

# No Name

September 2010



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## What's in a Name?

### Please Help Us

Notice something strange about the name of our newsletter? Yes, we think it's odd too! Please help us by suggesting a new name for our newsletter.

**Please send your suggestions to [Gippsland\\_Vic@clc.net.au](mailto:Gippsland_Vic@clc.net.au).**

**Not only will the best entry be used as our new name, you will also win a prize.**

## Gippsland Community Legal Service – GCLS

Gippsland Community Legal Service (**GCLS**) has been in operation since June 2000 . We are an independent non-profit service, managed by Anglicare Gippsland. Whilst we are funded by the Federal Government, G.C.L.S is not a government agency or a part of Victorian Legal Aid.

We are based in Morwell at Anglicare's Community Services. GCLS provides free community legal services to people who live, work or study in the Gippsland region (including the Latrobe Valley, West, East and South Gippsland and Bass Coast/Phillip Island).

The Service provides: 1) legal advice, information and assistance, 2) referrals, 3) community legal education and 4) law reform. Legal assistance is provided for a wide range of legal matters including: crime, family law, discrimination and equal opportunity, wills and estates, social security, going to court, employment, motor vehicle accidents, victims of crime assistance, family violence and freedom of information.

**Please be aware that we are primarily an advice-based service, casework is undertaken on a very limited basis.**

## The Rights and Advocacy Support Program (RASP)

### RASP OBJECTIVES

- o Raise awareness of human rights, equal opportunity, anti-discrimination and diversity
- o Promote the rights and dignity of people with disabilities, and other marginalised and disadvantaged communities (eg: seniors, kooris, culturally and linguistically diverse, etc, through a range of strategies including social marketing, community information, advocacy and casework
- o Facilitate accessible and expeditious dispute resolution and provide relevant advocacy support in civil matters

### **INFORMATION & REFERRAL**

- Anti-discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Human Rights and Responsibilities
- Disputes and Dispute Resolution
- Powers of Attorney, Guardianship and Administration
- Referral to the appropriate service provider or statutory body

### **ADVOCACY & SUPPORT**

- For people with a disability
- Accessing service providers and statutory bodies
- Complaints process
- Dispute Resolution

### **COMMUNITY INFORMATION & EDUCATION SESSIONS**

- FREE
- Community Groups or Staff Groups
- Interactive and flexible according to the needs of the group
- Gippsland Wide

## **Meet the Team**

For those of you who haven't met us, the GCLS/RASP Team is:

**Dale Reddick** – Acting Team Leader and RASP Worker

**Kate Windmill** – Principal Lawyer

**Fei Su** – Lawyer, Morwell

**Leigh Crosbie** – Lawyer, Bairnsdale (to Wed September 22)

**Meryl Watson** – Administration/Intake Coordinator

We will introduce ourselves to you over the next few editions of our newsletter.

We are very sorry to announce the departure of Leigh Crosbie, who is returning to Melbourne. Thanks Leigh for your enthusiasm and your contribution to GCLS and the East Gippsland community.

## Time for a Spring Clean?

Don't forget to dust off your Will when you're decluttering your home this Spring.

Your Will is an important, living document and it's your responsibility to ensure it is up to date. So if your circumstances have changed since your last Will – particularly if you've married, separated or divorced, if your family has grown or you've lost a loved one, don't forget to update your Will. It's important because some changes to your circumstances can result in your Will becoming invalid.

If you belong to a community group who would like to hear more about how to make a valid Will together with some of the common pitfalls in Wills and Estates, please feel free to contact GCLS on 1800 004 402 or [Gippsland\\_Vic@clc.net.au](mailto:Gippsland_Vic@clc.net.au). One of our Team would love to come and speak to your group. If you'd like some general advice about your Will, please feel free to call us on 1800 004 402 to make an appointment with one of our lawyers.

## Do you Need a New Fence?

As the weather improves and we spend more time out and about in the garden, many of us will turn our attention to the state of our fences. At RASP we notice an increase in enquiries about fences at this time of year, and some of the questions raised include:

- How do I find my neighbours contact details?
- Do we split the cost of the new fence in half?
- What if one of us wants to change the fence?
- What if my neighbour ignores my request for a new fence?
- Will we end up in court?

If you're looking for some initial advice on fencing matters, RASP can help.

The Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria (DSCV) also provides information and advice. DSCV can also offer a free mediation between you and your neighbour to help you resolve any disputes in a safe and equitable environment.

If you're wondering if will work for you, DSCV tells us that they achieve a successful outcome in 90% of the neighbour disputes they mediate.

