



**WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT
2004 - 2005**



**WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT
2004 - 2005**





WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LTD

Trading as

Women's Legal Services NSW

and incorporating

Women's Legal Resources Centre

Indigenous Women's Program

Domestic Violence Advocacy Service

Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme Training and Resource Unit

Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Unit – Walanbaa Yinaar Wharoo

Bourke/Brewarrina Family Violence Prevention Legal Unit

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES CENTRE AND INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S PROGRAM

PO Box 206

Lidcombe NSW 1825

Administration: (02) 9749 7700

Fax: (02) 9749 4433

Advice Line: (02) 9749 5533

Rural Free Call Advice Line: 1800 801 501

Indigenous Women's Legal Contact Line: 1800 639 784

TTY for deaf and hearing impaired women: 1800 674 333

Office hours: 9:00am – 5:00pm {Monday –Friday}

Advice Line hours: 9:30am - 12:30pm (Monday to Friday)

1:30pm - 4:30pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY SERVICE AND TRAINING AND RESOURCE UNIT

PO Box 206

Lidcombe NSW 1825

Administration: (02) 9749 7700

Fax (02) 9749 4433

Advice Line: (02) 8745 6999

Rural Free Call Advice Line: 1800 810 784

TTY for deal and hearing impaired women: 1800 626 267

Office hours: 9:00am – 5:00pm

Advice Line hours: 9:30am - 12:30pm (Monday to Friday)

1:30pm - 4:30pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)

WALGETT FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL UNIT – WALANBAA YINAAR WHAROO

PO Box 148

Walgett NSW 2148

Fax [02] 68283148

Administration Line: (02) 6828 3143 or (02) 6828 3148

Office hours: 9:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Our Vision _____	4
Our Values _____	4
Chairperson's Report _____	5
Treasurer's Report _____	6
Managers Report _____	7
Principal Solicitor's Report _____	8
Our Achievements _____	10
Achievements at a glance _____	10
We provided legal advice and representation _____	11
We facilitated access to legal services _____	15
We provided services to Indigenous women _____	17
We were active against violence _____	21
We educated women about the law _____	25
We monitored and challenged the law _____	27
We promoted excellence _____	29
Our Personnel _____	30
Board of Directors _____	30
Aboriginal Women's Consultation Group _____	30
Walgett Consultative Committee _____	30
Staff _____	30
Our Publications _____	32
Acknowledgements _____	34
Funders _____	34
Pro Bono services _____	34
Financial Report _____	35
Directors' Report _____	36
Statement of Financial Performance _____	39
Statement of Financial Position _____	40
Statement of Cash Flows _____	41
Notes to the Financial Statements _____	42
Directors' Declaration _____	47
Audit Report _____	48



OUR VISION

To achieve access to justice and a just legal system for all women in NSW, as all women have the right to live free from violence, injustice, inequality and discrimination.

OUR VALUES

In order to realise our vision Women's Legal Services NSW (WLS NSW) holds these values as the basis for delivery of our programs and services:

Quality of service

Resources will be used efficiently and effectively, striving for excellence in management, staff, service delivery and accountability to clients and funders.

Priority

Priority will be given to programs addressing violence against women with services directed to women most disadvantaged in their access to justice.

Broad Agenda

WLS NSW will seek broad solutions to legal issues through the identification of structural inequalities in the legal system, which limit the lives of women.

Access and Equity

WLS NSW will work to ensure all women have access to programs and services regardless of age, race, ethnic origin, political or religious beliefs, disability, or disadvantage. Where there are competing demands on the resources of WLS NSW, priority will go to the women most disadvantaged in their access to justice.

Empowerment

WLS NSW will work with women in ways which assist them to move to self-determination through being better informed of their legal rights and responsibilities and the resources available.

Independence

WLS NSW is a non-aligned organisation, is independent of Government and private services in the area of justice and is responsible to women in NSW.

Complementarity and Cooperation

WLS NSW will work to complement the work of other effective legal and women's service providers and will make use of opportunities for cooperative ventures with them.

Respect

WLS NSW will work and will offer services and programs in ways that are respectful of the dignity, safety and integrity of clients, management and staff.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Women's Legal Resources Centre was launched 22 years ago and together with the other services, which now make up Women's Legal Services NSW, has well and truly come of age as a vital force in promoting access to justice for women in NSW in the broadest sense – not simply through service delivery. Just how broad our reach and diverse our activities can be gauged from this annual report

Our services for Indigenous women have become an even larger part of our total enterprise during this year, supported and guided as always by the Consultative Group and the Walgett Advisory Committee, without whom these services would not be able to be run by WLS NSW. The funding of a new Family Violence Prevention Legal Service (FVPLS) in Bourke, to service Bourke and Brewarrina, extends the reach of WLS NSW even further in providing assistance for Aboriginal women and families. The new guidelines for the FVPLS programme requires movement towards independent operation and WLS NSW looks forward to using our experience to expedite the launch of these services as independent entities when they are ready for that big step.

In the meantime, closer coordination and sharing between all of the Indigenous services under the WLS umbrella is being facilitated with a senior Indigenous management position recently created. Elaine Evans is currently working on a history of WLS NSW Indigenous Services which will provide us with a record of the contributions made by so many people – Indigenous and non-Indigenous – to the development of these services so central to providing access to justice for women in NSW.

This year has been the last year under the guidance of Catherine Carney as Principal Solicitor. Catherine has had long and distinguished service with WLS NSW, firstly with Women's Legal Resources Centre and then in the integrated service and we wish her well in new fields of endeavour and thank her for a valuable legacy.

It has also been the first full year for manager, Kim Price who joined us in June 2004. Kim has taken on an organisation increasingly complex with a record number of staff. Thanks are due to her for the professional way in which she has tackled the job and kept the administration and organisational side on the road in sometimes challenging circumstances. She and we have been assisted with the establishment of a new position for a fully qualified accountant, which has been taken up with enthusiasm and skill by Kim Ly.

On the matter of finances, I would also highlight the enormous amount of hard work and energy contributed by our treasurer Debra Maher in the improvement of our financial system to bring a new level of accountability consistent with the management of such a large amount of public money from multiple sources.

The partnerships forged in past years have continued to flourish. We are particularly fortunate to have had a seconded solicitor from Freehills working with us in Walgett. A succession of young professional women have added considerably to our resources and we hope in turn have had their vision enlarged and skills enhanced through participation in a particularly rewarding aspect of our work. Freehills and in particular Ingrid Barge have assisted us in drafting a new constitution – well overdue after 22 years. Now we are all able to read and understand in plain English the legal framework underpinning our activities. We will operate under the new constitution from the AGM in November 2005. Thank you Freehills and Ingrid.

It makes me very proud to read this record. I commend it to you, congratulate and thank all of those who have contributed to making it another full year in the life of WLS NSW – staff, Board members, volunteers, supporters and funders.



Robin Gurr
Chairperson

TREASURER'S REPORT

In this financial year, the overall income received by the Women's Legal Resources Ltd amounted to \$ 2,277,613.00. The main sources of funding are the Commonwealth Government through the Commonwealth Legal Aid Commission (\$754,287.00), and the State Government through Legal Aid NSW under the Community Legal Centre Program (\$844,936) and through NSW Attorney General's (583,460.00).

Complementing these recurrent funds, the Women's Legal Resources Ltd has also received various grants for specific projects, including from the NSW Departments of Corrective Services (\$15,000), the NSW Department of Community Services (\$9,900.00), the NSW Department of Gaming and Racing (\$12,384.00) and the Rio Tinto Aboriginal Foundation (\$10,000.00).

These funds are designated to the provision of services under the Women's Legal Services NSW Program, the Domestic Violence Advocacy Service, the Walgett Violence Prevention Unit, the Bourke / Brewarrina Violence Prevention Unit, the Indigenous Women's Program, the Training and Resource Unit and the Outreach Program. Our funding over the six services reflects our state-wide commitment to providing services for disadvantaged women.

We have this year for the first time employed a Certified Practising Accountant in a Management Accountant role, and we welcome Mrs Kim Ly to the Service. The benefit to the Service was immediately apparent from the initial review of accounting practices and the putting in place of improved financial policies and procedures to deal with the increasing complexity of our funding and program requirements.

The figures and financial information presented, both here and in the full audited figures at the end of this report, are more than just dry, hard numbers. These figures reveal the practical side of our decision making. They show, for example, that over 30% of our budget again this year involves the provision of services to Indigenous women, in keeping with our strong commitment to Indigenous women. They show the detail of the money spent on our telephone advice lines, on community legal education in rural areas and on individual outreach programs. They show the difficult balance between organisational human resources costs and service delivery.

Most importantly, these figures show how we have used the money available to us to work towards the realisation of our vision, to achieve access to justice and a just legal system for all women in NSW.



