

## LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

Organisations have a number of statutory and legal obligations in which they need to be aware of when setting up a service and whilst operating. Apart from a moral obligation to protect clients, staff and members of the public there is also a legal obligation.

### Duty of Care

Your duty of care is your *legal obligation to avoid causing harm to another person, which only arises where it is reasonably foreseeable that is a particular situation that another person would be harmed by one's action without the exercise of reasonable care.*

### A breach of Duty of Care may occur if an organisation:

*“failures to take reasonable measures to avoid the reasonably foreseeable risks; and the requirement that the damage caused was not too remote, that is, that the harmful consequences were themselves reasonably foreseeable”*

Emergency Relief Providers are affected by legal requirements relating to:

- Employer obligations
- Insurance
- Civil and criminal negligence
- Contracts/constitutions
- Taxation
- Financial reporting
- Privacy
- Freedom of Information
- Sexual harassment
- Discrimination
- Food Handling
- Occupational health and safety
- Child Protection
- Licences and Permits

It is important that your agency is up to date with legal requirements which affect their group so as to ensure the security and well being of clients, staff and members of the general public.

Information about legal requirements affecting community groups can be obtained from Federal, State and Local Government. Government websites contain information about government legalisation and policies.