

Peninsula Community Legal Centre celebrates the success of its Rosebud Branch

It has been two and a half years since Peninsula Community Legal Centre first opened its doors to provide dedicated free legal services to the Rosebud and surrounding community. Since that time the Legal Centre office has become a much valued community resource, with a steady volume of clients.

Peninsula CLC is a not-for-profit organisation that has been providing free legal services to its community for over 30 years. Its mission is "To empower and support disadvantaged community members of the South East and Westernport Region to use the law and legal system to protect and advance their rights and broaden their awareness of their rights and responsibilities."

Helen Constas, Chief Executive Officer, says "Our client's life circumstances can be severely affected by their legal problems and they are often not able to access other legal services. Being able to obtain free legal assistance can often help our clients move on with their lives and become active participants in their local communities."

"Since the Rosebud branch opened in December 2008 more than 1,200 people have sought legal assistance in relation to matters concerning family, civil and criminal law. We are pleased that we have been able to extend our service to include a Rosebud branch to provide assistance within this community. We are acutely aware that the Rosebud community has high levels of disadvantage which is compounded by its relative geographical isolation. It is therefore crucial that we maintain a local presence in Rosebud."

"In the past year the top 5 areas for which advice was sought at Rosebud were family law; credit and debt matters; motor vehicle accidents; criminal law and injuries."

Peninsula CLC's staff and volunteers provide clients with free and accessible legal services, which are available to those who live, work or study within the Centre's catchment area. A range of client services are offered, including dedicated Family Law, Family Violence, Child Support, Tenant and Consumer Programs. The Centre also undertakes special projects, community legal education and law reform activities.

For more information about free legal services, contact Peninsula Community Legal Centre's Rosebud Branch on 5981 2422 or visit www.pclc.org.au.
ENDS.

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