Debra Maher

Treasurer



MANAGER'S REPORT

I am very proud to present the Manager's report for the 2004/2005 Women's Legal Services NSW Annual Report. This last year has been my first full year as Manager with Women's Legal Services NSW. It has been a very busy year with outstanding highlights.

Reading through this year's annual report I am still amazed at the range of services that we provide and the outstanding service that all staff at Women's Legal Services NSW has achieved. We are attending various Local Courts, outreach clinics, providing training for the WDVCAP workers, community legal education sessions throughout the state and of course our telephone legal advice to ensure that the most disadvantaged women in the state have access to legal assistance.

Earlier this year we applied for funding to auspice a Family Violence Prevention Legal Service for Aboriginal women and children in the Bourke/Brewarrina area. We were successful in this bid and are now enthusiastically setting up the service.

This year has also seen a new office being set up across the road from our current premises. It has been very challenging experience but I am happy to say that we have two programs now housed in the new premises.

I would like to thank the members of the Aboriginal Women's Consultation Group and Walgett Consultative Committee in advising Women's Legal Services NSW concerning legal and non-legal issues facing Aboriginal women, young people and children.

It is imperative that I thank our core funders – Commonwealth and State Government. We have also applied for and received small grants for different projects and thank the various organisations for this.

I would like to acknowledge the Board of Women's Legal Services NSW. Community Boards are the bedrock of community legal centres, without a committed group of women whose commitment is social justice for all, this community legal centre would not exist to support the most socially disadvantaged women of NSW. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the women on the Board for their dedication and commitment.

Finally, during the year, we have welcomed new staff and wished others on their way as they themselves face new challenges. I would like to congratulate the staff on such a professional way that they dealt with the changes within the service and to remind them that without their professionalism and dedication this service would not function to the capacity that it does.

Kim Price

Manager



PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The aim of WLS NSW is to provide quality, accessible, sympathetic legal advice and representation to disadvantaged women in New South Wales. This is achieved through our legal advice lines, outreach programs, law reform, casework, publications, violence prevention services, community legal education and court work.

Our aim is achieved through a number of objectives that are carried out by our dedicated and professional legal and non-legal staff.

Our aims are as follows:

To provide timely, quality, accessible, free legal advice, information and representation to women.

This is achieved by providing the following advice lines:

- ◆ 54 hours per week WLRC
- ◆ 22.5 hours per week Indigenous Women's Contact line
- ◆ 27 hours per week DVAS

We respond to a large number of requests for legal advice and information not only by providing telephone advice sessions but also by correspondence, court representation, and face to face advice sessions at our outreach clinics in both rural and metropolitan NSW.

To further enhance the availability of legal advice to women we maintain a Statewide Referral Directory of solicitors willing to assist our clients including those who are willing to provide their first interview free of charge and who are further willing to carry out other legal services on a pro bono basis for our clients. We thank all of our volunteers for their time and dedication.

To prioritise service provision to those women most disadvantaged in their access to legal services and justice.

WLS NSW constantly facilitates, maintains and monitors client data and reviews activities to ensure that our service is accessible to women disadvantaged by their disability, social and economic circumstances. We aim to achieve this by providing training for staff in relation to working with women with disabilities, of CALD background and Aboriginal women.

Regular training is provided for staff in relation to cross-cultural issues, working with interpreters and using the TTY service. Further we promote our services via disability services newsletters and other media. We also provide training to service providers, women with disabilities and their carers to improve their knowledge of their legal responsibilities and the rights of disadvantaged women. As a specific project we research and update CALD women's access to justice.

To promote women's understanding of the legal system and their legal rights, and to educate the community and legal profession in the conduct and resolution of legal problems affecting women.

Through consultation we continuously try to identify legal issues facing rural women, young and older women and women in general and develop legal education programs to address their needs. We keep on developing and producing relevant publications and providing community legal education to promote women's understanding of the legal system.

To engage in law reform in areas concerning the justice needs of women and any aspects of the law and legal structures that affect women's lives.

Our centre has a law reform position that enables our strong links to be further developed in the government, court system and private profession. It also assists us to advocate at a high level our concerns for our clients and challenge any existing or proposed legal procedure that would not be in the interest of our clients. We actively monitor the effectiveness of the law particularly in relation to family law, sexual assault, domestic violence and child protection and advocate for and against changes as appropriate to the needs of women in NSW. We also lobby and use media sources to increase awareness by decision makers of the legal issues that stop women's full participation in the law.

To provide effectiveness, accountability and excellence in management practices, staff and service delivery.

We ensure that all advice and programs conform to high standards of legal practice, that we maintain high quality staff team, professional culture and a positive and productive work environment. We aim for client centred service provision by seeking client feedback and client and community stakeholder input into our service development.



I would like to thank all the solicitors for their energy, enthusiasm and professionalism. I would also like to thank all the other staff of WLS for providing the support and infrastructure which allows us all to assist and empower women in NSW.

“ Knowledge is power”
Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

Judit Albecz-Solyom
Acting Principal Solicitor



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Women's Legal Services NSW (WLS NSW) provides a voice for women in NSW and promotes access to justice. It does this through the provision of legal services, law reform and community legal education, particularly for women who are disadvantaged by their social and economic circumstances.

WLS NSW works from a feminist perspective to foster legal and social change to redress the inequalities that women experience.

ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

The table below shows that this year WLS NSW again undertook nearly 20,000 legal service activities for women across the state.

Women's Legal Services NSW Total Contacts 2004/2005

Contacts by activity types	Women's Legal Resources Centre/ Indigenous Women's Program/Walgett Violence Prevention Unit	Domestic Violence Advocacy Service/Training and Resources Unit	Total Contacts for Women's Legal Services NSW
	2004/2005	2004/2005	2004/2005
Advice Line Calls	7364	1473	8837
Face to face advice	1118	n/a	1118
Mail Advice & Other (faxed)	1931	n/a	1931
TTY Advices	4	0	4
Phone information	1384	307	1691
Mail information	1195	n/a	1195
Face to Face information	621	n/a	621
Community Legal Education (CLE) participants	1098	1076	2174
Case Opened	873	275	1148
Court Representation	91	406	497
Law reform/ media/ system advocacy	21	67	88
Total contacts	15700	3604	19304

Most women access WLS NSW through one of our four telephone legal advice lines. In addition to telephone advice, our staff also provide court representation, extensive training, case work services, specialist Indigenous legal services, advice through legal outreach clinics and mail advice. Staff also conduct community legal education and engage in law reform activities.

Family law, including contact and residency issues, property, divorce and others, continues to be the area of law for which most women seek our advice (60 per cent).

WLS NSW continues its commitment for services for **Aboriginal women**. The Indigenous Women's Program (IWP) and the Walgett Violence Prevention Service operate solely for Aboriginal women and Women's Legal Resources Centre (WLRC) and the Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (DVAS) prioritise Aboriginal women in their work. Nearly 600 Aboriginal women were provided with services in 2004/2005. The IWP and Walgett each recorded more than 2000 contacts.

Of **non-English speaking women**, women born in China (74 clients), Philippines (72 clients), Fiji (71 clients), India (41 clients) and Lebanon (39 clients) most commonly sought the services of WLS NSW in 2004/2005. Excluding Australia, women born in a total of 107 different countries, and now living in Australia, contacted WLS NSW this year.

In 2004/2005, WLS NSW provided legal services to 476 women with disabilities.

Rural women also remained a strong focus for WLS NSW. The service has one dedicated advice line for **rural women** and both the DVAS advice line and IWP contact line have rural toll free numbers. This year, thirty per cent of women accessing WLS NSW services were from rural, regional or remote areas of the state.

WE PROVIDED LEGAL ADVICE AND REPRESENTATION

Objective: To provide timely, quality, accessible, free legal advice, information and representation for women.

THROUGH TELEPHONE ADVICE

- ◆ Nearly half (46 per cent) of women who contacted WLS NSW in 2004/2005 did so via one of the four telephone advice lines.
- ◆ There was a total of 8837 advice line contacts.
- ◆ Solicitors delivered legal advice on 7364 occasions through WLRC's metropolitan and rural telephone advice lines.
- ◆ The DVAS advice line had 1473 legal advice contacts this year.

WLS NSW runs four separate telephone advice lines. They each operate four and a half days per week. The demand for telephone advice continues to be strong particularly for rural women. The Indigenous women's legal contact line is staffed by an Indigenous worker who speaks to the caller before transferring them to a solicitor. Solicitors who take calls from all over NSW staff all other advice lines.

The WLRC legal telephone advice lines provide telephone advice to women experiencing family law problems, domestic violence, victims compensation, debt, sexual assault, discrimination, employment, wills and estates. We continue to, where appropriate, provide referrals to our outreach services for face-to-face consultation, to specialist solicitors, legal aid, specialist community legal centres, police or Chamber Registrar offices, counselling services and to other government departments and agencies. Our line is often the first service a woman contacts and we are able to provide immediate, clear and concise legal advice.

