

## Major Grants Awarded in 2007-08

The Legal Services Board provided funding to the following projects in the 2007-08 Major Grants.

Applicant Name	Project Title	Description
Human Rights Law Resource Centre Ltd	Human Rights Clearing House for the Community and Legal Sectors: Using Human Rights to Address Disadvantage and Improve Lives	The project will establish a 'clearing house' to support and facilitate the strategic and coordinated use of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and international human rights monitoring and complaints mechanisms by the community and legal sectors.
Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH)	pilch CONNECT: a specialist legal service for community organisations	The project is a pilot of a specialist legal service for not-for-profit community organisations in Victoria.
Adult Multicultural Education Services (AMES)	Getting to Know the Law in My New Country	The project aims to educate new and emerging communities, from a refugee background, on ten common legal topics and explain their application in Victoria.
Specialist Sex Offences Unit, Office of Public Prosecutions	Interactive Legal Education on Sexual Offences	The project will develop and deliver an innovative education program for members of the legal profession in relation to prosecuting/defending sexual offences.
Monash University, Faculty of Law	Lawful Correction or Child Abuse: Clarifying the Boundaries, Sanctions and Decision-making Surrounding the Physical Discipline of Children	This cross disciplinary research project will identify the laws addressing physical discipline in relation to children across the Australian states and territories and seeks to determine sources of confusion / contradiction.
University of Technology, Sydney (AustLII)	Making Victoria a "model jurisdiction" for free access to law in Australia and nationally, for the benefit of all Victorians	The project aims to make free access to Victorian legal information easier to use, more comprehensive, and more sophisticated, by comprehensively expanding the scope of Victorian legal materials (decisions, legislation and interpretative materials) available for free access via the Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII).
Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders	Design of an information, support and referral service for families and children of court defendants in Victoria	This project adopts a strategic, phased approach to the design and development of an information, support and referral service for the families and children of court defendants in Victoria.

Applicant Name	Project Title	Description
Fitzroy Legal Service	The Fitzroy Legal Service Law Handbook Online-For All Victorians	The Fitzroy Legal Service Law Handbook (LHB), published for over 30 years by Fitzroy Legal Service, is currently online for subscribers only. The grant will enable the content of the book to be free to all Victorians and at the same time enhance the LHB website so that it is able to be used to find legal information as well as help educate the citizens of Victoria on their legal rights and responsibilities.
Federation of Community Legal Centres (Victoria) Inc.	Grounded Justice - Building Community Legal Centre Law Reform and Advocacy Capacity	The project will establish a new specialist position in law reform at the Federation secretariat to more effectively translate the experience of sector's constituents into law reform and improve the capacity of the sector to conduct law reform work among other activities.
Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission	Everyday People, Everyday Rights	This project will initiate a pilot project that will aim to influence the understanding of human rights at a community level and to develop the understanding of how human rights are experienced on a daily basis.
Springvale Monash Legal Service Inc. (SMLS)	Give Racism the CaLD Shoulder: Combating Racism, Building Communities	This project will enable the preliminary stages of research and development of resources to deliver legal education on human rights and racism issues to young people in specific areas of Melbourne.
Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre Inc. (RILC)	Special Projects and Policy Unit	The project will establish a new legal unit within RILC designed to identify, investigate and effectively respond to serious and systemic issues in refugee and migration law, policy and practice.
Court Network	A New Broom	This project responds to the changes made to court administration and legal practice through the introduction and principles of Therapeutic Jurisprudence (TJ), and will develop new training curriculum for court volunteers to reflect the current needs of courts and court users, introduce a new unit that deals with the referral needs of court users, and pilot new referral services at the Melbourne Magistrates Court.

<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
Mental Health Legal Centre Inc.	Inside Access - An integrated community legal service for people with mental disorders and/or intellectual disabilities in Victorian prisons and secure hospitals	This project will undertake the preliminary research and planning to fully explore the possibility of a community legal service program providing legal services to people with mental disorders and/or intellectual disabilities in Victorian prisons and secure hospitals.
Environment Defenders Office (Victoria) Ltd	Public Interest Environmental Law Project	The project will involve development and implementation of an agenda for policy and law reform projects in collaboration with Victoria's peak environment groups.
Youthlaw (Young People's Legal Rights Centre Inc.)	Youthlaw Advocacy and Legal Education Project	This project will lead to the expansion of Youthlaw's Advocacy and Policy Program. The program will include collaboration with key stakeholders to engage young people, establishment of a reference group and a Youthlaw Action committee to guide the advocacy and reform work.
Department of Justice, Legal & Equity	Criminal Law, Justice Statement Project	This is a law reform program following the review of the Crimes Act 1958 and criminal procedure.
Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria (trading as FVPLS Victoria)	Re-establishing and re-modelling legal services for Aboriginal victims/survivors of family violence and sexual assault in metropolitan Melbourne	This project will re-establish legal services in metropolitan Melbourne through applying the comprehensive service model developed by the FVPLS Victoria and currently effectively implemented in rural areas.
Welfare Rights Unit Inc.	Social Security law education and support for community legal services and agencies in rural and outer-metropolitan communities	The project will identify a community-specific strategy for developing and implementing effective and relevant Social Security training in targeted outer metropolitan and rural communities.

