



Marrickville Legal Centre

Marrickville Legal Centre Annual Report 2017 - 2018



Marrickville Legal Centre acknowledges the Gadigal, Wangal, Guringal, Wallumedegai and Cammeraygal peoples of the Eora nation, who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we work. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



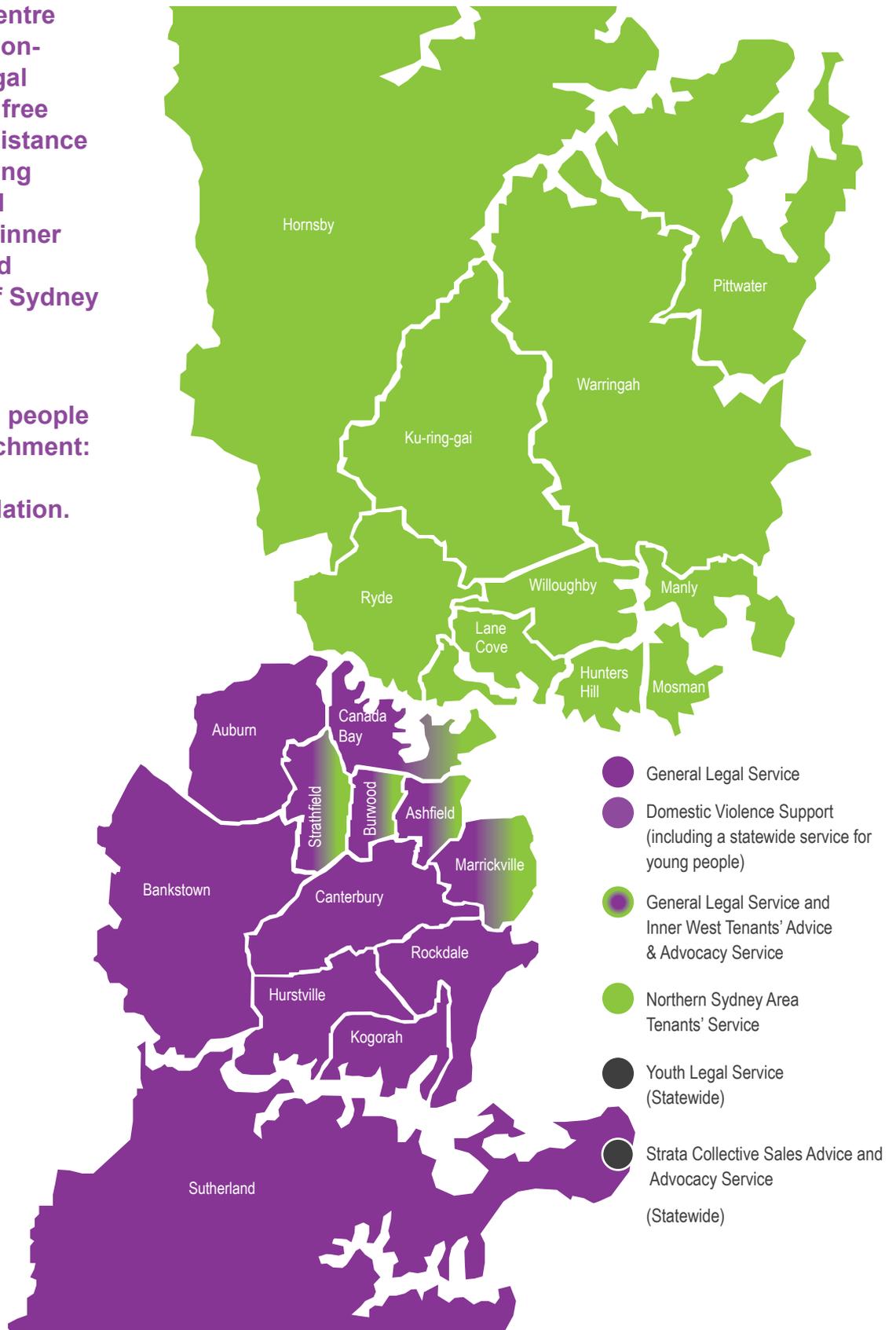
Contents

About Us.....	Page 4
Message from the Chair.....	Page 5
Message from the Managing Principal Solicitor.....	Page 7
General Legal Service.....	Page 8
Employment Law Service.....	Page 10
Family Law Service.....	Page 12
Domestic Violence Support Service.....	Page 14
Youth Legal Service.....	Page 16
Inner West Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service.....	Page 18
Northern Sydney Area Tenants Service.....	Page 20
Strata Collective Sales Advocacy Service.....	Page 22
Our Board.....	Page 24
Our Volunteers – With Special Thanks	Page 26
Our Supporters – With Special Thanks.....	Page 27
Our Staff.....	Page 28
Financial Reports for 2017 - 2018.....	Page 30

About Us

Marrickville Legal Centre is an independent, non-profit community legal centre, which offers free legal advice and assistance to people experiencing economic and social disadvantage in the inner west, south-west and southern suburbs of Sydney – and beyond*.

There are 1.5 million people living in our key catchment: that's 30 percent of Sydney's total population.



*We also operate two statewide services.

Message from the Chair



The last twelve months have been as challenging as ever - but successful. I am pleased to say that Marrickville Legal Centre has continued to provide high quality legal support and advocacy for some of the most vulnerable members of our community in each of our funded areas. During the year we formalised Annette Van Gent's permanent appointment as Managing Principal Solicitor and Annette has driven progress in a multitude of ways.

Under the National Accreditation Scheme for Community Legal Centres, MLC is required to meet a number of standards and report progress to the national body in an Improvement Plan. We also have in place a Strategic Plan for MLC which has been developed in conjunction with staff. Throughout the year Annette has reported on progress to the Board by reference to these documents. It is one of the main ways that the Board monitors the Centre's performance from a strategic perspective.

I would like to draw attention to several highlights.

For many years staff at Marrickville have suffered from cramped working conditions. The move into space at the former Dulwich Hill Library in Seaview Street has enabled us to bring together both arms of our tenancy team under one roof there. It has also meant that staff at Marrickville have a much better working environment.

The implementation of CLASS, the new data standards and the new Risk Management Guide which has resulted in a complete overhaul of the Centre's practice management systems. Plus the development of the Centre's CRM.

Ongoing training and support has been a critical part of implementing these improvements.

We have also developed a process for measuring long-term outcomes by means of a survey tool.

This has progressed alongside the huge amount of work which Annette has undertaken in conjunction with staff to review and update our policies.

Not least amongst these is the revised Staff Supervision and Performance Appraisal Policy which was developed through extensive consultation with staff. We believe that a review process is an important component of supporting staff in their work, ensuring accountability for work performed and identifying the professional development needs of staff.

Our Board gives special thanks to Annette van Gent for her management and leadership. In addition, our Board acknowledges the excellent work of Greg Oong who has been formally appointed to the position of Finance Manager on a permanent basis.

I am extremely grateful for the work of my Board colleagues, who can be relied upon to go the extra mile when asked to do so. I greatly appreciate the energy and commitment that they have dedicated to our issues. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the work of our Treasurer Brent Goldman, who has developed a fine partnership with Greg Oong to ensure that Marrickville Legal Centre stays ahead of its financial challenges. I would also like to acknowledge the thoughtful wisdom of John Laxon who will not be standing for re-election.

And it is important to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of our excellent staff, together with our volunteers. I thank them all. Were it not for you advocating for the rights of our clients, those vulnerable members of society would be grossly disadvantaged.

I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

Graham Jenkins
Chair, MLC Board



Message from the Managing Principal Solicitor



Marrickville Legal Centre enjoyed another busy year of providing legal, tenancy and domestic violence support services to our community in 2017 – 2018. And another year of change!

Readers of this report who have had the chance to visit Marrickville Legal Centre's offices at Illawarra Road in Marrickville would be aware of the tight and cramped conditions in which our lawyers, tenant advocates, domestic violence support worker, administrative team and volunteers have worked for many years. Originally designed for a staff of four, these premises were by mid-2017 holding a staff of twenty, and more on the many days on which our Centre was busy with volunteers!

We were therefore very pleased to be successful in an expression of interest to our own Inner West Council for new premises in the former public library at Dulwich Hill. Over the course of the past year, we have established our Inner West Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service, Northern Sydney Area Tenants' Service and Strata Collective Sales Advocacy Service – and many of our administrative team – in a new home in the beautifully restored, historic old library building.

We look forward in the months and years to come to continuing to welcome members of our community into this new space.

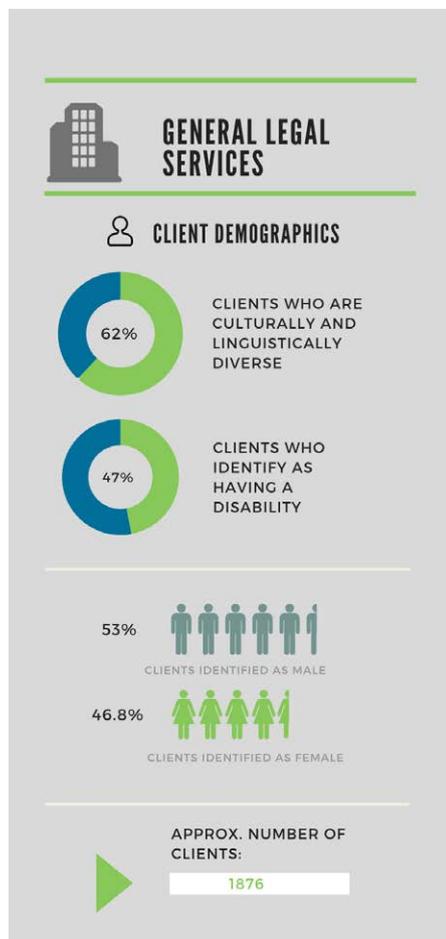
Many of you would already have enjoyed the opportunity to experience our new home at a special event that we hosted in June 2018. With the assistance of a grant from the Inner West Council, we held a photography exhibition which highlighted the stories and the experiences of some of our clients, and their triumph over social injustices including exploitation at work, violence in the home, and homelessness. Earlier in the year, we also enjoyed hosting a panel discussion about the issue of family violence as experienced by young people, including from the perspective of one of our clients who courageously attended and told her own story, in her own words.

Working alongside our clients to support their journey from abuse, exploitation and injustice to a life where they can freely enjoy their fundamental rights – and in doing so fully realise their human potential – is what we are passionate about at Marrickville Legal Centre. We were very happy this year to be able to do this work and to share it with you – our supporters.

We hope that you enjoy the many stories of our work in the pages of this annual report, and we look forward to working with again in 2018 – 2019 for a just and civil society.

Annette van Gent
Managing Principal Solicitor

General Legal Service



Marrickville Legal Centre's General Legal Service enjoyed another busy year in 2017 – 2018.

Throughout the year, the General Legal Service assisted almost 1900 clients with their legal problems. The most common legal issues in relation to which the General Legal Service provided assistance were motor vehicle accidents, credit and debt issues, consumer complaints, and applications for counselling and compensation to Victims Services NSW. (More detail about the Centre's services to survivors of family violence can be found later in this report).