ASSISTING WOMEN ON THE ADVICE LINES

A woman contacted us on the advice line. She was a victim of domestic violence and needed assistance with getting a passport issued for her child. We successfully liaised with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to have a passport issued.

A woman rang us on the advice line after the Victims Compensation Tribunal had notified her that the Magistrate had made a 'mistake' when assessing her claim. The Tribunal wanted to re-hear the matter but only gave her one days notice. We contacted the Tribunal and arranged for the re-hearing to be adjourned for a few days so that we could advise the client. We drafted submissions and filed them at the Tribunal. The client received an award following the new determination. The matter had been in the Tribunal for five years.

Clients of WLS NSW have again received generous assistance from the invaluable pro bono services offered by pro bono programs in the larger law firms.

ASSISTING WOMEN WITH PRO BONO ADVICE

A woman contacted us on the advice line in relation to a failed contraceptive implant. She subsequently miscarried the baby. We contacted a Senior Counsel with expertise in personal injury and obtained a written advice from the barrister on a pro bono basis. The client was given appropriate referrals following the advice.

A woman contacted us on the advice line concerning obscenities about her being placed in a prominent public place. We contacted a barrister with expertise in defamation who provided advice on a pro bono basis.

THROUGH CASEWORK SERVICES

- ◆ WLS NSW opened 1148 cases in 2004/2005.
- ◆ WLRC solicitors opened 873 cases, of these 70 were opened by Walgett solicitors.
- ◆ DVAS solicitors opened 275 cases.
- ◆ In total DVAS solicitors acted in 406 court matters around Sydney and WLRC solicitors acted in 91.

As always, there is a high demand for casework services at WLS NSW. Casework matters are often complex, resource intensive and have outcomes that cannot be guaranteed. However, undertaking casework complements work on the advice line and outreach clinics and informs our perspective on law reform issues.

WLS NSW limits its casework services through strict guidelines and targeting its efforts. Attention is focused on those matters that have test case elements or public interest value, where clients suffer extreme disadvantage because they are victims of violence, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal women or women who have a disability.



This year WLS NSW solicitors regularly acted for women in the Local Court, as well as the Victims Compensation Tribunal, the Family Court and the District Court.

WORKING WITH WOMEN AND THE FAMILY COURT

WLS NSW represented a grandmother in complex parenting proceedings involving the mother, father, grandfather, child representative and Department of Community Services. The case had been in the Family Court for a number of years and the parties were at a stalemate after trying to reach a settlement. We became involved on the basis that we would try and negotiate a settlement. We also appeared at the Family Court on an amicus basis at various interlocutory proceedings before the Judge. A settlement was reached and final orders made by the Judge.

CASE WORK AT THE VICTIMS COMPENSATION TRIBUNAL

WLS NSW acted for a young woman applying for victim's compensation. The client had been the victim of systematic sexual abuse as a child. The Victims Compensation Tribunal awarded the maximum amount payable.

WLS NSW acted for a client in an application to the Victims Compensation Tribunal for injuries caused by her de facto partner. The client called the police to her home on many occasions but refused to make a statement about the violence because she was scared of the perpetrator. The Tribunal dismissed the application, as the assessor found that an act of violence was not established and commented that the applicant had refused to make a police statement. We appealed against this decision to dismiss the case. One of the grounds of the appeal was that the assessor did not take into account the dynamics of domestic violence. On appeal, the Magistrate found that an act of violence was established and made an award of \$18,000 for physical injuries suffered by the client.

THROUGH OUTREACH SERVICES

- ◆ Outreach services operated in six locations in 2004/2005: the Central Coast, Liverpool, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Blacktown and Penrith.
- ◆ This year there were 704 contacts with women through outreach.
- ◆ The Central Coast was the busiest location in 2004/2005, as was the case in the previous year, comprising 29 per cent of outreach contacts.
- ◆ The next busiest locations were Liverpool and Campbelltown in Sydney.

The outreach clinics continued to be a very successful method of delivering legal services to women around Sydney. Clinics were held on a fortnightly basis in areas around Western Sydney, South West Sydney and the Central Coast. Outreach locations are determined by areas of high legal need where women are most likely to suffer disadvantage. Solicitors give face-to-face advice to between seven and ten clients on each outreach day. Appointments are booked weeks in advance and on the day several additional women often 'walk-in' wanting some urgent advice.

The partnership between WLS NSW and Women's Health Centres in each of these areas continued to be essential to the success of our outreach services. Women's Health Centres provide the room for solicitors to see outreach clients and also manage client bookings and provide other administrative support. It is a collaborative working environment where clients are offered a 'one-stop-shop' for health and legal issues.

A FOCUS ON PENRITH OUTREACH

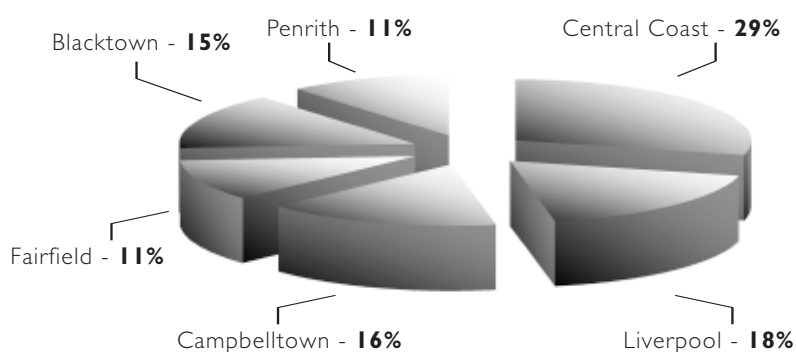
The Penrith outreach is run from the Penrith Women's Health Centre. The majority of clients are from disadvantaged backgrounds. Most have low incomes or their sole income is social security payments. The majority of enquiries at Penrith focus on family law particularly the children's issues and sexual assault and victims compensation. Often women need assistance drafting documents or need documents to be explained to them. We see many women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and often use female interpreters. Our work also includes assisting women who are experiencing domestic violence. WLS has a strong association with the Penrith Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme (WDVCAS) to assist those women having to attend the police station, Chamber Registrar or court. WLS refers clients to solicitors in the area who are willing to see clients as quickly as possible and sometimes on a first-appointment-free basis.

ADVISING WOMEN THROUGH OUTREACH SERVICES

A young woman with a disability came to outreach. She had a young baby and the father had recently died. The baby's birth had not been registered. We gave advice and provided ongoing advocacy by:

- writing to the Department of Housing
- writing to the father's superannuation funds
- advocating with a superannuation fund to have the funds paid to the client or child
- making enquiries with the Coroner's Office about DNA samples being kept in the event of paternity testing
- providing assistance with registering the birth
- making enquiries with the father's employer about entitlements

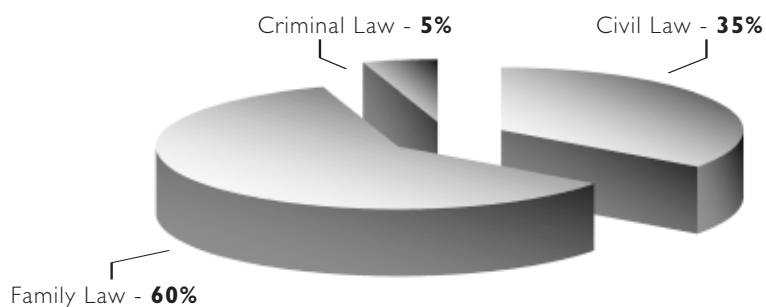
WLRC OUTREACH SERVICE CONTACTS 2004/2005



AREAS OF LAW

Family law made up 60 per cent of WLRC work, followed by civil law (35 per cent) then criminal law (five per cent)

