



Talkin' about **LAW**

An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (QLD) project



WHAT IS COMMUNITY SERVICE?

When a young person is found guilty of an offence the court may order them to perform what's called **community service**.

Community service is unpaid work a person has to perform as a consequence for offending behaviour.

The court makes a **community service order** based on a number of guidelines which include whether the young person is willing to comply with the order, if the person is at least 13 years of age at the time of sentencing and if the court considers the person is suitable for this type of order.

When a court orders community service is made it must be a minimum of 20 hours. Young offenders aged between 13 and 15 years of age can be ordered to do up to 100 hours of community service. For a young person aged 15 years and over, the court can order up to 200 hours of community service. This is important to know especially if the court decides to make additional orders for a young person guilty of two

or more offences.

Once a **community service order** is made, it is supervised by the Department of Communities. It's the job of a departmental caseworker to explain the community service requirements to the young offender as well as advise the consequences of not obeying the order.

For example, a young person must:

- avoid breaking the law;
- perform in a satisfactory way in the number of hours specified in the order; and
- his/her parents or carers must advise the department if there's a change of address, employment or school.

If a young person doesn't meet the requirements they may receive a warning in the first instance but if non-compliance continues the matter is returned to court where a different sentence may be imposed.

Seek legal advice if you're unsure about your rights and obligations when it comes to **community service orders** by contacting the local ATSIL office. (See directory next page)

> About the project

Talkin' About Law is a community legal education project aimed at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Queensland.

Its purpose is to provide general legal advice on criminal and civil matters affecting Indigenous Queenslanders and promote the services provided by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service throughout the state.

> Tracklist

1. Community service order
2. Conditional release order
3. Non-custodial sentences
4. Solar scams
5. Youth justice conferencing

SCAMwatch

What's on their radar?

SCAMwatch has issued an alert for consumers to be aware of a scam offering bogus government rebates for the installation of solar panels.

How it works

You receive an unexpected phone call, email or house visit from someone offering free solar panels or a government rebate/grant after you pay an upfront fee.

The person may pose as a government representative, mention links to government or programs, or claim to be from a legitimate company which sells solar panels.

The scammer asks for your bank account details or for a fee to be paid before the rebate or grant can be processed. Some scammers may pressure you into making a decision by claiming the rebate schemes are due to close soon.

Sometimes the scammer may offer free solar panels in exchange for placing advertising signs on your property for a number of months. They will ask for an upfront fee and promise to pay it back during the advertising period.

Protection

If you are contacted, remember:

An Australian government department is unlikely to contact you to ask you to pay upfront fees in order to claim a rebate.

Never give out or confirm your personal details unless you're the one who initiated the contact and you trust

the other party.

If you are contacted by someone claiming to be from the government or a solar company verify who they are by obtaining the agency or company contact details from an independent source like a phone book and contacting them directly.

Been scammed?

Sometimes it can be difficult to catch the culprits but there are some steps you can take straight away to alleviate the damage.

If you believe you have provided your account details to a scammer contact your financial institution immediately.

Report the scam to the relevant state authorities and warn your friends and relatives so they don't become a victim as well.

Seek legal advice as well by contacting your local ATSIL office.



For more information

**Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
Indigenous Infoline: 1300 303 143**

Office of Fair Trading 13 74 68

> Directory of Offices

Queensland-wide Freecall
1800 012 255

Beenleigh (Regional Office)

Address Suite 11B, 101A Main Street, Beenleigh 4207
Telephone (07) 3804 5033 Facsimile (07) 3804 5202

Palm Island (Satellite Office)

Address Lot 47, Cnr Main Street and Police Lane
Telephone (07) 4770 1222 Facsimile (07) 4770 1501

Charleville (Regional Office)

Address 51 Wills Street, Charleville 4470 (PO Box 51)
Telephone (07) 4654 1721 Facsimile (07) 4654 3182

Brisbane (Head Office)

Address 183 North Quay, Brisbane 4000
Telephone (07) 3025 3888 Facsimile (07) 3025 3800

Cairns (Regional Office)

Address 78 Spence Street, Cairns 4870
Telephone (07) 4046 6400 Facsimile (07) 4031 5397

Rockhampton (Regional Office)

Address 89 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton 4700
Telephone (07) 4927 5711 Facsimile (07) 4922 4487



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