

## Discrimination, harassment and bullying

It is against the law to:

1. Discriminate against someone because of a personal characteristic protected by the law, including a person with a disability
2. Sexually harass someone
3. Vilify a person or group of people on the basis of their race or religion
4. Behave in a way that is racially offensive or abusive to a person or group of people based on their race, colour, nationality or ethnic origin.

*This includes if you are being bullied at work or school.*

## Police powers & your rights

When dealing with the police it is important to remember you have rights, but you also have responsibilities. You can avoid problems if you are sensible and keep your cool. If the situation gets out of control, stay calm, remember your rights and get legal advice quickly.

**Speaking to police:** There are times when you must give your name and address if the police ask for them. You do not have to answer any other questions the police ask you.

**Being arrested:** The police can only arrest you when they think you have broken a law or they have a warrant for our arrest. You can make two phone calls when the police arrest you or when you are in custody. You can phone a lawyer and a friend or relative.

**Young people and police:** Children must have a parent, guardian or independent person with them while they are interviewed and during certain procedures. There are also rules about taking photographs and fingerprints from children, depending on their age.

## Victims of crime

A victim of crime is someone who has suffered physical, psychological or emotional injury, or financial loss because of a crime. It may also include a person who has witnessed a crime of a family member of a person who was injured or killed.

As a victim of crime, you may be able to get financial help from the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal or compensation from the offender.

If you would like more information about your rights and the law, or you would like to speak to someone about your legal rights, please follow the link to the Victoria Legal Aid website:

<https://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/find-legal-answers>

# Becoming A Lawyer Teacher Resource



To become a lawyer in Victoria, a person must complete the academic and practical components as set out by the Victorian Legal Admissions Board (VLAB).

## Academic

To successfully satisfy the academic component a person must complete a tertiary academic course in Australia which:

1. includes the equivalent of at least years' full-time study of law,
2. is accredited by the Board, and
3. the Board determines will provide for a student to acquire and demonstrate appropriate understanding and competence in each element of the academic areas of knowledge.

In the State of Victoria, eight universities have been approved by VLAB to provide academic law courses.

## Practical Legal Training

Once a person has completed an approved academic course, they must complete practical legal training. The specified practical legal training prerequisite requires a person to demonstrate an appropriate understanding and competence in each element of the skills, values and practice areas.

The requirement may be satisfied by successfully completing either:

1. a practical legal training course conducted by a practical legal training provider, or
2. supervised legal training in a workplace for a period of not less than 12 months.

The Practical Legal Training requirements for admission to the legal profession may be satisfied by completing an approved PLT course. At present there are five approved PLT providers in Victoria. Supervised legal training is a minimum 12-month period of supervised training under an eligible supervisor during which the trainee must acquire an appropriate understanding of and competence in each element of the skills, values and practice areas.

For further information about becoming a lawyer, please visit the VLAB website:

<https://www.lawadmissions.vic.gov.au/>