

Eastern Community Law

Newsletter

Winter 2012



New Service to Assist Deakin Students

Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC) has launched an on-campus legal service for Deakin University students. The service is a new partnership with Deakin University Student Association (DUSA) and Barwon Community Legal Service (BCLS).

The service is being offered at all Deakin campuses as well as to off-campus students. DUSA president Toni Hawker says the legal service will be of enormous benefit to students. "The legal service is a great example of students' money going directly to essential student services, an area that has long been neglected".

The service will provide free and confidential legal advice, information, referral and education. Legal Advice will be given on a face-to-face appointment basis.

ECLC CEO Michael Smith says he's expecting the on-campus Community Lawyers to be busy with student consultations as well as educating students about their legal rights. "It is fantastic to be able to be on campus to provide legal help to students when they need it. Many students may have a problem, but don't recognise it as a legal issue. We're really looking forward to working with DUSA and Deakin University to help students 'Sort It', before small issues become overwhelming."

International students, students with accommodation issues, and students with problems at work are expected to be big users of the new service. Nick Hudson, Manager of BCLS in Geelong is enthusiastic about the new service. "We're excited about further building on our close relationship with Deakin University. We've worked with law students and the law school for about 20 Years and this is a great opportunity to extend that to the broader Deakin community." Mr Hudson said.

ECLC & BCLS are working closely with DUSA to develop a service tailored to the specific needs of Deakin students and young people. The service partners are looking forward to empowering Deakin University Students to resolve their legal problems.

Appointments are available now by calling ECLC or through DUSA Advocates. For details see <http://eclc.org.au/deakin>



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ECLC Services

Box Hill Office

Suite 3, Town Hall Hub
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Ph: (03) 9285 4822
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Outreach locations:

Bulleen - Hawthorn - Ashburton
Deakin University Burwood
Ringwood Family Relationship Centre
Ringwood Magistrates' Court

Serving the Cities of Whitehorse,
Boroondara & Manningham

Boronia Office

Suite B, 6 Floriston Road, Boronia 3155
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Mon – Thurs 9:00am – 5:00pm
Ph: (03) 9762 6235
Toll free: 1300 79 70 88
Fax: (03) 9762 9751
outereast@eclc.org.au

Outreach locations

Rowville - Lilydale - Yarra Junction
Healesville - Yarra Glen
Ringwood Magistrates' Court

Serving the Cities of Knox & Maroondah &
Yarra Ranges Council

www.eclc.org.au



Sort It! Mandy Hyland and Nick Hudson (BCLS), Connie Chen (ECLC), Vice Chancellor Professor Jane den Hollander, Michael Smith and Donna Askew (ECLC) and DUSA president Toni Hawker celebrate the launch of the Deakin University student legal service.



Staff Snapshot

Cailin Hancock

Administration Trainee

What do you do at ECLC?

Smile, answer the phone and just be a fantastic trainee. :))

What did you do before working at ECLC?

I was working casually at McDonalds and doing year 12 VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning)



What do you like about ECLC?

We are an awesome big family that are just so much better than any other workplace.

What are you looking forward to?

Getting my license if I ever get around to it (haha). Oh, then possibly getting a green Suzuki Swift.

Any funny or embarrassing workplace moments?

I'm always funny and I never embarrass myself!

Any legal issue that frustrates you?

Infringements!

Favourite food?

I like chicken and cheese and pasta stuff. Anything too far out of that range is a no go zone.

Favourite time of year?

HOLIDAYS!!! Snow and Christmas. I hope to have a white Christmas when I grow up.

Favourite holiday destination?

So far, Queensland.

Do you know someone who could be the next ECLC trainee?

What we're offering:

- full time position based in Box Hill
- a nationally recognised qualification
- a supportive team environment

Visit www.eccl.org.au/employment for more details!

Law Week 2012

During Law Week this year (14-18 May), Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC) tested the public's legal knowledge.

Recent ABS data shows the law affects everyone. Nearly all of us witness crime. Many people feel unsafe out alone at night. Most of us have recently felt personal stress from illness, bereavement, unemployment, mental illness, divorce or separation. Many people suffer poor health or finances or need care.

CEO Michael Smith said the Centre's Legal Quiz shows people that the law is something we know and use. "Law is not just for courts and lawyers. Law both resolves and prevents disputes. People often know their legal rights and duties without realising. Legal 'know-how' helps people get along during hard times.

"People should see the law as more than complex jargon. They should also know legal support often helps prevent problems from worsening. For example, under some laws people must act before set deadlines. That's where ECLC's free legal advice and education can help."

