



eastern community legal centre

she... WITH July marking the anniversary of... advocacy... th program... thumbs up

WHEN Yarra Ranges families come into contact with Jenell Smith and her team, they're just about at rock bottom. Ms Smith is principal lawyer for the Eastern Community Legal Centre, which runs a...



New charter Ranges legal service received a \$5000 grant from the Victorian Government to perform at five venues in the eastern metropolitan area this year. Legal centre manager Michael Smith said the...



Serious message in act...

... hot off the press ...

justice system volunteers... The award...

Violence met head on

More than 20 families a week suffered domestic violence in Mooroodah last year, police reveal. More than 320 calls were made to police across the area, although this represented a fall on the previous year. Eastern Metropolitan state Labor MP Brian Ryan said it showed "Maroon clearly has no immunity to the savage brutality of domestic violence".



legal access... anti-hoon laws... Many people prefer to deal with their local... rights...

annual report 2007 - 2008

The State Government is moving to toughen domestic violence laws. Eastern Community Legal Centre manager Michael Smith said: "We are pretty happy..."

who commit offences punishable for drivers... Hoon Fact Sheet, call 9200... developed a fact sheet...

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eastern community legal centre

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Hours of Operation
Monday to Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday to Thursday evenings

Inner East: serving the communities of
Boroondara, Manningham & Whitehorse

Regular outreach services to:

Ashburton, Hawthorn, Healesville Lilydale, Rowville, Yarra Junction & Ringwood Magistrates' Court.

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Hours of Operation
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Tuesday evenings

Outer East: serving the communities of Knox,
Maroondah & Yarra Ranges

Centre Mission

The Eastern Community Legal Centre is committed to reform that achieves equality and social justice within the legal system for disadvantaged members of the community.

Aim

To work with our community to identify and address issues of inequality and injustice in the legal system.

Objectives

To provide free and accessible legal services that empower clients to meet their legal needs, within a community development framework.

To identify the legal needs of disadvantaged people in the Eastern Community Legal Centre region through conducting research.

To provide an organisational structure and policies and procedures to support the above objectives, **that specifically includes processes for strategic planning and evaluation of the Centre's activities.**

To engage in collaborative partnerships and networks of agencies to assist in meeting the objectives of the Centre.

To promote awareness of the Centre and its activities within the community.

To encourage the community's involvement in the Centre's activities with a particular emphasis on a proactive membership.



Deputy Premier & Attorney-General Rob Hulls launches family violence funding.



New YRIPP volunteers with DC Simon Overland at ECLC Volunteers Dinner

Community Service Announcements

Eastern Community Legal Centre would like to acknowledge and thank the following people and organisations for their support and service throughout the year.

Our Wonderful Volunteer Team!

Donations to ECLC

ECLC wishes to thank everyone who has generously made a donation to the Centre in the past year.

Funding Partners

Victoria Legal Aid
Victorian Government
Commonwealth Government
City of Whitehorse
Knox City Council
City of Boroondara
Rotary Club of Balwyn
Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission

Legal Firms

Moores Legal
Robinson Gill
JH Legal
Aughtersons
Mercader
Holding Redlich

Project Partners

Box Hill Citizen's Advice Bureau
Carp Productions
Centre for Multicultural Youth
Council On The Ageing (Victoria)
EACH (Eastern Access Community Health)
EDVOS (Eastern Domestic Violence Service)
Family Access Network
GordonCare
Inner East Community Health Centre
Knox Community Health Service
Knox Infolink
Loddon Campaspe CLC
Louise Multicultural Community Centre
Migrant Information Centre (Eastern)
PolMin
Public Interest Law Clearing House
Ringwood Magistrates' Court
Women's Legal Service Victoria

Board of Management

Helen Killmier (Chairperson)
Sue Carlile (Deputy Chair)
Maryclare Machen (Secretary)
Lance Wilson (Treasurer)
Helen Evenden
Kate Hamond
Rhonda Goodall
Marie Casey
Tony Monley

Staff

Manager
Michael Smith

Inner East Co-ordinator
Leonie Burnham

Outer East Co-ordinator
Denise Budge

Financial Administrator
Cathy Oliver

Principal Lawyer
Jenni Smith

Community Lawyers
Ann Lightowler
Danni Baylis
Reannon Hemmings
Donna Askew
Eve Bodsworth

Community Development
Kate Johnson

Administration
Armita Yareh
Craig Rossi
Naomi Milnes
Lauren Hills
Helen Gay

YRIPP Regional Co-ordinator (CMY)
Vivianne Dias

Patron

Ian Gray
Chief Magistrate
Magistrates' Court of Victoria

NEWS | Board Report

‘People who are funny and smart and return phone calls get much better press than people who are just funny and smart’.
~Howard Simons

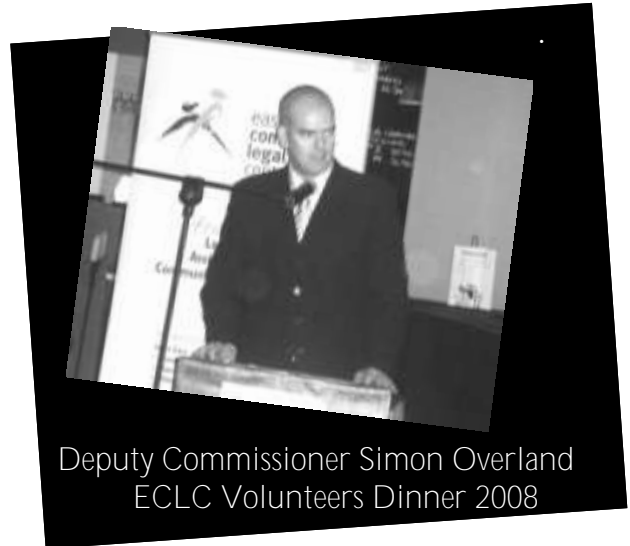
This year the Eastern Community Legal Centre team have chosen the theme “Hot off the Press” for our AGM to feature the positive work undertaken throughout the year and the press coverage that has highlighted this work. Clearly this makes them people who are funny, and smart, and return phone calls!

As I reflect on our past 12 months, a key theme to emerge is around partnerships and collaborations. We commenced the year expanding our partnership with Gordoncare who share office space with us in Boronia and September saw the commencement of the Youth Referral and Independent Person Program (YRIPP), a partnership program of the Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (CMYI), the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria, ECLC and other agencies, funded through the Department of Justice.

