

**MAURICE
BLACKBURN
LAWYERS
FIGHTING BACK
FOR ALMOST
100 YEARS**

**Maurice
Blackburn**
Lawyers
Since 1919



WE HELP AUSTRALIANS TO FIGHT BA UNFAIR TR

When you decide to take legal action, you want to use a law firm with unshakeable tenacity that gives you the best chance of winning.

You want to engage a leading national law practice with a proven track record. You want strong legal experts, who will get the fairest results for your case. You also want easy access to your lawyers and affordable fees.

Maurice Blackburn offers you all of this. Our extraordinary reputation is based on nearly 100 years of fighting and winning legal cases and some landmark rights for everyday Australians.

Find out how we can assist with your legal case.

EVERYDAY USE THE LAW CK AGAINST EATMENT.

*Thank you so much. Maybe there is some justice left in the world.
Just goes to show the big boys don't always beat the little boys.
Our thanks to everyone involved.*

Class action client

WHY CHOOSE US?

We are a leading law firm with a proven track record

We are one of Australia's most established, successful and respected law firms. For almost a century, Maurice Blackburn has won legal battles for individuals who have been treated unfairly or injured. We have also been involved in landmark decisions, from the 40-hour work week in 1948 to the largest pain and suffering compensation payout for Mesothelioma sufferer Eric King against James Hardie. We also won the biggest class action settlement in Australian history — \$150 million for Centro shareholders in 2012.

We have the most respected legal experts

Now approaching 50 partners and over 750 staff across the country, we employ some of the best and most respected legal professionals. Our staff includes almost 50 accredited specialists in a range of practice areas.

We offer affordable legal services

We believe the law should serve everyone, not just those who can afford it. So we have a flexible fee policy to suit our clients. With most cases, you do not pay fees unless we win your case*. In the few cases where this option is not offered, we can discuss alternatives including deferring fees or pay-as-you-go.

We take on cases against big companies and institutions

We have taken on thousands of personal injury cases and are Australia's largest and most successful class action law firm. We represent individuals and groups in court battles against corporate injustice. In the past 15 years, our class action team have won more than \$1billion in settlements for consumers, shareholders and businesses.

We act in your best interests

Our lawyers are passionate about what they do. We look at your needs holistically and work hard to get the outcome you deserve. We take on complex cases and conclude them when we get the best results, rather than settle to achieve a faster turnover.

We are easy to access

We're a national firm that spans Australia, with 27 permanent offices, and a further 26 visiting offices. So, wherever you live, it is easy to access our lawyers. Each office is staffed by skilled local practitioners, who are backed by the resources of our entire network.

What's different at Maurice Blackburn is the degree of belief in what we do. My lawyers are driven to get the best results for people and that is certainly evident in what we do. We really believe in it and are serious about it.

*Steve Walsh
Chairman*

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

Are you considering legal action because you've suffered a loss or been injured or unfairly treated? Deciding on the next steps can be daunting, especially when dealing with large or powerful opponents. The highly skilled legal team at Maurice Blackburn can fight back on your behalf. We form a bond of trust with our clients and will advise you about your best legal options in a way that is easy to understand.

When it comes to legal battles against employers, government agencies, insurance companies, banks and other corporations, we have a formidable reputation. We've helped tens of thousands of individuals win settlements against major organisations.

Our expert lawyers deal with everything from workers compensation to personal injury cases, from superannuation and insurance claims to disputes about wills. We have Australia's largest medical negligence practice and have won the five biggest class actions in the country.

Our lawyer explained the legal jargon to us, provided unprompted updates and broke down language in simple terms we could understand.

Medical negligence client



COMPENSATION CLAIMS

In two recent workers compensation cases, we secured our clients over seven times the initial settlement offer.

*John Salanitri
Workers' Compensation Principal*

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND WORK-RELATED INJURIES

Our expert lawyers have helped thousands of Australians get workers' compensation. If you were injured at work or have an illness that was caused or worsened, by your work you may be able to claim compensation through your state-based workers' compensation scheme. Each scheme covers employees who are injured while working full-time, part-time or on a casual basis.

