

Legal Theatre

Legal theatre is a method of providing community legal education in a very accessible and engaging format. It works particularly well with groups where people may have low literacy levels and those who have a tradition of story telling as a way of passing on information.

The ILC has used legal theatre as part of our community legal education program a number of times since 2004. Performances have delivered information on **domestic violence**, **tenants rights** and **credit and debt** matters.

In the most engaging legal theatre performances the audience becomes involved and directs the actors and storyline.

The last legal theatre performances the ILC ran were in 2007. They were directed at students from the Adult Migrant English Program in Wollongong and focused on tenancy problems. Local professional actors performed a short play about two tenants experiencing difficulties with their tenancy.

The format: actors ran through the complete performance initially to give the audience the full picture. Then in the second run through the audience were able to direct the actors to take a different route to try to resolve their tenancy problems. This generated discussion and enabled the audience to experiment with different options. Tenants Advocates were on hand to explain the legalities of the different options and provide advice about the best solutions for the tenants.

Legal Theatre Resource:

More information about Legal Theatre can be found at:

Legal theatre: a theatre based approach to community legal education, Jaclyn Booton & Paul Dwyer, Department of Performance Studies, University of Sydney, 2005, 125p. [Book] [NSW]