

## Help us help others

As a not-for-profit service, we rely on funding and donations from generous organisations and individuals whose support makes it possible for us to assist hundreds of Western Australians with mental health issues each year.

Being a registered charity means that all contributions over \$2 are tax deductible in Australia – so please help us help others by making a donation to the Mental Health Law Centre today.

[ruahlegal.org.au](http://ruahlegal.org.au)



## Need legal advice?

### Call our Telephone Advice Line

Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm  
08 9328 8012 or Freecall 1800 620 285

### Visit us online

[ruahlegal.org.au](http://ruahlegal.org.au)

### Connect with us



### Ruah Legal Services

PO Box 8078, Subiaco East WA 6008  
Facsimile: (08) 6323 3382  
Email: [legalservices@ruah.org.au](mailto:legalservices@ruah.org.au)

## Everyone is welcome. Everyone belongs.

Ruah Legal Services acknowledges and respects the traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owners of the land on which we work, the first people of this country. We pay our respects to their culture and their Elders past, present and future.



### Disclaimer

The writer, publisher and Ruah Legal Services disclaim liability as to the reliability and completeness of the information in this publication and disclaim any liability for action taken or not taken as result of this content or for any errors and omissions. It is emphasised that the reader may need legal advice in relation to their particular circumstances.

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**RUAH**  
LEGAL SERVICES

**mental  
health**  
LAW CENTRE

# WA's experts in mental health law

Free legal help for people  
with mental illness in  
Western Australia

## About Ruah Legal Services

Ruah Legal Services launched in 2019 when the Mental Health Law Centre (MHLC) merged with Ruah Community Services. MHLC has been helping Western Australians with mental illness for more than 20 years. MHLC continues its important work as a specialist centre of Ruah Legal Services. We are an independent, not for profit, community legal service and Western Australia's experts in mental health law.

If you have a legal issue connected to a mental illness and you are experiencing financial hardship, our qualified and experienced lawyers can give you free confidential advice and represent you in court.

We specialise in involuntary treatment and matters under the *Mental Health Act (WA)*. We can also advise on:

- Criminal matters
- Guardianship and Administration
- Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board hearings
- Responding to Restraining Orders
- Care and Protection matters
- Mental Health Tribunals

To find out if you are eligible for assistance please call our Telephone Advice Line or visit [ruahlegal.org.au](http://ruahlegal.org.au).

**Our service is FREE  
for eligible clients.**

## Legal advice and services

We provide free advice and representation for people who are experiencing legal problems connected with their mental illness.

- Criminal matters in the courts
- Involuntary treatment orders before the Mental Health Tribunal
- Guardianship and Administration Orders
- Responding to Restraining Orders
- Care and Protection
- Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board Hearings

## Educating the community

We educate and train other lawyers, doctors, community service workers and community groups, to help them understand the complex law around mental health by:

- Publishing information and resources, in plain English, to help clients and the community to understand mental health law.
- Conducting seminars and workshops for community groups, students, lawyers, doctors and other professionals wanting to learn more about mental illness and the law.
- Offering a structured training program for law students who volunteer at the MHLC, extending our services to clients and giving them valuable experience in the field.

## Policy and law reform

People with mental illness and disabilities are twice as likely to experience legal problems, and often struggle to navigate the court system. We advocate to improve policy and law making to ensure the system is fairer for people experiencing a mental illness. This includes:

- Researching, monitoring and advocating on matters relating to mental health law
- Developing submissions to government about legal aspects of mental health services, guardianship and administration, and criminal justice
- Collaborating with other community services

*We educate and train other lawyers, doctors, community service workers and community groups, to help them understand the complex law around mental health.*