

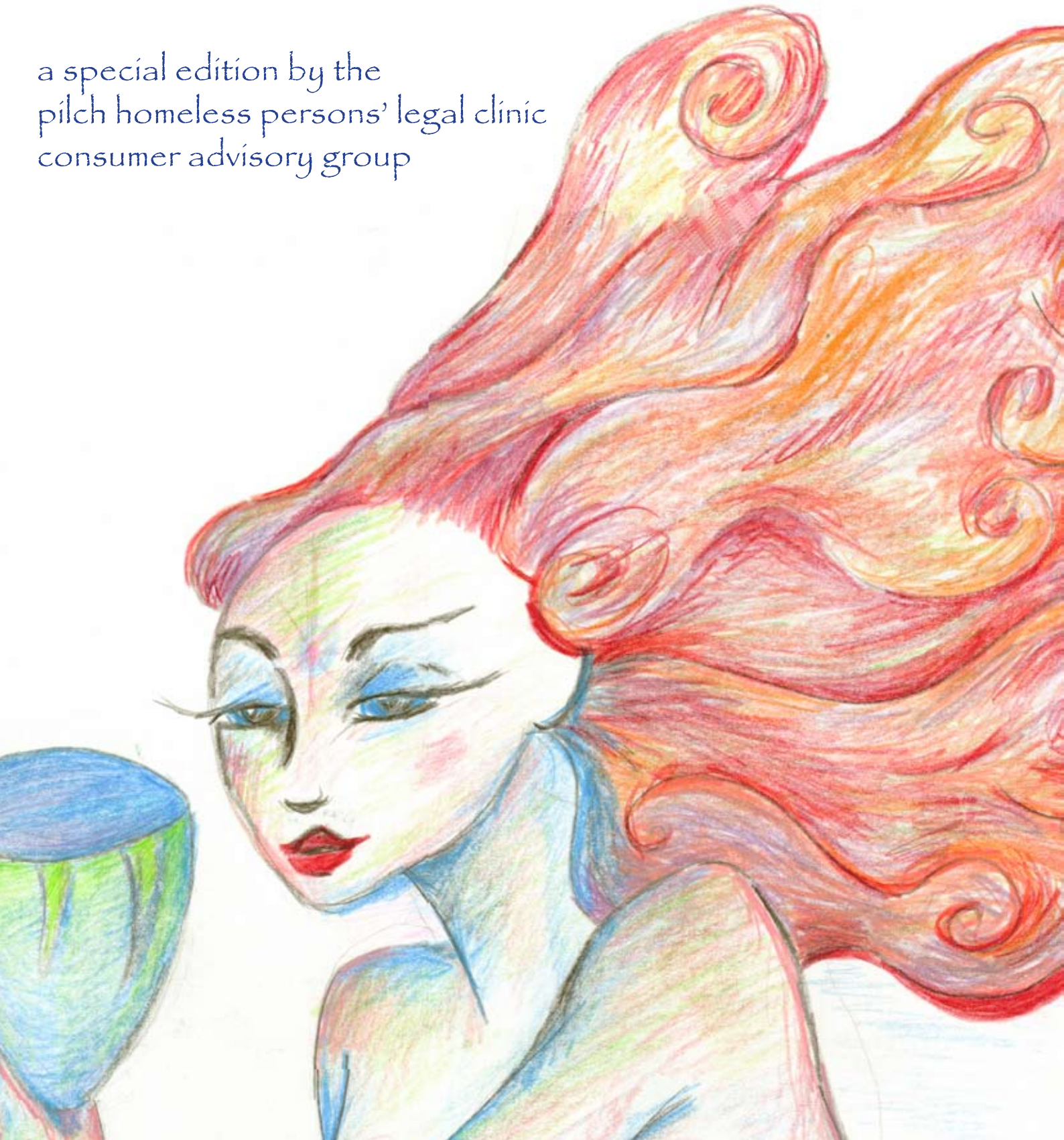
STREET

RIGHTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE PILCH HOMELESS PERSONS' LEGAL CLINIC

EDITION 56 DECEMBER 2009

a special edition by the
pilch homeless persons' legal clinic
consumer advisory group