Another significant partnership has been the Seniors Rights Victoria service which is led by Council on the Ageing (COTA) in partnership with the Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH), ECLC and the Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre.

All of our partnerships require time, care and nurturing as well as resources to ensure that they remain positive and viable for all involved. Our dedicated Manager, Michael Smith, has worked hard throughout the year on partnership development and maintenance. I would like to thank him for his strong leadership and commitment to the organisation.

The ECLC staff team have continued to work hard to ensure that high quality legal services are provided throughout the Eastern Region of Melbourne. In addition, new policies have been produced where required, community legal education modules have been developed, many submissions have been written, our website has been updated and a project entitled *Youth in a Legal Context* was developed to identify gaps in legal service delivery to young people across three local government areas.



Deputy Commissioner Simon Overland
ECLC Volunteers Dinner 2008

With a successful grant from the Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission a play designed to educate primary school-aged children about the Victorian Charter of Human Rights toured festivals.

We are also fortunate to have a wonderful, committed team of volunteers that give generously of their time. Victoria Police Deputy Commissioner *Simon Overland* was special guest at our annual Volunteers Dinner where we celebrated the amazing contribution that over 100 volunteers make to the Centre on an ongoing basis.

Early in 2008, the Board undertook a strategic planning workshop focusing on the challenges and opportunities that partnerships bring to an organisation. We have also held discussions about the challenges of service provision in a region as large as the Outer East where accessibility of public transport is a key issue.

I would like to sincerely thank the Board for their involvement and input throughout the year, in particular members of the Executive for their support of me in my role as Chair.

This year many new innovative partnerships and collaborations have commenced and many existing and valued partnerships have been maintained. Due to the collective effort of staff, volunteers and Board members, ECLC is again strongly positioned to move forward into our next exciting year.

Helen Killmier
Chairperson

Editorial

There is only one thing in the world worse
than being talked about,
and that is not being talked about.

- Oscar Wilde, 1891

There are many ways to measure productivity, success and effectiveness and the Board considers many of these. Yet when it came to identifying and highlighting the key events, activities and achievements of the Centre over **the last year, most had already been 'widely reported'**. The AGM theme "**Hot Off The Press!**" soon followed. A pleasing aspect of the coverage was that the breadth of the work was covered: volunteers, legal advocacy regarding family violence, youth support through YRIPP, elder abuse response through Seniors Rights Victoria, human rights education and yes, even small pieces on some funding increases.

There was certainly much important work and events that were not so prominently featured and these will not be forgotten in these pages. As we look back over the year, there is indeed much to be celebrate and be proud of. The teams of ECLC staff, volunteers and the Board have been working very hard and should be acknowledged and proud of their efforts – indeed a story worth telling.

Strategic Planning

While the media looks at just one day at a time, the Board and management have a longer term view and responsibility. In late 2007 the Board initiated a broad Strategic Planning review, with the assistance of a consultant Jean Roberts. This process was completed in March 2008 with **both confirmation of the Centre's overall mission and direction and the adoption of a new 3-year Strategic Plan with six Strategic Directions:**

1. Quality targeted and integrated legal advice and casework
2. Community Development
3. Volunteer Engagement
4. Partnership Relations and Development (including Seniors Rights Victoria/Elder abuse)
5. Innovative approach to service planning and delivery
6. Succession Planning

A series of actions over the 3 years were

identified and this framework also guided the **development of the Centre's Community Legal Services Program Plan** (3 year-plan) subsequently approved by VLA, the lead funder of the Centre. Implementation of the Strategic Plan has commenced and has provided a clear focus for a range of initiatives.

Environment

Clearly the political landscape has changed significantly over the last year. While this has had a limited impact on the daily service operation to date, the level of expressed support and interest from the Commonwealth government is most encouraging. In April the Attorney-General announced both a one-off **injection of funds into CLC's (\$10 million nationally)** and the release of the review of the Community Legal Services Program. This review was overwhelmingly positive and much work has occurred at a State and National level to examine and implement its recommendations. It is hoped that a long-term joint State and Federal partnership to fund CLCs appropriately will become closer over the coming year.

Partnerships

With a range of apparent client needs and service gaps, ECLC has continued to instigate and develop partnerships to achieve improved responses for its communities.

The major partnership was the joint venture to establish Seniors Rights Victoria. With PILCH (Public Interest Law Clearing House), Loddon Campaspe CLC and the Council On The Ageing **(Victoria), the venture's tender was successful** and after further negotiation announced in January. This project has required a huge amount of effort by all the of the partners and was launched in April. We thank the partners for their commitment and collaboration and look forward to developing the service further.

The YRIPP (Youth Referral and Independent Person Program) was established in partnership with the Centre for Multicultural Youth and has operated very effectively through the year. Young people with limited support are ably assisted by ECLC/YRIPP Independent Persons across the east at any time of the day or night.

ECLC's partnership with Ringwood VLA, Eastern Domestic Violence Service (EDVOS), the Ringwood Magistrates' Court and local private law firms was celebrated with the visit of the Attorney-General, Rob Hulls in May. This service

continues to provide crucial and effective assistance for clients at a very vulnerable time as they seek to navigate an often bewildering court process.

We thank all of our partners for their support and collaboration through the year and look forward to developing these relationships even further in the year ahead.

Services

Both the direct legal services and community development activities performed at a high level this year. While client numbers were down slightly, this reflects an increased emphasis on case work (ongoing work) with this work (considerably more time-consuming and complex than single advice sessions) increasing by 20% - over 100 clients. The Principal and Community Lawyers did an outstanding job in this area. While family law and family violence remained the main focus, a range of other civil, administrative and minor criminal matters were also assisted.

The integrated community development approach continued with all staff playing a role. Over 25 Community Legal Education sessions or activities took place through the year – averaging one session each fortnight. With improved content and evaluation systems, this was a most effective approach.

The Human Rights on the Festival Stage project, **with Fred's Fair Play being presented at** community festivals was supported by the Victorian Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission and was an innovative and effective educational tool for children – and their parents!

