# *5 Chancery Lane, Ballarat, PO Box 547 Ballarat Vic 3353, Ph: 5331 5999 E: reception@bgcls.org.au*

# BALLARAT & GRAMPIANS COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE MEMBERSHIP KIT

# 2022/2023

# Ballarat & Grampians Community Legal Service (BGCLS) would like to thank you for your interest in joining or renewing your membership.

# The process for becoming a member of BGCLS is easy. Download a copy of our Rules which all members need to be familiar with. Next, fill out the form below and return it to us. Feel free to scan and email to it us or deliver it via post.

# About BGLCS

# BGCLS is a not-for-profit organisation providing free legal advice, information and community legal education to people who live, work or study in the Central Highlands, Grampians and Wimmera regions of Victoria. BGCLS assists not only with individual legal matters, but also more broadly in community development, community legal education, capacity building and law and policy reform projects based on the needs of our community. We actively work in partnership wherever possible, with government, Victoria Legal Aid and other publicly funded legal assistance service providers, pro bono contributors, the private legal profession, community services agencies and other community partners to ensure the best outcomes for their clients and community.

# Why we exist

# Community Legal Services exist to provide assistance to vulnerable and disadvantaged clients within their communities, specifically those individuals who cannot afford private legal representation and who are unable to obtain legal aid funding. We are often the first point of contact for people seeking assistance or their last resort when all other attempts to seek legal assistance have failed.

# Funding

# BGCLS receives Commonwealth and State Government funding and seeks alternative funding options such as philanthropic funds for specialised programs.

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| **Our Vision** | **Our Purpose** | **Our Values** |
| Striving for an informed community with access to justice through the law. | Providing high quality professional legal services, education, support and advocacy to promote inclusion and enhance collaboration. | Integrity, respect, inclusivity,  confidentiality, accountability, collaboration. |

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| **Values** | **What does this mean for BGCLS?** |
| Integrity | Demonstrating honesty and trustworthiness in all aspects of our work, being ethical at all times |
| Respect | Treating our clients, volunteers, staff and partners with respect and valuing what each has to say and contribute |
| Inclusivity | Embracing our differences, encouraging all communities to support and access our service |
| Confidentiality | Ensuring privacy for all clients in all aspects of our work |
| Accountability | Demonstrating high quality and professional services, being responsible for our work, our successes and our challenges |
| Collaboration | Working together with our clients, volunteers, partners and communities to achieve sustainable change |

# Our Priorities

Priority 1 Deliver high quality legal services

Priority 2: Deliver innovative and holistic non-legal services

Priority 3: Enhance prevention and intervention advocacy for family violence

Priority 4: Build / strivefor a sustainable not for profit business mode

Priority 5: Be accessible to and inclusive of all of our communities

Priority 6: Deliver client centred collaborative service planning

Priority 7: Provide a safe and supportive organisational culture

# Membership

As an Incorporated Organisation, we rely on memberships from individuals, students and organisations. Memberships provide the opportunity to vote at annual and special meetings and the chance to nominate to join our governing Committee of Management.

Membership Runs from 1 November the 1 November each year.

**Benefits of Membership**

As a member of BGCLS you will not only be supporting your local Community Legal Service and the most vulnerable of clients, but you will also receive:

* Seasonal E Newsletters
* A copy of our Annual Report
* Invitation to our Annual General Meeting and the ability to Vote

# Application Form

**Name:** Enter Name

**Address:** Street Name & NumberSuburb

**Postcode:** Enter Here **Phone:** Enter Here

**Email:** Enter Here

**Preferred contact:**  Phone  Email  Post

I agree with the Values and Objectives of Ballarat & Grampians Community Legal Service as stated in the Rules of the organisation and will assist to work towards them.

I have read, understand and agree to the BGCLS *Code of Conduct*. This can be found on our website at: [www.bgcls.org.au](http://www.bgcls.org.au)  
  
**Signature:**

**Date:** Click or tap to enter a date.



Forms can be posted to PO Box 547, Ballarat, Vic, 3353,

Or scanned and emailed to [reception@bgcls.org.au](mailto:reception@bgcls.org.au)

***Application Type:***

I no longer wish to be a member

New Application  Renewal

Annual Fee: NIL

**ADMIN USE ONLY:** *Signed: Signed:*

Admin: \_\_\_ /\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Approved by CoM: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_