞ tell you that you're under arrest and why you're under arrest
- ☞ tell the Aboriginal Legal Service that you're under arrest and held in a lock up
- ☞ allow you to contact a relative, friend or lawyer and ask them to be with you.

Remember...

You don't have to go to the police station with the gunjies unless you've been arrested.

DO NOT sign anything until you've spoken with a lawyer.

If you need legal advice call:

**Aboriginal Legal Service
(02) 9318 2122**

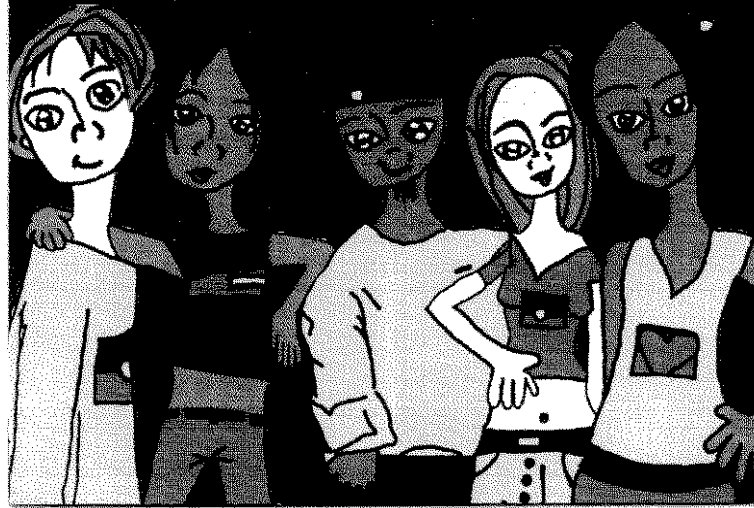
**Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal
Women's Legal Centre
1800 686 587**

**Legal Aid Hotline for under 18s
1800 101 810**



This Info Sheet was produced by Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre (WBAWLC) and is only meant as a guide to NSW law and cannot replace legal advice. If you have a legal problem you should speak to a lawyer for some legal advice. WBAWLC excludes liability for any loss suffered by any person which results from the use of or reliance upon the information contained in this Info Sheet.

ME AND SECURITY GUARDS



ME AND SECURITY

What can security guards do?

If they have proof that you did a crime, they **CAN**:

- ☞ arrest you (make a citizen's arrest)
- ☞ hold you until the gunjies turn up
- ☞ use reasonable force to arrest and hold you.

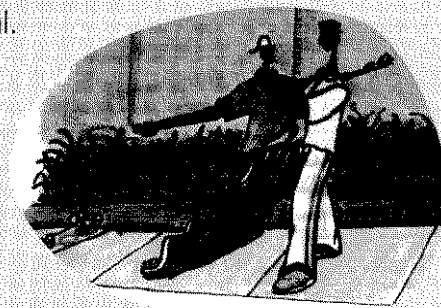
Security guards on private property can tell you to leave for any reason at all. They can ban you for as long as they like. (Most shops, shopping malls, fast food places and cinemas are private property.)

If you don't leave, or if you go back onto the private property, they **CAN**:

- ☞ use reasonable force to remove you
- ☞ make a citizen's arrest and hold you until the gunjies turn up
- ☞ ask the gunjies to charge you with trespass.

Security guards **CANNOT**:

- ☞ search you or your things without your permission, even if it's a 'condition of entry'
- ☞ use more force than necessary to remove you, arrest you or hold you
- ☞ arrest you on suspicion alone (only the gunjies can arrest you on suspicion)
- ☞ hold you if they don't arrest you
- ☞ ban you or ask you to leave spaces they don't control, e.g. streets and footpaths
- ☞ force you to sign anything
- ☞ force you to be photographed
- ☞ tell you to leave or treat you worse than other people just because you're young or because you're Aboriginal.



GUARDOS

Your rights in public places

Generally speaking, young people can relax with their friends and enjoy themselves in public areas, so long as they don't harm other people.

There are some exceptions to this general rule – the gunjies often ask young people to 'move on', and may threaten you with arrest for trespass (if on private property), obstruction (of a footpath or roadway), or offensive language.

Don't swear at the gunjies. They may arrest you for offensive language.

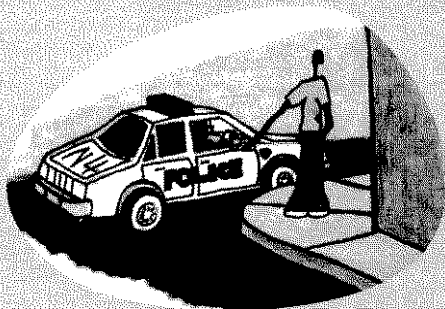
The gunjies can take steps to prevent obstruction of public spaces or to protect the public from feeling threatened. So if you're blocking a footpath or scaring a person, police may ask you to move on.

Turn over...

You have the right to know...

- ☞ why the gunjies are giving you a direction or making a request
- ☞ what the direction or request means you have to do, or not do.

If the gunjies make a direction or request, it's easier to agree to it and avoid more hassles.



Remember...

It's an offence NOT to obey a lawful direction made by the gunjies.