Noeleen

Christmas is a time for pressure of finances, buying stuff for my four kids. It's hard enough anyway without that extra pressure. Christmas is also a triggering time for me – it triggers the feeling of aloneness, and trying to be happy for the kids when I'm not happy is a challenge. I dread Christmas. I also have feelings of resentment towards the system and government for removing me from my family as a baby, which at Christmas time means I don't have a family to celebrate with.

My ideal Christmas is not to have to worry about having enough money to buy the kids presents, and to have my family that I was taken from ...to have my own house and feel secure again, being in a suitable area for my well being.

My wish is to have enough money to buy the kids presents and to have a safe and nice house for my children with nice neighbours. Bad neighbours can make your life hell. If I really had a wish this Christmas it would be to remove all of my emotional trauma so that I could be a better mother.

Neville

To me, Christmas means the festive season; it means celebrating, celebrating the birth of Christ. It would be better if I could get back home to Swan Hill, rather than being stuck here in Melbourne, but I gotta report to the cops each day. I just got outta jail. They put me in this shit-house place and I hate it there and I got no dough so I gotta beg, and all I wanna do is go back home.

My ideal Christmas would be to be with

I won't be home for Christmas

a woman and kids, celebrating them and being happy. I'd have no worries, a nice home and plenty of dough and we'd all be really happy and celebrate the birth of Christ together as a family. We'd have plenty of food and eat like kings, and just be really happy. Don't know if it'll ever happen, but yeah, that'd be my ideal Christmas.

My Christmas wish this year would be to go back home, back to Swan Hill, so I wouldn't be sitting here on the streets. I'd be free; I'd have my freedom so I could do whatever I wanted. I could hang out with me mates, maybe even find a girl and settle down and have my own family, but I'm stuck here at least another nine months – it's too long, I hate it, I just wanna go home.

Bianca

To me, Christmas means celebrating the end of the year, spending time with loved ones and being kind to one another. I love the general vibe of kindness in the public too. I think it's a time where the community spirit in general is thriving, and it strengthens the bonds between us all.

My ideal Christmas would involve spending time with family and friends, going on a holiday, being in good company and enjoying myself. Also, helping others who do not have the opportunity to enjoy Christmas the way I do. That fulfils my desire to make Christmas a community-spirited celebration.

I wish for better health, permanent housing, and to rebuild relationships with family and friends. I would love to re-connect with my community by finding an opportunity to provide input into something worthwhile that can enhance the community.

“If I really had a wish this Christmas it would be to remove all of my emotional trauma so that I could be a better mother.”

The content for this article was provided by the HPLC Consumer Advisory Group (CAG) which is made up of people who have experienced homelessness or who are currently homeless. Currently, the group has 6 members, each with their own stories about their experiences of homelessness. The CAG is based on the principle that every person has the right to contribute to policies and decisions that affect them.

For this edition, CAG members spoke to people who are experiencing or have experienced homelessness during Christmas time.

Where can I get a free Christmas meal?

Our Lady Help of Christians

49 Nicholson St, Brunswick East
Christmas lunch: 12:30pm-3:00pm
Booking essential
Contact on 9481 0335

Ozanam Community Centre

268 Abbotsford Street North Melbourne
Ph: (03) 9329 6733
Christmas lunch: 11:00am-1:30 pm
No booking necessary

Sacred Heart Mission

87 Grey Street St Kilda 3182
Ph: (03) 9537 1166
Free midday meals, from 12:00noon to 1.30pm
Christmas dinner is a special feature.

The Big Give

Fitzroy Town Hall
December 25th

Only community agencies are allowed to book tickets on behalf of their clients for this lunch, run by St Mary's House of Welcome. If you would like to book tickets please speak to a worker at one of the agencies you access, or call the HPLC on 1800 606 313.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army has organised 5 meals over the Christmas period.

