



Villamanta advances the rights of people who have a disability.

Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. is a Community Legal Centre that works on disability related legal issues for people who have a disability who live in Victoria.

Recent Pro Bono Assistance Discrimination Compensation

"Sarah" was a client of Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service who used a wheelchair. Sarah had lodged a disability discrimination complaint under the Victorian Equal Opportunities Act about parts of her local shopping centre only having step access.



Sadly, Sarah passed away before the matter could be resolved. Her parents wanted to make sure that their daughter's complaint was carried through, in order to fix a significant and systemic access problem for people with mobility disabilities.

Sarah's parents were referred to the law firm Clayton Utz by Villamanta for pro bono assistance. The firm's Workplace Relations team obtained Letters of Administration on the family's behalf, and recommenced the proceedings in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Eventually an outstanding settlement was reached. The respondents agreed to install a wheelchair lift at the shopping centre and made a \$5,000 donation, in Sarah's memory, to a Rehabilitation Centre.

A Guide for Advocates Attending VCAT Hearings

Villamanta, together with the Mental Health Legal Centre, have been working on a special project to produce a guide for advocates representing people at the Guardianship List of the Victorian Civil & Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). The project is funded by the Victoria Law Foundation and the guide will be finished soon. It will be available on line. We will tell you more about it in the next issue.

New Victorian Disability Law & Disability Commissioner

The new Disability Services law will be coming into effect on 1st July, 2007.

There will be an announcement soon about who will be the new Disability Commissioner.

Villamanta will tell you more about these things in the next newsletter and about how to complain to the new Commissioner if you are not happy about things.

What is a Community Legal Centre? (CLC)

Community Legal Centres (CLCs) are legal services that are free, independent, and managed by members of the community. They are there for people who might not otherwise get to use the law. CLCs protect legal rights and help people understand their legal obligations. They can give information, advice and referral to disadvantaged people with legal problems and can sometimes represent people legally.

Community Legal Centres are: **NOT** Legal Aid
NOT private lawyers
NOT part of the government

There are GENERALIST CLCs, which work on lots of different areas of law, and there are SPECIALIST CLCs, which work on only one area of law, or for one group of people. Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service is a specialist CLC. We work only on disability related legal issues. People call us about all sorts of things. We can give information and advice. Often, if what people call us about is not a disability related legal issue, we will refer them to their nearest Generalist CLC.

Here is a list of Community Legal Centres (CLCs) in Victoria:

GENERALIST LEGAL CENTRES

Albury Wodonga CLC - Wodonga
Tel: 02 6056 8210

Brimbank Melton CLC - Deer Park
Tel: 9363 1811

Brimbank Melton CLC
Tel: 03 9971 1800

Broadmeadows CLC Tel: 9302 3911

Casey Cardinia CLC - Dandenong
Tel: 9793 1993

Central Highlands CLC - Ballarat
Tel: 5331 5999

Coburg/Brunswick Community Legal & Financial Counselling Centre - Coburg
Tel: 9350 4555

