





# CHAIR REPORT

The past year was another hugely successful, productive and challenging one for MLC. The Centre has once again managed to provide high quality legal services across a range of practice areas that really make a difference to vulnerable members of its community: tenancy, children's law, domestic violence, employment, credit and debt and countless others.

In the year 2012-2013 MLC has also finalised its new and updated Enterprise Agreement, which deals with the conditions of employment of staff. This process has been both long and complex, and has required a great deal of work and commitment over the past three years. The result has been a modernised and flexible Agreement to take the Centre through to 2015. Special thanks must go to the MLC staff representatives who put in a great deal of work into the process above and beyond their normal duties, and also to Jessica Dolan from the Management Committee for her expert input. Housing and funding remain the

two biggest challenges still facing MLC. The Centre is well and truly bursting at the seams. The task of accommodating staff, volunteers and PLT students in a way that allows them all to focus on their complex work should not be the daily challenge that it is. It is clear that the Centre needs to secure larger premises. The decision to lease a small office space in Belmore should hopefully provide some relief, but the task of finding suitable new accommodation will remain a goal for MLC going into the new year.

MLC has received additional one-off funding from the Commonwealth Government this year. This funding will make sure that MLC can continue to provide its full range of services and also increase its capacity to provide additional services to young people. The MLC Generalist and Youth Legal Services has shown incredible flexibility and creativity in providing outreach services to disadvantaged young people through this additional funding, particularly through the use of outreaches at the

Children's Court. However one-off funding does not provide the basis for a sustainable increase in MLC's level of community legal services. A commitment by the Commonwealth and State Governments to an increase in recurrent funding is required so that MLC is not put in the position of reducing its level of service to its community over the next few years.

MLC has also been through significant staffing and management changes in the past year. It is a testament to the commitment of staff that the Centre has managed to continue working in a way that has expanded its services rather than reducing them during this period. Special thanks must go to Financial Administrator Julie Robson for so competently stepping up into the role of Acting Executive Officer during the period. The Management Committee acknowledges Julie's hard work and dedication to the Centre during this period. We also acknowledge the extra duties taken on by all of the Centre's

# THE BOARD

multi-skilled and talented staff during this period. We look forward to welcoming back Catherine Dornan as Executive Officer after her period of parental leave in November 2013. I would also like to thank the previous Chairperson Nick Yetzotis, for his hard work and dedication to the Centre over many years both as a member of the Management Committee and as a volunteer solicitor at the Centre. Lastly, I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Management Committee members for their commitment to the Centre, their expertise and their many hours of hard work. A heartfelt thank you and farewell goes out to Jessica Dolan and Kieran Egan who leave the Management Committee after many years of service to MLC and its community. They will be greatly missed. I look forward to continuing my association with MLC in the next year and welcoming new members to the Centre.

**Dianne Anagnos**  
Chair

**Kieran Egan**  
Treasurer



**John McMahon**  
Secretary



**Jessica Dolan**  
Director



**Dorothy Bamblett**  
Director



**Janet Loughman**  
Director





# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

“Social justice through accessible legal services to those who need it most.” The vision of Marrickville Legal Centre is demonstrated in all aspects of its work over the past financial year and is reflected within each of the reports that follow. These include client stories, casework, policy and law reform activities, examples of outreach and projects undertaken over the course of the year.

Throughout the year Marrickville Legal Centre provided advice and casework to 3491 clients and provided more than 2300 referrals.

We held outreaches to young people in Belmore and Bankstown; to disadvantaged people in the St George area; to young people needing legal advice at Parramatta Court and to vulnerable tenants in Newtown.

Our teams have been involved in Community Legal Education, running workshops and training sessions on topics as diverse as ‘Police Powers’, ‘Victims’ Compensation’, ‘helping clients with fines’, ‘Priority Housing’.

Staff promoted the work of the Centre at many local community festivals throughout the year, providing information and support

to the people of Marrickville, Newtown, Burwood and Lakemba and being a presence at the annual Yabun festival.

In March we added an international dimension to our outreach when we hosted a delegation from the Beijing Zhicheng Legal Aid Organisation. The Australian Human Rights Commission facilitated this meeting at which Michael Walton and I shared experiences and exchanged ideas with our Chinese counterparts.

It has indeed been a busy year, filled with many highlights and many challenges. It has also been a year of change.

Catherine Dornan, Executive Officer, began parenting leave in November with Michelle Hall stepping into a locum role until April 2013.

Following Michelle’s departure, I was appointed Acting Executive Officer until Catherine’s return in November. John McMahon and Dorothy Bamblett joined the Board in December adding their particular skills and expertise to the group. Nick Yetzotis, a long-term member of the Board, resigned as Chair and from the Board in April.

Diane Anagnos was elected as the new Chair ensuring a seamless transition.

During the course of the year we have affected a change to the MLC logo and updated our promotional material.

In the midst of many changes, the hard work and dedication shown day in, day out by the staff and volunteers of Marrickville Legal Centre have remained steadfast and constant.

“  
SOCIAL JUSTICE  
THROUGH  
ACCESSIBLE  
LEGAL SERVICES  
TO THOSE WHO  
NEED IT MOST.  
”

This year, our Centre has benefited from thousands of hours of unpaid work by more than 100 volunteers. Their names and contributions are listed throughout following reports. Additionally, many barristers and solicitors have offered pro bono support to our clients who otherwise may have been unrepresented. The ongoing commitment of these individuals to the Centre is an indication of the importance of the work that we do.

I acknowledge the generous support of our funding bodies that provide the resources necessary for our work:

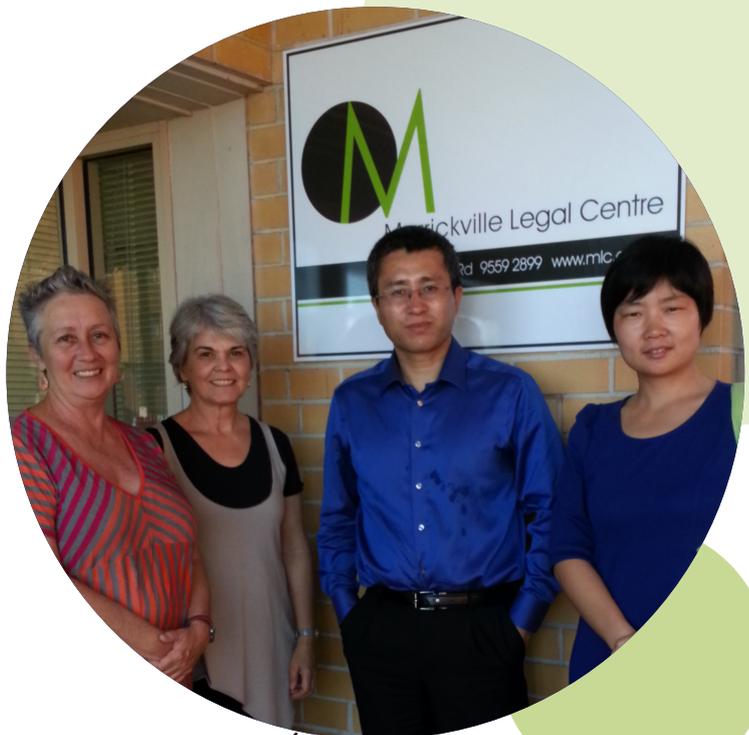
- The Commonwealth and State Attorneys-General
- Legal Aid NSW
- NSW Fair Trading
- NSW Family & Community Services, Office for Women

The funds provided by these government departments are managed in a way to ensure the best possible outcomes for those dependent on our services as evidenced throughout this annual report.

Our work makes a difference in the lives of people who are disadvantaged and those vulnerable to homelessness, abuse, exploitation and

discrimination. By providing legal advice, information and referral, casework and advocacy we continue to work to embody the vision of our organisation: 'Social Justice through accessible legal services to those who need it most.'

**Julie Robson**  
Acting Executive Officer



Beijing Zhicheng Legal Aid  
visit, March 2013

# MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE

## STAFF 2012-2013

### Legal Team

#### Permanent and Fixed Term Staff

Michael Walton	Principal Solicitor
Margaret Martin	Generalist Solicitor (p/t)
Lisa Woodgate	Generalist Solicitor
Peter Longfield	Generalist Solicitor (p/t) (to January 2013)
Trevor Collier	Generalist Solicitor (April to May 2013)
Susan James	Generalist Solicitor (from March 2013)

### Youth Legal Service

#### Permanent and Fixed Term Staff

Emily Muir	Youth Solicitor (to January 2013)
Kate Duffy	Youth Solicitor (from February 2013)

### Tenancy Team

#### Permanent and Fixed Term Staff

Martin Barker	Tenant Advocate
Julia Murray	Tenant Advocate (p/t)
Diana McMahon	Tenant Advocate (p/t)
Eloise Parrab	Tenant Advocate (p/t)

### Inner West DVPASS

#### Permanent and Fixed Term Staff

Sarah Stellino	Coordinator (p/t) (July 2013 to October 2013)
Stephanie Tredinnick	Coordinator (from September 2013)
Morganne Blackburn	Locum DVPASS Coordinator

## Administration

### Permanent and Fixed Term Staff

Catherine Dornan	Executive Officer (on Parenting Leave from October 2012)
Michelle Hall	Locum Executive Officer (November 2012 to April 2013)
Julie Robson	Financial Administrator & Acting Executive Officer
Catherine Thompson	Locum Financial Officer (p/t)
Maria Elena Ang	Information & Referral Officer
Emma Kearns	Administrative Assistant (p/t) (from January 2013)

## Casual

Robert Hartig-Prym	Locum Information & Referral Officer
Nicole Clark	Administrative Assistant
Ming Lee	IT support
Rafael Mazzoldi	Locum Tenant Advocate and IT support



# 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 over 30 years. The GLS has expanded its services since it was first established and now provides legal services to the residents of 12 local government areas. These areas cover the inner west, south and parts of south west Sydney and have a combined population of over 1.17 million people. This means that approximately 1 in 20 people living in Australia live in Marrickville Legal Centre's GLS catchment area.

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

## Our Clients

The GLS gave advice and casework services to 987 people in 2012/13.

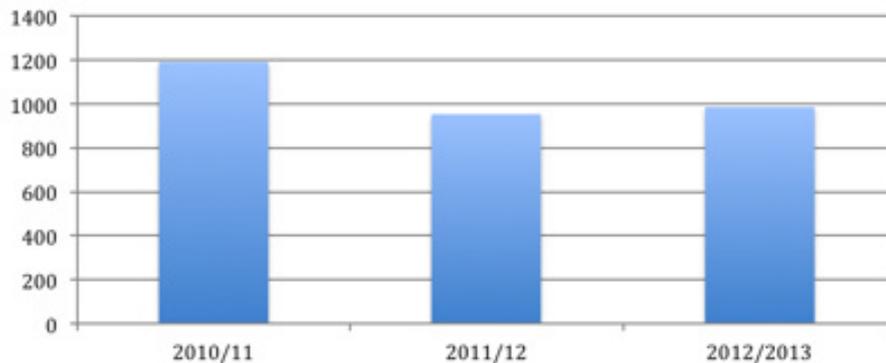
These clients are a diverse range of people who often have difficulty accessing mainstream legal services. They include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from many different culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people living with mental illness, people with disabilities and people who experience other forms of socio-economic disadvantage.

More than 47% of GLS clients are born outside of Australia and 41% of GLS clients speak a language other than English at home.

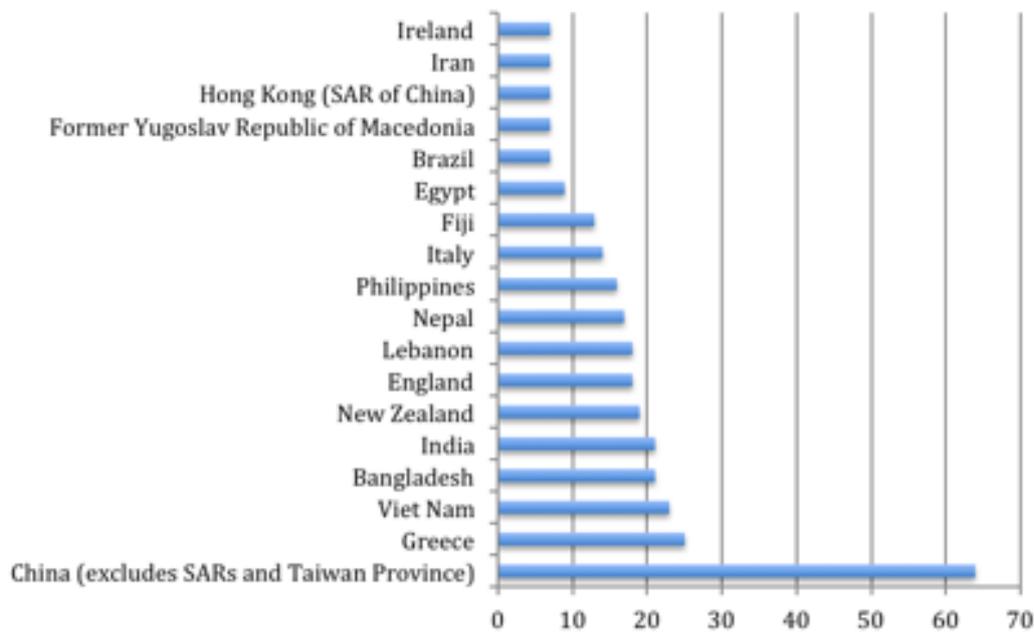


Margaret Martin, Emily Muir, Lisa Woodgate & Peter Longfield at the GLS planning day