If you've been treated unfairly in a public place you should speak to a lawyer at:

**Aboriginal Legal Service
(02) 9318 2122**

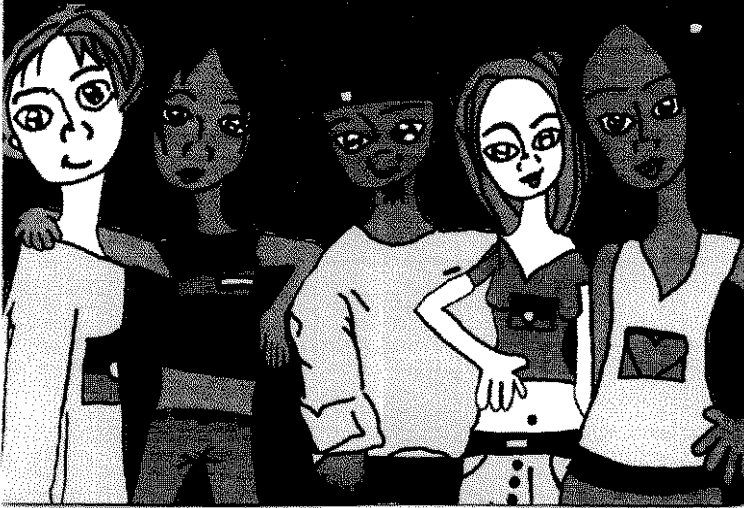
**Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's
Legal Centre
1800 686 587**

**Legal Aid Hotline for under 18s
1800 101 810**



This Info Sheet was produced by Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre (WBAWLC) and is only meant as a guide to NSW law and cannot replace legal advice. If you have a legal problem you should speak to a lawyer for some legal advice. WBAWLC excludes liability for any loss suffered by any person which results from the use of or reliance upon the information contained in this Info Sheet.

BULLYING



BULLYING

What is bullying?

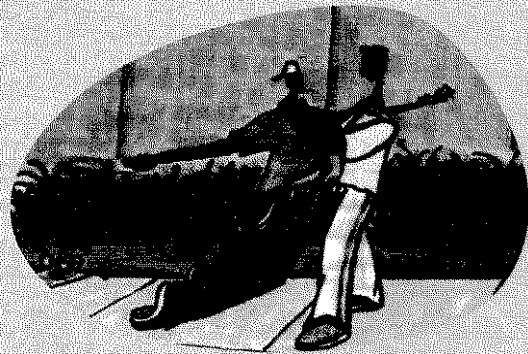
Bullying is any cruel or abusive behaviour, including physical violence, threats or harassment by one person or group of people towards another person. Harassment means ongoing physical or verbal abuse.

Using violence or threatening violence is against the law.

Bullying can include:

- ☞ making fun of someone
- ☞ threatening to hurt them
- ☞ making sexist, racist or homophobic remarks
- ☞ writing mean graffiti about a person
- ☞ making fun of how a person looks, dresses or acts
- ☞ frightening a person
- ☞ intimidating a person
- ☞ spreading rumours about someone or about their mob
- ☞ deliberately making someone feel uncomfortable
- ☞ standing over a person
- ☞ demanding money or stuff like shoes, mobile phones and computer games
- ☞ using offensive names
- ☞ throwing things at people.

Bullying can stop people from going to places they need to go to, like the shops or school. It can make a person very depressed and stressed out. It is not OK behaviour.



Homophobia

- ☛ Homophobia is when you're disgusted by or scared of gays and lesbians.
- ☛ It's wrong to abuse or to treat anyone differently because they're gay or lesbian or because you think they're gay or lesbian.

What can I do if I'm being bullied?

- ☛ If it happens at school, report it to a teacher, your counsellor or your principal. If your school doesn't do anything about the bullying, complain to the:
 - ~ Department of Education and Training District Office
 - ~ Anti-Discrimination Board
 - ~ Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
- ☛ If someone threatens you or uses violence, tell the gunjies. Some types of bullying, like threats and assaults, are crimes. You may need an Apprehended Violence Order. Speak to a lawyer about this.

Turn over...

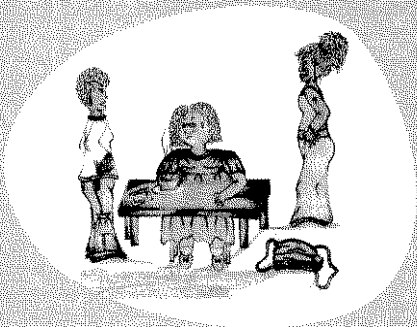
☎ Talk to a counsellor at school, your parents or someone else you can trust.

If it happens at work it might be discrimination and you should get advice about making a complaint.

Remember...

Complaints to the Anti-Discrimination Board have to be made within 6 months of the incident, and complaints to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission have to be made within 12 months of the incident.

No-one deserves to be bullied!



If you'd like to speak to someone about bullying call:

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
1800 686 587

Anti-Discrimination Board
1800 670 812

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
1300 656 419

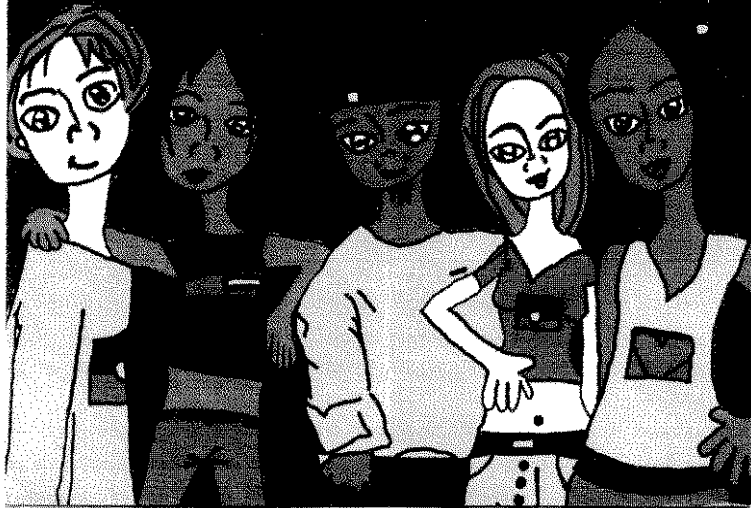
NSW Department of Education and Training
131 536



This Info Sheet was produced by Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre (WBAWLC) and is only meant as a guide to NSW law and cannot replace legal advice. If you have a legal problem you should speak to a lawyer for some legal advice. WBAWLC excludes liability for any loss suffered by any person which results from the use of or reliance upon the information contained in this Info Sheet.

www.wirringabaiya.org.au

DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE AND
AVOs



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is when someone close to you hurts you, like your boyfriend or ex-boyfriend, father, mother or brother. The abuse can be:

Physical

This is when someone:

- ☞ pushes you
- ☞ punches or kicks you
- ☞ slaps you
- ☞ pulls your hair
- ☞ chokes you
- ☞ throws things at you.