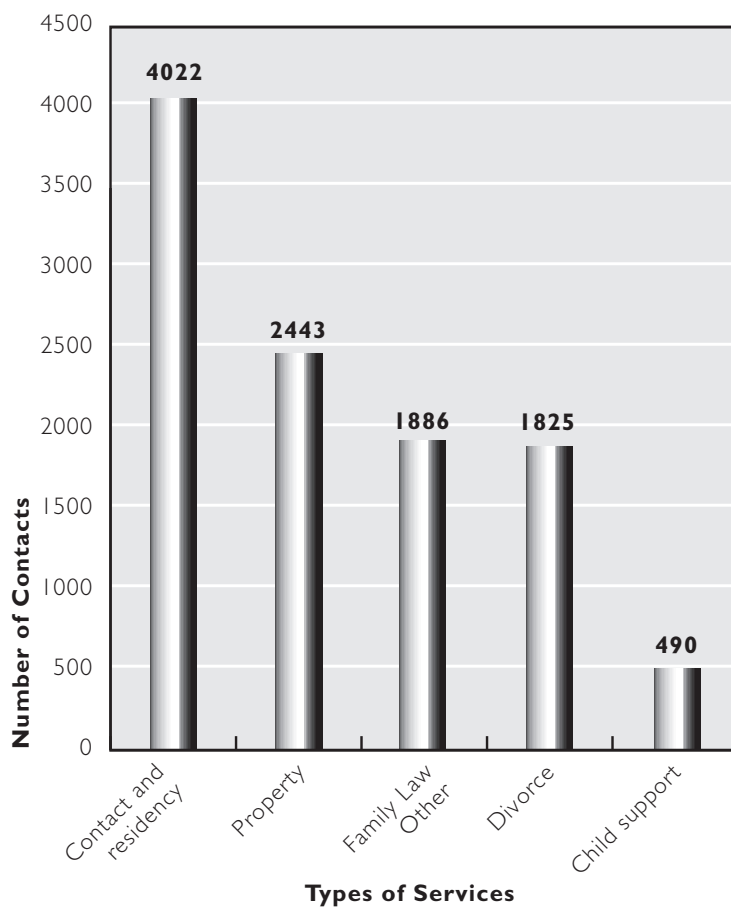
WLRC CENTRE WIDE AREAS OF LAW 2004/2005





The chart below shows that contact and residency was the single largest family law issue followed by property in 2004/2005. Injury was the single largest civil law issue, comprising 44 per cent of contacts in this area, followed by other civil violence/restraining orders. Sexual assault and related offences were the main area of criminal law dealt with by WLRC (63 per cent of criminal law contacts).

WLRC TYPES OF FAMILY LAW ISSUES 2004/2005



WE FACILITATED ACCESS TO LEGAL SERVICES

Objective: To prioritise service provision to those women most disadvantaged in their access to legal services and justice

FOR WOMEN FROM RURAL AREAS

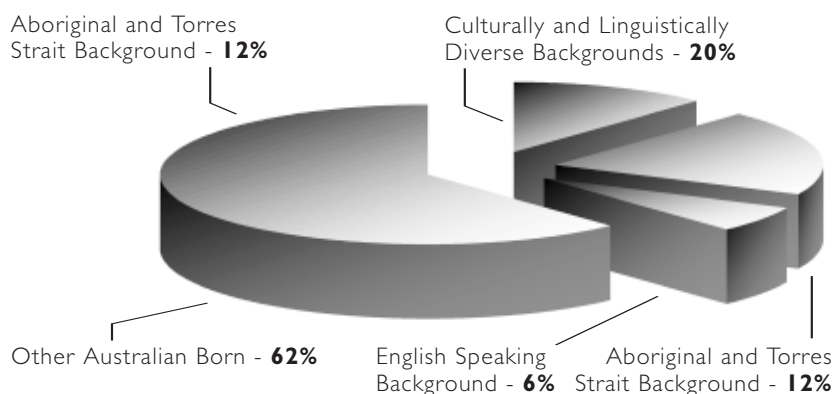
- ◆ Thirty per cent of women accessing WLS NSW services were from rural, regional or remote areas of the state in 2004/2005.
- ◆ More than half of DVAS community legal education sessions were held in rural areas (ten out of nineteen sessions).
- ◆ The DVAS Training and Resource Unit travelled to the Albury/Wagga Wagga region, Broken Hill/Wilcannia region, Bega, Moruya and Merimbula, Newcastle, Wollongong and Ballina.
- ◆ A total of 101 individuals from 18 remote and rural communities were trained through the Remote Court Support project funded by the Law and Justice Foundation.
- ◆ The Walgett Violence Prevention Service held community legal education sessions in rural communities including Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri, Bourke and Brewarrina.
- ◆ IWP staff travelled across NSW to many regional and rural areas for community legal education, training, service and community visits.

FOR WOMEN FROM CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

- ◆ Twelve per cent of WLS NSW contacts were from women with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.
- ◆ Twenty per cent were from women from a non-English speaking background.
- ◆ Chinese-born women comprise the largest group of culturally and linguistically diverse background women accessing WLS NSW services, closely followed by women born in the Philippines and Fiji.

WLS NSW

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY 2004/2005



FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

- ◆ This year WLS NSW had 476 contacts with women with a disability.
- ◆ Women with a disability made contact with WLS NSW through the telephone advice lines, outreach services and through casework.



ASSISTING A WOMAN WITH A DISABILITY NEGOTIATE WITH CENTRELINK

A client with a disability contacted us about a Centrelink notice of overpayment she had received. Centrelink had paid benefits to both her and the father of their children, although she and her husband had been divorced for some time. Centrelink denied that the client had told them that she and her husband were both receiving benefits. We made a Freedom of Information application to Centrelink and discovered a telephone log about the client informing Centrelink that she and her husband were both receiving benefits. The client could also have been entitled to a disability benefit. We sought advice from Welfare Rights Centre about arguments that could be made to have the debt reduced or waived. We sent written submissions to Centrelink and the debt of approximately \$40,000 was waived.

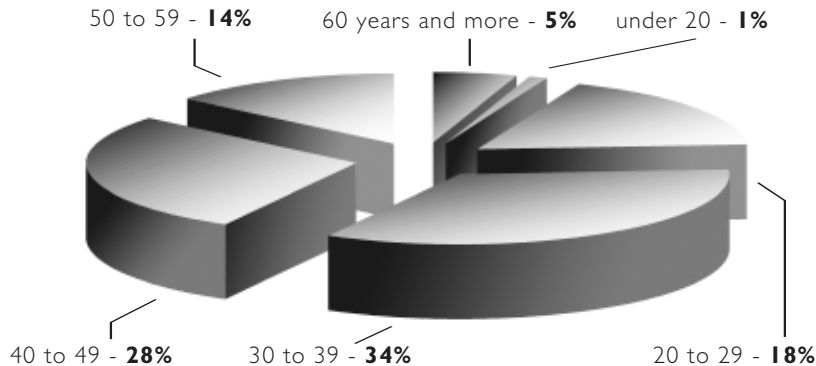
ASSISTING A WOMAN WITH A DISABILITY WITH A CREDIT CONTRACT

A client with a disability who had recently separated from her husband came to see us at an outreach clinic. The husband had left the home after a long marriage and left the client with joint debts to pay. A credit company was harassing the client to pay a joint debt. The credit company was very reluctant to supply us with copies of the contract and application. Despite knowing that we had been in contact with the company, the company threatened the client with court action. When we eventually received the contract and application, the application stated that the client was on a pension and had a low weekly income. On that basis we made submissions that the contract was harsh and unjust under the Consumer Credit Code, as the company should not have made the client a party to the contract, only the husband. The company agreed to release the client from the debt. We received a covenant not to sue from the company, negotiated changes and advised the client.

FOR OLDER AND YOUNGER WOMEN

- ◆ Of the WLS NSW clients whose age we know, a third were in the 30 to 49 year age group. The next biggest group was the 40 to 49 year olds (28 per cent). However, WLS NSW had clients from across the age brackets.

**WLS NSW
AGE PROFILE OF CLIENTS 2004/2005**



WE PROVIDED SERVICES TO INDIGENOUS WOMEN

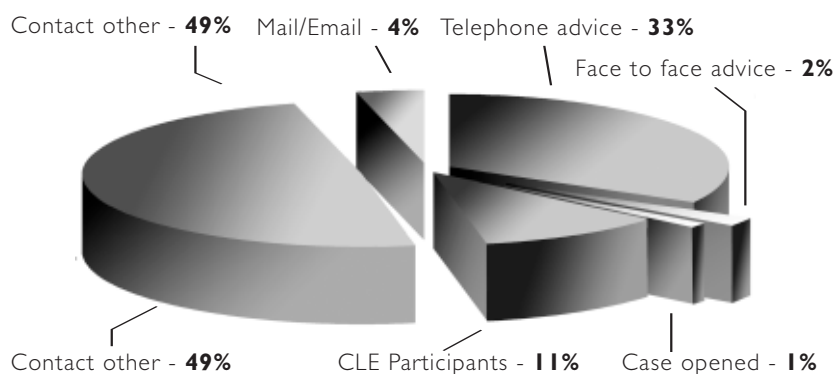
Objective: To provide a specialised Indigenous Women's Program

THROUGH THE INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S PROGRAM (IWP)

- ◆ The IWP had 2090 contacts with women in 2004/2005.
- ◆ The total number of contacts included 27 cases opened and 225 CLE participants.
- ◆ The IWP's main area of law continued to be family law (55 per cent of contacts) followed by civil matters
- ◆ The IWP visited communities in ten regional and rural centres.
- ◆ There were 4 separate outreach trips to 7 centres, including two visits to Broken Hill and Wilcannia.
- ◆ Community Legal Education was delivered in Inverell, Bega and Broken Hill and training in Gunnedah, Gilgandra and Mudgee.