The General Legal Service continued to provide services targeted at members of the community facing the most significant barriers to accessing justice, including people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background and people living with disability, who made up more than 40% of the General Legal Service's clientele for the year.

To enable access to the General Legal Service by all members of the community – particularly those from a culturally and linguistically diverse background – the Service maintained throughout this year its partnerships with the Muslim Women's Association at Lakemba and Advance Diversity at Rockdale, where generalist solicitors attend fortnightly to provide legal advice clinics to the community.

In addition to these outreach services, the General Legal Service continued this year to provide a series of legal advice clinics at the Centre's premises in Marrickville, both during the day-time and evenings, in person and over the telephone. The General Legal Service benefited enormously in delivering these services from the pro bono support of Gilbert + Tobin, HWL Ebsworth, and Hall & Wilcox, which worked with the General Legal Service throughout the year to establish a specialist clinic for people seeking assistance with motor vehicle accident property damage matters.

Supporting Survivors of Financial Abuse

"Kate" (not her real name) is a 44-year-old woman who suffered years of emotional, psychological and financial abuse in her marriage. When she approached the General Legal Service she had recently separated from her husband. Kate left the relationship with no savings and no assets. Re-establishing herself, Kate got a part-time job in retail and rented a room in a share house.

Things were looking up until... Kate received credit default notices on a personal loan in her name for \$7,000.00 and on a credit card in her name for over \$33,000.00. She had never applied for a personal loan and had never agreed to an increase in her credit card limit from \$1,000.00 to over \$33,000.00. Kate suspected fraud on the part of her ex-partner, who had access to her identity documents (including passport) before they had separated.

In distress, Kate came to Marrickville Legal Centre for assistance. The General Legal Service negotiated with the Bank's legal team on Kate's behalf. Through these negotiations, the Bank agreed to cease any further action against Kate, waive both the personal loan and credit card debt, and to reverse all negative credit reporting against Kate. Kate was able to move on with re-establishing her new life, without the burden of crippling debt.

Supporting People Living with Mental Illness

“Holly” (not her real name) is a 45 year old woman who lives with bipolar disorder, and at different times in her life has also struggled with substance abuse. Several months before coming to see us at Marrickville Legal Centre, Holly’s relationship with her husband broke down, and he started proceedings for property settlement and a divorce.

Holly was devastated. Her problems with substance abuse re-surfaced, and she stopped taking the medication that she needed to control her bipolar disorder. Using all the money that she had received from her property settlement, Holly went on a huge shopping spree at a number of luxury stores across Sydney, spending well over \$20,000 on clothes, bags and other items.

Finally, Holly was admitted to hospital and started to receive the treatment that she needed. She was then placed under a community treatment order, and could go home.

Unfortunately, as a result of the incident that had occurred while she was unwell, Holly was left with no money and a huge array of luxury items that she didn’t need or want. She came to Marrickville Legal Centre for help.

The General Legal Service advocated for Holly with the stores from which had made her purchases, explaining her circumstances. Each of the stores agreed to assist Holly by accepting returns and refunds for the goods that she had purchased. Holly again had the financial resources to help her re-build her life.



Employment Law Service

Employment law continued to be an area of high demand for Marrickville Legal Centre's services through 2017 – 2018.

In this financial year alone, Marrickville Legal Centre's Employment Law Service provided 631 legal advice sessions, ran 24 court or tribunal matters relating to employment law and ran a further 22 matters involving representation other than court or tribunal representation.

The Employment Law Service offered advice and advocacy across a range of different employment law matters, with the most common issues being problems relating to employment conditions and entitlements, unfair dismissal, and discrimination in employment on the basis of sex, pregnancy, disability, race and age.

Amongst the clients of the Employment Law Service, the overwhelming majority are individuals experiencing financial disadvantage (including people who have recently lost their employment) with a substantial proportion of clients also being people from culturally and linguistically diverse

backgrounds and people living with disability.

To meet the demand for legal assistance in employment law, the Employment Law Service continued throughout the course of this year to run its day-time and evening face-to-face and telephone advice sessions, and its fortnightly outreach service to the Fair Work Commission (delivered in partnership with Legal Aid NSW).

The Employment Law Service is extremely grateful for the ongoing support and assistance of its pro bono partners, including Minter Ellison, Santone Lawyers and Sparke Helmore.

Supporting Workers with Disability

“Carly” (not her real name) is a 21-year-old woman who since her late teens has lived with endometriosis, a medical condition with symptoms including severe pain and fatigue.

About eighteen months prior to coming to see us at Marrickville Legal Centre, Carly has started work at a major retail outlet. It was Carly's first job out of school, and it had taken her a long time to find. Carly enjoyed her job, worked extremely hard, and was eventually selected for a traineeship program that would prepare her to become a store manager.

Things changed after Carly took three weeks away from work for treatment to her endometriosis. She returned to work to find that her duties had been significantly reduced. Even after Carly provided medical information to her employer confirming that she was safe to return to her full duties, Carly's duties remained reduced, she was offered fewer shifts, and her manager asked her on several occasions if she was really “up to” the traineeship program. Carly's work was criticised by both her management and co-workers, and she was left out of social events. She felt like her employer did not want her there anymore.

Carly came to Marrickville Legal Centre for assistance. The Employment Law Service assisted Carly to make a complaint of disability discrimination to the Australian Human Rights Commission, and participated with Carly in a conciliation conference. As a result of the conciliation conference, Carly's employer was able to better understand her condition, cease the behaviours which had been causing Carly distress, and implement appropriate (not unnecessary) adjustments to enable her to perform her role to her full potential. Carly was able to keep her job, and continue to excel at work.

Supporting Migrant Workers

“Judy” (not her real name) is a 27-year-old woman, who arrived in Australia from China at the age of nineteen, originally on a student visa. While still a student, Judy took a job as an administrative assistant at a travel agency. When she completed her studies, Judy started to work full-time for the travel agency, now as both an administrative assistant and as a travel agent.

Judy came to Marrickville Legal Centre because she was worried about some of the things that her employer was doing. The employer never provided her with payslips, never paid her personal leave when she was sick, and never paid her annual leave on the very rare occasions that Judy took a holiday. Judy had also checked her superannuation fund, and found that nothing had been paid there. Judy was worried that she was not being paid the correct wages for the work that she was doing, six days a week over long hours.

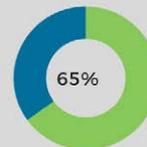
Piecing together the documents that Judy had, the Employment Law Service assisted Judy to calculate her underpayments and make a complaint to the Fair Work Ombudsman. The Employment Law Service participated with Judy in mediation facilitated by the Fair Work Ombudsman, following which her employer agreed to pay her over \$90,000.00 in unpaid wages, entitlements and superannuation. The Employment Law Service checked with Judy to ensure that the agreed amount was actually paid to her, which it was. Following up some time later, the Employment Law Service heard that Judy was still working at the travel agency but at the right rate of pay this time.



EMPLOYMENT LAW SERVICE



CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



CLIENTS ARE CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE



CLIENTS ARE LIVING WITH A DISABILITY

44.4%



CLIENTS IDENTIFIED AS MALE

55.4%



CLIENTS IDENTIFIED AS FEMALE

APPROX. NUMBER OF CLIENTS:



630

Family Law Service

Family law services – including advice and advocacy around issues including divorce, parenting and property arrangements after separation, and domestic violence – are a consistently high demand area of legal need in our community. This year, Marrickville Legal Centre was extremely pleased to be able to expand our services in this critical area of work.

Prior to this year, Marrickville Legal Centre already had a well-established track record in delivering family law services to our community. For the past eight years, Marrickville Legal Centre has been proud to have a partnership with Interrelate, a not-for-profit provider of relationship services in Sydney's southern suburbs since 1926. In particular, Marrickville Legal Centre has an established partnership with the Family Relationship Centre (FRC) based at Interrelate In Caringbah.

Through this partnership, Marrickville Legal Centre collaborates with the FRC and with community lawyers from other community legal centres to provide legal advice on family law issues, and representation at legally assisted mediations. Legally assisted mediation assists parents who are financially disadvantaged and who experience other complex needs – such as disability or a history of family violence – to reach agreement to resolve parenting arrangements

for their children after separation. It provides critical assistance to families in resolving their family law issues without recourse to expensive, time-consuming and stressful litigation. By doing this, it also alleviates the significant pressure already existing on our family law system.

Since 2016, Marrickville Legal Centre has complemented the family law services that it provides in partnership with Interrelate through a weekly family law advice clinic on Thursday evenings at the Centre. Through this clinic, financially and socially disadvantaged individuals living in the catchment area are able to receive advice about family law issues, and referral to the other services offered by Marrickville Legal Centre (including importantly our Domestic Violence Support Service, in relation to which you will find further information over the page.

In this financial year, Marrickville Legal Centre was thrilled to receive additional funding through the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department to provide services to our community in relation to family law and family violence issues. Through this funding, Marrickville Legal Centre was able to recruit an additional family law solicitor, dedicated to assisting our clients navigate the complex and intersecting issues related to family law and family violence. The Centre was extremely pleased to welcome Dr Maree Livermore to our team in this role in April 2018, and looks forward to working with her to expand the service in years to come.

Supporting Families Leaving Violence

“Tess” (not her real name) had been married to George for nineteen years – and with him for twenty-five years – when they separated. Tess and George had two children, aged thirteen and eleven.

Throughout their relationship, Tess had suffered violence from George that took the form of verbal, physical and financial abuse. Much of the abuse had occurred in front of the children. All three had lived for many years in fear, desperately trying to avoid the barrage of attacks that they suffered from George.

Tess attended Marrickville Legal Centre for advice about her situation. After she had received initial family law advice, Tess was referred to the Centre's Domestic Violence Support Service, which was able to support Tess with counselling, safety planning, and obtaining an apprehended domestic violence order (ADVO) against George for the protection of herself and the children.

After the ADVO was made, George moved out of the family home and no longer had any communication with Tess. In safety, Tess was able to start the process of resolving her parenting and property matters with George

Resolving Complex Family Law Issues through Mediation

“Tom” (not his real name) enjoyed re-connecting with old friends upon his return to Sydney after living interstate for a number of years. One of the people with whom he reunited was “Rhonda” (not her real name), a former girlfriend from several years ago.

Reconnecting with Rhonda, Tom discovered that she had a child – a little girl now aged ten – from their relationship. Tom and Rhonda did DNA paternity testing to confirm that the child was indeed Tom’s daughter. Tom was thrilled, but unsure how to establish a relationship with his child.

Tom was referred to Marrickville Legal Centre by an FRC. Marrickville Legal Centre provided Tom with advice, and assistance in a legally assisted mediation in which Tom and Rhonda negotiated a parenting plan that would involve Tom gradually getting to know, and developing a relationship with, his child.

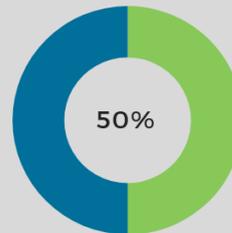
The result was a happy one, with the arrangements supported by Tom’s wife and daughter from his marriage. Tom and Rhonda’s daughter enjoyed the stability of her relationship with her mother while also establishing new relationships with her father, step-mother and young half-sibling.



