

'Elder law' covered by new service

PENINSULA Community Legal Centre is launching a free legal service for over 65 year olds.

Over the next month the service will coincide with “many life events associated with ageing involve legal issues”, CEO Jackie Galloway said.

“We are launching this service to meet a steadily rising demand for advice on elder law problems.”

Elder law focuses on protecting older people’s rights and assets. It is also about ensuring that their wishes are respected at a time when they are at their most vulnerable.

Common legal issues associated with ageing cover wills, delegation of decision-making capacity regarding financial and healthcare decisions, aged care facilities and retirement villages, guardianship, physical or financial abuse, and mistreatment in aged care.

“The damning report by the Royal Commission in February revealed horrific failures in the aged care sector,” Ms Galloway said.

“Financial exploitation and abuse of older people is also on the rise. Perpetrators include financial scammers who take advantage of victims’ lack of familiarity with technology, or family members who pressure victims to hand over money or assets by preying on their emotions.”

Advice on these elder-specific issues, as well as more general civil law issues, will be provided at the monthly service by lawyers from PCLC and volunteers from prominent law firm Russell Kennedy commencing 16 April.

The elder law service will be held on the third Friday of every month at PCLC’s Rosebud office, 1375 Point Nepean Road, Rosebud.

Advice will be provided in private one-on-one appointments which need to be booked in advance.

Contact Peninsula Community Legal Centre on 9783 3600 or email pclc@pclc.org.au



Bunnings staffer Jenny Mann waters the Flinders Ward garden alongside diversional therapist Maureen Donovan and patients Allan Brilliant and Melissa Schaller.

Store joins patient approach to gardening

PATIENTS are growing and picking a variety of fruit and vegetables at The Mornington Centre thanks to a nearby hardware chain.

Bunnings Warehouse Mornington staff dropped by recently to donate seedlings and help out in the centre’s three sensory gardens.

Peninsula Health’s 90-bed geriatric evaluation and management centre in Separation Street, provides specialist medical, nursing and allied health services mainly for people with health care conditions associated with ageing, memory and thinking problems, chronic illness or disability.

Working alongside the Bunnings staff, patients Allan Brilliant and Melissa Schaller turned over the soil with fresh mulch and watered the Flinders Ward sensory garden beds.

Diversional therapist Maureen Donovan thanked the store’s team helping to create a greener landscape in the centre’s outdoor spaces.

“When you are in hospital for any length of time and you have thinking and memory problems, then to have some occupation is really important in getting patients off the ward,” she said.

“We know that being outside, getting in touch with nature, and seeing things grow, is so important for people’s mental and physical health, especially for those who may be facing long periods on the wards.”

Jenny Mann, of Bunnings, said has seen the difference made by each donation as the sensory gardens transformed over the years.

“We really enjoy coming out and seeing the difference this garden is making for the staff and the patients here,” Ms Mann said.

“Every year we will come down with bags of potting mix, some vegetable seedlings and also gardening tools, to keep these gardens looking their best as the seasons change.

“The produce is looking healthy and well and this spot here on Flinders ward really gets a great amount of sun which is great.”

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