

## Media Release

### *Protective Services Officers at Frankston*

With Protective Services Officers (PSOs) now patrolling Frankston Train Station, Peninsula Community Legal Centre is urging commuters to be aware of their rights.

Principal Lawyer, Victoria Mullings, says:

“PSOs are armed and uniformed officers who have the power to apprehend, arrest, search, fine and ask people to move on in designated areas such as trains stations and surrounding areas. PSOs have broad powers but they must interact with commuters in an accountable manner that is compliant with the duties and restrictions placed on them by the legislation.

For example, when dealing with PSOs you have the right to request their name, address, place of duty, or ask to see identification if they are not in uniform. If asked, you must provide a PSO with your name and address but beyond that you are not obliged to answer any other questions. Commuters should remember that any information they give a PSO may be used against them in court.

Anyone seeking more information about their rights in dealing with PSOs is encouraged to visit our Centre at 441 Nepean Highway to collect a free information card. This information card has been produced by the Federation of Community Legal Centres in partnership with Smart Justice and the Mental Health Legal Service, as part of the *Your Rights on Track* campaign. Information is also available at [www.smartjustice.org.au](http://www.smartjustice.org.au).

We encourage anyone with concerns about their treatment by PSOs to seek legal advice at the earliest opportunity.”

Peninsula Community Legal Centre has been providing free legal services for 35 years. For more information about free legal services, please call the Centre on 9783 3600 or visit [www.pclc.org.au](http://www.pclc.org.au).

END.

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#### 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](mailto:pclc@pclc.org.au)  
[www.pclc.org.au](http://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

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