

Media Release

Single Parents: Is Your Child Support Right?



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With children back at school and needing uniforms, books, excursion and lunch money, not to mention those overhanging Christmas credit card debts, Peninsula Community Legal Centre is urging single parents to do a quick financial audit to ensure they are maximising income and keeping control of expenses.

Victoria Mullings, Principal Lawyer of Peninsula Community Legal Centre, says:

“Many single parents seek advice at this time of year in relation to family law and child support issues, and the impact these issues have on their finances.

As children get older, many find that verbal or written agreements about child contact made years earlier have gradually been altered to suit children's changing needs, and child support may not have 'caught up' with the current arrangements, meaning that single parents are receiving less than is appropriate in the changed circumstances.

For example, one single mother had a fairly friendly relationship with her former husband, but her 15 year old son no longer spent regular nights and weekends with his father as had been agreed when he was 11. He visited occasionally of his own accord, and spent a few afternoons with dad at sporting events. Child support, however, was still being paid as if he spent several nights a fortnight with his father, and mum was now struggling to make ends meet. The changes to single parenting payment which commenced on 1 January this year had also had a major impact, and she needed help to understand what could be done, to ensure she was receiving the financial support she should be getting. We were able to assist her in formally updating parenting arrangements and obtaining a higher amount of child support, in her case an extra \$70 per week.

The Centre also advises parents of and students aged 18 and over as to any entitlements to 'adult child maintenance' which could help with the costs of study.”

Peninsula Community Legal Centre has been providing free legal services for 35 years, including operating a Child Support Program that assists with a range of child support matters, including paternity tests, change of assessment, reviews and advice on entitlements and liabilities.

For more information, or to make an appointment with a lawyer for advice about your child support arrangements, please contact Peninsula Community Legal Centre on (03) 9783 3600.

END.

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Peninsula Community
Legal Centre inc

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