

Projects funded through the 2011 Major Grants

The Legal Services Board provided \$3.7 million in funding to 15 projects through the 2011 Major Grants. The Board set a priority theme for the Major Grants, which was the issue of the prevention of violence against women. Of the 15 projects funded, nine addressed this theme. The projects funded through the Major Grants are detailed in the following tables.

Projects funded to address the priority theme – the prevention of violence against women

The Legal Services Board highlighted the issue of the prevention of violence against women as a priority theme for this year's Major Grants. Access Economics estimated that violence against women costs Victoria approximately \$2 billion per year and Australia \$8 billion (2004). Violence against women is reported to be the leading contributor to death, disability and illness in Victorian women aged 15 to 44 (VicHealth 2004). The legal system has a major role in this issue. The projects span education, research and integrated service delivery. All are striving to improve current policy and practice, improve evidence or explore new ways of doing things. Evaluation will form a strong part of each project and it is expected the learning will help improve legal service and practice in Victoria.

Applicant Name	Project Title	Description	Amount
Domestic Violence Victoria	Women's Voices Steering Justice Reform - Family Violence Women's Advisory Group	Domestic Violence Victoria (DV Vic) will establish a formal Family Violence Women's Advisory Group whereby women in Victoria who have experienced family violence can offer feedback and recommendations on ways in which legal services can improve service delivery.	\$149,400
Immigrant Womens Domestic Violence Service-	Legal Empowerment Toward Social Justice: A culturally appropriate strategy for prevention and intervention of family violence in CALD communities	Through the establishment of a pilot legal service within the service (inTouch), the project will work towards a more wholistic, integrated and culturally appropriate approach to prevention and intervention of family violence in multicultural communities.	\$200,000
Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre Bendigo	Why didn't you ask?	This project aims to improve safety, social and health outcomes for women at risk of, or experiencing family violence by delivering legal assistance through a multi-disciplinary model and through the provision of comprehensive legal services (education, advice and casework) in the Central Victorian region.	\$448,844
North Melbourne Legal Service Inc (NMLS)	Acting on the warning signs: addressing violence against women through the hospital setting	"Acting on the warning signs" is a collaborative partnership between legal and non-legal organisations to reduce violence against women through legal education of health practitioners and community, early intervention and outreach legal assistance in the setting of the Royal Women's Hospital.	\$293,332
Peninsula Health Community Health	Adolescent violence in the home - the missing link in family violence prevention and response	This project will map the legal and criminal justice response to adolescent violence in the home, analyse Victorian police and justice data for trends and document the experience of victims and adolescent offenders in the legal system with a view to recommendations for improvement.	\$242,000

Applicant Name	Project Title	Description	Amount
St Kilda Legal Service Co-operative Ltd	Community Action for Small Courts – Family Violence Response	This project will trial a model for the provision of family violence support services at small courts through consolidation and provision of integrated legal, community and family violence services at the Moorabbin Magistrates Court.	\$415,060
Victoria Legal Aid	Collaborative change to prevent family violence in newly arrived communities	This project aims to increase newly emerging communities' knowledge of family violence laws in Victoria by establishing a network of Community Liaison and Education workers (CLEW) who will work with the non-government organisations and community workers/guides who deliver services to newly-arrived communities in the first 12-18 months of their settlement in Victoria.	\$300,000
Womens Health in the North (WHIN)	Women, lawyers and workers: Piloting a legal advice system that responds holistically to prevent family violence	Piloting a legal advice system that responds holistically to prevent family violence in the Northern Metropolitan and Hume regions.	\$307,223
Women with Disabilities Victoria	Voices against Violence	The research project will assess the incidence of Violence against Women with Disabilities in Victoria and build an evidence-based case for legal, social and service system reform.	\$216,188

Other projects funded through the Major Grants

The following projects also received funding through the 2011 Major Grants.

