

Port Macquarie 



Neighbourhood Centre



# MID NORTH COAST LEGAL RESOURCES DIRECTORY

Second Edition

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Port Macquarie Neighbourhood Centre	<b>02 6583 8044</b>
Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre	<b>02 6562 8300</b>
Wauchope Neighbourhood Centre	<b>02 6586 4055</b>
Manning Valley Neighbourhood Centre	<b>02 6553 5121</b>
Forster Neighbourhood Centre	<b>02 6555 4351</b>
Nambucca Valley Neighbourhood Centre	<b>02 6568 2305</b>

Compiled by Graeme Howarth and Catherine Peek

**All legal services in this directory are either  
free or subsidised.**

<b>GENERAL FREE LEGAL ADVICE</b>	
<b>Hunter Community Legal Centre</b> Free legal advice & limited court representation. For residents of Great Lakes & Taree. Phone advice: Mon & Wed 9:30am-4pm	<b>02 4926 3329</b> <b>NO ADVICE ON:</b> personal injury, drafting property settlements, local council matters & workers comp.
<b>Law Access</b> Legal information and assistance services. Phone advice: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm	<b>1300 888 529</b>
<b>Legal Aid Hotline for Under 18s</b> Legal advice re juvenile justice. Phone advice: Mon-Thurs 9am-12am & Fri-Sun and public holidays 24 hours	<b>1800 101 810</b>
<b>Immigration Advice and Rights Centre</b> Phone advice Tues and Thurs 2pm-4pm	<b>02 9262 3833</b>
<b>Refugee Advice and Casework Service</b> For people seeking asylum in Australia. Phone advice: Tues & Thurs 10am- 12pm	<b>02 9114 1600</b>
<b>Community Justice Centre (CJC)</b> Free mediation service	<b>1800 990 777</b>
<b>Law Society of NSW Pro Bono Scheme</b> Coordinates free legal assistance and representation for eligible people.	<b>02 9926 0364</b>
<b>Indigenous Women's Legal Contact Line</b> Provides free legal advice and assistance to Aboriginal women (part of Women's Legal Services NSW)	<b>1800 639 784</b>
<b>Legal Aid Outreach TAREE</b> Every Thursday from 10:30am to 12:30pm at Manning Support Services. <b>Must call to make appointment</b>	<b>02 6551 5665</b>
<b>Legal Aid Outreach TAREE</b> Child Support & family law advice at Centrelink on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. <b>Must call to make appointment</b>	<b>02 4929 5482</b> <b>or 1800 451 784</b>
<b>Legal Aid Outreach KEMPSEY</b> Family law at Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre – varied day once a month. <b>Must call to make appointment</b>	<b>1800 451 784</b>

<b>GENERAL FREE LEGAL ADVICE cont.</b>	
<b>Legal Aid Outreach KEMPSEY</b> For people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. <b>Drop in</b> 10am-12pm each Wed.	<b>Drop in at Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre, 5 Kemp Street Kempsey</b>
<b>Legal Aid Civil Law Aboriginal Outreach KEMPSEY</b> Aimed at Indigenous persons – <b>Drop in</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed. of month between 1-3pm.	<b>Drop in at West Kempsey Community Cottage</b>
<b>Legal Aid Civil Law Aboriginal Outreach KEMPSEY</b> Aimed at Indigenous persons – <b>Drop in</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed. of month between 1-3pm	<b>Drop in at South Kempsey Community Cottage</b>
<b>Legal Aid Outreach FORSTER</b> Family, child support, property settlement, divorce, child custody & parenting orders. Last Thurs of month. <b>Must call to make appointment</b>	<b>02 4929 5482</b>
<b>Legal Advice at WAUCHOPE Neighbourhood Centre</b> 30 min. appointment for general legal advice. 2nd Wed. and last Thurs of the month. <b>Must call to make appointment</b>	<b>02 6586 4055</b>
<b>Legal Aid Outreach PORT MACQUARIE Neighbourhood Centre</b> Family law, child support, de facto relationships, spouse maintenance, divorce, court orders about your children. <b>Must call to make appointment</b>	<b>1800 451 784</b>
<b>Legal Advice at PORT MACQUARIE Neighbourhood Centre</b> 30 min. appointment for general legal advice. <b>Must call to make appointment</b>	<b>02 6584 1914</b>
<b>Legal Aid Outreach BOWRAVILLE Miimi (Mothers) Aboriginal Corp.</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs of each month. <b>Must call to make appointment.</b>	<b>02 6562 1888</b>
<b>Legal Aid Outreach at MACKSVILLE at Nambucca Valley Neighbourhood Centre.</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs of month. <b>Must call to make appointment.</b>	<b>02 6562 1888</b>