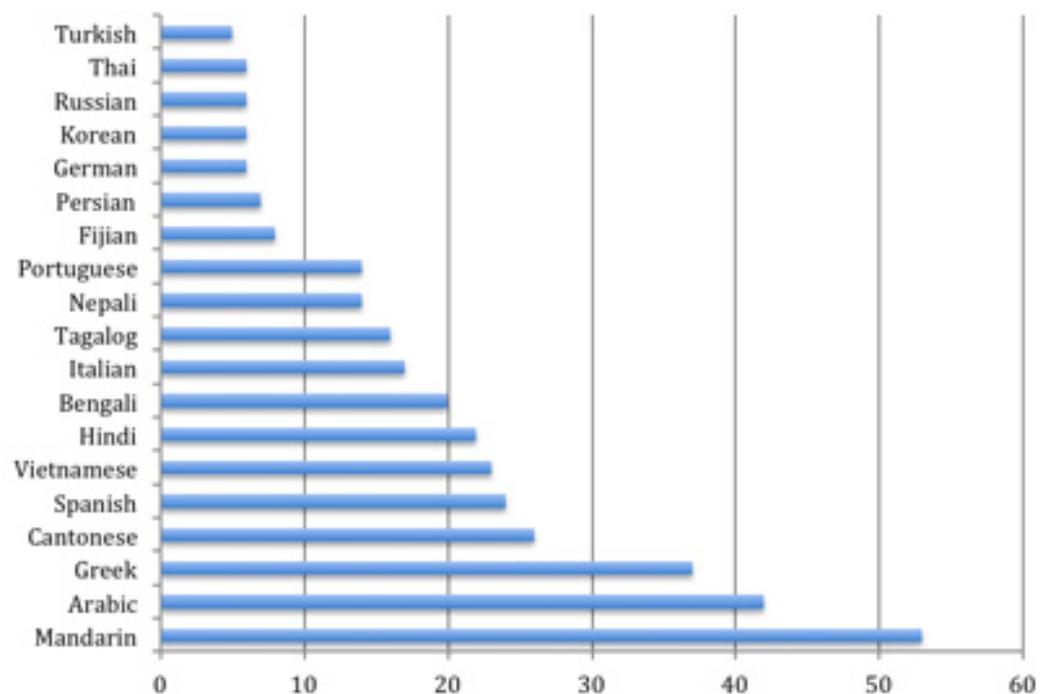
## GLS Number of Clients



## GLS Clients Country of Birth



## GLS Clients Main Language Spoken at Home

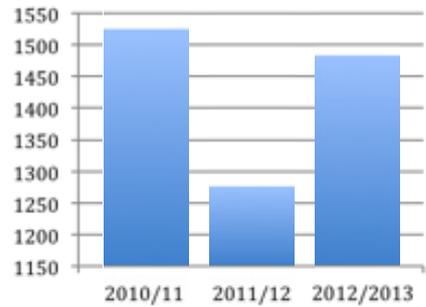


## Advice Work

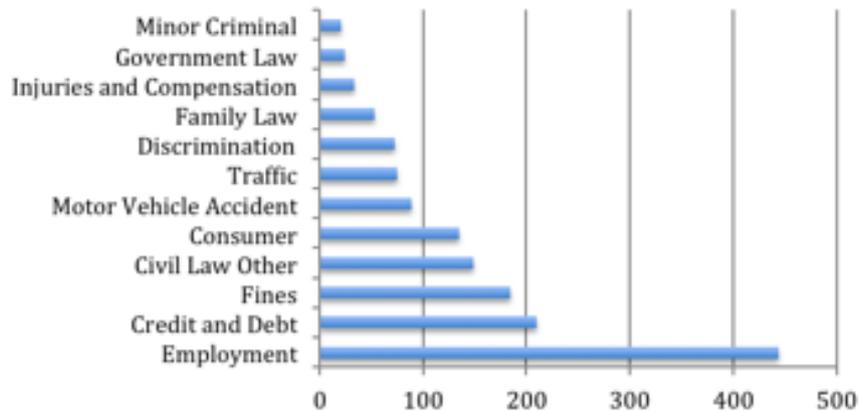
The GLS provided legal advice and assistance on 1483 occasions to 987 clients in 2012/13.

The breakdown of the legal problem types for advices largely remains the same as 2011/12 figures. There has been a slight decrease in family law advice, as we stopped running a family law advice evening session once a week.

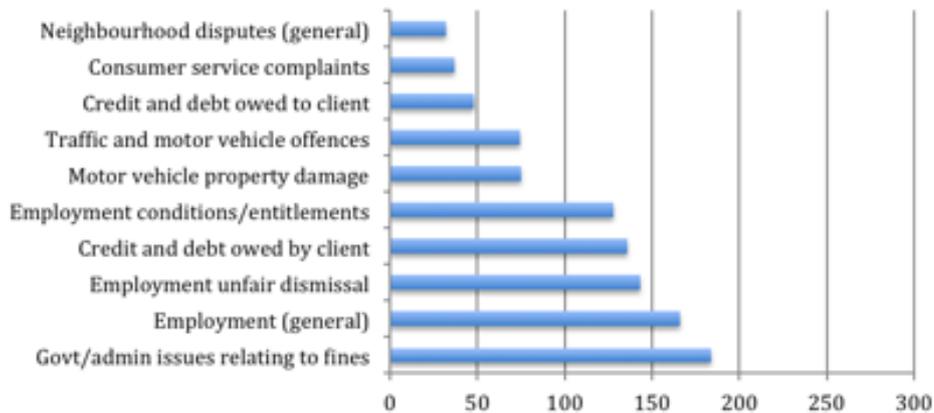
**GLS Number of Advices**



**GLS Advice Problem Types**



**GLS Top Ten Legal Problems**



## Daytime Advice Service

Daytime appointments are offered at the Centre every Tuesday afternoon and on alternate Tuesday mornings. These appointments are generally reserved for women who experience domestic violence and sexual assault, for more complex clients and other clients who cannot attend the evening advice clinics.

## Outreach Clinic at St George Migrant Resource Centre

In 2012/13 the GLS outreach at St George Migrant Resource Centre (SGMRC) in Rockdale entered its ninth year of providing a service to the local communities of the Rockdale, Kogarah and Sutherland shires.

Demand for the service has not been strong for the last four years or so. In 2013 the Centre consulted stakeholders and from March 2013 the service became a drop-in clinic. In the four months from March to June 2013, 26 clients were given advice. This is more clients than were seen in the entire twelve-months of any of the previous years from 2008 on.

The outreach advice service increases access to legal assistance for those who experience disadvantage, those from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, people with disabilities, the aged and single mothers who have difficulty travelling to the Centre in Marrickville to attend an evening advice session.

Whereas this outreach service used to operate on Monday afternoons on a fortnightly basis, it now operates on Fridays on a weekly basis.



**THANK YOU ANTOINETTE CHOW AND HER STAFF  
AT SGMRC FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND  
ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING THE LEGAL OUTREACH  
CLINIC.**

## Evening Advice Service

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

The evening advice sessions provide advice and information to clients in order to assist them to progress and solve their legal issues. This assistance includes explaining the legal process, helping clients to identify what stage their legal matter is at, explaining the meaning of legal documents, as well as drafting court documents and letters for clients to use.

The advice sessions aim to provide information, advice and basic assistance in a range of legal areas, including:

- Minor criminal, including driving and traffic offences
- Complaints about professionals, police and government organisations
- Fines
- Employment
- Discrimination
- Motor vehicle property damage
- Victims compensation
- Credit and debt
- Consumer complaints



**GILBERT+TOBIN CONTINUE TO ASSIST THE  
EVENING ADVICE SERVICE BY GENEROUSLY PROVIDING  
TWO SOLICITORS EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT.  
WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT.**

## Evening advice volunteers

Our volunteer solicitors, barristers and front desk assistants provide an invaluable service, giving 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 and increasing 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 2012/2013 can be seen in this report. A special mention should go to our long-term volunteers who continue to demonstrate such a high level of commitment to the Centre.

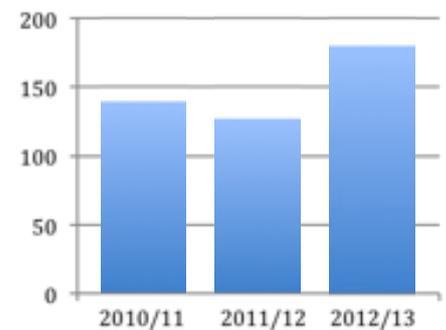
## Casework

GLS casework is selected from all the clients we come into contact with through our various advice services. The decision to provide on-going assistance to a client is made if the GLS has the capacity to take on the matter and if the needs of the client and the nature of the legal problem meet our casework criteria.

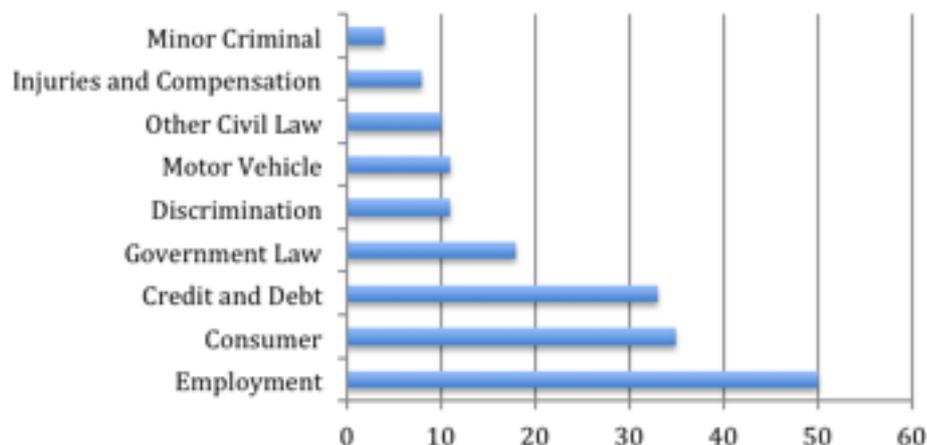
The GLS continues to provide assistance and representation to clients with various legal problems including debt, employment, consumer, discrimination, victims' compensation, fines, motor vehicle and road and traffic offences. Our statistics show that there have been some changes in the number of new cases taken on by the Centre. Most significantly, demand for employment casework continues to be very high. There was an increase in consumer matters as a result of our private car park project in association with South West Sydney Legal Centre and Legal Aid NSW. The decline in Injuries and Compensation matters reflects recent changes to the NSW victims compensation scheme.

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 these law firms, including Sparke Helmore, Maurice Blackburn, Clayton Utz, Ashurst, Gilbert+Tobin, Steiner Legal and Santone Lawyers, particularly in the areas of victims compensation, credit and debt, employment, fines and discrimination law.

### Number of New Cases



### GLS Casework Problem Types



## Family Relationship Centre Partnership

The partnership with Family Relationship Centre at Sutherland began in late 2009 with funding from the Commonwealth Attorney General. This funding will continue to 30 June 2014. The partnership remains strong and the demand for advice and assistance continues to grow.

In 2012/2013 we provided advice to 139 people on 157 occasions as a result of this partnership. We also have been able to provide representation and minor assistance on 21 occasions.

The number of Legally Assisted Mediations (LAMs) where we assisted clients also increased in 2012/2013.

As expected, the statistics show that the main legal issue is with respect to parenting and contact with children.

The Legal Service maintains strong links with the Family Relationship Centres and other community legal centres that provide a similar service, so that clients engaging in Family Dispute Resolution have equal access to legal advice and assistance during mediation.

The GLS takes a collaborative approach to the provision of services to our clients. Where appropriate, referrals are made to appropriate support services, including assistance for clients experiencing domestic violence.

Over the last 12 months, the GLS has represented clients in legally assisted mediations referred from Sutherland, and Sydney City Family Relationship Centres. It is significant to note that ten of the twelve legally assisted mediations conducted by our service resulted in a signed Parenting Agreement.



**THE GLS WOULD LIKE TO THANK JULIE DALE  
AND ALL THE STAFF AT SUTHERLAND FAMILY  
RELATIONSHIP CENTRE FOR THEIR WORK IN MAKING  
THE PARTNERSHIP AS EFFECTIVE AS POSSIBLE.**

## Policy and law reform

GLS's policy and law reform activities arise out of our advice and casework assistance. We also engage in policy and law reform in collaboration with Community Legal Centres NSW, the National Association of Community Legal Centres and all our other networks.

This year we started a new project in collaboration with South West Sydney Legal Centre and Legal Aid NSW looking at reform of private car parks. A certain private car park operator in NSW has come to the attention of consumer lawyers and advocates, politicians and government agencies due to the way it pursues alleged breaches of the terms and conditions in its car parks. In late 2012, the NSW government amended the Road Transport (General) Act exempting the RMS (the old RTA) from court orders requiring the RMS to identify the registered owners of cars to private car park operators. GLS is working with our partners to lobby for changes to consumer law to reform the way liquidated damages are dealt with in consumer contracts.

## Community Legal Education

The Centre continues to hold a series of Law for Community Workers workshops intended to inform community workers on legal processes, changes to the law and legal issues faced by clients. In the last financial year, the GLS conducted the following workshops:

- Family Law: the role of the independent children's lawyer
- Helping clients with fines: Work Development Order
- Stop Think Protect: Safeguarding records of sexual assault victims
- Victims compensation
- Family Law: early intervention in Children's Matters

During the year the GLS provided other community legal education sessions to community groups and workers, client groups and our volunteers. For example, there were several successful CLE presentations about the law given at the Tripoli & Mena Association in Arabic. Another presentation on Wills and Probate was delivered to workers at the St George Migrant Resource Centre.



