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

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY STATEMENT

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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.

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.

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.
BACKGROUND NOTE

The [Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Inc. (ALSWA)](http://www.als.org.au/) 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 aide 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:


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

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]().
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

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

Series 3  Reports of the Executive Field Officer

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

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’
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

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

Series 7  
**Racial Discrimination Act and ‘Human Rights Bill’**

**Item**
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
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

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

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’

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
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

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


Series 14  Electoral Act

Item

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
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


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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