

## Our network of offices

In 2007 Stringer Clark joined forces with leading metropolitan law firm Ryan Carlisle Thomas to create Victoria's biggest network of legal services.

With offices in 21 metropolitan and regional locations, plus affiliates in Beechworth, Bendigo, Bright, Mildura, Mt Beauty, Myrtleford, Shepparton, Warragul and Wodonga, Stringer Clark can provide expert local service to clients throughout Victoria.

## Stringer Clark offices

### Ararat

165 Barkly Street  
Ararat 3377  
Ph: (03) 5352 1866  
Fax: (03) 5352 1863

### Ballarat

29 Lydiard Street Sth  
Ballarat 3350  
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Fax: (03) 5232 1810

### Castlemaine

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Castlemaine 3450  
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### Colac

13 Murray Street  
Colac 3250  
Ph: (03) 5231 6955  
Fax: (03) 5231 6266

### Geelong

127 Myers Street  
Geelong 3220  
Ph: (03) 5221 6266  
Fax: (03) 5223 1905

### Hamilton

44 Brown Street  
Hamilton 3300  
Ph: (03) 5571 2528  
Fax: (03) 5571 2531

### Horsham

40 McLachlan Street  
Horsham 3400  
Ph: (03) 5382 2244  
Fax: (03) 5352 1863

### Portland

10 Henty Street  
Portland 3305  
Ph: (03) 5523 1288  
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### Warmambool

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Warmambool 3280  
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## Ryan Carlisle Thomas offices

### Ballarat

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### Bayswater

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Bayswater 3153  
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Fax: (03) 9720 9225

### Clayton

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Clayton 3168  
Ph: (03) 9238 7878  
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### Cranbourne

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Cranbourne 3977  
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### Dandenong

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Dandenong 3175  
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### Frankston

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Frankston 3199  
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### Geelong

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Geelong 3220  
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Melbourne 3000  
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Fax: (03) 9240 1444

### Melbourne

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Melbourne 3000  
Ph: (03) 9342 0100  
Fax: (03) 9349 4383

### Melton

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Melton 3337  
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Fax: (03) 9731 0822

### Narre Warren

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Narre Warren 3805  
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### Pakenham

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Pakenham 3810  
Ph: (03) 5941 5722  
Fax: (03) 5941 5733

### Werribee

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Werribee 3030  
Ph: (03) 9731 0811  
Fax: (03) 9731 0822

### Wonthaggi

45 McBride Avenue  
Wonthaggi 3995  
Ph: 1300 136 227  
Fax: 9238 7888

“No fee  
‘til you Win”

What you need to know about  
your personal injury claim

Stringer  
Clark

freecall 1800 641 743  
[www.stringerclark.com.au](http://www.stringerclark.com.au)

Ararat  
Ballarat  
Castlemaine  
Colac  
Geelong  
Hamilton  
Horsham  
Melbourne  
Portland  
Warrnambool

RYAN  
CARLISLE  
THOMAS

LA WYERS in association with

Stringer  
Clark

# Your rights

You have a right to:

- negotiate a costs agreement with us
- seek independent legal advice before agreeing to a costs agreement with us
- a cooling off period in the event that you enter into a conditional costs agreement with us
- be notified if there are any substantial changes to anything within this brochure (which constitutes a Disclosure Statement under the Legal Profession Act 2004)
- an estimate of total legal costs (if reasonably practical) or if not to a range of estimates and an explanation of the major variables that may affect total legal costs
- a written report on the progress of your claim when you reasonably request it from us (we may charge you for the report)
- receive a bill from us
- request an itemised bill from us within 30 days of us giving you a lump sum bill
- request a written report on legal costs incurred to date (or since the last bill) in relation to your claim.

# Your questions answered

## What is “No fee ‘til you Win”?

At Stringer Clark we like to “put our money where our mouth is”. If we advise you that your claim is likely to have a successful outcome we are willing to risk our legal fees on our assessment being correct.

## After considering your claim:

If we reasonably believe a *successful outcome* is likely for you:

- we are willing to offer you a “No fee ‘til you Win” arrangement.

This means that unless we achieve a successful outcome for your claim, we will not charge you our fee.

You will only be required to pay our fee after a successful outcome has been achieved.

If we **don't** reasonably believe a *successful outcome* is likely for you:

- We will advise you **not** to proceed with your claim.
- We **won't** offer you a “No fee ‘til you Win” arrangement.

But if you still want us to proceed with the claim, we may act on your behalf but it will not be on a “No fee ‘til you Win” basis.

“No fee ‘til you Win” is a conditional costs arrangement. That is, you only pay for our legal services if your claim has a successful outcome.

## What is a successful outcome?

A successful outcome is when you will end up receiving:

- an amount of money, after payment of all liabilities you have in relation to your claim - including liabilities to us or anyone else, including another party to your claim; or
- a benefit or entitlement under a statutory scheme.

## How will your legal costs be calculated?

We will calculate our fees on:

- the basis of time spent on your claim; or
- based on the relevant prescribed court scale with the addition of a success or uplift fee of up to 25%.

If you would like a copy of the relevant scale, please let us know. Our first letter to you will explain which of the above will be relevant to your claim and provide you with an estimate of legal costs.

## What is a success or uplift fee?

A success or uplift fee is a percentage amount, of up to 25%, we are permitted to charge you above the relevant prescribed court scale for additional legal costs. This fee reflects the risk we take in running your claim on a “No fee ‘til you Win” basis - that we may not receive payment for the work we perform if your claim is not successful.

## Disbursements

Disbursements are out of pocket expenses related to the investigation, preparation or hearing of your claim. For example, fees charged by barristers, costs of medical reports, court filing and hearing fees, photocopying etc. We may require you to pay for disbursements in relation to your claim, regardless of whether your claim is successful or not.

## Other lawyers

We may need to engage a barrister, or another lawyer, to provide specialist advice for your claim. Before incurring such a disbursement we will discuss the engagement with you and provide you with details of their fees.

## Will your legal costs be covered by the other party?

If your claim is successful, the other party may be ordered to pay a portion of your legal costs and disbursements. Orders for costs rarely cover the full amount of your legal costs.

## When will you be billed?

You will be billed at the finalisation of your claim and your legal costs will be deducted from your settlement money.

## Who can you contact to discuss your legal costs?

If you have any concern about legal costs in relation to your case please speak to Ron Pearce on 9238 7800 or email [rpearce@rct-law.com.au](mailto:rpearce@rct-law.com.au)

## What if you disagree with the legal costs we have charged you?

If you dispute our legal fees you can:

- seek a costs review under Division 7 of the Legal Profession Act 2004 (Costs Review by Taxing Master); or
- make a complaint to the Legal Services Commissioner under Chapter 4 of the Legal Profession Act 2004 within 60 days of receiving our bill, or us requesting payment of the bill or of you paying the costs; or
- seek to set aside the costs agreement under section 3.4.32 of the Legal Profession Act 2004.

## What if you are unsuccessful?

If your claim is unsuccessful you may be ordered to pay some or all of the other party's legal costs and disbursements of defending your claim.

## Applicable Law

The laws of Victoria apply in relation to legal costs for your claim.