

LAW STUFF, EXPLAINED

A STUDENT SURVIVAL
GUIDE FROM THE
ANUSA LEGAL SERVICE

Let's talk

employment, visa,
housing, crime,
consent, IP,
discrimination, and all
that.



ANUSA

What we do

The ANUSA Legal Service is a community legal centre offering free and confidential legal advice to all ANU students and ANUSA clubs and societies.

WE CAN ADVISE ON ...

- Visa and Migration
- Tenancy and Occupancy
- Employment
- Defamation
- Discrimination
- Intellectual Property (IP)
- Criminal law, including traffic infringements
- Sexual harassment and sexual assault (SASH)
- Personal Injury
- And other legal areas



Our team



Michael Curtotti
Principal Lawyer



Kathryn Lee
Senior Lawyer



Kai Reyes
Lawyer

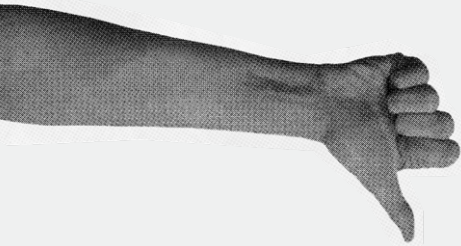


Mason Britton
Lawyer

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people the traditional owners of the land on which we work and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

Your Rights at Work: red flags to watch out for

- No written contract.
- It's not clear if you're casual, part-time, or full-time
- No payslips or weird pay setups (like cash-in-hand or unpaid "trial shifts").
- Unsure about awards or pay rates.
- No super or tax being paid.
- Being asked to work off the clock (yep, unpaid extra hours = not okay).



If something feels off, don't ignore it. Book an appointment.

**TO LEARN MORE
VISIT**

[https://anusa.com.
au/legal/employ
ment-law/](https://anusa.com.au/legal/employment-law/)





Imagine chasing your own pay check

What you want to say...

"This isn't a discount job. I expect to be paid what I'm owed. Don't make me remind you again."

What you could say instead...

Subject: **Question About My Recent Payslip**

Hi [Manager's Name],

I just had a question about my most recent payslip — I was going over it and don't completely understand it. I thought I'd check in with you just in case.

Would you mind if we had a quick look together when you have a moment? I've kept track of my hours and will bring them along. Thanks for your time!

Best regards,
[Your Full Name]

Quick visa check-up

When is your visa expiring? Don't know: check online on the Department's VEVO for Visa Holders. Can't find it? Get in touch with us. We can help.

Are you graduating soon?
Do you need to extend your student visa?

Do you need more information about migration or visas? We are happy to help.

**DON'T BE A MUPPET.
GET ADVICE EARLY.**



**TO LEARN MORE
VISIT**

[https://anusa.com.
au/legal/visas/](https://anusa.com.au/legal/visas/)





Housing nightmares

I didn't think moving into a sharehouse would end with me losing money, but that's exactly what happened. At first, everything seemed fine—three of us, all ANU students, splitting rent and bills equally.

Then Liam, one of my housemates, stopped paying his rent. He said it was a “bank issue,” then just ghosted us.

Jess and I covered the bills, thinking he'd pay us back. He never did.

Eventually, I went to the ANUSA Legal Service to find out what my options were. That's when **I learned that under a co-tenancy, we were all equally responsible for rent and bills—so even though Liam wasn't paying, we were still legally on the hook.**

I wish I'd known that before signing the lease. It felt like I was doing the right thing and still got burned.

* All the characters in this story are fictional, any resemblance to someone you know is purely coincidental (but it happens).

**TO LEARN MORE
VISIT**

<https://anusa.com.au/legal/tenancy-advice/>



Crimes and Fines

All our advice is **confidential, judgement-free, and cost free.**

We can help both people accused of crimes and victims of crime with a range of legal issues, including:

- Theft or assault charges
- Personal Protection Orders (PPOs)
- Family Violence Orders (FVOs)
- Sexual Assault and Harassment (SASH)
- Other criminal matters

If you're unsure whether we can help—just ask.





Let's talk consent

There are laws about that? Yes there are.
If it's not a clear **yes**, it's a **no**.

Consent has to be:

- **Freely given** — not pressured, manipulated, or forced
- **Sober** — not given when someone is too drunk, high, or unconscious
- **Ongoing** — you can change your mind at any time
- **Specific** — saying yes to one thing doesn't mean yes to everything
- **Informed** — agreeing to sex with a condom does not equal to agreeing to sex without one

Under ACT law, consent means **free** and **voluntary** agreement to sexual activity. It must be **active**, **ongoing**, and **informed**.

**REACHING OUT TO US IS CONFIDENTIAL
AND WE CAN DISCUSS YOUR OPTIONS—
YOU'RE NOT ALONE, SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE**

**INSTANCES OF HARMFUL BEHAVIOUR AT ANU
CAN BE REPORTED HERE:**

https://anu-advocate.symplicity.com/sash_report/index.php/pid127557?



Facing discrimination

Are you being treated worse than someone else because of your age, your beliefs, your colour, your disability, your gender, your racial or national background, your sexuality, your visa status, how you speak, or because of any other protected characteristic?

It is against the law to discriminate against someone in accommodation, work, education, clubs, goods and services etc.

The law can help you resolve the situation through conciliation and achieve practical outcomes like an apology, changes in policy and sometimes compensation.



Book in with us to discuss
your options.
We can help you discuss
your options or lodge a
complaint.

Innovation starts here

You're creating valuable intellectual property! If you're unsure about IP agreements or need advice on how to protect or commercialise your work, we've got you covered.

At ANU, you own the IP in what you create, unless it's part of your staff role or you choose to give it to the university. We're here to help you keep what's yours.

HDR students, heads up!
Before signing your IP away,
get legal advice if you're unsure.



You good?

Legally?



**BOOK A FREE LEGAL
APPOINTMENT WITH
ANUSA LEGAL SERVICE**

<https://anusa.com.au/legal/appointment/>

AMA - ASK A LAWYER ANYTHING

Drop-in sessions every Monday 2-3 PM
(incorporating Migration Mondays)

*Excluding Public Holidays and Shutdown Periods



FIND OUT MORE

<https://anusa.com.au/services/legal/>