## Acknowledgements

GLS 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:

Sharon Norton SC	<b>Forbes Chambers</b>	Peta Tumpey	<b>TressCox</b>
Ingmar Taylor SC	<b>State Chambers</b>	Edward Cregan	
Tom Dixon	<b>State Chambers</b>	Erin Steiner	<b>Steiner Legal</b>
Louise Goodchild	<b>Frederick Jordan Chambers</b>	Savi Manii	<b>PILCH</b>
Anne Cregan	<b>Ashurst</b>	Lee Critchley	<b>Legal Aid NSW</b>
Laura Lombardo		Ben Dougall	
David Hillard	<b>Clayton Utz</b>	Jackie Findlay	
Jessica Morath		Lauren Finestone	
Michael Do Rozario	<b>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</b>	Alex Grosart	
Danny Gilbert	<b>Gilbert + Tobin</b>	Monique Hitter	
Michelle Hannon		Simon Howard	
Katherine Shats		Gerry Kaufman	
Tamara Simms		Rosie Lambert	
Jen Davidson		Mary Lovelock	
Clancy King		Bronwyn McCutcheon	
Annette Bain	<b>Herbert Smith Freehills</b>	Paula Novotna	
Emma Maple-Brown		Meredith Osborne	
Meghan Carruthers	<b>HWL Ebsworth Lawyers</b>	Kat Lane	<b>Consumer Credit Legal Centre</b>
Julie Hamblin		Dan Stubbs	<b>Inner City Legal Centre</b>
Ben Slade	<b>Maurice Blackburn</b>	Emma Golledge	<b>Kingsford Legal Centre</b>
Giri Sivaraman		Dianne Anagnos	
Josh Mennen		Liz Pinnock	<b>Hunter Legal Centre</b>
Elizabeth O'Shea		Kim Richardson	
Majed Issa		David Porter	<b>Redfern Legal Centre</b>
Emma Scott	<b>O'Neill Partners – Commercial Partners</b>	Elizabeth Morley	
Sharlene Wellard	<b>Piper Alderman</b>	Megan Cameron	
Katie Kossian		Natalie Ross	
Carmine Santone	<b>Santone Lawyers</b>	Peter Multari	<b>South West Sydney Legal Centre</b>
Tina Santone		Rachel Martin	<b>Wirringa-Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre.</b>
Benita Howell	<b>Sparke Helmore</b>	Janet Loughman	<b>Womens Legal Services</b>

## List of Evening Advice Volunteers

### General Law Solicitors

Paul Ahearn  
 Evelyn Barnes  
 Felicity Bell  
 Sandra Berghoffer  
 Tom Bruce  
 Michelle Bryant  
 Louise Buchanan  
 Simone Bush  
 Clare Cahill  
 Michelle Cha Hua  
 Lee Corbett  
 Michael Duong  
 Rhonda Furner  
 Sally Foskett  
 Maria Guarnieri  
 Linh Sy Ho  
 Seong Hong  
 Derek Ip  
 Jasmina Jamesen  
 Rebecca Jones  
 Catherine Kelso  
 Stacey Kelly  
 Nathan Kennedy  
 Junior Khan  
 Andrew Kinton  
 Joshua Kirby  
 Jo Kwan  
 Christina Lam  
 Mimi Le  
 Marcus Lee  
 Kathryn Luis  
 Kate McCrossin  
 Wayne Morrison  
 Angela McDonald  
 George Nguyen  
 Isabelle Paton  
 Jenni Pendergast  
 Ma'ata Solofoni  
 Robert Spence  
 Erin Steiner  
 Rod Stockell  
 Lien Sutherland  
 Rachel Teo  
 Peter Tsathas  
 Adele Veness  
 Lai Vuang  
 Alicia Wong  
 Chris Yoo

### Employment Solicitors

Samantha Abeydeera  
 Will Ash  
 Megan Cant  
 Ronald De La Cuadra  
 Jannine Graham  
 Rob Hamper  
 Joe Kennedy  
 Fiona Lenhardt  
 Emma Maiden  
 Zach Marrett  
 Allison Rickett  
 Dean Schubert  
 Gabrielle Starr  
 Erin Steiner  
 Tamara Talmacs  
 Belinda Viset  
 Nick Yetzotis

### Legal Assistants

Rachel Callinan  
 Anne Clifford  
 Bryan Do  
 Zaven Fenerci  
 Kara Gorey  
 Qwayne Guevara  
 Elizabeth Haas  
 Alex Haridimos  
 Roy Jenkin  
 Andrew Jorlan  
 David Krasovitsky  
 Calvin Lau  
 Bob Liang  
 David Lim  
 Jennifer Loutit  
 Thomas Mortimer  
 Chris Papaioannou  
 Shanu Rana  
 Andrew Sarlas  
 Cameron Strain  
 Deborah Tran  
 Maria Voleynik  
 Sarah Wilson

**WE ARE GRATEFUL  
 FOR THE  
 GENEROSITY OF  
 ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS**

## Legal Support Volunteers

The GLS solicitors would not be able to assist as many clients without the support of volunteer solicitors, students on practical legal training (PLT) placement and volunteer paralegals. These volunteers provide a wide range of support to the GLS solicitors including legal research, file administration, drafting letters and documents, as well as client liaison.

In 2012/2013, these included Rod Stockell who volunteered weekly as a solicitor during the daytime. We were also assisted by the following Practical Legal Training (PLT) students:

Ali Aboaal  
John Amos  
Tendani Barrie  
Sophie Clark  
Qwayne Guevara  
Dalia Ismaiel  
Emma Kearns

Lisa Le  
David Lim  
Thomas Mortimer  
Elizabeth O'Brien  
Paul Pager  
Vidhya Raman

Cameron Strain  
Tamara Surry  
Merren Taylor  
Hong-An Thai  
Edrea Tio  
Kate Warnecke



Working at Marrickville Legal Centre has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Everyday brought something new to my understanding of the law and our legal system. In my seven months at the Centre, I was exposed to a variety of different tasks including legal research, intake assessment and putting together submissions to the NSW Parliament. I was entrusted to engage with clients experiencing unique legal problems and was closely mentored by a team of dedicated solicitors.

My time at MLC has had a significant impact on my personal and professional development. I am deeply inspired by the commitment of the MLC team and their passion to give vulnerable members of our community access to justice.

I thank everyone for welcoming me to the team and for teaching me valuable legal and life lessons that I will take with me into the future.

**Qwayne Guevara – PLT volunteer**





I have many positive things to say about my experience at Marrickville Legal Centre.

I have learnt how to interact with clients and be patient with them. I never realised how much skill it required until now. I have learnt to identify legal and non-legal issues by asking clients specific questions. I learnt the importance of compassion, and how vital it is when dealing with clients from underprivileged backgrounds. I also gained the skill to write letters, create client files, and write legal submissions.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here as it was not only educational but I got to work within a warm and friendly environment. I never felt restricted to ask and learn from them. I also appreciated the closeness amongst my colleagues and wish them all the very best.

**Vidhya Raman – PLT volunteer**



## Front Desk Volunteers

In 2013, Marrickville Legal Centre re-introduced its Front Desk Volunteer program. Law students in the final years of their degrees volunteer half-a-day every week to answer phones, greet clients at the front desk and assist staff with various tasks. Students volunteer for a six-month period and gain valuable on-the-job training and experience in legal service provision.

The students benefit from the supervision and 17 years of experience of Maria Elena-Ang, the Centre's Information and Referral Officer.

The Centre is indebted to the assistance of Sophie Farrell from Redfern Legal Centre, who supported us through the process of setting up the recruitment, training and rostering processes. The hard work of staff volunteer coordinators Emma Kearns and Thomas Mortimer was instrumental in making this program such a success in such a short time.

We are very grateful for the efforts of our front desk volunteers, for their good-humour and professionalism. The students who volunteered in 2012-2013 included:

Greta Beale  
 Julian Catling  
 Rui Chi  
 Sophie Clark  
 Joanna Connolly  
 Johanna Deutsch  
 Patrick Fonti  
 Timothy George  
 Lipi Jain  
 Un-Ai Jo  
 Jalan Kwok  
 Vincent Lam  
 James Luiker  
 Kurtis Nakkan  
 Francesca Neely  
 Troy Nicholson  
 Jennah Louise Salkedlk  
 Medha Singh  
 Stacey Stellatos  
 Palak Thaker  
 Wendy Tian  
 Kevin Truong  
 Jenny Wang



Un-Ai- Jo (centre) with  
Maria-Elena Ang & Tom Mortimer

“

I always felt like a valued member of Marrickville Legal Centre. The solicitors and paralegals were open, supportive and acknowledged the work that the law students did every roster.

The two most pivotal aspects of the Law Students Program were learning and experience. The Program was structured to provide maximum exposure to the spectrum of legal problems that arise in day-to-day life. I had frequent client contact and received ongoing assistance from a supervisor who looked after my welfare. Marrickville Legal Centre exposed me to things that could never be taught by textbooks.

Un-Ai Jo – Front Desk volunteer

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## Admin Volunteers

In December 2012, Michelle Hall recruited a team of volunteers to perform some much needed admin work. They assisted the Centre by scanning and archiving documents, organising our case notes and files, IT support and creating the MLC facebook page. Our thanks go to:

- Tristan Blackshaw
- Kaddie Conteh
- Drew Gates
- Rahela Haque
- Chandra Kachhipati
- William Lau
- Ming Lee
- Nia Ng
- Ambareen Raquib
- Renee Xin



Maria-Elena Ang with Admin  
volunteer Rahela Haque

## Case Studies

### Victims Compensation

Our client spent his teenage years at a Catholic boarding school in the mid-1980's during which time he was the victim of repeated unlawful and serious sexual assaults by a Brother within the brotherhood of his high school. These assaults are all offences under the Crimes Act 1900 (NSW).

As a result of these experiences, our client sustained a chronic psychiatric disorder that severely restricts his ongoing ability to lead a normal and productive life.

Throughout his adult life, our client has experienced mental health issues, drug and alcohol addiction, difficulty dealing with daily life issues, an inability to maintain intimate personal relationships and also hold down a stable working life.

At the time of approaching our service, our client had never spoken to anyone about these experiences, received counselling or any other type of assistance.

Our service has been instrumental in securing ongoing counselling for our client, supported him to formally report his experiences to the NSW Police Force and lodge a claim on his behalf for statutory compensation under the Victims Support and Rehabilitation Act 1966 (NSW) with Victims' Services. At the time of writing we await the outcome of the claim for compensation.

### Write-off of Loans

In late 2011, in the space of three weeks, a financial institution gave our client a series of three loans totalling \$6740. At the time our client, who has bipolar affective disorder, was suffering

a hypomanic episode. The client came to the Centre in August 2012, after having repaid approximately \$4600 but no longer able to afford the principal and interest repayments. After submissions

were made to it, the financial institution agreed to waive the balance of the loans and remove any mention of default from our client's credit history.

## Case Studies

### Multiple Fines across Australia

“Chris” is an Aboriginal client who had been homeless for 15 years. He has serious physical disabilities and mental health issues. When Chris came to see us, he owed over \$13,000 in unpaid fines in NSW and \$600 in South Australia.

#### Fines in New South Wales

Over the years when Chris was homeless he had received fines for offences such as travelling on a train without a ticket. Even though he was homeless, Chris had been trying to pay his fines. The Centre’s application to the State Debt Recovery Office (SDRO) for write-off/waiver of his outstanding enforcement orders reduced the

debt by \$8,600. Chris was able to enter into a Work & Development Order (WDO) to attend counselling sessions, which would reduce the remaining debt by \$1000 per month.

#### Fine in South Australia

In 2010, when Chris was visiting relatives in South Australia, he was fined \$600 for crossing at the pedestrian lights when they were not green.

Initially the Centre assisted Chris with negotiating a payment instalment plan where he could pay \$5 per month. However, his financial situation was so dire that

he could not afford to make all the payments. In late 2012, despite many months of research into ways to assist Chris, including calls to Legal Aid SA and Community Legal Centres in that State to no avail, we discovered that the Magistrates Court had a tiny link on their website to the Aboriginal Justice Officer. With the assistance of the Aboriginal Justice Officer at the Magistrates Court, the Centre made an application to the Court to seek a re-hearing conference in Chambers, Chris was excused from attending. The Magistrate made orders to write-off the fines in full.

### Move-on charges dismissed

In July 2012, our client was walking home after a few drinks at the local pub. Our client is a middle-aged female on a disability support pension. On the way home, our client happened upon the police detaining two youths, one of whom our client thought she recognised. When our client approached police, she was ordered to move on. Our client complied and left the area. After a short time, our client returned to the scene, concerned for the two youths’ welfare. Police charged our client with failing to comply with a move-

on direction to an intoxicated and disorderly person.

In August 2011, Parliament introduced a new move-on order for intoxicated and disorderly persons, in response to “the excessive intoxicated behaviour seen in entertainment districts on weekends”. At the same time, a new offence of continuing to be intoxicated and disorderly in a public place was introduced. As a result, police who issue an intoxicated-and-disorderly move-on order must at the same time warn the individual that, if they

continue their behaviour, they could be charged with continuing to be intoxicated and disorderly in any public place anytime within the next six (6) hours.

In our client’s case, police failed to issue the new warning about being drunk and disorderly within the next six hours. For this reason, the Magistrate dismissed the charges at the end of the Crown case. Our client, who had not slept for days before the hearing, broke down in tears from sheer relief.

## Case Studies

### Legally Assisted Family Law Mediation

Our client had mental health issues in her past due to drug abuse that affected her ability to care for her three-year-old daughter. There were Family Court consent orders that her daughter live with our client and spend time with Dad and that our client attend her treating psychiatrist.

