

Media Release

Family Violence – Time to Look Deeper

With the recent outpouring of grief and sympathy for those who experience family violence, Peninsula Community Legal Centre hopes there will be renewed commitment and energy to address the underlying causes and systemic failures that have allowed these tragedies to occur.

Undoubtedly progress has been made in recent years. The Sentencing Advisory Council's report released last year, Family Violence Intervention Orders and Safety Notices: Sentencing for Contravention showed that, compared with 5 years earlier, police are now applying for more Intervention Orders, prosecuting more breaches and more people are being imprisoned for breaches.

However, recent tragedies have again highlighted that more needs to be done.

Principal Lawyer, Victoria Mullings says:

“These are not isolated incidents. Family violence is a complex social problem. On average in Australia, every 3 hours a woman is hospitalised and every week a woman dies. Family violence was the second most common issue reported by our clients in 2012-2013.

Family violence continues to be a priority area for our Centre. We offer specialist programs in Family Law and Family Violence. One of our key services is to provide assistance with the Intervention Order process and, in addition to advice and casework services, we operate a duty lawyer service for Family Violence Intervention Orders at Frankston Magistrates' Court and for Family Law at the Federal Circuit Court in Dandenong. We also undertake a range of community legal education activities to improve local knowledge of family violence and legal options available.

We support the Federation of Community Legal Centres in calling for proper resourcing for the Victorian Systemic Review of Family Violence Deaths, as well as comprehensive national reform of Australia's coronial system. This is vital if we are to identify and address the failings in our systems.”

For more information about free legal services, please call 03 9783 3600 or visit www.pclc.org.au.

END.

DATE : 21 February 2014

CONTACT:

Saskia Rijfkogel

Education & Policy Lawyer

PENINSULA COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC.



Peninsula Community
Legal Centre Inc

Registered No. A8T
ABN 23 591 244 622

Head Office

441 Nepean Highway
Frankston Vic 3199

t 03 9783 3600
1800 064 784
f 03 9770 5200
dx 19953 Frankston
e pclc@pclc.org.au
www.pclc.org.au

Bentleigh Branch

82 Brady Road
Bentleigh East Vic 3165
t 03 9570 8455

Cranbourne Branch

Bella Centre, Suite 12
33-39 High Street
Cranbourne Vic 3977
t 03 5995 3722

Pines Branch

2A Candlebark Crescent
Frankston North Vic 3200
t 03 9786 6980

Rosebud Branch

1375 Point Nepean Road
Rosebud Vic 3939
t 03 5981 2422

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