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Applicant Name	Project Title	Project Description
Indigenous Law Students & Lawyers Association of Victoria-Tarwirri	ILSLAV-Tarwirri Promotional DVD	The project will produce a short DVD, featuring profiles and interviews with Indigenous role models in the legal profession, along with footage of universities and the courts, for the purpose of encouraging the aspirations of indigenous secondary school students and improving the rates of participation and retention of Indigenous people in the legal profession.
Women Barristers Association	Multimedia Project for Early Pioneer Women Barristers in Victoria	This project will undertake audio interviews of some early pioneer women barristers and/or surviving friends/families, together with a photo slide show. The audio and slide show would appear on the WBA website to document the role and activities of pioneer women barristers in Victoria.
Fitzroy Legal Service	Empowering Vulnerable Women	The project will work with vulnerable women in the City of Yarra who may be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, identify their legal needs, and provide legal advice or casework representation directly or through relevant referrals to ensure their safety and rehabilitation in collaboration with other appropriate support services in the catchment. A service delivery framework will be developed to incorporate advocacy and effective law reform strategies.
Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre	Pilot Prisoners' Legal Service	The project will provide legal services to two local prisons - the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (capacity 260 women) and Port Phillip Prison (capacity 745 men) - in order to conduct action research on the legal needs of Victorian prisoners and document the outcomes of providing such a service.
Federation of Community Legal Centres (Victoria) Inc.	Enhancing Online Access to Community Law	The project will implement improvements to the Communitylaw.org.au website, the primary site for the community legal sector in Victoria, the Federation and 27 community legal centres (CLCs) who use 'sub-webs' on the site, to enhance access to it and function in meeting the needs of users.
Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre Inc.	Outreach Legal Assistance and Education Project	The project will undertake outreach legal assistance and education services to people in areas where unmet legal is acute. The project will also assist other community legal centres to establish specialist legal services in refugee and immigration law. The project will provide outreach services to two regional areas where this need is most acute.
Communications Law Centre Ltd	"Legally Speaking" - Media Law Training for Victorian Community Radio Broadcasters	The project will design and deliver free media law training sessions, specially focussed on the needs of Victorian Community Radio Broadcasters. In addition to providing seminars across metropolitan and regional Victoria, the project will produce a participant manual designed as a plain English teaching & learning reference tool. The training and manual will cover: defamation law, prohibited content and vilification laws; contempt of court; copyright law; sedition laws; the Broadcasting Services Act (Cth); the role of the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

Law Institute of Victoria	LIJ Online (1997-2002)	The project will enable the Law Institute of Victoria to undertake retrospective online publication of the Law Institute Journal (1997-2002) on the LIV website to ensure access to this resource in an easy to locate and use format.
Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne	Lawyer Discipline in Victoria	The project will enter details of lawyer disciplinary cases in Victoria, under the previous legislation, onto an electronic database, and make that database available to regulators (LSB, LSC, LIV and the Bar) and to the bodies likely to hear disciplinary cases - the Supreme Court of Victoria and VCAT. The project also plans to analyse the data and report on the findings of the statistical analysis.
Mental Health Legal Centre Inc.	Planning for Community Well-Being - Advance Directives	The project will undertake a study of 'advance directives' from the perspective of mental health practitioners who work with people living with mental illness with a view to recommendations for change in law and practice.
Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH)	Evaluating Pro Bono	The project will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of PILCH and its impact on the development of the access to justice sector. The evaluation will investigate the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation and will provide recommendations as to how the organisation can continue to meet and pre-empt the challenges in the access to justice sector. The Evaluation Report will be made available to the community legal sector, directing the pro bono departments of private law firms, and will also provide guidance and insight about the outcomes of cross sector support of pro bono legal work.
Environment Defenders Office (Victoria) Ltd	Improving Community Participation in Planning and Environment Appeals	The project will improve the delivery of environmental legal services to the Victorian community in a manner that both promotes effective public participation in environmental decision-making and enhances the administration of Victorian environmental laws. The project will develop and extend the applicant's services in the form of 'self help' kits and community legal education workshops into an improved resource for community groups involved in VCAT proceedings.
Women's Legal Service Victoria	Case Study Bank	The project will gather and use case studies that document the legal system's response to women experiencing violence and/or family breakdown. The case studies will be used to benefit the community through making recommendations for improved service provision, law reform, legal education and research.
Sir Zelman Cowen Centre, Victoria University	Collaborative Approaches to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Protection	The project will explore existing practices and work with key stakeholders to develop a best practice approach to implementation of the new Victorian legislation and regulation (Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006; Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007 which supersedes Commonwealth law and previous state legislation). The project will develop tools to educate and support implementation and compliance of the new legislation.
3CR Community Radio	Done By Law Website	The project will develop an interactive website for the applicant's Done By Law program to ensure the community education element of the show is disseminated to a wider audience.