However, our client's mental health declined and she arranged with her ex-partner that he take their daughter while she got her life back on track. There were many attempts to achieve stability in our client's life, which impacted on the father and his new family such that trust in our client had reached a low point and the parties

found themselves at the Family Relationship Centre, where it was decided that the Family Dispute Resolution should proceed as legally-assisted.

Our client had made a remarkable recovery and had a new partner, a new career and well-paid job. She and her new partner had just bought a house. However, some aspects of the current parenting arrangements were not working well for our client and her now ten-year-old daughter. Our client was having difficulty negotiating with the father for our client to spend time with their daughter, who now lived with the father and his new young family. The father was also

planning to move his family to the NSW Central Coast, which further complicated the issues.

Eventually a parenting plan was achieved signed by both parties. Some weeks later, things became heated when our client was threatening to go to court because the father had not communicated to her as was agreed in the parenting plan. Our client later found out that this was happening because of their daughter. We were able to talk to our client and "calm her down" so that she could look clearly at the situation. Then she was able to see a way forward and found that she was happy with the new arrangements.

### Legally Assisted Mediation: Family Relationship Centre

We assisted our client in her mediation with her former partner for a parenting plan for the care of their three children. There were numerous issues involved with this case.

Our client is a recovered heroine addict with schizophrenia, for which she takes psychiatric medication. There was an ADVO protecting her with an additional order that the father not approach

the house. However, the father has always had an active involvement with the children and there are existing orders providing for the older children to live with our client and spend two nights every week with their father.

Their six-month old child is not named in the current court orders and the parties were keen to address this by creating a transitional plan, while he is still

being breast-fed, to get him into the same routine as his older siblings. Despite their past history of conflict and the constraints involved, the parties were able to come to an agreement for the next six months when the baby would be weaned and the Plan could be adjusted to the next stage. This would also allow the parties to trial the Plan and identify any problems.

# EMPLOYMENT LAW

During the period 2012/2013, the Centre provided 515 employment law advices to 437 clients. Eleven per cent (11%) of employment law clients received additional support with complex matters through the provision of minor case assistance.

Employment law advice represented 35% of advice provided by the Centre’s adult legal service. While the Centre is not an employment advisory service, the demand for employment law advice is such that it constitutes the largest area of our general practice.

Marrickville Legal Centre’s catchment area includes a high proportion of clients from socially and economically disadvantaged communities. Sixty seven per cent (67%) of employment law clients self-report as having a low income. Forty six per cent (46%) of clients receiving employment advice from the Centre are born outside of Australia, many of whom were recent migrants or refugees who experience considerable barriers attempting to exercise their workplace rights. Residents experience particular difficulties in accessing assistance on employment matters because of social disadvantage due to low income level, language and literacy issues, having disabilities, suffering from workplace injuries, low education levels, lack of familiarity with basic employment rights and the Australian industrial relations system and low union membership.

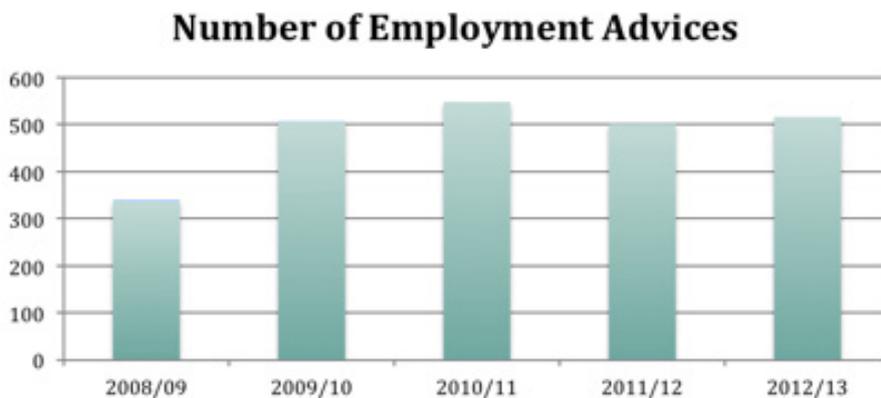
Changes to the economy on a national and global level continue to have a significant impact on clients seeking assistance with employment law matters within the Centre’s catchment area, particularly casual workers and those employed in affected industries. Within the Centre’s catchment area there is a high prevalence of small businesses, particularly manufacturing and retail, many of which are small family-run businesses employing less than 15 workers. Small business employees account for much of the steady demand from clients, who are largely non-unionised and unfamiliar with their workplace rights.

2012-2013 Employment Matters	No.
Advice	515
Cases	12
Minor & Medium Case assistance	49

**EMPLOYMENT LAW ADVICE  
REPRESENTED 35% OF  
ADVICE PROVIDED BY THE  
CENTRE’S ADULT  
LEGAL SERVICE.**

## Advice and Assistance

During the reporting period the Centre provided employment law advice on 515 occasions. The graph entitled “Number of Employment Advices” shows the continued strong demand for employment advice since the Fair Work Act came into operation on 1 July 2009.



To assist to meet the demand for assistance with employment matters, the Centre has conducted employment telephone advice appointments at evening advice sessions since 2009/2010. On 1 January 2013, the time limit to lodge an unfair dismissal application was extended from 14 to 21 days, however the time limit to lodge a general protections dispute was reduced from 60 to 21 days. This change has acted to increase the urgency for many clients to receive assistance with lodging general protections dispute applications within the new limitation date. The strict limitation period to lodge applications under the Fair Work Act continues to generate a significant demand for the provision of timely advice, and in most cases the Centre was able to accommodate requests for urgent advice.

During evening advice sessions the Centre provides clients with information, advice and referral on employment matters. The Centre assists clients with drafting applications and complaints. Clients are provided with on-going assistance at key stages of the process such as preparation for conciliation conferences, drafting responses and preparing evidence.

During the current period the number of clients obtaining minor case assistance with employment matters continued to be high, with 49 clients receiving minor case assistance. The majority of clients assisted were disadvantaged clients who received additional casework assistance with complex and multiple issues.

## Types of Legal Problems

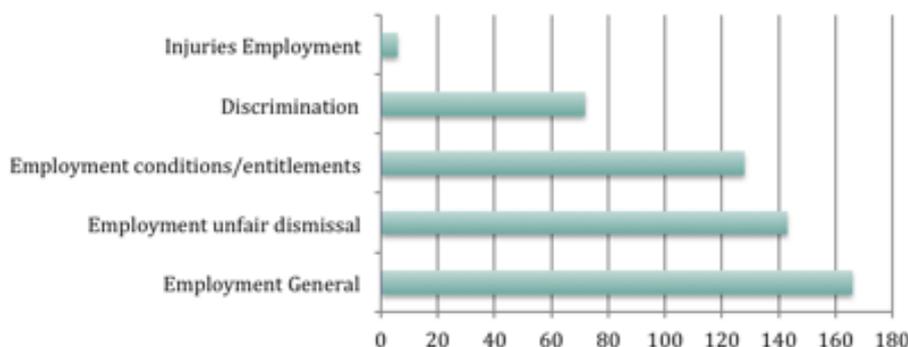
Overall, there was a strong demand for advice on all areas of employment law. The highest single area of demand was for advice on unfair dismissal, followed by enquiries about employment conditions and entitlements. A significant number of enquires concerned general employment issues such as bullying and harassment, work health and safety, workers compensation, employment contracts and workplace rights.

Frequently, disadvantaged clients seeking assistance with involuntary termination were also found to have issues in relation to unpaid wages and entitlements, such as payment of notice, correct hourly rate, shift allowances, holiday pay and loading, Long Service Leave, redundancy and superannuation. Factors such as insecurity of employment often inhibit vulnerable workers from making complaints about workplace rights while still employed, this is particularly the case for disadvantaged workers, mature age workers and those with dependents.

The Centre handled a significant number of enquiries for advice about protection from workplace discrimination and protection of workplace rights. Enquires remained high concerning breaches of general protections provisions due to adverse action taken against an employee because of a temporary absence due to illness or injury. Demand for advice on discrimination-related matters remained strong, with complaints involving pregnancy, maternity leave and carer responsibilities being the most frequent enquires.

The Centre assisted vulnerable clients with General Protections disputes in circumstances where clients had experienced adverse action as a consequence of making a workplace rights complaint and also matters concerning temporary absence from work due to illness or injury.

### Employment Law Problem Types



## Secondee Programs

The Centre's capacity to assist vulnerable and disadvantaged clients was significantly enhanced during 2012/2013 by the continuation of the Sparke Helmore Lawyers secondee program and the HWL Ebsworth Lawyers secondee program.

Clients identified, through the Centre's intake process or by the evening advice volunteer solicitors, as vulnerable or disadvantaged and requiring more assistance than would be available through evening advice sessions were referred to the appropriate secondee program.

The Centre would like to thank the secondee solicitors from Sparke Helmore and HWL Ebsworth for their valuable contribution with providing direct assistance to the Centre's clients.

We would also like to thank Meghan Carruthers and Julie Hamblin (HWL Ebsworth), and Benita Howell (Sparke Helmore) for their assistance co-ordinating the secondee programs.

### Sparke Helmore Lawyers Secondee program



The Sparke Helmore Lawyers Secondee program started in August 2011. Employment solicitors Sarah Wood, Felicity Edwards, Ian Bennett and Julie Kneebone staff the program, with one solicitor attending the Centre on a weekly basis. The program focused on providing minor and medium case assistance and advice to vulnerable and disadvantaged clients. The operation of the program on a weekly basis has meant that clients with complex and multiple issues could receive regular assistance at each stage of their matter as their case progressed. The program also played a key role in providing employment advice to vulnerable clients of Marrickville Legal Centre's Youth Legal Service.

Overall, it is clear that the Sparke Helmore program has made a significant contribution to the Centre's capacity to provide intensive casework assistance to vulnerable and disadvantaged clients. Many clients assisted by the program have contacted the Centre to express their appreciation of the specialist assistance they had received with their employment matters.

Sparke Helmore secondees, Sarah Wood, Ian Bennett, Felicity Edwards, (Julie Kneebone absent)

## HWL Ebsworth Lawyers Secondee Program

The successful HWL Ebsworth Secondee program, which commenced in February 2011, continued to operate on a weekly basis throughout the current reporting period. During 2012/2013 the program was staffed by Tanya Le, Clara MacDermott, Gianna Minato and Jennifer Engle.

The program was established to assist disadvantaged and vulnerable clients with credit and debt matters, and the focus during the current reporting period has been on assisting clients with problems concerning unpaid wages and entitlements. In many instances it is difficult for disadvantaged clients to understand their statutory entitlements and the appropriate process to pursue different wages or entitlement complaints.



HWL Ebsworth secondee  
Gianna Minato



HWL Ebsworth secondee  
Clara MacDermott



HWL Ebsworth secondee  
Tanya Le



HWL Ebsworth secondee  
Jennifer Engle

During this period the Centre has seen an increase in the number of clients seeking to recover unpaid entitlements when the employer-company closes down. Some former employees were unable to make a claim under the Government Employees Entitlements Scheme (GEERS) or Fair Entitlements Guarantee (FEG) schemes, for example because the former employer-company simply closed down and was not placed into liquidation. In cases where the company may have been trading insolvent, it is sometimes possible to pursue individual directors. The HWL Ebsworth program has provided advice to individual clients on any potential remedies in the complex area of directors' liability under the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth) and the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

The HWL Ebsworth program has also provided ongoing assistance to clients attempting to enforce judgment orders against former employers. The program has played a valuable role with assisting clients to obtain outstanding payments for wages and entitlements, in particular clients from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds (CALD).

## Volunteer and Pro Bono Employment Solicitors

Without the support of our volunteer employment solicitors the Centre would not have the capacity to assist so many clients within the catchment area. The Centre would like to take the opportunity to thank the team of volunteer employment solicitors for their commitment and dedication in attending evening advice sessions and dealing with the volume and complex nature of employment advice enquiries over this period.

## Projects and Partnerships

### Employment Law Project Unfair Dismissal Conciliation

In 2012 the “Employment Law Project – Unfair Dismissal Conciliation” was established in response to the high unmet demand for free legal advice and representation to eligible workers at conciliation conferences at the Fair Work Commission. The aim of the project is to provide a platform for understanding the impact of legal representation in unfair dismissal matters for vulnerable workers, build capacity to respond to unmet need, and assess the need for permanent funding of free employment law services for workers at risk of long term exclusion from the workforce.

Marrickville Legal Centre was one of three community legal centres invited to participate in the pilot project. The Public Interest Law Clearing House (NSW) (PILCH) acted as the Project co-ordinator and managed referrals to participating PILCH member law firms and Legal Aid NSW.

We would like to thank Savi Manni (PILCH), Simon Howard (Legal Aid NSW) and PILCH member law firms Harmers Workplace Lawyers, Landers & Rogers Lawyers, Norton Rose Australia, TressCox Lawyers.

### Gilbert & Tobin - General Protections Disputes Partnership Program

In May 2013, a pro bono representation partnership program with Gilbert & Tobin Lawyers commenced. The partnership provides a new referral pathway for legal representation for vulnerable clients at general protections dispute conferences at the Fair Work Commission.

We would like to thank Michelle Hannon, Tamara Sims, Miles Foran, Jen Davidson and Clancy King for their support with this innovative partnership.

MLC acknowledges the dedication and commitment of Clayton Utz, Gilbert & Tobin, HWL Ebsworth, Maurice Blackburn, Piper Alderman, Santone Lawyers, Sparke Helmore, Steiner Legal, TressCox, Turner Freeman and Simon Howard at Legal Aid NSW.