Sexual

This is when someone forces you to do something sexual that you don't want to, like:

- ☞ kisses or touches you
- ☞ forces you to have sex with them
- ☞ forces you to touch them
- ☞ makes you watch pornography.

Emotional

This is when you're afraid that a person might hurt you, like when someone:

- ☞ calls you names all the time
- ☞ threatens to hurt you or your relations
- ☞ frightens you
- ☞ wrecks your things
- ☞ constantly calls you or sends heaps of text messages or emails.

Social

This is when someone tries to control your social life, like when someone:

- ☞ doesn't let you go out with your friends
- ☞ checks up on you all the time and follows you around
- ☞ locks you in the house
- ☞ puts you down in front of your friends.

Financial

This is when your partner has control over your money and doesn't let you buy what you want.

Have any of these things happened to you?

If so you may need an AVO!

AND AVOs

Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)

What is an AVO?

If someone is hassling you, hurting you or making you scared you can apply for an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) to protect yourself. An AVO is an order from the court telling someone not to do something like hurt you or follow you.

How do I get an AVO?

- ☞ Tell the **gunjies** or the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer at the police station about the violence so that the gunjies can apply for an AVO on your behalf, **OR**
- ☞ If you are 16 or older you can see the person called the **chamber magistrate** at your nearest local court and make your own application for an AVO.

When does it start working?

An AVO starts to work when the other person is given a copy of the AVO. This is called **service** and is done by the gunjies.

Turn over...

Do I need a lawyer when I go to court?

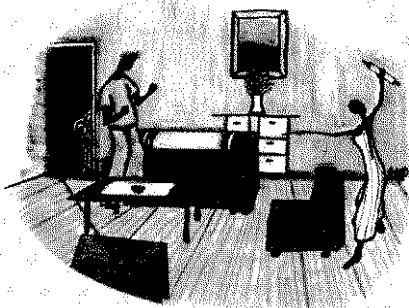
If the gunjies applied for the AVO on your behalf they will have someone to represent you. This person is called a prosecutor. If you made your own application you should speak to a lawyer.

What happens once I have an AVO?

Keep a copy of your AVO with you and give a copy to your school and/or your work.

If the person you have the AVO against breaks the AVO tell the gunjies! This is called a breach and it's a crime.

If things change or get better, you should get legal advice about whether you need to change the AVO to suit your new situation.



**For more information
about AVOs call:**

**Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal
Women's Legal Centre
1800 686 587**

**Domestic Violence Line (24 hours)
1800 656 463**

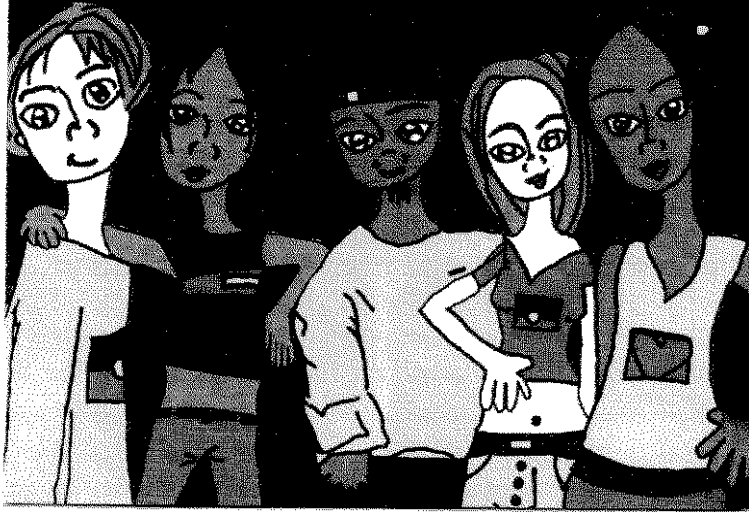
**Legal Aid Hotline for under 18s
1800 101 810**



This Info Sheet was produced by Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre (WBAWLC) and is only meant as a guide to NSW law and cannot replace legal advice. If you have a legal problem you should speak to a lawyer for some legal advice. WBAWLC excludes liability for any loss suffered by any person which results from the use of or reliance upon the information contained in this Info Sheet.

www.wirringabaiya.org.au

GOING TO COURT



GOING TO COURT

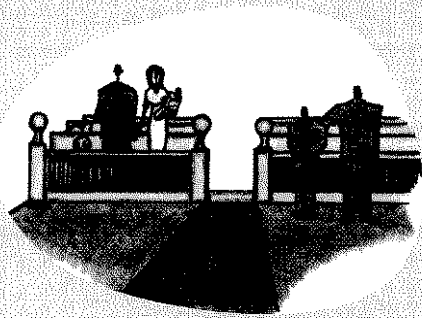
Which court will I go to?

If you're under 18 and charged with a crime you have to go to the Children's Court. This can be at:

- ☞ your Local Court **OR**
- ☞ a special Children's Court.

A Local Court can make itself into a Children's Court when it has to. It makes no difference which court you go to. The same thing will happen at either one.

Remember to find out where the court is.



How do I know when I have to go to court?

You have to go to court on the exact day:

- ☞ your summons says **OR**
- ☞ your charge sheet says **OR**
- ☞ your bail conditions say **OR**
- ☞ when the court tells you.

It's a really good idea to tell your family or a friend about your court date so that they can remind you to go, or even go with you.

Things to remember

1. **Turn up at court.** If you don't turn up at court when you're meant to:
 - ☞ your bail could be cancelled **OR**
 - ☞ you could be found guilty without having a chance to say anything.
2. **Talk to a lawyer.** Lawyers know all about what happens in court and will give you good advice that you'll need.

