

# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

Activity sheet 1 for students: **Australia's legal system**

July 2011

## Activity A

Watch **Australia's legal system** and answer the questions.

1. Who makes the laws in Australia?

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2. How old is Gahmal?

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3. Who is Gahmal going to vote for?

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4. Who will help Abdi in court?

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5. What does Abdi decide he wants to be?

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## Activity B

Watch the story again. Match the person with the job description.

1. Politician

a. Person who makes decisions in a court of law

2. Police officer

b. Person who gives legal advice and services

3. Judge

c. Person who tries to catch criminals and checks that people obey the law

4. Lawyer

d. A person who has a job in politics like a member of parliament

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**Activity C**

Choose Yes or No to answer the questions.

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| 1. Can the Prime Minister get a fine?   | Yes / No |
| 2. Do police have to follow the law?  | Yes / No |
| 3. Can you buy votes in Australia?  | Yes / No |
| 4. Can you pay a judge to do what you want?                                       | Yes / No |
| 5. Can you get free legal help?   | Yes / No |
| 6. If you want them to, do lawyers have to keep everything you tell them private? | Yes / No |
- .....

**Activity D**

What's the important information? Complete these sentences. Use a word or words from below.

Lawyers

Judges

Politicians

No one

1. \_\_\_\_\_ make the law.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ can tell you how to vote.
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ can give free legal advice.
  4. \_\_\_\_\_ listen to both sides in court and make a decision.
- .....

**Activity E**

Discussion

Do judges, police and politicians obey the law in all countries?

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**Activity F**

Watch **Australia's legal system** again. Watch for the screen that tells you where to get help.

Where is the best place to get free legal help?

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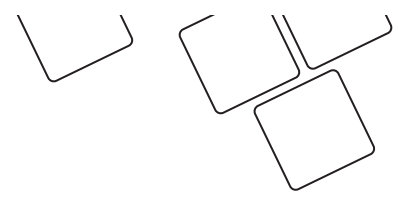
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# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

## Answer sheet 1: Australia's legal system



July 2011

Requirements: a copy of the DVD; Realia: pictures of Prime Minister, politician, police officer, judge, lawyer.

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### Pre-teaching

Vocabulary: court, decision, election, free, interpreter, judge, law, lawyer, police, politician, Prime Minister, vote.

Warmer activity to introduce topic: Class survey: *What do you know about the law in Australia? Who is the Prime Minister of Australia? Who is your local member of parliament?*

.....

### Key Messages

1. In Australia the law applies equally to everyone.
  2. Politicians are elected to parliament. Parliament makes laws on behalf of the people.
  3. Voting in elections is compulsory for all citizens over 18.
  4. Elections are free and fair.
  5. The police must follow the law.
  6. Judges are independent and must follow the law.
  7. Free information about the law is available to everyone. Legal aid commissions in every state and territory give free legal help for people who cannot afford a lawyer. Community legal centres may also be able to provide free legal help.
- .....

### Answers

#### Activity A

- |                |           |   |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| 1. politicians | 2. 18     | 3. (the politician) who works the hardest |
| 4. lawyer      | 5. lawyer |   |

#### Activity B

1. d    2. c    3. a    4. b

#### Activity C

1. yes    2. yes    3. no    4. no    5. yes    6. yes

#### Activity D

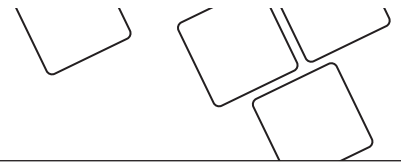
1. politicians    2. no one    3. lawyers    4. judges

#### Activity E

Discussion

#### Activity F

Check last slide in the DVD for the best place to get free legal help.



## Script for Australia's legal system story

Abdi I want to be the Prime Minister! Then I can drive fast. Do whatever I like!

Gahmal No, even the Prime Minister has to follow the law. They can get a fine too.

Abdi OK, I'll be a police officer then. Then I can make people do what I want.

Gahmal No, police can only ask you to do what the law says. They have to follow the law too.

Abdi So who makes the laws?

Gahmal Politicians make the law.

Abdi OK, I'll be a politician. I'll pay people and they will vote for me!

Gahmal You can't buy votes in Australia! I'm 18 and next election I'm going to vote for who I think will work the hardest. No one can tell me how to vote.

Abdi Well, how about judges? Can we pay them to do what we want? I have to go to court soon.

Gahmal You will be in trouble if you try to give money to a judge. Even judges have to be honest and follow the law.

Abdi Ohhh, I'm so worried. What will happen in court?

Gahmal First the police talk, then you have a chance to tell your story. Then the judge makes a decision.

Abdi But I don't know what to say.

Gahmal You can get a lawyer to help you.

Abdi But I don't want everyone to know my problem.

Gahmal Lawyers have to keep everything private, unless you tell the lawyer that they can tell someone else.

Abdi But I don't have any money.

Gahmal You can get free legal help, and a free interpreter.

Abdi Really? Cool, I think I want to be a lawyer.

# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

Activity sheet 2 for students: **Driving**

July 2011

## Activity A

Watch **Driving** and answer the questions.

1. What does Ram buy?

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2. What job does Raja offer Ram?

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3. What do the police want to see?

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4. Does Ram have a valid driver licence?

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5. Is the car registered?

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6. Are the children in child seats?

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7. What else could Ram be fined for?

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## Activity B

Watch the story again. Place the sentences in the correct order and write them out on the lines below.

- The police ask Ram for his driver licence.
- Ram has to pay a lot of money in fines.
- The police notice that Ram's children aren't in child seats.
- Ram bought a new car.
- The police notice that Ram's car isn't registered.
- Ram lost his job because he couldn't drive his car.
- Raja offers Ram a job doing deliveries.
- Ram took his family for a drive in his car.

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**Activity C**

What's the important information? Complete these sentences. Use a word or words from below.

child seats

fine

registered

valid driver licence

1. If you drive, you must have a \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Before you drive your car on the road it must be \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Children under seven must have appropriate \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. If your car is not registered the police can give you a \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Activity D**

Discussion

What do you need to do to get your driver licence in Australia? Is this different from other countries you know about?

**Activity E**

Watch **Driving** again. Watch for the screen that tells you where to get help.

Where is the best place to get free legal help?

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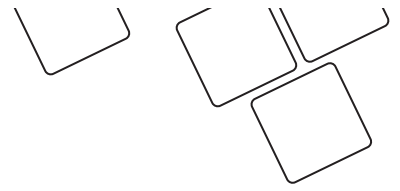
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# What's the law?

## Australian law for new arrivals

### Answer sheet 2: **Driving**



July 2011

Requirements: A copy of the DVD. Realia: Australian driver licence.

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### **Pre-teaching**

Vocabulary: court, delivery, fine, Global Positioning System (GPS), lawyer, legal advice, licence, registered, valid.

Warmer activity to introduce topic: Class survey: *Do you have a driver licence? If so, what sort of licence do you have: an Australian driver licence / a car licence from other country / a learner licence / a truck licence / a probationary licence (P plates)?*

.....

### **Key Messages**

1. It is your responsibility to know the laws about driving in the place you are living.
  2. There are different rules in every state about whether you can drive on a foreign driver licence and for how long. You should contact the transport department to find out if you are legally allowed to drive.
  3. If you have your learner licence (your 'Ls'), you can only drive if you are displaying your Ls and you have a fully licensed driver in the car with you.
  4. You must renew your Australian licence before it runs out and tell the transport department if you change your address.
  5. It is an offence to drive a vehicle without a valid driver licence. In some states, the penalty is an on-the-spot infringement notice. In other states you will have to go to court and may be ordered to pay a fine. In some states, you can be imprisoned for repeated offences.
  6. If you are driving without a valid licence and you have an accident, your insurance may not cover you.
  7. Car owners must pay car registration every year.
  8. If you are caught driving a car that is not registered then you will get a fine. It does not matter who owns the car and it does not matter if you did not know the car was not registered.
  9. The penalty for travelling in a car without a seat belt is usually a fine.
  10. New Australian laws say that children up to the age of seven should be in appropriate child restraints. It is an offence to allow children to travel in a car without a child restraint appropriate for their age and the penalty is a fine.
  11. If you have fines and have trouble paying them you can get free legal advice.
- .....

