



marrickville legal centre



annual report
20082009

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**Marrickville Legal Centre
acknowledges the Cadigal Wangal
people of the Eora Nation,
traditional custodians of the land.**

Chairperson's

Report

The 2008–2009 year has been one of market change for the Centre and its staff.

The Board had to oversee the end of MLC providing Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance at Newtown Local Court. That was tinged with considerable sadness: after a decade of successful input we were faced with a decision that meant inevitable redundancy for two of our most dedicated and long serving staff. A careful assessment by the Board of the new Court cluster for service provision showed that our resources could not stretch to confidently meet the demands of the expanded service with the Program funding. We are confident that clients at Newtown Local Court will be well served by the new service and will continue to have our support through the collaborative work we do with other services.

Many advances have been made in all areas of service delivery and they are highlighted in this report. Each area of service has been extremely successful in difficult times with truly star staff as you will find in reading the report. As always of course it is two steps forward and one step back. In this year's major calamitous step back backwards, the Centre and staff suffered the "Great Flood" not to be confused with the previous year's "Great Sewer System Collapse". This year (over a weekend of course) a water pipe (which runs vertically through a support wall on our floor) burst and eventually flooded the Centre and destroyed equipment, carpet, reception desk etc. After interminable problems – during which staff worked in amazing ways to ensure service delivery and client contact did not suffer, the Centre reopened. The staff found that the drying of the carpet had led to problems with noxious odours etc and insurance and indemnity difficulties began, requiring ongoing sensitive and persistent negotiations by the staff and board in order to resolve.

We have been fortunate to recruit a new Coordinator, Principal Solicitor and Financial Administrator and the Centre is well back on course at senior management level. The Board have appreciated their role and the otherwise stable staffing situation has been very helpful. For myself, I am astounded at the energy and willing input of the Board members that we have, and the ceaseless dedication they provide so often. I believe that stands the Centre in very good stead for the future and the inevitable changes it will bring.

John Gooley

**Marrickville Legal
Centre's 30th
Anniversary**



MLC Chairperson John Gooley, MLC Board Member Janet Loughman, and Dennis Roach from Legal Aid NSW, CLC Funding



Nick and Jaqueline Yetzotis



Christine Manolas, Dennis Roach, Legal Aid NSW, Pip Davis and Joan Jardine, Commonwealth Attorney General's Department.

See page 64 for more photos



Julia Murray, Elizabeth de Freitas, Michelle Williams, Jen Teh.



Lee Taylor and Ann Pridham

**Marrickville Legal
Centre –
Board Members
2008 – 2009**



John Gooley
Chairperson
Appointed 20th October 2008



Nick Yetzotis
Secretary
Appointed 20th October 2008



Janet Loughman
Appointed 20th October 2008



Michelle Williams
Appointed 20th October 2008



Rob Lake
Appointed 20th October
2008



Dianne Anagnos
Appointed 15th December
2008



Pat McDonough
Resigned 15th September
2008

Introduction

Thirty years ago a group of law students commenced a free legal advice service in a small office in Marrickville Town Hall. They identified a gap in the provision of legal advice in the area. The service was staffed on a voluntary basis and specifically targeted the local migrant community. The community response was overwhelming and so marked the creation of Marrickville Legal Centre (MLC), NSW's second community legal centre, in 1977, only 2 years after the commencement of the first, Redfern Legal Centre.

Marrickville Legal Centre's founding members were recently given the opportunity to revisit the many challenges associated with setting up the service at the Centre's 30th Anniversary celebration. In acknowledgement of MLC's humble beginnings, the occasion was held at Marrickville Town Hall on the 20th February 2009 - 30 years to the day MLC started. Over 150 people attended the 70's themed night including Joan Jardine from the Federal Attorney General's Department and Dennis Roach from Legal Aid NSW. Also in attendance were a number of local politicians, representatives of peak bodies, local community organisations and private law firms, as well as past and present MLC volunteers, staff and board.

Whilst the 30th Anniversary was a great celebration of MLC's work in the community, 2008/2009 was not without its testing moments. Staff worked through a tough period dealing with the effects of a burst pipe, which flooded the Centre and caused a disruption lasting over 5 months. Despite the ordeal service provision continued almost uninterrupted, even whilst the carpet and furniture were being replaced. The incident showing once again that

MLC staff are made of strong stuff having endured many months without a toilet due to plumbing problems only the year before. MLC is fortunate to have a team of experienced, knowledgeable and passionate people who make a difference delivering high standard legal, advocacy and information services no matter what happens!

Governance

The Centre is governed by a volunteer Board that assumes responsibility of governance for the organisation. The following Directors were elected unopposed at the 2008/2009 Annual General Meeting :

John Gooley (Chair), Nick Yetzotis (Secretary and Public Officer), Rob Lake, Janet Loughman and Michelle Williams. Dianne Anagnos was elected in December 2008. Patricia Mc Donough resigned in September 2008 due to other commitments – the MLC Board and staff take this opportunity to thank Pat for her many years of dedication and loyalty to the Centre.

Throughout the year the Board continued the complex process of updating the Centre's Constitution and examining the current Memorandum



Carmel Tebbutt, Member for Marrickville and Linda Burney, Minister for Fair Trading meet with MLC Coordinator, Frederica Mantel



MLC AGM October 2008

dum of Association, to ensure that the revised charter reflects MLC's future direction. We thank Rachel Lauanders and Darren Fittler of Gilbert & Tobin for their invaluable assistance throughout this process.

MLC is a Company Limited by Guarantee and we note that we have complied with all reporting requirements for Legal Aid NSW, Office of Fair Trading, ASIC and ATO.

A one-off grant of \$59,961 from the Commonwealth Attorney General's department allowed an extension of the Centre's legal service throughout the year, particularly in the area of employment law. We thank the AG's

department and Legal Aid NSW for supporting MLC with this much-needed funding.

Marrickville Legal Centre catchment area profile

Marrickville Legal Centre's catchment area covers the following local government areas: Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Marrickville, Strathfield, Bankstown, Sutherland Shire, Kogarah, Auburn, Hurstville, Rockdale and Canterbury.

According to the June 2009 Housing NSW Rent and Sales Summary, some of the highest rent increases in Sydney occurred in these areas. In the

Canada Bay area alone, rents increased by 10% for three bedroom houses. These increases adversely affect the most disadvantaged in our community and impact on other areas of their life.

From its inception MLC has always provided free interpreter services to clients. In 2008/2009 the Centre utilised the Telephone Interpreting Service on 143 occasions and arranged interpreters for face-to-face contact on 125 occasions. Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Arabic and Greek were the most commonly used languages during this period. MLC continues to have the highest rate of interpreter use of all the generalist community legal centres in NSW.

General Legal Service (GLS)

In September, we welcomed Nassim Arrage's appointment as Principal Solicitor, as a permanent addition to the general legal team. Over the past year the number of clients assisted increased, with employment issues being the most prevalent. A program of volunteer paralegal and PLT placements was instigated, assisting the team with legal research and analysis. The team developed community legal education workshops, on a range of topics such as Victims Compensation and Legal problem-solving, which proved to be so popular that an additional workshop was run during Law Week.

Children's Legal Service (CLS)

The Children's Legal Service had another successful year assisting young people under 18. The new Outreach service at Homebass Youth Centre in Bankstown has enabled young people in the area to access free legal advice and it is a credit to the CLS team that a great deal of trust has been gained within that community. The



MLC 30th Anniversary invitation



MLC information stall at Marrickville Road Fair

CLS, in conjunction with the Youth Justice Coalition, contributed to several significant submissions including the Green Paper into Homelessness and the NSW Law Reform Commission on the Review of Penalty Notices.

Inner West Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service (IWTAAS)

After a long period juggling locum workers, the IWTAAS team achieved a greater level of stability at the end of the 2008/2009 when Julia Murray was made a permanent member of the team. The IWTAAS looks forward to taking advantage of the constancy of workers for future planning and development for the service.

NSW Office of Fair Trading is yet to release their recommendations following the review of tenancy services. The IWTAAS expects to see significant changes to the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 when it is introduced to Parliament later in the year. These changes follow a consultation process, which generated over 1000

responses and included a detailed submission from the IWTAAS.

Minister Linda Burney and State Member Carmel Tebbutt attended the Centre in September for a cheque presentation following our successful tender, funding the IWTAAS program for a further three years.

Newtown Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (NWDVCAS)

The NWDVCAS provided support, information and referrals to women seeking Apprehended Violence Orders (ADVOs) at MLC for over thirteen years. Throughout this time Toni Brown, our Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Access worker, saw many changes including the service changing its name from Court Assistance Scheme to Court Advocacy Service so as to better reflect the nature of the service.

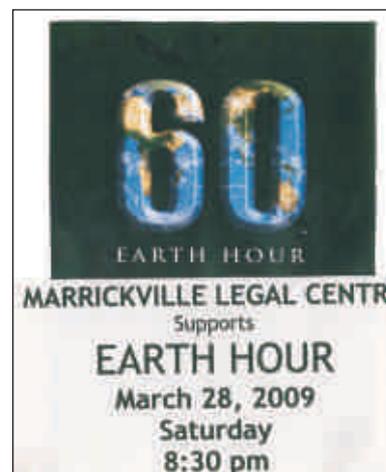
Following an increase in State funding, WDVCAP (the NWDVCAS funding body) called for tenders for

WDFCAS's to be located in an increased number of Courts. MLC carefully considered its position and did not tender for the new mega-service covering Newtown, Balmain, Waverly and the Downing Centre Courts. This resulted in the closure of NWDVCAS in June 2009 and the service's much-valued staff, Lee Taylor and Toni Brown, being made redundant. We take this opportunity to thank all the NWDVCAS workers, Lee Taylor, Toni Brown, Trieste Corby and Christine Smith, for their commitment to the service and for the many great achievements of NWDVCAS over the years.

At the end of June 2009 we were awarded funding for a 12 month pilot project, the Domestic Violence Pro-Active Support Service (DVPASS). The new service is funded by the Office for Women's Policy and administered by the Department of Environment and Climate Change. It is anticipated that the service will begin operating in September 2009 and will continue MLC's long-term commitment to assisting survivors of domestic violence.

Administration

In 2008/2009 most of our computers were upgraded and we thank our IT specialist, Glenn Kennedy, for his work and staff for their patience dur-



Staff participated in EARTH HOUR

ing this process.

Two of the Centre's unsung heroes are members of the administration team, Maria Elena Ang, our Information and Referral Officer and Linda Wall, our Financial Administrator. The Centre relies on Maria's extensive community knowledge, assistance with client enquiries and support and supervision of volunteers. Linda's efficient management of MLC finances ensures the Centre runs smoothly and we thank Maria and Linda for their ongoing good work. Thanks also to our Auditor, Sandra Grolmus, for conducting the 2008/2009 Audit.

Volunteers

MLC operates with the benefit of an enthusiastic team of front desk student volunteers and evening advice volunteer solicitors. Training and orientation sessions for law students were held in July 2008, December



2008 and March 2009. Individual orientation sessions were also held throughout the year when needed. The Student Volunteer Manual was updated twice during this period. We sincerely thank all our volunteers for choosing to give their time to MLC as we would not be able to provide the current level of services without their assistance.

Training

Several staff members attended the annual National Association of Community Legal Centres Conference in Darwin in September 2008.



Flooding at Centre

The Conference offered informative seminars on topics such as: exploring a Human Rights Charter for Australia, Anti-Discrimination Law and Pro Bono Partnerships. Staff also attended a successful internal team-building workshop to consolidate the new team. I attended a 2-day Leadership training course organised by CLCNSW and an Introduction to the CTTT presented by the Office of Fair Trading.

Inner Sydney Group (ISG)

The ISG (comprising the four Coordinators of Inner City, Redfern CLC and Kingsford CLC) met regularly to discuss current issues and plan relevant training for solicitors such as the workshop on Predatory Lending held in May 2009. I would like to thank Helen Campbell (Redfern), Anna Hartree (Kingsford) and Eleanor Barker (Inner City) for their support and cheerful encouragement.

Networking

MLC has developed sound relationships with our funding bodies, Legal

Aid NSW and the Office of Fair Trading, and acknowledges the contribution of Federal and State government funding through the Community Legal Service Program (CLSP). We also work extensively with local community organisations, State and local government and private law firms to ensure integrated service delivery.

Community development

We held information stalls and distributed translated brochures at events such as Marrickville Road Fair, Dulwich Hill Fair, Ashfield Carnival of Cultures, International Women's Day and Senior Citizens Week to name a few.

The Centre operates successfully due to the passion and commitment of the MLC Board, staff, volunteers and pro bono law firms and the trust we have gained from the community we serve. Thank you for another great year!

Frederica Mantel, Coordinator

Legal Team**Permanent and Fixed Term Staff**

Nassim Arrage	Principal Solicitor
Margaret Martin	Generalist Solicitor (p/t)
Lisa Woodgate	Generalist Solicitor

Casual Staff

Megan Cameron	Evening Advice Supervisor
Anne Pridham	Generalist Solicitor

Children's Legal Service**Permanent and Fixed Term Staff**

Katrina Wong	Children's Solicitor
Gemma Lardner	Paralegal

Tenancy Team**Permanent and Fixed Term Staff**

Eloise Parrab	Tenant Advocate (p/t)
Elizabeth de Freitas	Tenant Advocate (p/t)
Felicity Flanagan	Tenant Advocate (p/t)
Julia Murray	Tenant Advocate (p/t)
Alex Azarov	Tenant Advocate (p/t)
Sarah Drury	Tenant Advocate (p/t)
Rafael Mazzoldi	Tenant Advocate (p/t)
Sophie Farrell	Tenant Advocate (p/t)

Casual

Paul Ahern	Tenant Advocate
Katherine Boyle	Tenant Advocate

Newtown WDVCS**Permanent and Fixed Term Staff**

Lee Taylor	Coordinator (p/t)
Toni Brown	CALD Access (p/t)
Christine Smith	Assistant Coordinator/ Administration Assistant (p/t)

Casual

Trieste Corby	Assistant Coordinator / Administration Assistant
Jacqueline Lord	Administration Assistant

Administration**Permanent and Fixed Term Staff**

Frederica Mantel	Centre Coordinator
Maria Elena Ang	Information & Referral Officer
Linda Wall	Financial Administrator (p/t)

Casual

James Martin
Olivia Lovell
Hugo Unwin
Colin Hesse
Louise Coory
Katherine Boyle
Natalie Koslov

Marrickville Legal

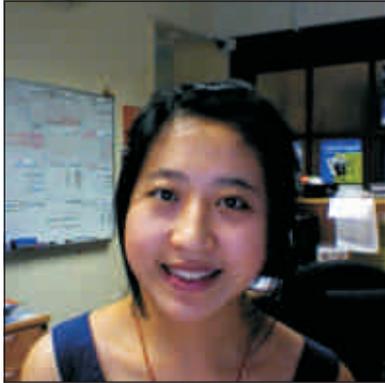
Centre –

Daytime

volunteers

2008 – 2009

Abu Bangura	Kim Nguyen
Agne Ratomskyte	Lara Jare Piercy
Alexandra Graham	Linton Teoh
Alice Xiao	Louise Zhao
Allison Smith	Martin Barker
Alysha McKenzie	Min-Joo Kim
Andrew Luboski	Neil Joshi
Angela Huang	Ningji Hu
Angela Vo	Olga Constatinova
Angus Conroy	Opal Wu
Anita Sundaram	Phoebe Finch Martin
Anna Chochula	Richard Lee
Bonita Ko	Rosana Quach
Brigid Dixon	Sarah Hambly
Cay Lynn Ng	Sarah Wang
Christine Le	Sarah Yifan
Daniel (Soo-jin)	Sean Rudder
Daniella Levot	Sonia Lor
Dawoud Ayache	Stephanie Lau
Diana Bey	Stephen Hui
Edward Chee	Sung-Gu Lee
Felix Hang	Teresa Marise
Gemma Lardner	Thao Tran
Gene Michelle	Todd Wu
Han Yong	Warren Oakes
Hanna Bang	Wen Yang
Harjot Kaur	Winnie Ma
Hiranya Perera	Yin Chiew
Hyun-Tae Choi	Zheng Wang
Jacinta Zhang	
James Gard	
Jenna Leo	
Jennifer Stanton	
Jessica Manno	
Judy McLallen	
Kevin Chau	



Sarah Yifang Wang

Sarah Yifan Wang

I have found volunteering at Marrickville Legal Centre for 9 months a truly rewarding experience. Studying a double degree in Law can be stressful at times, especially when drowning in a sea of confusing law readings. But luckily for me, my experience at the Centre really helps me to see the links between textbook law and the real life legal practice.

I feel extremely fortunate to be able to gain valuable experiences and insight into a legal practice that handles a great variety of legal issues. I also feel proud of being a volunteer in an organisation of dedicated and compassionate people who are committed to serving the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in our community.

I would strongly recommend all law students to participate as a volunteer for a Community Legal Centre like Marrickville Legal Centre. It is definitely a great opportunity for you to put into practice the knowledge you have acquired in the classroom.

