

	Peninsula Community Legal Centre	<h2>Position Description</h2> <h3><i>Community Lawyer</i></h3> <h3><i>Street Law Coffee Van Project</i></h3>
---	--	--

Position Title	Community Lawyer,
Tenure	12 months
Division	Legal Services
Location	Frankston
Classification	Social, Community, Home Care & Disability Services Industry (SCHADS) Award 2010 2B Lev5
Approved By	Chief Executive Officer

POSITION OBJECTIVE

The Community Lawyer will work within the Centre's legal team to provide high quality and timely legal services to vulnerable and disadvantaged clients across the Centre's catchment under the Street Law Coffee Van Project.

This is a 0.6 FTE role (3 days a week). This position will also be required to work a number of weekend events or outreach services. We anticipate that over the 12 months this will equate to approximately 12 weekend events/outreach sessions (approximately 6 hours in duration).

The Community Lawyer will play a key role in the effective development and implementation the Street Law Coffee Van Project. The Street Law Coffee Van Project will visit isolated and disengaged communities on the Mornington Peninsula and the local government areas of Casey and Cardinia to provide legal and non-legal support and information.

The Project is an assertive outreach project which will see the Community Lawyer spend two days on the road taking legal services to the community and one day in the office providing ongoing representation and casework. The Community Lawyer will be accompanied on the road by a PCLC employed Community Engagement Officer.

The Street Law Community Lawyer will provide legal services including information, advice, minor assistance, casework, representation and referral services along with intake and casework services.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITY AREAS

1. Deliver high quality legal advice and casework, advocacy and representation services in accordance with the PCLC *Advice and Casework Guidelines*.
2. Conduct ongoing casework in accordance with the Centre's *Advice and Casework Guidelines* and within the caseload/file limit directed from time to time
3. Work closely and collaboratively with the Legal Assistance sector, including Victoria Legal Aid and courts to support the CLSP program objectives.
4. Maintain an appropriate case management system, including undertaking regular file reviews

5. Maintain accurate and up-to-date records, including file notes, client and casework data and case studies.
6. Develop and maintain up-to-date knowledge of relevant legislation, procedures and practices relevant to the position.
7. Develop and maintain up-to-date knowledge of relevant information, resources and referral options for clients. Participate in regular supervision and caseworkers' meetings.
8. Ensure that all work is conducted within the requirements of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014*, the Centre's professional indemnity insurance and the Centre's policies and procedures.
9. Liaise with relevant organisations and workers.
10. Collect and analyse information, make decisions, and prepare reports to achieve the Street Law Coffee Van project objectives
11. Represent Peninsula Community Legal Centre at relevant community, government and other forums.
12. Participate in community legal education activities as directed.
13. Identify trends and issues arising from legal advice and casework practice.
14. Participate in activities which seek to ensure greater legislative and practical protection for PCLC clients, such as submission writing and participation in campaigns.
15. Liaise with and report to the Director Legal Services and the Senior Manager Development and Engagement as appropriate on a regular basis.
16. Assist with collection of data and preparation of reports and other accountability documentation as required.

ORGANISATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Reports to: Director Legal Services
 Senior Manager Development & Engagement
 Chief Executive Officer

Direct Reports: No reports to this position

ACCOUNTABILITY, AUTHORITY AND DECISION MAKING

The position reports directly to the Director, Legal Services and the Senior Manager, Development and Engagement

All work and conduct is to be performed in accordance with PCLC Policy and Procedures, PCLC Strategic Plan, PCLC Work Plan and PCLC Advice and Casework Guidelines.

Professional judgement is exercised in the performance of routine tasks and client services.

Direction is sought prior to engaging in non-routine tasks and client services.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Possess, or be eligible to possess, a current practicing certificate with two years post admission practice.
- Experience in, or demonstrated capacity to undertake, direct legal service delivery, including provision of information, advice and referral services, negotiation and

advocacy on behalf of clients, representation of clients in courts and other legal settings.

- Needs to be confident in effectively engaging and communicating with vulnerable or disengaged people with complex legal needs who may struggle to access legal support.
- Experience in court representation.
- Highly developed advocacy skills
- Demonstrated knowledge of and commitment to social justice principles, understanding of the legal assistance sector and a commitment to PCLC 's vision and values.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Well developed organisational skills and ability to work with minimal supervision.
- Competency in using word processing and electronic communication programs.
- Holds a current Victorian Driver's Licence and has access to a reliable and comprehensively insured vehicle.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

- You will be required to travel to PCLC branches, PCLC service locations and Courts and Tribunals. Access to a reliable and comprehensively insured motor vehicle is a requirement.
- Ensure compliance with all Privacy Legislation and treat all information of a personal and sensitive nature concerning the business of PCLC and its clients, in a professional and confidential manner in accordance with PCLC's information and records management procedures.
- Ensure that all PCLC policies, procedures, systems and work practices are implemented and adhered to, in particular, in human resource management, risk management and customer service.
- Act in a professional manner at all times while performing duties for and/or representing PCLC in line with the Staff Code of Conduct.
- An attractive remuneration package will be negotiated with the successful applicant. Salary packaging is available.
-

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

Peninsula Community Legal Centre (PCLC) is one of 49 community legal centres in Victoria. It operates across six local government area in the south east of Melbourne – Cardinia, Casey, Frankston, Glen Eira, Kingston and Mornington Peninsula. PCLC is headquartered in Frankston and has branch offices in Bentleigh, Cranbourne, Frankston North and Rosebud.

The Centre works to empower and support disadvantaged community members of the South Eastern and Westernport region to use the law and legal system to protect and advance their rights and broaden their awareness of their responsibilities. The Centre offers general legal advice and casework services, specialist family law, tenancy, family violence, rooming house and social work programs, and is active in community legal education and law reform work.

PCLC VISION AND VALUES

Vision

Delivering justice for our community – Promoting and protecting human rights and equality before the law

Values

- Fairness
- Respect
- Integrity
- Empowerment
- Independence
- Accessibility
- Quality

Mission

PCLC will ...

- Empower and support disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our community to address their legal needs.
- Engage and build an ever strengthening and capable legal practice
- Foster and maintain a network of support for the vulnerable and disadvantaged within our community
- Support families in the provision of services that champion child welfare and safety in the eyes of the law
- Deliver a legal service that builds our community toward building one free from violence .

Objectives

- Deliver high quality and holistic community legal services, ensuring equity, fairness and justice for all
- Actively engage in systemic advocacy, to promote and enhance human rights and ensure access to justice
- Proactively develop the organisation and its employees to effectively respond to changing community needs.
- Innovatively and responsively address increasingly complex legal and social issues impacting upon our community
- Demonstrate leadership within our community and the legal assistance sector.