To go to any of these Christmas meals, or to get more information, you will need to collect a ticket from The Life Centre at:

69 Bourke St, Melbourne
Ph: 9653 3213

614 Christmas Celebration & 'Spit Roast' Lunch

The Life Centre, 69 Bourke St, Melbourne
December 20th, 1pm

Christmas Brunch @ Mecca Bah

55A New Quay Promenade Docklands 3008
December 25th, 10:30am-12.30pm

Lexis Centre

Cnr Olympic Blvd and Batman Avenue, Olympic Park, Melbourne
December 25th, 12.00pm

Christmas Day Supper @ Spencer St Shopping Centre

December 25th, 4.30pm

Boxing Day Lunch @ TRUNK

275 Exhibition St, Melbourne
December 26th, 1.30pm

“My Christmas wish this year would be to go back home, back to Swan Hill, so I wouldn't be sitting here on the streets... I'd have my freedom”

HPLC Holiday Closures

Please take note of the following Clinic closures over the Festive Season. The PILCH office will be closed from 24 December 2009 and will re-open on 4 January 2010.

For more information or for urgent legal assistance please call the HPLC on **03 8363 4408** or **FREECALL 1800 606 313**.

We wish you all a safe and happy Festive Season!



Drop In Clinics

The Big Issue, 148 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

Mondays 10:00am – 11:00am

Final Clinic 2009 - CLOSED now | First Clinic 2010 - 8 Jan 2010

Urban Seed (Credo Café), 174 Collins St, Melbourne

Tuesdays 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Final Clinic 2009 - CLOSED now | First Clinic 2010 - 9 Feb 2010

St Peter's Eastern Hill, 15 Gisborne Street, East Melbourne

Wednesdays 7:30am – 9:00am

Final Clinic 2009 - CLOSED now | First Clinic 2010 - 6 Jan 2010

Drop In and Appointment Based Clinics

Ozanam House (adult male service), 179 Flemington Rd, North Melbourne

Tuesdays 10:00am – 12:00pm

Final Clinic 2009 - 22 Dec 2009 | First Clinic 2010 - 5 Jan 2010

Flagstaff Crisis Accommodation (adult male service), 9 Roden St, West Melbourne

Tuesdays 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Final Clinic 2009 - 22 Dec 2009 | First Clinic 2010 - 5 Jan 2010

Salvation Army Life Centre, 69 Bourke St, Melbourne

Tuesdays 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Final Clinic 2009 - CLOSED now | First Clinic 2010 - 5 Jan 2010

Appointment Based Clinics

Melbourne Citymission, 214 Nicholson Street, Footscray

Mondays 10:30am - 1:00pm

Final Clinic 2009 - CLOSED now | First Clinic 2010 - 1 Feb 2010

HomeGround Housing, 1A/68 Oxford Street, Collingwood

Thursdays 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Final Clinic 2009 - CLOSED now | First Clinic 2010 - 14 Jan 2010

Hanover Southbank, 52 Haig Street, Southbank

Wednesdays 1:15pm - 3:00pm

Final Clinic 2009 - 23 Dec 2009 | First Clinic 2010 - 13 Jan 2010

VACRO, Level 1, 116 Hardware St, Melbourne

Thursdays 1:00 – 3:00pm

Final Clinic 2009 - CLOSED now | First Clinic 2010 - 14 Jan 2010

Koonung Mental Health Clinic, Level 1, 43 Carrington Road, Box Hill

Fridays 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Final Clinic 2009 - CLOSED now | First Clinic 2010 - 22 Jan 2010

St Luke's, 175 Hargreaves Street, Bendigo

Every second Friday 10:00am – 12:00pm

Final Clinic 2009 - CLOSED now | First Clinic 2010 - 8 Jan 2010

Subscribe

Please contact 1800 606 313 or hplc@pilch.org.au to subscribe, or to have your say.