<b>DISCRIMINATION</b>	
<b>Anti-Discrimination Board NSW</b> Complaints of discrimination under state law.	<b>1800 670 812</b>
<b>Australian Human Rights Commission</b> Complaints of discrimination under federal law	<b>1300 656 419</b> <b>02 9284 9888</b>
<b>Disability Discrimination Legal Centre</b> Phone advice on disability discrimination Tues, Wed, Fri 9:30am-12:30pm	<b>1800 800 708</b>
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>	
<b>Australian Fair Pay Commission</b> - Workplace Authority - Workplace Ombudsman	<b>1300 363 264</b> <b>1300 724 200</b>
<b>Office of the Employment Advocate</b> Phone advice about rights & obligations under <i>Workplace Relations Act</i> .	<b>1300 366 632</b>
<b>Office of Industrial Relations (IR)</b> Information about IR matters	<b>131 628</b>
<b>Women's Employment Rights Project</b> Phone advice re employment law issues for women. Wed between 10am and 1pm only.	<b>1800 244 481</b> <b>02 9332 1966</b>
<b>Workers Compensation Commission</b> Help resolve workers comp. disputes	<b>131 050</b>
<b>CRIMINAL LAW AND VICTIMS OF CRIME</b>	
<b>Aboriginal Legal Service</b> Criminal law assistance for Indigenous clients	<b>Taree 02 6551 3928</b> <b>Kempsey 02 6562 5990</b>
<b>Many Rivers Family Violence &amp; Legal Service</b> Free legal advice to indigenous people in relation to victims compensation (see also services provided under family and children)	<b>Kempsey 02 6562 5856</b> <u>Outreach to:</u> Macksville, Bowraville, Taree, Forster & Port Mac. Call Kempsey for info
<b>Victims Of Crime Bureau</b> Support & referral for victims of crime	<b>02 6583 9351</b>
<b>Mission Australia's Court Support</b> Advice, info & support for victims at court.	<b>02 9356 0604/ 02 8218 9412</b> <b>0419 695 328</b>
<b>Victims Compensation Tribunal</b> Helps victims of crime deal with cost of medical treatment, counselling & to compensate for any damage to property & personal injury.	<b>02 9374 3111</b> <b>1800 069 054</b>

<b>TENANCY &amp; CENTRELINK</b>	
<b>Centrelink</b> Customer Relations line	<b>1800 050 004</b>
<b>Welfare Rights Centre</b> Advice about rights/entitlements & assist to appeal against Centrelink decisions. Telephone advice on Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri (9am- 1pm) & Tuesdays (1pm- 5pm).	<b>1800 226 028</b>
<b>Social Security Appeals Tribunal</b> Review of decisions made by Centrelink	<b>1800 011 140</b> <b>1800 251 101</b>
<b>Tenants Union</b> Information for tenants	<b>02 9251 6590</b>
<b>Mid Coast Tenants Advice Service</b> Assistance for tenants from Forster to Woolgoolga. Phone advice.	<b>1800 777 722</b> <b>02 6583 9866</b>
<b>Northern NSW Aboriginal Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Service</b> Information, advice and advocacy for Aboriginal tenants in the Bulahdelah, Forster, Muswellbrook and Taree areas. Phone advice: Everyday except Wed 9am-2:30pm	<b>1800 248 913</b>
<b>NSW Fair Trading</b> Complaints re business, home building, vehicles, real estate & renting.	<b>133 220</b> <b>02 6584 1330</b>
<b>LOCAL COURTS</b>	
<b>Forster</b> (Chamber Registrar Mon-Fri)	<b>02 6554 6951</b>
<b>Gloucester</b> (Chamber Registrar Wed)	<b>02 6558 1125</b>
<b>Port Macquarie</b> (Chamber Registrar Mon-Fri)	<b>02 6586 2400</b>
<b>Taree</b> (Chamber Registrar Mon-Fri)	<b>02 6552 5599</b>
<b>Wauchope</b> (Chamber Registrar Tues, Wed, Friday)	<b>02 6585 3118</b>
<b>Kempsey</b> (Chamber Registrar Mon-Fri)	<b>02 6562 5095</b>
<b>Macksville</b> (Chamber Registrar Mon-Fri)	<b>02 6568 1519</b>
<b>Bellingen</b> (Chamber Registrar Mon-Fri)	<b>02 6655 1033</b>
<b>Coffs Harbour</b> (Chamber Registrar Mon-Fri)	<b>02 6651 9025</b>