3. **Dress good.** How you dress is important. The magistrate only gets to see you for a short time so everything you do will matter. It's OK to go to court in borrowed clothes. If you can't borrow clothes go down to your local youth centre and explain the problem. They might be able to help you.
4. **Be early.** This way you'll know where you need to be and what you have to do. It will also give you a chance to have a yarn to a lawyer.
5. **Ask questions.** If you don't understand something ask your lawyer or youth worker. It's their job to tell you and it's your right to know.
6. **Don't lie.** Lying can catch up with you and cause you more problems down the track.
7. **Take your family.** It's good for the magistrate to see that you have family members who care about you. It doesn't have to be your Mum and Dad. It can be an aunty, uncle, cousin or your Nan. If you think they might put you in lock-up this can be really important.

Turn over...

How do I get a lawyer?

The court will have a lawyer for you. At a local court this person is called the 'duty solicitor'. At some courts there may also be a lawyer from the Aboriginal Legal Service. You should speak to a lawyer. To do this:

- ☞ turn up at court early and make an appointment **OR**
- ☞ go a few days earlier and make an appointment.



If you need advice about going to court call:

**Aboriginal Legal Service
(02) 9318 2122**

**Legal Aid Hotline for under 18s
1800 101 810**

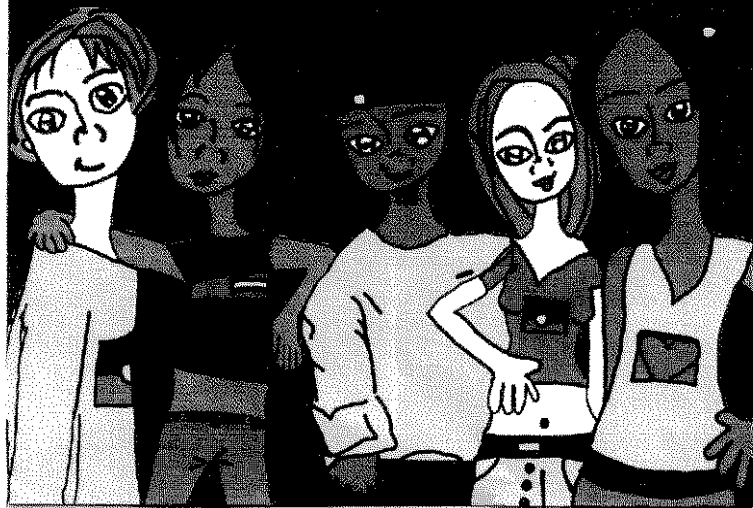
**Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal
Women's Legal Centre
1800 686 587**



This Info Sheet was produced by Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre (WBAWLC) and is only meant as a guide to NSW law and cannot replace legal advice. If you have a legal problem you should speak to a lawyer for some legal advice. WBAWLC excludes liability for any loss suffered by any person which results from the use of or reliance upon the information contained in this Info Sheet.

www.wirringabaiya.org.au

NEED A
LAWYER?



NEED A LAWYER?

What is a lawyer?

A lawyer is somebody who has studied and knows about the law.

When should I speak to a lawyer?

You should speak to a lawyer:

- ☞ if you have a question about your legal rights (lawyers are happy to answer questions, and Wiringa Baiya has a free number you can call just to ask questions)
- ☞ if you think you have a legal problem
- ☞ if you have to go to court
- ☞ before you answer any questions from the gunjies
- ☞ if you're in an unsafe situation and you want to know how the law can protect you.

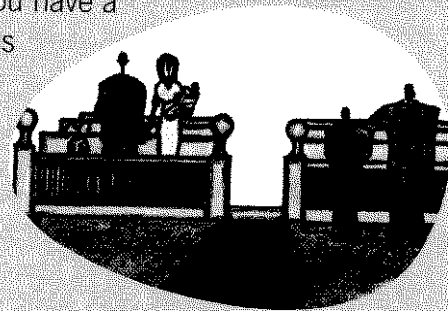
Types of lawyers

The word lawyer is used for solicitors and barristers. They have studied law and have a special certificate that says they can 'practise' as a solicitor or barrister.

A **solicitor** is a lawyer that most people deal with. A solicitor can:

- ☞ answer questions about the law
- ☞ give legal advice and information
- ☞ get documents ready for you in court
- ☞ appear for you in court.

A **barrister** is a lawyer who is an expert in court work and different areas of law (they are the ones that sometimes wear the funny wigs and long black gowns). You would get a barrister if you have a matter that was very serious or very complicated.



Dealing with a lawyer

A lawyer should:

- ☞ use plain language and use examples to explain things to you
- ☞ give you time to ask any questions
- ☞ answer any questions you have
- ☞ be polite and respect you and your culture
- ☞ explain what they can and can't do for you
- ☞ explain what needs to happen next
- ☞ keep you up to date on what has happened
- ☞ NOT do or say anything about your case to another person unless you agree.

You should:

- ☞ ask questions if you don't understand something
- ☞ listen to what your lawyer says
- ☞ be polite
- ☞ feel comfortable with your lawyer
- ☞ NOT be afraid to tell your story or your problem
- ☞ NOT tell lies.

Turn over...

Where can I find a lawyer?

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre (WBAWLC)

WBAWLC is a community organisation run by Aboriginal women for Aboriginal women and children under the age of 18. They give free legal advice on most things other than criminal law. Freecall: **1800 686 587**

Community Legal Centres (CLCs)

CLCs are community organisations which offer free legal advice and information. Some CLCs are based in your local area and others are state-wide. Most CLCs can give advice about many different types of legal problems and usually have a free number to call.

Aboriginal Legal Services (ALSs)

Aboriginal Legal Services offer free legal services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders only. ALSs have offices around the state and mostly focus on criminal law.

Sydney ALS can be contacted on **(02) 9318 2122**

Legal Aid Commission of NSW

Legal Aid is a government organisation which offers legal help for many different types of legal problems.

They have a freecall number for people under 18 which you can ring for some information and advice: **1800 101 810**.

