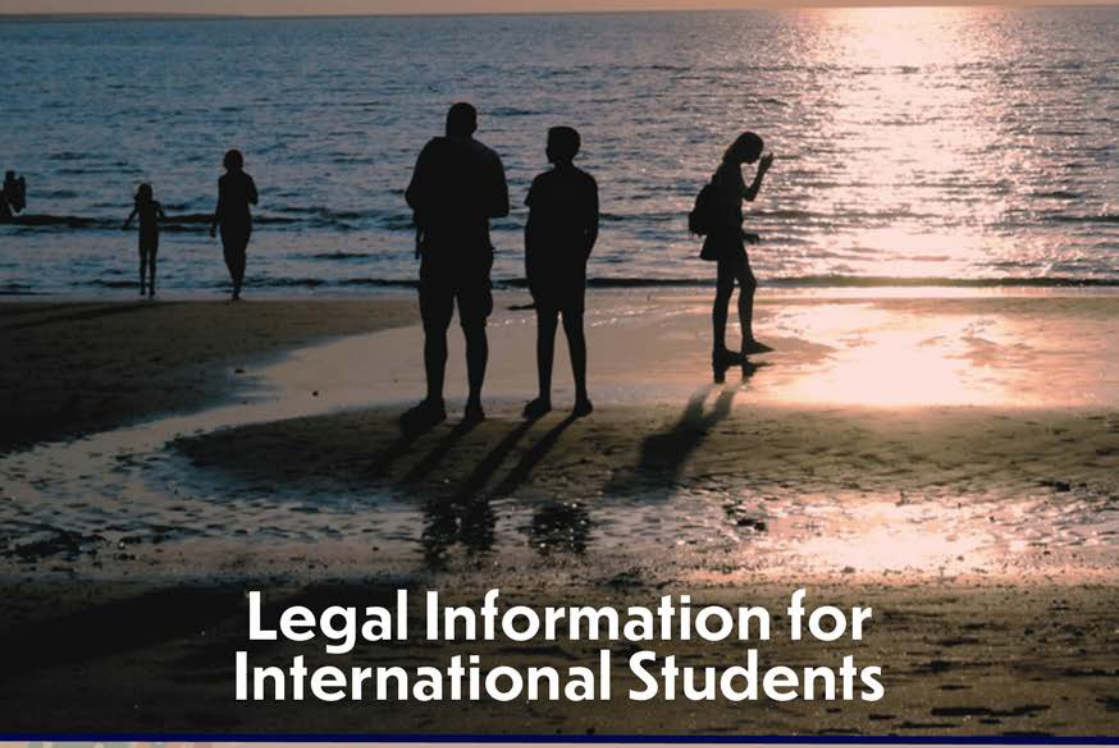
MY RIGHTS IN THE NT



Legal Information for International Students

Legal Aid NT

AUSTRALIA'S NORTHERN TERRITORY STUDY NT

ABOUT

Legal Aid NT

Legal Aid NT provides free legal help to people across the Northern Territory.
Our goal is to make sure everyone understands their legal rights and can get the help they need.

Below: picture from soccer game with **CDU International Students** after an information session on **Employment Law**.

Above: picture from an introduction to Legal Aid NT services at **CDU International Students Orientation Day.**

We assist with legal advice, representation in court, dispute resolution, legal information, community education and referrals to other services.

If you think you might have a legal problem, call our free and confidential **Helpline** on **1800 019 343.**

Legal information and wellness events

We regularly run free legal information and wellness events for **international students**. To find out about these events, check out our Instagram @legalaidnt; Facebook @NTLAC or email us: **cle@legalaid.nt.gov.au**

Below: picture from yoga session with **CDU International Students** after an information session on **Anti-Discrimination Law.**

Working while studying
Know your rights!