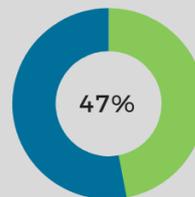
FAMILY LAW SERVICE



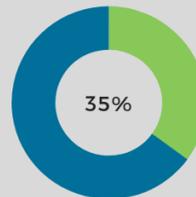
CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



CLIENTS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING OR ARE AT RISK OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE



CLIENTS WHO IDENTIFIED AS HAVING A DISABILITY



CLIENTS EITHER AT RISK OF OR ARE HOMELESS

26.26%



CLIENTS IDENTIFIED AS MALE

74.74%



CLIENTS IDENTIFIED AS FEMALE

APPROX. NUMBER OF CLIENTS:



100

Domestic Violence Support Service

Support Services

Marrickville Legal Centre has supported people experiencing Domestic and Family Violence for over 30 years. Our Domestic and Family Violence Support Service (“DFV Service”) seeks to address gaps in mainstream DFV support services to assist people who do not fall into clear support streams. This may include young people, people who have complex legal issues, people who live with mental health issues and people who have difficulty engaging with the justice system.

The DFV Service offers an integrated legal and non-legal support service for people who have experienced violence. Clients are provided with support through legal advice, risk assessment, safety planning, information, referrals, advocacy, case work services and outreach support.

Assistance is provided to clients on the range of issues that a person may have if they have experienced violence, such as advocacy and liaison with Police, support at court and assistance to services such as specialist counselling, housing, Centrelink and Victims Services.

The DFV service receives self-referrals, referrals from other agencies and internal referrals from our legal and tenancy.

Regular outreach support services are provided at local courts through the Women’s Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service seconded worker program and local refuges to meet people in the community and provide immediate support at the time of need.

Community Education Services

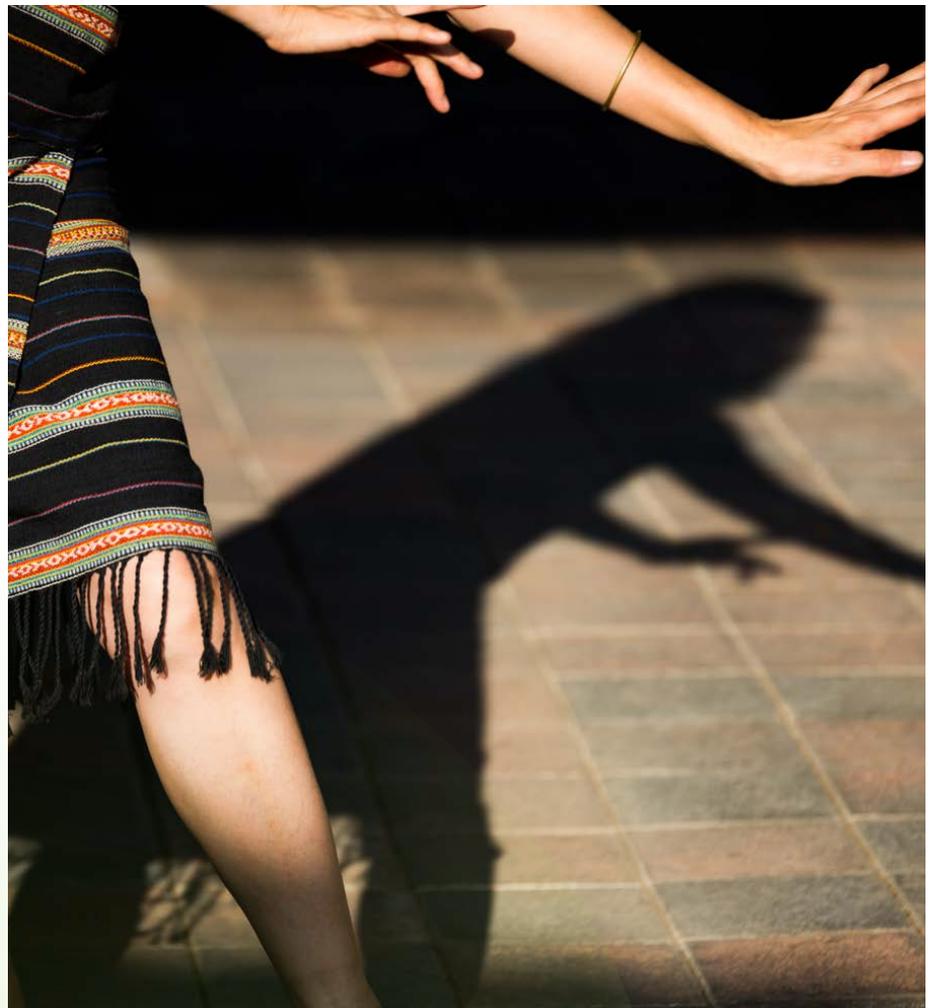
Our DFV Service provides community education about respectful relationships through the Love Bites program in high schools around the Inner West area. Hundreds of high school students are provided with information and offered support around respectful relationships, domestic violence and sexual assault.

Community education about these issues is also provided through regular outreach at The Girls Refuge and other community services in response to need. Education is provided around issues relating to DFV such as Apprehended Violence Orders, DFV dynamics, police, courts and the justice system.

Community education is provided both directly to people who have experienced DFV and the community workers who support them.

Collaboration and Relationships

Our DFV Service works closely with a range of community organisations and government services through domestic violence interagency groups, referral pathways, outreach partnerships and local Safety Action Meetings. Our DFV Service recognises the critical importance of collaborative service delivery in providing support to people who have survived violence.



Supporting All Survivors of Violence to Have a Voice

“Yumi” (not her real name) is a 24 year old woman from a CALD background. Yumi experienced domestic violence from her ex-partner and was living in a refuge when she accessed MLC’s DFV Service. Because of her immigration status, Yumi was unable to access many support services including income support. Yumi had only recently arrived in Australia when she was subjected to violence from her partner, and was not familiar with Australian laws, processes and procedures relating to family violence.

The DFV Service supported Yumi to understand police processes and to communicate with the Police about her safety concerns and history of violence from her ex-partner. The DFV Service supported her to give evidence in court, at a hearing for an AVO and also at a hearing relating to an assault charge against he ex-partner. The DFV Service helped Yumi to access material aid (such as food and clothing) while she did not have an income, and to receive free, specialist counselling. With this support, Yumi is recovering from the trauma of violence and connecting with her new community.

Supporting Young Survivors to Live Safely

“Eleanor” (not her real name) is a 15 year old young woman from a CALD background. Eleanor experienced physical and sexual abuse from her father and needed to leave home.

The DFV Service supported Eleanor with a range of issues including housing, counselling, education and preparing for independent living. The DFV Service accessed crisis accommodation for Eleanor to ensure that she had a safe place to stay when she left home.

The DFV Service also linked Eleanor with a specialist counsellor to assist her with her mental health support needs, advocated with her school to ensure that the school was able to make adjustments to enable Eleanor to continue her education, and helped her access her own Medicare card and bank account.

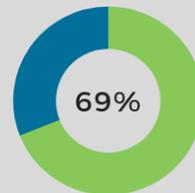
With this support, Eleanor was able to escape the threat of physical and sexual assault at home, and start to establish a new, safe life.



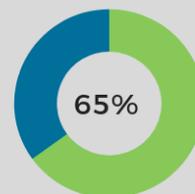
DFV SERVICE



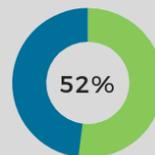
CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



SELF-IDENTIFIED AS EXPERIENCING A MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE

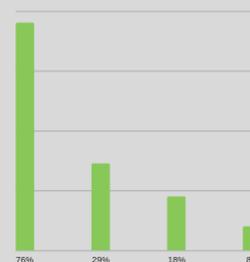


HOMELESS OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS



UNDER 25 YEARS OLD

MANY PEOPLE WERE EXPERIENCING CURRENT FAMILY VIOLENCE FROM MULTIPLE PERPETRATORS:



76% of clients reported current violence from an ex-partner

29% of clients reported current violence from current partner

18% of clients reported current violence from a parent

8% of clients reported current violence from a family member other than their parents

5%



CLIENTS IDENTIFIED AS MALE

95%



CLIENTS IDENTIFIED AS FEMALE

Youth Legal Service

In the last year the YLS has significantly expanded its ability to deliver legal services to young people across NSW.

This year we launched the Colin, Biggers & Paisley evening advice clinic. It is now operating every Monday at the firm's Sydney office. The city location has enabled us to access a volunteer base that would otherwise be unable to assist the YLS. Each week, three to four volunteer solicitors provide advice to eight young people at the advice clinic. The help this clinic provides has enabled the YLS lawyers to focus their resources and energy on representation and casework for high-need clients.

The YLS has also implemented a more streamlined appointment booking process and through this we have been able to double the number of legal advices provided each week.

We have continued to provide representation to our most high-need clients in court across the greater Sydney region, in addition to the central and south coast. This has included District Court appeals in Wollongong, Gosford and Parramatta.

Outreach

The YLS still runs outreaches with the Belmore Youth Resource Centre, Liverpool Headspace, Bankstown Headspace and Humanity Matters (formerly Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service) and Barnados through their street works programs, and Humanity Matters street festival. This festival is now back up and running on a monthly basis after their winter hiatus.

Our outreach services provide an invaluable opportunity for the YLS to meet face-to-face with young people who otherwise would not have access to legal information. Outreaches are often

the first time our clients have met a lawyer in real life, and are a great way to promote awareness of the service and build trust.

Community Legal Education

The YLS has been very busy delivering community legal education this year. We launched the Lawyer Up program this year at Belmore Youth Resource Centre. It was funded through a grant from the Canterbury-Bankstown Council and the program addressed the following topics:

1. Police powers;
2. Drugs and alcohol;
3. Sexting; and
4. Public transport fines.

Part of the program involved the development of 4 short videos and pocket cards for young people, which have been extremely well-received. Daniel Monasterio, the Youth Projects Officer from Canterbury-Bankstown, provided the following feedback on the program:

"I believe Lawyer Up was a success. The program was well attended, the pocket cards turned out well and the boys in particular all wanted to have one when they were handed out. You could observe the level of interest with the young people at each session as many of them had questions to ask."

The police powers pocket cards are highly sought after at outreaches and are incredibly popular with young people who are eager to know their rights with respect to interacting with police.

In 2017-18 we have also continued to deliver community legal education workshops on a range of topics to youth refuges and schools across Sydney.



Youth Justice Coalition

Throughout 2017 – 2018, the Centre continued its work in convening the Youth Justice Coalition (YJC) – a network of agencies and workers involved in youth justice issues which is now in its 30th year.

This year, the YJC was proud to launch Policing Young People in New South Wales: A Study of the Suspect Targeting Management Program. Based on extensive research, this report is a unique and comprehensive study of the impact particularly on young people of the NSW Police's Suspect Targeting Management Plan (STMP), a police intelligence tool which seeks to prevent future crimes by monitoring those deemed at risk of future offending. The report has been extremely well-received and the YJC is hopeful that it will have a positive impact on the shaping of policing policy and procedure in the future.