If you need legal advice call:

**Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal
Women's Legal Centre
1800 686 587**

**Legal Aid Hotline for under 18s
1800 101 810**

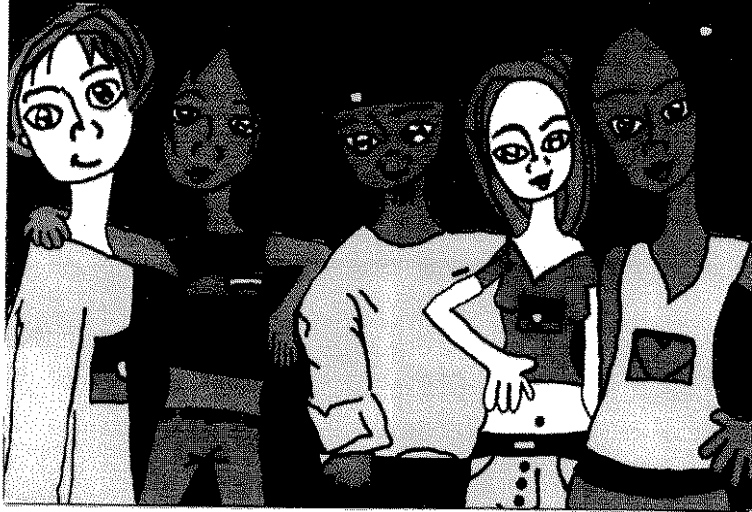
**Aboriginal Legal Service
(02) 9318 2122**



This Info Sheet was produced by Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre (WBAWLC) and is only meant as a guide to NSW law and cannot replace legal advice. If you have a legal problem you should speak to a lawyer for some legal advice. WBAWLC excludes liability for any loss suffered by any person which results from the use of or reliance upon the information contained in this Info Sheet.

www.wirringabaiya.org.au

DISCRIMINATION
AND SEXUAL
HARASSMENT



DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL

What is discrimination?

Discrimination is when you're treated unfairly or differently because you belong to a particular group.

When is discrimination against the law?

Discrimination is against the law if you can choose **ONE** thing from Box 1 **AND ONE** thing from Box 2.

BOX 1

You were treated unfairly because you are:

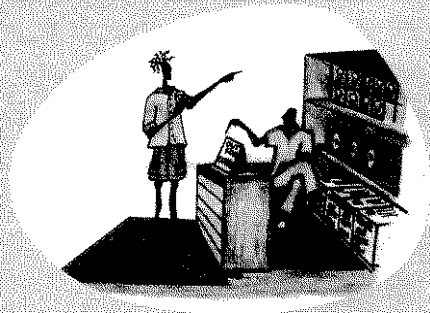
- ☞ Aboriginal (or some other race)
- ☞ male or female
- ☞ married, single or living together as boyfriend/girlfriend (de-facto)
- ☞ gay or lesbian, or someone thinks you are
- ☞ considered too old or too young
- ☞ disabled – whether your disability is physical, mental or related to a disease
- ☞ transgender, transsexual, sistagirl, or someone thinks you are
- ☞ pregnant
- ☞ related to or hang out with someone who is one of the above.

BOX 2

This unfair treatment happens when you are:

- ☞ at work
- ☞ looking for work
- ☞ at school, TAFE or another education place
- ☞ at a registered club
- ☞ trying to get accommodation or dealing with a landlord
- ☞ trying to buy something from or do business with a place like Centrelink, a bank, hospital, a local council or a shop
- ☞ trying to get into a place or use transport.

If you want to complain about discrimination, you can call the Anti-Discrimination Board or the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.



HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment

What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination. It is any sexual action which makes you feel uncomfortable, offended, humiliated or intimidated. It can include:

- ☞ unwelcome sexual advances (when someone tries to crack onto you)
- ☞ requests for sexual favours
- ☞ sexual jokes
- ☞ wolf-whistling
- ☞ staring
- ☞ unwanted touching.

If sexual harassment happens in **one** of the following situations it is against the law:

- ☞ at work or trying to get work (like if your workmates make sexual jokes and/or have porno lying around)
- ☞ at school, TAFE or other education places (like if a teacher asks for sex)
- ☞ at a sporting activity (like if your coach makes sexual comments to you)

Turn over...

- ☞ trying to get accommodation (like renting or buying a house, or trying to get a motel room or a caravan)
- ☞ when you try to buy things from, or do business with, a place like a bank, local council, shop or a hospital
- ☞ trying to get into a place or use transport.

What is vilification?

The law also says that no-one can do anything in public which makes other people hate you because you're Aboriginal, gay, lesbian, transgender, or have HIV or AIDS. This includes stuff like:

- ☞ painting graffiti
- ☞ making public speeches
- ☞ writing articles in newspapers
- ☞ printing slogans on t-shirts.

This type of behaviour is called vilification.

Remember

Discrimination complaints to the Anti-Discrimination Board have to be made within 6 months of the discrimination.

Discrimination complaints to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission have to be made within 12 months of the discrimination.

If you think that you've been discriminated against or are a victim of sexual harassment call:

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre

1800 686 587

Anti-Discrimination Board

1800 670 812

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission

1300 656 419

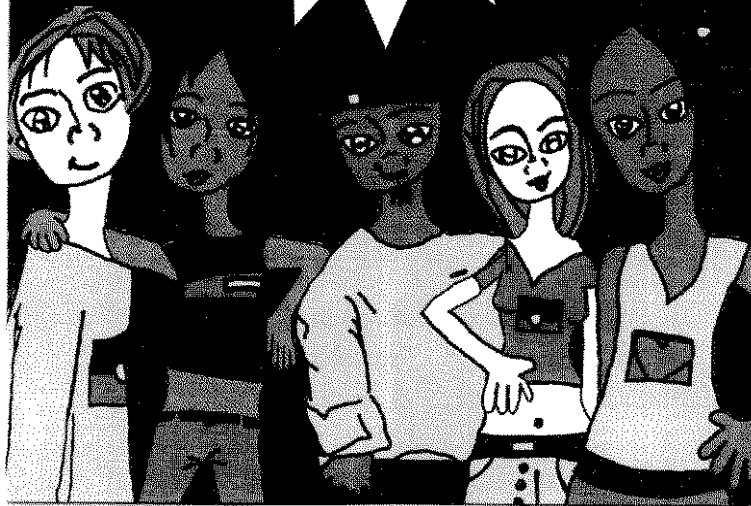


This Info Sheet was produced by Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre (WBAWLC) and is only meant as a guide to NSW law and cannot replace legal advice. If you have a legal problem you should speak to a lawyer for some legal advice. WBAWLC excludes liability for any loss suffered by any person which results from the use of or reliance upon the information contained in this Info Sheet.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Warning!