### **Answers**

#### **Activity A**

1. car
2. a job doing deliveries
3. driver licence
4. no
5. no
6. no
7. not wearing a seat belt

#### **Activity B**

d g h a e c b f

#### **Activity C**

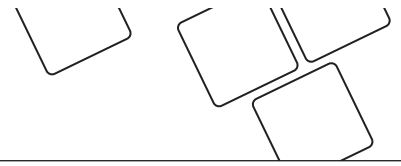
1. valid driver licence
2. registered
3. child seats
4. fine

#### **Activity D**

Discussion

#### **Activity E**

Check last slide in the DVD for the best place to get free legal help.



## Script for Driving story

Ram Hey Raja! Look at my new car.

Raja Wow! It's good man! When did you get your licence?

Ram I still got my licence from my home country.

Raja Well you want a job?

Ram Sure.

Raja Now that you have a car, you can do some deliveries for me. Come on Monday morning.

Ram OK. I'll get a GPS!

Ram You like our new car?

children together Yeah!

Ram No more carrying heavy bags Lakshmi! And I'll be working Monday!

Lakshmi Hey, what's that police car doing?

Ram Oh, I don't know, but I better stop.

Police officer *(car stopping sound)*. Can I see your licence?

Ram Here you are.

Police officer This licence isn't valid here. It's an offence to drive without a valid licence. You'll get a letter and you'll have to go to court about this.

Ram Court?

Police officer And your car isn't registered.

Ram But I just bought it!

Police officer Well, you have to register the car before you can take it on the road.  
And the kids aren't in child seats. I will have to give you a fine.  
Make sure you pay by the due date.

Ram How can I pay these fines? I don't understand!

Police officer If you don't understand you can go and get free legal advice from Legal Aid. And...you can't drive until you get the proper licence and register the car.

Raja Where's your car?

Ram I can't drive until I get an Australian licence... and I have to go to court!

Raja Court. Oh no!

Ram And I have to pay so much money in fines!

Raja Well, bad luck! No car no job... Come and see me when your problems are fixed.



# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

Activity sheet 3 for students: **Car accident**

July 2011

## Activity A

Watch **Car accident** and answer the questions.

1. What happens to Maryam and Sanda on their way to lunch?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Is anyone hurt?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How much money does the insurance company want from Maryam?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Activity B

Watch the story again. Read the statements and circle True or False.

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Maryam wanted to stay after the accident.                | True / False |
| 2. Sanda asked the man for his details.                     | True / False |
| 3. Maryam and Sanda decide to phone the police station.     | True / False |
| 4. Maryam's car was not registered.                         | True / False |
| 5. Maryam was told to pay the insurance company in 14 days. | True / False |
| 6. Maryam has third party property insurance.               | True / False |

## Activity C

Match the type of insurance with its description. Choose from the types of insurance below.

compulsory third party  
insurance

third party property  
insurance

comprehensive  
insurance

1. \_\_\_\_\_ pays for damage to the other car and your car that resulted from a car accident.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ pays for people who get hurt in a car accident.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ only pays for the damage to the other car that resulted from a car accident.

**Activity D**

Circle the correct word to complete the sentence.

1. You must **stop / leave** if you are in a car accident.
  2. You must **exchange details / shake hands** after a car accident.
  3. Compulsory third party insurance pays for **personal injury / car damage**.
  4. Third party property insurance pays for damage to another **car / person**.
  5. Comprehensive insurance is **more expensive / cheaper** than third party property insurance.
- .....

**Activity E**

Discussion

Have you been in a car accident in Australia or elsewhere? What happened after the accident?

.....

**Activity F**

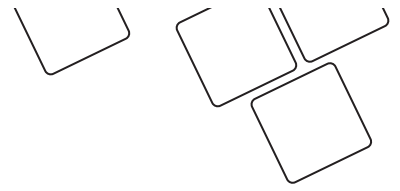
Watch **Car accident** again. Watch for the screen that tells you where to get help.

Where is the best place to get free legal help?

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# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

## Answer sheet 3: Car accident

July 2011

Requirements: A copy of the DVD.

### Pre-teaching

Vocabulary: accident, comprehensive, details, expensive, insurance, lawyer, registered, registration, separate, third party.

Warmer activity to introduce topic: Class survey: *Who has a car? If yes: What type of car? What type of insurance do you have?*

### Key Messages

1. Each driver involved in a crash must stop and give the other driver their name, address and car registration.
2. In some states, there may be a requirement to contact the police after an accident, even when no-one is injured. Phone the police as soon as possible to find out if you have to report an accident. **Do not** admit to being at fault.
3. When you pay your car registration, you pay for compulsory third party (CTP) insurance. This is used to compensate people who are injured in car accidents. It does not pay for any damage to cars or property.
4. Third party property insurance pays for damage to another person's car or property caused in an accident. Third party property insurance does not pay for any damage to your car. Third party property insurance is different from CTP, and you must buy it and pay for it separately from your car registration.
5. Comprehensive insurance is more expensive than third party property insurance, but it means the insurer will pay for the damage to the other person's car and to your car if you have an accident.
6. It is a good idea to at least have third party property insurance. If you don't have insurance, you will have to pay for any damage to the other person's car yourself. If you have insurance, then the insurance company will pay.
7. If you have a car accident and you do not have insurance, you should get free legal advice. A lawyer may negotiate with the other driver and their insurance company on your behalf.
8. If you get a letter from an insurance company demanding you pay, speak to a lawyer straight away to get some advice before you talk to the insurance company or pay anything. The lawyer will advise you whether you have to pay, and how much you should pay.
9. If you are injured in an accident you may be able to get money to help pay for medical and other costs, and for any wages you lost because you couldn't work. This is called compensation. There are time limits for applying for this money. Find out more by calling a lawyer.

### Answers

#### Activity A

1. car accident                      2. no                                      3. \$2,000

#### Activity B

1. false                      2. true                      3. true                      4. false                      5. true                      6. false

#### Activity C

1. comprehensive insurance                      2. compulsory third party insurance                      3. third party property insurance

#### Activity D

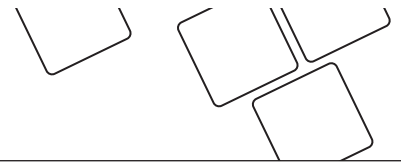
1. stop                      2. exchange details                      3. personal injury                      4. car  
5. more expensive

#### Activity E

Discussion

#### Activity F

Check last slide in the DVD for the best place to get free legal help.



## Script for Car accident story

Maryam Do you want to get some lunch before or after we shop?

Sanda I'm a bit hungry, let's get a ... *sound of brakes then...SMASH*

Maryam Oh my goodness! I hit that car! Let's get out of here... the guy's not hurt!

Sanda Maryam! What are you doing? You have to stop when you have an accident!

Driver You idiot! Look at my car! You'll have to pay! I hope you have insurance.

Sanda It's OK. No-one's hurt. Here are my friend's details. Can you give us your name and address as well?

Maryam Do I have to tell the police?

Sanda Hmm...I'm not sure. Let's phone the police and ask them.

Maryam Phew, lucky I got my car registered. The insurance will pay to fix the car.

Sanda No! The insurance you get with your registration is called compulsory third party insurance. It pays for people who get hurt. You need to have separate insurance for car repairs.

Maryam Oh no!

A few weeks later

Maryam Sanda? Hi, this is Maryam. Hey, remember that car accident? I just got a letter from that guy's insurance company.

Sanda What does it say?

Maryam I have to pay \$2,000 in 14 days! I can't pay that! What can I do?

Sanda You need to see a lawyer Maryam.

Maryam Can you help me with this?

Lawyer Well, I'll write to the insurance company – we'll find out *if* you should pay and if you should, how much.

Maryam Oh thank you.

Lawyer And...you really should get car insurance.

Maryam But it's so expensive!

Lawyer Well, you can get third party property insurance which pays for damage to the other car. That is quite cheap. But if you can pay a bit more, and you've got a good car, get comprehensive insurance.

Maryam What's that?

Lawyer That means the insurance pays for damage to the other car and to your car. But...make sure you look around to get a good price.

