

BUSHFIRE SUPPORT VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Eastern Community Legal Centre is working with VLA, LIV, and other CLCs through the Federation of CLCs to respond to the legal needs of those affected by the bushfire through a co-ordinated approach.

It is anticipated that the response will involve three main areas of activity/support:

1. Clinics
2. 1800 hotline
3. Fact sheets

There are currently 13 support centres for fire victims located around Victoria, in proximity to the fire zones. These are co-ordinated by Department of Human Services. We will be attempting to focus our activity through these centres, alongside other service providers.

It's anticipated that all three legal service providers - CLC, VLA and private/pro bono lawyers - will be involved at the different levels of activity.

These will probably operate daily, (possibly including weekends) from Thursday 12/2.

The relief centres are currently located at:

- Mt Beauty
- Alexandra
- Chiltern
- Diamond Creek
- Healesville
- Kinglake
- Marysville
- Sale
- Traralgon
- Wallan
- Whittlesea
- Yarram
- Yea

While some are clearly in our region (Healesville), ECLC is also expecting to assist with Diamond Creek and some others have no CLC close by.

Offers to assist at any of these locations would be much appreciated.

It is likely that persons affected will encounter a range of issues in the ensuring weeks and months as they try to rebuild their lives. These may include:

- Housing and tenancy issues including the obligations for both landlords and renters;
- Debt matters including mortgages
- Insurances including for the non insured.
- Loss of identification or insurance papers
- Job protection and income support issues due to trauma related absences;
- Estate matters where whole families have lost their lives, powers of attorney, wills
- Family law matters, including with extended family members, involving the care and schooling of children where one or more parents have died.
- Personal injury and crimes compensation and
- Coronial matters

Some fact sheets and resources on key issues are being prepared by LIV to support lawyers and other volunteers assisting community members..

While practice issues are being finalised, we expect private lawyers volunteering (particularly those who are not current ECLC volunteers will do so under the LIV banner in terms of practising certificates and file management issues.

At this stage, ECLC is collecting volunteer information as rapidly as possible and will get in touch with you directly. Both lawyers and paralegal volunteers will be needed.

Please fill in the attached form and return to us as soon as possible. We will endeavour to incorporate all offers and requests, but please understand we have been inundated with offers of help. Key contact details at ECLC are below.

Thank you for your support and our thoughts and concern remain with all those affected by this extraordinary crisis in our communities.



Bushfire Support Volunteer Lawyer Information Form

Please send the completed form to ECLC Box Hill ASAP either via fax (9285 4833) or email (leonieb@eclc.org.au). If you have any queries please call 9285 4822 to speak to Lauren or Leonie.

Name:.....

Firm:.....

Address:.....

.....

Phone: (w).....**(m)****(h)**.....

Fax:.....

E-mail:.....

Areas of practice:

.....

.....

Availability:

Location: (Please indicate your ability to attend at different locations)

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.....

Times and days: (Please indicate the times that you are available on the following roster)

	Immediate				Ongoing						
	Thurs (12th)	Fri (13th)	Sat (14th)	Sun (15th)	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning											
Afternoon											
Evening											



Bushfire Support

Volunteer Paralegal Information Form

Please send the completed form to ECLC Box Hill ASAP either via fax (9285 4833) or email (leonieb@eclc.org.au). If you have any queries please call 9285 4822 to speak to Lauren or Leonie.

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Phone: (w).....(m)(h).....

Fax:.....

E-mail:.....

Availability:

Location: (Please indicate your ability to attend at different locations.)

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Times and days: (Please indicate the times that you are available on the following roster)

	Immediate				Ongoing							
	Thurs (12th)	Fri (13th)	Sat (14th)	Sun (15th)	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	
Morning												
Afternoon												
Evening												