The stuff in this info sheet
is pretty full on.....
But it's important to talk
about it!



SEXUAL ASSAULT

What is sexual assault?

- ☞ When someone forces you to have sex when you don't want to (this includes forcing you to give oral sex).
- ☞ When someone does something sexual (like masturbate) in front of you.
- ☞ When you're forced, pressured or tricked into doing something sexual (like touching someone on the penis or vagina).
- ☞ Being put in a sexual situation against your will (like being made to watch pornography).
- ☞ If someone of the opposite sex has sex with you when you're under 16 (even if you think you have agreed to sex). **OR**
- ☞ If you're a male and another male has sex with you when you're under 18 (even if you think you have agreed to sex).

Telling people

It's very important that you talk to someone if you've been sexually assaulted. Some people you tell will be strong enough to support you. Other people you tell might not want to believe it happened or that it matters.

It's very important that you always remember that it did happen and it does matter.

Being sexually assaulted isn't your fault. You deserve to be supported.

What is child sexual abuse?

Child sexual abuse occurs when an adult or someone bigger than the child uses his or her power over the child, or takes advantage of the child's trust to make the child do sexual things.

The person often uses tricks, bribes, threats, guilt and sometimes physical force to make the child do sexual things and to stop the child from telling anyone about it.

If you know someone who's being abused tell a friend or relative who can help.

Who does it happen to?

It can happen to anybody. Very often people who are raped or assaulted know their attacker. The attacker may have been a family member, a friend, a boyfriend, a boss or a person in a position of power.

If you've been sexually assaulted:

- ☞ get to a safe place as soon as possible
- ☞ talk to someone you trust
- ☞ call the Rape Crisis Centre for help or have someone call for you as soon as you can
- ☞ call the gunjies
- ☞ get some advice about getting an Apprehended Violence Order for your protection.

Contact a Sexual Assault Service near you because they can help you with:

- ☞ counselling
- ☞ medical care
- ☞ emergency contraception
- ☞ testing for sexually transmitted infections
- ☞ contacting the gunjies
- ☞ information on sexual assault, follow-up services, your rights as a victim of crime.

Reporting a recent sexual assault

The gunjies and health services are specially trained to help you if you want to report a sexual assault.

After an assault try not to change your clothes, comb your hair or wash yourself until you've spoken with the gunjies or health service, as it's important to keep evidence of the assault.

If you speak with the gunjies they'll ask some very difficult questions. It's important for you to give the gunjies as much information as possible about what's happened to you.



Remember...

NO means NO!

Nobody ever deserves to be sexually assaulted!

Turn over...

What will the gunjies do?

The gunjies will ask you a lot of questions about what happened. They'll type up what happened in your words. This is called a **statement**, and you'll have to sign it.

Then the gunjies will hold an investigation. This means the gunjies might:

- ☞ talk to the person who sexually assaulted you and other people who might know something about the assault **OR**
- ☞ if you don't know the person who sexually assaulted you the gunjies might get you to look at photos or attend a line-up to help you identify the person
- ☞ take you to the hospital to be examined by a doctor.

Remember...

- ☞ You can ask for a female officer (though if you live in the country this means you might have to wait).
- ☞ You can ask for a Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer.
- ☞ You can take a support person with you.
- ☞ You can add things to your statement later if there's something you've forgotten.

The gunjies should:

- ☞ be respectful to you
- ☞ let you know what's happening at all stages.

If you've been assaulted and want to yarn to someone call:

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
1800 686 587

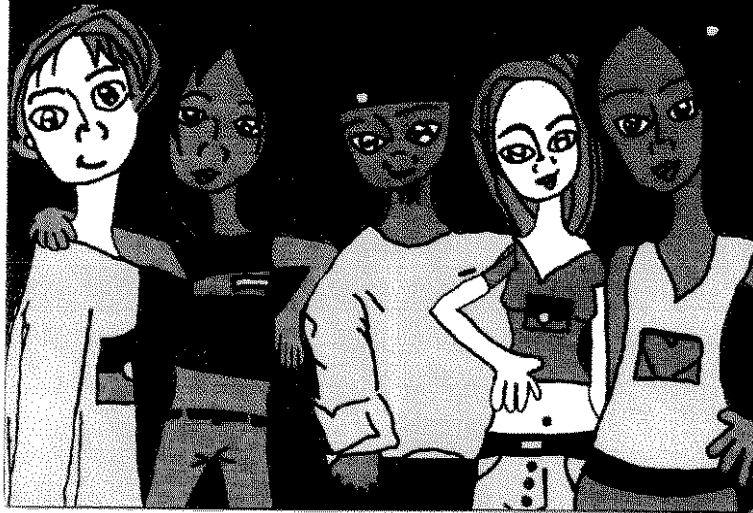
Rape Crisis Centre
NSW – 1800 424 017
Sydney – (02) 9819 6565

Dympna House
Child Sexual Assault Counselling and Resource Centre
NSW – 1800 654 119
Sydney – (02) 9797 6733



This Info Sheet was produced by Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre (WBAWLC) and is only meant as a guide to NSW law and cannot replace legal advice. If you have a legal problem you should speak to a lawyer for some legal advice. WBAWLC excludes liability for any loss suffered by any person which results from the use of or reliance upon the information contained in this Info Sheet.

VICTIMS
COMPENSATION

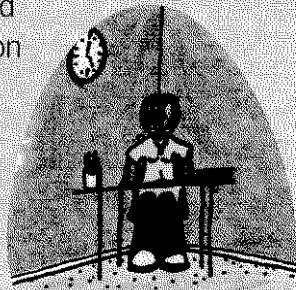


VICTIMS COMPENSATION

What is victims compensation?

