

: EDUCATION & INFORMATION

VLA provides speakers to talk on various legal issues to community groups, schools, government bodies, agencies and other organisations. Contact your local VLA office for more information.

: PUBLICATIONS

Visit your local VLA office to get copies of our free booklets, pamphlets and posters, which cover your legal rights and responsibilities. These materials are provided in a range of languages.

The publications cover a range of issues - criminal and family law, intervention orders, debt, fines, bankruptcy, power of attorney, disabilities, mental health, work and where to complain.

: INTERPRETERS

If required, VLA may pay for an interpreter when using our legal information and advice services. Ask for one to be booked when making an appointment.

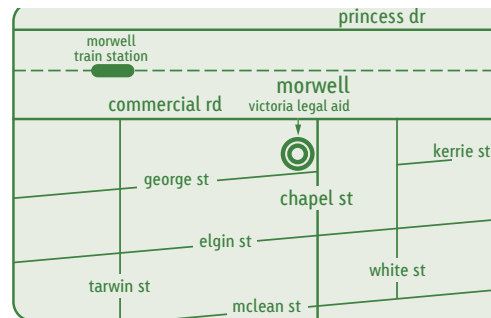
: WEBSITE

Information about VLA services, its client service charter and publications are available at www.legalaid.vic.gov.au

: LEGAL INFORMATION SERVICE

This VLA service provides free legal information via telephone in English and 14 other languages, from Monday to Friday between 8.45am and 5.15pm.

Telephone 9269 0120 or 1800 677 402 country callers



Victoria Legal Aid : Morwell

Cnr Chapel & George St
(P.O. Box 1194)

Morwell VIC 3840

tel: 5134 8055 fax: 5134 6687 DX 217741

email: morwell@vla.vic.gov.au

VICTORIA LEGAL AID : Gippsland

Morwell office

☎ 5134 8055

: Do you need legal help?
Victoria Legal Aid can help you

 **Victoria
Legal Aid**
Lawyers And
Legal Services

VICTORIA LEGAL AID : Gippsland

: VICTORIA LEGAL AID (VLA)

The legal advice that we may help you with is:

- criminal law
- family violence
- family breakdown
- civil law matters

Our offices, situated in 14 locations throughout Victoria, are open Monday to Friday, 8.45am – 5.15pm.

: MORWELL

The Gippsland regional office (situated at Morwell) provides to the community a range of free services. These are:

Advice services (by appointment):

- legal advice
- child support – third Wednesday of the month.

Advice services (without appointment):

- crime, family and general – Wednesdays 1.30pm – 4.00pm and Fridays 9.30am – 12.00pm.

Visiting services:

- Traralgon Hospital psychiatric services (Flynn Unit) – as required
- Mental Health Review Board – as required
- Fulham Correctional Centre (Sale) – Tuesdays.

Duty lawyer services:

Criminal charges and traffic offences:

- Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Court (Morwell) – Monday and Tuesday
- Latrobe Valley Magistrates' (Children's) Court (Morwell) – every hearing (Wednesday)
- Sale Magistrates' (Children's) Court – every hearing
- Korumburra Magistrates' (Children's) Court – every hearing.

Family violence:

- Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Court (Morwell) – Fridays.

It is important to get legal advice before you go to court.

Workshops (by appointment):

- divorce – second Tuesday of the month.

Contact the Morwell office on 5134 8055 to make an appointment or for more information.

: IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET LEGAL ADVICE BEFORE YOU GO TO COURT

: LEGAL ADVICE

For legal advice with a VLA lawyer, an appointment is usually necessary. If you are not able to keep the appointment please give us 24 hours notice.

Please bring to your appointment the following:

- all paperwork
- taped record of interview with police
- pay slips and/or Health Care Card
- bank statements.

: GRANTS OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE

VLA provides legal assistance for a lawyer to represent you in court in some areas of law. There are guidelines outlining the areas where grants of legal assistance are made.

If you require legal assistance you can ask one of our lawyers or a private lawyer to help you apply. This can be discussed at your appointment. Application forms for legal assistance can be obtained from all VLA offices. If you need an interpreter VLA will pay somebody to help you fill in the form.

: COSTS

It costs nothing to apply for legal assistance. However, legal assistance is not always free. You may have to pay some or all of your legal costs. The amount you will be asked to pay will depend on your financial position.

If VLA offers you legal assistance, a letter will be sent to you setting out the conditions. You should read the letter carefully and if you do not understand it contact us.

More detailed information is provided in the VLA Grant of legal assistance and application form.

: CONFIDENTIALITY

VLA treats any information you give us as strictly confidential, unless the law states otherwise. If VLA owes a duty of confidentiality to anyone else who might be involved in your matter, we may only be able to provide you with general information and referral. A duty of confidentiality may apply if we have ever provided the other person with assistance about a current or past matter.

: HELP AT COURT

It is important that you get legal advice before you go to court.

If you do not have a lawyer when you go to court, duty lawyers who give free legal advice and other help may be available at court and tribunal hearings. Duty lawyers can represent you in court. However, they must give priority to serious cases and people in custody, which means there are times when they cannot help everyone.

Ask the staff at the court or tribunal if a duty lawyer is available.

: FOR APPOINTMENTS & INFORMATION CONTACT THE MORWELL OFFICE ON 5134 8055