

# WA TENANCY CONFERENCE 2021

*Reflecting and Reimagining*

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Circle Green   
Community Legal





Circle Green  
Community Legal



**WA TENANCY  
CONFERENCE 2021**  
18-19 NOVEMBER  
BENDAT COMMUNITY CENTRE, WEMBLEY



# Welcome

to the WA Tenancy Conference 2021.

Circle Green Community Legal, in partnership with Evolve Events and Training are delighted that you are joining us for this special event.

With the support of **Lotterywest**, we are proud to deliver the 2021 WA Tenancy Conference.

This year the theme for the conference is **Reflecting and Reimagining**.

The purpose of the conference is to offer a space for education, collaboration and information sharing for the housing and community sectors, along with the government and wider community. We hope that the conference leaves you feeling inspired, with new ideas, new networks and new hope.

The WA Tenancy Conference is a project of Circle Green Community Legal.



**Circle Green Community Legal** is an independent, not-for-profit community legal centre that provides specialist legal services in employment, residential tenancy law, family and domestic violence, and humanitarian services aimed at assisting people who are otherwise disadvantaged in their access to legal services.

Circle Green Community Legal was formed by a merger of three established and reputable specialist community legal centres in Western Australia; the Employment Law Centre of WA, The Humanitarian Group, and Tenancy WA on 1 October 2020.

Circle Green provides free or low cost, quality legal services to residential tenants across WA. We work with and on behalf of tenants, community members, community services, and governments to improve the capability of residential tenants to maintain successful tenancies and resolve their tenancy issues.

**Evolve** is a local business, specialising in professional development training and conference management. Evolve is partnering with Circle Green Community Legal to manage conference operations and coordinate the project.





## Top tips for a great event:

**Name tags** must be worn visibly at all times for security reasons. People without one may be asked to leave the premises.



There will be new name tags available for Day 2 and replacements are available for lost name tags so see the registration desk for assistance.

Everyone is welcome at all sessions, but some have been designed to suit the needs and interests of specific groups such as lawyers, tenants or advocates. Please **read the program in advance** and try to make your session selections early, so you can move promptly between rooms for the start of each session.

If you have specified a **dietary requirement** that is an allergy you can locate your food on a separate table in the food service area labelled with your name. There will be gluten free, vegetarian, dairy free and vegan options provided but not labelled with delegate names.

**Toilets** are located at the back of the foyer, near the auditorium. If there is a queue, additional toilets are available off the main reception and upstairs.

In the event of an **emergency**, please follow the directions from staff and gather directly across the road at Lake Monger.

The Bendat Community Centre  
is a **smoke-free venue**.

Complimentary wifi password **Holiday2016**



## Program Day 1: Thursday 18 November 2021

8.00am	<b>Registration</b>
9:00am	<p><b>[Auditorium]</b></p> <p><b>Welcome to Noongar Keiermulu</b></p> <p><i>Kaya noonakoort! (Welcome Everyone!)</i></p> <p>We acknowledge the <b>Noongar Whadjuk</b> people, on whose land we gather.</p> <p>It is significant that Australia's original owner-occupiers are now mostly tenants.</p> <p>It is fitting for a tenancy event that the Indigenous people called this area <b>Keiermulu</b> which translates to '<b>the home fires or camp</b>'. May we all find safe, secure and affordable <b>Keiermulu</b> to shelter and sustain our families.</p> <p>We are delighted to have <b>Aunty Marie Taylor</b> to Welcome us to her Country.</p>
9:15am	<p><b>Welcome by Circle Green Community Legal</b></p> <p><b>Sara Kane</b>, CEO, Circle Green Community Legal</p>
9:30am	<p><b>Formal Opening and Address</b></p> <p><i>Learnings from the COVID-19 amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA) and the objectives of the RTA reform</i></p> <p><b>(1 CPD point in CA 4 - Substantive Law)</b></p> <p><b>Commissioner Gary Newcombe</b>, Commissioner for Consumer Protection</p>
10:30am	<b>Morning Tea</b>
11:00am	<p><b>Keynote Speaker – plenary session</b></p> <p><i>Australian Housing Aspirations: Past, Present and Future</i></p> <p><b>Professor Wendy Stone</b>, Professor of Housing and Social Policy, Centre for Urban Transitions Swinbourne University of Technology</p> <p><i>Professor Stone will be joining us via Zoom live from Melbourne</i></p>
12:00pm	<b>Lunch</b>