Staffing

The year was one of stability within the staffing team, with some new staff joining the high quality team. Vivianne Gloz joined the ECLC and CMY (Centre for Multicultural Youth) team in September as YRIPP Co-ordinator. She brought skill and insight to this new role, and capably juggled the numerous stakeholders. In March Naomi Milnes completed her administration traineeship and the Centre was pleased to retain her in a permanent administration role. In November, Reannon Hemmings joined the Outer East team as a part-time community lawyer, bringing fresh insight and perspectives. In May, Lauren Hills joined the administration team with a specific role supporting the Seniors Rights Victoria outreach and has already made a significant contribution. Donna Askew and Helen Gay have also provided capable locum assistance.

The continuing staff have had little rest in a busy and hectic year. As well as those mentioned above, Leonie, Denise, Jenni, Cathy, Ann, Armita, Danni, Craig, and Kate have worked together on both direct services and a range of projects. We thank them all for their dedication, skill and commitment.

Beyond the paid staff, ECLC continues to be dependent on its volunteers to offer both the depth and breadth across 15 distinct services and programs. It was fantastic to again acknowledge the volunteers at our now annual dinner but their efforts are never taken for granted. We offer our thanks as do the many satisfied clients and community members.¹

Overall

I would like to thank all of the staff - both paid and volunteer – for their outstanding work this year. It has been a great honour to work alongside committed and skilful teams who want the best for our clients and community.

Special thanks to Helen Killmier, the Executive and the Board for their leadership, wisdom and encouragement as we strive to develop and improve both the agency and its services.

I thank each of our funding partners for their contribution, including but not only the financial **support. Victoria Legal Aid's partnership has** continued, along with the ongoing support of the Cities of Whitehorse, Knox and Boroondara – which is greatly appreciated.

At this year's staff planning day we opened the newspapers and quickly found many issues and needs in our communities where ECLC can make a positive contribution. ECLC has had a fantastic year by any measure with much good news to report but there is other news needing attention. The Centre is particularly concerned with those communities where geographic or other isolation from services is a major issue. There are also smaller communities **experiencing disadvantage within a broadly 'well-off' area, whether in a specific geographic** location or where they face particular challenges such as mental health concerns. While ECLC has had some increases in its capacity, there remains much to be done to develop and deliver professional, ethical and innovative services, working passionately to improve access to and understanding of the law for all of the communities we serve. We look forward to working with you.

Michael B. Smith
Manager

The Legal Review

“Breaking News & Developments”

Family violence and family law have continued to be the major areas of enquiry from our clients. Funding cuts by Victoria Legal Aid earlier this year in the area of family law impacted on our client base, with our casework and advice in family law increasing by around 17%.

“Case work jumps by 20%”

Our case work has increased by 20% over the last year, reflecting the demand on our lawyers to respond to more complicated problems. Particularly in our outer east office, we are seeing clients who have to cope with increasing financial pressures. This is illustrated by the doubling of the number of files opened in the area of motor vehicle accidents. Anecdotal evidence indicates that people can no longer afford to pay motor vehicle insurance premiums and as a result when they have accidents, are then being pursued by aggressive insurance companies to personally pay for damages. All of these clients are suffering financial hardship and our lawyers in many of these cases have been able to successfully resolve the matter by having the debt waived.

“Court Report”

The number of clients seen both at court and in our offices has continued to increase with ECLC opening over a third more cases in family violence matters this year than last year. Happily the funding provided by the state government to enable us to employ a half time lawyer, has assisted us to keep up with this demand. Much of this casework has been to obtain grants of aid from Victoria Legal Aid to ensure that at contested hearings, the victims are represented in court by barristers.

We have also produced a pamphlet which is now available at court, to encourage clients to directly contact our service and also other family violence services in the region. Ideally as a result of the pamphlet, we are seeing more clients at our offices before they attend their court hearing.

This ensures clients will know what to expect on the day they attend court and assists in diffusing some of the overwhelming stress and anxiety they feel about attending court.

We also provide referrals to other services including counseling, financial, housing and family support services.

“Leading Reform”

As a co-convenor on the Federation of Community Legal Centres *Violence Against Women and Children's Working Group*, we have also participated in law reform by responding to the various government initiatives to family violence. We congratulate the government on the proposed family violence legislation which is expected to be enacted by the end of this year and is commendable in ensuring the protection of victims of family violence.

Lawyers have attended training to come to terms with the significant changes in the legislation which broadens the definition of family violence to include financial and emotional abuse as well as broadening the definition of family member.

Jenni Smith
Principal Lawyer

Odd Spot: Did you know that nearly 25% of ECLC's clients for 2007/08 were born in countries other than Australia?



Regional Reports | News & Views

“The Outer East Report”

With an increase in staff to include a 2 day per week community lawyer, and the generosity of Rhonda Goodall, a volunteer lawyer who now assists once a week, available day time appointments increased from 80 to 128 appointments per month. The weekly night service has also expanded from 21 available appointments to 27 appointments per month, which equates to a 50% increase in the number of available appointments from the 2006/07 period.

The Community Development programs have grown significantly in 2007/08. With a previous focus on youth, we are now cementing some strong links in the community with youth focused programs and providing legal education talks to young people. In addition, a partnership with the WHISH program was formed to provide legal education sessions to their senior residents. ECLC has also been part of the Knox Accord program, which raised awareness to end violence against women in the City of Knox. The team also had considerable success with media coverage of the many activities.

The year has been a busy one developing new partnerships with the Eastern Indigenous Service Providers Group, negotiating an outreach service in Healesville, continuing participation in a number of networks and council workshops and strengthening the relationship with GordonCare, that shares the Boronia office.

Thanks must go to all the fantastic staff and volunteers for their dedication and support, which has allowed the Boronia office to experience such growth.

Denise Budge
Outer East Co-ordinator

Odd Spot: 43% of all clients accessing ECLC's free service reside in the City of Knox

“Inner East Update”

Nestled between the library and the TAFE in Box Hill is the Town Hall Hub where ECLC shares space with 15 community groups. It may be located in the lower level corner of the building but ECLC may as well be in a penthouse of a city skyscraper to truly reflect the dizzy heights of achievements of the past year.

Teams of staff and volunteers have continued to work beyond all expectations to provide quality legal advice and timely referral information to people in the Inner East. The figures are reflected elsewhere in this report and once again show how much can be achieved with a small group of focused and devoted people.