Maryam OK, thanks so much for your help.

Lawyer I'll be in touch when I hear from the insurance company.

# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

Activity sheet 4 for students: **Buying a car**

July 2011

## Activity A

Watch **Buying a car** and answer the questions.

1. Why is Maryam buying a car?

---

2. How much is the interest on the car loan?

---

3. What goes wrong with the car?

---

4. What happens to Maryam's car when she doesn't repay the loan?

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## Activity B

Watch the story again. Match each expression on the left with its meaning.

1. I like your face

a. Believe me!

2. Let's see what we can do

b. Cheap price

3. Trust me!

c. Let's see if I can give you a better price

4. Great price

d. I like you

---

## Activity C

Match each word with its meaning. Use a word from below.

interest

contract

warranty

repossession

1. A guarantee that what you buy will work \_\_\_\_\_ .

2. An amount added to a loan every month \_\_\_\_\_ .

3. Legally binding agreement \_\_\_\_\_ .

4. To take back goods or property from a buyer who has failed to keep up payments \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Activity D**

Read the statements and circle True or False.

- 1. You should not sign a contract working out how much interest you will have to pay. True / False
  - 2. You should believe everything a salesperson tells you. True / False
  - 3. You should have a car checked by a mechanic before you buy it. True / False
  - 4. If you sign a loan contract, you must pay the loan. True / False
  - 5. If you pay the loan, your car can be repossessed and sold. True / False
- .....

**Activity E**

Discussion

What advice would you give a friend who wanted to take a loan to buy something?

.....

**Activity F**

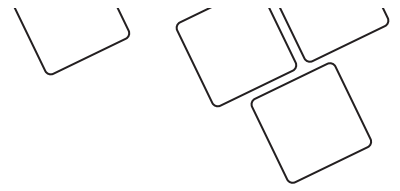
Watch **Buying a Car** again. Watch for the screen that tells you where to get help.

Where is the best place to get free legal help?

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# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

## Answer sheet 4: **Buying a car**

July 2011

Requirements: A copy of the DVD.

### Pre-teaching

Vocabulary: auction, bargain, bills, dotted line, expired, gears, loan, payment, sign, thief, trouble, yard.

Warmer activity to introduce topic: Class survey: *Who has signed a contract—for example to buy a car or washing machine, to rent housing, to have a mobile phone plan, to connect gas or electricity?*

### Key Messages

1. A contract is an agreement between you and another person or company. The law says both sides must do what they promised to do in the contract.
2. It is important to read and understand all contracts before you sign them. If you do not understand what a contract means you can get free legal advice before you sign.
3. Take your time to think about signing a contract, especially if it involves a lot of money. If someone is putting pressure on you to agree to a contract, be very careful. It may be 'too good to be true.'
4. It can be very difficult to change or cancel a contract after you have agreed to it.
5. There are many different kinds of contracts. A contract to buy a car is one contract. A contract to borrow money is a separate contract. Other common contracts include mobile phone contracts, contracts for gas and electricity, and contracts for pay TV.
6. Most contracts do not have to be in writing. For example, when you buy something like a toaster, you and the seller have made a contract with each other. The contract is that you will give the seller some money and they will give you a toaster. You can also enter a contract by agreeing to it over the phone or online.
7. When you sign a contract to get a loan, you pay extra for the benefit of having the money immediately. You pay for the loan by paying fees and interest. Always ask about how much interest you have to pay and how often.
8. Think carefully about whether you can afford to pay, after you have paid for food and rent. There may be other costs too, for example, if you buy a car you will have to pay for registration, insurance, maintenance, repairs and petrol.
9. Entering into a contract means you agree to all the terms and conditions of the contract. This is so even if you did not read or understand the terms of the contract.
10. You can 'shop around' to compare prices and contract terms to see which offer is best for you.

### Answers

#### Activity A

- |                            |        |                         |                              |
|----------------------------|--------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. she crashed her old car | 2. 18% | 3. the gears don't work | 4. it will be taken and sold |
|----------------------------|--------|-------------------------|------------------------------|

#### Activity B

- |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. d | 2. c | 3. a | 4. b |
|------|------|------|------|

#### Activity C

- |             |             |             |                 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. warranty | 2. interest | 3. contract | 4. repossession |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|

#### Activity D

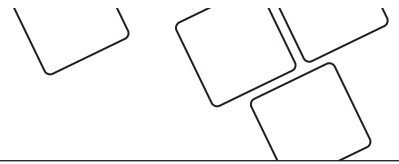
- |         |          |         |         |          |
|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| 1. true | 2. false | 3. true | 4. true | 5. false |
|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|

#### Activity E

Discussion

#### Activity F

Check last slide in the DVD for the best place to get free legal help.



## Script for Buying a car story

Maryam Hey Tom, I'm getting a car this weekend! I crashed my old car a few weeks ago.

Tom Oh no! Are you OK?

Maryam Yes, I'm fine. But the car isn't.

Tom Hope you find something!

Maryam I really like that car!

Dealer Well this car's a bargain. Best car I've had in the yard for months. It's worth \$10,000.

Maryam But it costs too much!

Dealer Hey, I like your face - you can have it for eight and a half.

Maryam I don't have that much money.

Dealer No problem. Come into the office and let's see what we can do.

Maryam Umm, I think I need some more time...

Dealer Trust me, that car will be gone in an hour...you're getting it for a great price.

Maryam *I really like that car. Nothing can go wrong. I'll sign it.*

Dealer Just sign here on the dotted line - it's easy.

Friend Very nice...How much was it?

Maryam Only \$8,500.

Friend Yes, but look here. The interest is 18%.

Maryam What does that mean?

Friend You'll have to pay \$4,400 in interest!

Maryam Really?

Friend That means you will pay \$12,900, NOT \$8,500. That's \$215 every month for 5 years!

Maryam *I have to pay rent and food! Ohhh, I don't know if I can pay it! Hmmm...*

Friend So what will you do?

Maryam Oh it'll be OK. At least I have a good car. Get in, I'll take you for a drive!

Maryam The gears don't work.

Dealer Sorry. The warranty has expired so I don't have to fix it.

Maryam *I'm not going to keep paying for a broken car. I got this letter from the bank.*

Friend What does it say?

Maryam Well, I missed two payments on the car, and now I have to pay the whole amount I owe within 28 days.

Friend They're thieves!

Maryam I can't pay it, I don't have enough money!

Friend Ooh that car is trouble.

Maryam I'll read them later.

Company rep You have to pay the loan.

Maryam But the car is broken. I can't drive it!

Company rep You have a loan contract with us - you have to keep paying.

Maryam Hey, that's my car, what are you doing?

Truck Driver We have to take the car - you haven't paid the loan.

Maryam *Repossession notice: Pay total amount of \$11,300 plus fees within 21 days or car will be sold at auction.*

Maryam They take my car and I still have to pay the loan! This is crazy!! Maybe I should call a lawyer to find out what I can do.

Lawyer Did you read the contract?

Maryam Umm, no.

Lawyer Well, because you signed the contract it's not easy to get out of it.

Maryam I see that now! I haven't got a car, I haven't got any money and they still want me to pay. What can I do?

Lawyer You should see a financial counsellor. They can talk to you about your options.

Maryam These are all the papers.

Financial Counsellor Thanks. Now I can help you work out what to do next...



# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

Activity sheet 5 for students: **Police**

July 2011

## Activity A

Watch **Police** and answer the questions.

1. Where are Abdi and Gahmal?

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2. What is the first question the police officer asks Abdi?

---

3. How does Abdi behave with the police officers?

---

4. What is Abdi charged with?

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## Activity B

Watch the story again. Match the word on the left with its meaning.

- |                       |                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Offence            | a. Help or assist                |
| 2. Provide false name | b. Wrong doing or crime          |
| 3. Cooperate          | c. Do or take part in            |
| 4. Commit             | d. Lie to police about your name |

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## Activity C

Match the expression on the left with its meaning.

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Bummer      | a. It's not serious |
| 2. It's a joke | b. Identification   |
| 3. ID          | c. Bad luck         |

**Activity D**

Choose the correct answer to complete the sentence.

