



All the Latest from Northern Community Legal Centre

October 2022

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From the Team at NCLC

As we begin to enjoy some spring sunshine, the team at NCLC has been buoyed by positive news about key programs. Our Safe Landing Program, which provides wrap-around family violence support for women on temporary visas, including assistance from a Migration Lawyer, has been funded by the Commonwealth for a further three years. NCLC will be working closely in partnership with SE Monash Legal Service who will also be delivering the Safe Landing Program. This will ensure enhanced coverage across the Melbourne metropolitan region with NCLC assisting women located in the North-West, and SE Monash Legal Service assisting women residing in the South-East.

NCLC has also commenced our NW Enhanced Pathways Project, where we will work closely with our partners at Maternal Child Health to ensure streamlined access to legal support for women experiencing family violence.

And finally, funding for the Early Resolution Service at Broadmeadows Court, has been extended for a further six months, until June 2023. This program provides early legal support and advocacy for women applying for family violence intervention orders, to reach an appropriate and safe resolution before the hearing date.

NCLC would like to welcome new staff members who have joined our team to support our new projects: Lloyd Murphy, Program Coordinator, Hannah Barker, Family Violence Integration Coordinator, and Brigette Coutts, Family Violence Lawyer. We also welcome to our legal team Lokesh Kashyap, Community Lawyer, and welcome Rachel Sheehy, to our admin team.



Travelling overseas with children post-seperation



With the lifting of international borders and travel slowly returning to normal, more parents are hoping to travel overseas with their children – sometimes for the first time. This can be a complicated and confusing process when there has been a relationship breakdown, particularly when family violence has occurred and a Family Violence Intervention Order is in place. It is important that parents are aware that there are laws about taking children overseas with or without the consent of the children's other parent. To help raise awareness of rights and obligations, NCLC has developed a new Factsheet: Taking your child overseas. The Factsheet is available [here](#) or at www.northernclc.org.au-legal-fact-sheets.

Introducing NCLC's Family Violence Integration Worker

With a background in disability support, and more recently as an

embedded social worker in another community legal setting, I apply a trauma-informed approach to my practice, understanding that each client has unique strengths gained through diverse life experiences. I am passionate about supporting individuals, but I also care deeply about addressing the systemic barriers that our clients come up against every day.

My current role will prioritise working with clients referred through our NW Enhanced Pathways project, and the Safe Landing Project where I will be supporting women on temporary visas experiencing family violence.



In addition to ensuring NCLC clients can access the most appropriate pathways to address their safety and well-being needs, I will be delivering legal education sessions to community members and other professionals, and working with our partners to streamline referral pathways. I look forward to building connections in the community and strengthening our partnerships across the sector.

Fines Victoria rolls out Concession scheme for COVID-19 Fines

In response to advocacy surrounding the COVID-19 Infringements issued during the pandemic, Fines Victoria have introduced a concession scheme for COVID-19 fines.

If a person is eligible for the scheme, it will allow for a concession rate to be applied to the infringement, significantly lowering the fee.

If a person was issued a fine for a breach of the public health directions, and they hold either a concession card, are an asylum seeker or are an applicant of a specified visa subclass, they may be eligible for the scheme.

They are able to participate even if they are on a payment plan, and are encouraged to do so to ensure they are not paying more than they need to.

Unfortunately, the scheme does not apply to those who have paid the fine in full, were served a 7 day notice that has expired, and if the matter has been elected to be heard in court.

There is an application form on the Fines Victoria website that needs to be accompanied by proof of eligibility. Once Fines Victoria has approved the application, the concession fee will be applied.

If you have received a covid fine that you wish to contest, a NCLC lawyer may be able to assist.

For more information visit: <https://online.fines.vic.gov.au/Support/concession>

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

Northern Community Legal Centre

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