Over the past year, IWP maintained its commitment to the needs and issues that have an impact on Indigenous women, girls and children. Staff travelled across NSW, with a high focus on regional, rural and remote areas of NSW.

INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S PROGRAM CONTACTS PROVIDED 2004/2005



Submissions

- ◆ A submission was put forward to the Child Sexual Assault Taskforce.

Committees, Conferences and Meetings

During the year IWP participated in a number of forums:

- ◆ Aboriginal Legal Services Tendering Parliamentary Inquiry (Annette Hennessy – IWP Program Officer, Aunty Gloria Matthews – Mt Druitt Community Elder, Catherine Carney – WLS NSW Principal Solicitor)
- ◆ CCLCG Aboriginal Advisory Group (Rene Adams and Annette Hennessy)
- ◆ NNIWLS National Network Indigenous Women's Legal Services (Rene Adams)
- ◆ NSW Community Legal Centres – Aboriginal Advisory Group (Rene Adams)
- ◆ Meeting with Bega service providers
- ◆ NSW State Community Legal Centre's Conference
- ◆ Meeting with Team Leader - Mental Health Unit at Far West Area Health
- ◆ Meeting with Broken Hill DVCAS workers

Other IWP Activities

Agreement was reached for IWP NSW and Wirringa Baiya to work jointly on a state-wide sexual abuse campaign targeting Indigenous women, men, boys and girls.

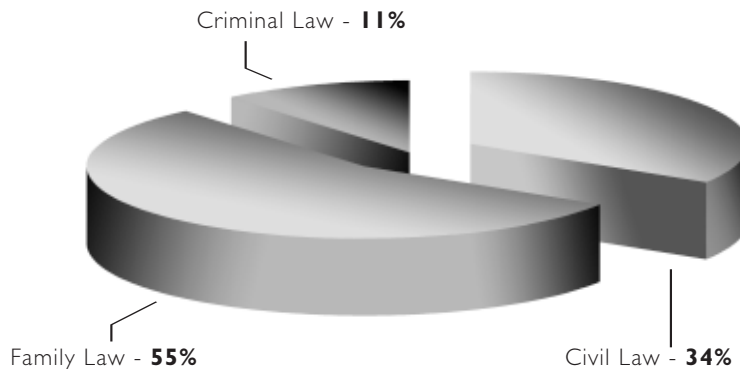


Aboriginal Women’s Consultation Group

We would like to thank the Aboriginal Women’s Consultation Group (AWCG) for their continuing support, advice and guidance to IWP and other Indigenous programs run by WLS NSW. The main focus of the group is violence against women, sexual violence and child sexual assault. AWCG members are:

- ◆ Aunty Gloria Matthews – Mt Druitt Elder
- ◆ Pam Greer – Central Coast
- ◆ Elsie Gordon – Dubbo
- ◆ Denise Burdett – Bega

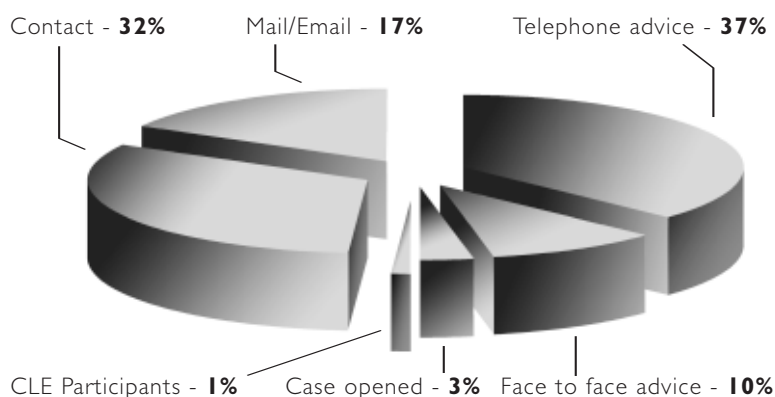
INDIGENOUS WOMEN’S PROGRAM AREAS OF LAW 2004/2005



THROUGH THE WALGETT VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICE

- ◆ The Walgett Violence Prevention Service had 2026 contacts with women in 2004/2005.
- ◆ The total number of contacts included 70 cases opened and 38 CLE participants.
- ◆ Civil law was the main area of law (58 per cent), followed by family law (36 per cent) and then criminal law (6 per cent).
- ◆ The Law and Justice Foundation project, which funded an outreach program to Brewarrina, Bourke, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri, was completed.
- ◆ Victims compensation continued to be the focus of the practice, comprising 58 per cent of casework.

WALGETT VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICE CONTACTS PROVIDED 2004/2005



Walgett Outreach Program

The aim of the project, funded by the Law and Justice Foundation, was to provide information, education and access to justice for Aboriginal women and community workers in the remote communities of Bourke, Brewarrina, Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge. Aboriginal women in these communities have extremely limited access to legal services and the project aimed to:

- ◆ Gain the trust of Aboriginal women and community workers in the area through Fun Days and the ongoing provision of legal advice and information.
- ◆ Educate community workers so that they would be aware of referral points for clients with an emphasis on the way that the law can have a positive affect on their clients' lives.
- ◆ Show community members and community workers how to access legal services and assistance.

Freehills Secondment Solicitor

The Freehills secondment position started in October 2004. It would not have been established without the tireless work of our Principal Solicitor, Catherine Carney. With Annette Bain, Pro Bono Co-ordinator of Freehills, Catherine was able to successfully negotiate with the partners of Freehills to establish a secondment position with our service.

The secondee position is an innovative and unique approach to the provision of legal services to Aboriginal women and children in remote communities. Both Freehills and the Walgett Violence Prevention Service gain from this secondment. For Freehills, it gives their solicitors the opportunity to diversify their skills and assist some of the most disadvantaged members of our society. For the Walgett Violence Prevention Service, we are able to utilise the professional skills of one of the largest corporate law firms in Australia.

The first secondee, Gabby Hart, flew into Walgett in early October 2004. From the start she established herself as an asset with her warm personality and energetic enthusiasm. Gabby's compassion for the needs of the clients and her professional skills as a solicitor meant the service was assisted greatly. During her six months with the service, Gabby assisted clients at court and with casework. In the area of victims compensation Gabby literally changed the lives of several women in Walgett.

The Walgett Violence Prevention Service wants to thank Freehills and especially John Taberner and Annette Bain for the provision of a secondee solicitor. The secondee position is an invaluable part of our service. Staff and clients alike are very grateful and appreciative of these Freehills solicitors.

Law Society of NSW Pro Bono Family Law Affidavit Drafting Service

John Truswell, Pro Bono Solicitor from the Law Society of NSW, approached Catherine Carney at the end of 2004 with an idea of assisting our clients in family law matters. As a result of these discussions, there was a training session on Family Law Affidavit drafting in early 2005.

To all involved, a surprising turnout of 75 solicitors ranging from corporate firms to family law practitioners attended this session. The enthusiasm of the solicitors who attended and John Truswell's tireless support has got this service up and running. A pilot project provides free pro bono legal assistance in drafting family law affidavits for Aboriginal women using the Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service.

We thank the Law Society of NSW, Gary Watts and especially John Truswell for their assistance to the Aboriginal women of Walgett.

Information, Support and Referral

The staff of the Walgett Violence Prevention Service have given information, support and referrals to clients within the last year in the following areas: housing, income support, employment, public utilities, credit and debt, Family Court, counselling and community legal education.

Community Organisation Link-Ups

Our service has also built up partnerships within the communities that we assist and has been invited to monthly meetings for the following local forums:

- ◆ Dhanriwaa Elders Group
- ◆ Walgett Interagency meetings
- ◆ Domestic Violence Sub Committee
- ◆ Walgett Working Party meetings

Community Legal Education

The Walgett Violence Prevention Service has hosted many community legal education sessions over the past year. Service solicitors and the court support worker presented the workshops. These workshops were held in Walgett and other communities such as Lightning Ridge, Collarenebbri, Bourke and Brewarrina. The workshops



targeted local service providers and community people and aimed to educate the community about domestic violence and provide legal advice.

Conferences

At the National Association of Community Legal Centres Conference in September 2004, Dora Walford, Ida Lawrance and Jenny Wong gave a well-attended paper on victims compensation and Indigenous issues in the areas of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Advisory Committee

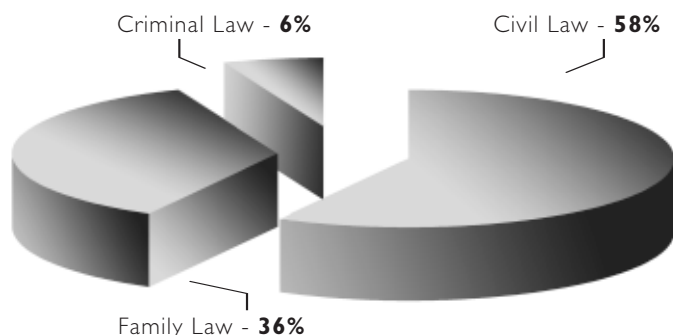
The Walgett Advisory Committee members meet once a month. These members are Elders and Aboriginal women of our community.