If you're the victim of a violent crime, like an assault or a sexual assault, you can make an application for victims compensation. Victims compensation is money for any injuries you may have suffered as a result of the violence. You can make an application for compensation even if no-one was charged for the crime.

If you're the victim of a violent crime you should speak to a lawyer as soon as possible and get some advice about whether you should make an application for victims compensation.



Who can claim for victims compensation?

You can make a claim for victims compensation if:

- ☞ you're the victim of a violent crime and have been hurt as a result
- ☞ you're hurt as a result of witnessing a violent crime
- ☞ you're a member of the immediate family of a murder victim
- ☞ you're injured while trying to:
 - ~ prevent someone from committing a violent crime
 - ~ help or rescue someone while they're being assaulted.

If you're under 18 a relative can make an application for you and any money you're awarded will be held for you until you turn 18.

What type of claims are not covered?

- ☞ You can't make a claim for victims compensation in NSW if the violent crime didn't happen in NSW
- ☞ You can't make a claim for victims compensation if you were hurt in a car accident.

Counselling

It's also possible to make an application for counselling to help deal with the emotional and mental pain caused by the crime. This is a good idea if you're feeling angry or depressed.

Turn over...

How do you make an application?

- ☞ Applications are made to a place called the Victims Compensation Tribunal, which is based in Sydney. The Victims Compensation Tribunal decides whether you get any compensation or not.
- ☞ An application for compensation or counselling must be made on the forms available from the Victims Compensation Tribunal, the Internet or a local court.
- ☞ You can make an application yourself, or if you're under 18 your parent or guardian can make an application for you. Your lawyer can also help you make an application.

When should I make an application?

An application for compensation must be made within 2 years of the date the violent crime occurred. If you were abused or assaulted and more than 2 years have gone by you may be able to get special permission to make a late application. Speak to your lawyer about this.

If you'd like to speak to someone about making an application for Victims Compensation call:

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
1800 686 587

Victims Compensation Tribunal
1800 069 054

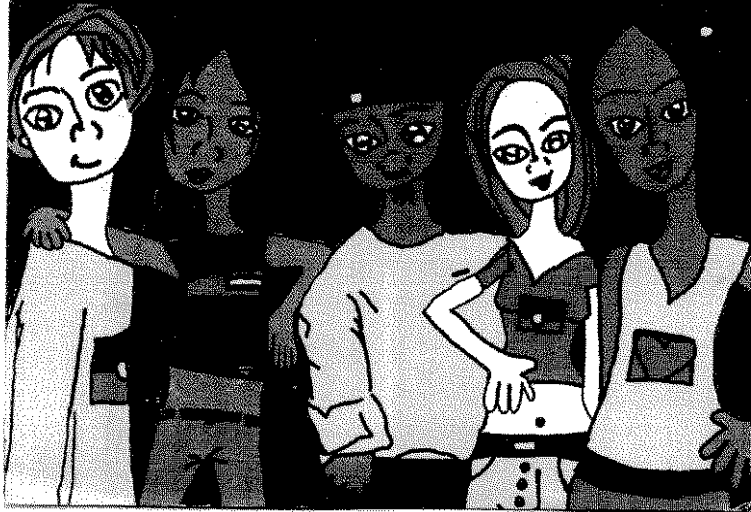
Victims of Crime Information and Support Line (24hours)
1800 633 063



This Info Sheet was produced by Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre (WBAWLC) and is only meant as a guide to NSW law and cannot replace legal advice. If you have a legal problem you should speak to a lawyer for some legal advice. WBAWLC excludes liability for any loss suffered by any person which results from the use of or reliance upon the information contained in this Info Sheet.

www.wirringabaiya.org.au

DEPRESSION
AND
SELF-HARM



DEPRESSION AND SELF-H

How do you know if someone is depressed?

When someone feels sad or 'down' for more than a couple of weeks, they might be depressed.

If someone is depressed they might:

- ☹ feel hopeless or helpless
- ☹ stop liking the things they used to like doing
- ☹ feel like they have no energy
- ☹ not be able to sleep – or they might sleep all the time
- ☹ change how they eat – they might stop eating dinner or they might want to eat heaps of breakfast or lunch
- ☹ have sad or frightening thoughts – they might feel like hurting someone else or hurting themselves.

What do you do if you or someone you know is depressed?

- ☹ Find someone who'll listen to the problem. The person who is depressed needs a chance to talk to someone who cares about them.

- ☹ Finding a counsellor or a doctor is a good idea. If you're depressed, get someone to go with you when you go to see the counsellor or doctor. Or if someone tells you they are depressed, go to the counsellor with them so they don't have to go alone.
 - ☹ Take care of yourself or the person who's depressed. If you feel stressed because one of your friends is depressed, then you should talk to someone about the problem.
 - ☹ If you go to talk to a counsellor about someone who's depressed, you don't have to say who they are – just talk about how you feel.
- Remember that you'll be able to give someone who is depressed the most help if you're feeling OK yourself.

What if you feel depressed or want to kill yourself?

- ☹ Don't try to keep it a secret – it can be dangerous.
- ☹ Stay close to people who are your friends – talk to a family member or someone else you can trust.
- ☹ Try to get some help – like going to a counsellor or talking to your doctor.
- ☹ If it's bad and you or someone you know has taken some pills or done something dangerous, then call **000** or get someone to call for you.

AROM

Self-harm

What is self-harm/ self-mutilation?

Self-harm or self-mutilation is when you hurt yourself on purpose. This can mean things like slashing, burning, biting and hitting your body. Hurting yourself doesn't mean that you're trying to commit suicide.

There are different reasons for doing this:

- ☞ trying to change your mood
- ☞ if you're frustrated or angry and you want those feelings to stop
- ☞ if you don't know what else to do
- ☞ if you feel hurt or lonely.

How to cope

Things to do instead of hurting yourself:

- ☞ do some exercise – go for a walk or a run
- ☞ play video games or watch TV or a video
- ☞ try relaxing – taking deep breaths
- ☞ yell or sing at the top of your voice or play some music
- ☞ punch a pillow or a punching bag
- ☞ talk to someone about it.

