



VICTIMS and WITNESSES of CRIME COURT SUPPORT Inc.

VWCCS Inc Patron: The Hon Jerrold Cripps Q.C.

VWCCS Inc
INDUCTION &
TRAINING
PROGRAMME

11 FEBRUARY – 25 MARCH

2011

To be held at:

**THE JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM
LEVEL 1
SYDNEY WEST TRIAL COURT
GEORGE STREET
PARRAMATTA**

VWCCS Inc INDUCTION & TRAINING PROGRAMME 2011

A VWCCS Volunteer's Thoughts on Human Nature and Criminal Law

I think that there are so many perspectives from which one can approach the system with any criminal law case: Amongst them, the notion of the victim as the one who stands outside the judicial system and yet is vital to the integrity and continuation of the system itself. I feel that the practical application of this is the scene played out in any court matter, and that we all valorize this system by being witness to it. Can we help the victim to valorize a system in which they must bear its most terrible manifestations? I can't answer that question except to say that human beings of every cultural persuasion and moral order seem to be bound by the same underlying law: to bear witness to their particular beliefs in some way or another. These courtroom dramas and their antecedents, good and bad, are really all about the nuts and bolts of human nature/this society in all its unfathomableness. And so the victim will rarely achieve satisfaction, because as a non-participant only the *Crown v Defence* are relevant. Yet all must bear witness, albeit unwittingly, to the successful reproduction of the moral order of this society: Horrible in its reality but better, as far as we are concerned, than others.

As to whether some people were/are regarded as outlaws or heroes, the wheel does turn. In the case of Rodham and indeed Nelson Mandela, and more lately Paul Kagame (Rwandan President) their fortunes are/were a matter of changing perspectives, power, affiliations and history. Their names are linked to villainy and glory - who is to say which perspective is true? One wonders how any of them could have been heroes of any sort! What constitutes justice is just another perspective predicated on power and at times such as the ones you mention, **the illusion of a system of concrete justice is shattered exposing the reality that is human nature in its beauty, ugliness, frailty, failures and tragedy.** We, VWCCS Inc, can support those we feel we must, including the police, work for change and try to understand the rest, like them or not.

*Ann ©
VWCCS Inc Volunteer*

DATE	TOPICS	PRESENTERS
FRIDAY, 11 FEBRUARY		
10:00am – 10.30am	Opening Address	Detective Supt Peter Cotter Commander of Homicide Police Spokesperson for Victims of Crime
10.30am – 10:40am	VWCCS Introduction and History	Chris Burgess and Denis O'Connell VWCCS Coordinators – Parramatta
10:40am – 10:50am	Reflections – Starting off as a Court Support Assistant	Margaret Bray VWCCS Volunteer 2010
11:00am – 12:15pm	The Role of a Witness Video: <i>Your Day in Court</i> Court Support: What we do and don't do	Valerie De Rome VWCCS Volunteer - Legal Protocol Consultant
LUNCH - 12:15pm – 12:55pm		
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Role of a Police Prosecutor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matters in the Local Court Matters in the Children's Court 	Snr Sgt Lisa Sykes Downing Centre Prosecutors Sgt Kirsty Heyward Acting Area Prosecutions Coordinator
2:00pm – 3:00pm	Domestic Violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is Domestic Violence? Legal Rights of Victims of Domestic Violence Defended AVO What is a DVLO? 	Nicole Lawless Principal Policy Officer Violence Prevention Coordinator Unit Office for Women's Policy, Dept of Premier and Cabinet
3:00pm – 4:00pm	Discussion and Introduction of Participants	ALL
FRIDAY, 18 FEBRUARY		
10:00am – 10:15am	REVIEW	
10:15am – 12:15pm	Basic Counselling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflective Listening Dealing with Emotions States of Mind Concept Arousal Sleep Irrational Thinking Suicide Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determining the severity Putting into effect an action plan Substance Abuse 	Dr Patrick White VWCCS Inc Registered Psychologist

DATE	TOPICS	PRESENTERS
FRIDAY, 18 FEB (cont)	Self Care and all that goes with it!	Dr Patrick White
LUNCH - 12:15pm – 12:45pm		
12.45pm – 2.20pm	Grief / Loss / Trauma - Dealing with clients - Strategies	Dr Patrick White
2.30pm – 3.30pm	Indictable Offences • Role of an OIC • Case Study	Michael Haddow Det Inspector. State Crime Command Sex Crimes Squad
FRIDAY, 25 FEBRUARY		
10:00am – 10:15am	Time for questions, review and discussion	All Attendees
10:15am – 11:20am	Radio National Law Report – <i>Victims of Crime – What do they make of criminal Trials?</i> Recorded interview of victim's family re the trial of Leon Borthwick. Discussion	By Kind Favour of Damien Carrick All
11:30am – 12:30pm	Mental Health Review Tribunal Overview of the MHRT	The Hon Greg James QC President Mental Health Review Tribunal
LUNCH - 12:30pm – 1:30pm		
1:30pm – 1:45pm	Time for questions, review and discussion	All Attendees
1:45pm – 2:45pm	People with Cognitive Disabilities Preparing and Supporting Witnesses at Court	Alex Faraguna - CJS Manager Kim Walker - Co - Educator Criminal Justice Support Network Intellectual Disability Rights Service
2:45pm – 3:45pm	Mental Health • Various forms • Dealing with clients with mental health issues	A / Professor John Basson Statewide Clinical Director Forensic Mental Health