If you're struggling with a neighbour dispute, don't do it alone. Contact RASP on **(03) 5135 9555** or DSCV on **1800 658 528**.

## Latrobe Community Network Forum

### Latrobe Valley Community Service Providers Network Mapping Day

An idea to bring Community Service providers across the Latrobe Valley together to network in a friendly, informal manner gathered momentum once word got out.

It quickly appeared that there was a need for community service providers to meet others and not restricted to their usual networks.

Speed dating started the day and was a hit with everyone, providing an opportunity to meet half of the participants on a one-on-one basis for 4 minutes.

The extended morning tea and lunch break were designed to allow participants to meet some of the people they missed during the speed dating.

In the afternoon, breaking into small groups gave further opportunities to meet others prior to whole group discussion.

We have now been able to provide you with the nuts and bolts of the day as promised, including the costings, invitation and agenda and look forward to similar events in other LGA's in Gippsland.

#### Where to from here?

We have received emails from workers that could not attend requesting notification of other events and all participants on the day want more!

**March 29, 2011** - Latrobe Valley Community Service providers expo. Information stands and open to the public

**Sept, 2011** (date to be advised) – Latrobe Valley Community Service providers networking day (speed dating, etc)

**Thank you to everyone involved, for your enthusiasm and making this day such a success.**

**Thanks to Chris Childs from Consumer Affairs Victoria for this contribution.**

## Consumer Affairs Victoria - CAV

The Consumer Affairs Website is an excellent resource, with information on a variety of issues including;

- Building and Renovating,
- Buying and selling property,
- Incorporated Associations,
- Product safety,
- Scams.

You can view the information online at <http://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/>

Make an online enquiry and ask a question at [consumer@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:consumer@justice.vic.gov.au)

Call the Consumer Affairs Hotline on **1300 55 81 81**

Visit the Morwell office at 25 Ann Street

CAV also have a visiting outreach service to: Bairnsdale Morwell Sale Traralgon Warragul and Wonthaggi.  
Contact Consumer Affairs for more details.

## The Judgment's In: What Makes an Effective Advocate?

Gippsland Community Legal Service was privileged to welcome Her Honour Justice Elizabeth Gaynor of the County Court, together with Barrister Patrick Southey, for afternoon tea last month. Our guests were asked to share their experience in making and receiving court appearances together with their tips for effective advocacy.

Her Honour gave insightful and humorous examples of the 'do's and don'ts' of court appearances, paying particular attention to the essential elements and pitfalls of advocacy. She described for us the ideal model of an advocate in her Court. In essence, we were encouraged to always be respectful towards the Magistrate or Judge and to focus our attention on them, to be prepared, to tell the client's story simply and chronologically and to 'confess and avoid' the weaker elements of our client's case. We were asked to keep it simple and to work diligently to negotiate the issues in dispute with the other party prior to entering the court room. We discussed some of the ethical issues that arise in advocacy and the strategies for ensuring we maintain our credibility with the Court when faced with difficult client instructions.

Mr Southey also shared his experience from the bar table with particular attention to managing client's conduct in Court.

The Team looks forward to implementing these tips and to striving for excellence in all court appearances.

We are extremely grateful for Her Honour and Mr Southey's time, we wish them well for their future endeavours and hope to meet with them again soon.

## Links and Newsletters

### Looking for events in your area?

Your local Council's web site can be a useful source for events.

The web addresses for each of the Local Government Areas (LGA) in Gippsland

<b>Bass Coast</b>	<a href="http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/">http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/</a>
<b>Baw Baw</b>	<a href="http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/">http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/</a>
<b>East Gippsland</b>	<a href="http://www.egipps.vic.gov.au/">http://www.egipps.vic.gov.au/</a>
<b>Latrobe</b>	<a href="http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/">http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/</a>
<b>South Gippsland</b>	<a href="http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/">http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/</a>
<b>Wellington</b>	<a href="http://www.wellington.vic.gov.au/">http://www.wellington.vic.gov.au/</a>

**Gamblers Help Gippsland** Have a most informative newsletter which always makes for a great read. If you would like to receive this newsletter, please contact Stephanie Cohen, Gamblers Help Community Education Officer: [Stephanie.Cohen@lchs.com.au](mailto:Stephanie.Cohen@lchs.com.au)

## Your Suggestions?

We want our newsletter to add value to your knowledge of your legal rights and responsibilities. What would you like to see in this newsletter?

**Please contact Dale Reddick on (03) 5135 9555 with suggestions.**