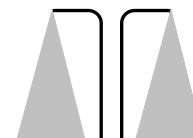


Press Release

New Personal Safety Laws



Peninsula Community
Legal Centre Inc

Registered No. A8T
ABN 23 591 244 622

Head Office
Chatsworth House
Suite 1-4
431 Nepean Highway
Frankston Vic 3199

Tel 03 9783 3600
Fax 03 9770 5200
Free Call 1800 064 784
DX 19953 Frankston
Email pclc@pclc.org.au
www.pclc.org.au

Bentleigh Branch
82 Brady Road
Bentleigh East Vic 3165

Tel 03 9570 8455
Fax 03 9570 8466

Cranbourne Branch
Bella Centre
Suite 12
33-39 High Street
Cranbourne Vic 3977

Tel 03 5995 3722
Fax 03 5995 3799

Pines Branch
2A Candlebark Crescent
Frankston North Vic 3200

Tel 03 9786 6980
Fax 03 9785 3582

Rosebud Branch
1375 Point Nepean Road
Rosebud Vic 3939

Tel 03 5981 2422
Fax 03 5981 2488

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



The new *Personal Safety Intervention Orders Bill 2010* (Vic), which is due to commence by January 2012, will replace the current stalking legislation, and will focus strongly on the use of mediation for less serious matters. The Bill is aimed at personal disputes involving non-family members.

Peninsula Community Legal Centre's Principal Lawyer, Victoria Mullings, says:

"The proposed legislation looks not only at stalking, but addresses those behaviours that the old laws have been used for, but were not specifically designed to deal with, such as neighbourhood disputes, bullying and general harassment.

"We hope that, in practice, the legislation manages to strike the right balance between referring suitable matters for mediation, and providing protection for those who need it.

"The new laws also contain some promising initiatives, such as covering 'one-off' serious incidents, and provisions aimed at dealing appropriately with school bullying.

"Peninsula Community Legal Centre commonly advises clients on neighbour and other personal disputes. In our experience, where it is safe to do so, many clients are able to resolve disputes themselves – either directly, or through mediation. We encourage anyone who is involved in a personal dispute, but unsure of their rights, to seek legal advice."

Peninsula Community Legal Centre has been providing free legal services to the community for over 30 years and operates branches in Frankston, Cranbourne, Rosebud, Bentleigh and the Pines (Frankston North), as well as operating visiting 'outreach' services in a range of locations.

For more information about free legal services, please call Peninsula Community Legal Centre's Head Office on (03) 9783 3600 or visit www.pclc.org.au.

END.

18 August 2010

Contact:
ANDREA FLORANCE
GENERAL MANAGER - VOLUNTEER & EDUCATION PROGRAMS
PENINSULA COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC.
Tel: (03) 9783 3600 Extension 34