Social Firms Australia	Employment & Psychiatric Disability	The project will develop a map of legal rights and responsibilities in the area of employment and psychiatric disability in order to establish where improved information could create more clarity and where the legislation conflicts. Resources will be developed from the findings, explaining best practice pathways through complex legal environments. The legislative ambiguities will also be documented in order to advocate for change.
Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria (trading as FVPLS Victoria)	Policy Development and Advocacy for Aboriginal Family Violence	The project will establish a policy development and advocacy focus in FVPLS Victoria. This will enable the expertise developed over 5 years of service provision in the Victorian Aboriginal community to be applied to 3 particular areas in response to government and other requests for input and to proactive development on the key issues.
Monash University, Faculty of Law	Criminal Record Checks and Employment in Victoria	This qualitative research project will explore the operational realities of use of criminal records by Victorian employers and the interplay between this practice and the regulatory system governing employment decision-making. It will evaluate the extent to which the Victorian regulatory system can be reformed by developing new or amended legal and non-legal instruments to reduce potential legal risks, whilst enhancing labour supply, and protecting rehabilitation and equal opportunity goals.
Monash University, Faculty of Law	Problem Solving Benchbook: Assisting Judges and Magistrates to Adopt Problem Solving Approaches	The project will develop a benchbook to assist judges and magistrates manage an increasing demand to be more directly involved in the management of offenders. The benchbook will provide background information on key problems confronting offenders and the problem solving approach to dispute resolution. The benchbook will assist both judicial officers presiding in problem solving courts (such as the drug court and family violence court) and others seeking to use processes that will best promote just system outcomes such as offender rehabilitation, and respect for the law and the justice system.
La Trobe University, School of Law	Improving Access to Justice: The Key Features of An Integrated Legal Service Delivery Model	The project will examine the practices of the co-located services of West Heidelberg Community Legal Service and Banyule Community Health to explore the potential of an integrated approach to legal service delivery for disadvantaged clients to significantly enhance outcomes. The identification of key features of an integrated legal service model will inform policy makers, managers and practitioners to optimise client access to appropriate and timely legal service in an ethical and efficient manner.
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	Human Rights Law Program	The project will improve the provision of free legal advice/advocacy and representation to asylum seekers in the community and in detention at all stages of the refugee determination process. This will be done by implementing a structured training program to improve the ability of volunteer barristers, solicitors, articulated clerks, law students and support sector agencies who work on behalf of and with the ASRC to represent asylum seekers in all stages of the refugee determination process.
West Heidelberg Community Legal Service	Insurance Project Phase Two	The project will provide an experienced mentor and legal advisor on insurance law practice and dispute resolution to assist Victorian CLCs, financial counsellors and their clients.

Youthlaw (Young People's Legal Rights Centre Inc.)	Young People and Human Rights Project	The project will strengthen human rights work with young people. This work will include targeted education, and workshops with communities of disadvantaged young people and those who work with them. Advocacy for policy and law will also be undertaken.
Creative Ministries Network	Can restorative justice better heal bereaved families and workplace grief after a work-related death, and contribute to improved workplace safety?	The project will identify whether a restorative justice process may better address the trauma that companies and families feel when a work-related death occurs. The process will research alternatives to the current method of handling such accidents which often includes delays in proceedings, public disclosure of traumatic information, lack of information, and significant trauma from involvement in the prosecution process and legal outcomes.
Arts Access Victoria & Arts Law Centre of Australia	RAW LAW	The project will address a gap in the provision of legal information to the Victorian disability arts sector. Working in close partnership with the Arts Law Centre of Australia, Arts Access Victoria will establish a fully accessible website resource that addresses the needs identified by the Victorian disability arts sector. The project will provide important information that helps to protect the legal rights of artists, outlines the responsibilities of organisations wishing to facilitate arts practice workshops, and sets out clear models of best practice in seeking legal consent from workshop participants.
Supreme Court of Victoria	Indigenous Associateship Program	The project will pilot an Indigenous Associateship Program to assist Indigenous Law Students to undertake training at the Supreme Court. The Associate will take part in a mentoring program to encourage greater take up of the law by other indigenous students.