Sonia Lor

I have been volunteering at the front desk at Marrickville Legal Centre since mid-2008. When I first started I often felt confused and nervous when a client approached me with a legal problem. However, with the help and support of staff I soon gained confidence. When I made mistakes, they would always point them out and explain; when I was uncertain, they would provide guidance; and when I did a good job, they would express their appreciation.



Sonia Lor

My work at MLC has become more and more satisfying as my understanding of its mission, culture and people has developed.

Everyone at MLC is very understanding, approachable and generous to help and share information. Indeed, I think the best part of MLC is its people (and its cakes when there are special occasions!). This is a great experience and I would recommend it to any law student considering practical work experience.

Dawoud Ayache

My experience with Marrickville Legal Centre has been memorable. Each phone conversation, each face-to-face consultation, is a challenging and informative experience. I find the greatest satisfaction from knowing that each client leaves having had the opportunity to tell his or her story. I feel extremely fortunate to work with such a diverse staff, whose work ethic and professionalism is of such a high standard. I believe it is the Centre's commitment to helping those most in need that drives the dedication of the staff from day to day.



Dawoud Ayache

I am proud to be involved with an organisation that, since it was formed, has played such a crucial role in facilitating access to legal justice for some of the most disadvantaged and marginalised individuals within our community.



Andrew Luboski

Andrew Luboski

I am in my second year at Marrickville and volunteering here has driven home to me the disparity between the abstract legal ideals we learn at University and the far more human role the law plays in peoples' everyday lives. Working at Marrickville has also taught me how important community legal centres are, not only to provide services to people who would not otherwise be able to access them, but also in reducing the anxieties people experience when involved in the legal process. The friendliness and professionalism of staff at Marrickville ensures that excellent advice is provided and creates a working environment that is thoroughly rewarding and enjoyable.

James Gard

When the phone rings, equal measures of apprehension and anticipation grip you. Some calls are simple, easily dealt with, and an appointment made amid profuse thanks. Others are more complex and require you to untangle a complex web of legal and social issues. I volunteered to help out at Marrickville for much the same reason as my younger colleagues, combining a desire to help out my community with a desire to put a practical edge on my legal training. As one of the older volunteers I thought I could bring a fair amount of personal experience to the job, and yet every day I find something new to learn.

Linton Teoh

Learning law at university rarely allows one an insight into how the law actually functions and affects the lives of everyday people. Working at Marrickville Legal Centre for the last few months has given me an understanding of the broader application and effect of the law. More importantly, it has opened my eyes to the diverse range of services available to clients in areas such as tenancy, family law, children's legal matters, employment and discrimination.



Linton Teoh

Not only has working at MLC provided me with this invaluable experience, but I also feel that the work I do at the front desk really does matter. Even if we aren't the lawyers who provide the legal advice, we play our part in making sure that those who need our help get it as efficiently and quickly as possible. Admittedly, there can be difficult times; but then there are other times when helping a client with a serious matter can make your day, knowing that the help you've provided them will have a positive impact.

From my very first orientation at the centre, I have been supported and assisted in learning about how to assist our clients. I am proud to count myself as one of the team at MLC.

Paul Ahearn
 Dianne Anagnos
 Joanne Amdreolas
 Karlie Andic
 Hugo Aston
 Maryanne Atalla
 Sarah Awad
 Mimi Barbaro
 Adrian Barwick
 Galina Barrett
 Fatma Bazzi
 Sandra Berghofer
 Angelo Bistolaridis
 Lucy Boyle
 Louise Buchanan
 Elizabeth Bushby
 Clare Cahill
 Anne Callaghan
 Rachel Callinan
 Catherine Capelin
 Karen Chapman
 Zhan Chiam
 Lien Choi
 Yvonne Chong
 Andrea Christie-David
 Bill Clarke
 Catherine Capelin
 Monika Ciolek
 Louise Coory
 Joe Daniel
 Jamie Darams
 Anne Day
 Manoj Dias-Abey
 Marie Delaney
 Jessica Dolan
 Michael Duong
 Michael Easton
 Robert Eaves
 Danielle Fasi
 Louisa Fitz-Gerald
 Daniel Flemming
 Leah Georgakis
 Sarveswari Gopalakrishnan
 Michael Green
 Sarah Griffiths
 Erin Gough

Nadya Haddad
 Evan Hamman
 Rob Hamper
 Rebecca Haynes
 Lachlan Hespe
 Linh Sy Ho
 Philippa Hofbrucker
 Lachlan Innes
 Sean Jolly
 Alexandra Jones
 Naomi Jones
 Roneel Kamiya
 Chris Kane
 Matthew Karpin
 Ahrani Kathir
 Daniel Kelly
 Nick Kelly
 Catherine Kelso
 Joseph Kennedy
 Andrew Kinton
 Georgja Koutts
 Jo Kwan
 Kaitlin Foxall
 Aziza Lai
 Veronica Lavulo
 Ben Lau
 Christine Lloyd
 Chris McArdle
 Margaret McCue
 Angela McClung
 Caitlin McLoughlin
 Winnie Ma
 Elizabeth Magill
 Emma Maiden
 Chloe Mason
 Ben May
 Claudia Mitchell
 Rod Mitchell
 Tibby Morgenstern
 Christine Moriaty
 Wayne Morrison
 Adam Moulton
 Ruth Mugo
 Phillip Ng
 Dominic Nguyen
 Scott Nicholson

Marrickville Legal

Centre –

Evening Advice

volunteers

2008 – 2009

Carley Nylan
 Nigel Oram
 Amit Pall
 Arthur Paras
 Shalini Perera
 Rhonda Pietrini
 Dean Peters
 Anne Pridham
 Aditi Rao
 Rosa Raco
 Jacqueline Ramsay
 Jacqueline Rennie
 Giovi Sarkisian
 Kaye Sato
 Sarah Sherbourne-Higgins
 Brae Sinclair
 Allison Smith
 Parama Srikanth
 Andrew Stewart
 Duncan Stewart
 Elizabeth Szabo
 Lucy Tang
 Suzy Tay
 Noel Tin
 Jacqueline Townsend
 Suraya Turk
 Anurag Verma
 Adam Walkaden
 Joe Weller
 Alisa Wicks
 Marina Wong
 Christina Wu
 Nick Yetzotis
 Irfan Yusef

Evening Advice

Volunteer Voices



Lien Choi

Lien Choi

Evening Advice Solicitor

Being a newly admitted solicitor with limited practical experience, I welcomed the opportunity to participate in the program. In March 2009, before embarking on giving my own advice to clients, I attended the Centre each Thursday night to observe other volunteer solicitors and barristers advise clients on employment law issues. This experience has been invaluable because it has allowed me to learn the different styles of giving advice from experienced lawyers, who have also been very helpful in guiding me and answering any questions I had.

The opportunity over the last few months to observe has given me the confidence to now advise clients myself. I am looking forward to not only giving advice but to contributing to the Centre's work by assisting those in the community who need help and legal advice in solving their employment law problems.



Jessica Dolan

Jessica Dolan

Evening Advice Volunteer Solicitor (Employment Law)

I have been volunteering at Marrickville Legal Centre for just over 12 months. I really enjoy giving employment law advice during evening advice sessions. I have seen a range of diverse matters which I may not have otherwise come across in my day to day work.

I am extremely proud to volunteer at MLC and have found the experience thoroughly rewarding. Assisting the MLC solicitors with the great work they do for the local community is an honour. Even after a really busy day at work, I look forward to coming in to give evening advices. I hope to continue my association with MLC throughout my professional career.

Wayne Morrison

Evening Advice Volunteer Solicitor (Family Law)

Ten Years of Tuesdays

As one of Marrickville Legal Centre's longest serving volunteer solicitors, I take this opportunity to look back at a decade of advice nights. I started volunteering at Marrickville in 1999. I had just commenced working in private practice at Ashfield, and having volunteered at other legal centres in other locations, I decided to continue the tradition. For the majority of clients, the Centre is the gateway to the legal system, and many absorb the advice that is given. Some clients are happy with a general advice about rights and obligations under the family law system. Others want you to redraft their final submissions for their High Court Appeal which they are preparing themselves.

At Marrickville, the scene is more like an ER triage scene: you only see the client once and their problem needs to be assessed and dealt within a short space of time. The volunteer does not take on casework and the client is unlikely to return. The vast majority of clients thank you for your time and happily accept the advice or referral to the next legal port of call. Others are disappointed that the injustices that they see in the system are not magically cured by you. Volunteering benefits those persons who slip through the system and they are the reason why I will be in the Tuesday night trenches at Marrickville for the next decade!

Catherine Kelso

Evening Advice Volunteer Solicitor



Catherine Kelso

I have been volunteering since July 2008 and I find the experience very rewarding. I am dealing with a range of issues affecting vulnerable members of the community who would otherwise be unable to access legal services. I get such a feeling of satisfaction from volunteering. I can recommend volunteering, especially to those in the corporate and government sectors, in order to gain a unique insight into the issues facing the broader community.

Louise Coory

Practical Legal Training placement

I have recently completed my PLT at MLC and would highly recommend it to any law students interested in gaining experience in a broad range of legal issues facing members of the community. My experience has shown me how vital community legal centres are in helping those who cannot afford to pay for legal services. The staff at the centre, both lawyers and non lawyers, are passionate about helping people who would otherwise be unable to access any legal services. They do their best with the limited resources available to them.

The lawyers have to be a Jack of all trades when it comes to the law, as clients come in wanting help with all sorts of legal problems, from traffic fines to being unfairly dismissed from their jobs to being a victim of crime. I have particularly enjoyed helping the lawyers with their cases. I have also helped out at reception which has certainly been an eye opener in terms of the volume of clients the centre helps and sadly the number who are referred elsewhere often due to clients needing services that the centre doesn't have the resources to provide. There are a number of volunteers at the centre, both solicitors and students and everyone is really committed to helping others. When a client says "Thank you" for helping them, that's all the reward you need.

Beverly Belista

Practical Legal Training placement

Volunteering as a paralegal for Marrickville Legal Centre has provided me with a different experience to the corporate environment I have been accustomed to. It has been a humbling experience to be part of an organisation that helps those within our community who do not have easy access to legal advice



Beverly Belista

or are not aware of their legal rights. It has been rewarding to be able to give back to the community, while learning the practical applications of the law and working with like-minded people. I am also continually learning to communicate more effectively and to practice greater patience and skill in dealing with people from all walks of life. I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to work in harmony with my ideals and to work on various tasks that serve a cause. There comes great satisfaction with even the smallest task or result.

General

Legal

Service

Marrickville Legal Centre was founded in 1979 and has provided a General Legal Service (GLS) in the local government area of Marrickville for 30 years. The Centre has since expanded and now covers 12 local government areas in the inner west, south and south west of Sydney with a combined population of over one million people.

The General Legal Service provides free legal advice, undertakes casework, provides community legal education, and participates in law reform and policy development.

Our Clients

The GLS has a diverse client base consisting of people from a broad range of cultural and linguistic backgrounds including Aboriginal and Torres Islander people. People who have difficulty accessing legal services due to mental illness, disability, and/ or socio-economic disadvantage, also regularly use our services.

During the last financial year, the GLS provided legal advice and assistance on approximately 1334 occasions. Advice was provided either face to face, by telephone or in writing.

Our outreach advice service at St George Migrant Resource Centre continued to enable the GLS to extend the provision of legal advice and information to people in the St George area.

Our Staff

This year the GLS has been staffed by:

Nassim Arrage: Principal Solicitor, who commenced employment in September 2008

Lisa Woodgate: Generalist Solicitor (Full-time)

Margie Martin: Generalist Solicitor (Part-time)

Anne Pridham: Locum Solicitor

Megan Cameron: Locum Solicitor (Evening Advice Supervisor)

The Evening Advice Service

The GLS continues to provide evening advice on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The advice sessions are staffed by volunteer solicitors, barristers and front desk assistants and are supervised by solicitors from the Centre.

The evening advice sessions provide advice and information to clients in order to assist them to solve their legal problem/s. Direct assistance was

also provided, for example, by explaining the meaning of a legal document, drafting court documents and letters for clients to use

Gilbert + Tobin continue to assist the evening advice service by generously providing two solicitors every Tuesday. We thank them for their continued support.

The advice sessions aim to provide information, advice and basic assistance on a range of matters, including:

- Minor criminal matters
- Employment law
- Discrimination
- Family law
- Victims compensation
- Credit and debt matters
- Consumer complaints
- Motor vehicle property damage
- Complaints about professionals and government organisations

The GLS solicitors follow up matters referred to them by the evening volunteers and in some cases provide on-going assistance or representation. The decision to provide on-going assistance to a client is made if the GLS has the capacity to take on another matter and if the needs of the client and the nature of the legal problem warrant our involvement.

From February 2009 onwards, we have observed a dramatic increase in the number of requests for employment advice. In 2007/2008 we gave 165 advices in relation to employment compared to 245 in 2008/2009. This represents an increase of almost 50%. We attribute this increase to the loss of confidence in the economy and a resultant decline of opportunities in the job market.

We also continue to see an increase in the number of advices we give related to fines and road and traffic offences. In 2007/2008 we gave 89 advices in relation to fines and 129

in relation to traffic offences. In 2008/2009 we gave 108 advices in relation to fines and 160 in relation to traffic offences. This represents an increase of more than 20% in the number of advices relating to fines and increase of almost 20% in the number of advices relating to road and traffic offences.

Evening advice volunteers

Our volunteer solicitors, barristers and front desk assistants provide an invaluable service volunteering their time to assist clients who attend our evening advice sessions. Without the commitment and dedication of evening advice volunteers the Centre would not have been able to meet the continuing demand for our services.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to our wonderful team of volunteers.

A full list of volunteers who have

provided their time on the evening advice roster during 2008/2009 can be seen in this report. A special mention should go to our long-term volunteers who have demonstrated such a high level of commitment to the Centre.

Daytime appointments

Daytime appointments at the Centre are offered on alternate Tuesday and Thursday mornings to women who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and clients with victim's compensation claims. Daytime appointments are also offered to clients who have difficulty attending the Centre for Evening Advice.

Legal Outreach Clinic at St George Migrant Resource Centre

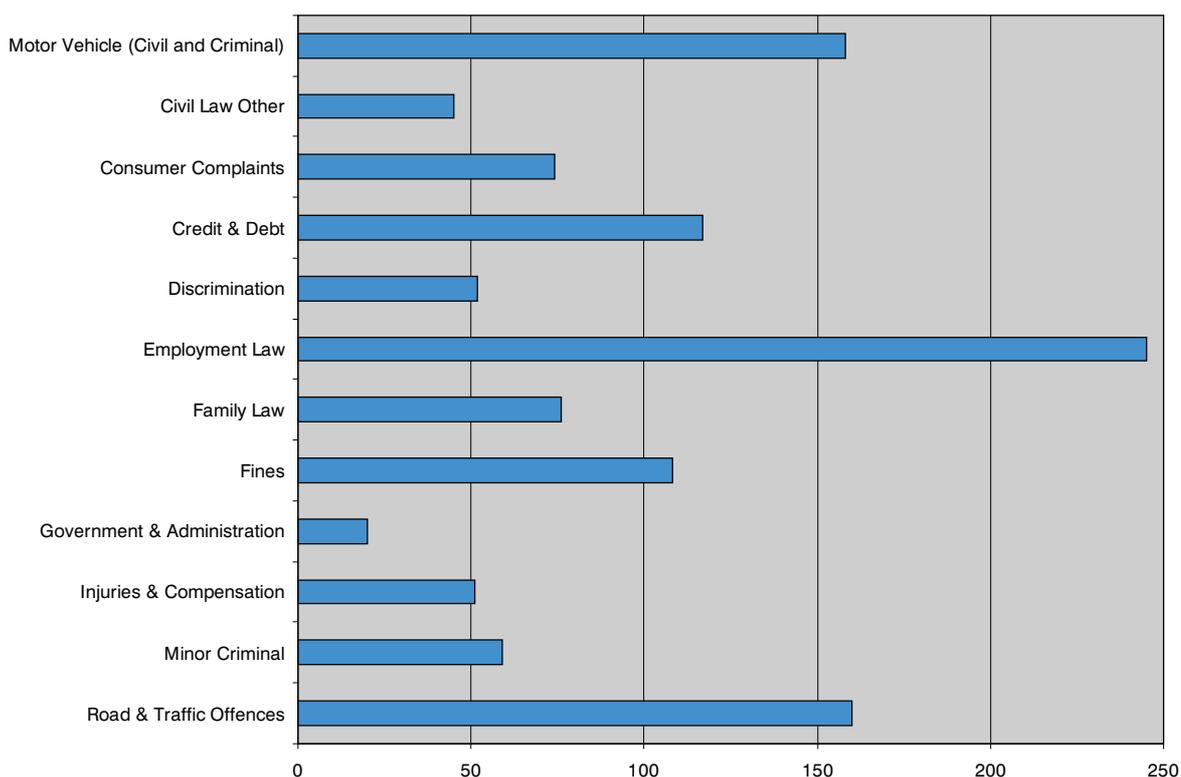
The GLS outreach at St George Migrant Resource (SGMRC) entered its fourth year of service to the local

ethnic communities of the St George area.

