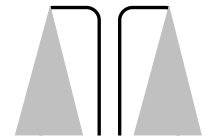


Press Release

'Peninsula Community Legal Centre –2011 Law Institute of Victoria *Legal Organisation of the Year*'



Peninsula Community
Legal Centre Inc

Peninsula Community Legal Centre was honoured to be named the 2011 *Legal Organisation of the Year* in the prestigious Law Institute of Victoria Legal Awards. The awards celebrate the outstanding achievements and leadership of Victorian legal practitioners and organisations.

Peninsula Community Legal Centre is a not-for-profit organisation that has been providing free legal services to the South Eastern Metropolitan region for almost 35 years.

Management, staff and volunteers of Peninsula CLC were very proud to be shortlisted with two of Victoria's largest private legal firms for the award.

Victoria Campbell, President of Peninsula CLC, says, 'Winning the award is an incredible achievement for all of the Centre's staff, volunteers and committee. Our organisation is one of the largest legal centres in Victoria, providing free legal services to the community from our offices at Frankston, Cranbourne, Rosebud, Bentleigh and Frankston North, as well as providing visiting services to Mornington and Hastings.

'In the last financial year alone, Peninsula CLC received 25,011 telephone enquiries and provided information and referrals to 12,574 individuals. In 2010, Peninsula CLC provided 9,733 client activities, which include provision of legal advice and ongoing casework assistance, as well as undertaking a range of education and law reform activities. We are thrilled that the Victorian legal community has recognised these contributions to the advancement of justice in Victoria'.

Helen Constat, CEO of Peninsula CLC, says, 'Peninsula CLC's philosophy of client empowerment and recognition of the inherent dignity of all people, which underpins all service delivery, translates in casework to a focus on informed decision-making by clients and supported self-help wherever appropriate, so that clients achieve the confidence and skills to navigate the legal system.

'Most of the Peninsula CLC's clients could not afford a private lawyer and would not qualify for legal aid assistance. Their right to equality before the law might be meaningless if not for the work of Peninsula CLC in resourcing and directly assisting them to uphold their rights.

'We are honoured to have been recognised by our peers in respect of the contribution that we, as an organisation, have made to the community and to the legal profession', says Ms. Constat.

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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*





Peninsula Community
Legal Centre Inc

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

END.

21st November, 2011

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