

## **Press Release: CEO Receives Community Service Award**

Helen Constas, Chief Executive Officer of Peninsula Community Legal Centre (PCLC), has been presented with an Hellenic Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HACCI) Award for Community Service for her work with PCLC.

The HACCI Award for Community Service recognises the outstanding achievement by an individual for the community. Under Helen's leadership, PCLC has grown to become one of the largest community legal centres in Australia, providing free legal services to thousands of disadvantaged people in the South-Eastern Metropolitan region of Melbourne each year, as well as participating in community legal education and law reform activities.

Ms Constas says, "I have dedicated my career to improving access to justice for disadvantaged members of the local community and more broadly. I am fortunate to work with dedicated volunteers and staff who share the same passion for social justice that I do."

Helen has been an active member of the local community, supporting a range of not-for-profit groups, including initiatives of the Greek community. Ms Constas says,

"I am very proud of my Greek heritage. I feel privileged that I have been in a position to support the local Greek community. I'm honoured to have received this award from the Hellenic Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry."

PCLC has been providing free legal services in Melbourne's outer south east for almost 35 years. Services are targeted to assist disadvantaged people who would otherwise 'fall through the cracks' of the justice system, being unable to afford a private lawyer yet ineligible for legal aid. Many people in these communities experience severe disadvantage, including family violence, homelessness, low income, low levels of education and literacy, exacerbated for some by geographical isolation and remoteness from mainstream services.

For more information about free legal services, please call Peninsula Community Legal Centre's Head Office on (03) 9783 3600 or visit [www.pclc.org.au](http://www.pclc.org.au).

END.

8 November, 2011

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