Community legal education, partnerships, festivals and media releases dominated throughout the year with one of many highlights **being the launch of our publication 'Older and Wiser -A Guide to Legal Issues for Older Residents of Whitehorse'.**

Coordinating an office which is always such a hub of activity and energy is a pleasure and I take this opportunity to thank every staff member and volunteer that has not only supported this office but myself along the way.

Look out 2008/09 as there are still many goals **to set and we have only just begun.....**

Leonie Burnham
Inner East Coordinator



Community Development | Impact Report

“Reaching New Heights!”

Community Development went to a new level in 2007/08. There was a diverse range of projects aimed at children, young people and seniors. This past year saw a consistency and increase in Community Legal Education sessions to community and clients groups, as well as participation in several networks across the eastern region, including at State and Federal level. ECLC's profile was also raised as a result of large promotional projects and excellent media releases. Overall, ECLC's Community Development activities have been responsive to the needs of the eastern region and have educated and empowered our community.



Knox Festival 2008

New charter

A YARRA Ranges legal service centre has received a \$5000 grant to educate Victorians about the state's new Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.
The Eastern Community Legal Centre will use the money to hire a drama group to perform at five festivals in the eastern metropolitan area this year. Legal centre manager Michael Smith said the performances would increase public awareness about the charter, which was adopted on January 1.

“Fred’s Fair Play”

ECLC launched its festivals project in style, with **Fred’s Fair Play** being performed by Carp Productions at the Maroondah and Knox Festivals to large & enthusiastic crowds of children and parents.

The aim of “Fred’s Fair Play” is to capture children’s attention and imagination and educate them at the same time. Based on sports and fairies, this play entertains boys and girls alike and teaches in a fun way about the Charter principles of ‘Freedom, Respect, Equality and Dignity’- FRED!

The Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission funded project promotes awareness of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. The Charter promotes the four key principles and requires that all government and public authority laws, policies and procedures be assessed through a ‘human rights filter’ to ensure their compatibility with the Charter

By portraying Human Rights in a fun way and through audience participation, there is a greater potential for the key themes to be learnt. This innovative approach targets children and families in a friendly, fun, non-confrontational way. The play also supports schools with encouraging life skills.

Kate Johnson
Community Development

“Legal info just a click away!”

In February 2008 ECLC’s new look and easy to use website went ‘live’. www.eclc.org.au is an online resource for clients, professionals, students, volunteers and the general community.

ECLC’s website includes useful resources to assist clients, the community as well as professionals who wish to refer to ECLC. These resources include fact sheets on various matters, posters on how ECLC can assist, newsletters and overviews of the legal services and projects.

Within the first month, the website had 575 hits and since then there have been over 7800 visits. This has proved to be a great resource to assist clients and the community, as well as professionals re referring to ECLC.

“Making News...”

ECLC's events and programs received unprecedented media coverage in 2007/08. Events such as “Fred's Fair Play” received media coverage in many regions, as did the reporting of new family violence and intervention service funding. Fact sheets were incredibly popular and the aim of these were to educate residents across the eastern region of their rights and responsibilities.

Odd Spot: In 2007/08, ECLC provided 28 community legal education sessions to client and community groups throughout the Eastern region

Drivers run off road by anti-hoon laws

BY BIANCA HALL

MORE than 60 inner-east residents have had their vehicles impounded under the “anti-hoon legislation” in the past 12 months.

But the Eastern Community Legal Centre says young people, who account for most of the so-called hoon offences, did not understand the law.

Manager Michael Smith said of the about 2000 vehicles impounded by police,

about 73 per cent were driven by people aged 15 to 25. He warned that many young people were risking not just their own but other people's cars.

“Some hoon driving offences are having a major impact on the driver's friends and family because the car may not be the driver's own vehicle, but rather a friend's or parent's (but) the vehicle gets impounded regardless,” he said.

“Some young people have been unclear

about the consequences of committing hoon driving offences whilst driving someone else's vehicle and the fact that there are costs to be paid to release a vehicle once it has been impounded or immobilised.”

The centre has developed a fact sheet that outlines the consequences for drivers who commit offences punishable under the legislation. To receive a copy of the Anti-Hoon Fact Sheet, call 9285 4822 or email eclc@eclc.org.au.

“Older and Wiser”

The Eastern Community Legal Centre's “Older and Wiser” guide for seniors was released this year amidst the bright chatter and swing music of the Whitehorse Seniors Festival. The free publication, was produced thanks to the generous funding of the City of Whitehorse and is full of valuable information about legal issues affecting older residents of Whitehorse, such as neighbourhood disputes, family law and financial issues. It also provides helpful and extensive information about local services that can assist residents with these issues.

Feedback in relation to the guide has been overwhelmingly positive. Funding has now generously been granted from the Knox City Council for the guide to be reproduced in the Knox region. With its launch in Whitehorse, an upcoming launch in the Knox region, and the ability for the publication to be reproduced as a series of fact sheets, Older and Wiser will soon be easily accessible and available to a large part of the Eastern region of Melbourne providing valuable education to older residents in this area.

Free copies of Older and Wiser can be obtained from Eastern Community Legal Centre.

“Taking law to the Streets!”

ECLC was part of Law Week 2008. The focus this year was “Reaching Out”, in particular to those who may find it difficult to access legal services and information.

ECLC had displays in 20 libraries across Whitehorse, Manningham, Maroondah, Knox and Yarra Ranges. It is estimated that over 50,000 people had the opportunity to explore and receive ECLC's brochures and the Victorian Law Foundation's booklets.

“Nothing but News”

ECLC has continued to produce high quality newsletters through the year. Each quarterly edition highlights changes to the law, promotes legal resources and programs, profiles staff and offers updates on ECLC events. Eastern Community Law is distributed to hundreds of community agencies, volunteers, MP's and law firms throughout Victoria.



Whitehorse Festival
2007

Around the Grounds

What's On?

“Access to justice for youth hits the east”

Youth Referral and Independent Person Program (YRIPP) has continued to grow from strength to strength in the past year.

YRIPP is now operating at fourteen police stations across the eastern region with regular callouts being made by a dedicated team of volunteers. There are currently forty-three volunteers involved in the program across the eastern region who ensure that the young people they support through the police interview process are being offered relevant and effective referrals.