- 1. The police officer wants to know
    - a. why Abdi and Gahmal aren't at work.
    - b. if Abdi and Gahmal were in the mall yesterday.
    - c. if Abdi and Gahmal look like brothers.
  
  - 2. The police officer asked Abdi for his
    - a. name and address.
    - b. driver licence.
    - c. phone number.
  
  - 3. Abdi was charged with
    - a. not being polite to a police officer.
    - b. providing the wrong phone number to a police officer.
    - c. providing a false name and address to a police officer.
  
  - 4. Abdi told Gahmal that the police had
    - a. no hair.
    - b. no sense of humour.
    - c. no reason to question him .
- .....

**Activity E**

What's the important information. Read the statements and circle True or False.

- 1. If the police think you have done something wrong, they can ask you for your name and address. True / False
  
  - 2. It's an offence to provide the police with a false name and address. True / False
  
  - 3. You must answer all the police questions. True / False
  
  - 4. You should keep calm when you talk to the police. True / False
  
  - 5. The police don't have to give you their details if you ask. True / False
  
  - 6. You can complain if the police treat you badly. True / False
- .....

**Activity F**

Discussion

Do the police in Australia have the same or different powers to police in other countries?

.....

**Activity G**

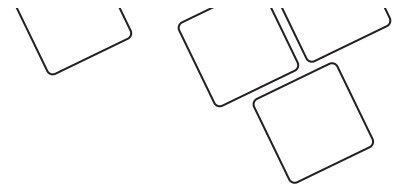
Watch **Police** again. Watch for the screen that tells you where to get help.

Where is the best place to get free legal help?

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# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

Answer sheet 5: **Police**

July 2011

Requirements: A copy of the DVD.

## Pre-teaching

**Vocabulary:** arrest, bummer, calm, charge, commit, complain, cooperate, cops, easy way, false, furious, hard way, identification (ID), joke, mate, offence, prison, provide, resisting arrest, right to silence, sense of humour, warning.

**Warmer activity to introduce topic:** Question students to initiate discussion: *Who has had contact with the police in Australia?*

## Key Messages

1. It is important to be polite and stay calm when dealing with the police.
2. The police must follow the law. It is the job of police to protect property, keep the peace and make sure people are safe. The law gives police powers – such as the power to arrest – so that they can do this job. But their powers are also limited by law.
3. The police are not the military.
4. Police can ask for your name and address if they think you have done something wrong. They can also ask for your name and address and for your licence if you are driving a motor vehicle. It is against the law to not give your name and address in these circumstances. If you give a false name, fight, or try to run away, you can be charged with an offence.
5. If you ask, the police officer must give you their name, rank and police station where they work. You can ask for this in writing. This can help later if you want to make a complaint against the police. If the police refuse to give you their name and address, then you should ask again, stay calm, and consider making a complaint later.
6. If you are charged with an offence and you get a summons to go to court, you should get free legal advice before you go to court.
7. If you get a summons, you must go to court. You may be able to see a duty lawyer from legal aid at the court.

## Answers

### Activity A

- |                       |                             |   |   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| 1. in a shopping mall | 2. what are you doing here? | 3. any of the following: rude, annoyed, defiant | 4. providing a false name and address to a police officer |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|

### Activity B

- |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. b | 2. d | 3. a | 4. c |
|------|------|------|------|

### Activity C

- |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|
| 1. c | 2. a | 3. b |
|------|------|------|

### Activity D

- |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. b | 2. a | 3. c | 4. b |
|------|------|------|------|

### Activity E

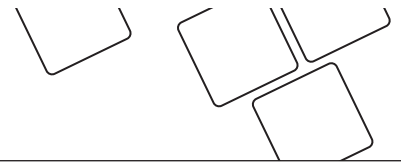
- |         |         |          |         |          |         |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1. true | 2. true | 3. false | 4. true | 5. false | 6. true |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|

### Activity F

Discussion

### Activity G

Check last slide in the DVD for the best place to get free legal help.



## Script for Police story

- Police officer      What are you doing here boys?
- Abdi                    Nothing.
- Police officer      Were you here yesterday?
- Abdi                    No. Why do you want to know?
- Police officer      Someone who looks like you has committed a crime in this area.
- Abdi                    I was at work all day yesterday.
- Police officer      What is your name and address?
- Abdi                    Why do you want it?
- Police officer      You have to give me your name and address.
- Abdi                    Alright, my name is Snoop Dogg.
- Police officer      Do you have any ID on you?
- Abdi                    NO!
- Police officer      Listen mate, I don't believe your name is Snoop Dogg. I'm warning you - it's an offence to provide a false name and address.
- Abdi                    You tell me your name and address, cop!
- Gahmal                Just tell him your name.
- Police officer      Give me your real name or I will arrest you.
- Abdi                    I'm not going anywhere.
- Police officer      If you refuse to cooperate I will charge you with giving a false name.
- Abdi                    My name is Abdi Ghergis. My address is.... (Trailing off)
- A few weeks later*
- Abdi                    Hey Gahmal how you doing? I just got a letter from the cops.
- Gahmal                What does it say?
- Abdi                    It says, 'You are charged with providing a false name and address to a police officer.' They got no sense of humour.
- Gahmal                fff! So... What's gonna happen?
- Abdi                    I gotta go to the court in three weeks.
- Gahmal                Bummer! You better go to legal aid man.
- Lawyer                So tell me what happened.
- Abdi                    Well, we were in the shops minding our own business and this cop comes up and he says...
- Lawyer                Hmm. The police can ask for your name and address if they think you have done something wrong. Sometimes it's easier to just tell them. It's against the law to give them a false name and address.
- Abdi                    It was a joke!
- Lawyer                It's still against the law. After you've given your name and address you have a right to silence.
- Abdi                    What's that mean?
- Lawyer                Well, most of the time you don't have to answer any other police questions. Like, where you're going or what you're doing.
- Abdi                    But the police are always picking on us.
- Lawyer                Abdi, you **MUST** stay calm when you're talking to the police even if you feel angry. You can complain later if they treat you badly and they have to give you their details too, if you ask.
- Abdi                    Well, I asked him and he didn't give it to me.
- Lawyer                Well, he should have and I can help you complain if you want. Now these papers mean you must go to court in two weeks. If you don't go you can be arrested and put in prison.
- Abdi                    OK.
- Gahmal                *(leaves text message bip bip bip)* Good luck, Abdi! Call me when it's over.

# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

Activity sheet 6 for students: **Renting**

July 2011

## Activity A

Watch **Renting** and answer the questions.

1. What do Nan and Saw Paw lease?

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2. How much do they pay for the bond?

---

3. Why does Saw Paw complain to the landlord?

---

4. What do they want back at the end of their lease?

---

---

## Activity B

Watch the story again. Match the right ending to each sentence.

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. A lease            | a. is a document that states the condition of the property and lists all the damage that already exists in the property. |
| 2. A bond             | b. is needed when a landlord wants to make a tenant leave a property.  |
| 3. A condition report | c. is a contract that you sign when you rent a property.   |
| 4. A court order      | d. force someone to leave.   |
| 5. Kick out means     | e. should be returned to you when you move unless you owe rent or have damaged the property.                             |

---

## Activity C

Place the sentences in the correct order and write them out on the lines over the page.

- They fill in a condition report.
- They sign a lease, pay rent in advance and pay four weeks rent for the bond.
- Nan and Saw Paw find a unit to rent.
- Nan and Saw Paw get their bond money back.
- The oven doesn't work. They tell the agent but it is not fixed.
- Nan and Saw Paw go to a lawyer for help.
- Nan and Saw Paw don't get their bond back because the landlord claims they damaged the unit.
- The lease ends and Nan and Saw Paw move out of the unit.

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**Activity D**

What's the important information? Read the statements and circle True or False.

1. When you rent a property you pay rent in advance. True / False
2. You get your bond back if the property is damaged at the end of your lease. True / False
3. Before you move in you fill in a condition report that lists all the damage that already exists in the property. True / False
4. You should write down problems in a letter to the landlord and keep a copy. True / False
5. The landlord can tell you to leave your rented property without a court order. True / False

**Activity E**

Complete these sentences. Use a word or words from below.

bond                      court order                      lease                      condition report

1. When you rent a property you must **sign** a \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. When you rent a property you must **pay** a \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. When you rent a property you **fill** in a \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. If the landlord wants you to vacate the property they need a \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Activity F**

Discussion

What is the process in other countries to rent a property? What rights do tenants have?