Choose between three sessions

1:00pm	Choose between three sessions		
	Issues and Law Reform	Tenancy Tools	Professional Development
	<p><b>[Auditorium]</b></p> <p><b>Setting the public policy agenda: a comparative study of terminations and rent increases between WA and other international jurisdictions</b></p> <p><b>(1 CPD point in CA 4 - Substantive Law)</b></p> <p><b>Valentina Urzua Lazcano</b>, Solicitor, Circle Green Community Legal</p> <p><i>Valentina will be joining us live via Zoom.</i></p>	<p><b>[Tomasi Room]</b></p> <p><b>Renting in WA: A Tenants Toolkit</b></p> <p>Learn how to understand your agreement, resolve the most common tenancy problems, and where you can go to get help.</p> <p>This session is suitable for tenants and community workers with little knowledge of residential tenancy in WA.</p> <p><b>Zoe Barham</b>, Solicitor, Circle Green Community Legal</p>	<p><b>[Boardroom]</b></p> <p><b>Introduction to street law and barriers to exiting homelessness</b></p> <p><b>(1 CPD point in CA 2 - Professional Skills)</b></p> <p><b>Anna Hitomi</b>, Solicitor Street Law Centre</p>

Choose between three sessions

2:00pm	Choose between three sessions		
	Issues and Law Reform		Professional Development
	<p><b>[Auditorium]</b></p> <p><b>Tenancy and Temporary Visa Holders</b></p> <p><b>(1 CPD point in CA 4 - Substantive Law)</b></p> <p>Housing-related issues and challenges for specific visa holders.</p> <p><b>Katy Welch</b>, Managing Solicitor – Humanitarian, Circle Green Community Legal</p> <p><b>Esther Deng</b>, Client Services Manager, Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees (CARAD)</p>	<p><b>[Boardroom]</b></p> <p><b>Mobile Midlas – Creative Outreach</b></p> <p>Midlas share their exciting new initiative.</p> <p>Learn about the fully mobile office that travels across Perth to offer services to people who struggle to attend formal appointments, those with travel limitations, and people experiencing homelessness.</p> <p><b>Shona Mackay</b>, Outreach Worker, Midlas</p> <p>Make time to visit the Mobile Midlas truck parked outside during afternoon tea!</p>	<p><b>[Tomasi Room]</b></p> <p><b>Sharehouses, Lodgers and Airbnb – The rental laws outside the RTA</b></p> <p><b>(1 CPD point in CA 4 - Substantive Law)</b></p> <p>Learn about the applicable laws that apply to a range of common payment-for-occupancy agreements.</p> <p><b>Aoning Li</b>, Lawyer, Fremantle Community Legal Centre</p>

3:00pm	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>		
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<p>3:30pm</p>	<p><b>[Auditorium]</b></p> <p><b>Plenary - <i>What are the legal obligations of public housing providers?</i></b> <b>(1 CPD point in CA 4 - Substantive Law)</b></p> <p>This session will examine the legal obligations of public housing providers in the context of the RTA, the Housing Act and the funding arrangements through the Commonwealth State agreement. It will also consider international human rights obligation and what part they might play.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Anna Copeland</b>, Director of Clinical Legal Programs Murdoch University and Volunteer Solicitor, SCALES</li> <li>• <b>Kate Davis</b>, PhD student at Murdoch University looking specifically at the issue of the right to housing.</li> </ul>
<p>4:30pm- 5:30pm</p>	<p><b><i>Sundowner</i></b></p>