Demand for the service remains strong since it began in February 2005. The outreach advice service has increased access to legal assistance for residents of the St George area, particularly those who experience disadvantage, those from linguistically and culturally diverse background, people with disabilities, the aged and single mothers who have difficulty travelling to the Centre in Marrickville to attend an evening advice session.

The outreach service operates on Monday afternoons on a fortnightly basis at the SGMRC in Rockdale. Four appointments are made for each session. Advice is also provided on a drop-in basis where time permits. Information, advice and referral was provided on various legal problems including: domestic violence, complaints about police and

Legal Matter Types handled by General Legal Service 2008/2009

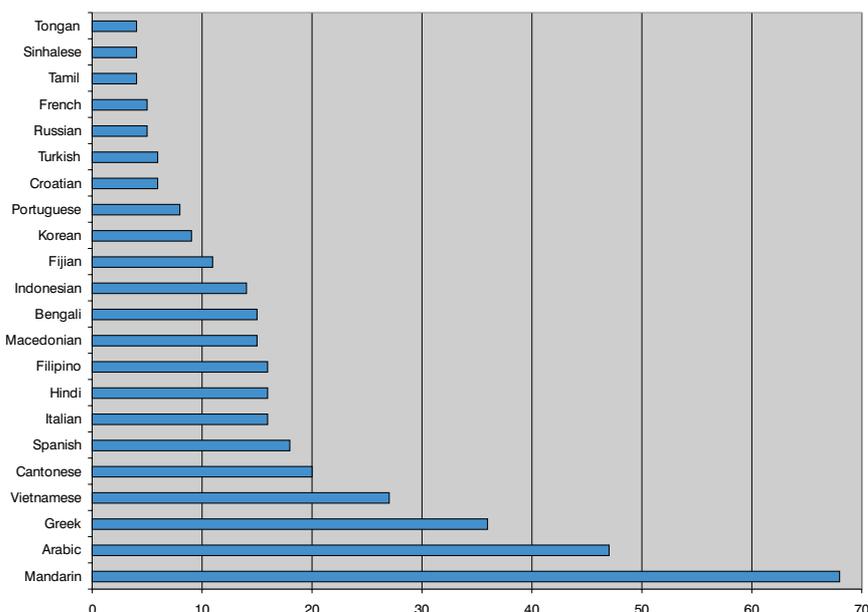


other government bodies, discrimination, fines, credit and debt, motor vehicle property damage, employment law and family law.

when providing legal services. It actively pursues policy and law reform activities in conjunction with providing advice and casework assistance.

During the year the GLS provides other community legal education sessions to community groups and workers, client groups and our volunteers.

Main Language Spoken at Home by GLS Clients (after English)



Casework

The GLS continues to provide assistance and representation to clients with various legal problems including finance and debt, victim's compensation, unfair dismissal and discrimination.

At times, we are able to secure representation for some clients through the pro-bono programs of some of the larger private law firms. We are grateful for the continued assistance of Maurice Blackburn, Clayton Utz, Blake Dawson, Holding Redlich and Gilbert and Tobin who have accepted our referrals particularly in the areas of victims compensation, employment and discrimination law.

Policy and law reform

The GLS works with reference to the Strategic Service Delivery Model

We also engage in policy and law reform in collaboration with the Combined Community Legal Centres Group, the National Association of Community Legal Centres and all our other networks.

Community Legal Education

Twice a year the Centre holds a Law for Community Workers series of workshops designed to inform community workers on legal process, changes to the law and legal issues faced by clients. In the last financial year, the GLS conducted the following workshops:

- Family Relationship Centres, Family Law and Domestic Violence
- Legal Problem Solving and Referral
- Older People and the Law
- Victims Compensation

Students on Practical Legal Training placements and Volunteer Paralegals

The GLS solicitors would not be able to assist as many clients without the support of student on practical legal training placement and volunteer paralegals. These students provide a wide range of paralegal services including legal research, file administration, drafting letters and documents and client liaison. In 2008/2009, these were:

- Martin Barker**, Volunteer Paralegal
- Beverly Belista** Practical Legal Training
- Louise Coory** Practical Legal Training

Acknowledgements

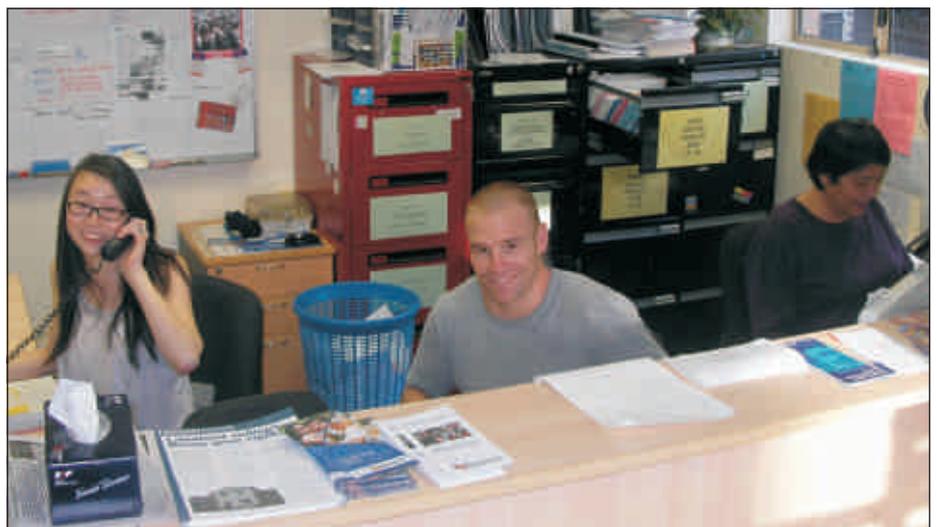
We would like to acknowledge and pay special tribute to the solicitors and barristers who have donated many hours of pro bono assistance to the Centre and its clients over the year. In particular we would like to thank:

- John Gooley**, Solicitor and MLC Board Member
- Robert Eaves**, Solicitor
- Ingmar Taylor**, Barrister
- Danny Gilbert**, Gilbert + Tobin
- Michelle Hannon**, Gilbert + Tobin
- Tamara Simms**, Gilbert + Tobin
- Charles Beasley**, Gilbert + Tobin
- Roslyn Cook**, Gilbert + Tobin
- David Hillard**, Clayton Utz
- Belinda Wilson**, Clayton Utz
- Melissa De Leon**, Clayton Utz
- Anne Cregan**, Blake Dawson
- Amelia Davis**, Blake Dawson
- Matt Alexander**, Blake Dawson
- Rachel Bernasconi**, Blake Dawson
- Julia Sutherland**, Blake Dawson

Investment Scam

Our clients are members of the Fijian community who were introduced to an investment advisor through the pastor of a Fijian church in Sydney. The investment advisor secured bank loans for these “investors” by fraudulent means and in some cases by falsifying bank loan applications and investment contracts. Investments were made in woodlots and some property such as home units. Investors were told that no additional money had to be paid to reduce the loan amount. They were told that cash crops, such as carrots, cauliflowers, tomatoes and cabbages, were to be grown between the rows of tree plantings and sold in the marketplace to pay the principal and interest on the loans. Typically, investors were told that as low-income earners they would receive a high tax rebate, as an investor in an agricultural scheme. The advisor then referred the investors to a tax accountant who would prepare tax returns for the woodlots investors to claim the tax rebate on their woodlot investments. They were told that any tax refunds would be used to pay down the investment in the woodlots.

Some of our clients have loans in excess of \$60,000 and are currently unemployed. The investment advisor was prosecuted by ASIC but the loans remain. PILCH and Holding Redlich Lawyers are assisting us in an attempt to have the claims of the borrowers set off against their loans.



The reception desk at Marrickville Legal Centre

Victims Compensation – Lack of corroborative evidence

Our 35 year old client was a victim of child sexual abuse perpetrated by her step-father over several years. She reported the abuse to police several times when she was a teenager but was not taken seriously. In the mid 1990's, when she was 17 years of age, she gave a detailed statement to police. The police failed to properly investigate her allegations and then “lost” her statement. She tried to re-activate the sexual assault investigations many times but the police consistently failed to pursue the matter.

We were able to establish from police COPS records that she had indeed reported the abuse to police some 10 years earlier but no action was taken. Our client was awarded \$38,000.

Employment I

Our client is a Spanish speaking man who was employed as a delivery driver. It was an expectation of his employment that he would carry excess loads, between 10 to 40 kgs, often up numerous flights of stairs, without any assistance. Our client had expressed a concern to his employer about the occupational and health issues involved with carrying such heavy loads. In response to this

concern the employer viciously assaulted our client and terminated his employment. Our client made an Application for relief from victimisation and an unfair dismissal claim to the New South Wales Industrial Relations Commission. Our client was represented on a pro bono basis by Rachel Bernasconi of Blake Dawson, who represented our client at two conciliation conferences. The mat-

ter was ultimately resolved with a positive outcome for our client including: an additional payment of compensation in respect of the termination of his employment; payment of unpaid wages and leave; return of property withheld by the employer; and provision of a statement of service to assist him in finding alternative employment.



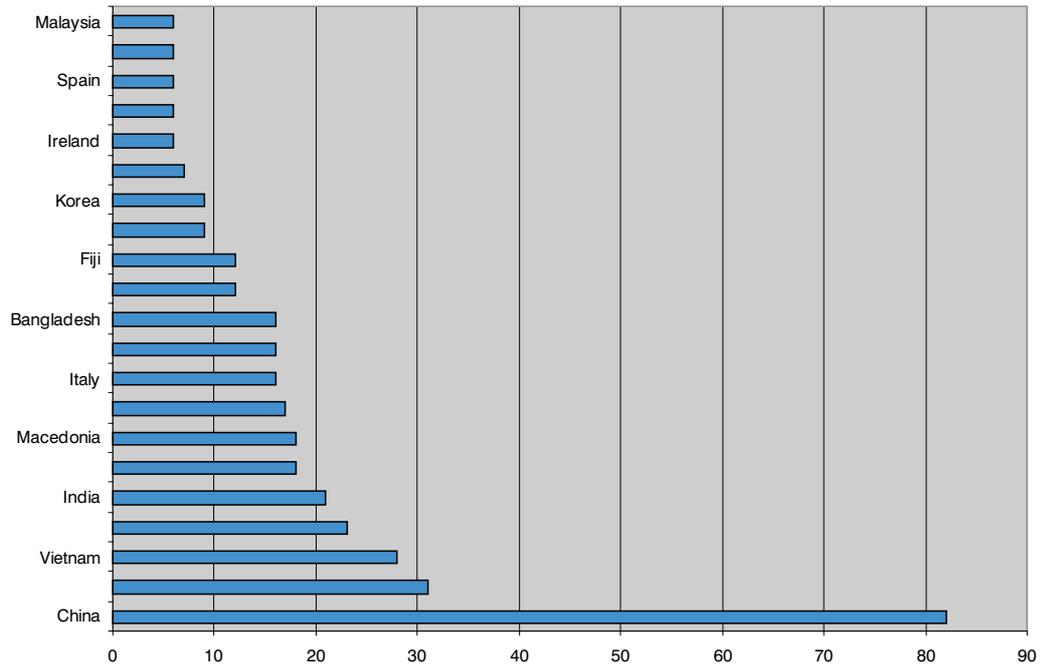
MLC solicitors Lisa Woodgate and Nassim Arrage at the Ashfield Carnival of Cultures

Employment II

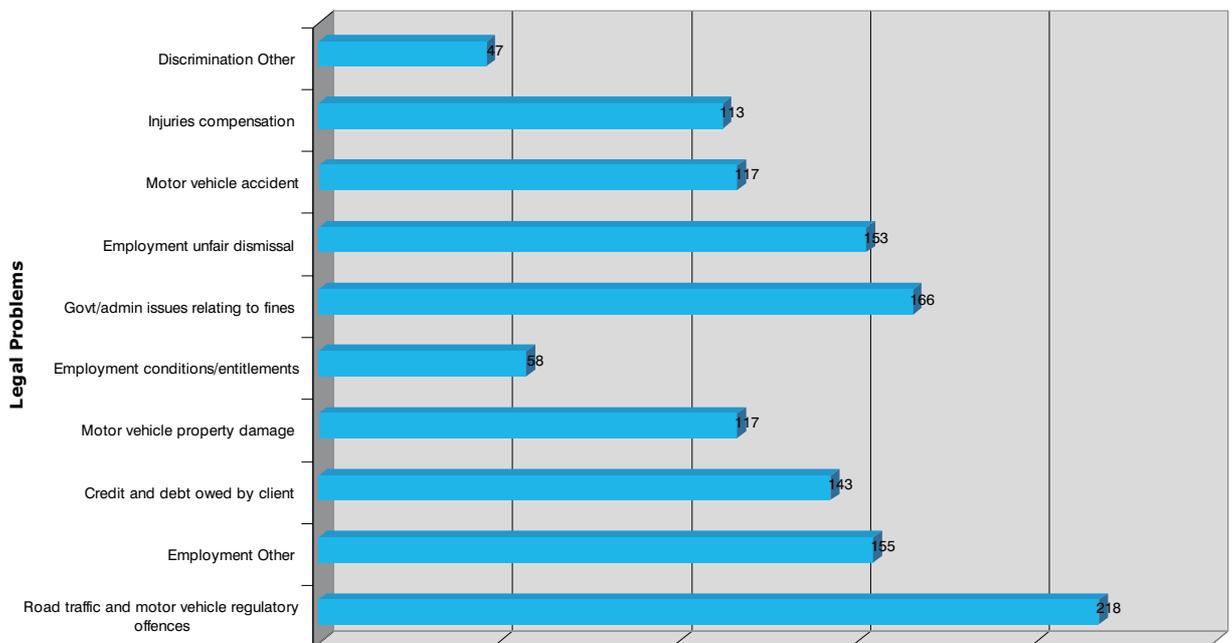
Our client is a 65 year old Arabic speaking man who had worked as a security guard for the same employer for the past 11 years. Our client had his employment terminated after he made a formal complaint to the Australian Taxation Office about the late payment or non payment of employer superannuation guarantee and employee salary sacrifice superannuation contributions since 2006. Our client filed an unlawful dismissal application with the Australian Industrial Relations Commission. Due to language problems

and lack of understanding of the process our client experienced great difficulty representing himself at the conciliation. Our client then sought assistance from the Centre and elected to bring proceedings in the Federal Court. Our client was represented on a pro bono basis in the Federal Court by Ingmar Taylor, Barrister, State Chambers. Our client's application for unlawful termination and the payment of unpaid wages and entitlements was successful.

GLS Clients Country of Birth (after Australia)



Top Ten Legal Problems



Children's Legal Service

The Children's Legal Service (CLS) is an integral part of the Marrickville Legal Centre and has provided a state-wide service to children and young people in NSW since 1979. The CLS was initially set up to meet an identified gap in service delivery for young people under the age of 18 and is funded with the limited resources of the Centre's core Legal Aid grant.

There are only a handful of solicitors in the NSW community legal sector who provide advice to children and young people and we are very proud to have the state's only designated Children's Legal Service at Marrickville Legal Centre.



Staffing and Volunteers

Katrina Wong was the full-time Children's Solicitor who was assisted by a seconded solicitor from Corrs Chambers Westgarth (Corrs) on a once a week basis. The Corrs secondees for 2008-2009 were Caitlin Fegan, Clara Nguyen and Kieran Egan.

Volunteers

The CLS has been lucky to have been supported by the enthusiastic and dedicated assistance of many law student volunteers. These volunteers provided essential support in administration, legal research, policy and law reform projects (though the Youth Justice Coalition) and general legal support. Many thanks go to all the student volunteers, in particular:

Ning Ji Hu (PLT student from November 2008 – March 2009)

Gemma Lardner (Bankstown Youth Outreach and Youth Justice Coalition)

Christopher Yee ("Rights Here, Right Now" Youth Forum)

Louise Coory

Student Profile – Gemma Lardner

When I started my law degree in 2006 I grudgingly thought I should try and get some legal experience to stick a few good-looking lines on my CV. Now in my fourth year, I am still here and my experience at Marrickville Legal Centre has been so much more than that. As all daytime vollies do, I started on the front desk, then had a more hands-on role working for the principal solicitor and have found my new home in the Children's Legal Service, working with Katrina. In my time working in the CLS I have had the opportunity to participate in an extraordinary number of different activities and types of work, from the Youth Justice Coalition meetings, to working on

client files, from researching for policy submissions to helping young people once a fortnight at Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service. In my work with Katrina I have been given opportunities that I would not have found elsewhere, for example running a group session on police powers for the young people at Bankstown. I have learnt so much, not just about the law, but also about people, communication, and the value of bribery with free chocolate when you want a group of teenagers to participate in a workshop! The Children's Legal Service and Marrickville Legal Centre as a whole



Gemma Lardner

is a fantastic place to get experience and learn about how the law affects people on an everyday basis and I hope to continue to be involved with the Centre in the years to come.

What is the Children's Legal Service?

The Children's Legal Service (CLS) provides information, advice and legal representation for young people up to the age of 18 years. Our clients experience a range of legal problems including criminal matters, fines, victim's compensation, rights in education and employment, debts, complaints about government bodies, and other civil proceedings.

