

Major Grants Awarded in 2009-10

The Legal Services Board provided funding to the following projects in the 2009-10 Major Grants.

Applicant Name	Project Name	Project Description	Amount	Length
Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria	FVPLS Victoria – Family Violence Community Legal Education Project	<p>This project will employ a community legal education worker at FVPLS Victoria for a period of two years to co-ordinate the organisation's community legal education ('CLE') program, focussing upon CLE in metropolitan Melbourne and other priority areas in Victoria not funded by the Commonwealth FVPLS program.</p> <p>The CLE worker, in conjunction with FVPLS staff and key Koori and mainstream organisations, will develop and provide culturally appropriate and up to date legal information through a range of means to Koori communities on issues of child protection, family law, family violence orders, victim's assistance, sexual assault, the role of police and being a victim/witness in a criminal prosecution.</p> <p>A strategy to ensure ongoing community awareness about legal and associated services will be developed to ensure increased access to justice. The project also aims to strengthen the knowledge of key agencies and workers, and improve mainstream agencies' ability to provide culturally appropriate responses.</p>	\$269,990.00	2 Years
Australian Institute of Family Studies	A new legal frontier? The role of social networking services and mobile phone technology in facilitating sexual violence	This project aims to assist in the reduction of sexual violence experienced by young people in Australia and support the legal system's ability to legislate, investigate and prosecute sexual violence that occurs through - or is aided by - social networking services. The project will engage qualitative research methods to expand the evidence-base on social-networking services and sexual violence, enhance understanding of the ways in which young people's attitudes and behaviours in this arena are formed, and improve understanding of the challenges involved in regulating this environment.	\$95,000.00	1 Year
Department of Justice	Crimes Act review and replacement	This project is the continuation of the Crimes Act review. It will enable a smooth transition from one legal system to another, and provide extensive support to lawyers, judges and all others in the justice system during the reforms. This approach builds on the strengths of all justice system agencies through knowledge sharing and joint activities where appropriate.	\$898,538.00	1 Year
Eastern Community Legal Centre	Ringwood Family Violence Integrated Response	This project will develop the partnership between agencies in Melbourne's East to assist people (especially victims of family violence) who are presenting at Court seeking Intervention Orders, both on their day in Court and also beyond it. Consultation will be used to develop integrated collaborative solutions and to pilot them at a range of levels.	\$214,540.00	2 Years
Environment Defenders Office (Victoria) Ltd	Public Interest Environmental Law project – community extension	The Environment Defenders Office (EDO) will build on previous activity in environmental law reform and research by continuing the employment of two law reform and policy officers. They will also engage a dedicated community law reform officer over two years to provide community education on law reform issues, develop community publications, assist communities to participate in relevant law reform processes, and work with environmental NGOs (eNGOs) to improve their community engagement, particularly in rural areas.	\$599,000.00	3 Years

