

Law reform and advocacy

PILCH advocates for changes to laws and policies where there is broad public interest because they adversely impact upon marginalised and disadvantaged members of our community and/or the not-for-profit organisations that assist them.

PILCH regularly makes submissions in response to inquiries and references at both the State and Federal level in relation to a range of issues, including human rights, homelessness, migration, discrimination and not-for-profit regulation.

Find out more:

www.pilch.org.au/advocacy



promoting law in
the public interest

Contact

Legal inquiries (03) 8636 4444

General (03) 8636 4400

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www.pilch.org.au

PILCH is an independent, not-for-profit organisation which is committed to furthering the public interest, improving access to justice and protecting human rights. PILCH does this by facilitating pro bono legal services in Victoria, and by undertaking law reform, policy work and legal education.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CLEARING HOUSE (VIC) INC

www.pilch.org.au

getting legal assistance

Legal assistance for individuals

If you are a resident in Victoria who is in need of free legal assistance, PILCH may be able to help.

PILCH coordinates pro bono (free) legal assistance for individuals through a number of referral schemes: the Public Interest Law Scheme, the Law Institute of Victoria Legal Assistance Scheme and the Victorian Bar Legal Assistance Scheme.

Clients who are eligible for assistance through any of these schemes are referred to a solicitor or barrister who will act for them on a pro bono basis.

You may be eligible if your matter has legal merit (ie. a reasonable chance of success) and you cannot:

- ▶ pay for the services of a private solicitor or barrister
- ▶ obtain Legal Aid funding
- ▶ access help from a community legal centre

If you think you fit these criteria, call PILCH:

Ph (03) 8636 4444

We will take your inquiry over the phone. PILCH does not provide a face-to-face drop in service.

Specialist clinics

Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic (HPLC)

The HPLC is a specialist legal service that provides free legal assistance and advocacy for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Legal assistance is provided by pro bono lawyers on an outreach basis at a number of homelessness assistance services in Melbourne and regional Victoria.

If you are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and you need legal assistance you can call the HPLC to make an appointment:

Ph (03) 8636 4408
Freecall 1800 606 313

Seniors' Legal Clinics

Seniors Rights Victoria (SRV) provides advocacy and legal services to older Victorians who are experiencing or at risk of elder abuse. PILCH's role in SRV is to operate a number of free legal outreach clinics. For information about the clinics, call:

Ph (03) 8636 4400

People who are concerned about abuse or neglect that is affecting them or someone they know can call SRV on:

Ph 1300 368 821

Legal assistance for community organisations

PilchConnect is a specialist legal service which provides free and low cost legal information, training, advice and legal referrals for Victorian not-for-profit community organisations.

If you would like to make a legal inquiry on behalf of a community organisation, call PILCH on:

Ph (03) 8636 4444

The PilchConnect website also offers a range of information and resources designed to help community organisations in Victoria to understand legal issues, such as:

- ▶ choosing the right legal structure when setting up a community organisation
- ▶ applying for tax concessions and exemptions
- ▶ managing volunteers and employees
- ▶ understanding health and safety laws and liability issues when holding events
- ▶ complying with fundraising laws, and other laws that impact on the not-for-profit sector

www.pilchconnect.org.au