The service has been successful in building positive networks with many agencies in the area as well as strengthening relationships with police and other key service providers. In September Vivianne Dias, the Regional Coordinator was promoted and is now heading the team as Statewide Co-ordinator. We congratulate Vivianne on this wonderful opportunity and know she will continue to improve the program and utilize her knowledge in the field to further strengthen the success of YRIPP at a state level. We welcome Susan Hillman Stolz in her new role as the Eastern Regional Coordinator and look forward to working together in partnership for the coming year.

“Eastern Seniors gain new protection.”

Eastern CLC teamed with three services to win the tender and establish Seniors Rights Victoria, a new free service to help prevent elder abuse and safeguard the rights, dignity and independence of older Victorians.

The service was launched by Minister for Senior Victorians, Lisa Neville on 27 April 2008. It provides telephone information and referral, advocacy and support, legal services and community and professional education.

The SRV team provide legal, advocacy and support services from the ECLC offices two days each week. ECLC remains involved in the management of SRV through its joint venture with Council on the Ageing Victoria (COTA), the Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH) and Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre.

ECLC began worked closely with our partners in April 2007 on an intensive basis until the tender closed in August. Further extensive negotiations and work occurred from September with a formal government announcement in January 2008. More work began immediately with a public launch on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day at the Melbourne Town Hall also marking the full staff team being operational.

Massive Volunteer Thank You

Warehouse clearance of all possible thanks to all volunteers involved with ECLC!

- Intervention Order Support Service
- Information and Referral workers
- Night service
- Community Legal Education Team
- Daytime volunteer lawyers
- Festivals Team

And many, many more!

All thanks must go.....

No further discounts will apply.

Never to be repeated at this magnitude again (until next Annual Report)

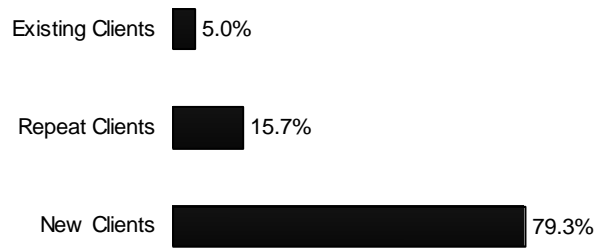
A public thanks to all who have supported our team throughout the year and ECLC looks forward to your continued support in the next year and beyond!

Legal backing for seniors

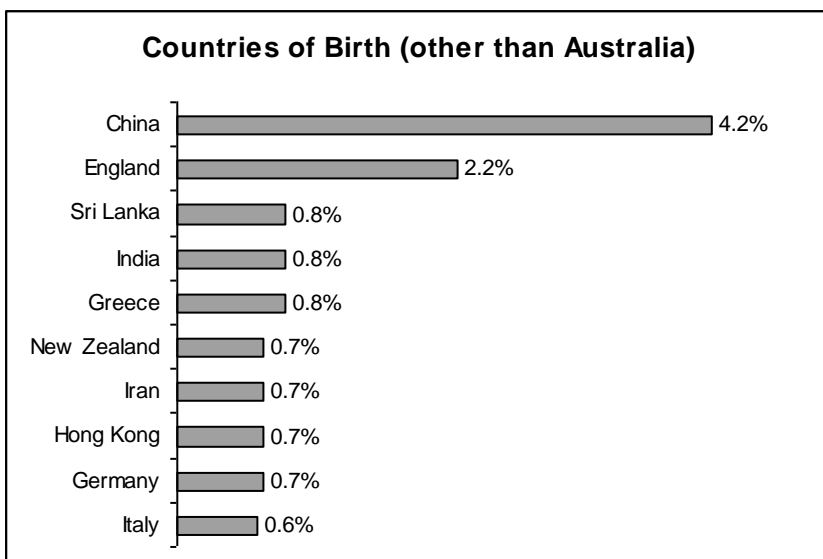
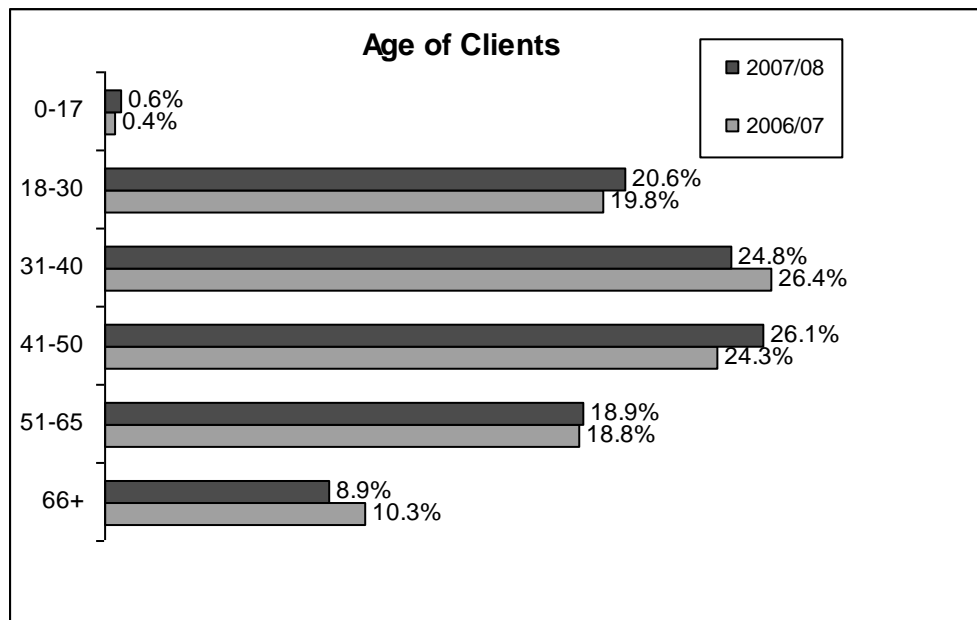


