



**VICTORIAN  
WOMEN  
LAWYERS**

## CULTURALLY SENSITIVE LEGAL ADVICE: FAMILY LAW AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

A panel discussion exploring services, supports and barriers to justice for women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities

Please join us for a discussion with our diverse and experienced panellists who will be addressing how to best support women from CALD communities who are experiencing family violence.

Following on from the success of last year's event with InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence, the InTouch team together with Magistrate Pauline Spencer, will discuss their experiences as well as best-practice approaches for assisting women from CALD communities with overcoming the barriers to justice in family violence matters.

### DATE

Wednesday 18 October 2017

### TIME

6.00 - 8.00pm

6.00pm: Registration and light refreshments

6.30pm: Panel discussion

### LOCATION

Council Chambers, Dandenong Civic Centre, Level 2, 225 Lonsdale Street

Dandenong

### COST

FREE VWL members

\$10 Non-members

### REGISTRATION

[www.vwl.asn.au/events](http://www.vwl.asn.au/events)

Do you have a question for the panel?  
Submit your question when you register!

### PANELLISTS:

#### MAGISTRATE PAULINE SPENCER



Pauline Spencer was appointed as a Magistrate in 2006. She currently sits at Dandenong Magistrates' Court. Prior to her appointment Magistrate Spencer worked as a lawyer in private practice, as the Principal Legal Officer for the Fitzroy Legal Service and as Executive Officer of the Federation of Community Legal Centres the peak body for over 50 legal centres. Magistrate Spencer has an interest in evidence-based approaches to justice, improved responses to family violence and how the court can improve links with the community it serves.

#### ALLA EPELBOYM



Alla is currently a Principal Lawyer at InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence since January 2017. Prior to this, Alla has practised in a private practice in Gippsland for four years, dealing with family, criminal, child protection and civil litigation. She then joined the Department of Health and Human Services, representing the Department in the Children's Court and later joined Victoria Legal Aid, where she spent five years managing the Parenting Disputes Program. Alla was born in Ukraine, where she practised law for three and a half years before immigrating to Australia in 1996.

#### SERGEANT CASSANDRA FORBES



Sgt Cassandra Forbes is currently the Dandenong Family Violence Court Liaison Officer where she coordinates all Police Intervention Order applications listed at the Dandenong Magistrates' Court. Sgt Forbes has been a police officer with Victoria Police for 21 years, having performed general duties in the Southern Metro Region, Sunshine, Frankston Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Unit and the Media Unit.

#### KATHRINE DENG

Kathrine has been a Family Violence Case Manager at InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence since 2009. She has previously worked as a multicultural aid for the Department of Education with Noble Park Language School and also as a settlement worker the Migrant Resource Centre. Kathrine came to Australia as a refugee in 2011 with her husband and two young children. She is now a mother of four children and speaks Arabic, Dink and Nuer. She also works with the South Sudanese Community Association of Victoria and a member of the Nuer Community in Victoria.

*This professional development activity contains content that may meet the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) needs of lawyers. If this session does meet your CPD needs according to the LIV CPD Rules 2008 you may claim 1 CPD*

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