Turn over...

Counsellors

A counsellor is someone who's had special training so that they can help people talk about what they're feeling.

A counsellor can help you change the things that are making you feel upset or depressed.

Where can you go for help if you feel depressed?

Kids Help Line 1800 551 800 (24 hours)

If you're under 18 years old then you can use the Kids Help Line and it's free to call them. You can call them any day of the week at any time. When you ring up there will be a counsellor you can talk to about anything you want.

Lifeline/Youthline 131 114 (24 hours)

Anyone can call Lifeline for help – you don't need to be under 18. You can call Lifeline from most parts of Australia and it costs as much as a local call does.

If you ring up Lifeline or the Kids Help Line and all the counsellors are busy, you can wait until someone can talk to you. It's a good idea to wait and it won't take that long to talk to someone.

If you need legal advice call:

**Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal
Women's Legal Centre
1800 686 587**

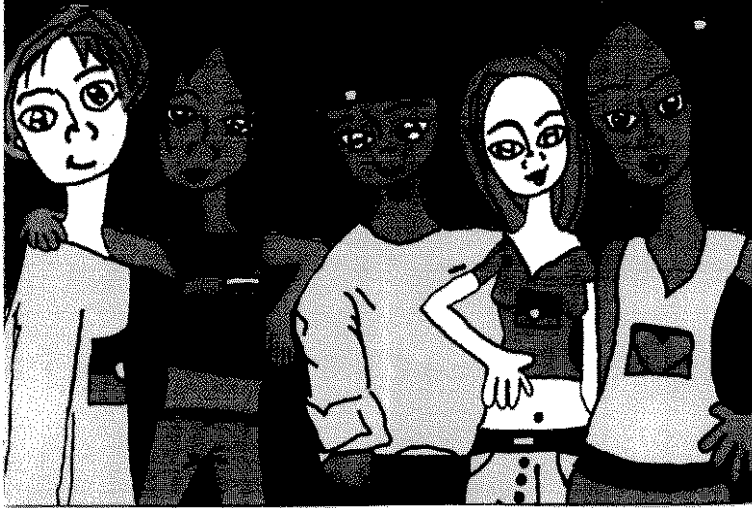
**Legal Aid Hotline for under 18s
1800 101 810**

**Aboriginal Legal Service
(02) 9318 2122**



This Info Sheet was produced by Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre (WBAWLC) and is only meant as a guide to NSW law and cannot replace legal advice. If you have a legal problem you should speak to a lawyer for some legal advice. WBAWLC excludes liability for any loss suffered by any person which results from the use of or reliance upon the information contained in this Info Sheet.

I'M
HOMELESS



I'M HOMELESS

You're homeless when you:

- ☛ are living on the streets
- ☛ have run away from home
- ☛ have no regular place to stay.

Why do some people find themselves homeless?

There are lots of reasons why some people don't have a place to stay. Such as when there are problems at home like violence or alcohol and you may not feel safe living there anymore.

What to do if you have no place to stay

- ☛ Let your friends or other family members know that you don't feel safe at home anymore. They may let you stay with them for a while.
- ☛ Call the numbers below and they'll help you find a place to stay.

Homeless Persons Information Centre

The **Homeless Persons Information Centre** helps homeless people who are over 18 by providing:

- ☛ immediate advice and information
- ☛ referral to crisis accommodation
- ☛ referral to support services.

It's open from 9:00am to 10:00pm,
7 days a week.

NSW – 1800 234 566

Sydney – (02) 9265 9087

Youth Accommodation Association

If you want to speak to someone about getting **emergency accommodation** call the Youth Accommodation Association office on **(02) 9698 5822 OR** in rural NSW call **1800 424 830**.

The Youth Accommodation Association also provides a recorded list of hostel and refuge vacancies in NSW. This service is for 12-18 year olds who need a place to stay.

If you are in **Sydney**, you can call the **Youth Emergency Accommodation Line** on **(02) 9318 1531** for a recorded listing of hostels or refuge vacancies in Sydney and NSW where you can stay.

If you need accommodation information call:

Youth Accommodation Association

NSW – 1800 424 830

Sydney – 02 9318 1531

Homeless Persons Information Centre

NSW – 1800 234 566

Sydney – (02) 9265 9087

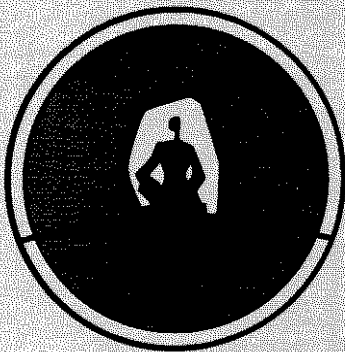
Turn over...

Can the gunjies pick me up if I'm hanging out on the streets?

If you're under 18 and don't have a place to stay and are living or hanging out on the streets, the gunjies can pick you up if they think that you're:

- ☞ in need of care and protection
- ☞ not under the supervision or control of a responsible adult
- ☞ living in or going to a public place heaps.

If you're picked up by the gunjies they CANNOT hold you in police cells. They should either take you home or place you in the care of DOCS. If you're placed in the care of DOCS you should speak to a lawyer as soon as possible so you know your legal rights.

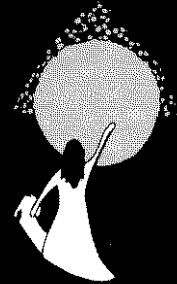


If you need legal advice call:

**Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal
Women's Legal Centre
1800 686 587**

**Legal Aid Hotline for under 18s
1800 101 810**

**Aboriginal Legal Service
(02) 9318 2122**



This Info Sheet was produced by Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre (WBAWLC) and is only meant as a guide to NSW law and cannot replace legal advice. If you have a legal problem you should speak to a lawyer for some legal advice. WBAWLC excludes liability for any loss suffered by any person which results from the use of or reliance upon the information contained in this Info Sheet.

www.wirringabaiya.org.au