Applicant Name	Project Title	Description	Amount
Federation of Community Legal Centres (Victoria) Inc.	CLC Law Graduate Scheme: Pathways to a Career in CLCs	This project aims to deliver more effective community legal services across Victoria by recruiting and training excellent law graduates for Victorian community legal centres by continuing the Law Graduate Scheme for 3 years which will consolidate a pathway to CLC practice for the best law students.	\$330,000
Federation of Community Legal Centres (Victoria) Inc.	Advancing community justice: creating fairer outcomes through law reform & policy work	The project aims to develop a better and fairer legal system by conducting proactive law reform and policy work and by developing resources and training to assist community legal centres and other non government organisations to conduct effective policy and law reform work.	\$329,935
Human Rights Law Resource Centre Ltd	Promoting Equality for a Fair and Just Victoria	The 'Promoting Equality for a Fair and Just Victoria' is a two-year project that will build upon the institutional capacity and expertise of the Human Rights Law Resource Centre (HRLRC) and Victorian legal and community sector organisations to promote and protect the right to equality in Victoria.	\$140,650
Jesuit Social Services	Remand Reform - Young People on Remand in Youth Justice	This legal research project will document the remand experiences of young people in Victoria aged 10-18 years in the youth justice system and develop proposals to improve legislation, policies, systems and conditions pertaining to young people in youth justice centres on remand.	\$100,086
Law Institute of Victoria (LIV)	Mental Health in the Legal Profession: A Preventative Strategy	This project aims to reduce the incidence of stress, depression and anxiety in lawyers and thereby increase retention rates and sustainability within the profession.	\$150,000
Trust for Nature (Victoria)	Private Land Conservation: EcoMarkets and the Law	The project aims to build the capacity of farmers, private land managers' and those organisations that support and work with them to be better informed about the laws and legal frameworks guiding emerging EcoMarkets.	\$81,500

Project Grants awarded in 2011

The Legal Services Board provided funding to the following projects in the 2011 Project Grants.

Applicant Name	Project title	Project description
Barwon Youth	Youthlaw On Line	This project will provide young people from the Geelong region aged from 12 to 25 years old access via skype to a lawyer from Youthlaw's Melbourne office. Community legal education will also be delivered at a local level to young people, Barwon Youth staff and the broader youth and community sector.
Consumer Action Law Centre	Civil Law Support Project	An experienced lawyer from Consumer Action Law Centre will visit community legal centres (CLCs), including rural and regional CLCs, to provide training. The training (and related materials such as draft letters) will specifically cover the legal implications, and client options, when a low-income client is faced with legal action in relation to a debt. Follow up advice will be available by telephone and email to provide legal advice and support to CLC lawyers to assist them to apply the information, and use the draft letters, in actual cases.
La Trobe University	Improving the Justice in Mediation: a practical guide for mediators	As mediation is now an integral component of the civil justice legal system, this project will seek expert mediators' responses to real life scenarios, and produce a set of practical guidelines about how to ensure that mediation enhances access to justice. The resulting publication will provide advice and guidance to mediators and legal practitioners about justice issues in mediation.
Legal Services Bulletin Co-op Ltd (aka Alternative Law Journal)	Promoting Justice through Legal Education: Realising the Potential of Clinical Legal Education	This project is designed to promote the distinctive Australian approach to clinical legal education, pioneered at Monash University and then at La Trobe University through publication and distribution of an accessible book. The project team will engage with the judiciary and the practising profession, as well as law schools to foster approaches designed to sustainably integrate clinical methods into legal education.
Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH)	Infringements and homelessness: It's not fine!	'It's not fine!' will examine the large number of people experiencing homelessness and other forms of disadvantage who are also likely to have infringements and large debts to the State. Through casework, the worker will identify opportunities to change/improve laws and practices to reduce the number of fines issued to homeless Victorians, and problem areas where community legal education and other supports will prevent homeless Victorians from continuing to offend.
Social Security Rights	Social Security Online	Social Security Online is an innovative web based project aimed at addressing the legal needs of those in receipt of income support payments. Participants in the project will be able to log stories and experiences of the social security system, either anonymously or otherwise. Job services providers, as well as community and legal services, will be able to subscribe to the website and offer responses and advice to individual stories. The result will be integrated and multi-disciplined assistance and holistic outcomes for the projects participants.

Applicant Name	Project title	Project description
Youth Disability Advocacy Service auspiced by the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria	Disability Rights Hub and Education Workshops	This project will develop the Disability Rights Hub. It will be a one-stop online resource for young people with disabilities, their families and carers to learn about the laws that affect them. Education workshops will also be provided to promote the hub and raise awareness of peoples' rights in significant areas of life.
Wyndham Legal Service	Bringing Justice to Isolated Suburbs - Finding a Solution!	This project aims to explore the lack of access to justice in the outer suburbs of Wyndham (particularly for low income and newly arrived communities) and to identify and experiment with new and improved models for legal service delivery in those isolated suburbs.