The CLS is also committed to providing a strategic and responsive com-



Volunteer Christopher Yee, Corrs Secondee solicitor Kieran Egan, MLC Children's solicitor Katrina Wong and paralegal Gemma Lardner

community legal education program. We work closely with various youth services and provide regular workshops, talks and Q & A sessions for young people, as well as community sector workers working with young people. We also contribute to the Centre's Community Legal Education program.

The CLS plays a key role in responding to policy and law reform issues affecting young people. This is undertaken through the usual work of the CLS, as well as through participation in the Youth Justice Coalition and local Youth Interagencies.

Homebass Youth Outreach Legal Service - Bankstown



The CLS established a new youth outreach legal service in August 2008 in the area of Bankstown as part of an ongoing strategic plan to

expand accessible legal service delivery to young people. The Bankstown area was identified as a high need area given the concentrated population of young people from different cultural backgrounds, and the lack of accessible legal services available. Developed through a partnership between the CLS and the Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service (BMYS), this free fortnightly drop-in service provides young people under the age of 25 with access to lawyers for legal advice, information or referrals for any legal issues they may be facing.

The youth legal drop-in service operates out of BMYS' drop-in centre, the "Homebass Youth Cafe", in Bankstown from 3:00-5:30pm on a Tuesday afternoon. The outreach first began on 12 August 2008 and is staffed by Katrina Wong, the Corrs secondee solicitor and a student volunteer.

The CLS works closely with the staff at BMYS, particularly with the street workers, who have been pivotal in referring young people to the drop-in service. This demand for general advice and the reluctance of many young people to see a lawyer on their own also led to the introduction of a program of community legal education seminars (CLEs), where general legal information was

provided to young people in an informal, group atmosphere.

Since beginning the outreach:

We have provided information and advice to over 40 young people;

Provided CLEs on police powers, transit officers powers and laws relating to Learner and Provisional licence holders

A wide range of legal issues have been raised, which reflect the variety of young people that have utilised the Homebass youth legal outreach service. Fines were the number one issue the young people we have helped have faced. The next most common were criminal matters, which accounted for 28 percent of the advices we have provided. Other recurring legal problems include debt, police issues, sexual assault, harassment and traffic matters.

Of the young people who use the Outreach service:

- Seventy five per cent came from non-English-speaking backgrounds;
- Over forty per cent have no income at all, nearly one third rely on government income support and approximately twenty percent earn their own money;
- Nearly half no longer reside with their family and of those that have moved out, nearly one third are homeless.

The outreach has been a great success, with many marginalised young people building a rapport with the CLS and feeling comfortable to seek legal assistance.

The Homebass youth legal outreach service would not have been possible without the initiative and cooperation of Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service, particularly Diana Smith (former project officer) and Lynda Lam. Special thanks must go to the BMYS' streetworkers, Julie

Kapsalides and Andrew Palamene, who are our referral point for many of the young people in the Bankstown area. We look forward to another year of working with BMYS in 2009.

Particular mention must also go to the Corrs secondee solicitors (Caitlin Fegan, Clara Nguyen and Kieran Egan) who assisted in providing legal advice, and to student volunteer Gemma Lardner for her commitment and assistance to the youth outreach service.

Secondment to the Aboriginal Legal Service

In March 2009, Katrina Wong commenced a secondment with the Aboriginal Legal Service in Parramatta. This secondment was arranged to increase the knowledge and expertise



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, previous Corrs secondee solicitors, Monali Pandey, Terri Bell, Clara Nguyen and MLC children's solicitor Katrina Wong

Many thanks to the solicitors at the Parramatta Aboriginal Legal Service's Office who have provided support and guidance in this secondment, in particular Harry Marraoui and Sergio Dogulin.

Clara Nguyen and Kieran Egan. Each of these solicitors had carriage of significant cases and provided invaluable support and assistance in the advice and casework of the CLS. The Corrs pro bono program was an integral part of setting up the Homebass Youth Outreach Legal Service in Bankstown, where they have assisted in providing advice to young people, as well as conducting CLEs in a challenging and robust environment.

They have contributed to significant law reform initiatives through the Youth Justice Coalition (YJC), including legal research and submission writing, particularly with the "Rights Here, Right Now Youth Forum". Our thanks to Caitlin, Clara and Kieran for all their hard work and dedication to the CLS – their commitment and assistance has been invaluable in providing much needed support to the CLS in delivering legal services to young people. Many thanks also to the Corrs Chambers Westgarth Pro Bono committee, particularly Dixon Header in continuing to provide ongoing support of the service. We look forward to another year of working with Corrs!

Community Legal Education

The CLS conducted a wide range of



The staff at homebass youth outreach

of the CLS in providing advice and representation in criminal matters, and also in providing greater access to Aboriginal young people. The secondment was on a once-a-week basis and involved Katrina representing Aboriginal young people at Parramatta Children's Court. It has been an extremely challenging and rewarding experience, with the CLS benefiting from the additional expertise stemming from this secondment.

Corrs Chambers Westgarth Pro Bono Secondment Program

In 2007, Marrickville Legal Centre welcomed the partnership of Corrs Chambers Westgarth (Corrs), which provided a solicitor to assist with the work of the CLS on a once-a-week basis.

In 2008-2009, we had the pleasure of having three Corrs secondees work with the CLS: Caitlin Fegan,

community legal education workshops, seminars, Q&A's and presentations on issues relating to police powers, street rights, victim's compensation, fines, graffiti law and criminal law, including the following:

Providing regular legal education workshops for young people at Rosemount Youth and Family Services day program; Marrickville Youth Resource Centre's 'Links to Learning' Program; at the Bankstown Youth Outreach and at a variety of youth refuges

Responding to requests for workshops for youth workers and young people from local youth interagencies, youth services and TAFE

Presenting a session on young people and bail at the Youth Accommodation Association's sixth annual conference "Stop Survive Revive"

Participating in the Centre's CLE program by presenting workshops to community workers on young people and group offences and traffic offences.

National Human Rights Consultation - "Rights Here Rights Now" Youth Forum – 21 May 2009

In response to the Australian government's announcement of the com-

Profile – Kieran Egan

Since the end of the March 2009, I have spent one day a week at MLC on secondment from Corrs Chambers Westgarth, assisting the Children's Solicitor, Katrina Wong.

Having briefly worked as a volunteer in the community legal sector prior to joining Corrs, I was enthusiastic about my involvement with MLC. However, the wide range of matters and projects that I have been fortunate enough to be involved in have far exceeded my expectations of what I had hoped to gain from my secondment.

During my all-too-short time with MLC, I have assisted Katrina in providing advice to young persons on a wide variety of legal issues, both at MLC and through the fortnightly outreach service at Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service; been involved in case work relating to victim's compensation, fines, criminal and debt issues; contributed to the submission made to the Australian Human Rights Commission on behalf of around 100 young people through my involvement in the

'Rights Here, Right Now' youth forum organised by MLC and other local community groups; and been involved in preparing and presenting CLE sessions, including a memorable high-energy presentation at the Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service that has changed forever my idea of community legal education.

My involvement in the wide range of work that Katrina undertakes has been a great learning experience, both in terms of awareness of the legal issues facing young people but also experiencing first-hand the great work that Katrina and MLC do in advising, educating, and assisting young people. I have also enjoyed sharing in the fantastic outcomes that MLC has achieved for many of these young persons.

Not only have I gained valuable experience from my time at MLC, but I have had a lot of fun gaining it. The only downside to my secondment is that it will have to come to an end!

menement of a human rights consultation, the YJC consulted with both young people and services working with young people, on how

the human rights of young people should be protected in Australia.

Given the necessity for written submissions and the lack of means for young people to meaningfully participate in the process, it was decided that the YJC submission would be compiled based on the following processes:

1. The "Rights Here Right Now" Youth Forum

A youth forum was held on 21 May 2009 at Marrickville Town Hall and involved the participation of 93 young people from schools, TAFEs and youth services from a diverse range of backgrounds. They included young people between 13-18 years of age who came from



the Bankstown, Canterbury, Marrickville, St George and Inner City areas.

The forum included an introduction from the Human Rights Commissioner, Graeme Innes on the importance of rights as they relate to young people, followed by theatre

ville Legal Centre, particularly Christopher Yee

2. Community Legal Education on Human Rights at Youth Interagencies

Community legal education (CLE)



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Trevor Parkee, MLC Children's solicitor Katrina Wong, Human Rights Commissioner Graeme Innes, young person Heather Dunn

group performances on human rights issues relating to the five following topics:

- Police and young people;
- Public space and young people;
- Education and young people;
- Fines and Debt;
- Cyber-technology and young people

These topics were identified in a 2007 youth forum in Marrickville as the main issues that young people were concerned with and were consequently used as topics for discussion in this forum. The day was a huge success and would not have been possible without the assistance of:

- Charlie Coorey, Youth Development Officer, Marrickville Council
- Trevor Parkee and staff, Marrickville Youth Resource Centre
- Barnardos – Belmore office
- Michelle Lampis, Headspace
- The Australian Human Rights Commission
- Staff and students from Marrick-

on human rights and the consultation process was also provided to a number of Sydney Youth Interagencies by the Public Interest Advocacy Centre and Marrickville Legal Centre. CLEs were conducted at:

- Marrickville Youth Interagency
- Canterbury Working With Youth Network
- St George Youth Interagency
- Liverpool Youth Workers Network
- Mount Druitt Blacktown Youth Services Network
- Blue Mountains Youth Network
- Penrith Youth Interagency
- Macarthur Youth Services Network
- Hills Youth Services Network

Case studies collected from these CLEs and from members of the YJC formed the basis of the YJC submission to the National Human Rights Consultation Secretariat.

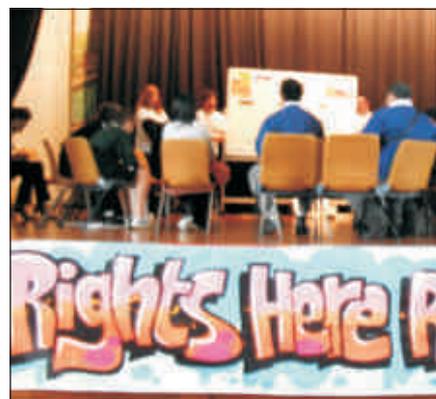
Law Reform and Policy Work: Youth Justice Coalition

The Youth Justice Coalition (YJC) is a network of youth workers, children's lawyers, policy workers and academics working to promote the rights of children and young people in NSW. The YJC is convened by Katrina Wong and meets on a bi-monthly basis. We would like to thank the generosity of Gilbert + Tobin and Blake Dawson who jointly host the YJC meetings and allow us the use of their venues.

This year has seen a very busy year with the YJC, with the carrying out of our own research in relation to bail and young people (detailed below), as well as the active participation in various law reform initiatives including:

Submissions

YJC submission on the Green Paper into Homelessness (available at:)



Session from Youth Forum

YJC submission to the Woods Inquiry into Child Protection Services (available at:)

YJC submission to the NSW Law Reform Commission on Review of Penalty Notices

YJC submission to the National Human Rights Consultation "Young People and Human Rights" dated 15 June 2009.

Law Reform Fines

During the year we have continued to be involved with fines reform, both as a Centre and through our involvement with the Youth Justice Coalition. The YJC's previous submissions on fines have led to our involvement with the Attorney General's Department in relation to the amendments to the Fines Act. This has involved the YJC being consulted and sitting on the Committee that has drafted the guidelines for the newly created "Work and Development Orders".

Juvenile Justice Issues – Bail, Overcrowding of detention Centres and Police

The last year has seen a renewed focus on juvenile justice issues in NSW, particularly with the changes to bail legislation which has made it more difficult for young people to make an application for bail. This, combined with a proactive approach by police to monitor young people on bail, has led to an overcrowding crisis in the State's detention centres.

The YJC has been active in developing a law reform project focusing on young people's access to accommodation in the juvenile justice system, particularly with young people being placed in custody due to a lack of accommodation and DoCS assistance. The project also addresses issues relating to changes in the NSW Bail Act and police practices.

A bail survey was developed by the YJC, and Katrina Wong, accompanied by student volunteers, sat in Parramatta Children's Court for one week in August 2008, and again for one week in January 2009, to record information and collect data on every young person who was in custody.

The preliminary results from the survey have provided interesting statis-

tics in relation to the type of bail conditions imposed on young people, the nature of breaches that led to detention, and the court outcomes. Case studies were also collected in relation to a number of young people who were detained in custody due to lack of accommodation being available, or due to technical breaches.

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) has been significantly involved in this project and we would like to acknowledge the tremendous assistance of Brenda Bailey in developing and providing expertise with this project. We would also like to thank Professor Dianna King from Sydney University who generously assisted by providing advice on the survey format, and her analysis of the data.

It is anticipated that a report will be available by late August/early September in relation to this research.

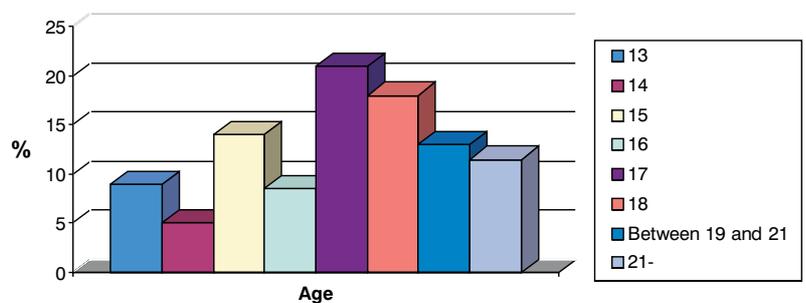
Department on the introduction Youth Conduct Orders in NSW

Media Work

The YJC have been active in highlighting issues relating to young people in the media, particularly in relation to juvenile justice. Katrina Wong was able to provide feedback on a couple of radio programs over the last year:

- Background Briefing (ABC – Radio National): "Hoons and Young Trouble Maker" – 7 September 2008
- The Law Report (ABC – Radio National): on powers of transit officers
- SBS TV's Living Black
- Journal article – Criminalisation of Homelessness (Katrina Wong, 'The Criminalisation of Homelessness: Bail and Young People' (2008) *Undercurrent* (Issue 1) 23.

Age distribution of young people using CLS



Consultations

Katrina continued to meet with various agencies on a range of issues on behalf of the YJC:

Meeting with the Director General of the Department of Juvenile Justice regarding young people and bail, homelessness, and overcrowding of detention centres

Consulting with the NSW Premier's

Conferences

As part of the YJC's ongoing work on homelessness and the juvenile justice system, Katrina Wong was invited to speak at the Youth Accommodation Association's annual homelessness conference "Stop Survive Revive" on September 2008. Katrina provided a session on "Bail and Young People – a new path to homelessness".

Childrens'

Legal Service

Case Studies

The CLS provides an accessible telephone and face-to-face legal advice and information service to young people and youth workers across NSW. The CLS is frequently used by young people, adults calling on behalf of young people and youth workers calling on behalf of their clients. Over 44% of the young people who used the CLS during this period were from a non-English speaking background and 12% were from an Aboriginal background.

Our casework is supported by private solicitors and barristers who provide pro bono advice and assistance in a variety of matters. We would like to thank Maurice Blackburn, and the pro bono coordinators at Blake Dawson, Gilbert + Tobin and Clayton Utz for all their assistance.

The CLS undertook a significant amount of casework during the past year. We provided assistance, advice and representation to young people in a variety of legal matters, predominantly in the areas of criminal law, fines, victim's compensation, complaints about police and young people's rights in public spaces. Some examples of our casework include:

Employment

Our client was the employee of a pizza chain. When he turned 17 he asked his employer pay him at the correct rate for his age and to provide him with regular pay slips. When the employer did not do this, the young person lodged a complaint with the Workplace Ombudsman. The Workplace Ombudsman found that our client had been underpaid and, as a result he received back pay for the whole period that he was underpaid. Immediately after this happened, the employer terminated our client's employment. Our client was already aware that the employer was training people younger than him to take over positions as they were cheaper to employ. Our client lodged an unlawful termination application at the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC). Julia Sutherland, Senior Associate with Blake Dawson, represented our client at the AIRC on a pro bono basis. The matter was resolved at conciliation, and our client was very happy with the positive outcome reached at settlement. We understand that our client's successful challenge of a major pizza chains age discrimination had made him a legend amongst his school peers.

Top ten legal problems in the Children's Legal Service

Type of Legal Problem	Percentage
Criminal	26%
Fines	15%
Credit and debt	12%
Other civil	12%
Motor vehicle / traffic offences	11%
Victims Compensation	9%
Domestic Violence	6%
Family Law	4%
Child Protection	3%
Employment	1.2%

Fines

We successfully represented two young sisters (14 and 16 years of age) in the Children's Court for train fines adding up to \$2200. Both sisters had been removed from their families by the Department of Community Services and had experienced homelessness. They accrued these fines as they had no money to buy train tickets but needed to travel by train to visit their family and go to school. We made annulment applications for both sisters and were successful in having all the fines dismissed in the Children's Court.