Applicant Name	Project Name	Project Description	Amount	Length
Fitzroy Legal Service	Access to Justice Resources Online-Law Handbook free to all Victorians	This project aims to update and improve the existing suite of online community legal education/access to justice resources such as the Law Handbook on Line and Law4community and increase cultural inclusion on the site.	\$100,000.00	1 Year
Mental Health Legal Centre Inc.	Inside Access: An integrated community legal service for people with mental illness in Victorian prisons and secure hospitals - Legal Education and Training Worker	Inside Access provides a civil law service to people with mental illness in prisons through pro bono partnerships. This project will provide a legal education and training worker who will consolidate the work of Inside Access by providing community legal education to people in the mental health units in prison (Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, Melbourne Assessment Prison, Thomas Embling Hospital, Port Phillip Prison, Statewide Forensic Service), capacity building through professional legal education to pro bono firms and the legal sector, and maximising volunteer involvement in the program.	\$176,850.57	2 Years
Monash University	An examination of the impact of unpaid fines on disadvantaged groups and the criminal justice system - towards a best practice model.	This project will investigate the profile of the groups most subject to unpaid fines, how they come into contact with the criminal justice system and the outcomes of their failure to pay infringements. Young people, homeless people, people with disabilities and mental health issues, and people experiencing severe financial hardship all accrue significant unpaid fines disproportionately to other groups in the community. The procedure required for dealing with unpaid fines is lengthy and complex, and represents a significant burden to community legal centres in Victoria. This project will focus specifically on the supports available to these groups, who represent some of the most disadvantaged groups in society. The project will research how the current system in Victoria is meeting the needs of key stakeholders and where improvements could be made. It will then propose law reform in the area, with regard to national and international best practice in responding to unpaid infringements.	\$174,000.00	2 Years
Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH)	Extending the reach of PILCHConnect: a specialist legal service for Victorian not-for-profit community	This project will strengthen the Not For Profit (NFP) agencies that provide essential services to those people most at risk of social exclusion, by providing them with free and low cost, tailored legal information, training and advice. PILCHConnect 'helps the helpers' to be better governed, more effective and sustainable service providers. This maximises their ability to work to ensure fewer people fall through the cracks and become socially isolated.	\$184,441.00	1 Year
Senior Rights Victoria, Council On the Ageing Victoria	To protect older people from the risks of financial loss arising from the disposal of their assets in exchange for future care and accommodation	This project will provide a practice guide for the legal profession and a resource for the community outlining the risks associated when someone takes advantage of an older person who may be vulnerable due to failing or limited mental capacity, or because of his or her special relationship with the other party. The guide will discuss equitable principles of law to determine whether the transaction should be set aside, alternatives for structuring the transaction in ways that protect the client and charting the available remedies and explaining the processes for obtaining relief. The guide will research and explain the law, educate the public and their advisers on how to minimise the risks associated with such transactions, and advocate changes in the law to offset some of the present complexities and impediments.	\$165,740.00	2 Years

Applicant Name	Project Name	Project Description	Amount	Length
Springvale Monash Legal Service Inc.	Visioning Justice	The project will support young people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds to work with their peers to produce and promote alternative media about the issues that affect their lives, particularly in relation to the justice system. The project will include the creation of a series of radio documentaries to be broadcast on several community radio stations and podcast on the internet. The documentaries will be a vehicle for a small, intensively supported group of CALD young people to generate a grass roots 'vision' of how their communities can engage with criminal justice institutions in a positive and transformative way.	\$125,450.00	1 Year
Victoria Legal Aid	Victorian Legal Assistance Forum: an innovative, collaborative partnership approach	The Victoria Legal Aid Forum has, to date, effectively facilitated the development of networks, working groups and legal assistance dialogues across the legal and non-legal sector. This project will continue that work in order to further develop a collaborative approach to improving and increasing legal access in regional and metropolitan Victoria.	\$196,500.00	2 Years
West Heidelberg Community Legal Service	Using the Law to Advocate for Improved Housing Outcomes for the Disadvantaged	This project will utilise a range of approaches to advocate for improved access and equity in public housing matters for disadvantaged people in West Heidelberg and beyond. Strategies will include community advocacy training, integrated service delivery (in partnership with Banyule Community Health), contributing to policy development through submissions, and casework.	\$290,000.00	2 Years
Western Region Health Centre	STAMP (Supporting Traditional African Mediators Project)	This project will enhance and extend work already begun with African-Australian communities living in the Western suburbs of Melbourne. The original project trained twenty-three traditional African leaders to undertake conflict resolution in family violence prevention and early intervention. The next phase of the project will continue this work in partnership with Footscray Community Legal Service, Victoria Police, Foundation House and Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service to further develop the training program and train additional African leaders. These people will develop skills and knowledge to build their capacity to provide resolutions that are informed by an understanding of the Australian legal and cultural context. The project will also develop opportunities for the African community and the justice system to collaborate on promoting early intervention strategies in family violence situations that account for the specific cultural needs of African communities.	\$204,000.00	2 Years
Youthlaw	Youthlaw: Policy, Reform and Advocacy Program	This three year program will consolidate and enhance the Youthlaw Policy and Advocacy Project that has expanded the reach, depth and impact of law reform and advocacy conducted by Youthlaw over the past 18 months.	\$285,602.00	3 Years

