



STUDY MELBOURNE HUB

LEGAL SERVICE

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WEstjustice



TODAY'S AGENDA

Part 1: About us

Part 2: Common issues and post-Covid trends - employment

Part 3: Common issues and post-Covid trends - accommodation

Part 4: How to book an appointment



Information only



Not legal advice



You should seek legal advice about
your own particular problems



You can talk to me later



If you don't understand – ask!

ISEALS

**International Students'
Employment and
Accomodation Legal
Service**



PART 1: ABOUT US

WHO WE ARE

Study Melbourne Hub Legal Service is serviced by three legal centres:

- JobWatch
- South-East Monash Legal Service
- WEstjustice

We provide **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** legal advice and case work assistance (this means ongoing representation as needed)





WHAT ELSE WE DO

We provide community legal education about the law to international students and education service providers

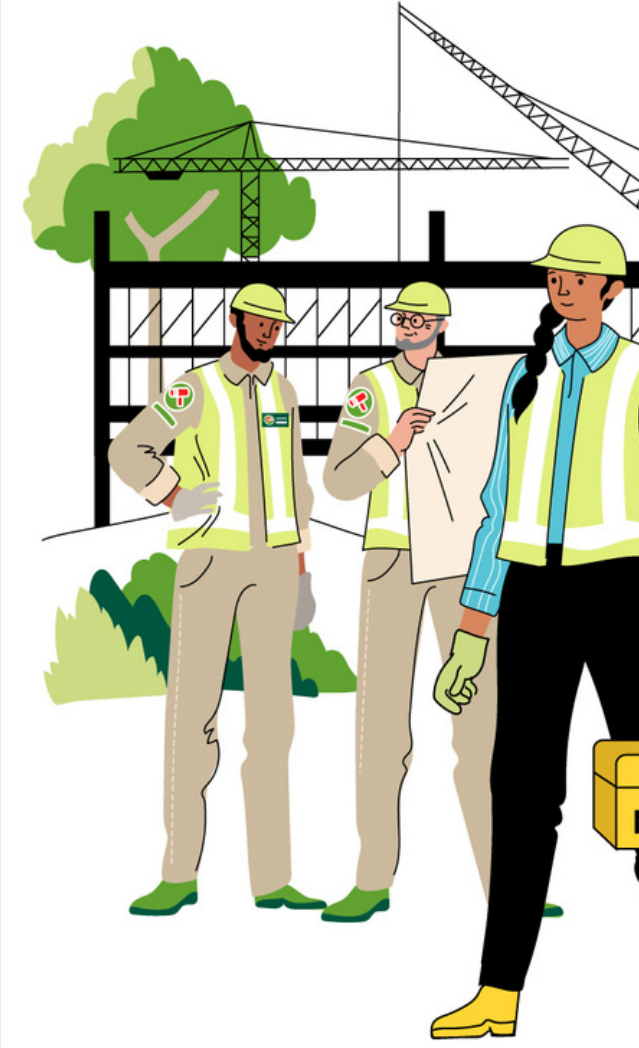
We advocate for law reform based on the experiences of our clients to facilitate a positive experience for international students



PART 2: COMMON ISSUES AND POST-COVID TRENDS - EMPLOYMENT

COMMON ISSUES:

- Underpayments and non-payment of employment entitlements
- Visa uncertainty/visa restrictions
- Sexual harassment and discrimination
- Insecure employment arrangements (e.g. sham contracting, labour hire)
- Workplace injuries
- Unfair dismissals



POST-COVID TRENDS:

- Work hours restrictions on international students are due to be re-introduced
- Some positive legal changes introduced and being considered at the moment (e.g. Respect@Work recommendations, expanding Fair Entitlement Guarantee to international students)
- But more work to be done - many of the previous issues still persists (e.g. underpayments and insecure work arrangements)



CASE EXAMPLE

Tala (not her real name) is an International student from south-east Asia.

Tala found a job at a fruit and vegetable store through a friend. Tala met with the boss, who told her that he could employ her as a casual retail assistant. The pay would be a flat rate of \$14.50 per hour (correct rate of pay \$27.23 per hour).

Tala contacted Study Melbourne. Tala recovered \$10,124.15 from her employer through WEstjustice's assistance.



CASE EXAMPLE

Theo applied for a cleaning job he found advertised on Facebook. Theo worked a couple of shifts. Theo decided he wanted to quit the job and asked about payment of his wages.

Theo then sought help from SMLS through the ISEALS program. SMLS wrote to the employer demanding payment and advocated on behalf of the client.

Theo received payment of his wages and superannuation.



CASE EXAMPLE

Sam is an international student from Bangladesh. He found a job as a pizza delivery driver and kitchen hand. On his very first shift, he was sent out to make deliveries on his scooter without being offered any training. Sam's scooter slipped in the rain, he fell off and was injured.

Over the next couple of days, Sam called in sick and was immediately dismissed. He was never paid for the work he completed.

Through Study Melbourne, Sam found assistance from JobWatch. In February 2023, the Court ordered the company Sam worked for and its two directors to pay compensation to Sam plus interest and penalties.