Comcare covers people employed by the Commonwealth or ACT governments as well as employees of companies licensed to operate under the Comcare Scheme.

Injuries include not just broken bones and wounds, but ailments including cancer, strokes, heart attacks, asthma or psychological damage that you can prove were connected to your work.

If your claim is successful, the workers' compensation insurer or Comcare may pay all or a percentage of your pre-injury earnings plus reasonable ambulance, medical, hospital, nursing, rehabilitation and certain other expenses.

You need to get medical certificates and must lodge your claim quickly. Certain timeframes that vary from state to state, so it is best to get legal advice as soon as possible. Workers' rights are at the heart of our practice and many clients are referred to us by their unions.

Lump sum payments for permanent injury

If you are permanently injured or impaired as determined by medical practitioners, you may be entitled to a lump sum in compensation.

When your injuries are the fault of your employer or any other person, you may also be able to make a common law or negligence claim against the individual, seeking a further lump sum. In most states in Australia, there are time limitations for when a worker can commence a negligence claim in Court (usually 3 years from the date of accident). However, each state has separate legislation and you will need to obtain legal advice as soon as possible in relation to the time limitations that may apply to your situation.

Our expert workers' compensation lawyers provide a free first consultation and will fight for the best possible outcome.

ROAD ACCIDENT CLAIMS

If you have been injured in a road accident, Maurice Blackburn's dedicated personal injury lawyers can help you claim compensation from your state-based Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurer.

We represent drivers, riders, cyclists, passengers and pedestrians who have been injured in road accidents, including on public transport.

Depending upon which state you are in our lawyers can help to obtain compensation from CTP insurers, including compensation for medical and like expenses, past and future loss of earnings and lump sum payments. In some cases, these benefits are payable, regardless of who was at fault in the accident.

Common law claims for damages (in all state except NT)

If you sustained an injury in a road accident because of the negligence of another person, you may also be able to make a common law claim for lump sum damages (compensation). Depending upon the state you are in, you may need to convince the CTP insurer that your injuries are of a type that entitles you to common law compensation. The lump sum may cover compensation for pain, suffering and financial loss, including past and future medical bills, lost earnings in the past, past and future loss of superannuation contributions, and compensation for inability to work in the future.

These claims can be complex and expert legal help is your best assurance of getting a fair outcome.

It is also important to note, different rules and time limits apply in different states of Australia, so speak with one of our local lawyers to assess your specific case.

MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE CLAIMS

Maurice Blackburn lawyers have successfully represented hundreds of patients and their families in complex and sensitive medical malpractice cases. We are the best and most successful firm in the country for these types of claims. Our highly experienced lawyers include accredited specialists in personal injury law.

You may be able to claim compensation or damages for medical negligence if you suffer permanent health issues because of a medical error or misdiagnosis by a hospital, doctor, nurse, surgeon or other health care professional.

You can bring a claim if the medical treatment that you, your child or close relative received falls below an acceptable standard of care. Medical negligence claims cover anything from failure to prevent avoidable birth injuries to misdiagnosis of diseases, from the prescription of wrong medications to poor surgery, from improper supervision of psychiatric patients to inadequate treatment that leads to death. Because time limits and injury thresholds apply, make sure you seek legal advice as soon as possible.

PUBLIC LIABILITY OR FAULTY PRODUCT CLAIMS

Maurice Blackburn has fought and won public and product liability claims for thousands of Australians injured in different situations. You may be able to make a public liability or occupiers' claim if you are injured in any public place, including a sports field, shopping centre, hotel or apartment block. You can also make a claim if you were injured or harmed by a faulty product.

