



PUBLIC SECTOR NEWSLETTER - VICTORIA

Welcome to Issue 66 of the Victorian Public Sector Newsletter.

A family violence tool was launched to assist front line police officers with incident reporting. The tool has been welcomed by police and prominent anti violence campaigner, Rosie Batty.

Meanwhile, the families of victims of the Bourke Street killer are attempting to extract documents from Victoria Police evidencing their investigations in the days and hours leading up to the rampage.

Judge Arushan Pillay has been appointed to the County Court. Congratulations Judge Pillay. OVIC has published an investigation into Public Transport Victoria's release of individual's public transport data.

Finally, VCAT has handed down two interesting decisions in relation to accessing documents via the Freedom of Information Act (1982) and the Supreme Court of Victoria re-stated the test in relation to appeals from VCAT.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our public sector newsletter.

IN THE MEDIA

Family Violence Reporting Tool Goes Live Across Victoria
Frontline police officers across Victoria now have access to a new family violence reporting tool to ensure timely and more accurate incident reports. The new tool allows police to make better decisions based on the information they collect when they respond to a family violence incident, improving accuracy and ensuring prompt referrals. (14 August 2019) <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/family-violence-reporting-tool-goes-live-across-victoria/>

Families of Bourke Street victims fight police bid to suppress review of operations before attack
Families of the six people killed in the Bourke Street car attack fight a legal bid by Victoria Police to keep secret an internal review of police operations in the

days and hours leading up to the deadly rampage. (14 August 2019) <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-14/bourke-st-attack-victims-families-fight-police-secrecy-bid/11413914>

Rosie Batty welcomes new Victoria Police tool to combat family violence

A new tool is helping Victoria Police and family violence survivors determine the likelihood that the abuse will escalate over the next 12 months, with Rosie Batty saying it helps identify the "red flags". (14 August 2019) <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-14/victoria-police-new-tool-for-high-risk-family-violence-offenders/11411924>

IN PRACTICE AND COURTS

Court Appointments

[New Appointment to the County Court](#) August 6, 2019
[OVIC: Myki incident- lessons for organisations](#)

OVIC has published an [investigation report](#) about the disclosure of myki travel information by Public Transport Victoria (PTV), now part of the Department of Transport. This post summarizes some lessons from this investigation for organisations that hold data about people and their activities – particularly those organisations that want to release or use their data holdings in a de-identified form. (15 August 2019)

[OVIC: Myki incident- FAQs for the public](#)

OVIC has published an investigation report about the release of individuals' public transport data. This post contains some frequently asked questions for members of the community who may be concerned about this incident. (15 August 2019)

PUBLISHED - ARTICLES, PAPERS, REPORTS

[Disclosure of myki travel information](#)

Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner: 15 August 2019. This report on the investigation into the release of myki data demonstrates that deficiencies in data governance and risk management can undermine the protection of privacy, even where the project is well-intentioned.

CASES

[Williams v University of Melbourne \(Review and Regulation\) \[2019\] VCAT 1215](#)

Freedom of Information Act 1982 ss 8, 30(1), 30(2) – Access sought to guidelines relating to Graduate Access Melbourne program – Whether document exempt as internal working document – Whether document contains matter provided for the use or guidance of, or which is used or may be used for, the purpose of making decisions or recommendations, or enforcing enactments or schemes.

[Country Fire Authority v Bryant \(Review and Regulation\) \[2019\] VCAT 1141](#)

Freedom of Information Act 1982 – dispute within Country Fire Authority Brigade - investigation - applicant seeks documents relevant to the investigation – whether documents exempt under sections: 30(1) internal working documents exemption, 33(1) personal affairs exemption and/or 35(1)(b) document is provided in confidence exemption <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/vic/VCAT/2019/1141.html>

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Scope

We are pleased to be able to work collaboratively with the Victorian Government to offer the following services (at no charge):

- advice regarding discrete and non-complex legal queries – up to 30 minute teleconference with a Partner, Special Counsel or relevant Senior Associate or, short written advice (max. 1 page);
- the opportunity to 'brainstorm' or discuss topical and complex legal issues with industry specialists – up to 30 minute teleconference with a Partner, Special Counsel or relevant Senior Associate; and
- a dedicated library resource to assist Victorian Government departments and agencies research relevant case law, statutes, regulations and articles.

Help Desk Services

Please note that the Help Desk Services are only available in respect of any matter which is currently unallocated i.e. to this firm or any other firm.

Key Contact and Help Desk Process

You can access the Help Desk by:

- (a) Calling 03 8080 3604; or
- (b) Emailing legalhelpdesk@tglaw.com.au

Once relevant details are received from you (whether that be by email or over the phone) it will be directed to the appropriate Thomson Geer Partner, Special Counsel or Senior Associate. The Help Desk number and email address will be monitored during normal business hours (9.00 am to 5.00 pm (EST), Monday to Friday).

Thomson Geer will use its best endeavours to provide the Help Desk Services within one business day of the query being logged.

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