The YJC was also very pleased this year to contribute to the NSW Parliament's Inquiry into the Adequacy of Youth Diversionary Programs, through a joint submission with the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances (NCARA). Focusing on the adequacy of youth diversionary programs for Aboriginal youth across the state, the report has been broadly referenced in the NSW Parliament's report released in August 2018. Throughout the year to come, the YJC will monitor the implementation of the recommendations of that report, advocating where it can for improved diversionary programs for at risk young people across New South Wales.

Supporting Young People living with Mental Illness

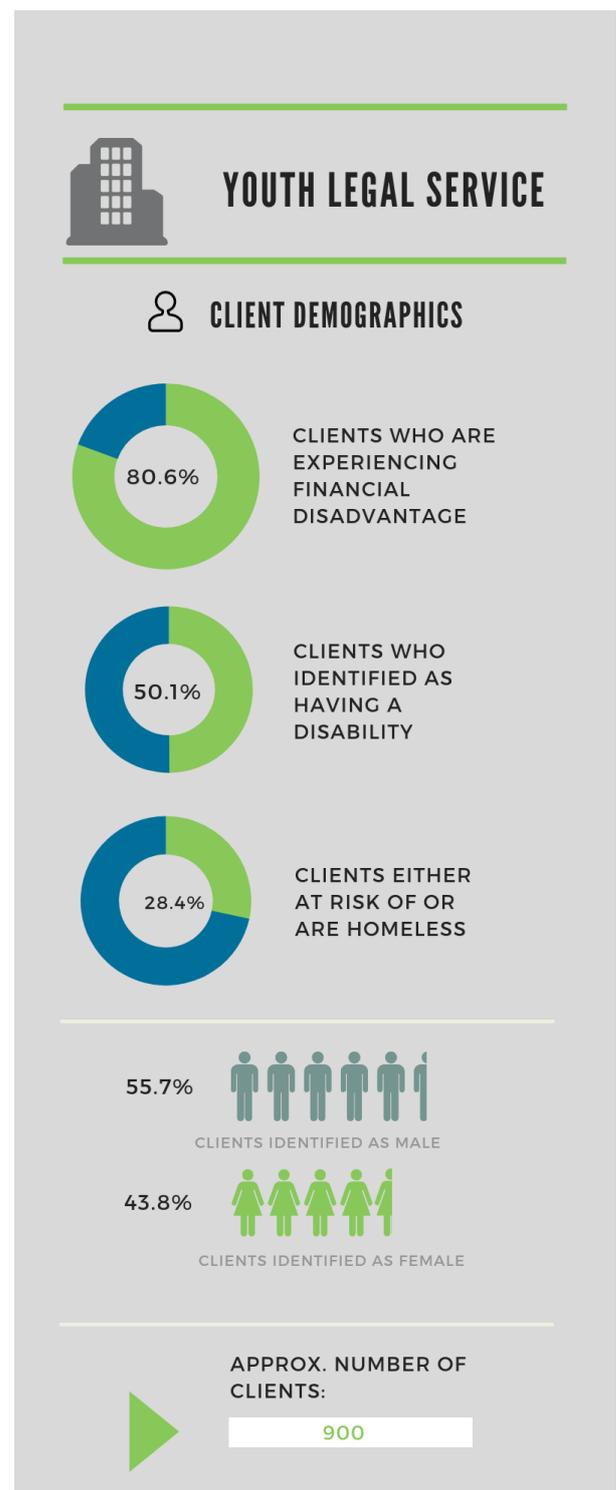
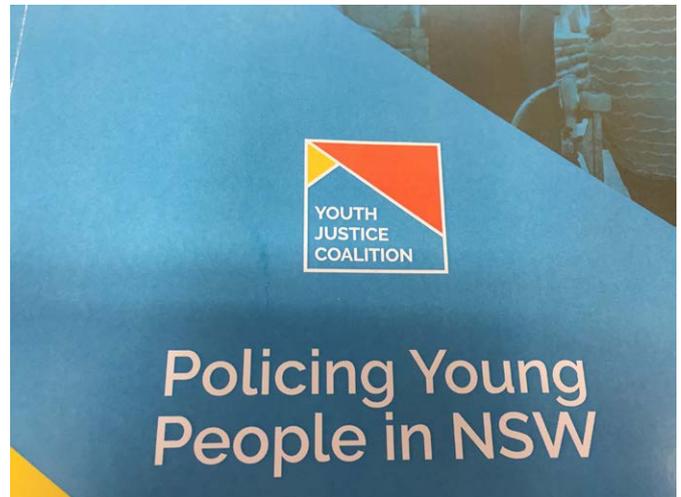
"Diego" (not his real name) is a 21-year-old working in hospitality on the Northern beaches. He identifies as gay and has a history of family and domestic violence, which resulted in a period of homelessness.

Diego contacted the Youth Legal Service because he had been charged with property damage, cannabis possession and assaulting the police. He explained to us that in the months leading up to the incident he had been experiencing acute anxiety, which he sought treatment for the week prior to the alleged offending.

He also explained that he was using cannabis to manage his anxiety, and lashed out against the police because he panicked when they put him in a wrist lock for trying to film their interaction.

The Youth Legal Service arranged for a psychologist to meet Diego and prepare a report about his mental health at the time of the offending and his prospects for rehabilitation. We used this report to make an application in the Local Court to have Diego diverted away from the criminal justice system and towards appropriate mental health care.

This application was successful, and Diego was able to resume his treatment without having a conviction recorded against him.



Inner West Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service

Duty Advocacy for Tenants

Our Inner West Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service (IWTAAS) continues to provide a duty advocacy service, one day week at the Sydney registry of the NSW Civil & Administrative Tribunal. Tenants' advocates provide on-the-spot advice and representation for any tenants appearing at the Tribunal on our rostered shift. Where possible advocates focus on assisting vulnerable tenants and those at risk of termination as a priority.

Our wise and timely counsel on what tenants can reasonably expect to achieve from the tribunal process no doubt saves tenants numerous hours of angst. A priceless service, which in 2017 – 2018 alone provided advice and advocacy to 191 tenants at the Tribunal.

Community Engagement

Throughout 2017 – 2018, IWTAAS maintained its long-standing weekly outreach service at Newtown Neighbourhood Centres's 'One Stop Shop', where IWTAAS joins a range of other services in providing support to people in their community. The "One Stop Shop" minimises the time, inconvenience and stress associated with accessing multiple services, and helps people find the right supports to address their problems in a truly holistic and efficient way.

In addition to the 'One Stop Shop', IWTAAS continues to attend the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre convened Boarding House Roundtable to advance the plight of residents living in boarding house accommodation, who are subject to the lesser protections of the purpose built (but arguably not fit for purpose) Boarding Houses Act 2012 (NSW). IWTAAS looks forward to the review of the Boarding Houses Act 2012 which it hopes will commence in the forthcoming year.

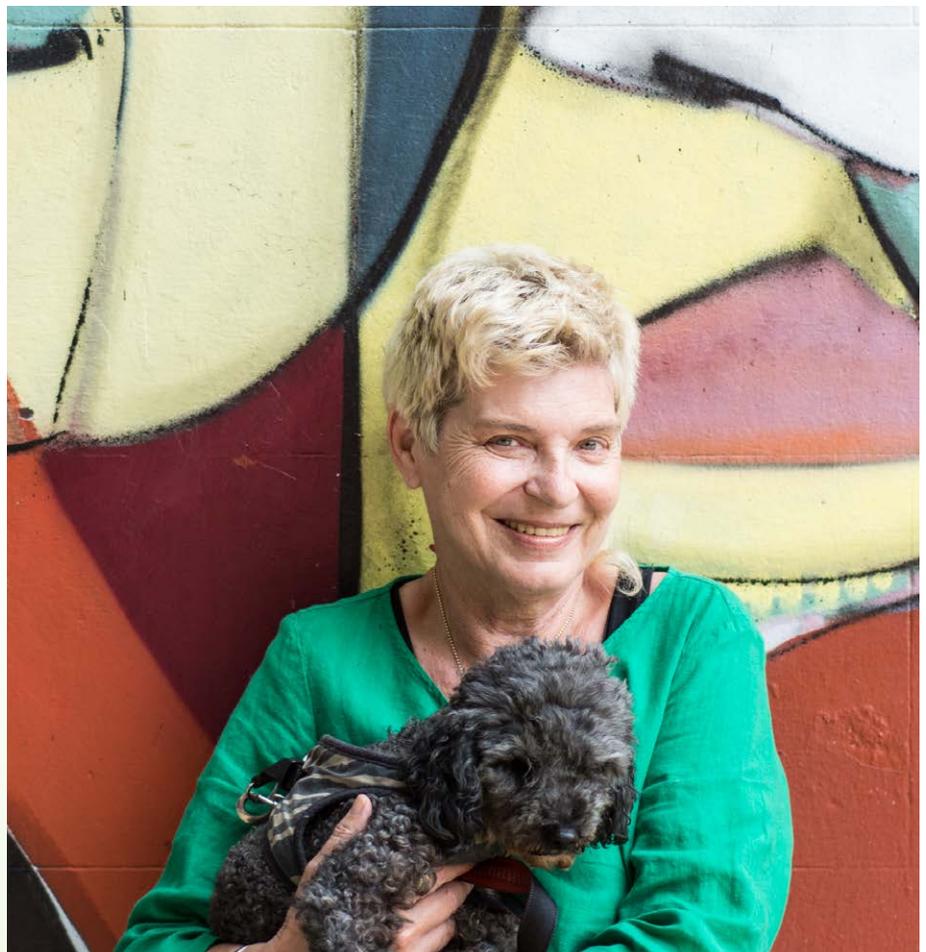
This year, a member of the IWTAAS team also sat on the Inner West Council's Housing and Affordability Reference Group, convened following the merger of Marrickville, Ashfield and Leichhardt Councils. The reference group has assisted to drive Council's commitment to affordable housing within these local government areas, and has led to successful submissions made to the NSW Government to allow the Inner West Council the capacity to require a proportion of affordable housing in new developments proposed in the local government area. This is excellent progress in retaining affordable housing for tenants in our community.

Law Reform

Two full years have now passed since the five yearly review of the Residential Tenancies Act 2010 (NSW) was tabled

to the NSW Parliament, and in 2017 – 2018 we remained yet to see any proposed legislation introduced to the Parliament in response to the review. Over the time since the review commenced, a range of factors have resulted in a shift in the broader position of tenants, including growing concerns about housing affordability and the release of the results of the 2016 Census statistics, showing an increase in the proportion of the population renting their homes.

Throughout 2017 – 2018, IWTAAS engaged actively in the community based 'Make Renting Fair' campaign, highlighting the inadequate protections for tenants against unfair eviction under the current law in New South Wales. The campaign resulted in a groundswell of public and – increasingly – political support for changes to the law that would end "no grounds" notices of termination for tenants.



Support from Homelessness to Secure Housing

“John” (not his real name) was referred to IWTAAS by the Boarding House Outreach service at Newtown Neighbourhood Centre. He had been out of jail for over 19 months.