Public liability claims can compensate you for pain, suffering, medical costs and loss of income in cases which are not covered by workers or road accident compensation. If you have been injured and you are not sure whether you can claim compensation, get in touch with us today and we will advise you on possible legal action and your next steps. Different time limits apply within each state, so it is important to get legal advice quickly.

ASBESTOS DISEASES COMPENSATION

Maurice Blackburn's experienced and compassionate lawyers have represented hundreds of people suffering from asbestos related diseases. In 2012, we secured \$1.15 million compensation for our client Eric King; the largest ever pain and suffering pay out for an asbestos disease sufferer in Australia.

With asbestos once used in more than 3000 products, Australia has the highest rate per capita of asbestos related illness in the world. People who have been exposed to this deadly substance may get seriously ill or die from diseases such as asbestosis, mesothelioma or asbestos related lung cancer. There is no safe level of exposure and asbestos diseases can develop slowly over decades. Trade workers and home renovators are especially at risk.

When you have an asbestos-related illness, our expert lawyers can assist with your claim. If you have been exposed to asbestos but are not yet ill, you can join 7000 other Australians and record your details on Maurice Blackburn's National Asbestos Register in case you need to make a claim later on.

Maurice Blackburn's National Asbestos Register

The National Asbestos Register has been set up for those that have been exposed to asbestos, but remain healthy. The Register is a database established and maintained by Maurice Blackburn. Information stored on the National Asbestos Register can assist you to recall relevant information and provides a starting point for a claim if it's needed. Of course, some people never need to recall the information – because not everyone develops an asbestos related disease after exposure.

There is the added benefit of the large numbers of people registering because the information can help others by identifying locations or ways people have been exposed, and dates of the existence of businesses, plants or mines. It may help identify a source of exposure that is missing from someone's history – and that might help them make a claim.

If you or someone you know has been exposed to asbestos you can visit the national asbestos register at mauriceblackburn.com.au.

PERSONAL LEGAL MATTERS

Most people believe that superannuation is something you need when you retire, but if you have had to stop work for any medical reason, then it pays to look carefully at the disability insurance entitlements.

Our lawyers will help you understand your entitlements and maximise your claim to make sure you get the best possible result.

Peter Koutsoukis

Head of Superannuation and Insurance Claims department



WILL DISPUTES

Maurice Blackburn has helped hundreds of Australians successfully dispute wills that were unfair. The death of a family member is always painful, but it can be more distressing if you discover you have been cut out of their will or not been allocated a fair share of their estate. We know that contesting a will can be a complex, stressful and emotionally painful

process. Our experts aim to get you a speedy resolution or settlement, in fact, 98 per cent of our cases are resolved without the need to go to court.

Time limits apply and vary from state to state, so if you want to contest a will, contact our lawyers as soon as possible.

EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL LAW

Since 1919, Maurice Blackburn lawyers have fought for improved rights and conditions for thousands of workers. If you have been unfairly dismissed or want to challenge your employer because you have been made redundant, consult one of our expert employment or industrial lawyers. We know all about workplace rights, how to interpret the Fair Work Act and other relevant employment legislation.

We deal with a range of other workplace problems, including getting paid parental leave. When representing clients who have suffered from bullying, sexual harassment or discrimination in the workplace, our lawyers have successfully persuaded many companies to settle rather than taking the matter to court.

Executive contract negotiation

We also act on behalf of executives and professionals. Our lawyers can help negotiate better terms for your Executive Employment Contract or advise you what to do if your employment is terminated or you are made redundant.

We understand the sensitivities around high-level appointments and can represent you with the utmost discretion. For example, we negotiated a seven figure unpaid bonus settlement for an executive of a major Australian company without going to court. If you need legal advice in any area of your employment, get in touch with our team today.

In my experience, some of the biggest outcomes I've ever got [in sexual harassment cases] were achieved without issuing a single document in court. Companies are keen to settle when they recognise the seriousness of the issues.

