

## The Australian National University Students' Association Inc. (ANUSA)

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## **2020 ANUSA Legal Service Report**

During 2020, ANUSA legal work was staffed with one part-time lawyer supported by the ANUSA administrative team undertaking student bookings and other staff of ANUSA (e.g. management and communications). Over the course of 2020 ANUSA legal work covered 321 separate matters. Of these 204 matters were direct service provision to individual students and 11 were services to student clubs and society. Together these matters fall under the umbrella of the ANUSA Legal Service, which continued to operate as a community legal centre during 2020.

Another 106 matters involved in-house legal service provision to ANUSA itself. Accordingly about 67% of work was 'student facing' during the year.

2020 was of course disrupted by COVID lockdowns. The service pivoted to online provision of legal services. Online service provision remains the default mode for the service, as it presents a number of advantages for client appointments, including enhanced ability to take clients through information and online materials relevant to their matter, and improved capacity for recording information provided by clients and advice provided to them.

During the course of the year a migration workshop was offered to both undergraduate and graduate students. The aim of the workshop is to provide a broad introduction to the workings of the migration system and provide insight to students as to potential pathways and how to navigate the system. Ten workshops were held (5 in each semester), with a total attendance of 145.

In terms of areas of law covered during the year, the following table provides a breakdown, by area of law and by client category. Migration law was the primary area of need for students, followed by tenancy issues.

	Student	Student	ANUSA Legal
2020 Areas of Law	Facing	Clubs	Service
Admin Law	2.9%	9.1%	3.3%
AVO	0.5%		0.5%
Associations Law	0.5%	9.1%	0.9%
Consumer Law			0.0%
Criminal Law	3.9%		3.7%
Defamation	1.0%	18.2%	1.9%
Discrimination Law			
Employment Law	6.9%		6.5%
Family Law			0.0%
Gen Commercial	2.0%	63.6%	5.1%
Intellectual Prop	6.4%		6.0%
Migration & Visa	40.2%		38.1%
Miscellaneous	1.0%		0.9%
<b>Motor Veh Property</b>	2.5%		2.3%
Negligence	0.5%		0.5%
Personal Inj.	0.5%		0.5%
Tenancy	28.4%		27.0%
Traffic & Parking	2.9%		2.8%

## Some other key observations:

- International students represented around 61% of the student client base.
- Almost 69% of clients lived off campus.
- Clients came from all ANU Colleges. (With CECS and CASS together almost making up half of the student load)
- About 66% of student clients were either in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year of their studies, with 18% in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
- About 24% of clients were repeat clients and 25% heard about the service through word of mouth.
- 98% of clients were undergraduate students with 2% postgraduate (either continuing clients or referrals)

The attached graphs provide a high level view of the flow of work during the course of the year and the primary areas of law covered.

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## LEGAL SERVICE STATISTICAL REPORT 2020