Client Statistics | Sports Report

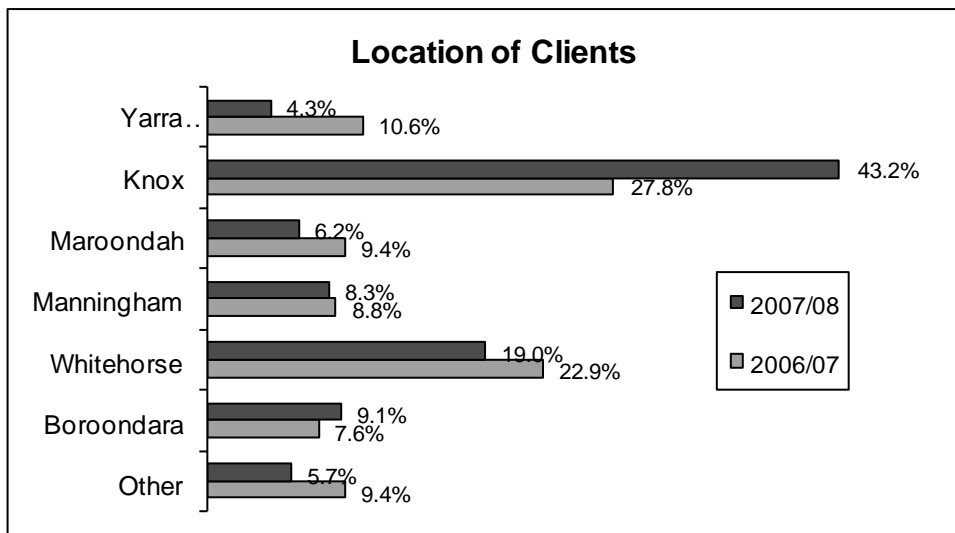
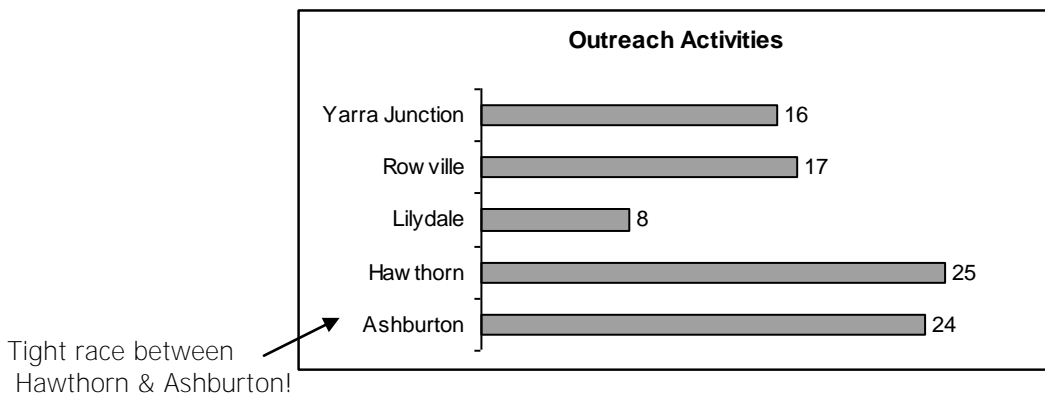
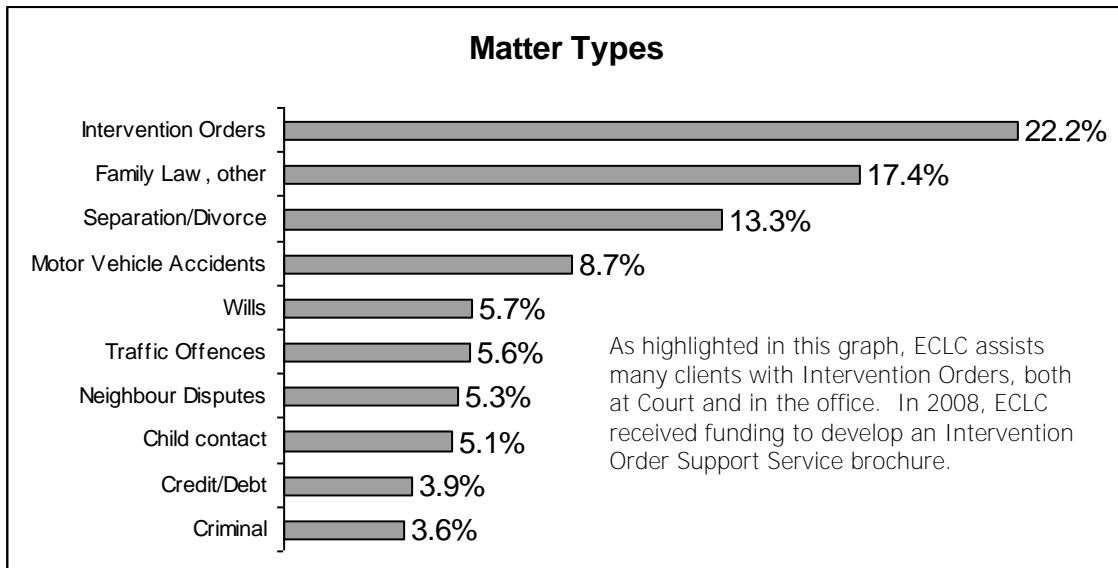
Centre Activity Summary	
For the period 1 July 2007—30 June 2008	
Activities	
Advice	2,129
Cases	509
Files open at period start	111
Files opened	398
Files closed	315
Clients	
Total Number of Clients	2,225



There has been an increase in the 18-30 bracket as well as the 41-50 age bracket. ECLC has also seen a drop in clients over 66 years of age.



The total number of clients born outside Australia is 23.2% up marginally from last years total of 22.3%. ECLC has developed a Chinese version of its 'How can ECLC assist You?' poster, which is promoting the ECLC's free services to Chinese residents in the Inner East.



It is pleasing to see the large increase of clients from Knox accessing ECLC's services. The Outer East office has worked hard to raise the profile of the service, in particular, with young people and seniors.

In the Inner East, there has been a increase in clients accessing the service from the Boroondara area. Much work has been done in Rooming Houses and connecting with support service networks in this area, promoting the free service and providing community legal education to rooming house tenants.

Classifieds | Social Pages

FAREWELL WENDY

In 2008, we were very sad to farewell one of our longest serving volunteers, Wendy Wan. Wendy has volunteered at ECLC for many years and in a number of different roles including her most recent role as Pink Night Team Co-ordinator.

We also wish to congratulate her on becoming an Australian Citizen! She received her Citizenship Certificate in a ceremony at the Box Hill Town Hall on August 20. Wendy, we wish you all the very best, you will be missed so much here at ECLC and of course by your night team.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The team at ECLC would like to congratulate Nigel Ross of Ross Legal in Upper Ferntree Gully who was recently married. Nigel has been a volunteer lawyer at the Boronia office for many years and we would like to take this opportunity to wish him every happiness with his new wife Laya.



