



Peer educators tell the story of young women's safety

The peer educators from our Take the Next Step project have officially graduated!

We recently held a wrap event to celebrate the hard work of all the young women who participated and to premiere a short social media video they developed as their valedictory work.



Take the Next Step launch event, August 2025

Also in this edition, get your tickets! We've got two big events coming up: our 2025 AGM; and a Lunch & Learn session for family violence practitioners.

Plus, we reveal the findings from our Financial Divide pilot project, which used lawyer-assisted mediation to help victims-survivors of family violence secure financial entitlements.

And Australia marked National Child Protection Week in September. So, we decided to create a brand-new legal fact sheet answering some frequently asked questions for people who end up dealing with Child Protection services.

But first...



Book your tickets to our AGM

Join us to mark a year of great achievement and growth!

EVENT DETAILS

4-5pm, Thursday November 13

Glenroy Community Hub

50 Wheatsheaf Road Glenroy

VIC 3046

Speakers TBC.

Light refreshments provided.

[Get your tickets here](#)

Book now for a special Lunch and Learn session

Northern CLC is presenting a Lunch a Learn session for family violence workers.

This forum will provide guidance to family violence workers to ensure they can best support clients navigating complex migration issues without putting their visa status at risk.

This online-only session is open to both specialist and non-specialist family violence practitioners working with family violence victim survivors with temporary or no visa status.

EVENT DETAILS

12-1pm

Thursday, October 30

Online via Zoom

[Book your spot now](#)

Rolling out the red carpet as peer educators premiere a powerful video about gendered violence in public and online spaces

For the past few months, peer educators from our Take the Next Step project have been working with our media team to create an

Instagram reel about women's safety in public and online spaces. We're thrilled to announce that video is now live on Instagram and our website!

Check it out below. And don't forget to give us a follow if you haven't already!

[Watch on Instagram](#)

[Watch on the website](#)

So Many Choices...



The group saw an opportunity to explore the issues discussed throughout the project's workshops, in a way that is engaging and expressed in the language of their online peers – and there's no better place to do that than social media.

They also wanted to tell this story through a first-person perspective to generate empathy for the anxieties and difficult choices women face in daily life. We think they've well and truly achieved that goal and we're proud of all the work they put into this.

Take the Next Step provides diverse young women with education and skill building opportunities to enable them to make informed choices about their financial security, bodies, and relationships. So that they can, in turn, support, educate and mentor other young women as they transition into adulthood.

How did we go closing the Financial Divide?

We recently concluded our pilot Financial Divide Project funded by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation. We launched this project after noticing a serious gap in services for our clients: after a relationship ends due to family violence, victims-survivors are consistently unable to access the money they are entitled to from a shared property pool.

Private family lawyers won't take on these cases because the asset pools held by our clients are typically small enough that the lawyers' fees will eat up a massive chunk of the entitlement. So, many victims-survivors are left without legal support. Despite the relative size of these property pools, access to even a modest property settlement can provide a victim-survivor with enough financial security to avoid homelessness.

The project's work highlighted the importance of lawyer-assisted mediation in supporting victim-survivors, but also identified a number of challenges within this system of property settlement. One such challenge was the lack of alternative options if the other party refuses to engage in the mediation process.

Without additional resources, we were unable to bring litigation against the other party, and so clients who did not achieve an agreement during the mediation process were left in a systemic gap: unable to afford private litigation and without the means to resolve their property settlement independently. Additional resources for community legal centres are required to ensure successful litigation outcomes when the other party refuses to engage, especially for more complex property settlements.

Overall, we learned a lot and achieved a lot: those clients who reached a resolution reported reduced stress and greater housing stability. The project increased victims-survivors' access to family law property legal advice, facilitated their participation in family law property mediations, and, in some cases, enabled clients to access their share of the property pool.

The funding for this project has recently ended, and so our capacity for supporting clients will be reduced. However, we will continue to take a limited number of referrals for lawyer-assisted property mediation, primarily through the links we have established with Family Relationship Centres.

[The full report](#)[Two-page summary](#)

Connect, challenge, change

Talking policy reform for migration law at the 5th World Conference for Women's Shelters

In September, our Senior Migration Lawyer, Emilia Nazari, travelled to Sydney for the 5th World Conference of Women's Shelters.



The conference brought together over 1,000 delegates from more than 100 countries who are engaged in grassroots efforts to end gender-based violence.

Emilia participated in a panel discussion on reforming policy to better protect women on temporary visas who experience family violence and homelessness.

Emilia spoke alongside other members of the National Advocacy Group (NAG) on Women on Temporary Visas Experiencing Violence

—a collective of advocates from legal, community, cultural, and academic sectors.

The NAG and Northern CLC are calling for urgent reform to address systemic discrimination that is placing migrant women's lives at risk.

Alongside two of our project partners – Safe Steps and South-East Monash Legal Service – Emilia also presented a poster showcasing a client journey.



Safe Landing is one of our specialist projects that supports women on temporary visas—who experience a disproportionate frequency and severity of family violence—to find safety and build lives free from violence. Northern CLC supports clients in Melbourne's north while our project partner, South-East Monash Legal Service, delivers services to those in the south-east.

Safe Steps to Legal Rights is a collaborative project with Safe Steps and The Salvation Army, providing on-site legal support to women at serious risk of homelessness across three family violence crisis accommodation sites.

These projects are integrated to deliver crucial legal support in migration and family violence matters, helping victim-survivors stabilise their visa status and establish financial security and housing stability.

NEW FACT SHEET JUST DROPPED

How to deal with Child Protection services

Australia marked National Child Protection Week in September. So, we decided to create a brand-new fact sheet answering some common legal questions people ask if they end up dealing with Child Protection services, who often get involved where family violence is occurring.

Why is Child Protection contacting me? Do I have to talk to them? Can someone help me deal with them?

We answer all these questions and more to ensure people know their legal rights when dealing with Child Protection and that victims-survivors know where and how to access legal support.

[Take me to the fact sheet](#)

Northern Community Legal Centre acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians whose lands we are fortunate to live and work on. We pay our respects to all Elders past, present and future.

Level 3, Building 2, 1100 Pascoe Vale
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28/10/2025