**Activity G**

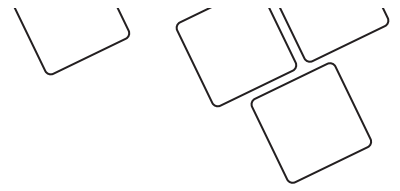
Watch **Renting** again. Watch for the screen that tells you where to get help.

Where is the best place to get free legal help?

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# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

## Answer sheet 6: Renting

July 2011

Requirements: A copy of the DVD; Realia: lease document, condition report document.

### Pre-teaching

Vocabulary: advance, bond, complain, condition report, copy, court order, damage, forms, kick out, lease, property, reason, rent, repairs, tenant.

Warmer activity to introduce topic: Class survey: *Who rents a property? What type of property? Did you pay a bond? Do you talk directly to your landlord or to a real estate agent? Have you ever needed to make a repair? What happened?*

### Key Messages

1. In the condition report, you should write down the condition of every room. If you have looked after the property and have not damaged anything, then you are entitled to a full refund of your bond. The landlord cannot claim some of your bond for normal 'wear and tear'.
2. Your landlord has responsibilities when you rent a property, including the responsibility to fix things that are broken. If the property needs repairs (e.g. plumbing, roof leaking, broken heater, broken oven, broken locks, door doesn't close properly, etc), you should notify the landlord in writing and ask the landlord to fix it. If you can't do this yourself, contact a lawyer to get help.
3. If the landlord asks you to pay for any repairs, then keep the receipt so you can get reimbursed.
4. Tenants also have responsibilities - to pay the rent on time, keep the property clean and tidy, not intentionally damage the property, and not let other people live in the house without the landlord's permission.
5. The landlord cannot kick you out of your house, even if you have done something wrong (like missing some rent payments). The landlord has to fill out paperwork and get a court order to evict you.
6. You should always get help if you receive any letter or form from the landlord or estate agent that you don't understand. A tenants' organisation, community legal centre or legal aid may be able to help you, and they can organise an interpreter for you.

### Answers

#### Activity A

1. a unit                                      2. four weeks rent                                      3. the oven was broken                                      4. bond

#### Activity B

1. c      2. e      3. a      4. b      5. d

#### Activity C

- c      b      a      e      h      g      f      d

#### Activity D

1. true                                      2. false                                      3. true                                      4. true                                      5. false

#### Activity E

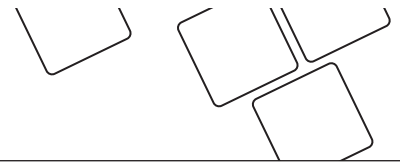
1. lease                                      2. bond                                      3. condition report                                      4. court order

#### Activity F

Discussion

#### Activity G

Tenants' organisations such as tenants' unions or tenants' advice services are the best place to get free renting advice. Legal aid may be able to refer you to the right place. Check last slide in the DVD for the best place to get free legal help.



## Script for Renting story

- Nan This unit is perfect for us!
- Saw Paw Yeah, it's good. Let's go back to the agent and fill in the forms.
- Agent OK, so sign this lease. You have to pay the rent in advance plus four weeks rent for the bond. If the property is not damaged at the end of the lease you will get the bond back. And you need to fill in this condition report. It lists all the damage that already exists. Check it is right so you will not have to pay for damage you did not do.
- Saw Paw OK, let's go to our new home.
- Nan Mmm... everything seems to be working OK.
- Saw Paw Ohh look, there's a cracked tile in the bathroom.
- Nan Ahha, and a cigarette burn in the carpet! Write that down.
- A few weeks later*
- Nan Saw Paw, the oven isn't working.
- Saw Paw Yeah, when I tried to cook the chicken on the weekend the oven kept turning off.
- Saw Paw Good morning. This is Saw Paw Kunoo from Unit 2 /25 William Rd. The oven in our unit isn't working. Can someone come to fix it please?
- A few weeks later*
- Saw Paw They still haven't come to fix it!
- Nan Call them again. We can't bake or roast anything.
- Saw Paw Ohhh, they might kick us out if we complain.
- Narrator At the end of the lease Saw and Nan move out of the unit.
- Saw Paw Here are the keys for our unit. Will you send us the bond?
- Receptionist We'll check the condition of the unit first then we'll contact you.
- Saw Paw Thanks.
- Nan We need that bond back. We need that money now.
- Nan I can't believe it! The landlord said we're not getting the bond back.
- Saw Paw How come?
- Nan They said we broke the oven and the carpet is dirty.
- Saw Paw WE broke the oven! I don't believe it.
- Lawyer Well, the landlord should have fixed your oven immediately. You could have written down the problem in a letter to the landlord, and kept a copy yourself to show that you told them.
- You could have asked for some free help to do this from a tenancy organisation or legal service.
- If your landlord won't make repairs you can get free legal help.
- NSW and Queensland alternative voiceover:**
- Well, the landlord should have fixed your oven immediately. You could have written down the problem in a letter to the landlord, and kept a copy yourself to show that you told them.
- You could have gone to see a Tenant's Advocacy organisation if you needed help doing this. If your landlord won't make repairs you can get free legal help.
- Saw Paw I didn't want to complain. He might have kicked us out.
- Lawyer You have rights - they can't kick you out just because you have asked for repairs. They need a court order. There are laws to protect tenants.
- Saw Paw So is there anything we can do now?
- Lawyer I'll help you apply to get your bond back.
- Saw Paw Oh thank you, we really need the money.
- Nan We got our bond back.
- Saw Paw Lucky we got some help.



# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

Activity sheet 7 for students: **Centrelink**

July 2011

## Activity A

Watch **Centrelink** and answer the questions.

1. What does Win-Aung tell Centrelink?

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2. How many hours does Win-Aung tell Centrelink he would be working?

---

3. How many hours does Win-Aung work?

---

4. How much does Centrelink say he owes them?

---

5. Who does Centrelink check with to find out how much Win-Aung earned?

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## Activity B

Watch the story again. Match the word or phrase on the left with its meaning.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. Make money   | a. Paid more money than you deserve  |
| 2. On behalf of | b. A printed statement of the amount you are paid for the work you have done |
| 3. Overpaid     | c. Work for pay  |
| 4. Payslip      | d. An amount of money that is paid   |
| 5. Payment      | e. As somebody's representative  |

---

## Activity C

Place the sentences in the correct order and write them out on the lines over the page.

- Win-Aung works nine hours.
- Win-Aung speaks to a Centrelink employee who tells him it's his responsibility to give them the correct information.
- Win-Aung's boss asks him to work an extra four hours.
- Win-Aung rings Centrelink to inform them he got married.
- The lawyer calls Centrelink on behalf of Win-Aung.
- Centrelink tells Win-Aung his Newstart payments may change.
- Win-Aung speaks to a lawyer.
- Win-Aung gets a letter from Centrelink saying he owes \$2000.

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**Activity D**

What's the important information? Complete these sentences. Use a word from below.

declare                      review                      information                      form                      Centrelink

1. Always tell \_\_\_\_\_ if you change your living arrangements.
2. You should complete a Centrelink \_\_\_\_\_ after you get paid.
3. It's your responsibility to give Centrelink correct \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. You must \_\_\_\_\_ what you earn on your Centrelink form.
5. If Centrelink makes a mistake you can ask for a \_\_\_\_\_ of the decision.

**Activity E**

Discussion

Have you had contact with Centrelink? What did you learn about its services? What responsibilities does a Centrelink client have?

**Activity F**

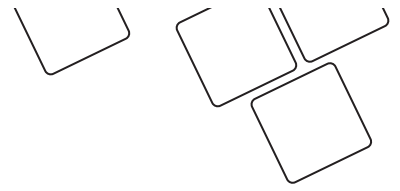
Watch **Centrelink** again. Watch for the screen that tells you where to get help.

Where is the best place to get free legal help?

