

Press Release:
Federal Member for Isaacs Visits Legal Centre



Peninsula Community
Legal Centre Inc

Peninsula Community Legal Centre welcomed a recent visit from Federal Member for Isaacs, Mark Dreyfus QC, MP.

Acting Chief Executive Officer, Jackie Galloway, says:

“We are grateful for the interest Mr Dreyfus has taken in Peninsula Community Legal Centre and the work we do to advance justice for those experiencing disadvantage.

This meeting was an important opportunity to brief Mr Dreyfus on the increasing demand we are experiencing for free legal services, as well as local legal issues.

In 2010 alone, 1,579 client activities were provided to people living in the Isaacs electorate, including one-off legal advice, ongoing casework and representation. Over 60 percent of Isaacs clients approached the Centre for help with family law issues, particularly child contact, child residence and family violence. Around a third of clients were seeking help with civil issues, such as credit / debt, motor vehicle accidents and neighbour disputes, with a further 4 percent seeking assistance with criminal matters.

Isaacs clients primarily accessed the Centre’s Head Office in Frankston, but many also utilised its Bentleigh branch office, Chelsea visiting service and duty lawyer services at Frankston Magistrates’ Court and Dandenong Family Law Courts.

Workers at the Centre informed Mr Dreyfus of their concerns at the increase in clients reporting family violence. The Centre is advocating for family law reforms to better protect children and parents from violence, and recently made a submission in support of amendments currently before the Parliament.”

Mr Dreyfus says:

“Peninsula Legal Centre continues to provide families with invaluable legal advice, from assisting families through dispute resolution through to the provision of duty lawyers when matters reach court. Many people in our local community cannot afford to pay lawyers, through the support of Peninsula Legal they are able to get the same quality legal advice received by those who can afford legal representation. I congratulate Peninsula Legal on their ongoing efforts to support our community.”

Peninsula Community Legal Centre has been providing free legal services to the community for over 30 years. For more information about free legal services, please call Peninsula Community Legal Centre’s Head Office on (03) 9783 3600 or visit www.pclc.org.au.

END.

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- Mornington Peninsula Shire

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