

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA



PLS can provide a limited number of prisoners with legal representation in relation to prison and parole matters. Due to the high demand for assistance and limited resources available, PLS staff must apply the following criteria when selecting clients to receive this assistance:

Merit

- Gravity of legal problem
- Prospects of success in achieving meaningful outcome for client

Client Capability

- Whether the client has relevant skills, training, abilities and personal resources required to advocate for themselves in the matter
- When assessing the client's capability, staff should consider whether they have any vulnerabilities that may impact on their ability to advocate on their own behalf including:
 - Disability (cognitive, physical and/or psycho-social)
 - Cultural / language barriers (Indigenous and ESL prisoners)
 - Literacy / level of education

Note: Significant numbers of people in prison have undiagnosed mental and/or cognitive factors impacting their ability to advocate for themselves. For this reason, PLS adopts a flexible approach to disability and self-identified or staff identified is sufficient for the purposes of assessing suitability for representation.

PLS Capacity

- Whether the client's case is one which would require more resources to properly conduct than are available to the Centre at the time.
- When considering PLS's resources, regard will be had to staff and specialised expertise available