

Programs funded in the 2015 Grants Round

The following projects were funded by the Board in its 2015 Grants Round.

Applicants	Project Name	Project Description	Amount	Length
Deakin University	Legal responses to one punch homicide in Victoria: Understanding the impact of law reform	This project will systematically document the context within which one-punch homicides occur, how the Victorian law of homicide responded to one-punch homicides prior to the 2014 reforms and legal practitioner's views of current practices and future needs for reform. The project engages with questions of state-wide significance and will generate an evidence base to benefit legal practice and future reform in Victoria.	\$24,000	1 year
Gippsland Community Legal Service, a program of Anglicare Victoria	Doing Our Duty: Increasing Access to Justice in Gippsland	This project will assess legal need and increase access to and awareness of legal services in the East Gippsland area. This will include provision of: a duty lawyer service in the Bairnsdale and Sale courts for family violence matters; a series of community legal education and professional legal education sessions to remote and isolated communities; outreach clinics and concentrated promotion of community legal services throughout East Gippsland.	\$49,445	1.5 years
Human Rights Law Centre (HRLC)	Partners in the Community – Mental Health Legal Centre & Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS) Homeless Person Project	MHLC and RDNS Homeless Person Project (RDNS HPP) have committed to working together in a unique pilot to provide increased access to justice for a vulnerable cohort of Victorians with multiple complex needs. This pilot project will seek to establish a collaborative and effective legal-health service model to address the unmet legal needs of RDNS HPP clients at risk or experiencing homelessness, particularly those experiencing social isolation. The service model will be developed in response to the range of identified unmet legal needs of RDNS HPP clients.	\$239,800	2 years
Youthlaw	Smart Justice for Young People: building the case for youth justice reinvestment	The project will allow the Smart Justice for Young People (SJ4YP) coalition to move into a new phase of informing and generating public debate and influencing action by key stakeholders and decision makers on major youth justice issues in Victoria. It will build and present the case for Government to commit to a justice reinvestment approach. It will focus attention on the key law enforcement methods and laws, regulations and practices that do not satisfactorily address the reasons or contributing factors behind young people's offending. The project will share potential solutions with the	\$230,000	2 years

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		community with the aim of fostering interest in community based justice reinvestment pilots.		
Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service Victoria (FVPLS)	Employment of FVPLS Victoria Policy and Advocacy Officer	<p>A Policy and Advocacy Officer will lead strategic advocacy for Aboriginal victims/survivors of family violence at a critical time for Victoria, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the first ever Royal Commission into Family Violence is informed by the needs and perspectives of Aboriginal women; • Contributing to initiatives arising from the Council of Australian Governments prioritisation of family violence; • Responding to new evidence about the impacts of family violence through the work of Taskforce 1000; and • Identifying and advocating for culturally safe solutions to address systemic issues for Aboriginal victims/survivors within the justice system and more broadly. 	\$100,000	1.5 years
Western Community Legal Centre Ltd	Health Agency to Court	The project will work with the Werribee Magistrates' Court, the Wyndham City Council and local health and therapeutic agencies to establish a holistic program to assist local residents who owe collectively \$54 million in fines. The project will establish a cradle to grave process to provide Wyndham residents and the Werribee Magistrates' Court with appropriate medical and therapeutic assessment and advice and assist clients within those agencies with significant fines.	\$200,000	2 years
Centre for Innovative Justice, RMIT	Restorative Justice Conferencing: An Innovative Approach to Serious Driving Offences	This project seeks to better meet the needs of victims of crime and improve the criminal justice system by developing a restorative justice model focused on those affected by driving incidents resulting in death or serious injury. Drawing on local and international research and existing programs, a restorative justice conferencing program will be developed, piloted and evaluated over two years. Conferencing will operate as an alternative and an adjunct to criminal justice processes, available where charges are not laid, matters do not precede to trial, and pre and post-sentencing. The delivery of this restorative justice program will provide a model for expansion across Victoria, to other categories of offences, victims and offenders.	\$200,000	2 years
Consumer Action Law Centre	Owning your own home – on your own terms, not vendor terms	This project aims to bring up to date the current consumer sector knowledge of unconventional home sales arrangements known as “Rent to buy” or “vendor terms” for sellers and buyers excluded from	\$100,000	1 year

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		<p>mainstream finance. This will inform state and federal regulatory consideration of the practices of those operating in this market that make a profit from the vulnerable, and will be underpinned by sound data from the community legal sector with case studies to illustrate the serious detriment.</p> <p>Recommendations for regulatory and legal reform will be directed to regulators and policy makers on behalf of low income and vulnerable consumers.</p>		
Hume Riverina Community Legal Service (auspiced by Upper Murray Family Care)	The Invisible Hurdles – Better outcomes for young people experiencing family violence in North East Victoria	<p>The Invisible Hurdles project will support young persons aged 15-25 years in North East Victoria who are at risk of family violence to engage with and access legal services to achieve positive outcomes.</p> <p>This project aims to identify the hurdles that prevent young people from accessing legal assistance, and to develop service delivery models that most effectively overcome those hurdles with the aim of increasing the capacity of young people to engage with the legal system. Through early intervention and integrated service delivery it is envisaged that this will reduce occurrences of family violence and associated legal problems.</p>	\$220,000	2 years
Women’s Legal Service Victoria	Small claims, large battles: Improving access to justice for women with small property claims in family law	<p>This project will promote women’s economic recovery after relationship breakdown by ensuring fair access to the assets of the relationship for the women at greatest risk of financial hardship. Currently, the cost and complexity of securing a property settlement means that, where the asset pool is small or consists entirely of superannuation or debt, many women are unable to obtain a fair financial outcome. This project will leverage pro bono legal services, research and advocacy to deepen current knowledge and develop strategies to improve access to property settlements for women with small claims.</p>	\$250,000	2 years
Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre	Police Accountability and Human Rights Clinic	<p>This project will establish Victoria’s first Police Accountability and Human Rights Clinic to provide advice, referral, support and casework to victims of police misconduct.</p> <p>The Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre has formed a partnership with the Public Interest Law Initiative of Melbourne Law School. Using a model of clinical legal education, the Clinic will see victims of police misconduct from across Victoria providing enhanced human rights and accountability outcomes.</p>	\$143,156	2 years