Walgett is divided into three communities: Namoi Village, Gingie Reserve and Walgett Community town. Members of each community form the Advisory Committee. Our current members are as follows:

- ◆ Namoi Village, represented by Aunty Fay Sands and Robyn Morgan
- ◆ Gingie Reserve, represented by Aunty Dulcie Dennis and Aunty Margaret Barden
- ◆ Town women, represented by Aunty Thelma Thorne, Aunty Fay Green, Aunty Val Collis, Phillis Tighe and Patricia Weatherall

Our service provision is based on consultation with these women. Over the past year these women have shown their commitment and contribution to our service through their invaluable support and advice. We thank our Advisory Committee for their assistance to our service.

WALGETT VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICE AREAS OF LAW 2004/2005



BOURKE/BREWARRINA FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION UNIT

Earlier this year WLS NSW was successful in obtaining funding to auspice a Family Violence Prevention Legal Service at Bourke/Brewarrina.

Bourke and Brewarrina have been identified by the Attorney General as a 'high-need area' in relation to family violence. There is also concern within the Aboriginal communities in Bourke and Brewarrina about the extent of family violence and the need for services that will assist the communities in addressing the problem.

The Bourke and Brewarrina Family Violence Prevention Legal Service will provide a legal service that seeks to address these concerns directly through the provision of legal advice and representation. The aim is to hold workshops on legal rights, and to enhance service responses to violence, sexual assault counselling, referral services and raising community awareness, in relation to the unacceptability of family violence.

WLS NSW recognises the importance of Indigenous self-management and will endeavour to recruit Aboriginal women to all positions. This will enhance the level of community control and ties to the Indigenous community, in turn ensuring that services are directed to meet the needs of the community.

WE WERE ACTIVE AGAINST VIOLENCE

Objective: To promote specialised legal and advocacy services addressing violence against women.

THROUGH THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY SERVICE (DVAS)

- ◆ DVAS provided 1473 phone advices this year.
- ◆ DVAS solicitors conducted 19 hearing matters.
- ◆ DVAS solicitors acted in 406 court matters around Sydney.
- ◆ DVAS appeared in the District Court jurisdiction on Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) appeal matters.
- ◆ Most mentions resulted in final orders made by consent, ex parte interim orders and interim orders made by consent.
- ◆ DVAS solicitors presented 19 community legal education sessions to a total of 317 participants. Ten of these sessions were held in rural areas.

In 2004/2005 DVAS continued to provide a service for women throughout NSW who experience domestic violence. The DVAS advice line remains the main point of contact with the service. Many of the callers have had prior contact with DVAS or have been referred by a Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme. Community workers are also a significant source of referral.

ADVISING WOMEN ON THE DVAS ADVICE LINE

DVAS received a number of calls during the year seeking advice on matters peripheral to AVOs. A number of clients had been subpoenaed to appear at court to give evidence against their partner on an assault charge in circumstances where the client did not wish the assault charge to proceed. The clients were advised of the consequences of failing to appear when served with a subpoena and also of the consequences of contradicting a statement previously given to the police. Our advice enabled the clients to make an informed decision.

The solicitors in DVAS have continued to benefit from being located within the WLS NSW premises. The sharing of knowledge and experiences of all solicitors means a better service to our clients, particularly as many callers to the DVAS line seek advice on related family law and other issues.

DVAS solicitors appeared regularly in the Local Court jurisdiction to provide representation to women seeking AVOs. We worked closely with the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Schemes and assisted at three courts every week (Penrith twice a week and Blacktown once a week) with a further two courts (Sutherland and Campbelltown) on a less frequent basis. In addition, we appeared at other courts throughout Sydney on an individual case basis.

ASSISTING WOMEN WITH AVOS

While working at court with the Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme, a DVAS solicitor represented an elderly woman who was seeking an AVO against her grandson. He was living at her home with his girlfriend and they had ignored requests to move out. The grandmother had moved out of her home because of his constant verbal abuse and physical violence against her.

On the first mention date the grandson had not been served and the DVAS solicitor made an ex parte application for an interim AVO with an order excluding the defendant from the house. The Magistrate indicated that extensive evidence would need to be called regarding the matters in s562D of the Crimes Act, that is, the accommodation needs of all parties and the consequences for the complainant if the order was not made. As the complainant was not aware of any friend or relative who would allow the defendant to stay with them, the DVAS solicitor called evidence regarding the availability and cost of rooms at nearby hotels. The Magistrate made the order and adjourned the matter for two days.

The order was served and the defendant evicted from the house within a short time. The Police Prosecutor acted at the next mention, when the defendant sought an adjournment for legal advice. The interim order was continued until the next mention, when the defendant did not attend and a final order was made. The grandmother then moved back into her home.

DVAS solicitors frequently acted not only for applicants in private AVO applications (as opposed to police applications where the Police Prosecutor will appear for the woman) but also for women who are defendants in AVO applications. The majority of these are cross-applications issued after the woman has sought an order for her own protection. These women are particularly disadvantaged as legal aid is generally not available for defendants and private representation is costly. Without representation, women would be faced with dealing directly with the perpetrator or his solicitor and potentially having to present their own case in court at a



hearing. This is an untenable situation for most women even before issues such as language and culture are taken into account.

REPRESENTING WOMEN IN COURT

A Local Court Magistrate had been recommending Community Justice Centre (CJC) mediation of domestic violence cases. In two matters mentioned on one day, this was successfully and strongly opposed by DVAS. In one of these matters, our client had separated from her de facto partner in the mid-1990s. Her ex-de facto partner obtained orders that the two young children of the relationship reside with him due to our client's chronic back disability. There was a prior history of domestic violence with a police AVO in operation for two years for the protection of our client and the children at time of separation. Following an incident on a contact visit, the police issued an application for an AVO for the ex-de facto's protection.

At the mention the Magistrate kept insisting that CJC mediation was appropriate as there were children involved and parties should negotiate their differences. Our client was very firm that mediation was not appropriate because her ex partner was too intimidating. The DVAS solicitor formally and strongly opposed referral to the CJC mediation on these grounds and also on the ground that the CJC has a policy not to mediate matters where there has been a history of domestic violence. The Magistrate deferred to this view and did not refer the matter to the CJC.

In addition to Local Court appearances, DVAS acted in the District Court on appeals arising from Local Court applications for AVOs. These matters include prosecution of appeals by women from the dismissal of their application for an AVO and defending appeals by perpetrators against the making of an AVO. DVAS has been fortunate to have the assistance of a number of barristers who were prepared to advise or act on a pro bono basis or at Legal Aid rates.

Law Reform

Solicitors from DVAS continued to have input into law reform and policy development through our involvement in a number of committees. In 2004/2005 DVAS solicitors contributed to:

- ◆ Apprehended Violence Legal Issues Coordinating Committee
- ◆ Domestic Violence Court Intervention Model Reference Group
- ◆ Family Court Domestic Violence Reference Group
- ◆ Community Legal Centres Combined Group Domestic Violence Sub-Committee
- ◆ Department of Community Services Perpetrator Program Standards Reference Group

Community Legal Education

Community Legal Education (CLE) remained another focus area of DVAS. Solicitors were rotated to assist in the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme Training and Resource Unit. The solicitor presented legal training sessions to Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme workers, developed resources and advised the Training and Resource Unit on legal aspects of AVOs.

In addition, DVAS solicitors presented CLE sessions to a variety of community workers, including workers in unfunded Court Assistance Schemes and to members of the public. In 2004/2005 DVAS solicitors provided 19 education sessions, with ten of these in rural areas, to a total of 317 participants.

THROUGH THE WOMEN'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TRAINING AND RESOURCE UNIT

- ◆ The TRU achieved 45 distinct training events and 782 participants in 2004/2005.
- ◆ Over 80 workers utilised the WDV CAP Distance Learning Package.
- ◆ The TRU presented 18 days of introductory training, seven advanced training days, and six evenings for solicitors throughout NSW, with a total attendance of over 450 participants.
- ◆ The TRU travelled to the Albury/Wagga Wagga region, Broken Hill/Wilcannia region, Bega, Moruya and Merimbula, Newcastle, Wollongong and Ballina.
- ◆ There was continuing high demand for metropolitan training in Bankstown, Granville, Haymarket, Newtown, and Surry Hills.

The TRU achieved a remarkable amount of training this year. The TRU responded to the continuing WDV CAP need for accurate and engaging training on the following: issues for women experiencing domestic violence, principles and practice of court support work and legal information and court procedure.

The TRU particularly appreciated the ongoing support from the Legal Aid Commission of NSW and from the NSW Commission for Children and Young People in the provision of training venues.