Victim's Compensation

We assisted a client in a victim's compensation application in relation to a sexual assault that occurred when our client was at school. Our client was seven years old at the time the assault occurred and suffered significant psychological harm as a result. We made submissions to the Victims Compensation Tribunal and our client was awarded \$27000 in compensation as a result.

Right to have correct information recorded

We assisted a young person in making an application under the Freedom of Information Act to amend her subject to a police search, where they found some condoms on her person. She had received these condoms from her youth service as part of a safe sex education campaign. Without the young person's knowledge and without asking her any questions about it, police made an official notation that she was involved in prostitution. A year later the young person was again stopped by police and asked if she was "still involved in prostitution". This is the first time she became aware of this reference. The young person was furious at this assumption by police and wanted to delete the reference to prostitution on her police records. We applied to police to have this reference deleted. The application was rejected in the first instance, but on appeal, we were successful in showing that there was no evidence to indicate that the young person was involved in prostitution and this reference on the young person's record was deleted.



MLC's 2008 Christmas card

Inner West

Tenancy Service

The tenancy service provides an advice and advocacy service to tenants and boarders and lodgers living in the following Local Government Areas: Marrickville, Ashfield, Strathfield, Burwood and Canada Bay.

The service also provides community education for tenants and community workers on a range of tenancy issues.

Tenancy Workers

The current members of the tenancy team are Elizabeth De Freitas, Julia Murray and Eloise Parrab.

Eloise Parrab was on maternity leave for most of the past 12 months. During this time the following locums assisted us and we thank them for their fabulous work:

- Alex Azarov
- Katherine Boyle
- Sarah Drury
- Sophie Farrell
- Natalie Kozlov
- Rafael Mazzoldi

The service said a sad farewell to Sarah Drury who headed off overseas in June. Sarah was a very valuable addition to the team using her skills and expertise in adult education to overhaul all of our community education resources.

Case work

The tenancy team provides telephone and face-to-face advice to

tenants on Monday through to Friday. In the past 12 months we advised 1399 people. Whilst the vast majority of those advised were tenants we also advised 30 boarders or lodgers during this period. Social Housing (Housing NSW and Community Housing) tenants made up 7.5% of all our calls. The remainder of those assisted were tenants in private rental. Twenty one clients identified as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

We provided 109 face-to-face advice sessions in the last 12 months and made 22 home visits to clients. We provided assistance in preparing for the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal to over 245 tenants and provided representation to 128 of them. We sent written information to 555 tenants as follow up to our advice.

Duty Advocacy

We continued to provide a Duty Advocacy Service at the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal during this period. This service operates on Wednesdays at the Sydney Registry. Advocates from all the Sydney TAAPs staff this service on a roster system. Our service provides an advocate once a fortnight. We have attended as Duty Advocates on 64 occasions and have found that the service has been very well received and utilised by tenants and CTTT staff alike. We are able to provide advice and information as well as negotiate on a tenant's behalf in conciliation and representation at hearings if required.

Tenants Union Hotline

We have continued to operate a shift once a week for the Tenants Union Hotline. The Hotline receives calls from tenants across NSW. During our shift on a Thursday morning, the volunteers provide information to tenants about their rights and re-

Thursday, June 25, 2009 VALLEY TIMES 5

Service is reaching out to more people

A HOUSING NSW outreach service is now open once a week in Marrickville, and the Newtown service has been extended to operate from once a month to twice a week.

Housing Minister and Minister for Western Sydney David Borger announced that Housing NSW is extending its outreach service in the inner west to be more accessible.

"Housing NSW tenants, prospective clients, the homeless and in particular the elderly and disabled will benefit from this service as there is no disabled access at the Broadway office," Mr Borger said.

The outreach Service at the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre will be extended from once monthly to twice a week, from 2pm to 4.30pm

every Monday and Thursday, and a weekly Outreach Service began in May at the Marrickville Town Hall, operating every Friday from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

"Staff from the Broadway Tenancy and Inner West Assessment Teams will be in attendance to answer all general inquiries where possible, assist with new applications and current tenancy issues," Mr Borger said.

Jula Murray, a Tenant Advocate from the Inner West Tenant Service, said more needs to be done to meet the needs of the community.

"There's a very strong need for public and social housing at the moment, we're seeing a lot of people and we'd like to see more government support for an increase in social housing," she said.



Elizabeth De Freitas at the Carnival of Cultures in Ashfield

sponsibilities and referral to their local tenancy advice service for detailed advice and advocacy.

Over this period we had a number of volunteers undertake the two-day training Introduction to Tenancy Advice provided by the Tenants Union. We would like to thank the following volunteers who have contributed to the Hotline over the last year:

- Alex Azarov
- Edward Chee
- Jo Groves
- Richard Lee
- Sung-Gu Lee
- Shane McGrath
- Mark West
- Shae

Community Legal Education

Sarah Drury has undertaken the role of running our Community Education sessions for the past 12 months. Sarah is currently studying a Masters in Adult Education so the tenancy team was very lucky to have her expertise.

We have been providing community education sessions for the following organizations: Orana Lodge, May Murray Neighbourhood Centre, Burwood AMES, Our Place, Jean's

Place, Petersham TAFE, Claffy House.

Sarah developed an excellent and popular Priority Housing Workshop for community workers. We have run this session for local community workers a number of times in the past 12 months and have received excellent feedback.

Policy Work

We made representations to Virginia Judge, the current Fair Trading Minister, in relation to the plight of ten-

ants affected by mortgagee repossessions. In particular, we drew her attention to a tenant who also happened to be one of her constituents in her electorate of Strathfield. The tenant had been given very little notice of the repossession of the rental property she had been leasing for around 6 months.

We were pleased when the government announced a bill to amend the current Act to give tenants far more notice and a rent free period to find alternative accommodation instead of leaving them at the mercy of banks in a situation that is not of their making.

We are still awaiting an announcement in relation to the NSW Government's review into the Residential Tenancies Act. We understand that when the changes are announced they will in fact be an entirely new Act.

The tenancy advocates continued to be involved in the Tenants Union working parties.

They were regular participants in the Boarders and Lodgers Action Group, Public Housing Issues Working Party and Tenancy Legal Working Party.



Tenancy Service staff members with Linda Burney and Carmel Tebbutt

Hotline

Volunteer

Voices

Hotline Volunteer – Sung-Gu (Daniel) Lee

You may be rubbing your eyes, dearly longing for the warmth of your bed or just staring off into an empty space. Either way you're waiting for a call. As you answer the phone with open ears and an eager pen, the caller will be oblivious to the fact that you are dressed in a suit or wearing your red underwear over your trousers. All they truly seek is for some professional assistance in their tenancy dispute. And their answer, fortunately/unfortunately, is you.

While speaking to you over the phone the caller will be relieved to hear the words 'yes we can help'. To my understanding there never was an episode where Superman had valiantly swooped down to resolve a dispute between a disadvantaged person and Housing NSW. Nor was there a movie on Batman's conquest over no-notice terminator Landlords. Thus, modern day problems need a realistic down-to-earth solution, which comes from the Tenant's Union Hotline Volunteer.

So after completing your training, you are now armed with the tenants'

rights manual, the Act, and the fact sheets. It may be quite daunting at first, yet it does become easier over time.

I started from clinging to every word of my trusty manual and constantly asking questions to my kind, and professional, supervisor to providing relevant information and valid referrals to clients.

This service enables us to directly serve the community by helping real people with real problems. This is in complete contrast to the "hands on approach" and "high level of participation" you may experience elsewhere, while stationed in front of a photocopier.

Overall, you face challenging and significant problems across the entire state of NSW, which is approximately 6 times larger than Gotham City (New York). So whether you are providing quality service to a family, or a wealthy landlord in tenant's clothing, to all those people out from the dusty outback to the cluttered back streets of Sydney, you are the Tenants' Union Hotline.

Vollie to staff member – Alex Azarov

My journey from a 'vollie' to the ranks of 'tenant advocate' began in November 2008. After the very enjoyable and informative tenancy boot camp (Tenants Union training sessions), I joined the Inner West Tenants Service team in a Hotline support role.

The initial 'vollie' experience is often referred to as a steep learning curve. It's one thing having a chat during training about Mr Smith's burst water main and the relevant legislation, but when Mr Smith is on the phone to you after spending the night in his bathtub that's when the real learning begins.

What is important about explaining something to a tenant is that you have to know what you're talking about. So with the superb support of my supervisor

Eloise and the rest of the tenancy team, I gradually built up a trusty trove of tenancy knowledge covering the routine as well as the wacky issues.

When the stars were in alignment, I was promoted to a tenancy locum position and began grappling with our often challenging casework. My new role allowed me to call up real estate agents and 'advocate' sternly on behalf of frustrated tenants. One day I had finished a very hectic duty advocacy session at the CTTT and took some time on the train ride back to reminisce. With all my new knowledge, skills and confronting experiences I couldn't believe that only a few months ago I had been nervous about picking up my first Hotline call!

A tenant received a notice to vacate her rented premises from the Sheriff's office, indicating that she would need to leave the premises in 10 days, in response to the Supreme Court issuing a writ of possession. The tenant's landlord had failed to pay his mortgage and failed to notify the tenant or the managing agent of the impending Supreme Court action. The tenant had no prior knowledge of these proceedings and faced the prospect of homelessness when the Sheriff was due to attend the premises the following week.

We made several attempts, in writing and by phone, to contact the solicitor acting for the mortgagee, in an attempt to negotiate additional time for the tenant to move, but received no response.

We made an urgent application to the Consumer Trader and Tenancy Tribunal under the rarely utilised S76 of the Residential Tenancies Act, asking for the tribunal to vest a ten-

ancy between the bank and the tenant.

The tribunal set down a hearing date for the day before the sheriff was due to attend. In conciliation with the bank's solicitors, we were able to negotiate a period of six additional weeks for the tenant to organise alternative accommodation. The bank agreed that this period would be rent free.

The Real Estate Agent who had been representing the landlord, when hearing about the agreement seemed unable to believe that the tenant could be permitted to live rent free and continued to harass the tenant, claiming she was in rental arrears.

The tenant subsequently found alternative accommodation and moved out of the premises, returning her keys to the bank's solicitors and ultimately made a successful claim on the bond.

A Housing NSW tenant contacted us and told us that Housing NSW had advised her earlier in the year that they would be compulsorily acquiring her premises for sale. They had made an offer of transfer to a near new two-story premises earlier in the year. The tenant had advised HNSW that because of her degenerative medical condition, she could not accept a two-story dwelling.

HNSW had recently offered her another premises in a sought-after location. The premises had a number of steps and the tenant had wanted her son to view the premises so she could discuss the impact of the layout with him. HNSW refused to give the tenant a key to show her son through. They applied significant pressure to the tenant to sign the new tenancy agreement. The tenant signed the new agreement. She was due to move in about 2 weeks. Her son had since seen the premises and lamented that she would have serious access difficulties due to the number of stairs.

We contacted HNSW and asked them to allow the tenant to remain in her current premises until a more suitable premises became available. Their response was 'too bad, she's signed the new agreement, so she has to take the place'.

We advised the tenant to issue a notice of termination for the new premises and return the keys immediately, citing the access issues as the reason. The tenant did so.

HNSW subsequently sent the tenant a letter advising her that she would be made further offers in the future, but would not need to move in this instance.

Tenancy

Case Studies

The situation is now so grave we are unfortunately experiencing incidents of rental rage — REPSW president Steve Martin

4 THE WEST COAST HERALD 03.09.2018

Rental rage rises

Kate Carr

THE Real Estate Institute of NSW is calling for action from NSW Premier Nicky Ryan over the rental crisis in Sydney.

A spokesperson for REINSW said the group was hoping to meet with Mr Ryan this week to discuss ways to increase the availability of properties by encouraging investors back into the market through reforms to stamp duty and land tax.

Real estate groups say the Scott Government has to act now because the affordability gap between rental and owner occupation is expected to significantly widen by 2021.

And this is not good news. Last week the REINSW issued a press release stating the rental crisis was so acute tenants were attempting to intimidate and even hit the agents.

"The situation is now so grave that we are unfortunately experiencing incidents of rental rage with real estate agents saying they are being abused and threatened," REINSW president Steve Martin said.

Rental rage may sound bad but it is tenants rather than agents who are the real victims of the rental squeeze, according to local tenant advocate Julia Murray.

Ms Murray, who works for the Inner West Tenants Service in Marrickville, told the renters that did manage to find a new home lived in fear of rental increases and evictions.

"I can tell you that in the previous six months, our calls have increased by 25 per cent," she said.

"We think we are getting more rent increase inquiries, and also more calls about Wday no grounds termination notices."

Ms Murray said her service advised tenants who were plagued with a rent increase to write to their landlord if they were unable to cope. Tenants could also contest the increase at the rental tribunal, she said.



Marrickville tenant advocate Julia Murray said the rent crisis has tenants living in fear. Photo: SIMON CHILLINGWORTH

A Housing NSW tenant contacted us to advise of an impending formal hearing for termination at the CTTT. Some months prior she had been charged by police with cultivation and supply of cannabis. As a result of these charges, Housing NSW had issued her a notice of termination for illegal use of the premises.

The tenant was a 45-year-old woman on Centrelink benefits with schizophrenia and a history of depression. She had lived in the premises for 19 years. Her 15-year-old son also lived with her. At the time of the police incident, the tenant's 25-year-old son had

also been living at the premises and had been involved with growing the cannabis. The tenant advised us that she 'self medicated' with the cannabis, as she had a lot of trouble sleeping and the medication she was proscribed made her feel violently ill.

Prior to the formal hearing at the tribunal, the tenant was found guilty of cultivation and (deemed) supply of cannabis.

At the tribunal we conceded that whilst there had been a breach of the tenancy agreement, that it was inappropriate to terminate the agreement in the circumstances of

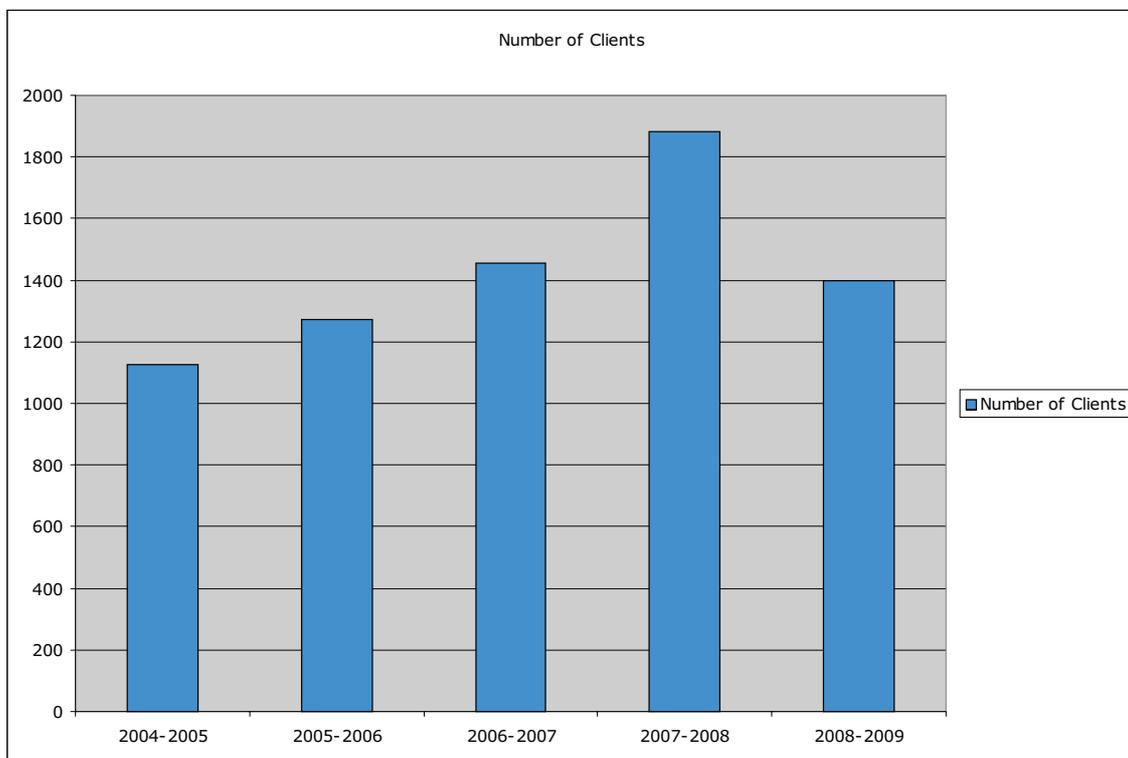
the case. We cited the tenant's poor health, her inability to afford rent in the private market, the responsibility of housing her 15-year-old son, the contrition she had shown and commitment to rectify the breach and her excellent tenancy history as reasons why termination should not be granted.