Almost two-thirds of Victorians felt personal stresses such as serious illness or injury, mental illness, divorce, separation and unemployment. Over one-quarter had recently relied on government support as their main income. Almost one-fifth had recent cash-flow problems. All of these issues have a potential legal dimension. (ABS 2010 General Social Survey).

ECLC Legal Quiz

Test your legal knowledge:

The local council cannot give me a parking fine if:

- I only parked without a ticket because I misread the sign
- I hang fluffy dice from my rear view mirror
- Neither – but if I challenge the fine they must review their decision and give me reasons for their second decision

To get a divorce, you need to prove:

- You have been separated for at least 12 months
- Your husband or wife is sleeping with your best friend
- Your husband or wife is not taking care of you

You own the (suburban) house you live in and want to replace your back fence. The neighbour doesn't agree to, even after you attend a free mediation together. You:

- Can apply for Court Orders, but only after you serve a Notice to Fence
- Can't replace the fence until they agree to
- Are allowed to steal their garden gnomes

Check your answers and see the rest of the quiz at www.eccl.org.au



Resources for newly-arrived communities

Eastern Community Legal Centre is excited to launch its latest resource for the community.

In working with community groups, ECLC identified that many legal issues can be hard to recognise, especially for newly arrived communities who speak English as a second language.

With what we hope will be the first of a series of resources in community languages, this resource is produced in Hakha Chin to draw attention to these issues and provide general information about legal services available.

For copies of this resource, please contact ECLC on 03 9285 4822 or download from www.eclc.org.au



Do you have a legal problem?
Cozah phunglei (Upadi)
he a pehtlai mi kong ah
buainak na ngei maw ?

- **Did you get a fine?**
Dantat mi na si maw?
- **Do you owe money to other people or to an organisation?**
Midang cungah siseh bu pakhatkhat cungah siseh leiba na ngei maw ?
- **Do you have a problem with something you bought?**
Thil pakhat khat na cawk nak in buai nak na ngei maw ?
- **Have you had a car accident?**
Motor Car I suk sualnak(Accident) na rak tong maw??
- **Are you getting a divorce from your husband or wife?**
Na nupi a si lo ah Na va he aa thenmi na si maw ?
- **Are you in trouble with the police?**
PaLek(Police) he buainak na ngei maw ?
- **Are you a victim of a crime?**
Mi nih sualnak tuah ruang ah harnak ingtu na si maw?
- **Are you being hurt by someone in your family?**
Na chungkhar pakhat khat sin in lungfahnak na ngei maw ?
- **Do you disagree with a Centrelink decision?**
Centrelink nih biakhiah nak an tuah mi kong ah lungtin lo nak na ngei maw ?
- **Are you having a dispute with your neighbour?**
Na Inn pa he bia alnak /lungsi lonak na ngei maw ?

Would you like to donate to ECLC?

For more details and how your donation will be used, please visit ECLC's website. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and can be made on-line.

Try 'Handball for Human Rights' Online!

Human Rights are Aussie Rules, ECLC's innovative human rights education program for young Australians, recently launched its first online and smart phone game.

'Handball for Human Rights' is an online game using kids' love of Australian Rules Football to promote human rights principles. The game is available to download free from the project website.

Helping to launch the game were Federal Attorney-General Nicola Roxon and a number of other prominent members of the government, Anna Burke (Member for Chisholm), Michael Symon (Deakin), Laura Smyth (La Trobe) and Rob Mitchell (McEwen). AFL Diversity Ambassador and member of the Indigenous Team of the Century, Chris Johnson also helped launch the event, speaking about the role football has had in helping to promote equality. Students at Ringwood Secondary College and Yarra Hills Secondary College who helped test the game also attended and were active in the launch.

'Handball for Human Rights' was developed with the pro bono support of game developer Rohan Latimer. Rohan and his team of game developers not only gave their extensive game design experience completely free of charge, but become good friends of the project.

Human Rights are Aussie Rules is a national education program using sport to teach young people about human rights. The program was commenced at the Eastern Community Legal Centre in 2008 and now has offices in WA and NT with more to follow. The program has been supported by the Federal Government's Human Rights Framework Grants, the Victorian Government and Jinta Sport.

To play the game and see more about this innovative project go to: www.humanrightsareaussierules.org.au



AFL Diversity Ambassador Chris Johnson gives Federal Attorney-General Nicola Roxon some pointers on her hand-pass technique.