Despite FACS Housing’s policy commitment to safe and secure housing for offenders, in the interests of both the offender and the safety of the community, they had not made a decision on John’s housing application for over 19 months. He was living in a boarding house and the uncertainty about whether his application would be accepted or rejected was having a negative impact on his health. NSW Corrections had also expressed concerns about the suitability of his accommodation and had pressed for FACS Housing to approve the application.

IWTAAS contacted FACS Housing and requested the application be decided. FACS Housing did not respond so IWTAAS assisted the tenant to lodge a first-tier appeal against a deemed decision to refuse the application.

In response to the first tier appeal, FACS Housing argued that it would fail as no decision had in fact been made about the tenant’s application for housing. IWTAAS immediately started to draft a second level appeal to the Housing Appeals Committee, but after repeated emails and conversations with FACS Housing management John’s application was granted and backdated to January 2017.

John’s case worker wrote to IWTAAS saying:

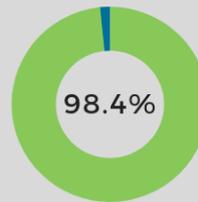
“Just getting in touch to say a massive THANK YOU! (John) is over the moon with the results you’ve produced. I am absolutely delighted you have been able to support him so effectively. I really appreciate your efforts, you really made all the difference!”



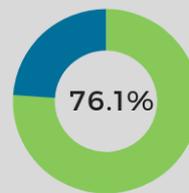
IWTAAS
INNER WEST TENANTS ADVICE AND
ADVOCACY SERVICE



CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



IMPROVED
UNDERSTANDING
OF TENANCY LAW



PROVIDED WITH
ADVICE OR
ASSISTANCE IN
NEGOTIATION WITH
LANDLORD/AGENT

COMMON TENANCY MATTERS



Repairs and Alterations: 21.7%
Bond and compensation: 23.9%
Termination: 29.5%

TOTAL CASES CLOSED:

1230

TOTAL HOURS OF ADVICE, ASSISTANCE, ADVOCACY AND INFORMATION PROVIDED:

2768

Northern Sydney Area Tenants Service

Advice and Advocacy Services to Tenants

Like IWTAAS, NSATS continued throughout 2017 – 2018 to provide a duty advocacy service one day a week at the Sydney registry of the NSW Civil & Administrative Tribunal. NSATS' tenants' advocates provided on-the-spot advice and representation for tenants appearing at the Tribunal, negotiating agreements and appearing on the tenant's behalf at the hearing. This service plays an important role in preventing homelessness and helping vulnerable tenants who may not have received any assistance or advice before attending the Tribunal.

In 2017 – 2018, NSATS implemented an online intake form, and promoted it on the website of the Tenants Union of New South Wales. By ensuring that tenants' enquiries are delivered directly to the NSATS inbox, the online intake form streamlines the intake process for tenants and increases the accessibility of NSATS's services.

Making services as accessible as possible to tenants is critical for NSATS, which continues to respond to ever-increasing demand for tenancy services in the northern suburbs of Sydney. In 2017 – 2018 alone, NSATS provided advocacy and representation to more than 1747 tenants across the northern suburbs of Sydney. We provided advice, advocacy, information and referrals over 4543 sessions. NSATS continues its focus on assisting marginalised tenants – particularly social housing tenants, and tenants living in boarding houses. NSATS has achieved this by building relationships with a customised intake process, building relationships with other local community organisations, and targeted outreach services.



Community Partnerships

In 2017 – 2018, NSATS worked to ensure that its services were as accessible as possible to tenants across the northern suburbs, by establishing an additional weekly outreach at the Dougherty Centre in Chatswood. NSATS also continued a weekly outreach service at the Manly Community Centre. These outreaches operate as drop-in clinics and provide tenants with convenient face-to-face access to an advocate for advice or casework follow up.

NSATS' relationships with these organisations creates referral pathways and makes other services more accessible for tenants in the Northern Sydney area. These relationships are essential to the work NSATS does, as they target assistance for vulnerable tenants who are at high risk of homelessness, and allow for easy referrals between organisations

to make sure that the complex needs of marginalised tenants are being effectively addressed.

Community Partnerships

In 2017 – 2018 NSATS provided several community legal education sessions for community workers and tenants. NSATS delivered a 'priority-housing' workshop, which provides advice and information for community workers on negotiating the social housing application process. In partnership with Community Northern Beaches, NSATS has conducted several tenancy education sessions for newly arrived migrants from Syria and Tibet, as part of the settlement services program. NSATS provided similar community education sessions in Cantonese and Mandarin together with the Ethnic Communities Council. The sessions aim to introduce tenancy concepts and to provide information about tenant's rights in NSW.

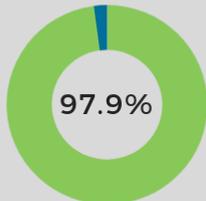


NSATS

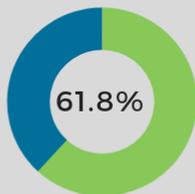
NORTHERN SYDNEY AREA TENANTS SERVICE



CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF TENANCY LAW



PROVIDED WITH ADVICE OR ASSISTANCE IN NEGOTIATION WITH LANDLORD/AGENT

COMMON TENANCY MATTERS



Repairs and Alterations: 22.6%
 Bond and compensation: 30.1%
 Termination: 39.9%

TOTAL CASES CLOSED:



1632

TOTAL HOURS OF ADVICE, ASSISTANCE, ADVOCACY AND INFORMATION PROVIDED:



2694.5

Tenancy Services Working to Prevent Homelessness

“Susan” (not her real name) had been living in a community housing property with her long-term partner for many years when he was arrested and charged with offences relating to identity theft. At the time that this happened, both Susan and her partner were aged 70.

After the arrest of Susan’s partner, the community housing provider from which Susan’s partner leased their home took steps to end his tenancy and refused to recognise Susan as a tenant who could succeed the tenancy. Without that recognition, Susan was at real risk of homelessness.

To make matters worse, Susan’s partner was unable to respond to the community housing provider’s questions about his alleged offending, because of the criminal proceedings that were then running against him.

NSATS advocated strongly that the community housing provider should not apply to the New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) for termination of the tenancy. NSATS argued that it was difficult for Susan’s partner to comply with the requirement to disclose information regarding the allegations against him given the very real possibility that these disclosures could prejudice his criminal proceedings. NSATS asked the community housing provider to stop all action to terminate the tenancy until at the criminal proceedings had been determined.

Although it initially refused to comply with this request, the community housing provider ultimately agreed no action would be taken to terminate the tenancy until the conclusion of the criminal proceedings. After this, NSATS continued to negotiate with the community housing provider to recognise Susan as a tenant – regardless of the outcome of the criminal proceedings – to ensure that she could continue to live in her home and not become homeless.

Strata Collective Sales Advocacy Service

The 2017 – 2018 year was a very exciting and productive one for the Strata Collective Sales Advocacy Service (SCSAS). Since 1 July 2017, the SCSAS has focused its attention on establishing and building up knowledge of the service amongst relevant stakeholders and communities.

This has meant a year of positive growth for the service, which has seen it delivering a high volume of advice and advocacy for strata owner-occupiers throughout New South Wales.

From January 2018, the SCSAS was able to expand the objectives of the service to include advice on general strata management law. As a result of the expansion as well as networking with stakeholders and conducting community legal education sessions, the service has seen a rapid increase in demand.

The SCSAS continues to be actively involved in assisting disadvantaged owner-occupiers at the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The service has had successful outcomes at the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, with a particular focus on owner-occupiers living with a disability in a strata scheme. These cases (detailed below) centred around the interaction between specific by-laws within a strata scheme and an individual's ability to comply with these by-laws with their disabilities.

Community Partnerships

The service now receives a high volume of referrals through NSW Fair Trading, NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, Law Access NSW, Legal Aid, NSW Trustee and Guardian, local councils and other community legal centres.

In addition, the SCSAS continues to network with private practitioners and law firms who specialise in strata law and is now a part of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal Consultative Forum for the Strata Division. This involves attending the forum to liaise with the tribunal members and other strata lawyers about procedural issues as well as current legislative and case law updates. In addition, the SCSAS has liaised with the NSW Trustee and Guardian to facilitate better referrals for clients who are under Public Guardianship and have strata-based issues.

Community Education

The SCSAS has had a strong focus on conducting community legal education throughout NSW to better educate vulnerable and disadvantaged owners within strata schemes. Since 1 July 2017, the SCSAS has conducted twenty community legal education sessions across NSW. From 5 March 2018 till 14 March 2018, the SCSAS ran a CLE road trip up the north coast of NSW. During this trip, we conducted CLE for coastal and regional communities in Gosford, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Maitland, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour and Tweed Heads. The sessions were very well received by the local communities. The SCSAS solicitors were also invited by ABC Newcastle and ABC Ballina to present a segment on morning radio in relation to strata law.



Advocacy for Strata Owners with Disability

“Bruce” (not his real name) is on the Disability Support Pension, has limited English language skills and suffers from schizophrenia. He lives with his bother Brock who also suffers from schizophrenia, and with whom he part-owns his strata property, which was left to both of them by their deceased parents. Without that property, both Bruce and his brother would have been at risk of homelessness.

Bruce contacted SCSAAS saying that he had a legal problem, and at his appointment produced a large bundle of documents from the New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT). A SCSAS solicitor helped Bruce to understand that he was being taken to NCAT by the Owners Corporation for various breaches of strata by-laws, and that he could receive total maximum penalty of \$3,300. Bruce had no means of paying these penalties, and would have been in severe financial hardship had the penalties been imposed. Selling the family home would have had to be considered as a means for Bruce to pay the penalties.

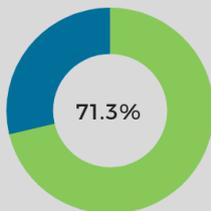
SCSAS then agreed to assist Bruce with his matter including representation at NCAT. Following advice to Bruce about complying with the by-laws and advocacy on his behalf by SCSAS, the Owners Corporation agreed to withdraw the application against Bruce before hearing. However, it did not follow through with this, and the mater proceeded to hearing. A SCSAS solicitor helped Bruce at the hearing, and had the matter dismissed. Bruce and his brother were able to continue living in their home, without financial penalty and without conflict with their Owners’ Corporation.



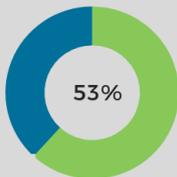
STRATA COLLECTIVE SALES ADVOCACY SERVICE



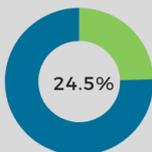
CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



CLIENTS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL DISADVANTAGE



CLIENTS WHO IDENTIFIED AS HAVING A DISABILITY



CLIENTS WHO ARE CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE

TOTAL NUMBER OF CLIENTS:

307



Advocacy for Strata Owners with Assistance Animals

“Paul” (not his real name) is a 64-year-old man with limited English language skills. Paul is unemployed and suffers from a physical injury due to a car accident as well as psychological disabilities. Paul owns a small dog who assists him with some of these issues, particularly his psychological distress. Unfortunately, Paul lives in a strata complex with a by-law preventing animals.