Chief Magistrate Ian Gray, ECLC's Patron, was unable to attend the ECLC's Volunteers Dinner, due to the trial of Tony Mokbel...

“Community Champions - ECLC Volunteers 2007/08”

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Adele Katzew | Donna Askew | Keleigh Robinson | Santina Della Rossa |
| Alexis Fong | Edwina Olver | Kirsty Vella | Sara Molenaar |
| Amber O'Brien | Ellie Delafield | Lara Guarino | Sarah Attril |
| Anne-Maree Baring | Erin Varker | Laura Kane | Rhonda Goodall |
| Bill Boucher | Fe Mercader | Lauren Hills | Richard Bartram |
| Bree Solomon | Frank Clarebrough | Lisa Chesswas | Richard Edmonds |
| Cameron Grant | Grace Kelly | Malcolm Bennett | Richard Grossi |
| Carol Barton | Helen Evenden | Mark Fitzgerald | Sanaz Naimi |
| Carol Trinh | Helen Gay | Mark Strong | Sheryl Barker |
| Caroline Smith | Hubert Fong | Mei Mei Wong | Sue Yen Wee |
| Caroline Stephens | James Beeston | Melinda Verlin | Sylvia Young |
| Carolyn Cheng | Jacqui Haslem | Michael Brown | Sze Lim |
| Charlie Chute | Jenica Lim-Young | Michael Paton | Tara Kenny |
| Chris Cowin | Jenny Finn | Nancy Chen | Tarnya Grey |
| Chris Groszek | Jessica Caldwell | Natasha Andrews | Tim Gargett |
| Clair Lindsay-Johns | Joyi Li | Nigel Ross | Tim Martin |
| Clare Parsons | Karen Jones | Paola Fornito | Thomas Mah |
| Craig Halfpenny | Karin Costenoble | Peter Milford | Tony Daquino |
| Craig Rossi | Karishma Nand | Petra McHugh | Victoria Roberts |
| David Thompson | Kate Crabtree | Reannon Hemmings | Wendy Wan |
| Denise O'Shannassy | Katrina Gillies | Rebecca Thomson | William Ho |

Business News | Financial Reports

“Centre reports end-of-year growth figures”

ECLC's financial position at the end of the 2007-2008 financial year reflects the success of the organisation through the year.

The centre has benefited from some new streams of funding, including the funds for **ECLC's contribution to the Seniors Rights Victoria** joint venture, new funding for the CLC Family Violence Program, and a one-off grant from the new Federal Government.

One of the key strengths of ECLC is that the centre continues to expand its services by diversifying the range of projects that it is involved in and the sources from which its income is derived.

While the centre has benefited from an increase in its core funding from Victoria Legal Aid, the real growth has occurred through the undertaking of special projects such as Seniors Rights Victoria.

The risk of government funding cuts is always something to be borne in mind, and diversifying the range of funding programs from which ECLC draws its income puts us in a good position to withstand setbacks in the future.

The changes to our book-keeping and accounting methods introduced during the 2006-2007 financial year, and continually tweaked and refined since, also mean that our budgeting is stronger than ever and there is less risk that the centre will be caught out by unexpected costs.

The centre has also benefited in 2007-2008 from a relatively stable, hard working team of dedicated staff and volunteers.

In short, the good outcome in our bottom line for this financial year reflects not just the strength of our finances but the strength of the organisation as a whole and it is a credit to everyone involved with ECLC.

Lance Wilson
Treasurer

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2008

NOTE 1 – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the economic entity in the preparation of the financial report.

Fixed assets

Each Class of fixed assets is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated using the prime cost method or the diminishing value method over their useful lives to

the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Employee Entitlements

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements expected to be settled within one year together with entitlements arising from wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave which will be settled after one year, have been measured at their minimal amount. Other employee entitlements payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those entitlements.

Contributions are made by the association to employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognized net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of the GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognized as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the Balance Sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2008

	2008 \$	2007 \$
Equity		
Services' Funds	108,897	91,857
Total Equity	108,897	91,857
Represented by:		
Current Assets		
Petty Cash – Box Hill	11	6
Petty Cash - Boronia	67	22
Cash at Bank - Maroondah Chq A/C	13,698	12,321
Cash at Bank - Maroondah Credit Union	5	5
Cash at Bank - Bendigo Operating	53,543	75,673
Cash at Bank - Bendigo T/D	51,580	-
Security Deposit	2,350	2,350
Trade Debtors	66,124	-
Accrued Income	666	-
Prepayments__	1,509	-
	189,553	90,378
Non-Current Assets		
Motor Vehicles	23,264	-
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(3,273)	-
	19,991	-
Office Furniture & Equipment	164,895	167,995
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(115,078)	(95,855)
	49,817	72,140
	69,808	72,140
Investments		
Shares in Other Companies	10	10
	10	10
Total Assets	259,371	162,528
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	5,122	1,176
Other Creditors - PAYG payable	5,077	4,695
Wages Owing	10,489	8,183
Provision for Holiday Pay	48,076	24,190
Provision for Sick Leave	9,000	9,000
Provision for GST	19,238	19,428
Income in Advance	53,472	4,000
	150,474	70,671
Total Liabilities	150,474	70,671
Net Assets	108,897	91,857

Income Statement for year ended 30 June 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Income		
CLC Recurrent		
Commonwealth	125,792	123,325
State	457,664	404,659
Local Government	45,622	59,672
Fundraising & Donations	7,922	24,994
Interest Received	7,742	5,773
Services and Other Income	12,108	3,000
Membership	173	223
Rebates - Workcover	-	37,389
Community Partnerships	31,264	6,000
Disposal of Non Current Assets	(2,100)	(4,370)
	686,187	660,665
Expenditure		
Staffing		
Wages	462,661	485,382
Superannuation	37,719	40,047
Training and On-costs	17,807	15,518
Workcover	1,797	1,514
Program Operations		
Consultancies	3,810	4,436
Legal Practice	11,578	7,587
Community Partnerships	673	-
Program Expenses	7,432	2,177
Volunteers	3,760	2,147
Property Costs		
Building Costs: R&M	11,460	11,082
Building Costs: Rent	37,469	56,538
Depreciation	22,496	15,785
Equipment Costs: R&M	10,942	4,406
Insurance	2,156	2,128
Motor Vehicle Costs	1,641	-
Office Relocation	-	3,325
Administration Costs		
Board Costs	178	1,062
Finance Costs	5,753	5,047
Interest	-	2,454
Postage	2,461	2,800
Printing & Stationery	18,884	15,763
Telephone	8,470	8,270
	669,147	687,468
Operating Profit (Loss)	17,040	(26,803)
Services' Funds at the beginning of the financial year	91,857	118,660
Profit (Loss) attributable to Organisation	17,040	(26,803)
SERVICES' FUNDS AT 30 JUNE 2008	108,897	91,857