### Employment Law Partnerships & Referral Pathways

During 2012/2013 many vulnerable workers received legal advice and representation at the Fair Work Commission through the generous assistance of Sydney law firms under the Centre’s referral pathways.

## Case Studies

### Unfair Dismissal, Workers Compensation

On 15 May 2012, our client's employment at a restaurant was terminated when she was effectively forced to resign. The case was complicated in that the employer argued that there was no dismissal but that the worker had abandoned her employment. The circumstances of the dismissal severely affected our client's mental health and well-being. She was certified unfit for work for four weeks. But she was not able to return to her former place of employment until 15 October 2012, when her treatment ceased. She was ultimately able to obtain full-time work elsewhere.

The client represented herself at the Unfair Dismissal conciliation and then we referred her to one of our pro bono partner firms who lodged a combination of unfair dismissal and workers compensation claims.

As a result she recovered compensation on the basis that she receive her normal wages for the first four weeks of her injury, whilst she was totally unfit for work, and then an agreed amount of \$175 per week which represented her incapacity, which was limited to not working at her former workplace up until

15 October 2013 (when she no longer had any restrictions on her capacity to work).

She also obtained an order that the insurer pay for the total amount of her medical expenses related to her injury, of approximately \$1000.

The worker was very satisfied that she obtained recognition that she was unjustly dealt with by her employer, and that she was compensated for her losses.

### Unfair Dismissal, Workplace Complaint, Underpayment of Wages

The client, a Bangladeshi man, was working as a process worker. He was employed as a "casual" and had been underpaid. When he complained to his employer he was offered another 80cents per hour, which still left him well underpaid. Shortly after making his complaint his employment was terminated.

As he had worked on a regular basis for a considerable period of time, his employment did not fall within the definition of "casual" and therefore he was able to pursue unfair dismissal proceedings.

We referred the client to a pro bono partner law firm who lodged

an unfair dismissal action on his behalf. His employer ultimately negotiated a 12-week settlement (at the amended wage rate).

The client was also paid the correct back pay on the underpaid wages.

## Case Studies

### Unfair Dismissal Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Clients

Two of our Pro Bono Partners represented two non-English speaking laundry workers who were unfairly dismissed without notice after almost 10 years' service with their employer. The clients also had a significant underpayment claim.

One of the firms successfully represented the workers in their underpayment of wages claim.

The other firm represented the clients on the unfair dismissal complaint. Tom Dixon, barrister, also kindly agreed to take on the

brief on a pro-bono basis. As is often the case, the matter settled on the first day of the hearing on confidential terms, but the clients were delighted with the outcome.

### Underpayment of Wages

"Alima" was underpaid. A complaint was made to the Fair Work Ombudsman, however the employer failed to honour the agreed payment of back pay. The Centre provided extensive stage-by-stage advice and assistance over a six-month period after

Alima commenced protracted proceedings at the Chief Industrial Magistrates Court (CIM). The employer was legally represented at the initial stage at the CIM, and the parties entered into an agreement to pay-by-instalments, which was then continually

breached by the employer. The CIM made final orders, and the Centre continued to assist Alima to pursue judgment enforcement proceedings in the Local Court.

# YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE

The Youth Legal Service (YLS) is an integral part of Marrickville Legal Centre, and has provided a statewide service to children and young people in NSW since 1979.

## Staffing and Volunteers

Emily Muir, the full time Youth Solicitor, resigned in January 2013 to take up a position at Legal Aid NSW. Kate Duffy took up the role as Youth Solicitor in February 2013.

The Youth Solicitor was assisted by two secondee solicitors from Corrs Chambers Westgarth (Corrs), who attended Marrickville Legal Centre one day per week. Many thanks to our wonderful sec ondee solicitors Annabel Lee (June 2012 – December 2012), and Danielle Cutrupi (June 2012 – June 2013).



## What is the Youth Legal Service?

The Youth Legal Service provides information, advice and legal representation for young people. Our clients experience a range of legal problems - including criminal matters, fines, victims compensation, rights in education and employment, debts, complaints about government bodies, and other civil proceedings.

The YLS is also committed to providing a strategic and responsive 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 YLS plays a key role in responding to policy and law reform issues affecting young people. This is undertaken through the everyday work of the YLS, as well as through participation in the Youth Justice Coalition and local Youth Interagencies.

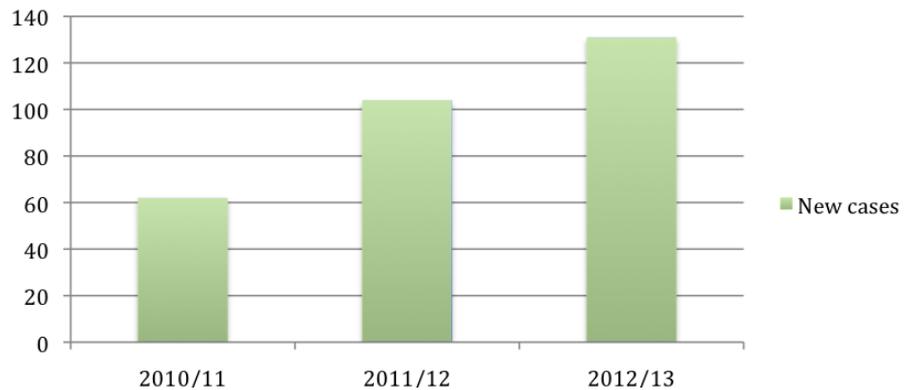
## Advice

The YLS provides an accessible telephone and face-to-face legal advice and information service to young people and youth workers across NSW. Young people frequently use the YLS - as do adults calling on behalf of young people, and youth workers calling on behalf of their clients.

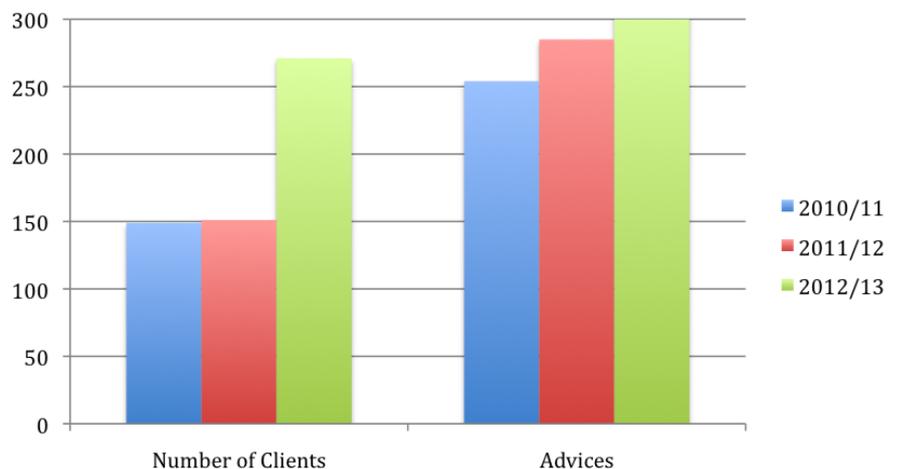
A large proportion of young people who accessed the YLS over the past year were from non-English speaking backgrounds, and a significant percentage were from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background.

In 2012/2013, we provided advice to 271 clients on 324 occasions. When compared with statistics from 2011/2012, the number of clients that we assisted increased by 44%. This indicates that we are accessing more young people through out outreach services, as well as providing a substantial number of telephone advices. The number of individual advices provided and cases opened also increased relative to previous years.

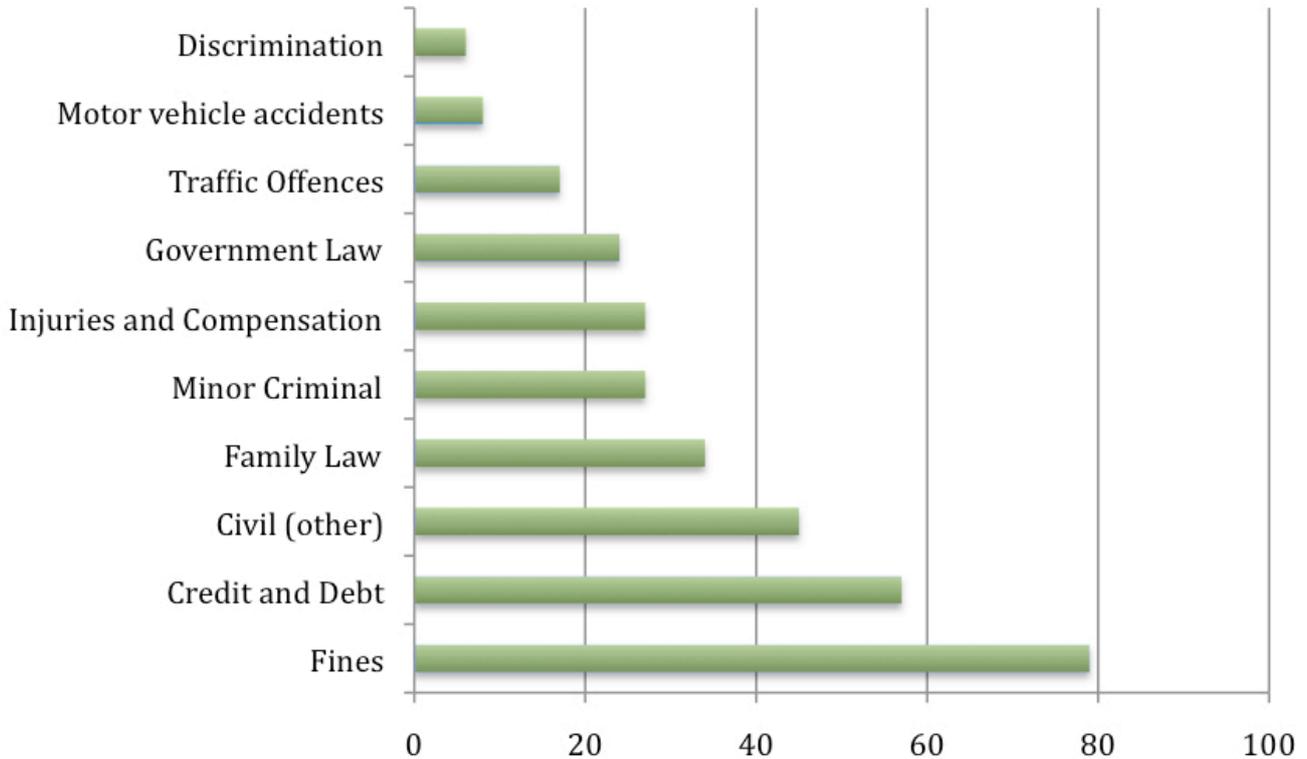
### YLS: Number of New Cases



### YLS: Number of Clients and Advices



## YLS Problem Types



The types of problems that young people presented with in 2012/2013 were similar to those encountered in 2011/2012, with fines and credit and debt matters the most common legal issues for young people. However, there has been an increase in advices for other civil matters and for family law issues.

## Casework

The YLS 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 - most predominantly in the area of fines, credit and debt, victims compensation, and complaints about police. However, a case that we ran in the Supreme Court of NSW warrants a special mention:

## YLS makes law!

The Youth Legal Service assisted a young person who wanted to change their name. The YLS obtained a court order directing the NSW Registrar of Births Deaths & Marriage to register a name change for a young person. The name change was made without parental consent or knowledge, on the grounds of exceptional circumstances. The exceptional circumstances included a genuine risk to the young person's life if their family were to know of their whereabouts. The court made the order in its *parens patriae* jurisdiction. This is the first time the Supreme Court has made such an order.

The Youth Solicitor instructed Ms. Louise Goodchild of counsel and Ms Sharon Norton SC, who both acted on the case on a pro bono basis. The YLS wishes to thank Louise and Sharon for the dedication, commitment, and generosity they gave to work on this case.



**YLS THANKS MS. LOUISE GOODCHILD  
AND MS. SHARON NORTON SC FOR THEIR  
GENEROUS PRO BONO ASSISTANCE.**

## Outreach Program

### Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service (BMYS)

Marrickville Legal Centre has been partnering with Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service to provide a legal outreach to young people since August 2008. The youth legal outreach provides a free fortnightly drop-in service for 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 YLS 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.

Young people seek advice on a wide range of legal issues at Bankstown. The types of legal issues we have seen at the outreach include fines, debts owed by young people, traffic offences, minor criminal matters, complaints against police, and a variety of other civil matters.

We provided 18 individual advices to young people, and opened 3 cases through this outreach. Of these young people, almost all came from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The youth legal outreach service would not have been possible without the initiative and partnership of Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service. Special thanks go to BMYS workers Kassie Paice, Abel Tuamasaga, Malak Khalil, and Suzanne Leonard, 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.

Kate Duffy, Youth Solicitor, at BMYS



## Outreach Program continued

### Youth Legal Outreach at Belmore

In 2012, Marrickville Legal Centre partnered with Barnardos Belmore to provide a youth legal outreach at the Belmore Youth Resource Centre (BYRC). The Centre houses a variety of youth services that offer a range of programs for youth aged 12 to 18 - including a weekly drop-in service for young people to attend the Centre, access services, and hang out.

The Youth Legal Outreach operated every second Wednesday afternoon at BYRC. The YLS provided advice and information about fines, minor criminal matters, complaints against police, debt matters, employment matters, discrimination matters, victims compensation, and school suspensions.

Towards the end of 2012, Barnardos Belmore moved out of BYRC, which meant the Youth Legal Outreach could no longer be conducted at the Centre. The Youth Solicitor trialed participating in 'street work' with the street workers from Barnardos Belmore, which involved walking the local streets to access young people on their 'turf'.