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Applicant Name	Project Title	Project Description
Windermere Child & Family Services Inc.	Freedom from Family Violence: Community Education Project in the Growth Corridor	The project will contribute to the prevention / reduction of incidents of family violence within Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities through community education, mentorship and enhanced consumer access to legal services. The project will inform culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community groups of the new Family Violence Protection Act 2008 – their rights, responsibilities and options.
Changemakers Australia	Changemakers Australia Charity Law Research and Reform Project	The project will research some of the impacts of the current definition of charity on the not for profit (NFP) sector, the range of views on the needs for charity law reform, and the priorities in addressing these concerns.
Central Highlands Community Legal Centre (CHCLC)	Horsham Outreach Project	The project will engage a Project Worker to set up a legal outreach service in Horsham, Victoria, and for a lawyer to take on board advice and casework. Initially, it will operate under the auspices of CHCLC, providing legal advice and referral information to the people who live in this area.
Deakin University	Provision of Legal Services to Small Business in Rural and Regional Victoria	<p>This project will research the provision of legal services to small business in Rural & Regional Victoria. It will :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review practices across the State to advance our understandings of rural legal-service needs, communal and practitioner, • Identify the shortfalls in service provision, and • Clarify opportunities for innovations to sustain rural-regional legal practice now and in future.

Applicant Name	Project Title	Project Description
Court Network	Court Information and Support Shoulder Bag	<p>The project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide on the spot minor welfare needs of children, young adults and parents by providing them with age appropriate “show bags” which the court user can use throughout the time they are required to attend court. • Provide supportive information about the Court process including a written step by step walk through of the court experience. This will be age appropriate, sensitive and gender based. • Provide relevant after court support information about how to seek support within the community when required. This may take the form of brochures/fact sheets, and will include information about crisis services for vulnerable parents and young people.
Creative Ministries Network	Developing a Quality Assurance Framework for any Restorative Justice Service operating in the area of Work-Related Death and Injury in Victoria	<p>This project will develop the core elements of a framework that will ensure that any Victorian restorative justice service working in the specific area of work-related death and injury can operate with the highest quality and safety possible. These elements include: specialist education and training courses for the restorative justice service staff, practice materials and an evaluation and monitoring framework.</p>
Right Now	Right Now Online (upgrading the website)	<p>The project will develop an online portal on human rights that has its basis in the printed publication currently available. The website will feature insightful legal analysis from leading human rights defenders and also provide a forum for everyone to comment on the issues raised in those features. Right Now Online will feature blogs, journalism, opinion articles, fiction and poetry relating to human rights in Australia.</p>
The Wilderness Society Victoria Inc.	Assessment of Victoria’s Environmental Laws and Regulatory Framework	<p>This project will assess Victoria’s legal and regulatory framework for its efficacy in the protection of Victoria’s native forests. Emerging out of this research will be four separate reports, a summary report, and a suite of recommendations for legal and regulatory reform.</p>
Community Connections (Vic) Ltd	Human Rights and Social Justice (HR&SJ) Development Project	<p>This project will further the development of the newly established Centre for HR & SJ in the South West region of Victoria. The Centre aims to streamline the delivery of advocacy and social justice services to enable clients to have single entry point and referral process for their needs.</p>

Applicant Name	Project Title	Project Description
Essendon Community Legal Centre Inc.	Educating our community in driving laws	<p>This project will develop and conduct training sessions to educate newly arrived migrants and refugees to obtain their "L's" & "P's" through a driving education program. Information sessions will be conducted to educate the community about fines, road rules, consequences of driving without a licence, the role of Police, How to obtain "L's", drink driving, insurance, and how to purchase a first car and the implications of driving an unregistered vehicle.</p>
Human Rights Law Resource Centre Ltd	Upholding the Right: Police Use of Force	<p>This project will conduct research and prepare a report with concrete recommendations on human rights-based approaches to policing.</p> <p>A range of strategies will then be developed to implement the research recommendations, including training with Victoria Police, CLCs and affected communities. The research could also inform legislative and policy reform relating to the Victoria Police.</p>
Australian Vietnamese Womens Association	Vietnamese and Australian Legal Systems	<p>Vietnamese and Australian Legal Systems is a community education program aimed at increasing the Vietnamese community's awareness and understanding of Victorian law and the Victorian legal/justice system. Workshops will be provided in addition to fortnightly segments on Vietnamese community radio regarding pertinent legal related topics within the Vietnamese community including the role of Customs, Victorian Court System, Role of Legal Aid and how to access it, Family Laws, Criminal Justice System, Primary Industry Laws and Regulations, Consequences of Illicit Drug/Alcohol consumption.</p>