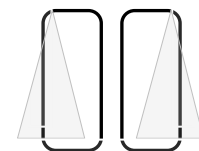


## Neighbour Day – 27 March



Peninsula Community  
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the financial assistance of:

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- Victoria Legal Aid
- City of Casey
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- Frankston City Council
- Mornington Peninsula Shire

Donations over \$2.00  
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*Service to the  
Community  
since 1977*



Peninsula Community Legal Centre considers Neighbour Day on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March the opportune time to meet your neighbours and perhaps chat about any issues in your neighbourhood. Being on good terms with your neighbours can dramatically improve your enjoyment of where you live.

Victoria Mullings, Principal Lawyer, has the following advice for those who are having a problem with their neighbour, "If you are involved in a dispute with your neighbour it is best to try to discuss the problem with your neighbour in person, to try to resolve the problem as soon as possible. Neighbour disputes which are left unaddressed can become very stressful, costly and time consuming, drastically impacting upon your life."

"It can be awkward to approach your neighbour about your concerns, however, in many cases your neighbour may not have been aware of the impact that their actions were having on you. It is always best to tell your neighbour that there is a problem that is affecting you and see if you can reach a resolution that is suitable to both of you."

Over the past 5 years Peninsula CLC has provided advice and assistance in over 1,000 neighbour disputes. These include fencing disputes, noise complaints, animal complaints and trees impacting on bordering properties.

In one unfortunate case, the Legal Centre assisted a client who was being terrorised by a neighbour who conducted a substantial campaign of strange and worrying harassment, including threatening to injure the client's pets, over a period of years. The client tried to extend the orders. The neighbour contested the client's application, and engaged a lawyer, but after initial assistance from PCLC at court, and some support to prepare for the contest, the client was able to persuade the Magistrate to grant an indefinite order against the neighbour.

However, many neighbours are able to work things out with good communication. A much happier example was a client who was a shift worker who was struggling to sleep as a result of the incessant barking of his neighbour's dogs. Sleep deprivation was starting to cause problems in many aspects of the client's life. The client made complaints to Council regarding the noise, before approaching the Legal Centre for assistance. The Legal Centre suggested approaching the neighbour to explain the situation to see if there was a suitable remedy that could be mutually beneficial to both parties. Although not convinced of this approach the client talked to their neighbour. An amicable arrangement was reached where the dogs would not be left alone at the property during the day. The neighbour was unaware that their pets were creating a problem and was most happy to suggest solutions to alleviate the concerns of their neighbour.

"If you find that you cannot reach a suitable outcome to the problem and you are unaware of your legal rights, then legal advice about your particular situation should be sought. There are services such as Peninsula Community Legal Centre that can provide advice free of charge," says Ms. Mullings.

The Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria also provides assistance to neighbours to resolve disputes and can be contacted on 8803 8533.



Peninsula Community  
**Legal Centre** inc

Peninsula Community Legal Centre is a not-for-profit organisation that has been providing free legal services to the community for over 30 years. For more information about free legal services or to obtain an appointment for advice contact Peninsula Community Legal Centre on 9783 3600 or visit [www.pclc.org.au](http://www.pclc.org.au).

ENDS.

11 March 2011

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