

Media Release

Sooner Rather than Later for Legal Problems

Peninsula Community Legal Centre is urging people to seek advice about legal problems as soon as they arise, to avoid the poor outcomes that can result from delays or not taking action.

The Centre has been providing free legal services in Glen Eira for around 15 years and operates a branch office in Bentleigh three days and two evenings per week.

Principal Lawyer, Victoria Mullings, says:

“Recent research suggests that around half of Victorians experience a legal problem each year.

The *Legal Australia-Wide Survey: Legal Need in Australia*, published by the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales last year, also confirms our experience that people who are disadvantaged are more likely to have legal problems, and those problems are often serious and complex.

The survey found that around one in five people took no action for their legal problems, which frequently led to poorer outcomes. Reasons for not taking action included stress, cost or not knowing what to do.

With financial support from the City of Glen Eira, as well as federal and state governments, Peninsula Community Legal Centre’s Bentleigh Branch offers free legal advice on most areas of law, with ongoing assistance for clients experiencing disadvantage.

Bentleigh Branch clients commonly seek help with family law, family violence, credit and debts, motor vehicle issues and neighbour disputes. Clients can also access the Centre’s Tenant and Consumer, Rooming House Outreach, Family Law and Child Support Programs.

Dealing with a legal problem “sooner rather than later” not only helps resolve the problem, but can avoid huge emotional, health and financial costs down the track. We strongly encourage anyone who thinks they may have a legal problem to contact us to find out how we can help.”

For more information about free legal services, please call (03) 9570 8455 or visit www.pclc.org.au.

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Community
since 1977*

