

Local MP meets with Peninsula Community Legal Centre staff

Peninsula Community Legal Centre welcomed a recent visit by the State Member of Parliament for Carrum, Donna Bauer, as an opportunity to brief her on the work of the Centre and the types of legal issues affecting residents in her electorate.

Chief Executive Officer, Helen Conostas, says:

“It is important that Ms Bauer is aware of the legal issues affecting residents living in the Carrum district, which covers parts of the Cities of Frankston and Kingston, and we are delighted that Ms Bauer has met with us to hear more about the free services we provide.”

The most common legal issues residents presented with were family violence and family law. Other issues that residents sought advice for include stalking, credit and debt issues and motor vehicle accidents.

Ms Conostas says, “Over the past 5 years, Peninsula Community Legal Centre has experienced a 233% increase in demand for assistance for family violence related matters at the Frankston Magistrates’ Court.

The statistics may show that family violence is now less hidden, but it may also be that the incidence of family violence has actually worsened. Either way, the figures are demanding us to ensure a better response to family violence as a community.”

As well as a duty lawyer service at Frankston Magistrates’ Court specifically for family violence matters, the Centre provide clients with free and accessible legal services, which are available to those who live, work or study within the Centre’s catchment area. A range of client services are offered, including dedicated Family Law, Child Support, Tenant and Consumer Programs. The Centre also undertakes special projects, community legal education and law reform activities.

For more information about free legal services, contact Peninsula Community Legal Centre’s Head Office on 9783 3600 or visit www.pclc.org.au .

ENDS.

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