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# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

Answer sheet 7: **Centrelink**

July 2011

Requirements: A copy of the DVD.

## Pre-teaching

Vocabulary: change, correct, earned, exactly, extra, married, mistake, owe, probably, responsibility, Tax Office, tired.

Warmer activity to introduce topic: Question students to initiate discussion: *Who has filled in a Centrelink form? Was it easy (or complicated) to fill in? Did you have help?*

## Key Messages

1. If you get a Centrelink payment or service, you need to tell Centrelink immediately if your circumstances change in case it affects your payment. Change in circumstances includes changes to your income or assets, moving in with your partner, if your rent changes, if your child stops living with you, if you stop studying or go from full-time to part-time, if you leave Australia.
2. If you don't understand what is happening with a payment or why you are being asked to give information, then you should ask.
3. Centrelink checks information with the Australian Tax Office, Australia's immigration authorities, government departments and other organisations, and checks your income with employers. It also acts on tip-offs from the public. If you are overpaid benefits, you will probably have to repay the money.
4. If you have deliberately given Centrelink incorrect information, then you may be charged with a criminal offence and have to go to court. Centrelink fraud is a serious offence. You could be sent to prison and have to pay the money back.
5. It is important to use interpreters to make sure you understand your rights and obligations when dealing with Centrelink. If you don't understand anything you get from Centrelink, you should call them or visit an office. You can ask for a free interpreter.
6. If you have a problem with Centrelink and they ask you to go to an interview, you can get free legal advice before you go.
7. If you have a problem with Centrelink or you are not happy with a decision, tell them and get a receipt or record of the fact that you talked to them.
8. If you disagree with a decision that Centrelink makes, you have the right to have the decision reviewed (looked at again). Legal aid or your local Welfare Rights Centre may be able to help with asking for a review or lodging an appeal.

## Answers

### Activity A

1. he got married                      2. 4 hours                              3. 9 hours                              4. \$2,000
5. Tax Office

### Activity B

1. c      2. e      3. a      4. b      5. d

### Activity C

- d      f      c      a      h      b      g      e

### Activity D

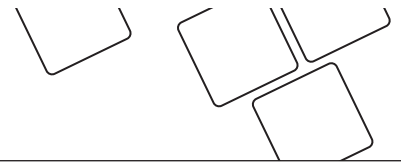
1. Centrelink                              2. form                                      3. information                              4. declare
5. review

### Activity E

Discussion

### Activity F

Check last slide in the DVD for the best place to get free legal help.



## Script for Centrelink story

- Win-Aung Centrelink? Hi this is Win-Aung Kunoo. I just got married and I'm now living with my wife.
- Centrelink worker Thanks for telling us. Your Newstart payments may change. Please write down this receipt number and keep it in a safe place.
- Win-Aung Hey, we're still getting the same money.
- Sanda Must be OK because you called them.
- Boss Hey mate, can you work extra hours tomorrow?
- Win-Aung Sure. I have to put in my Centrelink form first - can you tell me how many hours I will work? I have to tell them how much money I get each fortnight.
- Boss Not sure - probably around four hours.
- Win-Aung OK, see you tomorrow.
- Sanda That was a long day!
- Win-Aung Yeah, they needed me for nine hours - not four! I'm tired.
- Win-Aung I really like this job, and we get cheap fruit and veggies.
- Win-Aung They say I owe them \$2,000.
- Sanda That's not right.
- Win-Aung I don't understand this letter.
- Centrelink worker You owe Centrelink money. Centrelink checked with the Tax Office and you earned more money than you declared on your forms. Also, you didn't tell us you were married so you have been overpaid on Newstart.
- Win-Aung But I did tell Centrelink I was married. It's your mistake.
- Win-Aung ... and each week my hours change, so I never know how much I'll be paid.
- Centrelink worker It's your responsibility to give us the correct information Mr Kunoo.
- Sanda Maybe you should call legal aid? I know they help with legal problems.
- Win-Aung Can you help me with a Centrelink problem?
- Legal Aid worker I'll give you the number of a free legal service that helps with Centrelink problems.
- Win-Aung Thanks.
- Lawyer You have been overpaid because you did not tell Centrelink about all your income from work.
- Win-Aung But I never know how much I will be paid!
- Lawyer We can ask Centrelink to change your pay date so that you put your forms in after you get paid.
- Win-Aung And they said I didn't tell them I was married. I did tell them.
- Lawyer Do you have a receipt number for the phone call?
- Win-Aung Yes, here it is. Lucky I kept it.
- Lawyer What did you tell them? Did you know you were being overpaid?
- Win-Aung I told them I got married and moved in with my wife. I thought they must be paying me the right amount.
- Lawyer I will talk to Centrelink about whether they can cancel part of the debt.
- Win-Aung Thanks for your help.
- Lawyer No worries. It's my job to help people with Centrelink problems.
- Lawyer I've got good news. Centrelink has agreed to reduce the debt to \$600. Can you afford to pay \$20 a week?
- Win-Aung That's fantastic! Thank you.

# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

Activity sheet 8 for students: **Child protection**

July 2011

## Activity A

Watch **Child protection** and answer the questions.

1. Why does Meena leave the children at home alone?

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2. Where are the children when she comes home from work?

---

3. What does Meena want to do to the children?

---

4. Who can help look after the children?

---

5. Does Meena have any family in Australia?

---

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## Activity B

Watch the story again. Choose the correct answer to complete the sentence.

1. Meena went

- a. to work.
- b. shopping.
- c. to sleep.

2. Susan saw the children

- a. driving a car.
- b. playing in the street.
- c. crying in the street.

3. Meena's children

- a. are too young to go to school.
- b. are too young to stay at home alone.
- c. are too young to play in the street.

4. Meena should

- a. call some friends to help her.
- b. leave the children alone at home.
- c. beat the children so they will obey her.

**Activity C**

What's the important information? Match the right ending to each sentence and write them out on the lines below.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. If you beat a child...                              | ...children from danger.                                    |
| 2. You can get more information on child protection... | ...you will be reported to the police and child protection. |
| 3. Child protection's job is to protect...             | ...if they are too young.                                   |
| 4. Children should not stay at home alone...           | ...from legal aid.  |

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.....  
**Activity D**

Discussion

Who is responsible for children where you lived before/came from? Who looks after children if the parents can't?

.....  
**Activity E**

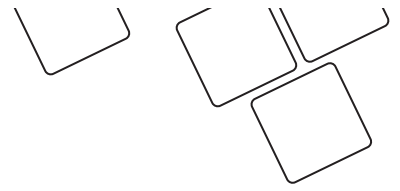
Watch **Child protection** again. Watch for the screen that tells you where to get help.

Where is the best place to get free legal help?

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**Requirements:** A copy of the DVD. For the pre-teaching activity, pieces of paper cut into the shape of a child (one for each group of three or four).

For the discussion activity, a board or large sheet of paper on which you have drawn concentric circles to illustrate the layers of responsibility, from family, to extended family, to community, to the state. This activity could provide an opportunity to discuss how in Australia the state has a legal role in ensuring children are cared for.

## Pre-teaching

**Vocabulary:** alone, beat, child protection, government, information, legal aid, obey, police, report, serious, danger.

**Warmer activity to introduce topic:** Discussion: *What do children need to have a good life?*

Divide class into small groups, and give each group a piece of paper cut into the shape of a child. Ask students to write words or draw pictures to illustrate childrens' needs. Groups share their ideas with the class and teacher.

## Key Messages

1. The law says you can't beat your children.
2. Parents do have the right to teach their children how to behave and there are ways of doing that without hitting them. These include being calm, listening and talking to children, setting firm rules with consequences, taking away favourite things, and rewarding good behaviour.
3. You should not leave young children alone at home. This can be neglect. Neglect means not looking after children properly.
4. The child protection is a part of government required by law to investigate reports of child abuse or neglect and to see that children are safe and cared for.
5. Children can be removed from the home if they are at risk of immediate or serious harm.