**WE PROVIDED 10  
INDIVIDUAL ADVICES  
TO YOUNG PEOPLE  
AND OPENED 5 CASES  
THROUGH THIS  
OUTREACH.**

**WE PROVIDED 63  
INDIVIDUAL ADVICES  
TO YOUNG PEOPLE,  
AND OPENED 30  
CASES THROUGH THIS  
OUTREACH.**

### NEW Linked In: Civil Law Outreach at Parramatta Children's Court

In September 2012, the Youth Legal Service at Marrickville Legal Centre, in partnership with the Children's Legal Service (CLS) at Legal Aid NSW, began a 12-month pilot project aimed at developing and implementing a new civil law outreach at Parramatta Children's Court.

This project, funded by the Legal Aid NSW/CLC Partnership Program, aims to identify the civil law needs of young people who are in contact with the criminal justice system, and to link them in with Marrickville Legal Centre's Youth Legal Service for advice and case assistance.

The outreach operates every Thursday from 9am to 1pm. It is staffed by the Youth Solicitor from MLC - working closely with the duty solicitors and the Children's Court Assistance Scheme staff. The purpose of the outreach is to identify young people in need of civil law advice.

The outreach has started off successfully, with the YLS advising a high number of young people at the court on civil law issues such as fines, debt matters, accessing Centrelink, complaints about police, and victims compensation.

## Community Legal Education

### **Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service (BMYS)**

The Youth Solicitor conducted a wide range of community legal education workshops, seminars, Q&As, and presentations. These sessions covered issues such as police powers, victims compensation, fines and criminal law. These presentations included:

- Workshops on ‘Young People and the Law’ with students from the Marrickville Local Government Area at the Marrickville Youth Resource Centre;
- Workshop on Fines with students from the Bankstown Senior College Intensive English Centre.

The Youth Solicitor also conducted community legal education sessions for workers assisting young people, including:

- Presentation on the ‘Legal Rights and Obligations of Youth Workers’, made to community workers as part of Marrickville Legal Centre’s community legal education series;
- Workshop on ‘Advising Children and Young People’ at the CLC NSW Quarterly Training Day for CLC solicitors.

## Dare to be Sensible Project

The YLS continues to partner with the Metro Migrant Resource Centre (MMRC) through its ‘Dare to be Sensible’ project, which targets young people aged 15 to 21 and their families who come from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

As part of the project, the YLS has been leading workshops on ‘Young People and the Law’ at participating high schools in the Canterbury and Bankstown Local Government Areas.

The YLS looks forward to continuing to work with MMRC on this worthwhile project.

## 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 the Youth Solicitor and meets on a bimonthly basis. We would like to thank Gilbert + Tobin and Corrs Chambers Westgarth for generously allowing us the use of their meeting rooms throughout 2012 and 2013.

#### Submissions by the YJC:

- Letter to the Editor of NSW Law Society Journal regarding closure of the Youth Drug and Alcohol Court (August 2012);
- Letter to the NSW Attorney General regarding statutory review of the Graffiti Control Act 2008 (NSW) (September 2012);
- Letter to the NSW Attorney General regarding ongoing funding of the Children's Court Assistance Scheme (November 2012).

#### Articles

- Media release issued in response to the closure of the Youth Drug and Alcohol Court (July 2012);
- Media release issued in response to the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research report, 'Youth Justice Conferences versus Children's Court: A comparison of cost effectiveness' (September 2012).

#### Participation in Committees

- Participation in the Australian Institute of Criminology's consultation process for a National Youth Justice Framework (August 2012);
- Membership of the Department of Attorney General and Justice Work and Development Order Monitoring Committee (ongoing).

#### Acknowledgements:

We wish to thank all YJC members who have contributed to the work of the Youth Justice Coalition for 2012/2013.



## Corrs Chambers Westgarth Pro Bono Secondee Program

The pro bono partnership with Corrs Chambers Westgarth (Corrs) continues to flourish, providing additional and much needed assistance to the YLS.

The Corrs secondees for 2012/2013 were Annabel Lee and Danielle Cutrupi. Annabele and Dani made enormous contributions to the work of the Youth Legal Service. They each had carriage of significant cases and provided invaluable support and assistance in the advice and casework of the YLS.

We extend our warm thanks to Annabel and Dani for their hard work and dedication to the YLS. Their commitment and assistance has been invaluable in providing much needed support to the YLS in delivering legal services to young people. We extend a particular thank you to Dani, who stayed on for twelve months in her secondment, proving an invaluable asset to the Youth Legal Service.

The pro bono partnership between the YLS and Corrs is now in its sixth year. We thank Corrs for their ongoing support and commitment. In particular, we thank pro bono partner Michael Do Rozario, Andrew Korbel, and human resources manager Sara Benvenuti for the role they have played in championing the secondment program.



Danielle Cutrupi, Michael Walton  
(Principal Solicitor) with Kate Duffy

“



“As a junior lawyer in the Corrs Property Group, I had the wonderful opportunity to undertake a one-day a week secondment at Marrickville Legal Centre (MLC) working with Emily Muir in the Youth Legal Service (YLS).

The YLS provides legal services and advice to young people from

a range of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. The young people that I assisted had a range of legal problems including victims compensation claims, fine and debt matters, and privacy complaints. I was also involved in preparing and presenting various community legal education sessions, including one on consent to girls at a women’s refuge.

Many of the young people assisted by the YLS come from non-English speaking backgrounds, were homeless or in severe financial hardship, suffered mental illness or disability, or had experienced other difficulties in their lives. It was extremely rewarding to be able

to assist these young people and provide a positive contribution to their lives.

Many of the skills I developed at MLC are applicable to my work as a lawyer at Corrs. These skills include case management, client interviews and meetings, drafting submissions and applications on behalf of clients and dealing with various government organisations.

I have had a fantastic time working with Emily and others at MLC and am grateful to have been able to be involved in the valuable contribution that MLC makes to the community.”

**Annabel Lee – Corrs Chambers Westgarth Seconded Solicitor**

”

“

“Over the course of the last year, I have had the incredible opportunity to work one day per week at Marrickville Legal Centre (MLC) assisting in the Youth Legal Service (YLS) under the supervision of Emily Muir and then Kate Duffy.

During my time at MLC, the work I became involved in was diverse and challenging. It extended to matters relating to victims compensation, minor criminal and consumer debt matters, fines and proceedings in both the Supreme Court of New South Wales and Children’s Court. YLS also undertakes a range of outreach projects, and I was fortunate to attend the Bankstown Multicultural Youth Centre, and community legal education sessions at local

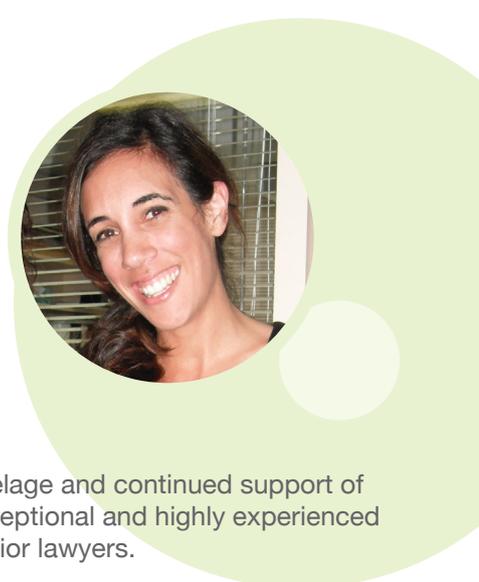
high schools in the inner- western suburbs of Sydney, on various occasions.

In addition to the breadth of work I was able to contribute to, the most rewarding part of my time at MLC was attributable to the clients I was able to help. The YLS assists young people from across the whole of New South Wales, most of whom have experienced some form of hardship. To know that I was helping to make a meaningful difference to a young person’s life through the YLS made it all the more gratifying.

Throughout my secondment, I have learnt essential legal skills ranging from case management to advocacy. I have also had the

tutelage and continued support of exceptional and highly experienced senior lawyers.

I am grateful to MLC for my secondment experience and having had the chance to be part of a team that continues to make such a valuable contribution to the community.”



**Danielle Cutrupi – Corrs Chambers Westgarth Seconded Solicitor**

”

## Case Studies

### Successful complaint against police officers

'Rada' was a young person who came to us wanting to make a complaint against police. Rada had been at a house party, which has been broken up by the police. Rada left the party and went to the train station to catch a train home.

The police arrived at the station and asked Rada and her friends to move on. Rada had begun to leave, when other people from the party arrived at the station and

began throwing bottles. When this happened, Rada was forced to the ground by police, searched, and arrested. Rada was not told why she was being arrested. Rada was taken to the police station and put in a cell, but not questioned. Rada was released a few hours later.

We made a formal complaint to the police about the actions of the police officers that night. The police conducted an internal

investigation and made findings against two officers. The first finding was that the officers had failed to identify themselves and their office while effecting arrest, and the second finding was that they failed to give reasons while effecting arrest.

### Victims Compensation for young person who suffered child sexual assault

'Tyson' was a victim of a series of sexual assaults perpetrated on him by his father when Tyson was aged between two and five years. Tyson suffered physical and psychological harm as a result of the sexual assaults.

We assisted Tyson to lodge a claim for victims compensation. We gathered evidence from Community Services, NSW Police, and a number of health services in support of the claim.

The application was successful, and Tyson received a significant award of compensation.

## Case Studies

### FEE-HELP debt reduced for young person with a mental illness

'Natalie' was a young indigenous student who came to see us after discontinuing her tertiary studies, due to clinically diagnosed depression and anxiety. Natalie had failed her previous semester – her second – due to her mental illness, and had stopped attending classes in her third semester.

We assisted Natalia in drafting an application for withdrawal from her second and third semesters, due to her medical circumstances, despite the application being made past the census dates for both semesters. The tertiary institution ultimately permitted Natalie to withdraw from both semesters without academic penalty.

The tertiary institution also waived Natalie's financial penalty for her third semester, and reduced her second semester liability by \$4,940. Her overall FEE-HELP debt was reduced from almost \$20,000 to approximately \$3,000.

### Motor vehicle damage - statement of claim negotiation

'Jason' was a young person who was involved in a minor car accident that caused damage to another car. Jason did not have car insurance, and received a statement of claim for over \$9,000.

Jason had recently started working in a casual job, but did not have the means to pay the debt as a lump sum.

We advised Jason of his options, and negotiated with the other party on Jason's behalf to pay off the debt by installments.

# INNER WEST TENANTS' ADVICE & ADVOCACY SERVICE

The tenancy service provides an advice and advocacy service to tenants, boarders and lodgers living in the Local Government Areas of Marrickville, Ashfield, Strathfield, Burwood, and Canada Bay. The service also provides community legal education for tenants and community workers on a range of tenancy issues.

Funding for TAAP services across NSW is administered by the NSW Office of Fair Trading. Half of the statewide funding - roughly \$4.5 million dollars per year - is provided by the Rental Bond Board, which controls the \$55 million of interest earned annually by tenants' bond money.

In November 2012, at the Regional Meeting of the Tenants' Advice & Advocacy Program, Martin Barker won the 'Golden Rabbit' for Outstanding Contribution to Policy & Law Reform.

## Tenancy Workers

The current members of the tenancy team are Martin Barker, Diana McMahon, Julia Murray, and Eloise Parrab.

During the 2012-2013 period, we were also ably assisted by locum, Rafael Mazzoldi.

We would also like to thank our Practical Legal Placement students, Emma Kearns and Thomas Mortimer, who have made valuable contributions to our work this year.



Julia, Diana, Martin and Eloise

## Case Work

In the past 12 months the tenancy team has advised 1657 clients. 9% of these clients were boarders and lodgers. Social Housing clients (comprising Housing NSW and Community Housing tenants) made up 10.3% of all callers to the service. The remainder were private renters. We sent follow up written information to 19% of all clients. We also referred many people to the TAAP program website, [www.tenants.org.au](http://www.tenants.org.au), to access factsheets.

During the year we assisted 391 clients with preparing their cases for the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal (CTTT), and we attended the Tribunal for 127 clients. Many of these matters involved two or more attendances at CTTT hearings.



## Duty Advocacy

Our provision of duty advocacy at the Sydney Registry of the CTTT has again proved a valuable, if still non-funded, service to more than 60 tenants in their hearings this year. We continue to provide a fortnightly (and occasionally weekly) duty advocacy service. This has proved particularly worthwhile this year, as regular attendance by the same advocate has enhanced our rapport with regular CTTT conciliators and some Members.

It is now standard practice for our duty advocate to be asked by the conciliators to assist in conciliations where residential tenants do not fully understand their rights and obligations. Often our advice and advocacy at such conciliations has resulted in the making of consent orders that benefit tenants - not only with outcomes obtained, but also by circumventing the time, money, and stress such tenants could face at a formal hearing. Similarly, it is now commonplace for certain members to seek out the duty advocate, and ask that tenants appearing before them be offered either advice or representation as members pursue procedurally fairer outcomes. In May, Gary Wilson, Deputy Chairperson (Registry & Administration) of the CTTT asked our duty advocate to make a short presentation, explaining the service we provide, to a group of members visiting from South Australia's Residential Tenancies Tribunal. The members were very interested in hearing details of our involvement, particularly in the initial conciliation process, as under the South Australian model tenants go straight to formal hearings without the benefit of tenant advocate representation. Our advocate suggested to the visitors that this could lead to poorer outcomes for tenants, who may not be aware of how to best prepare and present their evidence.