Darebin CLC - Preston
Tel: 9484 7753

Eastern CLC Inner East - Blackburn
Tel: 9877 5777

Outer East - Boronia
Tel: 9762 6235

Essendon CLC - Ascot Vale
Tel: 9376 7929

Fitzroy Legal Service Tel: 9419 3744
Flemington/Kensington CLC

Flemington - Tel: 9376 4355

Footscray CLC - Tel: 9689 8444

Geelong CLC - Geelong West
Tel: 5221 4744

Gippsland CLC - Morwell

Tel: 5133 0411 Toll Free: 1800 004 402

Loddon Campaspe CLC Project

Advocacy & Rights Centre - Bendigo
Tel: 5444 4364

Monash Oakleigh Legal Service

Clayton North - Tel: 03 9905 4336

Murray Mallee CLC - Mildura

Tel: 5023 5966 Toll Free: 1800 243 002

North Melbourne Legal Service

Tel: 9328 1885

Peninsula CLC - Frankston

Tel: 9783 3600 Toll Free: 1800 064 784

Peninsula CLC—Bentleigh Branch

Tel: 03 9570 8455

Peninsula CLC—Cranbourne Branch

Cranbourne - Tel: 03 5995 3722

Peninsula CLC—Pines Branch

Frankston Nth - Tel: 9786 6980

SouthPort CLC - South Melbourne
Tel: 9690 9144

South West CLC - Warrnambool
Women's Only Service: 1800 672 473

Springvale Monash Legal Service Inc.
Springvale - Tel: 9562 3144

St. Kilda Legal Service Co-Op Ltd
Tel: 9534 0777

Wyndham Legal Service
Werribee

Tel: 9741 0198

West Heidelberg CLC
Tel: 9450 2000

Outreach Service: Greensborough

Western Suburbs Legal Service
Newport, 3015

Tel: 9391 2244

Whittlesea CLC - Community
Information Whittlesea - Epping
Tel: 9401 6655

SPECIALIST LEGAL CENTRES

**Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention
and Legal Service** - Melbourne
Tel: 9654 3111

Communications Law Centre
Melbourne Tel: 9248 1278

Consumer Action Law Centre
Melbourne - Tel: 9670 5088

Disability Discrimination Legal Service
Melbourne - Tel: 9654 8644
Toll Free: 1300 882 872

**Disability Employment Action Centre
Inc** - Melbourne - Tel: 9655 1117

**Domestic Violence & Incest Resource
Centre** - Collingwood - Tel: 9486 9866

Environment Defenders Office
North Melbourne - Tel: 9328 4811

Family Mediation Centre
PO Box 2131, Moorabbin - Tel: 9555 9300

Family Mediation Centre Outer East
Ringwood - Tel: 9876 0677

**Family Mediation Centre Outer South-
East Branch** - Narre Warren
Tel: 9705 6277

Human Rights Law Resource Centre
Melbourne - Tel: 9225 6695

Job Watch - Melbourne
Tel: 9662 1933 Toll Free: 1800 33 1617

**Melbourne University Student Union
Legal Service** - Tel: 8344 8687

Mental Health Legal Centre - Melbourne
Tel: 9629 4422 Toll Free: 1800 555 887

**Mildura Aboriginal Corporation
Indigenous Family Violence Prevention
Legal Service** - Dareton—Tel: 5027 4824

Outreach: Mildura -Tel: 5022 1852
Toll Free: 1800 882 545

Public Interest Law Clearing House
Melbourne - Tel: 9225 6680

Refugee & Immigration Legal Centre
Fitzroy - Tel: 9483 1144

RMIT Union Legal Service
Melbourne - Admin: 9925 2861
App'ts Swanston St and Brunswick Cam-
puses: 9925 2551

App'ts Bundoora Campus: 9925 7273

SRC Legal Service
La Trobe University - Bundoora
Tel: 9479 2469

Tenants Union of Victoria
Fitzroy

Tel: 9411 1444 F

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service
Fitzroy

Tel: 9419 3888

**Villamanta Disability Rights Legal
Service Inc.** - A statewide service based
in Geelong - Tel: 5229 2925 Toll Free
Advice: 1800 014 111
(1pm-3pm Mon-Frid)

Welfare Rights Unit - Collingwood
Tel: 9416 1111 Toll Free: 1800 094 164

Women's Legal Service Victoria Inc.
Melbourne - Tel: 9642 0877

Toll Free: 1800 133 302

Youthlaw - Melbourne - Tel: 9611 2412



**Villamanta Disability Rights
Legal Service Inc.**

Some Useful Tips on How to Avoid Centrelink Debt

If you get a Social Security payment, you have to tell Centrelink if there are any changes in your circumstances.

This is because your payment might change. Centrelink would have told you this when you were given your payment or on a reassessment.

Below are some of the kinds of changes you should tell Centrelink about so that they pay the right amount and you don't end up owing them money:

- ◆ If you close a bank account, open a new one, change your address, get married, your income and things you own goes up or down, and even if your rent goes up or down
- ◆ If you partner dies you must tell Centrelink before 28 days are up
- ◆ You must tell Centrelink about changes within a certain time. This is called the notification period
- ◆ The notification period is different for certain payments. For the DSP, the notification period is within 14 days from the events occurring or likely to happen
- ◆ If the 14 days ends on a weekend or public holiday, the time to notify Centrelink is the next working day
- ◆ If you plan to go outside Australia, you must notify Centrelink 14 days before you go
- ◆ If you are not sure, it is best to notify Centrelink
- ◆ Report by telephone, fax, post or go to the Centrelink Office nearest to you
- ◆ Remember there are ways to avoid Centrelink debts
- ◆ Do not be caught up in unnecessary Centrelink debts

**For help with Centrelink problems
call Welfare Rights Unit**

**Melbourne - (03) 9416 1111 or
Geelong - (03) 5221 4744**

*In our next newsletter we will talk about 'Asking for
A Review of a Centrelink Decision'*



VILLAMANTA SELLS BOOKS AND TRAINING MANUALS ON DISABILITY RIGHTS ISSUES

Here are some of the books we sell. For a complete list please visit our website or call us & we will post you a publications list.

