
2015 NATIONAL PLAY YOUR PART AWARDS FOR INSPIRING PREVENTION INITIATIVES

To: National Children's and Youth Law Centre (NCYLC) and King & Wood Mallesons (KWM), University of NSW (UNSW), Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department (AGD), Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC) and Telstra.

For: National collaboration on Lawmail, Lawstuff and Online Safety.

This award recognises the National Children's and Youth Law Centre's collaboration with a law firm, Australian business, the University of New South Wales and the Commonwealth Government to provide the only free legal service dedicated to children, young people and their advocates in Australia.

The NCYLC leads reform in Children's Law, hosts Lawmail and the website [Lawstuff](#) which provides information ranging from cyber and school bullying to forced child marriage, family violence, criminal law and discrimination at work.

Lawstuff is central to children's identification of their problems, and provides them with suggestions for what to do about them, including linking them to a free, confidential service in Lawmail. Lawmail provides quality, timely and detailed legal and practical problem-solving assistance tailored to the individual circumstances of the child or young person involved.

The director of the NCYLC, Matthew Keeley, said that without collaboration from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, the University of New South Wales, King & Wood Mallesons, Telstra, and the Australian Securities & Investments Commission the Centre wouldn't be able to help over one million people a year.

In the words of a 17-year-old client: 'to provide such concise advice in such a short period of time for no cost is something nowhere else to be found in the world.'

The 2012 Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales' Legal Australia-Wide (LAW) Survey found that four in ten 15 to 17 year-olds in Australia will experience at least one legal problem a year. Of those 20% will report stress-related illnesses, 19% physical ill-health and 29% financial strain.

Lawmail, which is accessed by over 2,200 people a year and Lawstuff provide help to children and young people to resolve their legal issues with practical problem-solving assistance. When Lawmail and Lawstuff help children and young people solve their legal, emotional and health related problems they contribute to improving their well-being and safety by reducing the impacts of these stressful issues.

A significant achievement of this initiative is its ability to be available 24/7, anywhere in Australia to anyone with an internet or mobile connection, which eliminates many of the barriers to youth help-seeking, such as embarrassment as well as some of the particular access barriers that affect remote, rural and regional youth, children with a disability and those who can't access help during school or work hours.