

RASP Newsletter #1

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What's happening at The Rights Centre?

The Rights Centre began in 2002 as a Department Of Justice pilot project. This rural initiative provided the people of Latrobe Valley and Gippsland with a locally based resource for information, advice and community education. The three Department Of Justice "Business Units" being;

- **Dispute Settlement Centre Victoria,**
- **Office of The Public Advocate,**
- **Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission.**

As of July 1st 2008, The Rights Centre merged with the Gippsland Community Legal Service and has been renamed;

Rights **Advocacy and **S**upport **P**rogram**
RASP

We start the "new era" with strong community connections, and a very well developed base from which to proceed.

Our sincere thanks to the people who have worked so hard in The Rights Centre over the past 6 years, and have created such a strong community base;

- Julie Hall,
- Stephanie McStay,
- Bianca Pezzutto,
- Rhonda Hunt.

Who's Who at GCLS and RASP!

Gippsland Community Legal Service (GCLS)

Principal Solicitor – Coordinator:

Simone Elias

Solicitor: Joel Orenstein

Paralegal: Sarah Rybalka

Administration – Intake Coordinator:

Meryl Watson

Rights Advocacy and Support Program (RASP)

Advocacy and Support Worker:

Dale Reddick

R.A.S.P. Objectives:

- Raise awareness of human rights, equal opportunity, anti-discrimination and diversity.
- 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 strategies including social marketing, community information and advocacy and casework.
- Facilitate accessible and expeditious dispute resolution and provide relevant advocacy support in civil matters.

How can R.A.S.P. help YOU?

The Rights and Advocacy Worker – Dale Reddick is able to;

- Provide information and support and , where applicable, referral to an appropriate service provider or statutory body,
- Where appropriate, refer matters to Gippsland Community Legal Service - GCLS for legal advice and casework assistance,
- Provide community information sessions.

Community Information Sessions:

Dale is available to provide community information sessions for staff and community groups;

- Equal Opportunity, anti-discrimination and Human Rights,
- Dispute Resolution,

Please feel free to contact Dale Reddick on 5135 9555 to discuss your group's needs.

Your Feedback:

Over the next few months, GCLS / RASP will be developing the new model for service provision.

In the meantime, nothing has changed too drastically!

Please feel free to contact Dale with any questions, comments and feedback.

HANDY LINK - RESOURCE

National Disability Abuse and Neglect Hotline

The **Hotline** is a place that people with disability can call for help about abuse.

HOURS: 8AM to 8PM 7 Days / week.

This is a nation wide service.

www.disabilityhotline.org

Freecall: 1800 880 052

E-mail: email@disabilityhotline.org

Fax: 02 9318 1372

TTY: 1800 301 130 – To use the National Relay Service call **1800 3555 677** and ask them to call the Hotline for you.

Other languages: Interpreters, call 13 14 50 and ask them to call the Hotline for you.

Brochures (including Braille) and posters are available from RASP, please call Dale on 5135 9555, or visit the Hotline website

www.disabilityhotline.org

When an individual is protesting society's refusal to acknowledge his dignity as a human being, his very act of protest confers dignity on him." (Bayard Rustin)