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Records of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc.)

MS 1043

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COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:	Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc.)
Title:	Records of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc.)
Collection no:	MS 1043
Date range:	1977-1979
Extent:	0.09 metres (1 box)
Repository	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

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CULTURAL SENSITIVITY STATEMENT

It is a condition of use of this finding aid, and of the collection described in it, that users ensure that any use of the information contained in it is sympathetic to the views and sensitivities of relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This includes:

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Deceased persons

Users of this finding aid should be aware that, in some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, seeing images of deceased persons in photographs, film and books or hearing them in recordings etc. may cause sadness or distress and, in some cases, offend against strongly held cultural prohibitions.

ACCESS TO COLLECTION

Materials listed in this finding aid may be subject to access conditions imposed by Indigenous communities and/or depositors. Users are advised that access to some materials may be subject to these terms and conditions which the Institute is required to maintain.

Access and use conditions

Open access for reading, copying and quotation for most of the collection for most of the collection. [Access code: A1 B5]

Exceptions for Series 1, Item 2; Series 2, Item 1; Series 5, Series 6 and Series 11. These documents have been closed as they may identify individual ALSWA clients and confidential information relating to them, or they contain information about ALSWA personnel records. **They are not available for reading, copying or quotation.**

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Items from this collection should be cited as [Title or description of manuscript item], Records of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 1043, Series [no.], Folder or Item [no.]

Inter-Library Loan

Manuscripts are not available on Inter-Library loan.

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COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Scope and content note

This collection consists of papers, reports and correspondence relating to the work of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc.). The records are not complete but other records are held in [MS 4020](#).

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Provenance

This collection of records was deposited in the Library by John R. Huelin, Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia, in 1979. It consists of papers, reports and correspondence.

Related material

A collection of Records of the ALSWA is also held at [MS 4020](#).

For a complete listing of works by and about the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia held by the Library and for other related material consult [Mura®](#), [the AIATSIS catalogue](#)

Records for 1973-1988 are also held by the State Library of Western Australia at MN 2024.

Archivist's note

The access conditions for this collection were changed by ALSWA in 2005. In December 2007 some items were closed in accordance with ALSWA restrictions placed on records containing personnel or client information for collection [MS 4020](#).

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BACKGROUND NOTE

The [Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Inc. \(ALSWA\)](#) is one of the longest running community based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal aid services in Australia. As well as its head office in Perth, it has 17 offices in country locations throughout Western Australia. Elected Aboriginal community representatives govern ALSWA through an Executive Committee which meets four times a year.

ALSWA developed from the Justice Committee of the New Era Aboriginal Fellowship in the late 1960s, a time when there were very minimal legal services in Western Australia meeting the needs of Aboriginal Western Australians. The Justice Committee set up a voluntary advisory legal aid service in Perth in the early 1970s, operating out of rooms in the Aboriginal Advancement Council Building in Perth.

An increase in Commonwealth government funding enabled the Aboriginal Legal Service to open an office with full time staff in May 1973. The ALSWA was incorporated in January 1975. In the first three years of operation, ALSWA established regional offices in Narrogin, Port Headland, Kalgoorlie, Kununurra, Carnarvon and Laverton to provide legal aid services to Aboriginal Western Australians living in country areas. By 1978 the ALSWA was effectively a statewide organisation, with further offices in Derby, Broome and Geraldton, and Honorary Field Officers based in Meekatharra, Pinjarra, Onslow, Roebourne and Medina.

Reference:

Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc.) web site. Viewed November 2007 <<http://www.als.org.au/>>

Information from Fiona Skyring, ALSWA, email 23 May 2008. Copy held in Registry file 07/105.

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NAME INDEX

An index of selected names from this collection is available. To access these names contact the AIATSIS Family History Unit on 1800 730 129 (free call for family history enquiries only) or by [email](#).

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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series 1 Executive Committee meetings minutes and agendas

Item

- 1 Minutes, 5 Sept. 1977 (missing page 3)
- 2 Minutes, 11 October, 1977. [**Closed access.** This document has been closed as it may identify individual ALSWA clients and confidential information relating to them, or it contains information about ALSWA personnel records. **It is not available for reading, copying or quotation.**]
- 3 Agenda, 16 January 1978

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Series 2 Reports of the Principal Legal Officer

Item

- 1 J.R. Huelin, 7 November 1977. [**Closed access.** This document has been closed as it may identify individual ALSWA clients and confidential information relating to them, or it contains information about ALSWA personnel records. **It is not available for reading, copying or quotation.**]
- 2 J.R. Huelin, 16 January 1978
- 3 11 June 1979

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Series 3 Reports of the Executive Field Officer

Item

- 1 C.M. Wyatt, 3 October 1977
- 2 C.M. Wyatt, 6 February 1978

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Series 4 Report of the Social Worker

Item

- 1-2 Ronda Johns, 3 October and 16 January 1977
- 3 R. Johns, 6 February 1978, with enclosure 'Charges proceeded with and decided in Magistrates' and Judges' courts in Western Australia for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal offenders'

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Series 5 Field staff

Closed access, copying and quotation. These documents have been closed as they may identify individual ALSWA clients and confidential information relating to them, or they contain information about ALSWA personnel records. **They are not available for reading, copying or quotation.**