*Giri Sivaraman,
Employment Law Principal*

SUPERANNUATION AND INSURANCE CLAIMS

Maurice Blackburn has the largest and most successful superannuation and insurance practice in Australia. Your superannuation is not only available when you retire, but can provide you with an income source if you have to stop work because of injury or sickness. We read the fine print and know how to win claims, including early access to superannuation, disability benefits, income protection and life insurance. Our lawyers can help track down your super and take on your case on a no win, no fee* basis. We also have the largest general insurance claims practice in Australia, and can help you with your flood, fire, motor vehicle or travel insurance claim. If you are unhappy with the way your claim is being handled by the large insurance firms, contact one of our skilled insurance lawyers for advice.

I am writing to tell you of the incredible service I received from two of your lawyers... They both went above and beyond their necessary job roles. They both treated me with the greatest respect and service, and they achieved my goals with the utmost care and courtesy.

—
Superannuation client

FINANCIAL ADVICE DISPUTES

Maurice Blackburn has helped many Australians fight back against poor financial advice. We have successfully acted on behalf of clients against companies such as Commonwealth Financial Planning Ltd, Citigroup, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney and Wealthsure.

Many Australians rely on financial advisors or planners to build a stable financial future, but if the advice you get is wrong, misleading or negligent, your finances can be devastated. Whether you are a professional or a self-funded retiree, we can help you pursue a claim if you have been given negligent financial advice.

You can make claims for things such as your advisor failing to warn you of the risks associated with particular investments or recommending you take out loans you could not afford.

We can assess whether you have a valid claim. And in most cases, we will represent you on a no win, no fee* basis.

*Conditions apply



TAKING ON BIG BUSINESS AND ORGANISATIONS

*We really appreciated your kind and
gentle manner and how clearly you
explained everything to us along the way.*

Class action client

CLASS ACTIONS

Maurice Blackburn has the largest class actions practice in Australia. We have secured more than \$1billion in settlements for Australians over the past 15 years. In class actions, we act on behalf of large groups of individuals and businesses that have suffered a common injury or loss.

We are the only class action law firm in Australia to have achieved settlements of over \$100m on behalf of investors. Corporations we have won cases against include:

- Centro - \$150 million in 2012
- NAB - \$115 million in 2012
- Multiplex - \$110 million in 2010
- Aristocrat - \$144.5 million in 2008
- GIO - \$112m in 2003.

Maurice Blackburn is currently acting in a series of class actions for shareholders who have suffered losses as a result of misleading and deceptive conduct by companies. We are suing major Australian banks for charging around 160,000 customers unfair late payment and other exception fees and are involved in class actions for people affected by the manufacture and sale of defective products.

We are also involved in a series of class actions on behalf of victims who were negligently exposed to injury or damages by fire and floods. These include two class actions on behalf of almost 10,000 people who suffered injury, loss or damage in the Black Saturday bushfires that started at Kinglake on 7 February 2009.

Take a look at the class actions section of our website to see if you qualify to join a claim.

CARTEL AND PRICE FIXING CLASS ACTIONS

Maurice Blackburn is the only Australian law firm that has successfully conducted a cartel class action to recover the millions of dollars in damages suffered by the businesses that have been affected by this illicit conduct.

In 2011 we got the largest cartel settlement in Australian corporate history: a \$120 million settlement in a cartel claim against Amcor and Visy.



SOCIAL JUSTICE CASES

My wrongful arrest and detention in 2007 was very traumatic, and today's settlement is a chance to end that part of my life and move on with my family. I would like to thank my lawyers and the people of Australia who have supported me for the past three years.

*Dr Mohamed Haneef
After settlement of his claim was announced*

At the heart of Maurice Blackburn is our Social Justice Practice, which fights cases that establish legal principles or protect rights. We take on clients and cases to support social justice principles in the areas of civil and political rights, asylum seeker rights, Indigenous rights and equality, environment and climate change, and workplace and consumer rights.