<b>CONSUMER</b>	
<b>NSW Ombudsman</b> Independent body assists with complaints about services provided by NSW government departments or agencies.	<b>1800 451 524</b>
<b>Commonwealth Ombudsman</b> Independent body assists with complaints about services provided by Australian government departments or agencies.	<b>1300 362 072</b>
<b>Consumer, Trader &amp; Tenancy Tribunal</b> Disputes about tenancy, home building, residential parks, motor vehicles, strata, general consumer and commercial	<b>1300 135 399</b>
<b>Energy and Water Ombudsman</b> Independent body assisting in resolving electricity, gas & water complaints	<b>1800 246 545</b>
<b>Health Care Complaints Commission</b> Acts to protect public health and safety by resolving, investigating and prosecuting complaints about health care.	<b>02 4985 3143</b>
<b>Private Health Insurance Ombudsman</b> Deals with complaints concerning private health insurers.	<b>1800 640 695</b>
<b>Financial Ombudsman's Service</b> Independent body assists in resolving disputes between individuals and their financial service providers.	<b>1300 780 808</b>
<b>Office of the Legal Services Commissioner</b> Deals with complaints about solicitors and barristers in NSW.	<b>1800 242 958</b>
<b>Office of Fair Trading</b> Assists with complaints re business, home building, vehicles, real estate & renting.	<b>133 220</b> <b>02 6584 1330</b>
<b>Insurance Law Service</b> Phone advice on insurance law matters or disputes involving insurers. NO ADVICE to insurers or businesses.	<b>1300 663 464</b>
<b>Home Building Advocacy Service</b> Client must have attempted to resolve their dispute through the Office of Fair Trading dispute process first.	<b>02 8833 0911</b>

<b>FAMILY AND CHILDREN</b>	
<b>Child Support Service (Legal Aid)</b> Advice for carer/paying parents	<b>1800 451 784</b>
<b>Community Police Liaison Officer</b> Provides information about security and safety in the community and about the Police and how they can assist you.	<b>Port Macquarie 02 6583 0199</b> <b>Taree/Forster 02 6552 0399</b>
<b>De Facto Relationships Law Society</b> NSW Phone advice: Mon- Fri 9am-12pm & 1pm-4pm	<b>02 9926 0300</b>
<b>Domestic Violence Advocacy Service</b> Free legal advice & assistance for women who have experienced family violence	<b>1800 810 784</b> (part of Women's Legal Services NSW)
<b>Family Relationship Advice Line</b> For families experiencing difficulties Phone advice: Mon-Fri 8am-8pm	<b>1800 050 321</b>
<b>Family Relationship Centre</b> Info & referrals for families; advice on parenting after separation; registered family dispute resolution.	<b>Taree 02 6551 1200</b>
<b>Interrelate Family Centre</b> Strengthening family relationships inc. relationship/family counselling, child contact centre & dispute resolution.	<b>Port Macquarie 02 6584 9293</b> <b>Coffs Harbour 02 6651 1010</b>
<b>Mid North Coast Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service</b> Provides information, support at court and referral to victims of domestic and personal violence (ADVOs and APVOs).	<b>Port Macquarie 0419 938 227</b> <b>Kempsey 02 6563 1479</b>
<b>Women's Legal Resources Centre</b> Phone advice on women's legal matters. Telephone Interpreter Service	<b>Taree/Forster/ Gloucester 0419 938 241</b> <b>1800 801 501</b>
<b>Many Rivers Family Violence &amp; Legal Service</b> Free legal advice to indigenous people in relation to matters such as family law and DOCS/children matters.	<b>Kempsey 02 6562 5856</b> <u>Outreach to:</u> Macksville, Bowraville, Taree, Forster & Port Mac. Call Kempsey for info
<b>National Children's &amp; Youth Law Centre</b> Free legal advice for children, young people & their advocates.	<b>02 9385 9588</b>

