

Media Release

The Hon Martin Pakula MP
Attorney-General
Minister for Racing



Friday, 9 October, 2015

GRANTS STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES

Community legal centres will receive a \$3.2 million boost in their ability to help vulnerable and disadvantaged Victorians, following a series of grant allocations.

Attorney-General Martin Pakula announced the grants at the launch of the West Justice Community Legal Centre in Werribee today.

The West Justice Community Legal Centre - launched by Member for Werribee Tim Pallas - was one of 28 recipients of a Community Legal Centre Assistance Fund grant.

Their \$50,000 grant will support an Employment Law Project, which seeks to improve working outcomes for newly arrived and refugee communities across Melbourne's western suburbs.

The Community Legal Centre Assistance Fund will provide \$2 million to centres over the next two years. Community legal centres were eligible to apply for a grant of up to \$50,000 per year.

The grants fund a range of key frontline resources and programs including legal support for family violence; improved access to justice for newly arrived and refugee communities; and services for regional and remote youth.

The Andrews Labor Government has also committed \$1.2 million to community legal centres from the Family Violence Duty Lawyer Fund with the announcement that 23 centres will receive a grant of up to \$52,000 this year.

These grants will increase the availability of family violence duty lawyers to assist victims of family violence with proceedings before the Magistrates' Court.

The critical funding means that community legal centres across Victoria can continue to run vital programs and services, as well as assist victims of family violence.

Quotes attributable to Attorney-General Martin Pakula

"Community legal centres have a critical role in our community by providing essential services to disadvantaged and vulnerable Victorians."

"The Government recognises the significant contribution they make to our justice system and we are proud to commit \$2 million over two years to the Community Legal Centre Assistance Fund to better support vital services and programs."

Quotes attributable to Member for Werribee Tim Pallas

"I am pleased to officially launch the newly formed West Justice Community Legal Centre."

"The West Justice Community Legal Centre is now one of the largest legal centres in Melbourne, bringing together Wyndham Legal Service, Footscray Community Legal Centre, and Western Suburbs Legal Service."

Community Legal Centre Assistance Fund

Organisation	Grant funding 2015-17
Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria	50,000
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	50,000
Barwon Community Legal Service	100,000
Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre	99,590
Broadmeadows Community Legal Service	100,000
Central Highlands Community Legal Centre	31,804
Consumer Action Law Centre	47,014
Disability Advocacy and Information Service	50,000
Eastern Community Legal Centre	50,000
Emma House Domestic Violence Services	50,000
Environmental Justice Australia	19,810
Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre	100,000
Inner Melbourne Community Legal	100,000
inTouch, Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence	100,000
Justice Connect Homeless Law	50,000
Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre	100,000
Mental Health Legal Centre	100,000
Moonee Valley Legal Service (in partnership with Flemington & Kensington Community Legal Centre)	200,000
Murray Mallee Community Legal Service	100,000
Peninsula Community Legal Centre	100,000
Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre	50,000
Springvale Monash Legal Service	50,000
Upper Murray Family Care Inc Auspicing Hume Riverina Community Legal Service	49,957
Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service	50,000
West Justice Community Legal Centre	50,000
Whittlesea Community Legal Service	50,000
Women's Legal Service Victoria	50,000
Youthlaw, Young People's Legal Rights Centre	100,000

Family Violence Duty Lawyer Fund

Organisation	Grant funding 2015-16
Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria	52,174
Anglicare Victoria, Gippsland Community Legal Centre	52,174
Barwon Community Legal Service	52,174
Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre	52,174
Broadmeadows Community Legal Service	52,174
Casey Cardinia Community Legal Service	52,174
Central Highlands Community Legal Centre	52,174
Darebin Community Legal Centre	52,174
Eastern Community Legal Centre	52,174
Emma House Domestic Violence Services	52,174
Fitzroy Legal Service	52,174
Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre	52,174
Inner Melbourne Community Legal	52,174
Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre	52,174
Murray Mallee Community Legal Service	52,174
Peninsula Community Legal Centre	52,174
Springvale Monash Legal Service	52,174
St Kilda Legal Service Co-operative	52,174
Upper Murray Family Care Inc Auspicing Hume Riverina Community Legal Service	52,174
Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service	52,174
Whittlesea Community Legal Service	52,174
Women's Legal Service Victoria	52,174
Youthlaw, Young People's Legal Rights Centre	52,174