Paul approached SCSAS after receiving an NCAT notice for an application made by the Owners Corporation to issue a penalty for breach of the animal by-law. SCSAS advised him on the rules around animals in strata as well as the rules around assistance animals in line with the Strata Schemes Management Act 2015 (Cth) and the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth). SCSAS then assisted Paul with a cross-claim at NCAT against the Owners Corporation. Finally, SCSAS represented Paul at the NCAT hearing. The order made was in favour of Paul with the Owners Corporation’s order for a penalty being withdrawn. An order was also made to allow Paul’s assistance animal to remain in the strata scheme.

Our Board



Graham Jenkins | Chair

Graham has over twenty years' experience running businesses. Until recently, he chaired the Board of a private company.

As a consultant and investor, he advises clients on many business issues. He lends that experience as a judge for the Telstra Business Awards.

Graham is a former Board Member of the Recruitment and Consulting Services Association and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

He has an Honours Degree in Economics, a Diploma in Human Resources and a Masters in Labour Law from Sydney University.



Brent Goldman | Treasurer

Brent has worked as a specialist in corporate finance for over 20 years and is currently a Corporate Advisory Partner with Nexia Australia.

Brent gained his experience as a Corporate Finance Partner in one of the world's largest accounting firms where he spent 10 years in the London office before returning to their Sydney office. Brent has also worked on the client side, working in the corporate development and strategy team in an ASX 20 company.

Brent is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants in Australia & New Zealand, a Business Valuation Specialist of Chartered Accountants in Australia & New Zealand, a Fellow of the Financial Services Institute of Australasia, an AFSL Authorised Representative and a Graduate of the Institute of Company Directors.



Lainie Anderson | Secretary

Lainie works for Sydney Local Health District as a Business Manager, currently based at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. She has worked in the public health system for several years, rotating through local, State and Federal organisations.

Lainie previously worked as a mentor with the University of Wollongong, educating socioeconomically disadvantaged children and adolescents about their potential to complete tertiary education.

She has completed a Bachelor of Psychology with the University of Wollongong, a Postgraduate Certificate in Criminology from Charles Sturt University and a Masters in Health Service Management with the University of Sydney.



Simon Fitzpatrick

Simon works as a barrister at 7 Wentworth Selborne chambers, and joined the MLC board in June 2016 to further an initiative to encourage junior barristers to provide pro bono assistance to MLC's clients.

Since the relationship between MLC and 7 Wentworth Selborne commenced, barristers from the chambers have assisted numerous MLC clients in both criminal and civil matters, and provided pro bono advice to the Centre.

Before joining the New South Wales Bar in 2010, Simon worked in New York for eight years, taught at the Sydney University Law School, and was an associate at the High Court. He studied Arts and Law at Sydney University, and has a Master's degree from Harvard Law School.



John Laxon

John Laxon's career has straddled high-profile roles in the private and public sectors and he comes to MLC with a long-standing commitment to the community legal sector.

Since 2013, John has been the Principal of Laxon Lex, a litigation and dispute resolution based firm practising in employment, crime and commercial. Prior, he was a foundation partner with Hillman, Laxon Tobias Lawyers.

When he was with the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions in the early 1990s, he prosecuted the first successful insider trading case under Corporations Law.

For ten years, from 1988 to 1998, John was a regular volunteer solicitor at the Inner City Legal Centre in Darlinghurst.



Ian Bennett

Ian is an experienced workplace Senior Associate with Sparke Helmore Lawyers specialising in employee relations, work health and safety and coronial inquests.

Ian has been involved and affiliated with the Marrickville Legal Centre for over five years through various pro-bono initiatives including the employment law advice service and evening advice sessions. He also frequently accepts referrals to provide ongoing pro-bono assistance and support to clients introduced through the Legal Centre.

Ian has recently been recognised as one of Australia's highest achieving lawyers when he won the 2016 Lawyers Weekly 30 under 30 Award in the Workplace Relations category.



Alejandro Arvelo

Alejandro is a senior lawyer with extensive in-house and private practice experience in the insurance and FinTech industries, with 10 years' experience in the law generally. In addition, he is the CORE Community Services Company Secretary, a Member of CORE's Governance Subcommittee, a Public Notary, Justice of the Peace and a former Committee Member of the NSW Chapter of the Risk Management Institution of Australasia.



Alexandra Conroy

Alexandra Conroy is the founder and CEO of Reliant Healthcare, an ACHS-accredited business focused on providing professional and heartfelt care to communities in need.

Alexandra has extensive experience as a company director leading and advising organisations that operate commercially and provide a tangible social benefit. She sits on advisory committees for the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards and Pride in Health + Wellbeing and has been awarded the Australian Institute of Management's Young Manager of the Year.

Alexandra has graduated from the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and holds a Bachelor of Economic and Social Sciences and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Sydney.

David Johnson

David Johnson operates his own accountancy firm and has been a Chartered Accountant since 1981. His practice assists individuals and families with businesses and investments.

David also has experience as a director of both public and private companies and has been an accountant in the community sector for both a community centre and a disability support centre.

He has a particular interest in promoting financial literacy amongst disadvantaged individuals and community groups.

Our Volunteers

Marrickville Legal Centre relies on a team of around 150 volunteers at any one time: we simply couldn't operate without that unstinting support. Here are the volunteers in 2017-2018.

Evening advice

Kethenn Alves Dos Santos
Eileen Anslow
Samantha Auty
Monique Azzopardi
Kuzman Banden
Christina Barnsley
Ian Bennett
Matthew Bogunovich
Prue Bolton
Michelle Bragg
Alison Brown
Myles Bryant
Rui Chen
Bill Clarke
Briohny Coglin
Glennis Court
Robyn Coyle
Max Dalton
Kelsey Davis
Anne Day
Marcel Delany
Monica Deng
Jane Dennis
Patricia Dias Alves De Costa Gomes
Maggie Driscoll
Eva Dumbrell
Mark Dunstan
Jack Ellis
Angus Ferguson
Kim Fisher
Donna Flood
Hannah Fordham
Ellen Fullthorp
Sabrina Garcia
Corey Gauci
Sharon Giardina
Maria Guarnieri
Robert Guest
Fevzi Halil
Ali Hallani
Claudia Harper
Scott Holt

Ella Howard
Sarah Ienna
Peter Im
Lucy Jackson
Naomi Jung
Catherine Kelso
Joe Kennedy
Nathan Kennedy
Joo Ik Kim
Harold Kuang
Lana Lakofski
Carina Lam
Hollia Lam
Rosetta Lee
Allison Lenard
Claire Limbach
Simon Lipert
Chizu Lockey
Kathryn Luis
Zach Marrett
Nicholas Masias
Jeremy Maspero
Liam Mcauliffe
Kate Mccallum
Conor Mcnair
Isabel Mellor
David Milne
Virginia Minh
Shanon Mirels
Rori Moyo
Rob Muir
David Mulligan
Georgia Murphy-Haste
Yvonne Nehme
Jannet Nguyen
Jackie Nicholas
Ruth Nocka
Terence O'rain
Marie Panuccio
Suzanne Parker
Monica Paton
Amber Philpot
Cheryl Po
Dani Pontes

Thomas Primrose
Stephanie Raciti
Holly Ritson
Fabiana Rodriguez
Marcela Salgado Mar
Robert Seals
Sarah Shin
Emma Slaytor
Paula Sokolnik
Stephen Somerville
Carly Stebbing
Sally Stuart
Gideon Super
Katie Sutherland
Rachel Thampapillai
Patrick Thompson
Jonathon Tong
Ivy Tran
Yen Tran
Stefanie Triefus
Kasey Tyler
Mala Wadhera
Amanda Wallace
Alicia Wong
Tracey Woodbury
Sisi Ye
Yingzhou (Judy) Zhou
Michelle Zhu

Practical Legal Training

Genevieve Barry
Vasileios Bebedelis
Tal Gilead
Sahra Magan
Mikaela Mahony
Mai Nguyen
Vivian Nguyen
Quyen Nguyen

Daytime solicitors

Jackie Nicholas
Rod Stockwell

Front desk volunteers

Adam Parker
Alannah Daly
Albert Cheung
Alessia Moujaes
Andrea Soriano
Angela Balacano
Angelo Nestoras
Angus Macpherson
Anna Pietruszka
Benjamin Relph
Brae Aslanidis
Chace Tran
Charlie Williams
Claudia Bennett
Claudia Harper
Courtney de Silva
Daniel Burlutsky
Daniel Truong
Danielle Moran
Danielle Wilson
Derek Dao
Devni Walpolo
Eirinn Hayes
Elise Galati
Elizabeth Mansour
Ella Djalili-Thain
Eisher Keir
Erin Jeffery
Erin Mifsud
Esra Ulukan
Esther Robinson
Ge Yan
Grace Lovell-Davis
Hannah Coward
Hugh Pearce
Jaclyn Ling
Jang Hee Han
Jessica Liu
Jessie Nguyen
Jason Teoh
Jocelyn Zhou
Julius Chu
Kalppana Maran
Kaori Nihioka-Lopez
Karlie Gilbert
Kathryn Birtwistle
Katie Jones
Kenny Ng
Liam Cross

Lilian Fu
Linda Nixon
Linda Wang
Lydia Watson-Moore
Mali Strachan-Brown
Matthew Robson
Meghan Grawich
Meryem Yilmaz
Michael Hanson
Mijung Kim
Nensi Tsyang
Nicholas Conomos
Nicholas Masias
Nicola Ray
Nina Mao
Ohrania Huggins
Oliver Coble
Olivia Grasso
Olivia-Jane Higham
Owen Egbenoma
Paige Katay
Pamela Vassil
Rachael Polt-Cai
Rebecca Lumbroso
Rita Andraos
Rohan Simpson
Samar Ashour
Sarita Samleerangkul
Shomal Prasad
Sophie Taylor
Sue Jenkins
Tan Dang
Thomas Chan
Thomas Lawler
William Makarytchev
Ying Yi Lim
Yvonne Homonick
Zachary O'Meara
Zane Butler
Zoe Lim

NSATS

Merle Nielsen
Sue Jenkins
Matt Gore
Kate Birtwistle
Alicia Foley
Lilian Fu
Rachel O'Connor

Special Thanks

We rely on funding from a variety of government departments, along with grants, donations and pro bono and volunteer support to reach our large and needy community.

We couldn't do it without their support: thanks!

Funding

- The General Legal Service, the Family Law service and the Youth Legal Service are funded through the Community Legal Services Program, funded by both Commonwealth and NSW Attorney-General's Departments and administered by Legal Aid NSW
- Our tenancy and strata services are funded by NSW Fair Trading
- Our Domestic Violence Support Service is funded by Women NSW, administered by NSW Department of Family and Community Services
- Marrickville Legal Centre would like to thank the Canterbury-Bankstown Council and Inner West Council, who supported us with grants and (from the Inner West Council) new premises.

Partnerships

Marrickville Legal Centre is lucky to be able to rely on established partnerships with a number of law firms:

- Colin, Biggers & Paisley
- Gilbert + Tobin
- HWL Ebsworth
- MinterEllison
- Sparke Helmore
- Stantone Lawyers

Each of these pro bono supporters has an affiliation with one or more of our services.

The General Legal Service is extremely grateful for the support of HWL Ebsworth, which has provided a secondee solicitor every Monday, and to Gilbert + Tobin,

which has provided one and sometimes two volunteer solicitors every Tuesday night.