Legal Aid NT

There are laws in Australia to protect employees and ensure fair and safe workplaces for everyone. **It doesn't matter what visa you are on**. Here's what you should know:

1. What type of job do you have?

Your employment contract should tell you whether you are full time, part time, casual, a contractor or self-employed. This will determine your pay rate, hours, leave entitlements and how your employment may end.

2. Are you being paid fairly?

Different types of work have different pay rates.
You can find out the minimum pay rate for your job at https://calculate.fairwork.gov.au/.
If you are unsure whether you are being paid correctly, you can call the **Fair Work Ombudsman on 13 13 94** for information.

3. Do you receive a pay slip each payday?

Every time you get paid, you should get a pay slip within one day. It should show:

- Employer's name and ABN
- How many hours you worked and your pay rate

Right: picture from **Employment Law session** with **CDU International Students**

Working while studying
Know your rights! (continued)

Legal Aid NT

- Whether you took any leave
- How much superannuation you were paid
- How much tax was taken out of your pay

Your workplace must be safe and fair

Workplaces must follow health and safety laws, and treat all employees fairly. You have the right to work **without bullying, harassment or discrimination.**

If something doesn't feel right at work, you can find helpful information from the **Fair Work Commission** at **www.fwc.gov.au** or call the **Legal Aid Helpline on 1800 019 343.**

Below: picture from **Latitude College Darwin** where we had an introduction to Legal Aid NT and **Employment Law** information session.

Legal Aid NT

Finding a place to live in the NT
What you need to know!

Your Rights as a Tenant

If you rent a property in the NT, you have legal rights. Renting laws in Australia may be different from your home country, so take some time to understand them.

When you find a new place, you have to sign some paperwork, known as a **lease** or **tenancy agreement**. Before you sign this, check:

- How long you are agreeing to stay
- How much rent and what bills you'll need to pay
- Any extra rules or conditions in your contract

If something doesn't seem right, or you don't understand part of the agreement, you can ask the real estate agent, or get help from a legal service to understand it.

When you move in, you will get a **condition report**. This is a document describing the property's condition before you moved in. Check this before unpacking your belongings, and **look for marks, stains or broken items and make sure everything works** (lights, taps, air conditioning, oven etc). Write down any issues and return the condition report within five business days.

If there is a problem while you are renting, you have a right to ask for repairs. Tell your property manager, real estate or landlord in writing (email, text or letter) so you have proof.

For help, you can contact the **Tenant's Advice Service on 1800 812 953** or **NT Consumer Affairs on 1800 019 319.**

Legal Aid NT

Money Matters
Your rights when shopping!

What if something I buy doesn't work?

In Australia, everyone has rights when they buy goods or services. Australian Consumer Law protects you when you shop, whether you're buying online or in a store.
If an item is faulty, broken or not what it's supposed to be, you can return it to the shop with your receipt. You can ask for a repair, replacement or refund – the choice depends on the problem with the item.

Buying second-hand items

When you buy an item from a private seller (Facebook marketplace, garage sale, private sale), you don't have the same rights. The seller does not have to give you a refund, replacement or repair.

Be careful of scams

Some people try to trick you into giving them money or personal information. Watch out for:

- Fake calls, messages or emails saying you've won something or owe money.
- Scam emails pretending to be from banks, Centrelink or the Australian Tax Office asking you to click a link or give personal details.
- Offers that are too good to be true often are. If it seems suspicious, check before paying!

For help, contact **NT Consumer Affairs on 1800 019 319.**

Legal Aid NT

Equal Opportunity
Your rights when living in the NT!

In the NT, everyone has the right to be treated fairly. The law protects you from discrimination, no matter your cultural background, religion, nationality or the language you speak. As an international student, adjusting to life in Australia can be a big change. You should feel safe, welcome and included in the community.

What does equal opportunity mean?

Equal opportunity means you have the same rights as everyone else to:

- Find employment
- Visit shops, restaurants, cafes, and bars
- Use public transport
- Enjoy public spaces like parks, beaches and streets
- Access Government or Council services
- Rent a place to live or for a holiday
- Get an education, including school and university.