Item

- 1 List of field staff [n.d.]
- 2 List of field staff [n.d.], including notes about the staff activities and performance +
- 3 Duty statement of field officers

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Series 6 Correspondence relating to Phillip Alan Councillor

Closed access, copying and quotation. These documents have been closed as they may identify individual ALSWA clients and confidential information relating to them, or they contain information about ALSWA personnel records. **They are not available for reading, copying or quotation.**

Item

- 1 Letter from J.R. Huelin to Director, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, 3 February 1977
- 2 Letter from J.R. Huelin to P.A. Councillor, 4 February 1977
- 3 Letter from J.R. Huelin to J. Stanley, Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, 22 April 1977
- 4 Summary detailing circumstances of complaints against several police officers in the Carnarvon area and asking for an investigation of his claims

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Series 7 *Racial Discrimination Act* and 'Human Rights Bill'

Item

- 1 Letter from J.R. Huelin to R.J. Ellicott, Commonwealth Attorney General 13 May 1977 relating to *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*, with reply, July 1977
- 2 Letters from J.R. Huelin to Peter Durack, Commonwealth Attorney General, 4 November 1977 and 13 January 1978 relating to 'Human Rights Commission Bill' with replies 4 January, 29 April and 16 May 1978
- 3 Letter from A.J. Grassby, Commissioner for Community Relations to Chairman, Aboriginal Legal Service of W.A., 11 May 1977, relating to complaint concerning advertisement by ALSWA, with reply from J.R. Huelin, 27 June 1977

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Series 8 'Mining Bill'

Item

- 1 Letter from J.R. Huelin to Sir Charles Court, Premier of Western Australia, 17 June 1977 relating to 1975 'Mining Bill', including 'Notes on the Mining Bill, 1975'; and reply, 20 June 1977
- 2 Letter from A. Mensaros, Minister for Mines to J.R. Huelin, 27 July 1977. Relates to suggested amendments to the Bill

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Series 9 Criminal records

Item

- 1 Letter from J.R. Huelin to Sir Charles Court, Premier of Western Australia, 21 June 1977 relating to the destruction of police records; reply from D.H. O'Neil, Deputy Premier, 18 August 1977

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Series 10 Tribal law and the court system

- Item** Letter from J.R. Huelin to Mr Brower, Secretary, Australian Law Reform Commission, 6 July 1977, relating to tribal law of Aborigines; and enclosure 'Notes re consideration of Aboriginal tribal law in relation to possible law reform'

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Series 11 Wiluna incident

Closed access, copying and quotation. These documents have been closed as they may identify individual ALSWA clients and confidential information relating to them, or they contain information about ALSWA personnel records. **They are not available for reading, copying or quotation.**

Item

- 1 Letter from L.L. Davies, Bar Chambers, Perth to Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia, 26 August 1977
- 2 'Statement concerning a number of complaints by the people of Wiluna about unjust treatment at the hands both of the police authorities and the local J[ustice of the] P[eace]'
- 3 Report by J.R. Huelin on visit to Wiluna, 28 September to 2 October 1977

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Series 12 Administrative problems

This series consists of records relating to administrative problems at the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia

Item

- 1 'Submission to the Minister with regard to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc)', by J.R. Huelin, November 1977. One annotated typescript; one photocopy of signed submission
- 2 'Complaints against the police', a memo from Principal Legal Officer to all Legal and Field Officers, 7 March 1978

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Series 13 Police/community relations

Item

- 1 'Report of John R. Huelin... on the Community Affairs Division of the West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police for consideration by the Western Australian Police Force' [and supporting documents A-I, Perth, 1977]
- 2 'Report on police/community relations in England, particularly relating to the police in Western Australia', [with appendices A-L], by John R. Huelin, Perth [1978]
- 3 Huelin, John Raymond, 'Police/community relations – particularly related to the Aboriginal people of Western Australia: comments on report' [addressed to] Chairman, Special Cabinet Committee of Aboriginal/Police Relations, Perth, 1979
- 4 ['Report on the use of and training of paralegals in the U.S.A.', [by] John R. Huelin (Perth, 1978)]

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Series 14 *Electoral Act*

tem

Letter 'to all honourable members of Parliament in Western Australia re Electoral Act 1907 -1971 and proposed amendment 1977', by J.R. Huelin

'Notes re *Electoral Act* inquiry, by J.R. Huelin, 15 May 1978

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Series 15 Other papers

Item

- 1 'Introduction'. Background to the Aboriginal Legal Service
- 2 Special needs and demands of Aboriginals for legal aid
- 3 'Constitution [of the] Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia'
- 4 'Aboriginal population' [in Western Australia] as at 30th June 1978. Taken from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs *Annual report*
- 5 'Mineral claims by C.R.A [Conzinc Riotinto of Australia] Exploration Pty Ltd [and] objections by Noonkanbah Pastoral Company and others', by D. McCann, S.M. Report of hearing and recommendations
- 6 Report by N.G. Crump for tax agency work for year ended 30 June 1979
- 7 Johns, Ronda. 'Reasons why a social worker is required as a full-time permanent staff member of the Aboriginal Legal Service in Western Australia', April 1979
- 8 Martin, Margaret A. 'Potential client population of the Aboriginal Legal Service in Western Australia'

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Finding aid updated by J.E. Churches, April 2005 & December 2007

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