

Press Release: Shadow Attorney General Visits Rosebud
Branch of Peninsula Community Legal Centre



**Peninsula Community
Legal Centre Inc**

The Rosebud Branch of Peninsula Community Legal Centre opened its doors on 1 July 2011 to a visit by Senator the Hon. George Brandis SC, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Shadow Attorney General and Shadow Minister for the Arts, and the Hon. Greg Hunt MP, Member for Flinders and Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage.

Acting Chief Executive Officer of Peninsula Community Legal Centre, Jackie Galloway, says:

“Peninsula Community Legal Centre has been providing free legal services to the Rosebud and Southern Peninsula communities for around 20 years. The Centre has been acutely aware of the disadvantage experienced in the area and the need for increased, local free legal services. With funding from the Victorian Government and Mornington Peninsula Shire, the Centre’s Rosebud branch opened on a part-time basis on 1 December 2008.

Since opening, over 1,500 client activities have been provided from the Rosebud branch, including free legal advice and ongoing assistance. Overwhelmingly, clients using the service are experiencing disadvantage. In 2010, 80% of clients were on low or no incomes, 17% percent reported a disability and 12% reported family violence. Just over half of clients sought assistance with family law issues, commonly child contact and residence. Other common legal issues included credit and debt problems, motor vehicle accidents, wills and powers of attorney.

The Rosebud branch is being well-utilised by locals, with clients primarily residing in Rosebud, Rye, Rosebud West, Dromana and Tootgarook. In addition to services provided from the Rosebud branch, many locals are accessing the Centre’s duty lawyer services for family violence matters listed at Frankston Magistrates’ Court, as well as the Centre’s duty lawyer service at the Dandenong Family Law Courts.

Our Centre relies on the support of all levels of government, and we thank Mr Hunt, a long-time supporter of our Centre, for organising the meeting so that Senator Brandis could hear first hand of the legal needs of the Rosebud and surrounding communities, and the work of the Centre in addressing them. We are also grateful for Senator Brandis’ interest in, and support for, our work to advance justice for vulnerable members of our community.”

Senator the Hon. George Brandis says:

“I am delighted to finally get the chance to visit the Peninsula Community Legal Centre after hearing such good things about it for so long from my colleagues Bruce Billson and Greg Hunt. The expertise and commitment I have witnessed here today confirm what they have been telling me. Community Legal Centres are a vital resource and will be at the forefront of my access to justice program and I look forward very much to having much more to do with this very committed team.”

The Hon. Greg Hunt said:

“The Peninsula Community Legal Centre performs a vital role, addressing an area of genuine need in the community. Local residents would benefit hugely if

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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
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since 1977*





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the Rosebud branch was able to operate full time rather than part time. I have given my support to the legal centre's quest to extend its hours of operation and will do my best to secure funding through State and Federal avenues."

Peninsula Community Legal Centre has been providing free legal services for over 30 years. Services are available to clients who live, work or study in the municipalities of Mornington Peninsula, Frankston, Casey, Cardinia, Kingston and Glen Eira.

The Rosebud branch of Peninsula Community Legal Centre is open 9am – 5pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and Tuesday evenings by appointment. For more information about free legal services, please contact the Rosebud branch on 5981 2422 or 1800 064 784 or visit www.pclc.org.au.

END.

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