If you apply for a job, rental property or a university course, you must be treated the same as other applicants.

If you are treated unfairly because of race, culture, age, gender, disability, religion or sexuality, this is called **discrimination** and is against the law. It is also illegal for someone to harass you by saying or doing things that are offensive, intimidating or humiliating.

Legal Aid NT

Equal Opportunity
Your rights when living in the NT! (continued)

Are there any exceptions?

In some cases, special programs exist to help groups who have experienced disadvantage.
For example, there are programs to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in education and employment. These programs are legal because they help create fairer opportunities.

You have the right to be treated fairly. If something doesn't feel right, reach out for support.

Contact the
Anti-Discrimination Commission on **1800 813 846** or the **Legal Aid Helpline** on **1800 019 343.**

Below: picture from our collaboration with the NT Anti Discrimination Commission team for an information session on **Anti Discrimination** and **Employment Law** at **CDU.**

Legal Aid NT

Safe and Healthy Relationships
Your rights in Australia!

In Australia, the law protects your right to have safe, equal and respectful relationships.

What does a healthy relationship look like?

- Everyone is **equal** and treated with **respect**.
- You can be in a relationship with whoever you **choose**.
- You are **not discriminated against** because of your relationship.
- You feel **safe and free from violence**.

You may have arrived in the NT with a partner, or might meet someone while living here. No matter who you are, the law protects your right to have a safe and respectful relationship.

In Australia, the law protects relationships and families of all genders and sexualities, including LGBTQIA+ relationships.

What happens when relationships aren't safe and respectful?

Domestic violence in a relationship is not always physical. Domestic violence happens when one person tries to hurt or control the other. Violence can be emotional, physical, verbal, psychological, sexual, financial, social and spiritual.

If there is violence in your relationship or you feel unsafe, there are laws to protect you and many local services to support you.

You can call the **Legal Aid Helpline** on **1800 019 343,** the **Domestic Violence Legal Service** on **08 8999 7977**, or go to **1800respect.org.au**.

Legal Aid NT

Visa Conditions
What you need to know!

If you are in Australia on a student visa, it is important to understand your visa conditions, including any restrictions on work hours and study requirements.

Visa conditions can change, and different visas have different rules. You must check your visa conditions through:

- Your ImmiAccount
- Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO)
- The Australian Government Department of Home Affairs Website

www.studynt.gov.au and **www.studyaustralia.gov.au** also have useful information and resources available to help you!

Below: picture from an introduction to Legal Aid NT services at **CDU International Students Orientation Day**.

Pictures from our **Employment Law** and **Watercolour Painting Workshop** with international students at **Latitude College**; the **Anti-discrimination Law** and **Origami** with **CDU** international students, and **Employment Law** and paper recycling workshop with **SWISS CDU** students. These events were proudly sponsored by the Northern Territory Government through the 2024-25 Study NT International Student Wellbeing Grants Program.

We regularly run free legal information and wellness events for international students. To find out about these events, check out our Instagram **@legalaidnt** Facebook **@NTLAC** or email us: **cle@legalaid.nt.gov.au**

Legal Aid NT

NORTHERN TERRITORY STUDY NT

Where to get more information ?

Legal Aid NT
HELPLINE
1800 019 343

NORTHERN TERRITORY STUDY NT

NORTHERN TERRITORY ANTI-DISCRIMINATION COMMISSION

NORTHERN TERRITORY CONSUMER AFFAIRS

DVLS Domestic Violence Legal Service.
DIGNITY I EQUITY I COMPASSION

TOP END WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE INC.
FREE LEGAL ADVICE FOR WOMEN
Advice | Information | Referral | Advocacy

Australian Government
Fair Work OMBUDSMAN

Darwin Community LEGAL SERVICE

NT WORKING WOMEN'S CENTRE