## Program Day 2 – Friday 19 November 2021

8.00am	<b>Registration</b>
9:00am	<p><b>[Auditorium]</b></p> <p><b>Acknowledgement of Country and Overview</b></p> <p><b>Emma Watton</b>, Chairperson, Circle Green Community Legal</p>
9:15am	<p><b>Formal Opening</b></p> <p><b>Hon. Amber-Jade Sanderson BA MLA</b>, Minister for Environment; Climate Action; Commerce; Member for Morley</p>
9:30am	<p><b>Keynote speaker – Plenary session</b></p> <p><i>Indigenous Family Violence &amp; Housing: Reimagining solutions and advocacy through critical reflection</i></p> <p><b>(1 CPD point in CA 2 - Professional Skills)</b></p> <p><b>Dr Kyllie Cripps</b>, Scientia Fellow and Senior Lecturer in the Law Faculty at the University of New South Wales</p> <p><i>Dr Cripps will be joining us via Zoom live from Sydney</i></p>
10.30am	<b>Morning Tea</b>
11:00am	<p><b>Plenary Panel Discussion</b></p> <p><i>Tenancy and Covid-19 - what have we learnt?</i></p> <p><b>(1CPD point in CA 4 - Substantive Law)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alice Pennycott</b>, Managing Solicitor, Circle Green Community Legal</li> <li>• <b>Nick Mathieson</b>, Project Lead, Housing Stability Project, Anglicare WA</li> <li>• <b>Iris Thomas</b>, Principal Conciliation Officer, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation &amp; Safety</li> <li>• <b>Trish Owen</b>, Lived Experience Advocate</li> <li>• <b>David Modolo</b>, Advocacy and Policy Manager, REIWA</li> </ul> <p><b>Facilitator: Emma Watton</b>, Chairperson, Circle Green Community Legal</p>
12:00pm	<p><b>Unlock Housing campaign - policy outcomes and the campaign process</b></p> <p><b>Michelle Mackenzie</b>, CEO, Shelter WA</p>
12:30pm	<b>Lunch</b>

Choose between three sessions

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1:15pm	Issues and Law Reform	Tenancy Tools	Professional Development
	<p><b>[Tomasi Room]</b></p> <p><b>Reimagining Housing First in a Noongar Cultural Context</b></p> <p>Noongar Mia Mia shares preliminary findings in applying a culturally secure Noongar lens to Housing First, and key takeaways for service providers working with our community.</p> <p><b>Sandra Harben</b>, Cultural Consultant &amp; Research Coordinator, Noongar Mia Mia</p>	<p><b>[Boardroom]</b></p> <p><b>Self-Advocacy Skills for Tenants</b></p> <p>This workshop introduces key skills for tenants to communicate and negotiate for their housing rights.</p> <p>Paul Montague, <b>Evolve Events and Training</b></p>	<p><b>[Auditorium]</b></p> <p><b>Advocacy: Closing, Case Theory and Cross-Examination</b></p> <p><b>(1.5 CPD points: 1 point in CA 2 - Professional Skills &amp; 0.5 points in CA 3 - Ethics &amp; Professional Responsibility)</b></p> <p>Aimed at tenant advocates and solicitors who represent tenants in the Magistrates Court, this session will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing documents and submissions for trial</li> <li>• Presentation of a case in a trial setting</li> <li>• Effective methods of questioning witnesses</li> </ul> <p><b>Cheyne Beetham</b>, Barrister, Francis Burt Chambers</p>
2:45pm	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>		



**Choose between three sessions**

Choose between three sessions			
3:15pm	Issues and Law Reform	Tenant Voices	Professional Development
	<p><b>[Auditorium]</b></p> <p><b>What's Climate Got To Do With It?</b></p> <p><b>(1 CPD point: 0.5 points in CA 2 - Professional Skills &amp; 0.5 points in CA 3 - Ethics &amp; Professional Responsibility)</b></p> <p>Stories from the community and the implications for self-advocacy and systemic advocacy.</p> <p><b>Jaime Yallup Farrant</b>, Climate Justice Union (CJU)</p>	<p><b>[Boardroom]</b></p> <p><b>Connect with Home - Older women and housing</b></p> <p>Members of the women's group share the evolution of the group, achievements, and future plans.</p> <p><b>Wendy Morris</b>, Project Officer, Connect with Home</p> <p><b>Annette Verney, Toni Avis, Joanne Harrison</b>, Peer support</p>	<p><b>[Tomasi Room]</b></p> <p><b>Employer-provided Accommodation</b></p> <p><b>(1 CPD point in CA 4 - Substantive Law)</b></p> <p><b>Georgia Driels</b>, Solicitor &amp; <b>Alexander Wittkuhn</b>, Tenant Advocate, Circle Green Community Legal</p>
4.15pm	<p><b>[Auditorium]</b></p> <p><b>Closing comments</b></p> <p><b>Hon. Dr Bradley Pettitt MLC</b>, Member for the South Metropolitan Region Greens (WA)</p>		

● We help with legal issues

In employment, tenancy, migration and family & domestic violence

