

Local Lawyer Wins Kath Neilsen Award

Frankston lawyer, Christopher (Chris) Galagher, has been awarded Peninsula Community Legal Centre's highest honour, the 2009 Kath Neilsen Memorial Award.

The Award recognises Chris' extraordinary contribution to the free legal service over the past 25 years.

Manager of Volunteer and Education Programs, Andrea Florance, says:

"For more than 30 years, Peninsula Community Legal Centre has provided much-needed free legal services in Frankston and nearby municipalities. Throughout that time, the Centre has relied on – and received – the generosity and support of volunteer lawyers, paralegals and administrative workers, who have donated their time to help others. In 2008-9 alone, volunteers provided free legal advice to 1,605 clients.

Throughout his 25 years with the Centre, Chris has provided free legal advice to hundreds of clients, assisting with matters ranging from family law to neighbourhood disputes, to crime and motor vehicle accidents and more. He has also served on the Centre's Management Committee, including fulfilling the role of President since 2002.

Chris is exceptional not only for his length of service, but his unfailing generosity in sharing his time and expertise to assist clients, fellow volunteers and staff.

In recognition of Chris' contribution to the local community and legal profession, he received a Distinguished Pro Bono Service Award in 2003, a City of Frankston Citizen of the Year Commendation in 2008 and he was short-listed for a Law Institute of Victoria President's Award in 2008.

We are very proud of Chris and grateful for his commitment to helping our clients, our Centre and our community."

The Kath Neilsen Memorial Award was created by Peninsula Community Legal Centre in 2002 in honour of the late Kath Neilsen, who was a founder and strong supporter of the Centre.

The Award was presented to Chris by the late Kath Neilsen's grand-daughters, Megan and Natalie Arthur, at Peninsula Community Legal Centre's Annual General Meeting on 27 October 2009.

Chris Galagher says:

"I am very humbled to receive this award as so many people do so much for the Legal Centre and are deserving of recognition. PCLC provides desperately needed assistance to many disadvantaged community members and I feel privileged to be involved with such an organisation."

For more information about free legal services, contact Peninsula Community Legal Centre on 9783 3600.

END.

30 October 2009



Peninsula Community
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We gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance of:

- Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department
- Department of Justice (Vic)
- Consumer Affairs Victoria
- Victoria Legal Aid
- City of Casey
- City of Glen Eira
- City of Kingston
- Frankston City Council
- Mornington Peninsula Shire

Donations over \$2.00
are tax deductible

*Service to the
Community
since 1977*





Pictured above (from left): Mandy Arthur, Megan Arthur, Inga Peulich MLC, Chris Galagher, Natalie Arthur, Robert Clark MP



Pictured above: Chris Galagher with Kath Neilsen's family (from left) Mandy, Megan and Natalie Arthur.

Contact:

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