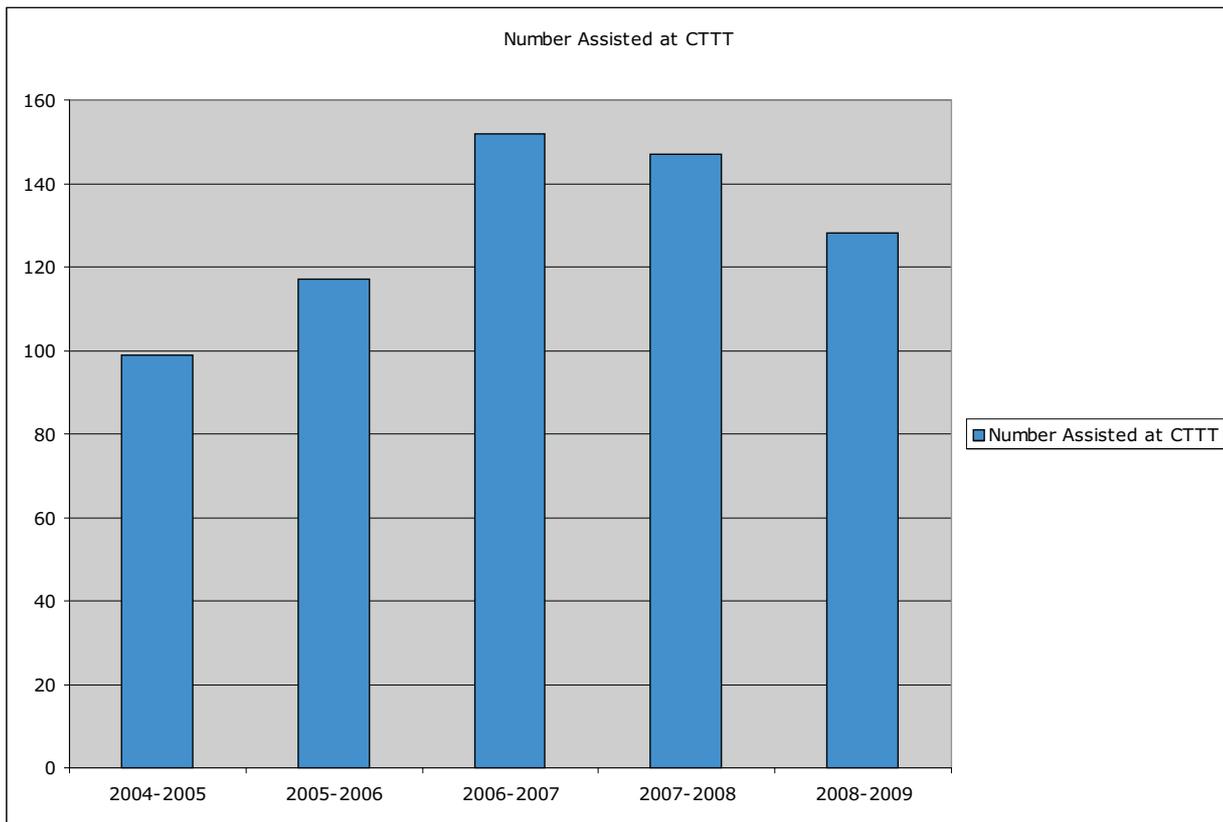
The tribunal found that in the circumstances it was inappropriate to terminate the tenancy agreement. The tenant was given a 6-month Specific Performance Order that she not use the premises for an illegal purpose.

Inner West Tenancy Service – Statistics

Enquiry Type	2007-2008	2008-2009
Termination	656	489
Repairs	385	261
Bond	271	251
Rent Increase	260	157
Compensation	210	115
Agreements	202	94
Access	112	88
Arrears	123	86
Share Accommodation	48	80
Department of Housing	67	55

Year	Number of Clients
2004-2005	1124
2005-2006	1274
2006-2007	1456
2007-2008	1884
2008-2009	1399





A tenant contacted our service a week after being illegally locked out of his house by his landlord after a four-year tenancy. He was in his late fifties, suffered from depression and had just recently started a casual job after a number of years of unemployment. After sleeping in a toilet block in a local park for a couple of days the tenant sought emergency accommodation with the Salvation Army. He then lodged an urgent application to the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal seeking a resumption of his tenancy and compensation for the landlord's actions.

At the hearing the landlord disputed the Tribunal's jurisdiction by claiming that he was boarder/lodger not a tenant. The matter was adjourned and the tenant was advised to seek advice before the next hearing date. He contacted our service that afternoon and after asking him a series of questions

about the specific nature of his tenancy we advised him that he had a very good case and agreed to represent him. We amended his application to include an order for non-economic loss compensation, provided particulars for his claim and evidence of his claim. We also wrote a detailed submission asserting jurisdiction on the basis that the landlord had not maintained dominion over the premises but rather had granted our client exclusive possession.

At the formal hearing the Tribunal member found that the Tribunal did have jurisdiction to hear the matter and awarded our client \$3,000 in economic and non-economic loss compensation for the landlord's serious breach.

The landlord was also ordered to allow our client access to the premises to recover his goods. In making her decision the member made a point of reprimanding the landlord for illegally locking out a tenant and denying him access to his medication when he was aware that he had a serious mental health condition.

Newtown Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (NWDVCAS), formerly Newtown Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme, has been funded by Legal Aid NSW and had service provided by Marrickville Legal Centre (MLC) since August 1996. Due to expansion of WDVCS's throughout NSW by Legal Aid NSW, provision of the WDVCS at Newtown Local Court will be by Redfern Legal Centre (RLC) from 1 July 2009. Legal Aid NSW has expanded service in the Sydney area to Balmain Local Court and amalgamated Newtown WDVCS, Redfern WDVCS and Waverley WDVCS to form Sydney WDVCS which will cover Balmain, Downing Centre, Newtown and Waverley Local Courts.

For almost 13 years NWDVCAS has provided ongoing assistance to women and children negotiating the judicial system in applications for Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (ADVO's), with information and referrals to legal and welfare agencies and acted as a point of reference for liaison with NSW Police as required. We acknowledge and thank Toni Brown for working as the initial Coordinator of the service and

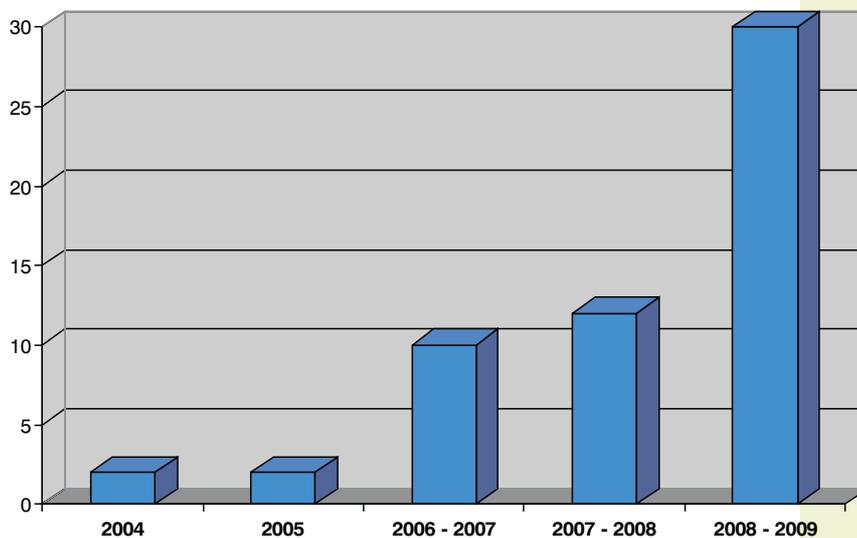
as the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Access worker over the last five years.

NWDVCAS has formed valuable partnerships with Local Courts, NSW Police, local community services, CLC's, legal firms and inter-agency collaborations such as: Marrickville/Leichhardt Domestic Violence Liaison Committee; Central Sydney Violence Against Women Reference Group (currently Central Sydney Violence Against Women Prevention Forum); Marrickville Council Multicultural Interagency Forum; Safe Relationships (Same Sex Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme) Advisory Committee and Sutherland Family Relationship Centre Community Reference Group. These relationships will be fostered with the amalgamated service of SWDVCS through the employment of four-year Coordinator of NWDVCAS Lee Taylor as an Assistant Coordinator.

The new service at RLC is supported by MLC and will continue to deliver a quality service to women and children focussing on empowerment and justice.

**Newtown
Women's
Domestic Violence
Court Advocacy
Service
(NWDVCAS)**

■ Hearings Attended



The 2008-2009 Year

Seconded Workers

NWDVCAS could not have provided the high level of specialised service and advocacy without the contributions made by seconded workers. NWDVCAS extends much appreciation to the various community services that have contributed to the provision of seconded workers at Newtown Local Court. Ongoing for 2008-09 have been Elsie Women's Refuge (Hazel Cowen; Michelle Carr; Claire Phillips); Jean's Place (Tracey Robinson, Sue Moya); Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre LWCHC (Mia Rose; Sharon Todd-Miller); May Murray Neighbourhood Centre (Jacqui Lord); Marian Centre (Stephanie Chow) and Marrickville Family Support Service (Anne Raw).

In addition NWDVCAS is grateful to the services (Elsie's, Jean's Place, LWCHC and Marian Centre) who have committed to ongoing support with SWDVCAS from July 2009.

Peer support meetings are conducted with seconded workers by NWDVCAS Coordinator to review process, inform of legislative changes, provide opportunity for feedback, networking and debrief as required.

Newtown Local Court

NWDVCAS has maintained a positive relationship with Newtown Local Court staff.

The approachable nature of the Court Registrar (Michael McTegg) and those who have relieved this reporting period (Paul West, Alexis Alebastair and currently James Porter) combined with the two-way communication which has developed, allows the NWDVCAS to function more efficiently in the provision of services to women and children. The ongoing weekly assistance

given to NWDVCAS by other court staff in getting through a busy list day as well as pre and post court support has been much appreciated.

Partnerships with Police

Partnerships forged between Newtown/Marrickville Local Area Commands and NWDVCAS are invaluable. The Domestic Violence Liaison Officers (DVLO's) from Newtown (Constable Steve Marsh) and Marrickville (Senior Constable Peter King) speak very highly of the services provided by NWDVCAS both in relation to pre-court discussions, the negotiations at court and

was successful in obtaining funding for twelve months to establish and evaluate a DVPASS with Leichhardt, Marrickville and Newtown Local Area Commands.

Jody Doualetas (City Metro Region Domestic Violence Coordinator, NSW Police) also provides NWDVCAS with a sounding board for process and policy within the NSW Police Force in relation to domestic violence. Jody will be assisting MLC with the implementation of the DVPASS which will channel referrals from general duties police who first attend a domestic violence incident to the WDV CAS at New-



post-court follow up (including hearing preparations). Whilst their roles are busy and challenging they constantly make themselves available to discuss issues with the NWDVCAS staff and seconded workers in relation to ADVO's and domestic violence issues that are impacting on our clients.

The DVLO's have provided ongoing support to the local Domestic Violence Liaison Committee and its support of a submission to Office for Women's Policy (Premier's Department NSW) for a Domestic Violence Pro-Active Support Service (DVPASS) by MLC. This submission

town and Balmain courts when there is an ADVO required.

Thank you to Newtown and Marrickville Local Area Commands for their ongoing commitment to support DVLO's and the WDV CAS's in an often chaotic and demanding environment.

Legal Representation

With almost 95% of ADVO applications seen by NWDVCAS taken out by Police, the provision of private representation by solicitors in ADVO matters has remained consistent with reporting period, averaging a

little over one per month (including cross applications and matters with female defendants).

Thankfully DLA Phillips Fox has continued to provide pro bono representation in ADVO hearing matters acting as solicitors instructing a barrister with consistently favourable outcomes for our clients. One particular application for an extension of a private ADVO was drawn out for some time due to the defendant's incomprehensible strategies. With many switching of courts, adjournments for paperwork to be obtained and finally a drawn out Appeal process from the defendant, our client was successful in extending her private ADVO for a further 18 months. The solicitor from DLAPF, Paul Flucco provided ongoing representation (or access to, through a Barrister) and support to our client throughout the ordeal.

On another occasion, thanks to Malleson Stephen Jacques, solicitor Greg Wee assisted NWDVCAS in providing legal representation (pro bono) for a woman as defendant in a cross application with an outcome of no order made against our client.

In addition, sincere thanks goes out to Rachael Martin from Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre who attended Monday list day each 5-6 weeks throughout most of 2008-2009 to provide legal advice and representation as required. Rachael's support of NWDVCAS has been invaluable. She has provided ongoing assistance as a contact for advice or court representation for a number of years.

Networks

NWDVCAS staff have worked constantly to build trust and ongoing relationships with Police, Newtown Local Court, Solicitors and Community Services which provide seconded workers for the roster as well as other services at MLC (general le-

gal service, children's legal service, tenancy service), local Domestic Violence Liaison Committee, Marrickville Council and the NSW WDVCS coordinator's network through:

Meeting attendance:

- NSW WDVCS Coordinator Network and coordinator workshops (quarterly);
- Leichhardt/Marrickville Domestic Violence Liaison Committee (LMDVLC) (monthly) – Lee Taylor;

Group – Lee Taylor

- Marrickville Legal Centre Board (quarterly) – Lee Taylor;
- Staff meetings at MLC (fortnightly);
- Involvement with 16 days of Activism to Stop Violence Against Women in raising awareness of White Ribbon Day by promotion throughout various networks and assisting with a Stop DV Day stall at Leichhardt Marketplace on 25 November 2008 in collaboration with other services associated



Magaret Martin, Eloise Parrab, Emma Keir and Toni Brown

- Central Sydney Violence Against Women Prevention Forum (quarterly) – Lee Taylor;
- Marrickville Council Multicultural Interagency (bi-monthly) – Toni Brown;
- Same Sex Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme (now Safe Relationships) Advisory Committee (Inner City Legal Centre) – Lee Taylor
- Sutherland Family Relationship Centre Community Reference

with LMDVLC.

- Developing, promoting and conducting Community Legal Education sessions at MLC: Family Law and Immigration.

The CLE's were attended by NWDVCAS seconded workers as well as workers from other community service organisations such as: Immigrant Women's Speakout; neighbourhood centres; Family Support Services; Wesley Mission; Barnardos; Smith Family; Salvation

Army; Creating Links; Police and other legal services

Leichhardt/Marrickville Domestic Violence Liaison Committee

As Treasurer on the LMDVLC, Lee Taylor completed a submission to VPCU for \$1,000 funding for 16 Days of Activism Against Domestic Violence October 2008. LMDVLC utilised this funding to hold an information stall at Leichhardt Market Place on 25 November 2008.

In addition the LMCVLC supported the submission by MLC to the Office for Women’s Policy for DVPASS project and the committee made a submission to the Violence Prevention Coordination Unit in response to the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Strategic Framework (March 2009) with compilation and considerable contribution by NWDVCAS Coordinator.

CALD Specialist Worker Toni Brown participated in:

Marrickville Council Multicultural Interagency (MMIA) meetings;

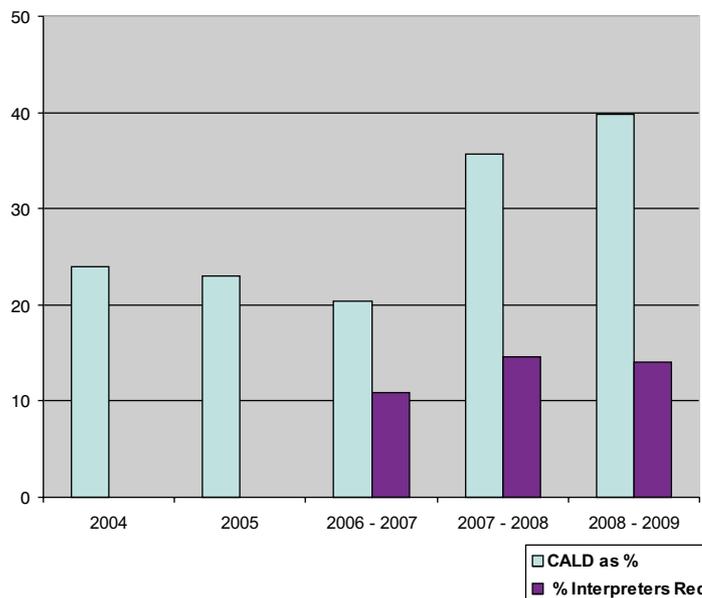
Working party meeting to organise International Women’s Day Workshops and activities for 9 March 2009 at Debbie and Abbey Borgia Centre, Marrickville. Toni assisted on a stall on the day to provide information to the community and handed out many domestic violence brochures in various community languages.

Arranged speakers for CLE at MLC in April on Muslim Women and the Law (Immigration Advice and Rights Centre AARC and Muslim Women’s Association).

Aboriginal Community

Throughout this period women seen by NWDVCAS who indicated whether an aboriginal heritage existed 6.2% stated they were of Ab-

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities



original or Torres Strait Islander background.