Some of the dedicated team of staff and volunteers behind the Human Rights are Aussie Rules program at Ringwood Secondary College! (L-R) Satbir Singh, Tanja Kovac, Rohan Latimer, Ali Abachi, Tamsin Khor and Amy Johnstone.



Eastern Community Law

Family Violence and Consolidation of Commonwealth Discrimination Law

The Commonwealth Government recently released a discussion paper on the consolidation of Federal anti-discrimination laws.

ECLC and Eastern Domestic Violence Service (EDVOS) prepared a submission addressing the government's consideration of a new category of discrimination on the basis of domestic/ family violence.

Are the current protections against discrimination appropriate?

No, ECLC and EDVOS believe the current protections are inadequate. In particular, our submission focussed on the issues of homelessness brought about by family violence impacting upon employment for women, as well as the actual impact of family violence for women in employment.

Homelessness for domestic and family violence victims

It is very common for victims to become homeless as a result of domestic and family violence. Women often leave the family home in order to ensure the safety and protection of their families. If a woman is already employed, homelessness can adversely affect her ability to obtain or keep employment.

The impact of domestic and family violence in employment

Both ECLC and EDVOS are aware of situations where a perpetrator has become more violent once a victim has engaged in employment. As a result, in order to 'keep the peace' victims have been known to leave their employment to protect their safety.

Victims of family and domestic violence may also be compelled to take time off work to attend court dates and as a result must negotiate with their workplaces about their time away from work. This can jeopardise a victim's ability to retain employment, particularly for those employed on a casual or temporary basis.

The need for education

While the discussion paper focuses on law reform, the partners note a lack of focus on the need for extensive education programs to encourage and facilitate change in the social attitudes behind discrimination, rather than relying only on the formal legal processes.

There are a range of appropriate and beneficial education initiatives that could be utilised or expanded but these are generally operated with very limited resources and without broad implementation.

The possibility of having enhanced rights or protection but being entirely unaware of this protection is a regrettable likelihood for many of our clients from marginalised communities. The two agencies have collaborated (and involved other partners) on a number of significant education projects to assist victims of domestic and family violence.

We hope that the government takes into consideration the information provided in its consideration of the inclusion of a new group of discrimination on the basis of domestic and family violence.

For the full submission see www.eclc.org.au.

Support

The ongoing support of these financial and other partners is gratefully acknowledged:

- Victoria Legal Aid
- Australian Government
- Attorney-General's Department
- Victoria Law Foundation
- Legal Services Board
- Department of Justice (Vic)
- Department of Planning and Community Development (Vic)
- City of Boroondara
- City of Whitehorse
- Knox City Council
- Manningham City Council
- Maroondah City Council
- Helen Macpherson Smith Trust
- Victorian Multicultural Commission
- Sports Without Borders
- Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission
- Anglicare Victoria
- Balwyn Welfare Association
- Barwon Community Legal Service
- Blackburn English Language School
- Box Hill Citizen's Advice Bureau
- Bulleen Baptist Church
- Bulleen & Templestowe Community House
- Carp Productions
- Castan Centre for Human Rights Law (Monash University)
- Centre for Multicultural Youth
- Centrelink
- Council On The Ageing (Victoria)
- Court Network
- Darwin Community Legal Service
- Deakin University Student Association
- Devenish & Co
- DLA Piper
- EACH
- Eastern Men's Behaviour Change Consortium
- EDVOS (Eastern Domestic Violence Service)
- EMR Family Violence Partnership
- Family Access Network
- Federation of Community Legal Centres
- Gateway LLEN
- GordonCare
- Healesville Indigenous Community Services Association
- Healesville Living and Learning Centre.
- Holding Redlich
- Inner East Community Health Centre
- Inner East PCP
- JH Legal
- Knox Community Health Service
- Knox Infolink
- Loddon Campaspe CLC
- Louise Multicultural Community Centre
- Maurice Blackburn
- Migrant Information Centre (Eastern)
- Moores Legal
- NACLCL
- Northern Suburbs CLS (WA)
- Outer East Health & Community Support Alliance
- Public Interest Law Clearing House
- Redfern Legal Centre
- Ringwood Family Relationship Centre
- Ringwood Magistrates' Court
- Robinson Gill
- Seniors Rights Victoria
- Shire of Yarra Ranges
- Victoria Police
- Whitehorse Community Health Centre
- Women's Legal Service Victoria
- Yarra Valley Community Health Service
- Volunteers and members of ECLC