

Media Release

National Identity Fraud Awareness Week

National Identity Fraud Awareness Week in October aimed to put the spotlight on an issue shown by international research to be one of the fastest growing crimes. With 1.2 million Australians aged over 15 being victims of identity fraud in 2010-2011, and Australians losing \$1.4 billion due to this problem, the impact cannot be understated. Peninsula Community Legal Centre urges members of the community to take protective measures to avoid becoming victims of identity fraud.

Principal Lawyer, Victoria Mullings, says:

“Once identity fraud has occurred it can be very difficult to prove that you are not responsible for incurring a debt. We strongly recommend that measures should be taken to prevent this by practicing responsible personal security habits. For example: secure your mail box with a lock; install security software on your devices; be extremely cautious to whom you provide your personal and financial information ; always ask to read a business’s Privacy Policy. Be very conservative when posting personal information on social networking sites.

If you are unlucky enough to be a victim of identity fraud then you should report it to Victoria Police immediately. Victims of identity fraud may be eligible for a Commonwealth Victim Certificate that can help support a claim that they have been subject to personal fraud. For further information on Commonwealth Victim Certificates you should visit www.ag.gov.au; and the Australian Federal Police website www.afp.gov.au.

We also encourage community members to attend the Peninsula Community Legal Centre to obtain a copy of the Australian Government’s brochure, entitled, ‘Protecting Yourself Online’, which provides further helpful tips to prevent fraud. “

Peninsula Community Legal Centre has been providing free legal services to our local community for 35 years.

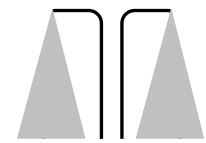
For more information about free legal services, please call the Centre on 9783 3600 or visit www.pclc.org.au.

END.

26 October 2012

CONTACT:

Andrea Staunton
General Manager, Volunteers & Education
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



President’s Award Winner – Legal Organisation of the Year Award

**Donations over \$2.00
are tax deductible**

*Service to the
Community
since 1977*

