

Major Grants Awarded in 2012

The Legal Services Board provided funding to the following projects in the 2012 Major Grants.

Applicant Name	Project Name	Project Description	Amount
Public Interest Law Clearing House	PilchConnect : building the capacity of community organisations during a period of major regulatory reform	This project will address the increased regulatory reform that small volunteer-run community groups will have to grapple with in the next few years. This will range across reporting and audit obligations, legal structure, eligibility for taxation concessions, fundraising and how volunteers are managed. Building on a proven, cost effective and independently evaluated service, the project will provide timely and practical assistance on all these legal issues (plus many others that arise when setting up and running a Victorian not-for-profit organisation). As a key part of this project, PilchConnect will develop new resources and training before changes come into force. They will expand the methods of message delivery, with greater use of multi-media (e.g., DVD, podcasts, webinars, YouTube). Small groups will receive free or low cost help to keep them abreast of upcoming changes, to make sense of what the changes mean for them, and advice on what steps they need to take to comply.	\$391,000
Deakin University	Rural Engagement Program – Centre for Rural Regional Law and Justice	The Rural Education program will employ a Learning and Development Co-ordinator to organise and deliver a series of non-accredited Rural Law Forums over 3 years across rural Victoria to rural services and industry. The forums will draw on specialist legal expertise to present on current and emerging areas of law that directly impact on rural communities.	\$178,000
Western Region Health Centre	UPSCALE (UPSkilling Community And Legal Education)	UPSCALE will provide carefully targeted community legal education to enhance newly arrived refugees' understanding of parenting, family law and family violence matters to reduce the likelihood of legal problems in the first instance and, if legal issues occur to enhance the ability of refugee communities to access legal services effectively and in a timely manner.	\$208,000
Monash University	Management of sexual abuse cases in the Family Division of the Children's Court Victoria	This project will identify the issues that must be considered with regard to establishing a specialist Court list to respond to child sexual abuse cases in the Family Division of the Melbourne Children's Court. The project will investigate other models that offer a dedicated list, and how such systems are resourced. Second, it will propose what approach is best suited to the objectives, needs and staff of the Court and its users. Third, it will review the operation of this List and evaluate its effectiveness in terms of Court functioning, stakeholder satisfaction and case outcomes. It will also provide hitherto unknown information about this class of cases: the nature of applications put to the Court, decisions made and factors associated with these.	\$62,478

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Youth Junction Inc	Youth Community and Law Program	<p>This 2 year project will continue the work of the Youth Community and Law team at the Visy Cares Hub previously funded by the Legal Services Board. This model of early intervention involves a comprehensive psycho-social assessment of the young people aged 18-25 referred by the Sunshine and Werribee courts. A package of legal and community services is tailored for the young person to avoid risk taking situations that may lead to further involvement in the justice system.</p> <p>It offers the courts, police and legal representatives a clear and straightforward gateway to a range of youth services that assists young people at risk by offering constructive and sustainable outcomes in education, employment, health, housing and recreational pursuits.</p>	\$181,000
Human Rights Law Centre	Human Rights Engagement, Education and Law Reform Project	<p>This project will promote human rights in Victoria through education, research and the development of human rights compatible laws and policies.</p> <p>The project will undertake activities to advance human rights through education including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the publication of a monthly human rights e-bulletin; and • the maintenance of a fully searchable database of Victorian and comparative case law. <p>These resources will enable judicial officers, policy makers, public servants, legal practitioners, advocates and community workers have ready access to the most up-to-date human rights information, decisions and jurisprudence.</p>	\$278,000
Scope (Vic)	Supported decision making and guardianship: Building capacity within Victoria	<p>This project will research the decision-making needs of people with various cognitive disabilities who are likely to find themselves at VCAT for a Guardianship hearing.</p> <p>This project will test and refine Supported Decision Making (SDM) proposed in the revision of the Guardianship Act. It will refine SDM strategies appropriate to the varied needs, develop and test practical resources to support best practice SDM, and develop SDM protocols for the range of involved parties. Finally, the project will actively promote the research findings, resources and protocols to the range of interested parties.</p>	\$250,000
McCabe Centre for Law & Cancer	Legal rights and responsibilities in the face of cancer: improving experiences and outcomes for Victorians affected by cancer	<p>This project will plan an evidence-based strategy that will work to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide Victorians diagnosed with cancer with information about relevant laws and policies that will empower them to make well-informed decisions about cancer treatment and supportive care and access and assert their legal rights with respect to cancer treatment and supportive care; • educate policy-makers about ways in which the law or related policies can be reformed to improve the experiences of Victorians diagnosed with cancer, their families and health professionals; and • contribute to the reform of laws to improve the experiences of Victorians diagnosed with cancer, their families and health professionals. 	\$120,000