## Answers

### Activity A

1. she had to go to work
2. at Susan's house
3. beat them
4. Susan, child care, friends, community
5. no

### Activity B

1. a
2. b
3. b
4. a

### Activity C

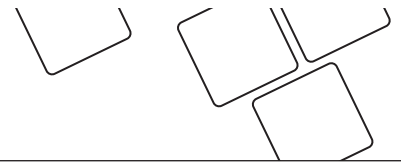
1. If you beat a child you will be reported to the police and child protection.
2. You can get more information on child protection from legal aid.
3. Child protection's job is to protect children from danger.
4. Children should not stay at home alone if they are too young.

### Activity D

Discussion

### Activity E

Check last slide in the DVD for the best place to get free legal help.



## Script for Child protection story

**Meena** I'm going to work now.

**Children** But mum it's the school holidays! We want to go to the movies.

**Meena** I know but I have to go to work.

**Meena** I'll be home at 4 o'clock. There's your lunch in the fridge. Be good, and DON'T go out or open the door to anyone. I'll call you from work.

**Children** Bye mummy.

**Meena** Meena! Mareem! What's happened?

**Susan** Hi Meena, don't worry the children are at my place. I saw them playing on the street.

**Meena** Oh no!

**Susan** It's ok. I took them to my place. They're watching TV.

**Meena** Oh sorry. I told them to stay inside – I will have to beat them to teach them to listen.

**Susan** I don't think that's a good idea.

**Susan** They're too young to understand Meena. If you hurt them, someone will report you to the police and child protection.

**Meena** But they're my children, it's not the government's business—or anyone else's!

**Susan** Child protection's job is to protect children. They will come if they think children are in serious danger.

**Meena** OK, OK, I won't beat them, but what can I do? I have to work. There's no one to stay with them. They must obey me and stay at home.

**Susan** Well that's another problem: the children are too young to stay alone. Child protection will look at that too.

**Meena** What can I do? I have to work.

**Susan** Well, I can look after them sometimes. Have you thought about child care? Can anyone else help you?

**Meena** Thanks Susan, it's so hard here in Australia. You know I've got no family here.

**Susan** Can you call some of your friends? Look, come in for a cup of tea and we can talk about it.



# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

Activity sheet 9 for students: **Family law**

July 2011

## Activity A

Watch **Family law** and answer the questions.

1. Why is Maria always complaining?

---

2. Why is Yohani always complaining?

---

3. What does Yohani's lawyer suggest so Maria and Yohani can reach an agreement?

---

4. Does the mediator help Maria and Yohani reach an arrangement about the children?

---

---

## Activity B

Watch the story again. Match the word on the left with its meaning.

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1. Separated | a. An ending of a marriage by an official decision in a court of law |
| 2. Divorced  | b. Having a wife or husband  |
| 3. Married   | c. No longer living together as husband and wife                     |

---

## Activity C

Circle the correct word to complete the sentence.

1. Maria is afraid she'll **lose / keep** the children.
2. Maria and Yohani **agree / disagree** to talk with a mediator.
3. They will go to court if they **can / can't** agree in mediation.
4. The lawyers check to see if they are **happy / unhappy** with the decision.
5. The children will stay with **Yohani / Maria** every Wednesday night and second weekend.

---

## Activity D

Read the statements and circle True or False.

1. If you want a divorce you must be separated for at least six months. **True / False**
2. A woman can get a divorce even if the husband doesn't want one. **True / False**
3. The law says children have a right to see both parents, as long as they are safe. **True / False**
4. The law is the same for both men and women. **True / False**
5. Mediation is when you sit and relax and think about life. **True / False**

**Activity E**

Complete each sentence with a word from below.

children                      mediation                      writing                      interpreter                      parents

1. The law says children have the right to see both \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Both parents should try to work together to make decisions about their \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. You sit and talk to try to agree on things at \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. If you cannot understand the mediator you can get an \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. The agreement made at mediation is put in \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Activity F**

Discussion

Is divorce law the same in every country? Is what happens to children after separation or divorce the same in every country?

**Activity G**

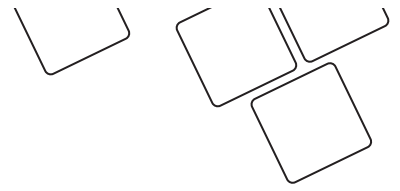
Watch **Family law** again. Watch for the screen that tells you where to get help.

Where is the best place to get free legal help?

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# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

Answer sheet 9: **Family law**

July 2011

Requirements: A copy of the DVD.

## Pre-teaching

**Vocabulary:** agreement, arrangement, check, complain, debts, decision, enough, mediation, privately, property, relationship, right.

**Warmer activity to introduce topic:** Discussion: *Is divorce common in countries that you have lived in/countries that you know about?*

## Key Messages

1. If you are having relationship problems, there are free services that can help you. Many people get help from their family, professional relationship advisors or community.
2. The law does not decide whether you should or should not separate—this is your decision.
3. If you can't fix your relationship problems and you decide to separate from your partner or spouse, then you should get legal advice.
4. It is usually best if a couple can agree on what to do when separating—for example, about how to divide their assets, their debts, and how much time their children will spend with each parent. A mediator can help spouses negotiate to work out these issues. Each person should get advice from a lawyer as well. Sometimes mediation may not be appropriate, for example, if there is a power imbalance that cannot be addressed. If you can agree on what to do, then you can get help to create a written agreement.
5. You can agree on assets, debts and children before getting divorced.
6. If you can't reach agreement, then you will have to go to the family law courts. In the family law courts a judge or a federal magistrate will make decisions about what happens to your children.
7. You can apply for a divorce after one year of separation. You can apply even if only one person wants to get divorced.
8. In Australia the law does not consider whether anyone caused the relationship to break down. It does not ask if anyone was right or wrong. The law helps people who are separating make arrangements for the future.
9. In deciding which parent the child should live with, the law asks, 'What is in the best interests of the child?' It is almost always in the childrens' best interests for them to have a relationship with both parents, as long as they are safe.
10. Separation or divorce may affect your immigration status. You should get legal advice about this.

## Answers

### Activity A

- |   |   |                    |        |
|---|---|--------------------|--------|
| 1. Yohani doesn't give her enough money | 2. Maria doesn't cook the food he likes | 3. go to mediation | 4. yes |
|---|---|--------------------|--------|

### Activity B

- |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|
| 1. c | 2. a | 3. b |
|------|------|------|

### Activity C

- |         |          |          |          |           |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. lose | 2. agree | 3. can't | 4. happy | 5. Yohani |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|

### Activity D

- |          |         |         |         |          |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| 1. false | 2. true | 3. true | 4. true | 5. false |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|

### Activity E

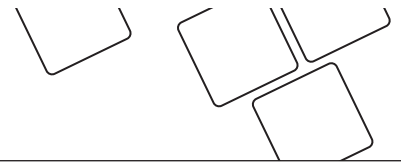
- |            |             |              |                |            |
|------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|------------|
| 1. parents | 2. children | 3. mediation | 4. interpreter | 5. writing |
|------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|------------|

### Activity F

Discussion

### Activity G

Check last slide in the DVD for the best place to get free legal help.



## Script for Family law story

Yohani	She's always complaining I don't give her enough money.
Maria	He's always complaining I don't cook the food he likes.
1st voice	The children need a loving family.
2nd voice	You should listen to your husband.
3rd voice	You should listen to your wife and help her.
Maria	Sora, it was OK for a while, but now we are always fighting. I don't want to live with him any more. But I'm afraid I'll lose my children. And I won't have enough money.
Sora	I think the law's different here in Australia. You need to talk to a lawyer.
Maria	What happens if I want a divorce?
Lawyer	You must be separated for at least 12 months, and you can get a divorce even if your husband doesn't want one.
Maria	And what will happen to my children?
Lawyer	The law says children have the right to see both parents, as long as they are safe. And both parents should work together to make important decisions about their children.
Maria	What about money? How will we live?
Lawyer	We can talk about that now.
Lawyer	The law is the same for men and women.
Yohani	So what will happen?
Lawyer	The law says children should have a relationship with both parents.
Yohani	OK but what about the car and the furniture? And we owe money to the bank.
Lawyer	I can explain how to sort out your property and your debts. I will write to Maria about the children and see if we can try mediation.
Yohani	What's mediation?
Lawyer	Mediation is when we sit and talk and try to agree on things - for example when you spend time with the children and how much time.
Yohani	Can I get an interpreter?
Lawyer	Of course.
Yohani	What if we can't agree?
Lawyer	Well, then you have to go to court.
Mediator	So, Maria and Yohani, the children will stay with Yohani every Wednesday night and every second weekend. The rest of the time they will live with Maria. Is that OK with both of you?
Maria's lawyer	I just want to talk to Maria about this privately. Is this OK?
Mediator	Yes, of course.
Maria's lawyer	I just wanted to check that you are OK with these times? If you are not OK you do not have to agree and you can let the court decide.
Maria	I like the arrangement; it is a good arrangement for the children and for me.
Yohani	Yes, I am OK with the arrangement.
Mediator	What about you Maria?
Maria	Yes, that's fine.
Mediator	Would it help if we put this agreement into writing so we all know what would happen?
Yohani and Maria	Yes, thank you.

# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

Activity sheet 10 for students: **Family violence**

July 2011

## Activity A

Watch **Family violence** and answer the questions.

1. What are Ram and Nabeeh playing?

---

2. Why is Ram worried?

---

3. What advice does Nabeeh give?

---

4. Why is Radha scared?

---

5. Where does Lakshmi take Radha for help?

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## Activity B

Watch the story again. Choose the correct answer to complete the sentence.

1. Ram is worried about his sister because

- a. her husband hits her.
- b. her husband loves her.
- c. her husband is away.

2. Nabeeh told his cousin's wife to

- a. leave her husband.
- b. be a good wife.
- c. improve her cooking.

3. Nabeeh tells Ram to

- a. talk to his brother in law.
- b. talk to his sister.
- c. talk to his mother.

4. The police will get an order for the husband

- a. to stop hurting Radha.
- b. to go to court.
- c. to go to prison.

5. Radha wants her husband

- a. in prison.
- b. in court.
- c. at home.

**Activity C**

What's the important information? Read the statements and circle True or False.

- 1. A husband has a right to beat his wife if she disobeys him. True / False
  - 2. The husband can hit the children if they don't do as he says. True / False
  - 3. A wife can go to the police for protection if her husband hurts her or her children. True / False
  - 4. The wife can get an order to stop her husband hurting her or her children. True / False
  - 5. The police can get an order for the husband to leave the family home temporarily. True / False
- 

**Activity D**

What's the important information? Complete these sentences. Use a word from below.

order

safe

police

- 1. A domestic violence service can help you plan how to be \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - 2. You can get an \_\_\_\_\_ to tell a family member to stop hurting you and your children.
  - 3. You can go to the \_\_\_\_\_ for protection.
- 

**Activity E**

Discussion

Where can people go if they don't feel safe at home?

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**Activity F**

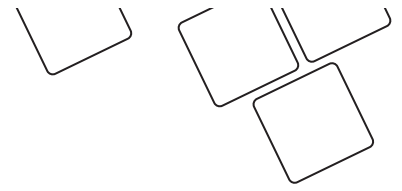
Watch **Family violence** again. Watch for the screen that tells you where to get help.

Where is the best place to get free legal help?

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# What's the law?

## Australian law for new arrivals

### Answer sheet 10: Family violence

July 2011

**Requirements:** A copy of the DVD. For the discussion activity, draw the outline of a person on a board or large sheet of paper. Create a mind-map as students brainstorm ideas about where they can go to be safe. This discussion could elicit thinking about safety planning and provide an opportunity to discuss how the state has a role in supporting people to escape family violence, e.g. by providing family violence refuges.

### Pre-teaching

**Vocabulary:** (court) order, brother in law, dangerous, especially, pregnant, protection, scared, threaten.

**Warmer activity to introduce topic:** Discussion: *The law in Australia says you cannot hurt people, including your family at home. Is this the same in other countries you know about?*

### Key Messages

1. In every state there are domestic violence services. Anyone who is experiencing family violence can phone the hotline in their state. There are services for men and women. Domestic violence crisis centres can help with information, safety planning, and accommodation to support women who are escaping violence.
2. In Australia it is the police's role to make sure you are safe and to help you if you are unsafe or afraid. If you are in danger and need urgent help, **phone 000** and ask for the police. You can also go to your local police station. Always tell the police if you do not understand or speak English. They will get an interpreter.
3. You will not automatically be deported from Australia if you report domestic violence, even if you only have a spouse visa and do not have permanent residence. If you are in this situation, you should talk to a lawyer or migration agent to get more advice.
4. An Australian court can make an order to stop threats, violence and emotional abuse in the future. It tells the offender to stay away from you and to stop behaving in certain ways towards you. The order can be worded to suit your situation. You can get help to apply for an order from a court.
5. It is a criminal offence to breach (break) an order and the person can be punished by the court. The police must help you if there has been a breach.

### Answers

#### Activity A

- |                          |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| 1. football/soccer/sport | 2. his sister is having problems with her husband | 3. to talk to his sister and make sure she has a safe place to go |
| 4. her husband hit her   | 5. the police                                     |   |

#### Activity B

- |                          |                   |                       |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. her husband hits her  | 2. be a good wife | 3. talk to his sister |
| 4. to stop hurting Radha | 5. at home        |                       |

#### Activity C

- |          |          |         |         |         |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. false | 2. false | 3. true | 4. true | 5. true |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|

#### Activity D

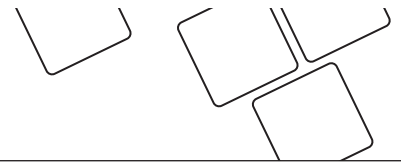
- |         |          |           |
|---------|----------|-----------|
| 1. safe | 2. order | 3. police |
|---------|----------|-----------|

#### Activity E

Discussion

#### Activity F

Check last slide in the DVD for the best place to get free legal help.



## Script for Family violence story

- Nabeeh You missed three goals Ram. What's wrong?
- Ram Oh, my sister Radha just called. She's having problems with her husband and wants to stay with us tonight. She's scared of him.
- Nabeeh How come she's scared?
- Ram Well, he gets angry. He says she spends too much of his money. He won't give her enough money to buy food, he doesn't like her cooking. He throws things around the house and sometimes he hits her. I don't know what to do or say.
- Nabeeh What did you say to her?
- Ram Well, I told her he's her husband and she has to stay with him, she has to do what he says and then he won't be so angry. But...now I'm worried about her.
- Nabeeh My cousin beat up his wife badly when she was pregnant.
- Ram What!?
- Nabeeh I feel really bad because when she asked for help I told her, 'Just be a good wife and it will be OK.'
- Ram So what should I do?
- Nabeeh Go and talk to your sister. Tell her what he is doing is wrong. He has no right to hit her. Make sure she has a safe place to go.

### *Alternative voiceover for Northern Territory only:*

**Nabeeh** You have to take this seriously. The law says you must tell police if you think someone has hurt or will hurt a family member.

**Ram** But if I tell the police now it will make everything worse.

**Nabeeh** Wait until it is safe for you and your sister.

*A few weeks later.*

- Radha** He hit me again. I'm scared.
- Lakshmi** It is too dangerous at your house. You and the children can come and stay with us. Why don't we call a domestic violence service and ask what we should do next?
- Radha** They told me I should get an order telling him to stop. They said I could get help from the police or legal aid. What do you think?
- Lakshmi** Let's go to the police now and talk to them.
- Radha** Good.
- Radha** Can you help me? My husband hit me.
- Police officer** We can help you get an order to tell your husband to stop hurting you. The order can also tell your husband to leave the family home if you want him to.

### *Western Australia only*

The police can make a temporary order to protect you in some cases. You can also apply for a court order to tell your husband to stop hurting you. Legal aid can help. Let's work out what will be best for you.

- Radha** How can we pay the rent if he leaves? I don't want him to go, I just want him to listen to the police and understand they will arrest him if he does not stop.
- Police officer** He can be ordered not to threaten you or hurt you, even if you live together.
- Radha** What should I do?
- Lakshmi** I think you should get an order that tells him to stop. You and the children have the right to be safe at home. The law says so.

### *Western Australia only*

I think you should go to legal aid and get an order that tells him to stop. You and the children have the right to be safe at home. The law says so.