

Mar 2005

WESTERN SUBURBS NEWS

LEGAL SERVICE INC



PLANNING DAY

Williamstown Community and Education Centre
14 Thompson Street Williamstown

9.15am - 4pm

Saturday 19th March 2005

All Welcome
HELP US PLAN FOR
THE FUTURE.



Deakin Students

Another intake of Deakin students have arrived for the semester. In the coming weeks they will gain invaluable practical experience in an office environment and the community legal sector. Aside from that, we're also looking forward to their help around the office!



For Free Legal Advice

30 Hall St, Newport 3015

Tel: 03 9391 2244

Fax: 03 9399 1686

Hours of opening

Monday to Thursday 9.30am – 1pm & 2-5pm

Email: wsls@vicnet.net.au

Please note the service is now closed on Fridays.

Can you help us?

Thanks to all those who responded to the previous requests for assistance your help is appreciated.

The legal service still needs:

Volunteers

Resources

Financial Assistance

Any donations are tax deductible and gratefully acknowledged.

Any assistance that you can provide large or small will help.

**THANK YOU BEC & MARIAN
HELLO EMEL**

Late last year Bec resigned as our Administrator to further pursue her studies. So, thanks very much for your years of excellent work to the legal service!
Thankfully, Bec will continue to work at the legal service for a day per week in a policy and project role. However, for the past six weeks Marian has more than ably filled in as our locum Administrator! Thank you. Our new permanent Administrator is Emel Ramadan. She started work on Monday 7th March. So welcome Emel!

Merci

The PERIN Project

Annie Grant, Godfrey Moase and Michael Smith have finished writing a submission into the PERIN system for the Department of Justice's review into the area. The submission advocates for a single infringement body to oversee the work of many disparate enforcements agencies, as well as the government departments and agencies that currently have the power to issue and set fine levels. Also, among others the submission recommends the implementation of instalment orders whose first priority is the ability of the person to be able to pay it off, fine levels proportional to income, and a universal infringement notice.

The submission is based around case studies from past cases at the service, the McQuillen Report for the Department of Infrastructure, and the work of other progressive law reform advocacy bodies. The absurdly high increase in public transport fines mid-way through 2004 set off this project and hopefully it will end with important structural changes to the PERIN system. The Victorian government plans to enact an overarching *Infringements Act* in the spring sitting of State Parliament this year, so we'll see what happens . . .

If you wish to obtain a copy of the report please contact the office.



Attention: Night Service has Changed Days

Night Service days have changed this year. Night service is now being held every Monday and Tuesday evenings.

Enclosed is the proposed roster for March to June 2005. Please let us know if you are unable to make the dates you are rostered on.

Lawyers needed at the Community Information Centre

The Community Information Centre in Hobsons Bay currently has one lawyer attending Thursdays fortnightly to give legal advice. The service is looking for another lawyer to assist.

If you would be interested please contact Helen at our office or ring CIS on 9398 5207.

Racism in the Community Project

Helen has been working on a 'Racism in the Community' Project as a follow up to the successful 'Racism in Schools' Project.

We are seeking funds and support for the project. We have submitted funding applications to the Department of Victorian Communities, Multicultural grants program, the Victorian Law Foundation, and we're about to submit an application to the Reichstein Foundation. So we need to get letters of support from the community. If you know of a community organisation that would be supportive of the project or know of funding opportunities please contact Helen. If you would like more detailed information or feel that you have time or skills to offer again please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Volunteer Training

The committee and staff at WSLS recognise the valuable contribution that all volunteers make to the service. Appropriate training sessions that are being held for Deakin students will be open to our volunteers. If you are interested in attending a training day, or want more information please contact Annie.

WE STILL HAVE A POSITION AVAILABLE ON OUR COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, OR KNOW SOMEONE ELSE WHO MAY BE, PLEASE CONTACT EMEL OR HELEN AT THE OFFICE