## Housing NSW Repairs Campaign

Our service is involved in 'Get It Fixed!' - a group of tenants and community organisations concerned about Housing NSW's failure to repair its properties. Many public housing tenants in our local area contact us with problems getting Housing NSW to carry out even basic repairs to their homes. Tenants often have to wait months while they live with issues such as black mould, collapsed roofs, and holes in their floors. 'Get it Fixed!' has launched a website, and is asking the NSW Government to end the wait for repairs in public housing.

## Outreach

In March 2013 the service began outreach at Newtown Neighborhood Centre's 'One Stop Shop' on Thursday afternoons. For two hours, people are encouraged to drop into the Neighborhood Centre, where they are able to access a number of service providers including Housing NSW, Centrelink, Anglicare, and the Boarding House Outreach Project. Clients can also use the computers, have some food, tea, and coffee, and get a haircut. We have assisted a number of tenants, boarders, and lodgers at outreach.

## Millers Point

In late 2012, the NSW Minister for Finance announced that the NSW Land & Housing Corporation was considering the sale of all public housing properties in Millers Point. There are approximately 220 public housing properties in Millers Point - an iconic community located between Circular Quay and Barangaroo. The tenancy service was contacted by Millers Point residents concerned about the condition of their properties, and the possibility that their homes might be sold. We have attended community meetings and provided advice to CoRE, the elected residents group. We will continue to stand by the tenants of Millers Point in their efforts to save their homes.

“  
WE WILL CONTINUE  
TO STAND BY THE  
TENANTS OF MILLERS  
POINT IN THEIR  
EFFORTS TO SAVE  
THEIR HOMES

”

## Borders and Lodgers

IWTAAS made a submission to the NSW Government in response to the release of an Exposure Draft Boarding Houses Bill in mid 2012. The resulting Boarding Houses Act 2012 followed decades of lobbying and advocacy for better protections for boarders and lodgers in NSW. While we welcome the historic Boarding Houses Act, we remain committed to working for further tangible protections for people living in boarding houses, who remain highly vulnerable. We have subsequently participated in community education sessions for boarding house residents regarding the new Boarding Houses Act, in conjunction with Newtown Neighborhood Centre. We have also been involved in the

running of an information session for operators of boarding houses. Our service has also been actively involved in the 'Make This A Home' coalition. The coalition is a broad group of organisations, predominantly based in the Inner West, that are working towards better conditions and legislative reforms in the boarding house sector. 'Make This a Home' made a submission regarding the Draft Boarding House Bill. Our service has a representative on Marrickville Council's recently established Affordable Housing Committee. We welcome the opportunity to make a contribution to ensuring that affordable housing is an issue on the agenda for all levels of government.



Martin Barker speaking on new boarding house laws at an Inner West Boarding House Operators Forum organised by Newtown Neighbourhood Centre

## Case Studies

### Case Study 1

Our client 'June' was a Housing NSW tenant living in a property that she rented from a private landlord. Her rent was subsidised by Housing NSW under their private rental subsidy scheme. June contacted us in response to Housing NSW attempts to transfer her to a property that they owned. The properties shown to our client did not meet her complex medical needs. There were also issues with how staff members at the local Housing NSW office were treating our client.

We assisted June to appeal Housing NSW's decision, and ensured that the properties offered met our client's needs. We also referred our client to

MLC's General Legal Service, for assistance with lodging a disability discrimination complaint to HREOC. While working with our client, we became aware that the owner of the property she was living in had been ignoring her requests for repairs for two years. We applied to the CTTT on our client's behalf for orders for repairs, compensation, and a backdated rent reduction.

During this time, the landlord gave our client a 'no grounds' notice of termination. We believed the timing of this notice indicated it was in retaliation to our client taking steps to assert her rights, so we also applied to the CTTT for an order that the notice was retaliatory.

Before the matter was finalised at the CTTT, Housing NSW made an offer of a capital property to our client that met all her needs. She happily moved into the new premises. We continued action at the CTTT for compensation, and succeeded in getting an order for over \$7000. In addition, the General Legal Service succeeded in obtaining a written apology from Housing NSW, and in having the order from the CTTT enforced against the landlord.

Our client was extremely pleased with all of these outcomes, and very appreciative of all the work undertaken by both the tenancy and the general legal teams at MLC.

### Case Study 2

Our client had just moved into her first rental property with her boyfriend. After moving in, they noticed the unit had no windows, and it looked like the unit had previously been used as an office space. At our advice they contacted the local Council, and discovered that the property they were living in was not zoned for residential purposes. The tenants gave the landlord a 14-day notice

of termination and vacated. We applied to the CTTT for compensation for our client. The CTTT made orders that all rent the tenants had paid was to be refunded, due to there having been a legal impediment to the landlord renting out the premises for residential purposes. The rent at our client's new property was \$70 per week higher than at the former office, and she had signed a fixed

term contract for six months. The CTTT ordered the landlord to pay our client the difference in the two rents for six months. In addition, the tenant was awarded \$2000 in non-economic loss compensation for the physical inconvenience she suffered in having to move at short notice at the beginning of her university studies.

## Case Studies

### Case Study 3

Following an IWTAAS Outreach letterbox drop in March at a large HNSW block, the service was contacted by a tenant with complaints about years of repairs and maintenance neglect. Worst of these complaints was an unsecured, graffitied communal laundry being used as a shooting gallery and party venue. Threats made by the inhabitants had frightened the tenants into not using this area for its intended purpose. In addition, the lifts and common areas were dumping grounds for rubbish, and an elderly tenant couldn't open his windows properly because of overgrown trees.

Working in tandem with Emily from the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, we attended a site barbecue, where we signed up a dozen tenants to the repairs campaign, resulting in senior HNSW personnel attending an onsite 'repair/maintenance talkfest.'

Negotiating hard with HNSW (and Assets), backed up by multiple CTTT applications, we persisted until the block was properly secured with a new, and very fancy intercom/security system. Onsite meetings with the management of the cleaning contractor resulted in tenants monitoring the contractor's

communal cleaning schedules. Large trees were removed or trimmed, and new washing lines installed. Finally, ramps were built allowing disabled access to the barbecue area.

Most significantly, a tenants' association is now actively taking ownership of their formerly neglected, depressed living environment.

Martin Barker receives an award for best policy work form Grant Arbuthnot of the Tenants Union



# INNER WEST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROACTIVE SUPPORT SERVICE

In our fourth year of the Inner West Domestic Violence Proactive Support Services (IWDVPASS), our service continues to meet and surpass its goals, built on the partnerships with Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (SWDVCAS), NSW Police, Elsie Refuge, and many other community organisations.

## Improving the safety of victims and their children

The aim of DVPASS is to improve the safety of domestic violence victims and their children. We provide telephone support to people who have experienced domestic violence, mainly women with or without children, including repeat victims. We also offer referral support to male clients as well. Client referrals are received mainly from local police via the Yellow Card issued by police when an incident is recorded. Other referrals come from Marrickville Legal Centre clients and other community welfare organisations. The service undertakes safety and risk assessment with each client and provides information and referrals, especially warm referrals to SWDVCAS to support the client with their safety plan.

The service is co-located one day each per week in the three police stations of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Newtown Local Area Commands (LACs), and this has allowed for strong partnerships with Domestic Violence Liaison Officers (DVLOs). The IWDVPASS Coordinator also participates bi-monthly in the SWDVCAS Seconded Worker Roster, and this relationship also improves communication between the services and referral pathways for clients.

## Improving access to services and support for victims

IWDVPASS aims to improve access to services and support for victims by proactive follow up of referrals via the telephone, with at least three attempts to contact each client. Extra attempts are made if the client is identified by DVLOs as needing extra follow up. Info packs are sent out where safe and appropriate. Upon contacting the client, a safety assessment is conducted with them, and any information and referrals given and/or made for the client.

Number of referrals received from agencies, by source:

- Leichhardt LAC – 347
- Marrickville LAC – 359
- Newtown LAC – 248
- Other sources – 44 (MLC/Elsie's/self-referral)



Stephanie Tredinnick  
(third from right) with the  
DVPASS reference group.

## Integrated, collaborative service provision

IWDVPASS provides integrated service collaboration by several pathways. Co-location at Marrickville Legal Centre (MLC), Elsie Refuge and each of the three local police stations regularly means we have strong relationships with these services and particularly with the DVLOs in each LAC. We hold quarterly IWDVPASS Reference Group meetings, and also attend and participate in the monthly Leichhardt/Marrickville DV Liaison Committee (LMDVLC) meetings. Participation in the SWDVCAS Seconded Worker Roster on a bi-monthly basis at Balmain and Newtown Local Courts improves communication between the services, providing assistance and support to victims attending court.

The IWDVPASS Coordinator is also proactive by attending various interagency and networking opportunities with other Domestic Violence community service providers in the local and metropolitan areas of Sydney, thus keeping abreast of recent and updated research, statistics and trends within Community service networks.

IWDVPASS collates monthly, quarterly, and annual data in regard to quantity of yellow card referrals and the rates of “compliance” (the rate at which police officers offer victims the referral) and “consent” (the rate at which victims are consenting to follow up by DVPASS). These statistics overall are compared to last year.

From June 2012 to June 2013 compliance was between 84-100% across the three LACs and consent was between 39%-50%, this is an increase from last year. There has been an increase across the board in the consenting yellow cards and yellow cards with Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders in progress received from police from two of the three police stations from last year, approximately an 15-20% increase.

### Main partner agencies:

- Marrickville Legal Centre
- NSW Police Force Local Area Commands (Leichhardt, Marrickville, Newtown)
- Sydney Women’s Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service
- Elsie Women’s Refuge
- Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women’s Legal Centre

### Participation in education and training with partners:

- Marrickville Professional Practice Group meeting
- White Ribbon Day stall with Police and SWDVCAS
- Presentation at DRG by IARC lawyer
- Presentation at Police Training Leichardt LAC
- Community Legal Education – Sexual Assault Reporting and Domestic and Family Violence and Migration law – MLC

“  
THE  
INFORMATION,  
REFERRALS  
AND ADVOCACY  
PROVIDED BY  
IWDVPASS  
ASSISTS  
HUNDREDS OF  
WOMEN  
”

## Needs of specific client groups

The service is aware that there are issues specific to people from particular groups and aims to have strategies in place to address these issues. There are significant barriers to safety and support experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women with disabilities, older women and women and men in same sex relationships. Some of the ways that we try to address these barriers are:

- Providing options and listening to clients
- Consulting with, and referring to, specialist services
- Practicing and improving cultural competence
- Using interpreters where appropriate
- Forming partnerships with specialist agencies
- Offering face to face appointments at police stations, court, MLC, or at the client's residential facility (when safe, e.g. hospital)

## Materials produced and distributed

When appropriate and safe to do so, an information pack is sent out to clients by post or by email containing:

- Power and control wheel
- Equality wheel
- Safe from Violence booklet (or similar)
- Cycle of violence info
- List of local support services/helplines/websites
- Flyers for SWDVCAS, Victims Services, MLC, Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre and other services
- Flyer for financial support

## Staff

IWDVPASS Coordinator Sarah Stellino was employed from 2011-2012, her contribution to IWDVPASS was invaluable. Sarah's commitment and care toward our clients was admired by all. On her resignation, Stephanie Tredinnick took up the Coordinator role and has been working hard to learn the role and has kept the project delivering the quality service outcomes that are needed. Stephanie is equally as committed to the care of our clients.

The information, referrals and advocacy provided by IWDVPASS assists hundreds of women to be supported and safer, and their fantastic work is greatly appreciated by Marrickville Legal Centre.

Thanks also to Elsie's Women's Refuge for supporting IWDVPASS during staffing transitions.

## Case Studies

### IWDVPASS Case Study

A referral was received for a client named 'Mary' from one of the police Local Area Commands. Mary has not reported any previous domestic violence from her husband for over thirty years during their marriage, mainly because of their religious beliefs. She stated that she always managed to cope with his aggressive nature, psychological and verbal abuse, and wasn't previously willing to report to police about his violent nature. He had hit her before. Her husband had recently commenced drinking again after a few years of alcohol abstinence. One afternoon he came home highly intoxicated after drinking for several hours with friends. He accused her of nagging him and that it was all her fault that he was drinking and claimed that it was her that was making him unhappy. Their argument became heated and he was yelling and intimidating her. She hid in the bathroom and tried to lock the door. He forced his way

into the bathroom and punched her with his fist and smashed her head against the bathroom vanity. She ran back into the lounge room and called police. The police attended and took out an AVO against her husband. He was arrested and charged. She had to attend hospital for treatment due to the serious nature of the assault. Police passed on her consented details via the Yellow Card to IWDVPASS.

The DVPASS worker interviewed Mary after she returned home from hospital. DVPASS assessed the client for all current and prior domestic violence risk identifiers and recorded all detail of her domestic violence history. The DVPASS worker spoke about domestic violence, the cycle of violence, the impacts of domestic violence with Mary. Options such as leaving the home to go to a refuge were discussed, as well as the possibility of an exclusion granted preventing her husband

returning to the home. A safety plan was put in place with Mary. Mary decided to return to the family home, her husband relocated to another residence and she had decided not to exclude him from the family home entirely as they had a teenage child together who was living at home. An ongoing safety plan was discussed with Mary to assist her to assess herself and her situation in relation to the risks of returning to the family home to live around her husband.