Statement of Cash Flows for year ended 30 June 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Receipts from customers	664,893	660,098
Payments to suppliers and employees	(615,879)	(679,209)
Interest received	7,076	5,773
Interest and other costs of finance	-	(2,455)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (Note 2)	<u>56,090</u>	<u>(15,792)</u>
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from (payment for) property, plant, equipment & motor vehicles	(25,214)	(27,177)
Proceeds from (payment for) investments	-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(25,214)</u>	<u>(27,177)</u>
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from (payment for) loans	-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	30,876	(42,969)
Cash at beginning of year	88,028	130,997
Cash at end of reporting period (Note 1)	<u>118,904</u>	<u>88,028</u>

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

NOTE 1. RECONCILIATION OF CASH

For the purposes of the statement of the cash flows, cash included cash on hand and in at call deposits with banks or financial institutions, investments in money market instruments maturing within less than three months, net of bank overdrafts.

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:

Cash at Bank - Maroondah Credit Union	13,698	12,321
Cash at Bank - Maroondah Credit Union	5	5
Cash at Bank - Bendigo Operating	53,543	75,673
Term Deposit	51,580	-
Cash on Hand - Box Hill	11	6
Cash on Hand - Boronia	67	22
	<u>118,904</u>	<u>88,028</u>

NOTE 2. RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO OPERATING PROFIT

Operating Profit (Loss) after income tax	17,040	(26,803)
Depreciation of Non-current Assets	22,496	15,785
Changes in Net Assets and Liabilities - Fixed Assets	(5,967)	-
(Increase)/decrease in trade and term debtors	(66,790)	836
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	5,509	2,925
Increase/(decrease) in trade creditors and accruals	6,444	1,176
Increase/(decrease) in other creditors	-	(17,092)
Increase/(decrease) in employee entitlements	23,886	10,538
Increase/(decrease) in sundry provisions	-	(2,347)
Increase/(decrease) in income in advance	53,472	-
	<u>56,090</u>	<u>(15,792)</u>

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



To the members of EASTERN COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC

INITIAL ENGAGEMENT

In our opinion –

- a. The opening balances do not contain misstatements that materially affect the current period's financial report;
- b. The prior period's closing balances have been correctly brought forward to the current period; and
- c. Appropriate Accounting Policies are consistently applied in accounting policies have been properly accounted for and adequately disclosed.

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of

EASTERN COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC which comprises the balance sheet as at 30th June 2008, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The management of EASTERN COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The management's responsibility also includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report on order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Management's financial reporting requirement. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the relevant independence requirements.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of EASTERN COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC

- (a) gives a true and fair view of **EASTERN COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC's** financial position as at 30th June 2008 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with appropriate accounting policies; and
- (b) complying with appropriate Australian Accounting Standards.


Janet Collyer
J L COLLYER & PARTNERS

1st September 2008

Legal aid for victims of family abuse

Legal backing for seniors

By Danica Harris

VICTIMS of family violence in the east could receive legal aid for the first time.



Play rights... MELISSA HEAGNEY... legal aid lawyer... fact sheet... balloons... Eastern Community Legal Centre... Victoria... abuse... Solicitor at the... Caspe Com... Centre... million over... the form... new ser... sheet

...rural and regional Victoria... older people who experience... abuse... Solicitor at the... Caspe Com... Centre... million over... the form... new ser... sheet

WITH July marking the 10th anniversary of the Hoon Legislation in Victoria, a Boronia-based legal aid centre has compiled a fact sheet to dispel some common misconceptions about the consequences of dangerous driving.

Making sense of Extending legal access

The Boronia office of the Eastern Community Legal Centre has provided free legal service to the east for the past two years. It operates from Monday to Friday from the Boronia office and an outreach service to Lilydale from the Boronia office and Yarra Junction and Hill office for the past 30 years. The establishment of the office and the outreach service has meant that we can effectively serve the outer east metropolitan area. People prefer to deal with their local service when it is conveniently located to manage their affairs.

Many people prefer to deal with their local service when it is conveniently located to manage their affairs. As part of our community education program...



rights in relation to family law matters, intervention orders, summary criminal matters, fines, motor vehicle accidents, civil and neighbourhood disputes.

Western Community Centre (ECLC) provides a free legal service. The Anti-Hoon Fact sheet to assist young people and their families by explaining what is considered a hoon-related driving offence and the possible penalties and costs that can be incurred.

Police met head on



The St violer... notices provide police with a powerful tool to immediately remove the perpetrators from the house any time of night... Mr The said family violence affects three Victorian women and contributes to death, disability and... The car... are being...

Youth program gets thumbs up

By Danica Harris

POLICE and community have welcomed a new program to give independence to young people in the eastern suburbs.

Through early intervention, the program aims to stop refugee, newly arrived and indigenous youth from progressing to higher levels of the criminal justice system.

said the program built on existing links with young people. "The current situation has been where an independent person is required, police have had to find their own. This would be a better streamline of people especially trained." Police community engagement inspector for region 4, Chris Cosgriff, said referrals could give young people a better avenue for assistance and a proactive policing approach.

New charter

A YARRA Ranges legal service centre has received a \$5000 grant to educate Victorians about the state's new Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

The Eastern Community Legal Centre will use the money to hire a drama group to perform at five festivals in the eastern metropolitan area this year. Legal centre manager Michael Smith said the performances would...

Legal issues guide for seniors

...cars... on driving... impact on the driver's... cause the car may not be the vehicle, but rather a friend's or the vehicle gets impounded... who commit offences...



...can call... director... ast@...