



## VICTIMS and WITNESSES of CRIME COURT SUPPORT Inc.

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Patrons: The Hon Jerrold Cripps Q.C.  
Professor S. Caroline Taylor AM

*2014 Parramatta Volunteer Team Of The Year Award  
2013 Sydney City East Volunteer of the Year Award  
2012 Sydney City East Highly Commended Volunteer Team of the Year Award*

### ~ Organisation Statement ~

#### Role of VWCCS

Victims and Witnesses of Crime Court Support Inc (VWCCS) is an independent agency which has been operational since the beginning of 2006 under the directorship of Pieta Thornton.

VWCCS has been established to inform, support and introduce victims and witnesses of crime to the unfamiliar environment of the Court. VWCCS Volunteers assist their clients by demystifying court procedures and legal terminology and empower the victims / witnesses whilst they are in attendance at court as Prosecution witnesses.

VWCCS does not operate under the umbrella of any organization and the independence of VWCCS allows its Volunteers the flexibility to give court support and assistance to clients involved in criminal hearings held under the State jurisdiction of the Local, District, Supreme, Children's and Coroner's Courts of New South Wales, as well as criminal matters held under the Commonwealth jurisdiction. The ability to work in both State and Commonwealth jurisdictions makes VWCCS a unique victims and witnesses of crime court support agency.

Importantly, VWCCS is NOT in any respect an advocacy service. VWCCS has been formed solely to provide a court support service for victims and witnesses of crime.

VWCCS accepts referrals from various victims of crime agencies and from police, prosecutors, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), social workers and the general public.

VWCCS respects and where appropriate, adheres to the New South Wales State Attorney- General's Standards for Providing Court Support Services for Victims of Crime (June 1999). All VWCCS Court Support Volunteers undertake to abide by such standards.

#### Aims and Objectives

The principal objectives of VWCCS are to provide the following:

- A unique, high standard and non-judgmental court support service for its clients: victims and witnesses of crime, their family members and close friends in both State and Commonwealth criminal matters.
- A unique and high standard court support service providing continuity by extending its service to cover clients whose matters begin in the Children's or Local Courts of New South Wales and which later may progress to a higher Court.
- A unique and high standard court support service which does not duplicate any other court support service operating in the New South Wales and Commonwealth criminal jurisdictions, but supplements such services when required.