To complement the ongoing access and equity component of all TRU training, specific cultural awareness training was also ably designed and presented by Monica Mazzone, Thi Nguyen and Rouada El Ayoubi. Three other specialist seminars extended the TRU training into areas of particular concern indicated by the Annual Training Needs Survey and ongoing and extensive consultation with the coordinators of the WDVCS.

The WDVCS Specialist Workers (Aboriginal) came together twice this year, with one day for more formal training. The TRU is exploring costs and external funding availability to offer greater support and resourcing for this group of hardworking specialist court support workers.

TRU plans and presents quarterly coordinator workshops, which this year included a successful initiative called a 'multi-forum day'. The format assisted coordinators to gain vital information, interact with a range of professionals, profile WDVCS work with partnerships and enhance coordinators professional development. TRU also resourced and supported the WDVCS Network throughout the year, planning agendas, and distributing actions and minutes of the five network meetings that were held in 2004/2005.

Resource Development

Family Violence – An Australian Aboriginal Context is the eighth module of the newly developed and published 2nd edition of WDVCS Distance Learning Package. Author, Sigrid Herring, provided familiarisation training to WDVCS coordinators and the new module was distributed to all schemes.

TRU worked toward the completion of the 3rd edition of the "Support Workers' Kit", involving extensive updates of legal content and useful resources. It is hoped that it will be available in September 2005.

Training module development responded to identified need and included: 'designing effective presentations', 'effective meeting skills', 'managing aggressive clients' and initial work on 'supporting women through hearings', targeting experienced WDVCS workers.

TRU began researching the feasibility of gaining accreditation of our courses and aligning them with national competencies. The first step of this long-term project is a report to be commissioned in August 2005 from ITAB.

Maintenance of the training event database, and the web-based calendars, registration, news and information systems are areas of ongoing work for TRU. Training overheads are being transferred onto PowerPoint, which will enhance the professionalism and flexibility of the delivery of our training.

Working in Partnership

Maria Kissouri contributed to workshops held in the Wilcannia Central School with IWP solicitor, Erica Coulston. This training was a collaborative event between IWP and TRU, broadening the focus of the Broken Hill trip to allow access for interest groups including young women, women experiencing domestic violence, the police, local solicitors and service providers.

TRU met with the Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV) in November to share information and collaborate on the delivery of CLE training within both teams. TRU was consulted in the initial stages of the development of the training program within the Family Court Family Violence Strategy.

Maria Kissouri attended the CCLCG Training Reference Group regarding the range and type of training available within NSW for non-profit legal services practitioners. Maria also attended the NSW Community Training Assessors Network in order to receive information and support in the process of developing accredited training.

A strong and productive relationship continued throughout the year between the TRU, as training providers for the WDVCS, and DVAS as a well-utilised and reliable source of legal advice for the WDVCS. In 2004/05 26 % of all callers to the DVAS advice line named the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme as the agency who referred them to DVAS.

Liaison with WDVCS

TRU staff attended the annual WDVCS conference, which was held at the Police College in Goulburn in September 2004. The second day of the conference was extremely valuable as it combined both the court assistance staff and Domestic Violence Liaison Officers.

Maria Kissouri attended WDVCS Advisory Committee meetings and participated on the WDVCS Conference Planning Committee. The TRU staff and WLS Manager met regularly with the WDVCS. In



2004/2005 the TRU collaborated on the Legal Aid Commission Kit for Auspice Bodies. There are plans to collaborate later in the year on the development of a memorandum of understanding between WLS NSW and WDVCA, LAC, and the TRU for the Orientation Manual for Coordinators.

The TRU hosted an afternoon tea in November to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Julie Harrison of the Attorney General's Department opened the afternoon with a brief, inspired speech. The event was attended by WDVCA Coordinators, and by WDVCA staff including Louise Blazejowska, who is the acting CEO of WDVCA and Jacqui Lane, who is the acting Program Manager of WDVCA.

Training Evaluation

Over the last year 85 % of all participants at WDVCA TRU training rated their satisfaction with the training as either very good or excellent (on a six-point scale).

TRU Specialist Trainers, Facilitators and Consultants

TRU would especially like to thank the following specialist trainers, facilitators and consultants for their contribution to our successful partnerships this year:

- ◆ Rene Adams, IWP, Indigenous issues, Wilcannia
- ◆ Rouada El Ayoubi, Bankstown WDVCA, issues for Arabic women within cultural awareness training, Haymarket
- ◆ Sally Anne Brown, Sexual Assault Service, Bega
- ◆ Denise Burdett, Indigenous women and language barriers in court, Merimbula
- ◆ Amanda Evans, Department of Community Services on child protection
- ◆ Dixie Gordon, Redfern WDVCA, Advanced Training in Wollongong
- ◆ Annette Hennessey, IWP, facilitator WDVCA Specialist Worker (Aboriginal) Network
- ◆ Dianne Hamey, WLS, advanced legal information morning in Ballina
- ◆ Sigrid Herring, consultant on Family Violence in Aboriginal Communities
- ◆ Monica Mazzone, IWS, cultural awareness training
- ◆ Thi Nguyen, Liverpool/Fairfield WDVCA, issues for Vietnamese women within cultural awareness training
- ◆ Robyn Sedger, consultant on Elder Abuse, 'Home is where the Hurt Is'
- ◆ Lyn Stoker, Department of Community Services on child protection
- ◆ Mareese Terare, ECAV, adult sexual assault specialist for Indigenous communities
- ◆ Caryn Walsh, CCWT, on working with aggressive clients

Many thanks also to the many workers who contributed their experience during cultural competency modules within the TRU advanced training presented throughout NSW.

WE EDUCATED WOMEN ABOUT THE LAW

Objective: To promote women's understanding of the legal system and their legal rights, and educate the community and legal profession in the conduct and resolution of legal problems affecting women.

THROUGH COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE)

- ◆ WLRC and IWP staff presented 73 CLE sessions this year on request with over 1000 participants.
- ◆ Nearly 60 per cent of these CLEs were in rural locations and four were interstate.
- ◆ DVAS solicitors presented 19 CLE sessions around NSW to an additional 317 participants.
- ◆ TRU staff presented another 47 training days with a record 759 participants.
- ◆ The WDVCAP Distance Learning Package was utilised by 81 participants.
- ◆ The Central Coast Project, presented by WLRC and DVAS staff, is estimated to have reached over 120 women at 20 CLE talks and advice sessions offered on the same day at community centres in Wyoming, Woy Woy and Wyong.

Most CLEs this year were evaluated and 79 per cent of CLE participants rated their overall level of satisfaction as either very good or excellent on a six-point scale.

COMMENTS FROM CLE PARTICIPANTS

Very clear, expressive and knowledgeable. (Liverpool 27/4/05)

I now feel more confident dealing with clients. (Young 18/5/05)

Jenny knows her stuff. (Lightning Ridge 27-28/6/05)

Very informative and useful information - necessary to make practical and informed decisions. Definitely a return visit- annual basis or otherwise! (Griffith 9/6/05)

Sense of humour is good. Knowledge is good! I have a much better understanding of AVO conditions and procedures. (Young 18/5/05)

Given me food for thought in terms of appropriate referrals for DV victims. (Haymarket 9/6/05)

Remote Domestic Violence Court Workers Training Support Project

WLS NSW received funding from Victims of Crime to provide training to unfunded Domestic Violence Court Support Schemes in NSW. Training was conducted throughout rural NSW in the first half of 2005. The areas of Yass, Fraser, Duffy, Goulburn, Young, Cowra, Tumut, Cootamundra, Mudgee, Gunnedah, Narrabri, Gilgandra, Coonabarabran, Warren, Narromine, Dubbo and Deniliquin were represented.

Two solicitors from our service and an Aboriginal worker from our Indigenous Women's Program conducted training on the following topics: domestic violence issues; assisting women victims of domestic violence at Court and with the police; women's access to justice; safety issues at court; the legal process in applying for apprehended violence orders and Aboriginal cultural awareness.

The project was extremely effective in reaching volunteers and workers who would not have otherwise had access to training in domestic violence. A total of 101 individuals from 18 remote and rural communities were trained.

Although the focus of the sessions was training court support workers, we also encouraged the involvement of other workers who provide support and assistance for victims of domestic violence, including family support workers, health workers, youth workers and police. This resulted in networking between organisations in the community and a better understanding of the role of each of these organisations. It is anticipated that this will improve services for victims of domestic violence.

The training also highlighted to us the continued isolation of rural and remote communities and the importance of our service in providing community legal education and legal advice clinics in these areas.



