



## The latest from NCLC

Equal justice for all in Melbourne's North-West.

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More than two months into 2024, we are well due for an update on the goings-on at Northern Community Legal Centre.

It's certainly been a busy start to the year. We've said goodbye to some staff and welcomed others (you'll meet our new Integration Program Coordinator below). We've developed new educational resources, including a Going to Court guide for victims/survivors of family violence in Intervention Order Hearings.

Our two research projects – Justice at Home, which looked into the experience of victims/survivors of family violence when accessing intervention orders remotely; and Justice Barriers, which examined the barriers faced by culturally and linguistically diverse women when accessing court services – have come to an end, and we're busy pulling together the results.

We're excited to have new projects on our slate, too: the Young Women's Empowerment Project and the Financial Divide Project, which you can read more about in this newsletter.

We're also conducting our annual stakeholder survey, and would love feedback from our partners to learn how we can improve our services. A link to the questionnaire is below.

We hope everyone's year is off to a good and productive start, and as always, we thank our community for their ongoing support.

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## Preparing for an Intervention Order Hearing

Going to Court when family violence is putting you and/or your children's safety at risk can be stressful and overwhelming.



Our lawyers have put together a comprehensive resource to help victim/survivors of family violence who are going to Court for a Family Violence Intervention Order feel prepared, so they can focus on getting the best outcome possible. It covers everything from applying for an Intervention Order, to what to do when you arrive at the Court, types of hearings and outcomes and what happens afterwards.

*The resource is now available as a webpage on our website. Please share with your clients and networks where helpful.*

[Access resource](#)

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# Introducing our new Integration Program Coordinator, Cherry Skinner Tarlo



## **Tell us about your background.**

I've always been interested in social justice. With a background working across community organisations, Child Protection and Family Violence Services, I have honed my passion for helping others into preventing and responding to family violence. I am a passionate gender equality advocate and enjoy working with victim-survivors and their families to empower them using a feminist, strengths-based model. I am also a keen mental health advocate.

## **Why is your role important?**

My role as Integration Program Coordinator helps our legal clients with their important and complex social needs. Many clients have experienced family violence, financial disadvantage, mental ill-health and substance abuse. I endeavour to provide a comprehensive, wrap-around care model for these clients to ensure they are accessing all available supports. I also work collaboratively with stakeholders and other organisations to improve service-delivery and to ensure clients' needs are met

## **Why are you passionate about working in this space?**

I wholeheartedly believe that all people, especially women and gender-diverse folk, deserve to live a life where they are safe, valued and respected. I am passionate about helping victim-survivors of family violence step into their power and reclaim their sense of self, something that is often stripped from them in an abusive relationship. I enjoy empowering clients who have experienced social disadvantage to make their own decisions and re-build their lives. It's a true joy and a humbling experience to walk alongside another person on their journey to self-discovery and healing.

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# Stakeholder Survey 2024

To support our strategic planning processes in 2024, NCLC are surveying our stakeholders and partners to learn how we can improve our services. We would love your honest input. The survey consists of three key questions and should take no more than five minutes to complete.

*This survey is confidential. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact Tania McKenna (Partnerships and Community Development Manager) at [tmckenna@northernclc.org.au](mailto:tmckenna@northernclc.org.au)*

Do the survey

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## Young Women's Economic Empowerment Project (RISE)

Young women, including young mothers and young newly arrived women, make up an increasing proportion of NCLC's family violence clients, with financial abuse and dependence reported as significant barriers to leaving abusive relationships.

Our new Young Women's Economic Empowerment Project: Rights, Independence and Self Empowerment (RISE) aims to address these issues by providing targeted legal support to women under 25 who are experiencing family violence. This support is embedded and integrated within local women's health settings.

We'd like to thank the Victorian Legal Services Board for funding the project.

*More information is available on our website.*

[Learn more](#)

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## Financial Divide Project

Funded through the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, this new project will prevent women who are escaping family violence from becoming homeless by providing access to small property pool assets through a no-cost, lawyer-assisted mediation pilot project.



Family violence and subsequent financial abuse are recognised key drivers of poverty-driven homelessness. Many NCLC clients are left with no access to funds after a separation, and are unable to pay for property negotiations.

We aim to address this problem by enabling women to swiftly access financial settlements that will allow them to safely re-home with their children.

*More information about the Financial Divide Project is on our website.*

[Learn more](#)



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.

## Northern Community Legal Centre

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