<b>FINANCIAL</b>		
<b>Salvation Army Moneycare</b> Free financial counselling	<b>Taree</b>	<b>02 6552 6237</b>
<b>Centacare</b> Free financial counselling	<b>Port Macquarie</b>	<b>02 6581 6800</b>
<b>Consumer Credit Legal Centre</b> Debt hotline re financial counselling		<b>1800 808 488</b>
<b>Mission Australia's North Coast Gambling Counselling Service</b> Wesley Community legal services help problem gamblers with legal issues.	<b>PM &amp; Kempsey</b>	<b>02 6583 1321 0403 183 025</b>
	<b>Taree &amp; Forster</b>	<b>02 6557 8864 0407 062 760</b>
<b>Financial Counselling at Nambucca Valley Neighbourhood Centre</b> Tues & Thurs each week <b>Must call to make appointment</b>		<b>02 6568 2305</b>
<b>Financial Counselling at Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre</b> Mon and Tues each week <b>Must call to make appointment</b>		<b>02 6562 8300</b>
<b>Financial Counselling at Forster Neighbourhood Centre</b> Wed, Thurs & Fri each week. <b>Must call to make appointment</b>		<b>02 6555 4351</b>
<b>Financial Counselors' Association</b> Referral to financial counselors.	<a href="http://www.financialcounsellors.asn.au">www.financialcounsellors.asn.au</a>	
<b>Insolvency and Trustees Service Australia</b> Information about bankruptcy		<b>1300 364 785</b>
<b>LEGAL INFORMATION</b>		
<b>Legal Information Access Centres</b> provided through local libraries. Legal information, online resources and phone access to the Legal Information Service at the State Library of NSW. <b>NO LEGAL ADVICE</b>	<b>PM Library</b>	<b>02 6581 8755</b>
	<b>Kempsey Library</b>	<b>02 6566 3210</b>
	<b>Forster Library</b>	<b>02 6591 7256</b>
	<b>Taree Library</b>	<b>02 6592 5290</b>
	<b>Coffs Harb Library</b>	<b>02 6648 4908</b>

<b>AGED RIGHTS</b>	
<b>The Aged-Care Rights Service (TARS)</b> Advice on residents' rights re government rules and regulations - for people living in nursing homes, retirement villages & at home with aged care packages.	<b>1800 424 079</b>
<b>Older Person's Legal Service</b> Provides legal advice, assistance and education for older people in NSW.	<b>1800 424 079</b>
<b>Older Person's Legal and Education Program – Legal Aid NSW</b> Legal resources on issues affecting older people.	<b>02 9219 5000</b>
<b>Veterans Advocacy Service</b> Free legal advice to veterans & dependants about rights & entitlements.	<b>02 9219 5148</b>
<b>Public Trustee NSW</b> Assists in making wills & administering estates. Office in Port Macquarie.	<b>1300 364 103</b>
<b>DISABILITY</b>	
<b>Disability Advocacy NSW</b> Assist people with a disability to get their voice heard and link with legal support.	<b>1300 365 085</b>
<b>The Guardianship Tribunal</b> Appoints guardians/ financial managers for people with impaired capacity.	<b>1800 463 928</b>
<b>Guardian Ad Litem Program</b> Children's Court can appoint a Guardian ad Litem to represent interests of a child, young person or parents with a disability.	<b>02 8688 1463</b>
<b>Intellectual Disability Rights Service &amp; Criminal Justice Support Network</b> Support for people with intellectual disabilities at court in Taree and Forster. Phone advice on general legal issues for people with intellectual disabilities & their carers.	<b>1300 665 908</b>
	<b>1800 666 611</b>
<b>Mental Health Advocacy Service</b> Telephone advice re mental health law	<b>02 9219 5126</b>