Referrals to NWDVCAS

The majority of referrals to NWDVCAS for this period were consistently from Police (as indicated below):

Referrals to DVCAS by:	Total %
Police	87.9
Self Referred	5.2
Local Courts	2.2
Accommodation Services	1.5
WDVCAS Initiated	1.5
Other WDVCAS’s	1.5

Other Events and Training Attended by Staff

- Legal Aid NSW WDV CAP 3 day Core Training completed by Lee Taylor and Toni Brown. Day 3 attended by Trieste Corby and Day 2 attended by Christine Smith.
- ‘Understanding Why Women Die: Domestic Violence Homicide Review’ Forum 18 September 2008 attended by Lee Taylor
- Victim’s Services training 21 Oc-

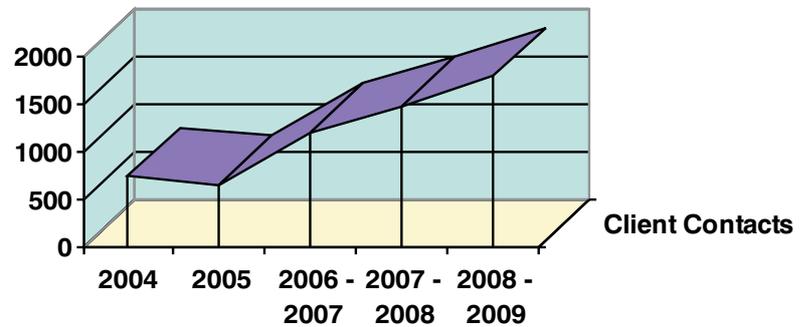
tober 2008 (Training & Development, Legal Aid NSW) attended by Lee Taylor

Lee Taylor completed Diploma in Business (Frontline Management) at UTS (Training and Development Services) in December 2008 and received Graduation Certificate in March 2009 at Graduation ceremony. As supervisor for the duration of the course, Frederica Mantel (coordinator, MLC) provided assistance throughout the work-based assessment tasks and invaluable ongoing collegial support. Initiatives to upskill WDVCAS coordinators such as this are to be applauded. With the ongoing contact with Legal Aid NSW solicitors and support staff, there was an insight into Legal Aid NSW, an organisation that cannot normally be accessed as easily as other CLC’s. If services such as WDVCAS’s and CLC’s have a better understanding of Legal Aid NSW there is an opportunity for greater cooperation and communication resulting in a higher standard of service delivery for clients.

Lee Taylor and Toni Brown attended a seminar: Crime Against and the

Policing of Emerging Communities (8 April 2009), Sydney Institute of Criminology. This seminar provided insight into Sudanese Community through presentations by Chairman of the Community of Southern Sudanese and other marginalised areas, Sudanese Youth Worker and Sudanese Community Liaison Officer from NSW Attorney General's Department as well as the opportunity to hear Police constraints and strategies with representations by NSW Police (Blacktown LAC) and Victorian Police.

Lee Taylor attended stakeholder consultation in response to NSW Domestic and Family Violence Strategic Framework by invitation at Redfern Community Centre.



2004-2009 Contacts with Clients

The Statistics

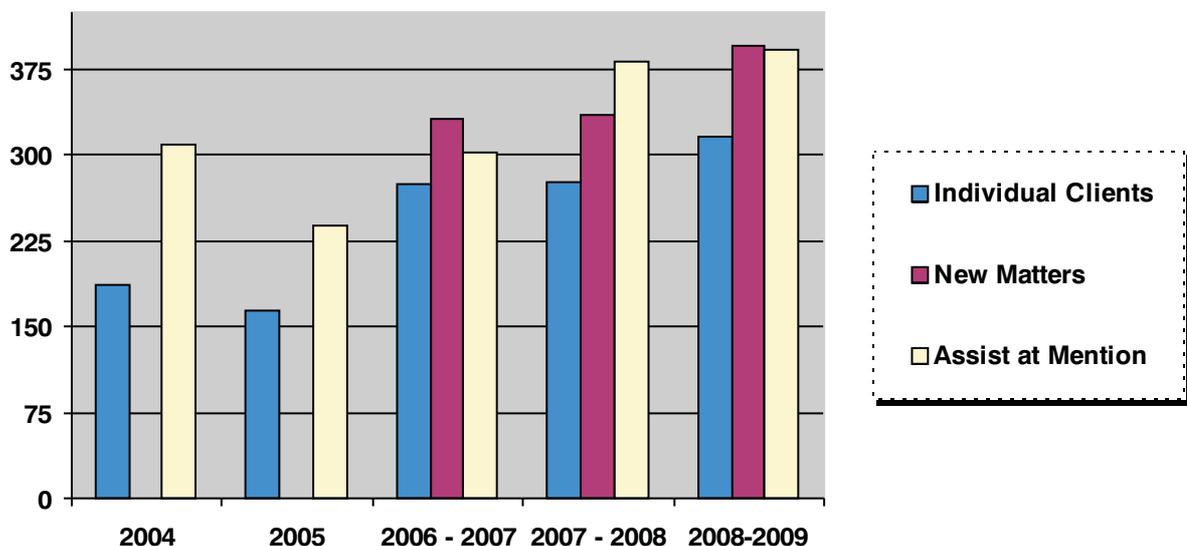
The statistical analysis of this reporting period indicates the NWDVCAS has continued to provide a high level of assistance and advocacy for women dealing with the difficulties and challenges associated with domestic violence.

The graph below demonstrates the growth of NWDVCAS in relation to services provided to women.

There has been growth in actual clients, matters assisted in court at mention stage and new matters (ADVO's as

well as additional matters per client such as associated charges). Previously associated charges were often listed at Newtown Court on charge list day with an ADVO or separate from the ADVO application. NWDVCAS has liaised continually with Newtown Local Court Registrar and Police to address the separation of ADVO and charge matters and ADVO's being listed for AVO list day when there is an associated charge (at least on first mention). The figures reflect some success with an increase in new matters over past 12 months (as indicated below).

Comparison of data 2004 - 2008-09 of Individual Clients, New Matters (data only avail since July 2006), and women assisted in court at 'Mention' stage



Financial Report

2008 – 2009

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
A.B.N. 53 699 012 017
A.C.N. 002 059 485

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 30 JUNE 2009

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MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
A.B.N. 53 699 012 017
A.C.N. 002 059 485

REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee, which is the Board of Directors of the Company, presents its report on the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009.

The Committee has determined that the Company is not a reporting entity.

DIRECTORS

The following persons are Members of the Committee at the date of this report:

DIANNE ANAGNOS
Appointed: 15/12/08

PATRICIA MCDONOUGH
Appointed: 16/10/06
Ceased: 15/09/08

JOHN MICHAEL GOOLEY
Appointed: 16/10/06

JANET LOUGHMAN
Appointed: 16/10/06

ROBERT LAKE
Appointed: 20/10/08

NICK YETZOTIS
Appointed: 16/10/06

MICHELLE WILLIAMS
Appointed: 22/10/07

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Company's principal continuing activities during the year involve the provision of legal advice for migrants, children under 18 and adults in special underprivileged need.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

The Surplus from operations for the year was \$2,186 (2008: Surplus of \$50,417).

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

A.B.N. 53 699 012 017

A.C.N. 002 059 485

MATTERS SUBSEQUENT TO THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR

At the date of this report, the Committee is not aware of any circumstances which have arisen since 30 June 2009 which would significantly affect:

- (a) The Company's operations in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2009;
- (b) The results of those operations; or
- (c) The Company's state of affairs, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2009.

LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS

At the date of this report, the Committee is not aware of any matter or circumstances that have arisen since 30 June 2009 which would significantly affect:

- (a) Likely developments in the operations of the Company; or
- (b) The expected results of those operations.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' BENEFITS

Since 30 June 2008 no Committee Member has received or become entitled to receive a benefit because of a contract made by the Company or related body corporate with the Committee Member or with a firm of which he or she is a Member, or with a Company in which he or she has a substantial financial interest.

COMMITTEE REMUNERATION

All Committee Members act in an honorary capacity. No fees are paid or payable and no statistics kept on attendances.

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

A copy of the Auditor's Independence Declaration as required under Section 307C of the Corporations Act, 2001 is set out on Page 3.

Signed at Marrickville this *21st* day of *September* 2009.

.....
COMMITTEE / (DIRECTOR) MEMBER

[Signature]
.....
COMMITTEE / (DIRECTOR) MEMBER

SANDRA D. GROLLMUS

Registered Company Auditor
Registered Tax Agent

7 BURRANEER CLOSE
ALLAWAH 2218
TELEPHONE 9546 7366
FAX 9546 2267

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT, 2001
TO THE DIRECTORS OF MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE

I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2009, there have been:

- (i) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act, 2001 in relations to the audit; and
- (ii) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relations to the audit.

Dated: 18/9/09


SANDRA GROLLMUS
Registered Company Auditor
Registered No. 1254

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
A.B.N. 53 699 012 017
A.C.N. 002 059 485

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 30 JUNE 2009

	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>2008</u> \$	<u>2009</u> \$
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Cash	5	367,676	406,913
Receivables		9,756	14,481
Prepayments		<u>14,437</u>	<u>4,511</u>
		<u>391,871</u>	<u>425,905</u>
<u>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Property, Plant & Equipment	6	34,821	27,111
Prepayment		<u>17,552</u>	<u>15,792</u>
		<u>52,373</u>	<u>42,903</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>		<u>444,244</u>	<u>468,808</u>
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Creditors & Accrued Expenses		30,472	47,062
Deferred Grants		3,693	76,883
Provisions	7	<u>46,818</u>	<u>47,824</u>
		<u>80,983</u>	<u>171,569</u>
<u>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Provisions	8	119,598	119,509
Deferred Grant		<u>17,552</u>	<u>15,792</u>
		<u>137,150</u>	<u>135,301</u>
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>		<u>218,133</u>	<u>306,870</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u>		<u>226,111</u>	<u>161,938</u>
<u>EQUITY</u>			
Accumulated Funds		<u>226,111</u>	<u>161,938</u>

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes.

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
 (A Company Limited by Guarantee)
 A.B.N. 53 699 012 017
 A.C.N. 002 059 485

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>2008</u> \$	<u>2009</u> \$
Operating Revenue	2	871,106	928,109
Interest Received		<u>29,664</u>	<u>22,277</u>
		<u>900,770</u>	<u>950,386</u>
Less:			
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Administration		98,240	92,209
Client / Community Servicing		21,490	24,017
Occupancy		10,318	12,525
Staff		<u>722,305</u>	<u>819,449</u>
		<u>850,353</u>	<u>948,200</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS		<u>50,417</u>	<u>2,186</u>
Accumulated Funds brought forward		245,369	226,111
Transfer Prior Period Surpluses		(74,324)	(66,359)
Prior Period Adjustments		<u>4,649</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>175,694</u>	<u>159,752</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS carried forward		<u>226,111</u>	<u>161,938</u>

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
A.B.N. 53 699 012 017
A.C.N. 002 059 485

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

<u>NOTES</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES & GOVERNMENT GRANTS		
Receipts from clients/legal costs awarded/ community (incl. GST on Government Grants)	129,722	124,035
Government Grants	<u>765,172</u>	<u>920,452</u>
	884,894	1,044,487
Payments to creditors; employees & GST	<u>(935,032)</u>	<u>1,012,823</u>
NET OPERATING CASH FLOWS	(50,138)	31,664
Interest Received	<u>29,664</u>	<u>22,277</u>
NET CASH FLOWS FROM ALL ACTIVITIES	(20,474)	53,941
Adjustment Petty Cash	200	-
Payments for property, plant & equipment	<u>(21,870)</u>	<u>(14,706)</u>
NET (DECREASE) / INCREASE IN CASH HELD	(42,144)	39,235
Cash at the beginning of the Financial year	<u>409,822</u>	<u>367,678</u>
CASH AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	5 <u>367,678</u>	<u>406,913</u>

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes.

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
A.B.N. 53 699 012 017
A.C.N. 002 059 485

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

1. **SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

This financial report is a special purpose report prepared for use by Directors and Members of the Company, and the funding bodies. The Directors have determined that the Company is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the relevant Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and the disclosure requirements of Schedule 5 of the Corporations Regulations.

The results of operations and financial position of the Centre are accounted for and reported in these financial statements under the historical cost convention. Such convention has no regard either to the changing value of money, or the increased cost of replacing operating capability used in operations.

These policies are consistent with previous years.

(a) **Depreciation**

Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis to write off the net cost of each item of property, plant & equipment over its useful life. Additions are depreciated from date of acquisition.

(b) **Income**

Special Purpose Grants from which benefits will be derived in future periods are credited to Deferred Grants for release in such future periods.

(c) **Cash**

For purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes deposits at call which are readily convertible to cash on hand and which are used in the cash management function on a day-to-day basis.

(d) **Employee Entitlements**

The amounts expected to be paid to employees for their pro-rata entitlement to long service and annual leave are accrued annually at current pay rates. In accordance with employment contracts an amount has been set aside in the event of redundancy.

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
A.B.N. 53 699 012 017
A.C.N. 002 059 485

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
	\$	\$
2. OPERATING REVENUE		
Grants received from:		
Legal Aid Commission – Commonwealth	144,953	207,812
Legal Aid Commission – State	254,801	263,208
Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service	261,821	270,254
Domestic Violence CAS	93,797	107,178
Prior Year Surpluses brought forward	69,875	66,358
Other	1,760	2,530
Legal Costs Received	34,919	5,775
Donations & Memberships	328	1,404
Other	9,052	3,590
	<u>871,106</u>	<u>928,109</u>
3. OPERATING SURPLUS		
Operating Surplus is arrived at after Charging the following specific items:		
<u>Charges</u>		
Depreciation – Plant & Equipment	10,641	12,196
Provision for Employee Entitlements	<u>74,431</u>	<u>82,710</u>
4. INCOME TAX		
Marrickville Legal Centre is exempt from Income Tax, being a charitable institution Under Section 23 (e) of the Income Tax Assessment Act.		
5. CURRENT ASSETS - CASH		
Cash on Hand	300	300
Cash at Bank	35,567	110,329
Deposits at Call	<u>331,811</u>	<u>296,284</u>
	<u>367,678</u>	<u>406,913</u>

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
A.B.N. 53 699 012 017
A.C.N. 002 059 485

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
	\$	\$
6. NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
– Property, Plant & Equipment		
Land & Buildings		
Leasehold Improvements – at cost	38,000	38,000
Accumulated Amortisation	<u>(38,000)</u>	<u>(38,000)</u>
	-	-
Plant & Equipment		
At Cost	102,088	104,104
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(67,267)</u>	<u>(76,993)</u>
	<u>34,821</u>	<u>27,111</u>
Total Property, Plant & Equipment	<u>34,821</u>	<u>27,111</u>
7. CURRENT LIABILITIES - Provisions		
Employee Entitlements	32,997	44,223
Equipment Replacement	<u>13,821</u>	<u>3,601</u>
	<u>46,818</u>	<u>47,824</u>
8. NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES – Provisions		
Employment Entitlements	<u>119,598</u>	<u>119,508</u>
9. REMUNERATION OF AUDITOR		
Audit Fee	3,950	4,000
Other Benefits	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

10. INCORPORATION

Marrickville Legal Centre was incorporated on 16 May 1983 as a Company Limited by Guarantee. In accordance with Clause 7 of the Company's Memorandum of Association, each Member's Liability is limited to \$100.

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
 (A Company Limited by Guarantee)
 A.B.N. 53 699 012 017
 A.C.N. 002 059 485

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
	\$	\$
11. SEGMENT REPORTING		
The Company provides legal advice for Migrants, children under 18 and adults in special underprivileged need within Australia, its revenue being principally derived from State and Commonwealth Grants.		
12. RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM OPERATING AND GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES TO OPERATING SURPLUS		
Net cash (outflows) / inflows from operating activities & Government grants	(20,474)	53,941
Surpluses – 2008- brought forward	69,875	66,359
Depreciation & Asset Replacement	(10,641)	(12,156)
Change in operating Assets & Liabilities		
Increase / (Decrease) in Receivables	(2,717)	4,724
Increase / (Decrease) in Prepayments	2,803	(11,686)
Decrease / (Increase) in Creditors & Accrued Expenses	7,905	(16,500)
Decrease / (Increase) in Employee Entitlements Provisions	273	(11,136)
Decrease / (Increase) in Deferred Grants	<u>3,393</u>	<u>(71,230)</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS	<u>50,417</u>	<u>2,186</u>

- 13. DEFERRED GRANT**
 A grant of \$44,000 received during the year ended 30 June 1993 related to the lease premium and is being recognised as revenue over twenty-five years as benefits are derived from the lease.

