

Self Representation Service

Federal Courts

What is the Self Representation Service?

The Self Representation Service offers free legal advice and assistance to people at the Federal Court and Federal Circuit Court. The Service is operated by LawRight, an independent, non-profit community based legal organisation that coordinates pro bono legal services for individuals and community groups.

Who is eligible for assistance?

You will be eligible for assistance if your legal problem falls within one of the following areas:

- Anti-discrimination
- Bankruptcy
- Competition and consumer
- Fair work
- Information privacy
- Judicial review
- Appeals (even if your legal problem does not fall within one of the above listed areas).

However, we may refuse to assist if:

- your case does not have a good chance of succeeding;
- your case is so urgent or complex, that we cannot effectively assist you in time;
- you do not comply with court orders or accept legal advice;
- you can afford private legal assistance, or private legal assistance is available

to you on a “no win no fee” or deferred fee basis;

- you are eligible for legal aid;
- the Service has a conflict of interest; or
- you are a declared vexatious litigant.

The Service does not assist with criminal, family, complex commercial or native title matters.

What assistance we can provide

With the assistance of volunteer lawyers and barristers, LawRight will:

- give you legal advice to help you make informed decisions;
- assist in drafting documents, including pleadings, affidavits, court forms, submissions and correspondence;
- suggest other options for resolution of court proceedings;
- refer your case, if appropriate, for further advice, support or representation; and
- help you represent yourself in the best possible way.



What assistance we cannot provide

We cannot:

- be responsible if a limitation period expires before you can be assisted by the Service;
- take carriage of your legal problem or proceeding;
- represent you on the QCAT record or at hearings;
- sign any documents on your behalf;
- communicate with the tribunal, the other parties or legal representatives on your behalf; or
- pay for any fees, disbursements or costs orders incurred by you.

How does the Self Representation Service operate?

Once LawRight receives your application for assistance, your matter will be assessed for eligibility. If you are eligible for assistance, you will be contacted to arrange a 1 hour consultation with a volunteer solicitor. Further appointments can be made as necessary. If you live outside of Brisbane your appointment may be by telephone.

The Service is staffed by volunteers attending on a rostered basis, so you will be unlikely to see the same solicitor in later appointments. The Service briefs its volunteers before appointments so that you do not need to retell your story every time you attend.

If you are not eligible for assistance from the Service, you will be notified of our reasons in writing.

The Service will not provide you with legal advice if you do not have a scheduled appointment. However, the Service may provide general information and help you to complete the LawRight application form on a drop-in basis.

How do I apply for assistance?

You should complete an application form (available at the registry, our office or on the LawRight website, www.lawright.org.au) and sign the terms and conditions. If required, our staff can help you to read, understand and complete these documents.

This Service is located at:

Level 6, Sir Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts
119 North Quay
BRISBANE QLD 4000

CONTACT US:

E: fedadmin@lawright.org.au
T: 07 3248 1278
F: 07 3846 6311
P: LawRight, PO Box 12217
GEORGE STREET QLD 4003