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<p>Eastern Community Legal Centre</p>	<p>Ringwood Family Violence Integration Project – Stage 2</p>	<p>The Project will build on the previously funded Regional Family Violence Integration Project at Ringwood Court. It will further develop the collaboration, integration and partnership among agencies in Melbourne’s East to assist those who are presenting at Court seeking Intervention Orders, especially victims of family violence, with their needs beyond the Court day. This second stage of the project will expand the focus to other areas of the justice system (ie. VOCAT, VCAT) to consider broader systemic issues in the family violence response.</p>	<p>\$270,000</p>
<p>Disability Advocacy and Indormation Service</p>	<p>Justice Support program for rural and remote communities</p>	<p>This program aims to extend an existing, proven model of justice support for people with disability to six additional, regional and remote courts in North East Victoria. The program also intends to improve knowledge and understandings of the rights and responsibilities of the target group through education, pre and post interaction with police and the courts. The intention is to minimise negative outcomes, and ensure the target group is fully able to exercise their rights. Enhancement of the program will be through partnership development with the local Victorian Police, Courts and Community Legal Centres who will refer individuals requiring support to ensure compliance with any conditions placed on them by the courts or police.</p>	<p>\$140,000</p>

Project Grants Awarded in 2012

The Legal Services Board provided funding to the following projects in the 2012 Project Grants round.

Applicant Name	Project Name	Project Description	Amount	Length
Footscray Community Legal Centre	Taking the Stress Out of Managing Money	This is a collaborative project between Hanover, the Consumer Action Law Centre and Good Shepard Microfinance. The project will build community capacity to address the needs of people in financial stress, particularly through timely access to legal services, and develop an evidence base for enforcement of existing consumer protections relating to consumer credit. The project will target low income families in financial stress in the City of Greater Dandenong with a particular focus on people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. This evidence gathered will inform reform of the regulatory environment protecting vulnerable consumers; especially the review of the Consumer Credit and Corporations Legislation Bill 2011.	\$53,055	10 months
Footscray Community Legal Centre	Taxi Driver Legal Clinic	This project will build on the success of the first Taxi Driver Legal Clinic in 2011, and will continue to deliver specialist legal services to low income taxi drivers. It will draw on the expertise and industry contacts developed over several years of legal practice in this area. It will critically evaluate the final recommendations of the Victorian Taxi Industry Inquiry, in light of our ongoing case work and our previous policy work. It will continue to identify, document and raise awareness of taxi drivers' legal problems and to propose practical solutions for these problems.	\$57,327	1 year
Fitzroy Legal Service	Victorian Law Handbook Online	Victorian Law Handbook Online provides up to date, accessible, comprehensive online legal information to the public and legal practitioners. The project will enable content review of 2013 Handbook and rewrite phase for VLHO 2014 edition. This phase involves circulating chapters to practitioner experts, for an update of legislation and case law. Regular updating enables the VLHO to provide free, accurate, credible, cohesive and easily navigated online legal information in Victoria.	\$60,000	6 months
Victorian Aids Council	Educating lawyers about issues in forensic science – prosecutions involving HIV infection	In Australia, almost half of all prosecutions of HIV infected persons have occurred in Victoria. To inform legal practice in this area, the project will educate lawyers, in particular prosecutors, on current HIV epidemiology and the rapidly developing field of HIV science and medicine. A scoping of experts will inform the development of a range of educative materials and a training session for prosecutors and defence lawyers. Networks will be formed between the OPP, defence lawyers and the HIV community sector to provide prosecutors with a resource and contact point when these cases arise.	\$23,000	6 months