Our significant social justice cases include:

- Protecting the right to protest in a case where we successfully represented the Wilderness Society against timber company Gunns Ltd. In 2009, Gunns agreed to pay the Wilderness Society \$325,000.
- Winning compensation for the wrongful detention of Dr Mohamed Haneef from the Federal Government.
- Winning a \$400,000 settlement as compensation for psychological injuries suffered by Iranian child refugee Shayan Badraie after he was held in mandatory detention.
- Getting ASIO to reverse an adverse ruling against a Sri Lankan refugee and her child who had been in mandatory detention for two years.
- Stopping more poker machines being installed in a Victorian town in a successful action on behalf of 1500 members of Enough Pokies in Castlemaine.

Some of our current cases include:

- Representing a woman with breast cancer in legal action against two biotechnology companies, which have a patent on a gene mutation associated with a high risk of breast and ovarian cancer. The Federal Court ruled in favour of the patent owners, and the case is now on appeal.
- Representing Indigenous landowners in a legal challenge against the a nuclear waste dump at Muckaty Station in the Northern Territory.

All requests to do social justice cases are carefully assessed by us and we select a few that can make a real difference in society. Maurice Blackburn funds these cases, which are handled by lawyers with a strong belief in the particular causes. We take on most of our social justice clients on a no charge (pro bono) or reduced charge basis.

‘We fight for fair’ is crafted on the back of the values that we stand for. What we mean by that is that we want to get a fair result for people. So we will continue to litigate until we think the result is fair and we won’t recommend that people settle for something less than that. We’re very serious and passionate about this.

Steve Walsh

Current chairman of Maurice Blackburn

PROUD HISTORY OF CHAMPIONING RIGHTS



Lawyer Maurice Blackburn, who started the firm in 1919 in Victoria, cared deeply about the rights of workers and the underprivileged and fought tenaciously to make a difference to peoples' lives. He was a champion of social justice and legal rights.

From the outset, Maurice dealt with trade union law and he appeared in several police court cases, especially those involving civil liberties. Maurice's compassion for others meant he often waived fees, and once accepted payment in the form of two crayfish, wrapped in newspaper. He won key cases that established rights most Australians now take for granted. These included winning the 40-hour working week in conjunction with the ACTU implemented nationally in 1948) and the Aboriginal stockman's case, the first in a series of court actions which led to wage equality for Indigenous workers. Another milestone was helping win several union court actions which resulted in equal pay for women in 1972.

Maurice Blackburn Lawyers has continued this proud tradition, defending the rights of disadvantaged groups, workers and everyday people. Landmark cases that we have won include:

- A Federal court case to prevent the mass sacking of union members in the 1998 Waterfront dispute.
- Maurice Blackburn secured a \$1.15 million for Mesothelioma sufferer, Eric King – the highest Australian award for pain and suffering.
- The Esso class action case which resulted in a \$32.5 million payout in 2004 to Victorians affected by the fatal explosion and fire in the Longford gas plant.
- The GIO class action which led to a \$112 million payout to more than 22,000 shareholders.

Steve Walsh, chairman of Maurice Blackburn, says: "The essence of 'we fight for fair' is crafted on the back of the values that we stand for. What we mean by that is that we want to get a fair result for people. So we will continue to litigate until we think the result is fair and we won't recommend that people settle for something less than that. We're very serious and passionate about this."

He says all the lawyers in the practice share these values and those who manage to get the highly sought after jobs at the firm are reluctant to leave. Among lawyers from Maurice Blackburn who have gone on to take senior public roles are Federal and District Court judges and a former Federal attorney-general.

CONTACT US

If you are considering legal action or want to fight for your rights:

Call us at 1800 810 812 (business hours)

We can assess what you need or arrange for a meeting with one of our lawyers. For most practice areas, your first consultation is free.

Contact us online

You can also contact us using the web enquiry form at mauriceblackburn.com.au

Visit one of our offices

You are welcome to drop into one of our offices and meet our friendly staff. For a full list of our offices visit our website below.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

www.mauriceblackburn.com.au

