

Press Release

'The Honourable Robert McClelland, Attorney General, Launches Peninsula Community Legal Centre's Family Law Services'

The Honourable Robert McClelland, Commonwealth Attorney General, today launched Peninsula Community Legal Centre's Family Law Services.

"The Family Law Program at Peninsula Community Legal Centre, enables access to the legal system for many who would otherwise be excluded from accessing a lawyer at a time of extreme emotional distress. Our clients overwhelmingly experience disadvantage through lack of income, disability, limited English and/or family violence", says Helen Constas, Chief Executive Officer of Peninsula Community Legal Centre.

Over the past 5 years, Peninsula Community Legal Centre has experienced a 150% increase in clients seeking assistance for family law matters. The Centre has a dedicated Family Law Program to meet this need, which also addresses the acute vulnerability of self-represented litigants at the Dandenong Family Law Courts through provision of a duty lawyer service.

Ms. Constas, continues, "In addition to the Family Law duty lawyer services at the Dandenong Family Law Courts, Peninsula Community Legal Centre is pleased to be offering additional services to clients with family law matters, through its partnership project with Family Life as the provider of the Frankston Family Relationship Centre.

"This project has been funded by the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department to provide Frankston Family Relationship Centre clients with legal information, individual legal advice and ongoing assistance.

"Considering the significant legal consequences which arise from relationship breakdown, it is important that clients receive advice about the family law system and about their rights and responsibilities".

Jo Cavanagh, Chief Executive Officer of Family Life says, "Family Life and Peninsula Community Legal Centre have worked together for many years to improve services for separating parents and now this new funding from the Attorney General will assist us to extend this further and build the successful services being provided by the Family Relationship Centre."

Peninsula Community Legal Centre is a not-for-profit organisation that has been providing free legal services to its community for over 30 years.

For more information about free legal services and specialised programs, contact Peninsula Community Legal Centre on 9783 3600 or visit www.pclc.org.au.

END.

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- Consumer Affairs Victoria
- Victoria Legal Aid
- City of Casey
- City of Glen Eira
- City of Kingston
- Frankston City Council
- Mornington Peninsula Shire

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