

# RASP Newsletter # 6



## Part of Gippsland Community Legal Service - Anglicare Victoria

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## Staff Changes

As of December 16, Dale Reddick commenced as Acting Team Leader for the Gippsland Community Legal Service - GCLS.

Dale is still available for any queries and for some Advocacy Casework, but in a slightly reduced capacity.

PLEASE feel free to call for any information / advice.

### **A new Solicitor started with GCLS on December 7.**

We welcome Leigh Crosbie to the team. Leigh joins us from Jobwatch in Melbourne, and he will be a great asset to our Team.

Leigh will be working out of our Bairnsdale office.

## Christmas Office Hours

The RASP – GCLS office will close at 3PM on Thursday 24 December.

The office will reopen at 9AM on Monday January 4 2010

**Before you head off for the Christmas break;**  
**[www.police.vic.gov.au](http://www.police.vic.gov.au)**  
**And follow the links to community safety about keeping your home and property safe while you're away.**

## Human Rights

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Gippsland Regional Advocacy Forum was held on October 28<sup>th</sup> in Morwell.

This year's event attracted over 100 attendees who came to hear from Dr. Helen Szoke Victoria Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner, and representatives from Human Rights Law Resource Centre and Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service.

The theme for the Forum was "Human Rights on the Ground, what does this mean for me in everyday language."

The Forum was also an opportunity for the Regional Advocacy Networks to report and showcase their work this year.

**For information about your local Regional Advocacy Network, please call Tracey Cook on 5133 9440.**

More Human Rights information and publications are available at:

**[www.equalopportunitycommission.vic.gov.au](http://www.equalopportunitycommission.vic.gov.au)**

Regarding Victorian Laws

**[www.bih.org.uk](http://www.bih.org.uk)**

Follow the links to "Changing Lives" with case studies from the UK.

**[www.hrlc.org.au](http://www.hrlc.org.au)**

Human Rights Law Resource Centre

## Community Education Opportunities

### RASP Community Education

RASP is also available to provide Community Education and Information sessions.

Our flexible and interactive sessions are available **FREE OF CHARGE** for community and staff groups. They cover issues such as;

- Enduring Powers of Attorney,
- Discrimination
- Sexual Harassment.

**Please contact Dale on 5135 9555 to discuss your groups' needs for 2010.**

### Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Centre

Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Centre, is a community legal centre that works only on disability related legal issues.

Villamanta can provide valuable resources and community education sessions and they are keen to hear from Gippsland!

Community Education sessions are available for community members, service providers and workers.

**Please contact Sue Wolter at Villamanta directly on 5229 2925 to discuss your needs and to find out more about Villamanta's excellent community education options.**

**"Freedom is when the people can speak, democracy is when the government listens."**

[Alastair Farrugia](#)

## New Wave

New Wave "Self Advocacy into the future and beyond"

The Centre hosted a very successful Open Day – Sausage Sizzle on December 3, International Day of People with disability. It was an excellent opportunity for members of the public, and local service providers to meet with the staff and see the centre.

**New wave is open Mondays and Thursdays 9AM to 5PM.**

**Please call New Wave on 5136 3636**

Some of the centre's aims are to;

- Act as a Self Advocacy information and support centre for people in Gippsland,
- Develop a brief Self Advocacy / Advocacy education resource,
- Provide Self Advocacy education to people living in Community Residential Units,

## LINKS & NEWSLETTERS

[www.daru.org.au](http://www.daru.org.au)

**DARU** is a statewide service run by and for people with disabilities. The **DARU** resources the Disability Advocacy sector and Disability Advocates. Follow the links to subscribe to the **DARU** newsletter.

[www.multicultural.vic.gov.au](http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au)

For news and information about celebrating our cultural diversity.

**Turkeys have great hearing, but no external ears. They can also see in colour, and have excellent visual acuity and a wide field of vision, which makes sneaking up on them difficult. However, turkeys have a poor sense of smell (what's cooking?), but an excellent sense of taste.**

## Rewarded for Access and Inclusion

Over fifty Latrobe City businesses, organisations and clubs were presented with Latrobe Access and Inclusion Awards at a Business Breakfast held at the Waratah Restaurant in Morwell on 1 December. These awards recognise outstanding achievements and excellence in including people with a disability as employees, customers, members or citizens.

The awards also gave people with a disability an opportunity to acknowledge businesses, organisations and clubs where they have been made to feel welcome and been treated with dignity and respect.

A further thirty businesses received an Access Friendly Award from Independence Australia acknowledging them as an 'access friendly' venue for people who use mobility devices.

**Thanks to Bill Lawler, Rural Access Project Officer – Latrobe City for this contribution.**

## DVA – Planning Ahead

Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) and RASP have been conducting community sessions covering;

- Enduring Powers of Attorney,
- Wills,
- Funeral plans,
- DVA and Centrelink benefits.

So far the sessions have been conducted and well attended, in Metung, Lakes Entrance, Maffra and Sale.

More sessions are planned for 2010 in **East Gippsland**.

For more information regarding DVA, you can contact; **1300 555 1918**

MORWELL OFFICE

BAIRNSDALE OFFICE **5153 1120**

## **GOT SOME NEWS????**

**Please contact Dale on 5135 9555  
If you have an event or news you  
would like included in the RASP  
newsletter.**

**The RASP Newsletter is quarterly:**

**March**

**June**

**September**

**December**

*Our best wishes to you all  
for a safe and happy  
festive season.  
Whatever this time of year  
means to you, and  
however you plan to  
observe or celebrate;*

**ALL THE BEST  
FROM THE GCLS – RASP  
TEAM.**

**Although there's some debate as to whether the Christmas tree as it's used today has pagan origins, it's clear that several non-Christian cultures brought evergreen plants indoors at the time of the winter solstice.**

