# News story for web or newsletter:

### Victoria Legal Aid’s Specialist Sexual Harassment Service ready to help more Victorians

Everyone deserves to work in a safe workplace that is free from abuse, harassment and discrimination, and to have their complaints about these issues taken seriously.

Sexual harassment continues to be an unacceptably common feature of Australian workplaces. Experiencing sexual harassment can have significant negative impacts on mental health, job satisfaction and career outcomes.

A recent expansion of the [specialist sexual harassment and discrimination services](https://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/specialist-sexual-harassment-and-discrimination-law-services) provided by Victoria Legal Aid’s Equality Law Program aims to help more Victorian workers resolve discrimination and sexual harassment legal problems and get a fair outcome.

**The service can help with:**

* providing legal advice and assistance
* representation at conciliation, mediations and hearings
* conducting direct negotiations.

**The service cannot help with:**

* general employment advice
* workers’ compensation claims
* defending complaints of discrimination, sexual harassment or victimisation made against you.

VLA Equality Law Program Manager Melanie Schleiger says the team has been representing victim-survivors of sexual harassment for over a decade and has a trauma-informed practice with deep legal expertise.

“We want to share our expertise with victim-survivors of sexual harassment so that they know all the options that are available to them.

“We can support victim-survivors to respond in a way that best meets their interests and needs.

VLA provides free, confidential legal information about sexual harassment and discrimination matters over the phone and online:

* call VLA’s Legal Help line 1300 792 387
* message VLA’s online [Legal Help Chat](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.legalaid.vic.gov.au%2Fspeak-to-us%23how-to-start-a-chat&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Arch%40vla.vic.gov.au%7Ccb7cb3416c9e478f263c08db08b1bbe8%7Cf6bec780cd1349ce84c75d7d94821879%7C1%7C0%7C638113331675867023%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2FNO%2B%2FGgnHSlbGsHNgX%2FhgMO3CnSuEbl1FR%2BrTX3yIxs%3D&reserved=0)

You can contact these services from 8 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday. These services are closed on public holidays.

**More information**

Find our more about Victoria Legal Aid’s [specialist sexual harassment and discrimination law services](https://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/specialist-sexual-harassment-and-discrimination-law-services).

Learn more about [sexual harassment and what you can do about it](https://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/sexual-harassment).

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