DATE	TOPICS	PRESENTERS
FRIDAY, 4 MARCH		
PLEASE NOTE LOCATION: VWCCS OFFICE, LEVEL 1, DOWNING CENTRE COURTS, Cnr LIVERPOOL & ELIZABETH STS, SYDNEY).		
9.15am – 9.45am	The Courts and the roles of the court officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Court • The District Court • The Supreme Court • The Empanelling of a Jury 	Richard Wilson Court Officer Downing Centre Courts
PLEASE NOTE LOCATION: Macquarie Room, Level 7, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney		
10:30am – 11:30am	Continuation of Zimmer Family Interview	Radio National Law Report – Damian Carrick
11:45 am – 12:.45pm	Indictable Offences – role of a Crown Prosecutor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepting a brief • Role of Instructing Solicitor • Pre trial conferences with Clients • Presenting the Crown's Case • Submissions 	Mark Tedeschi QC Crown Prosecutor Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP)
LUNCH - 12:45 pm – 1:45pm		
2.00pm – 3:00pm	Ethics	Dr Peter Melser Manager, Ethics Services St James Ethics Centre
3:00pm – 4:00pm	Indictable Offences - role of the Public Defender <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepting a Brief • Taking instructions • Rights of the Accused' • Defending the Accused • Importance of Submissions 	Angus Webb Public Defender
FRIDAY, 11 MARCH		
9:30am – 10:00am	Preparation of witnesses	All
10:00am – 10:10am	Introduction	Snr Sgt Lisa Sykes
10:10am – 10:30am	Role of a Magistrate	Magistrate Graham Blewitt Children's Court
10:30am – 12:30pm	Moot	

DATE	TOPICS	PRESENTERS
FRIDAY, 11 MARCH (Cont)		
12:30 pm – 1:00pm	Discussion	All
LUNCH - 1:00pm – 1:45pm		
2:00pm – 2:45pm	Commonwealth ODPP - Witness Assistance Service Overview	Carolyn Steel Witness Assistance Officer, CDPP
3:00pm – 4:00pm	Victims of Crime Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Victims Services • Approved Counselling Scheme • Victim's Compensation • Victim Impact Statement • Charter of Victims Rights 	Lynne Mitchell Acting Manager Policy & Service Delivery Victims of Crime Bureau
FRIDAY, 18 MARCH		
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Adult Survivors of Child Abuse (ASCA)	Dr Cathy Kezelman CEO / Executive Director ASCA
11:00 am – 12:00 noon	NSW Rape Crisis Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview • Responding to Clients' needs • New legislation - sexual assault trials • Helpful strategies 	Nicole Scheidel NSW Rape Crisis Shift Supervisor
LUNCH - 12:00 – 1:00pm		
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Role Play	Dr Patrick White
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Visits to Parramatta Children's, Local and District Courts Time for questions, review and discussion	Chris Burgess / Denis O'Connell / Fiona Holt / Margaret Bray All Attendees
FRIDAY, 25 MARCH		
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Victims of Crime Registry Overview	Kate Milner Victims Support Officer Restorative Justice Unit
10:30 pm – 11:30am	Other Court Support Services and Advocates	Howard Brown OAM Deputy President & Legal Officer Victims of Crime Assistance League Inc (VOCAL)

DATE	TOPICS	PRESENTERS
FRIDAY, 25 MARCH (Cont)		
11:30am – 12:00 noon	Q&A and HOUSEKEEPING	ALL
<i>LUNCH - 12:00 noon – 12:50 pm</i>		
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Reminder: What you Do and Don't Do! Q&A	Chris Burgess / Denis O'Connell / Pieta Thornton
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Inspection of CCTV Rooms and Overview	Office of the Sheriff District Court of NSW Parramatta
3:00pm – 4:00 pm	Role of a Judge	His Honour Judge Michael Bozic SC District Court of NSW

FURTHER WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT BY INDUCTEES IN OWN TIME:

- Court observation by volunteers in the Local Court - Minimum 15 hours
- Written report of court observations including self-reflection - due PRIOR to supervised Court Support work

THEN:

- Final Interview
- Application for Police Check
- Supervised Court Support Experience