

# Media Release

## *A Fine Problem: Come to Us, Before the Sheriff Comes to You*

Peninsula Community Legal Centre is urging people with outstanding fines to take action, before they find the Sheriff knocking on their door to seize property, arrest them or wheel clamp their cars.

Senior Lawyer, Kate Ross, says:

“Many people are astonished at the far-reaching powers of the Sheriff in relation to outstanding fines. Although the Sheriff’s power to seize goods is fairly well-known, people are shocked to find their wheels clamped by the Sheriff in a shopping centre car park, or find their drivers licence or car registration has been suspended.

Increasingly, we are seeing clients with bundles of fines totalling tens of thousands of dollars, often from driving on toll roads without an e-tag, traffic infringements or local council fines. Many clients are grappling with other problems in their lives, but ignoring fines leads to growing costs and can soon reach crisis-point, with some even facing jail for non-payment.

Each year, Peninsula Community Legal Centre assists hundreds of people to deal with their fines. Some clients simply need advice about their legal options, while others need help to arrange a payment plan or assistance applying to court for the fine to be cancelled.

We strongly encourage anyone having trouble with unpaid fines to deal with them as soon as possible and seek legal advice if you’re not sure what to do.”

Peninsula Community Legal Centre is a not-for-profit organisation that provides free advice on most legal issues, with ongoing assistance available for clients experiencing disadvantage. The Centre’s head office is in Frankston, with branches in Bentleigh, Cranbourne, Frankston North and Rosebud, as well as visiting services in Chelsea and Hastings. For more information about free legal services, please call (03) 9783 3600 or visit [www.pclc.org.au](http://www.pclc.org.au) .

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