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
A.B.N. 53 699 012 017
A.C.N. 002 059 485

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
	\$	\$
<u>INCOME</u>		
Grants – Legal Aid Commission		
Commonwealth - Operating	144,953	147,851
- "One Off"	-	69,961
State	254,801	263,208
- Tenants Advice & Advocacy Service	261,621	270,254
- Domestic Violence CAS	<u>93,797</u>	<u>107,178</u>
	755,172	848,452
Prior Period Surpluses brought forward	69,875	66,358
Other Grants	1,760	2,530
Casework Income		
Legal Costs Received	34,919	5,775
Consultancies	2,818	2,000
Interest Received	29,664	22,277
Membership Fees & Donations	328	1,404
Seminars / Conferences	1,418	1,590
Sundry Income	4,565	-
Workers Compensation Claims	<u>251</u>	<u>-</u>
	900,770	950,386
Less:		
<u>EXPENDITURE</u> – Schedule	<u>850,353</u>	<u>948,200</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	<u>50,417</u>	<u>2,186</u>

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
A.B.N. 63 699 012 017
A.C.N. 002 059 485

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
	\$	\$
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
<u>Administration Expenses</u>		
Accounting Fee	6,271	-
Advertising / Staff Recruitment	14,618	804
Audit fees	3,950	4,000
Bank & Financial Charges	1,910	2,178
Committee / Miscellaneous Expenses	682	832
Computer Expenses	10,983	7,514
Depreciation	10,641	12,196
Equipment – Minor	3,445	2,180
Insurance – General / PI	7,343	7,268
Levies	3,906	4,042
Miscellaneous Expenses	53	20,108
OH & S	-	2,944
Postage / Courier	2,490	1,932
Stationery / Office Supplies	5,096	6,102
Subscriptions / Library	7,270	5,108
Telecommunications	<u>17,582</u>	<u>15,001</u>
	<u>96,240</u>	<u>92,209</u>
<u>Client / Community Servicing Expenses</u>		
Catering / Venue Hire	395	1,075
Community Development	1,811	493
Non-Recoverable Disbursements	837	709
Printing / Production	14,583	13,631
Travel / Accommodation	2,584	4,133
Volunteers' Expenses	<u>1,280</u>	<u>3,970</u>
	<u>21,490</u>	<u>24,017</u>
<u>Occupancy Expenses</u>		
Cleaning	4,261	5,078
Electricity	2,790	3,199
Rent / Leasehold Expenses	1,760	1,760
Repairs / Maintenance	554	1,165
Security	<u>953</u>	<u>1,323</u>
	<u>10,318</u>	<u>12,525</u>

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

A.B.N. 53 699 012 017

A.C.N. 002 059 485

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
	\$	\$
<u>EXPENDITURE cont...</u>		
<u>Staffing Expenses</u>		
Conferences / Seminars	7,266	15,438
Consultants	436	619
Other Salary Related Expenses	1,643	1,148
Practising Certificates	1,909	4,792
Staff Training	2,537	2,173
Superannuation	55,709	59,791
Wages / Salaries	649,933	732,523
Workers Compensation Insurance	<u>2,872</u>	<u>2,965</u>
	<u>722,305</u>	<u>819,449</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>850,353</u>	<u>948,200</u>

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

A.B.N. 53 699 012 017

A.C.N. 002 059 485

COMMITTEE'S / (DIRECTORS') DECLARATION

The Committee / (Directors) Members declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 4 to 13, are in accordance with the Corporations Act, 2001 and:
 - (a) Comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations, 2001; and
 - (b) Give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2009 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the Company.
2. The Chief Executive Officer and Chief Finance Office have each declared that:
 - (a) The financial records of the Company for the financial year have been properly maintained in accordance with Section 286 of the Corporations Act, 2001;
 - (b) The financial statements and notes for the financial year comply with Accounting Standards; and
 - (c) The financial statements and notes for the financial year give a true and fair view.
3. In the Committee / (Directors) Members' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.


.....
COMMITTEE / (DIRECTOR) MEMBER


.....
COMMITTEE / (DIRECTOR) MEMBER

Signed at Marrickville this *21st* day of *September* 2009.

SANDRA D. GROLLMUS

Registered Company Auditor
Registered Tax Agent

7 BURRANEER CLOSE
ALLAWAH 2216
TELEPHONE 9545 7366
FAX 9545 2267

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

SCOPE

I have audited the financial statements of MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE (A Company Limited by Guarantee) for the year ended 30 June 2009 as set out on pages 4 to 13. The Company's Committee Members are responsible for the financial statements. I have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the Members of the Company.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Company's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

INDEPENDENCE

In accordance with ASIC Class Order 05/83, I declare to the best of my knowledge and belief that the Auditor's Independence Declaration set out on page 3 of the financial report has not changed as at the date of providing my audit opinion.

AUDIT OPINION

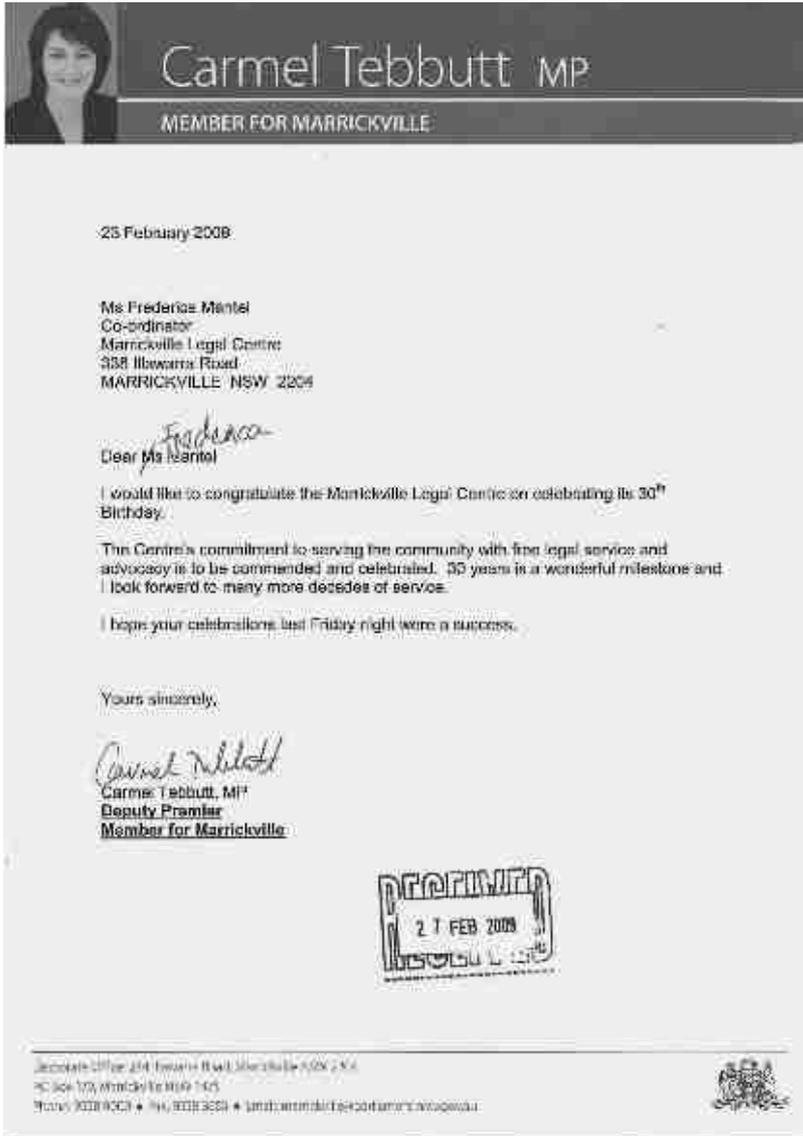
In my opinion, the financial statements consisting of Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Cash Flows, Schedule and Notes of MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE are in accordance with:

- (a) The Corporations Act, 2001, including:
 - (i) Giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2009 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) Complying with Accounting Standards in Australia and the Corporations Regulations, 2001; and
- (b) Other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

Dated: 16/7/09


SANDRA GROLLMUS
Registered Company Auditor
Registered No. 1254

-15-






ATTORNEY-GENERAL
THE HON ROBERT MCLELLAND MP

02921

19 FEB 2008

Ms Frederica Murrell
Centre Manager
Marrickville Legal Centre
378 Hawarrn Road
MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204
Fax: (02) 9558 5213

Dear Ms Murrell

Thank you for the invitation to attend Marrickville Legal Centre's 30th anniversary celebrations. I am sorry that I am unable to attend in person. However, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the staff, management committee and volunteers of the Marrickville Legal Centre, both past and present, as you celebrate thirty years of providing legal advice, assistance and education to the Marrickville community.

The Australian Government sees community legal centres, such as Marrickville, as part of the front line services helping make justice accessible to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in our community. Your assistance is invaluable and plays a critical role in helping to resolve legal issues before they escalate or contribute to entrenched disadvantage.

The provision of services covering 13 Local Government Areas, with a combined population of over two million people, is a significant achievement. Your Centre is rightly recognised for its commitment to excellence in the provision of practical legal assistance to the community.

I wish you all the best with your anniversary celebrations, and your continuing work providing high quality legal services to disadvantaged people within the community.

Yours sincerely



Robert McLelland

Juvenile justice report declared a state secret

Adele Horlin

FOR the first time in more than 20 years the State Government has classified a report by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research as "cabinet-in-confidence", impeding publication of controversial material on the troubled juvenile justice system.

The unprecedented step was taken as cabinet prepares to review its tough policy on juveniles, which has led to rising numbers in juvenile jails for breaching their bail.

Cabinet is believed to be divided on whether to change the Bail Act which was toughened in late 2007, contributing to a 40 per cent increase over two years in juveniles on remand awaiting their day in court.

The rise has put huge pressure on detention centres, even though only a small minority of those detained on remand go on to get a jail sentence.

The bureau's confidential report is believed to show the spike in remand numbers has had little impact on reducing crime rates.

It also is believed to show that the amended Bail Act and stepped-up police enforcement, not increased crime, are the major factors behind the rise in children in detention.

Don Weatherburn, the bureau's director, would not comment on the content of the report. But he said this was the first time since his appointment in 1988 that a bureau report had been sent to cabinet, thus acquiring "cabinet-in-confidence" status.

'What troubles me is that the bureau was set up to provide the public with information. That is our function. We don't do secret research,' he said.

Even if the report was subsequently released, the referral was a worrying precedent that

'What troubles me is that the bureau was set up to provide the public with information. That is our function. We don't do secret research.'

DON WEATHERBURN, Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

could lead to extended delays in releasing research to the public, he said.

The bureau, though not an independent statutory authority, has always been able to operate at arm's length from government.

The usual procedure is for the bureau to send a copy of its research reports to the attorney-general as a matter of courtesy.

The reports have always been approved for release, usually within a fortnight. The latest was sent on May 5. A spokesman for the Attorney-General, John Hatzilatergos, told the *Herald* the report would be released "100 per cent" after cabinet had considered it, possibly in about two weeks.

The referral to cabinet is an indication of the sensitivities surrounding the issue.

A committee of senior bureaucrats from the offices of Juvenile Justice, Attorney General and Premier and Cabinet - which investigated rising juvenile incarceration and drew on the bureau's report - is believed to have recommended changes to the Bail Act. But the Attorney-General has strongly defended the status quo.

Meanwhile, figures released to the Greens MP Sylvia Hale show the Government's law-and-order policy is having a disproportionate impact on Aboriginal juveniles who comprise 56 per cent of sentenced detainees, up from 47 per cent in 1993.

Sydney Morning Herald, Thursday June 25 2009, page 3



Mr John Gooley
Chairman
Marrickville Legal Centre
338 Steward Road
MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204

15/03/09

Dear Mr Gooley,

30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE

As I am unable to attend on Friday 20 February for your 30th anniversary celebrations, I write on behalf of the Board and staff of Legal Aid NSW to extend my congratulations to you, the management committee, the staff and the volunteers of Marrickville Legal Centre on achieving 30 years of service to the people of Marrickville and the inner west of Sydney.

Marrickville Legal Centre was the first Community Legal Centre to be established in NSW, inspired by the concept of community-based legal initiatives a mixture of delivering legal advice to local communities. Since then, Marrickville Legal Centre has grown into its community to be a valuable resource to disadvantaged people in the inner west. Today it is an integral part of community legal centre history and the legal services landscape.

With the assistance of a strong and dedicated volunteer base across the local community and Sydney University Law School, Marrickville Legal Centre continues to provide a range of high quality information, advice, education, legal, strategic, training and policy and law reform services to the community which have not had their like elsewhere in the people of the inner west.

I understand that in the past three years Marrickville Legal Centre has provided legal services to over 7,000 individual clients and over 23,000 legal information services and research services.

Marrickville Legal Centre has also consistently demonstrated its responsiveness to the unique needs of the people of the inner west, in particular through its commitment to making appropriate services available from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and poor socio-economic conditions, as well as for vulnerable seniors.

Marrickville was also one of the first generalist CLEs to pioneer its specific use of legal aid that were not being adequately met elsewhere by facilitating specialist services such as the Children's Legal Service. This led to the establishment of a specialist centre with Legal Aid NSW, Marrickville Legal

LEGAL AID NSW
110-112 GERRARD STREET EAST, SYDNEY NSW 1588
TEL: (02) 9232 5800 FAX: (02) 9232 5844
WWW.LEGAL-AID.NSW.GOV.AU
MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE
338 STEWARD ROAD, MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204
TEL: (02) 9550 1100 FAX: (02) 9550 1101

Centre's Children's Legal Service continues to identify and respond to individual and systemic issues affecting children and young people and is a valuable source of information on these issues for other services.

Marrickville Legal Centre has also been a leader in developing strong partnerships with other social service and community groups such as its work with the Inner Sydney Group as well as through its community legal education work, some of which has been conducted in partnership with Legal Aid NSW.

I also wish to acknowledge the hard work put in by the staff and volunteers of the Marrickville Legal Centre over many years. I have personally had the opportunity in the past to work with staff of the Centre on policy issues, and I have referred more than one person to the Centre for assistance. I have always been impressed by the commitment of the staff, and the quality of services provided to disadvantaged people.

Legal Aid NSW is proud to work with Marrickville Legal Centre. I congratulate you on your many achievements over these first 30 years and wish you all the very best for the anniversary celebrations, and for the future.

Yours sincerely,



Alan Kirkland
Chief Executive Officer

Tebbutt welcomes new sentencing option for Newtown courts

By SAUL HAYES



NEWCASTLE JUDGE

Newtown magistrates will now be able to order offenders to do down with their kids as part of a new sentencing option introduced in NSW.
 Member for Newtown, Liberal MP, and NSW Minister for Justice, Peter Abetz, today welcomed the new sentencing regime, which has been made in law, and which will be available to courts in Newtown and Sydney.
 "Offenders who are believed to be a risk to their children and whose children are exposed to health and safety risks will now be able to do down with their kids as part of a new sentencing option," Abetz said.
 "Under the program offenders will be able to do down with their kids, and to do down with their kids as part of a new sentencing option, and to do down with their kids as part of a new sentencing option."
 "I welcome the fact that the new sentencing regime will be available to courts in Newtown and Sydney."
 "On the 1st and 2nd of the new sentencing regime, which will be available to courts in Newtown and Sydney, and to do down with their kids as part of a new sentencing option."
 "The new sentencing regime will be available to courts in Newtown and Sydney, and to do down with their kids as part of a new sentencing option."
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YOU'RE
OUR BEST
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11/11/09
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11/11/09

23 February 2009

Nasser Arango
Principal Solicitor
Marrickville Legal Centre
396 Illawarra Road
MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204

Dear Nasser

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE 30TH BIRTHDAY

Congratulations and thank you!

We write to congratulate the Centre on its 30th Birthday and also to thank you for the hospitality which, along with another of our lawyers here at Carroll & O'Dea, Mr Arthur Paras, enjoyed on Friday 20th February 2009.

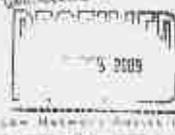
It was nice to meet you and to see you were feeding the masses and also to meet some of the other lawyers and supporters of the Centre.

We have always valued the association we have with Marrickville Legal Centre and have, over the years, been able to help the Centre and its clients with some of the more difficult and costly personal injury litigation matters, be it the medical negligence cases or others, which have been referred to the firm. The Partnership is committed to servicing any such referral work from Community Legal Centres such as Marrickville and access to justice for all our clients is very important to the Firm and its values.

We look forward to the 30th Birthday and many after that.

Yours faithfully
Carroll & O'Dea

Per: *Mallie Carville*



<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/community-workers-march-for-pay-rise-20080807-ec0s.html>

Community workers march for pay rise
Lisa Martin
August 7, 2008 - 4:24 PM

Private-sector disability nurses and social workers helping NSW's most disadvantaged people are demanding the same rate of pay as public servants.

More than 1,500 community service workers marched through central Sydney to NSW Parliament House, waving streamers and chanting "We want equal pay."

Australian Services Union (ASU) secretary Sally McManus said community service workers were underpaid by up to \$20,000 per year. She said they had lodged a claim for a pay rise and wanted government support.

"The government has outsourced (a lot of) community services and they're doing it on the cheap," she said.

Ms McManus said the workers do the same work with the same clients - the homeless, domestic-violence victims and mental illness patients - but their work was not valued the same.

"Employers can't keep staff, people can't stay (at organisations) because people can't pay their rent," she said.

A pay rise was justified in the global economic crisis because the downturn had increased case loads and put a strain on services, Ms McManus said.

"There's been more demand for our services," she said.

"More and more is being asked of community workers."

"If you want to get the best, well-qualified people doing the job and you pay them right, they're going to do the job better."

She said community workers travelled from across the state to be at the rally, with representatives from Wollongong, Newcastle, the Blue Mountains and Goulburn.

The union also had rallies in Albury, Dubbo and Lismore.

Last month, the Queensland government closed the pay gap between private and public sector community workers in that state.