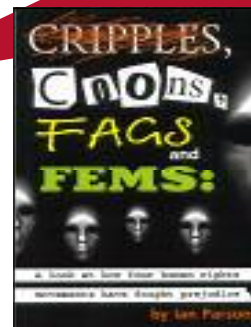
Two books to take special notice of are:

Cripples, Coons, Fags and Fems

By Ian Parsons

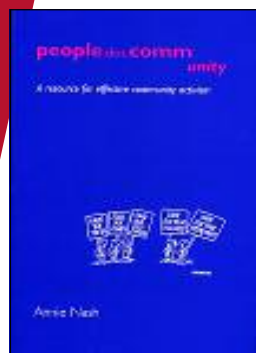
\$12.00 plus P&H

Published by Villamanta Publishing & Training Service 1999



This book is for people interested in or affected by discrimination and prejudice for being different. It was written by well known human rights campaigner and activist, Ian Parsons, who until recently was adviser to the Victorian Minister

for Community Services. **And...**



people dot community

By Annie Nash

\$24.95 plus P&H

Published by Villamanta Publishing
& Training Service 2001

This is a practical manual on how to run a successful campaign to advance human and community rights.

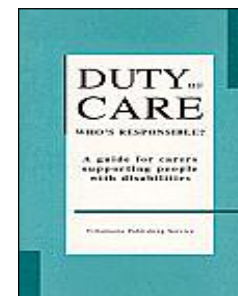
Two of our other best sellers are:

Duty of Care - Who's Responsible?

By Ian Parsons

\$22.00 plus P&H

Published by Villamanta Publishing & Training Service 1997



Acclaimed throughout the human rights sector, *Duty of Care: Who's Responsible?* is aimed at professional staff, students and volunteers within the disability, aged, youth, health and children's services fields. This book guides the reader through concepts of negligence law and duty of care issues.

"This book strikes a balance...between controlling a clients life and ensuring the client is not unreasonably exposed to risk."

Oliver Twist Has Asked For More

The Politics and Practice of Getting Justice for People with Disabilities

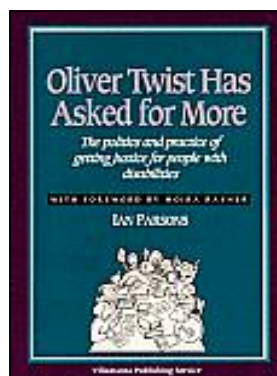
By Ian Parsons

\$22.00 plus P&H Published by Villamanta Publishing & Training Service 1994

Oliver Twist Has Asked For More is inspiring! This book provides an original, yet commonsense approach for anyone who has a concern about social justice for people with disabilities.

"...a guide to proper action, written entirely in easily understood language with no recourse to technical jargon."

The National Centre for Socio-Legal Studies.



Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc.
44 Bellerine Street, Geelong Vic 3220

Postage
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Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc.

ABN 32 690 988 235

A free state-wide legal service that works on disability related
legal issues.

Telephone Advice Line for people who have a disability

Free call 1800 014 111 (1 pm - 3 pm Monday—Friday)

**Email: legal@villamanta.org.au
Website: www.villamanta.org.au**

**Telephone: 03 5229 2925
Fax: 03 5229 3354**



We would like to send you our Newsletter by email

Please let us know:

- ◆ If you want to get our newsletter by email
- ◆ If you want it emailed or posted in larger print format
- ◆ Please note Villamanta no longer has a TTY service—Hearing impaired callers are asked to email, fax or use the National Relay Service on either **133677** and quote any phone number OR **1800 555 677** and quote Villamanta's Free Call number **1800 014 111** (Between 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. Monday — Friday)



PLEASE PHONE VILLAMANTA ON 1800 014 111 or

Email: legal@villamanta.org.au