COMMON ISSUES AND POST-COVID TRENDS - ACCOMMODATION

COMMON ISSUES

- Repairs and maintenance
- Rent increases and unpaid rent
- Ending rental agreements
- Evictions and Notice to Vacate
- Return of bonds
- Claims for compensation
- Making a complaint against a rental provider or agent



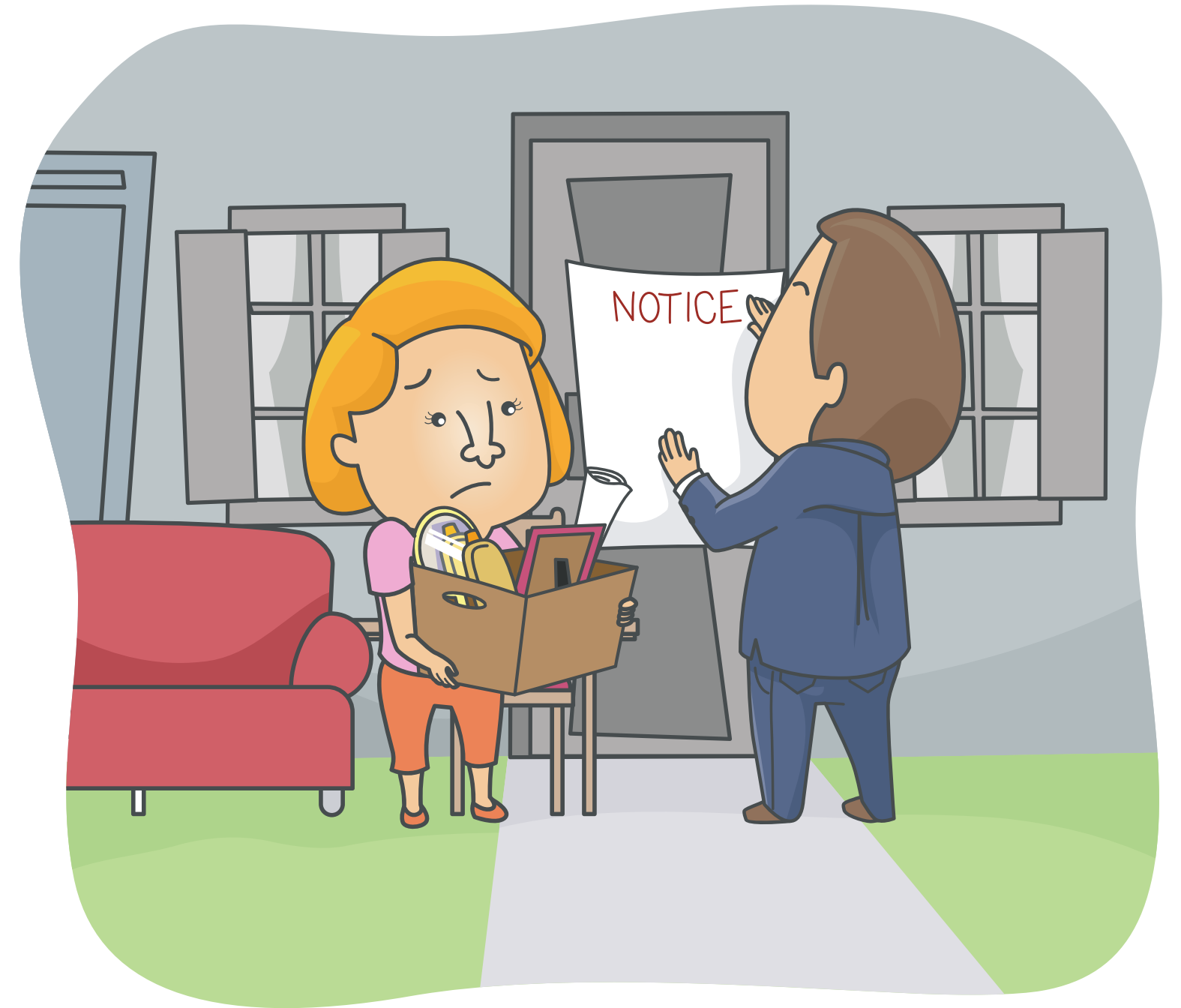
WHAT WE CANNOT HELP WITH

- Disputes with neighbours (e.g. noise complaints or construction).
- Disputes with co-tenants (e.g. roommates being too loud, refusing to contribute to rent, entering room without permission). But there are some exceptions.



CURRENT TRENDS

- Informal and insecure housing
- Rent increases
- Evictions
- Bonds and VCAT delays
- Repairs



QUESTIONS



HOW TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT

The screenshot shows the Study Melbourne website homepage. At the top left is the 'STUDY MELBOURNE' logo. The navigation bar includes links for 'For partners', 'About us', 'English', and a search icon. Below this is a secondary menu with 'Future students', 'Current students', 'Stories', 'Updates', and 'Events'. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text 'There's a place for you in Melbourne' and 'A CITY WHERE IT'S EASY TO GET AROUND'. Below the banner is a search bar with the text 'Find a course, institution or scholarship' and a 'Search' button. To the right of the search bar are two featured articles: 'Your rights at work' and 'Study Melbourne LIVE', each with a 'Read more' button. At the bottom right, there is a purple box with the text 'Visit the Study Melbourne Student Centre' and the address '17 Hardware Lane, Melbourne'.

You can contact the Study Melbourne Hub by phone on 1800 056 449



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