IWDVPASS provided Mary with informative and emotional support with the AVO, Court Appearance, Court Advocacy support service referral, Safety Planning, Domestic Violence Counseling referral, Victims Services and Compensation advice, other referrals for Domestic Violence support and legal advice. The duration of the IWDVPASS support provided was six weeks initially and is still ongoing.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE  
ABN 53 699 012 017

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their report together with the financial report of Marrickville Legal Centre for the year ended 30 June 2013 and auditor's report thereon. This financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

### Information on directors

The names of the directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year:

#### **Dianne Anagnos**

Special responsibilities                      Chairperson

#### **Janet Loughman**

Resigned 10 December 2012. Re-appointed 29 July 2013

#### **Kieran Egan**

Special responsibilities                      Treasurer

#### **Jessica Dolan**

#### **John McMahon**

Appointed 10 December 2012

Special responsibilities

Secretary

#### **Dorothy Bamblett**

Appointed 10 December 2012

#### **Nick Yetzotis**

Resigned 10 April 2013

The directors have been in office since the start of the year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

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

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**Short-term and long-term objectives and strategies**

The company has a number of strategic goals and related performance targets. To assist in achieving our strategic goals and performance targets, we have also identified a small number of key supporting strategies. The company has also established performance targets for each strategic goal. These targets focus the efforts of the Board, Management and staff and help us measure success in achieving the strategic goals stated below.

<u>Strategic Goals</u>	<u>Supporting Strategies</u>
To assist disadvantaged people to access justice and the legal system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information and referral service to disadvantaged people in our catchment area and others who contact the centre</li> <li>• Provide legal advice service to disadvantaged people in our catchment area</li> <li>• Provide a casework service to people within our catchment area</li> <li>• Provide access to pro bono legal assistance</li> </ul>
To remove inequalities in the laws, legal system, administrative practices and society as a whole that affect our clients and disadvantaged people generally by identifying those defects and inequalities and working for social and legal change to enhance respect for human rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to opportunities for input to government inquiries into issues of concern to the communities we serve</li> <li>• Draw attention to issues of concern to the most marginalised and disadvantaged people in our catchment area</li> <li>• Contribute to the human rights debate with a view to enhancing human rights protection in Australia</li> </ul>
To educate disadvantaged people in legal rights so they can resolve problems and assert their rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and respond to the community legal education needs of our community to provide skills and training opportunities on a needs basis to local community groups</li> <li>• Ensure that our staff and volunteers are aware of and up to date with the issues of concern to our clients and communities</li> <li>• Provide community legal education that is appropriate for people in our community</li> </ul>

## MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE

ABN 53 699 012 017

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

To manage and provide services that show respect for clients and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain a board of management that provides governance with integrity and diligence</li> <li>• Manage services that are effective and accountable</li> <li>• Provide a safe, meaningful and co-operative work environment</li> <li>• Ensure services are accessible, adaptable and non-judgemental services</li> <li>• Providing opportunities for students and volunteers to have valuable learning experiences</li> <li>• Review our activities and the needs of our clients and communities</li> </ul>
To promote community development by engaging effectively with our communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participating in community networks to have our work well known and respected</li> <li>• Supporting local community based organizations in their governance</li> </ul>

**Principal activities**

Marrickville Legal Centre provides free legal information, advice, representation and education to disadvantaged members of our local community and to young people across New South Wales.

**Meetings of directors**

Directors	Directors' meetings	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
Nick Yetzotis	7	7
Dianne Anagnos	10	9
Janet Loughman	5	2
Kieran Egan	10	9
Jessica Dolan	10	9
John McMahon	5	5
Dorothy Bamblett	5	1

**Members guarantee**

The company is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* and is a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute to a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the company. At 30 June 2013 the number of members was 27. The combined total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute if the company is wound up is \$270.

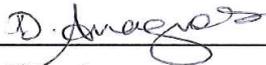
MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE  
ABN 53 699 012 017

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**Auditor's independence declaration**

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit for the financial year is provided with this report.

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

Director: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Dianne Anagnos

Director: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
John McMahon

Dated this 13 day of NOVEMBER 2013



**PITCHER PARTNERS**  
ACCOUNTANTS AUDITORS & ADVISORS

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

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

In relation to the independent audit for the year ended 30 June 2013, to the best of my knowledge and belief there have been:

- (i) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*; and
- (ii) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct.

Mark Godlewski

Partner

PITCHER PARTNERS  
SYDNEY

13 November 2013

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

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013**

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Grant and funding income	2	1,014,397	1,031,856
Other revenue	2	<u>37,113</u>	<u>36,344</u>
	2	<u>1,051,510</u>	<u>1,068,200</u>
<b>Less: expenses</b>			
Computer expenses		(21,404)	(9,984)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	3	(9,681)	(12,232)
Employee benefits expense		(924,263)	(926,616)
Insurance		(7,883)	(5,056)
Library resources and subscriptions		(12,184)	(13,582)
Occupancy expense		(21,280)	(12,671)
Printing and stationery		(11,714)	(13,236)
Telephone and fax		(25,229)	(25,793)
Volunteer costs		(2,755)	(1,223)
Other expenses		<u>(35,393)</u>	<u>(32,347)</u>
		<u>(1,071,786)</u>	<u>(1,052,740)</u>
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>		<u>(20,276)</u>	<u>15,460</u>
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<u>(20,276)</u>	<u>15,460</u>

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

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2013**

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	586,837	457,807
Receivables	6	7,759	4,081
Other assets	8	<u>8,837</u>	<u>10,221</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>603,433</u>	<u>472,109</u>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7	26,731	23,950
Other assets	8	<u>8,752</u>	<u>10,512</u>
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<u>35,483</u>	<u>34,462</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>638,916</u>	<u>506,571</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables	9	64,473	54,253
Provisions	10	145,169	81,121
Other liabilities	11	<u>172,030</u>	<u>52,187</u>
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>381,672</u>	<u>187,561</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Provisions	10	112,481	152,211
Other liabilities	11	<u>8,752</u>	<u>10,512</u>
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<u>121,233</u>	<u>162,723</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>502,905</u>	<u>350,284</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>136,011</u>	<u>156,287</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained surplus	12	<u>136,011</u>	<u>156,287</u>
<b>Total equity</b>		<u>136,011</u>	<u>156,287</u>

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE  
ABN 53 699 012 017STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Retained surplus \$	Total equity \$
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2011</b>	140,827	140,827
Surplus for the year	<u>15,460</u>	<u>15,460</u>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<u>15,460</u>	<u>15,460</u>
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2012</b>	<u>156,287</u>	<u>156,287</u>
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2012</b>	156,287	156,287
Deficit for the year	<u>(20,276)</u>	<u>(20,276)</u>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<u>(20,276)</u>	<u>(20,276)</u>
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2013</b>	<u>136,011</u>	<u>136,011</u>

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE  
ABN 53 699 012 017

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from clients and community		12,547	35,843
Operating grant receipts		1,247,643	1,112,591
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,143,868)	(1,101,945)
Interest received		<u>25,170</u>	<u>22,171</u>
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>		<u>141,492</u>	<u>68,660</u>
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		55	-
Payment for property, plant and equipment		<u>(12,517)</u>	<u>(4,932)</u>
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities</b>		<u>(12,462)</u>	<u>(4,932)</u>
<b>Reconciliation of cash</b>			
Cash at beginning of the financial year		457,807	394,079
Net increase in cash held		<u>129,030</u>	<u>63,728</u>
<b>Cash at end of financial year</b>		<u>586,837</u>	<u>457,807</u>

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

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013**

**NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements, Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the *Corporations Act 2001*.

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

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

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

**(a) Basis of preparation of the financial report**

*Historical Cost Convention*

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

**(b) Revenue**

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

Interest revenue is recognised when it becomes receivable on a proportional basis taking in to account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

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

**(c) Government Grants**

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

If conditions attached to the contribution or grant that must be satisfied before the company is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of contribution or income is deferred until those conditions are met.

When the company receives grants but is obliged to give directly approximately equal value to the contributor, recognition of grant income will be deferred until the delivery of service.

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE  
ABN 53 699 012 017

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

**NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**(d) Income tax**

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

**(e) Property, plant and equipment**

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

*Plant and equipment*

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by committee to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to present values in determining recoverable amounts.

*Depreciation*

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated over their estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

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

**(f) Impairment**

Assets with an indefinite useful life are not amortised but are tested annually for impairment in accordance with AASB 136. Assets subject to annual depreciation or amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or circumstances arise that indicates that the carrying amount of the asset may be impaired.

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

The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to present values in determining recoverable amounts.

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE  
ABN 53 699 012 017

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

**NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**(g) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an out flow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

**(h) Employee benefits**

*(i) Short-term employee benefit obligations*

Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and any other employee benefits expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at their nominal amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The expected cost of short-term employee benefits in the form of compensated absences such as annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

*(ii) Long-term employee benefit obligations*

Liabilities arising in respect of long service leave and annual leave which is not expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Employee benefit obligations are presented as current liabilities in the balance sheet if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

**(i) Goods and services tax (GST)**

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

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

**(j) Comparatives**

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

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

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013**

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 2: REVENUE</b>		
Grants and funding income		
Legal Aid Commission - Commonwealth	171,694	156,130
Attorney General - Homeless Youth	72,468	137,204
Legal Aid Commission - State	293,264	284,056
Legal Aid Commission - Commonwealth (FRC)	56,244	60,724
Legal Aid Commission - Partnership Program	22,974	-
NSW Fair Trading	297,202	293,742
Family & Community Services - DVPASS	<u>100,551</u>	<u>100,000</u>
	<u>1,014,397</u>	<u>1,031,856</u>
Interest income	25,170	22,171
Other revenue	<u>11,943</u>	<u>14,173</u>
Total revenue	<u>1,051,510</u>	<u>1,068,200</u>

**NOTE 3: OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)**

Surplus / (deficit) before income tax has been determined after:

Depreciation		
- plant and equipment	9,681	12,232
Bad debts		
- trade debtors	<u>-</u>	<u>1,694</u>

**NOTE 4: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION**

Compensation received by key management personnel of the company

- short-term employee benefits	188,476	154,965
- post-employment benefits	<u>14,869</u>	<u>11,349</u>
	<u>203,345</u>	<u>166,314</u>

During the year there were 9 key management personnel, including directors.

**Directors Emoluments**

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

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

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013**

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>NOTE 5: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
Cash on hand	300	308
Cash at bank	181,537	207,499
Cash on deposit	<u>405,000</u>	<u>250,000</u>
	<u><u>586,837</u></u>	<u><u>457,807</u></u>
 <b>NOTE 6: RECEIVABLES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Trade debtors	606	-
Other receivables	<u>7,153</u>	<u>4,081</u>
	<u><u>7,759</u></u>	<u><u>4,081</u></u>
 <b>NOTE 7: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
<b>Leasehold improvements</b>		
At cost	42,690	42,690
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(42,690)</u>	<u>(42,690)</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 <b>Plant and equipment</b>		
Office equipment at cost	123,320	137,313
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(96,589)</u>	<u>(113,363)</u>
	<u>26,731</u>	<u>23,950</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u><u>26,731</u></u>	<u><u>23,950</u></u>
 <b>NOTE 8: OTHER ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Prepayments	<u>8,837</u>	<u>10,221</u>
	<u><u>8,837</u></u>	<u><u>10,221</u></u>
 <b>NON CURRENT</b>		
Prepayments	<u>8,752</u>	<u>10,512</u>
	<u><u>8,752</u></u>	<u><u>10,512</u></u>

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE  
ABN 53 699 012 017

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>NOTE 9: PAYABLES</b>		
CURRENT		
<i>Unsecured liabilities</i>		
Sundry creditors and accruals	<u>64,473</u>	<u>54,253</u>
	<u>64,473</u>	<u>54,253</u>
<b>NOTE 10: PROVISIONS</b>		
CURRENT		
Employee benefits	<u>145,169</u>	<u>81,121</u>
	<u>145,169</u>	<u>81,121</u>
NON CURRENT		
Employee benefits	<u>112,481</u>	<u>152,211</u>
(a) Aggregate employee benefits liability	<u>257,650</u>	<u>233,332</u>
<b>NOTE 11: OTHER LIABILITIES</b>		
CURRENT		
Grants received in advance	<u>172,030</u>	<u>52,187</u>
	<u>172,030</u>	<u>52,187</u>
NON CURRENT		
Grants received in advance	<u>8,752</u>	<u>10,512</u>
	<u>8,752</u>	<u>10,512</u>
<b>NOTE 12: RETAINED SURPLUS</b>		
Retained surplus at beginning of year	156,287	140,827
Net surplus / (deficit)	<u>(20,276)</u>	<u>15,460</u>
	<u>136,011</u>	<u>156,287</u>

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

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013**

**NOTE 13: EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE**

As at the date of this report the NSW Department of Fair Trading has provided approved funding for the Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Program (TAAP) up until the 30 November 2013. A decision has currently not been made as to whether the department will continue to fund this program beyond this date. As a result the company has provided for a provision for redundancies of \$49,911 as part of the current employee benefits provisions in Note 10 of this financial report.

**NOTE 14: ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE**

The company is reliant on various government agencies for funding.

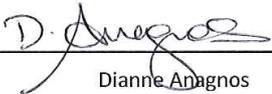
MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE  
ABN 53 699 012 017

**DIRECTORS' DECLARATION**

The directors of the company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 6 - 16, are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*: and
  - (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*; and
  - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2013 and performance for the year ended on that date of the company.
2. In the directors' 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.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Director:   
Dianne Anagnos

Director:   
John McMahon

Dated this 13 day of NOVEMBER 2013



**PITCHER PARTNERS**

ACCOUNTANTS AUDITORS & ADVISORS

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

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**  
**TO THE MEMBERS OF MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE**

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Marrickville Legal Centre, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

*Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Corporations Act 2001*, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement in the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the company's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE  
ABN 53 699 012 017

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE

*Independence*

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

*Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial report of Marrickville Legal Centre is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2013 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

  
Mark Godlewski  
Partner

  
PITCHER PARTNERS  
SYDNEY

15 November 2013