The Employment Law Service has greatly appreciated our ongoing partnerships with Sparke Helmore, MinterEllison, HWL Ebsworth and Santone Lawyers, who have continued to provide secondee employment lawyers to our Centre each week. This has been invaluable in assisting us to provide a high volume of employment law advice to our community.

The Youth Legal Service would like to thank

- Ramesh Rajalingam, Black Chambers
- Matthew Johnston and Michelle Swift, Forbes Chambers
- Belinda Epstein, Hunter Street Chambers
- Zoe Alderton, Maurice Byers Chambers
- Harrison Grace, 7 Wentworth Selborne Chambers
- Colin, Biggers & Paisley
- Hall & Wilcox
- Muscat & Co
- Younes & Espiner
- Barnados
- Belmore Youth Resource Centre
- Canterbury-Bankstown Council
- Headspace Bankstown
- Headspace Liverpool
- Humanity Matters (formerly Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service)
- Marrickville Youth Resource Centre
- Youthblock
- 2Connect Youth & Community (formerly St George Youth Services)

The Domestic and Family Violence service would particularly like to thank Inner West Police and Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service for their ongoing collaboration in assisting people to increase their safety

and access support. The Service would also like to thank the Leichhardt Marrickville Domestic Violence Liaison Committee, The Girls Refuge, and Youthblock..

Our strata team would like to thank Seniors Rights Service, specifically Tom Cowen, Christine Ai, Rosalie Gibson, Charlotte Steer and Robert Lollbach of the Strata Collective Sales Advocacy Service (Aged Persons); Alex Ilkin & Co, Lawyer and Conveyancer and David Bannerman, Bannerman's Lawyers.

Our tenancy services would like to thank Rahul Parrab from Squire Patton Boggs and his team for negotiating new lease for NSATS office and the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre

Pro Bono Assistance

We would like to acknowledge and pay special tribute to the many solicitors and barristers who have donated many hours of pro bono assistance to the Centre and the people we work with over the year.

7 Wentworth Selborne
Edward Anderson
Eli Ball
Susan Cirillo
Harrison Grace
Julie Granger
Shanaka Jayasuriya
Mark Sheldon
Michael Wells

12 Wentworth Selborne
Vanja Bulut

Maurice Byers Chambers
Zoe Alderton

Level 22 Chambers
James Mack

Our Staff

Legal Team

Annette van Gent
Lisa Woodgate
Bill Clarke

Managing Principal Solicitor
Generalist Solicitor
Generalist Solicitor (Locum)

Youth Legal Service

Vasili Maroulis
Katie Green
Frankie Sullivan

Youth Solicitor
Youth Solicitor
Youth Solicitor

Tenancy Team

Eloise Parrab
Martin Barker
Julia Murray

Sousan Ghecham
Olivia Nielsen-Gurung
Janice Yeung
James Keech
David Baddeley

IWTAAS Tenants' Advocate
IWTAAS Tenants' Advocate
IWTAAS Tenants' Advocate

NSATS Tenants' Advocate
NSATS Tenants' Advocate
NSATS Tenants' Advocate
NSATS Tenants' Advocate
NSATS Tenants' Advocate (until September 2018)

Domestic and Family Violence

Zoe McMillan

Social Worker

Our Staff

Strata

Justin Abi-Daher
Jake Edwards

Strata Solicitor
Strata Solicitor

Administration Team

Greg Oong
Alex Ariti
Susi Hamilton
Jacob Miller
Jack Tickner

Genevieve Barry
Christopher Anderson

Finance Manager
Operations Manager
Funding and Communications Manager
Project Officer (until January 2018)
Casual Administrative Assistant

Paralegal (until June 2018)
Paralegal (from June 2018)



Financial Report

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
ABN 53 699 012 017

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their report together with the financial report of Marrickville Legal Centre for the year ended 30 June 2018 and auditor's report thereon. This financial report had been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

Our Vision

Marrickville Legal Centre (MLC) seeks to promote social justice, through the provision of free and accessible legal and related services to people who experience social and economic disadvantage.

Our Values

MLC believes that people have a right to legal information, advice, advocacy and representation which is accessible and relevant to their lives. We aim to utilize both legal and community processes to promote an agenda of social justice and to work towards fairer legal and social outcomes for those most disadvantaged in our community. We are committed to providing the community with a wide range of legal and related services that are delivered in diverse ways and in co-operation with community networks and resources.

Our Mission

To provide free and accessible legal and related services, which are responsive to the needs of those most disadvantaged and which promote just and lasting solutions to legal and social issues in our community.

Service Delivery

MLC provides legal services throughout the inner west, south west and southern Sydney, to the twelve former Local Government Areas of Ashfield, Auburn, Bankstown, Burwood, Canada Bay, Canterbury, Hurstville, Kogarah, Marrickville, Rockdale, Strathfield and Sutherland. Over 1.5 million people live in MLC's catchment area: that's 30 percent of Sydney's population of five million.

MLC provides a Youth Legal Service to young people under the age of twenty-five across New South Wales.

MLC provides a Strata Collective Sales Advocacy Service, which offers advice and advocacy to people across New South Wales in relation to the impact of the strata laws introduced in New South Wales in November 2016.

MLC provides the specialist tenancy services of the Inner West Tenants' Advice & Advocacy Service (IWTAAS) and the Northern Sydney Area Tenants' Service (NSATS). IWTAAS services the Local Government Areas of Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Marrickville and Strathfield. NSATS is based in Chatswood and services the Local Government Areas of Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Pittwater, Ryde, Warringah and Willoughby.

MLC provides a domestic violence support service, offering non-legal support services to people who have experienced family and domestic violence.

MLC's legal services include community legal education, and community development through participation in local, state-wide and national committees, inter-agencies and networks.

Recognising barriers to access to justice, MLC prioritises service delivery to: young people, people who are homeless and at risk of homelessness, people with a mental illness, people with a disability, people who have experienced family violence, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people.

**MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
ABN 53 699 012 017**

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Objectives and Strategies

Objectives	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote social justice and provide free and accessible legal services to people who experience social and economic disadvantage. • To involve people experiencing social and economic disadvantage in the recognition, understanding and solution of legal problems. • To provide community legal education. • To participate in law reform, social change and changes to other policies and practices which adversely affect MLC's clients. • To develop and work collaboratively with networks, communities and key stakeholders. • To create and maintain an effective infrastructure to resource and support staff and to ensure effective service delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a Legal Service within the Inner West, South West and Southern Sydney catchment area. • Provide a state-wide Youth Legal Service • Provide a state-wide Strata Collective Sales Advocacy Service. • Provide specialist tenancy services in the Inner West and Northern Sydney Areas. • Provide a family and domestic violence support service. • Provide an integrated response to socially and economically disadvantaged clients • Participate in community development project partnership with local organisations. • Identify major legal issues for disadvantaged groups and provide community-based legal education through various modes and formats. • Participate in law reform and social change arising from the Centre's casework and the principles of equity and access to justice. • Promote MLC's services in a range of accessible modes and formats. • Develop and maintain relationships with local, state-wide and national committees, interagencies and networks to undertake community development and law reform activities. • Develop one or more formalised partnerships with key stakeholders, such as a university, health service or legal firm. • Ensure staff have the resources required to perform their duties. • Ensure appropriate composition of and support for the Board. • Strengthen the financial viability of MLC.

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE

ABN 53 699 012 017

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Objectives and Strategies (Continued)

Objectives	Strategies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage volunteer engagement within MLC to enhance service capacity.• Ensure that systems within MLC support service delivery.• Evaluate service outcomes and quality and use results to make service improvements.

Information on directors

Graham Jenkins

Special responsibilities Chair

Lainie Anderson

Special responsibilities Secretary

Brent Goldman

Special responsibilities Treasurer

Alejandro Arvelo

Appointed November 2017 and Resigned July 2018

Alexandra Conroy

Appointed November 2017

Ian Bennett

Appointed November 2017

Simon Fitzpatrick

David Johnson

Rebecca Kenny

Resigned November 2017

John Laxon

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
ABN 53 699 012 017

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Meetings of directors

Directors	Directors' meetings	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
Graham Jenkins	9	9
Lainie Anderson	9	7
Brent Goldman	9	9
Alejandro Arvelo	5	3
Alexandra Conroy	5	5
Ian Bennett	5	4
Simon Fitzpatrick	9	7
David Johnson	9	9
Rebecca Kenny	4	3
John Laxon	9	8

Members guarantee

The company is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* and is a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute to a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the company. At 30 June 2018 the number of members was 39. The combined total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute if the company is wound up is \$390.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the board of directors.

Director:



Graham Jenkins

Director:



Brent Goldman

Dated this

29th

day of

October

2018



PITCHER PARTNERS

ACCOUNTANTS AUDITORS & ADVISORS

Level 22 MLC Centre
19 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

Postal Address:
GPO Box 1615
Sydney NSW 2001
Australia

Tel: +61 2 9221 2099
Fax: +61 2 9223 1762

www.pitcher.com.au
partners@pitcher-nsw.com.au

Pitcher Partners, including Johnston Burke,
is an association of independent firms
Melbourne | Sydney | Perth | Adelaide | Brisbane

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
ABN 53 699 012 017

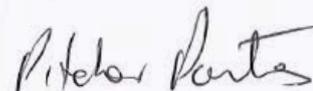
**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
TO THE DIRECTORS OF MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE**

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration under section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Non-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit of the financial year is provided with this report.



Mark Godlewski

Partner



PITCHER PARTNERS

30 October 2018

- 6 -

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
ABN 53 699 012 017

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Revenue and other income			
Grant and funding income	3	2,029,061	1,671,389
Other revenue	3	<u>67,382</u>	<u>152,650</u>
	3	<u>2,096,443</u>	<u>1,824,039</u>
Less: expenses			
Computer expenses		(17,734)	(27,537)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	4	(21,082)	(12,395)
Employee benefits expense		(1,731,980)	(1,501,068)
Insurance		(10,803)	(8,945)
Library resources and subscriptions		(13,390)	(14,453)
Occupancy expense		(42,736)	(41,858)
Printing and stationery		(13,307)	(11,442)
Telephone and fax		(31,518)	(40,709)
Volunteer costs		(7,606)	(6,219)
Repairs and maintenance expense		(27,820)	(2,089)
Advertising expense		(214)	(2,049)
Utilities		(8,479)	(7,676)
Travel		(9,147)	(6,352)
Document storage and digitalisation		(25,466)	(8,602)
Other expenses		<u>(58,588)</u>	<u>(24,930)</u>
		<u>(2,019,870)</u>	<u>(1,716,324)</u>
Surplus from operations		76,573	107,715
Other comprehensive income for the year		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total comprehensive income		<u>76,573</u>	<u>107,715</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
ABN 53 699 012 017

