



Media Release

From Central Highlands Community Legal Centre Inc.

Grampians Region Legal Needs Identified in New Report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community members and local organisations are encouraged to attend the Central Highlands Community Legal Centre Inc. official launch of the *Striving for Community Justice: 2014 Grampians Region Legal Needs Analysis* on Tuesday 18th November 2014 from 6.30pm at Ballarat Community Health, Lucas.

Our special guest speaker, Father Bob Maguire, will launch the report. He was a priest in South Melbourne until his forced retirement in January 2012 and has operated the *Father Bob Maguire Foundation* his 2003. Fr Bob Maguire is a Member of the Order of Australia and is well respected for his extensive work with vulnerable and disadvantaged community members, particularly the homeless in Melbourne.

The *Striving for Community Justice* Report is the first research project of its kind in the region, examining current and potential legal needs of residents in the Grampians Region. The report uses Census 2011 data, community feedback and current Legal Centre data to identify gaps in the current provision of legal services and areas where additional services would be most beneficial.

Community organisations and individuals from across the Grampians region were involved in the research, providing information and insight into the legal needs facing the community, particularly in areas of access to free or inexpensive legal services, information about legal rights and responsibilities and the provision of community legal education.

The report identifies the Local Government Areas of Ballarat, Horsham, Ararat, Pyrenees and Northern Grampians as most likely to experience legal need. A number of recommendations were made in the report including:

- Expansion of current outreach services by the Legal Centre
- Introduction of technological advances for assisting clients, such as Skype
- An expansion of the current Duty Solicitor Service for family violence related matters, particularly in Ararat and Horsham
- The Legal Centre to increase youth connections throughout the region

- Increase in targeted Community Legal Education to the community and service organisations
- Increase Legal Centre connections with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Expand the marketing of the current service and telephone appointments to more remote regions
- Change the current service name Grampians Community Legal Service to better reflect the region being serviced

Central Highlands Community Legal Centre Inc. is a not-for-profit community organisation that provides free legal advice, casework and community legal education to people who live, work and study in the Grampians Region.

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Print, television and radio media are encouraged to attend on the evening. The launch will be held in the Multipurpose Room at the new Ballarat Community Health facility in Lucas at 6.30pm.

For further information about the *Striving for Community Justice: 2014 Grampians Region Legal Needs Analysis* report or Central Highlands Community Legal Centre, please contact:

Jessica Frost-Camilleri
jessica_frost-camilleri@clc.net.au
Ph.: 5331 5999