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	2,077,711	680,388
Receivables	7	15,429	21,966
Other financial assets	8	-	721,092
Other assets	10	<u>35,683</u>	<u>29,001</u>
Total current assets		<u>2,128,823</u>	<u>1,452,447</u>
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	9	58,097	21,734
Other assets	10	<u>-</u>	<u>1,712</u>
Total non-current assets		<u>58,097</u>	<u>23,446</u>
Total assets		<u>2,186,920</u>	<u>1,475,893</u>
Current liabilities			
Payables	11	233,277	160,733
Provisions	12	269,576	235,343
Other liabilities	13	<u>1,081,416</u>	<u>625,222</u>
Total current liabilities		<u>1,584,269</u>	<u>1,021,298</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	12	236,141	162,946
Other liabilities	13	<u>-</u>	<u>1,712</u>
Total non-current liabilities		<u>236,141</u>	<u>164,658</u>
Total liabilities		<u>1,820,410</u>	<u>1,185,956</u>
Net assets		<u>366,510</u>	<u>289,937</u>
Equity			
Retained surplus	14	<u>366,510</u>	<u>289,937</u>
Total equity		<u>366,510</u>	<u>289,937</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
ABN 53 699 012 017

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Retained surplus \$	Total equity \$
Balance as at 1 July 2016	182,222	182,222
Surplus for the year	<u>107,715</u>	<u>107,715</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>107,715</u>	<u>107,715</u>
Balance as at 1 July 2017	289,937	289,937
Surplus for the year	<u>76,573</u>	<u>76,573</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>76,573</u>	<u>76,573</u>
Balance as at 30 June 2018	<u>366,510</u>	<u>366,510</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
 ABN 53 699 012 017

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Cash flow from operating activities			
Receipts from clients and community		276,136	102,609
Operating grant receipts		2,505,738	1,983,329
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,072,945)	(1,894,304)
Interest received		<u>24,746</u>	<u>10,013</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>733,675</u>	<u>201,647</u>
Cash flow from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		-	100
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(57,444)	(10,712)
Payment for other financial assets		<u>721,092</u>	<u>(721,092)</u>
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		<u>663,648</u>	<u>(731,704)</u>
Reconciliation of cash			
Cash at beginning of the financial year		680,388	1,210,445
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		<u>1,397,323</u>	<u>(530,057)</u>
Cash at end of financial year		<u>2,077,711</u>	<u>680,388</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
ABN 53 699 012 017

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements, Interpretations and other applicable authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

The financial report covers Marrickville Legal Centre as an individual entity. Marrickville Legal Centre is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Marrickville Legal Centre is a not-for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The financial report was approved by the directors as at the date of the directors' report.

The following are the significant accounting policies adopted by the company in the preparation and presentation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Basis of preparation of the financial report

Historical Cost Convention

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by revaluations to fair value for certain classes of assets and liabilities as described in the accounting policies.

Significant accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of the financial report requires the use of certain estimates and judgements in applying the entity's accounting policies. Those estimates and judgements significant to the financial report are disclosed in Note 2.

(b) Revenue

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

Interest revenue is measured in accordance with the effective interest method.

All revenue is measured net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(c) Government Grants

A contribution or grant is recognised as revenue when the company obtains control of the contribution or grant and it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the company, and the amount of the contribution or grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions attached to the contribution or grant have not been satisfied at balance date, recognition of contribution or income is deferred until those conditions are met.

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
ABN 53 699 012 017

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(d) Income tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(e) Financial instruments

Donated financial assets

Financial assets donated to the group are recognised at fair value at the date the group obtains the control of the assets.

(f) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is measured at cost. Where plant and equipment was acquired at no cost or for a nominal amount, cost is deemed to be the fair value as at the acquisition date.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment is depreciated over their estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held available for use, consistent with the estimated consumption of the economic benefits embodied in the asset.

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

(g) Impairment of non-financial assets

An impairment loss is recognised when the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount of an asset is defined as the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

Where the future economic benefits of an asset are not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and where the company would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, the recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the asset's depreciated replacement cost which is defined as the current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation calculated on the basis of such cost.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) Employee benefits

(i) Short-term employee benefit obligations

Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and any other employee benefits (other than termination benefits) expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the annual reporting period are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The expected cost of short-term employee benefits in the form of compensated absences such as annual leave, long service leave and accumulated personal leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables in the statement of financial position.

(ii) Long-term employee benefit obligations

The provision for other long-term employee benefits, including obligations for long service leave and annual leave, which are not expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the reporting period, are measured at the remuneration rates at balance date.

Other long-term employee benefit obligations are presented as current liabilities in the statement of financial position if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur. All other long-term employee benefit obligations including the provision for redundancy which is the estimated proportional cost of redundancy for current program staff, if program funding is not renewed post the 2019 year, are presented as non-current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

(i) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and purchased assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

(j) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with current year disclosures.

**MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
ABN 53 699 012 017**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

NOTE 2: SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

The directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the company.

The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are as follows:

(a) Employee provisions

The company provides for long service leave and other provisions. These provisions will be affected by future events and there is no certainty that the company will have to pay out the non-current liabilities at the amounts recorded in the financial statements.

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
ABN 53 699 012 017

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	2018	2017
		\$	\$
NOTE 3: REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME			
Grants and funding income			
Legal Aid Commission - Commonwealth		334,897	334,897
Legal Aid Commission - State		347,837	336,441
Legal Aid Commission – Family Law and Violence		56,000	-
NSW Fair Trading - IWTAAS		353,178	337,694
NSW Fair Trading - NSATS		469,797	449,819
Family and Community Services - Refurb Grant		30,000	-
Family and Community Services - DV		100,000	58,333
Strata Collective Sales Advocacy Service		221,125	149,855
Legal Aid Administrative Efficiencies Grants		48,405	4,350
Other Grants		<u>67,822</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>2,029,061</u>	<u>1,671,389</u>
Interest income		24,746	21,886
Grant and funding income - local		20,435	43,647
Other revenue		<u>22,201</u>	<u>87,117</u>
Total revenue		<u>2,096,443</u>	<u>1,824,039</u>

NOTE 4: OPERATING SURPLUS

Surplus has been determined after:

Depreciation			
- plant and equipment		<u>21,082</u>	<u>12,395</u>

NOTE 5: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION

Compensation received by key management personnel of the company

- short-term employee benefits		179,086	170,957
- post-employment benefits		<u>15,450</u>	<u>15,892</u>
		<u>194,536</u>	<u>186,849</u>

During the year there were 12 key management personnel, including directors.

Directors Emoluments

All positions on the Board of Directors are honorary. No director has received or become entitled to receive, during or since the financial year, a benefit because of a contract made by the company with the director, a firm of which a director is a member or an entity in which a director has a substantial financial interest.

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
ABN 53 699 012 017

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	2018	2017
		\$	\$
NOTE 6: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS			
Cash on hand		650	650
Cash at bank		957,061	679,738
Cash on deposit		<u>1,120,000</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u><u>2,077,711</u></u>	<u><u>680,388</u></u>
NOTE 7: RECEIVABLES			
CURRENT			
Trade debtors		4,005	-
Other receivables		<u>11,424</u>	<u>21,966</u>
		<u><u>15,429</u></u>	<u><u>21,966</u></u>
NOTE 8: OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS			
CURRENT			
<i>Held to maturity financial assets</i>			
Term deposits		<u>-</u>	<u>721,092</u>
NOTE 9: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT			
Leasehold improvements			
At cost		83,009	42,690
Accumulated depreciation		<u>(50,258)</u>	<u>(42,690)</u>
		<u><u>32,751</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>
Plant and equipment			
Plant and equipment at cost		222,450	205,324
Accumulated depreciation		<u>(197,104)</u>	<u>(183,590)</u>
		<u><u>25,346</u></u>	<u><u>21,734</u></u>
Total property, plant and equipment		<u><u>58,097</u></u>	<u><u>21,734</u></u>

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
 ABN 53 699 012 017

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
NOTE 10: OTHER ASSETS			
CURRENT			
Prepayments		30,288	16,607
Accrued income		5,145	6,286
Other current assets		<u>250</u>	<u>6,108</u>
		<u>35,683</u>	<u>29,001</u>
NON CURRENT			
Prepayments		<u>-</u>	<u>1,712</u>
		<u>-</u>	<u>1,712</u>
NOTE 11: PAYABLES			
CURRENT			
<i>Unsecured liabilities</i>			
Trade creditors		25,239	9,422
Sundry creditors and accruals		<u>208,038</u>	<u>151,312</u>
		<u>233,277</u>	<u>160,734</u>
		<u>233,277</u>	<u>160,734</u>

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
ABN 53 699 012 017

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
NOTE 12: PROVISIONS			
CURRENT			
Employee benefits		<u>269,576</u>	<u>235,343</u>
		<u>269,576</u>	<u>235,343</u>
NON CURRENT			
Employee benefits		<u>236,141</u>	<u>162,946</u>
		<u>236,141</u>	<u>162,946</u>
(a) Aggregate employee benefits liability		<u>505,717</u>	<u>398,289</u>
NOTE 13: OTHER LIABILITIES			
CURRENT			
Grants received in advance		<u>1,081,416</u>	<u>625,222</u>
		<u>1,081,416</u>	<u>625,222</u>
NON CURRENT			
Other non-current liabilities		<u>-</u>	<u>1,712</u>
		<u>-</u>	<u>1,712</u>
NOTE 14: RETAINED SURPLUS			
Retained surplus at beginning of year		289,937	182,222
Net surplus for the year		<u>76,573</u>	<u>107,715</u>
		<u>366,510</u>	<u>289,937</u>
NOTE 15: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS			
(a) Operating lease commitments			
Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements:			
Payable			

The operating leases include a 5 year lease entered into on 21 June 2017 for the use of a printer and a 3 year property lease commencing April 2018.

NOTE 16: EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

There has been no matter or circumstance, which has arisen since 30 June 2018 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (a) the operations, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2018, of the company, or
- (b) the results of those operations, or
- (c) the state of affairs, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2018, of the company.

NOTE 17: ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The company is reliant on various government agencies for funding.

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
ABN 53 699 012 017

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The directors declare that:

1. there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
2. the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013*.

Director:



Graham Jenkins

Director:



Brent Goldman

Dated this 29th day of October 2018



PITCHER PARTNERS
ACCOUNTANTS AUDITORS & ADVISORS

Level 22 MLC Centre
19 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

Postal Address:
GPO Box 1615
Sydney NSW 2001
Australia

Tel: +61 2 9221 2099
Fax: +61 2 9223 1762

www.pitcher.com.au
partners@pitcher-nsw.com.au

Pitcher Partners, including Johnston Burke,
is an association of independent firms
Melbourne | Sydney | Perth | Adelaide | Brisbane

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
ABN 53 699 012 017
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Marrickville Legal Centre, "the Company", which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Marrickville Legal Centre, is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* "ACNC Act" and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* "the Code" that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Company's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2018, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.



Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Directors with Governance for the Financial Report

The Directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the ACNC Act and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Directors are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.



- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Mark Godlewski

Partner

30 October 2018

PITCHER PARTNERS

SYDNEY



Marrickville Legal Centre

Marrickville Legal Centre
338 Illawarra Road
Marrickville NSW 2204

t: 02 9559 2899
f: 02 9157 0397
e: info@mlc.org.au

www.mlc.org.au

ABN: 53 699 012 017

Editor
Annette van Gent

Front cover design
Kate Bellairs Design

Design
freshlab
www.freshlab.com.au