Central Coast Law for Women Project

WLS NSW is in the second and final year of the Central Coast Law for Women Project. The project, funded by the Hunter and Central Coast Area Assistance Scheme, offers a series of free legal education and advice clinics for community members. Our service has delivered the project in partnership with:

- ◆ Wyoming, Peninsular and Wyong Women's Health Centres
- ◆ Gilbert and Tobin Lawyers (employment and discrimination seminars)
- ◆ Central Coast Tenancy and Advocacy Service (tenancy seminars)
- ◆ San Remo Neighbourhood Centre (financial counselling seminars)

WLS NSW has given seminars on domestic violence (DVAS), family law (WLRC) and elder law (WLRC). Solicitors from WLRC attended a fortnightly advice clinic at Wyong and provided advice clinics when seminars were conducted by external services.

We thank all our partners in this project for their commitment and time.

THROUGH PUBLICATIONS AND THE INTERNET

WLS NSW has a strong publications program and a total of 17 titles. Publications are used by WLS NSW clients, court assistance schemes, government departments, schools, outreach services, doctors, counsellors, solicitors and service providers. Publications can be ordered through WLS NSW or obtained from community legal education sessions. They are also available at some outreach services and courts.

The full list of publications is at the end of this report.

Publication of *Counsellors and Subpoenas*

The Law and Justice Foundation funded the review, publication and promotion of *Counsellors and Subpoenas* by WLS NSW.

From experience in the court process, anecdotal evidence from counsellors and ongoing academic debate, it became clear that subpoenas were being issued in family law proceedings, in addition to criminal proceedings for sexual assault. In response to this need, WLS NSW took the decision to expand the third edition of *Counsellors and Subpoenas* to address this area of the law.

The publication was launched on 7 December 2004 at Rozelle Hospital, at a community forum called 'Women, Violence and Criminal Justice – Surviving the Legal System'. The forum was organised by the Mental Health Co-ordinating Council and attended by approximately 50 participants, mainly women from the community sector in Sydney.

Training on *Counsellors and Subpoenas*

Funding was secured in 2004/2005 for a project to provide training on the legal protection offered for notes of counselling sessions for victims of sexual assault. The training will be for counsellors including Family and Women's Health support workers, Rape Crisis Centre staff, community health nurses, private counsellors, psychologists and psychiatrists and records administrators.

The training will be provided throughout NSW, including remote and regional areas of the state, at no cost. It will be based around the *Counsellors and Subpoenas* publication. Participants will be able to purchase a copy of the guide (\$15) so that they will have an ongoing reference.

WE MONITORED AND CHALLENGED THE LAW

Objective: To engage in law reform in areas concerning the justice needs of women and any aspects of the law and legal structures that affect women's lives.

THROUGH LAW REFORM ACTIVITIES

- ◆ A total of 88 law reform activities were undertaken in 2004/2005.
- ◆ WLRC undertook 21 of these activities and DVAS undertook 67.

Submissions

Response to the Federal Government's Joint Residency Inquiry

In 2003 the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs conducted an inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation. The Committee's report was tabled in December 2003. On 29 July 2004 the Prime Minister released a statement responding to the Committee's report. The statement proposed significant changes that are particularly worrying for our clients and their children who are victims of domestic violence, clients in rural and remote areas and Aboriginal clients where there are significant cultural issues to consider.

On 10 November 2004 the Federal Government released a discussion paper, *A New Approach to the Family Law System*. Monica Neville and Dianne Hamey, Supervising Solicitors, attended a consultation forum with representatives from the Federal Attorney General's Department, members of the legal profession and counselling and mediation services.

WLS NSW law reform solicitor, Tracey Stevens, drafted and sent two submissions to the Attorney General's Department on the discussion paper, on behalf of WLS NSW and the National Network of Women's Legal Services.

Changes to Bankruptcy Laws

On 8 February 2005 the Federal Government released a discussion paper on potential changes to the *Bankruptcy Act 1966*, with a focus on strengthening bankruptcy anti-avoidance provisions. Together with WLS QLD, WLS NSW drafted and sent a submission on behalf of the National Network of Women's Legal Services. We argued that the suggested changes did not identify adequate safeguards for families involved in family law proceedings, particularly non-bankrupted spouses.

Domestic Violence Clearinghouse

WLS NSW wrote to Senator the Hon. Kay Patterson emphasising the importance of funding for the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse.

Criminal Procedure in Sexual Assault Trials

WLS NSW issued a press release on the NSW Government's proposed amendments to criminal procedure following a recent prominent gang rape trial.

Representation on Committees and Advisory Bodies

NSW Sexual Assault Taskforce

The Attorney General, the Hon. Bob Debus, MP, established the NSW Sexual Assault Taskforce in February 2005 to review the law on sexual assault of adults and make recommendations.

The Taskforce has high-level representation of all key players in sexual assault including WLS NSW, represented by Pia van de Zandt. Other members include: District Court Judges, Magistrates, the Director of Public Prosecutions, prominent defence barristers, Public Defenders, Legal Aid Commission, Judicial Commission of NSW, NSW Attorney General's Department, Violence Against Women's Unit, feminist academics and key non-government organisations, namely, the Rape Crisis Centre (and WLS NSW).

The Taskforce Terms of Reference are to:

- ◆ evaluate alternative models for the prosecution of sexual assault offences
- ◆ evaluate proposals for legislative and procedural change in sexual assault prosecutions
- ◆ identify areas of possible reform in relation to the provision of services for sexual assault victims



The Taskforce meets every six weeks for two to three hours to consider and debate discussion papers and topics. Taskforce members are also required to prepare written submissions to the Taskforce in response to discussion papers. Submissions and input at meetings will be collated and presented in a Taskforce report to the Attorney General by December 2005.

Up to the end of June 2005 Pia van de Zandt, WLS NSW, had prepared submissions on *Consent* (Discussion Paper 1), *Evidence and Procedure* (Discussion Paper 2) and *Jury Directions* (Discussion Paper 3), which the Taskforce considered. In the second half of 2005 the Taskforce will look at evidence of children, tendency and coincidence evidence, complainants with disabilities and specialist courts.

Child Protection

WLS NSW attended the Department of Community Services stakeholder forum, which is held every six months. WLS NSW have consistently asked the Minister and the Director General of the Department about why the Department continued to refer mothers to the Family Court to seek orders for protection of their children, but the Department will not become involved in those proceedings. Similar departments in other states have implemented procedures for becoming involved in Family Court proceedings.

WLS NSW also wrote to the Chief Justice of the Family Court and the Department of Community Services about this child protection issue. There is now a project trial in the Sydney Registry of the Family Court.

Family Court Family Violence Strategy

WLS NSW represented the National Association of Community Legal Centres on the Family Court Family Violence Strategy Committee. WLS NSW sat on the Committee working party that developed training modules for court staff on domestic violence, as well as other strategies to protect victims of violence in the court process. WLS NSW was also asked to provide feedback on the Family Court's draft questionnaire to screen domestic violence, before it went to the working party.

Self-Represented Litigants Committee

WLRC Principal Solicitor, Catherine Carney, represented the National Association of Community Legal Centres on the Self-Represented Litigants Committee of the Family Court, until her resignation in March 2005. This Committee is chaired by the Chief Justice and is instrumental in formulating projects and proposals on how to assist clients and the court to deal with self-represented litigants.

Chief Justice's Consultative Committee -Family Court

Catherine Carney represented the National Association of Community Legal Centres on the Chief Justice's Consultative Committee from July 2004 to March 2005.

Family Court Mental Health Project

WLS NSW represented the National Association of Community Legal Centres on the Family Court Mental Health Support Project. Our involvement ensured that the project did not just focus on fathers who had committed suicide in parenting matters.

Family Court Children's Cases Pilot Project

Catherine Carney (and subsequently Judit Albecz-Solyom) represent WLS NSW on the Family Court Children's Cases Pilot Program Steering Committee.

WE PROMOTED EXCELLENCE

Objective: To provide effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and excellence in management, staffing and service delivery.

THROUGH CLIENT FEEDBACK

- ◆ A client satisfaction survey conducted across WLS NSW programs at the end of 2004/2005 showed that three quarters of respondents found it easy to contact or visit the service and that the service responded very quickly to their enquiry. Eighty-eight per cent said that WLS NSW treated them 'very well'. Nearly two thirds (64%) understood the advice they were given 'very well'. A further 30% said they understood the advice.
- ◆ Seventy-nine per cent of CLE participants rated their overall level of satisfaction as very good or excellent on a six-point scale.
- ◆ Eighty-five per cent of all participants at WDV CAP Training and Resource Unit training reported their satisfaction with training as very good or excellent.
- ◆ The comments from TRU training participants included the following:
 - Good energy, great humour, enjoyed the day.*
 - I would recommend this training to others without hesitation.*
 - I feel this training is absolutely essential before supporting clients at court.*

THROUGH SOLICITOR TRAINING

We provided excellence in our legal practice by offering a varied and targeted in house professional development training program. We worked with other community legal centres and the legal profession to identify and provide appropriate training. We also use the expertise of our own solicitors to assist their colleagues to improve their knowledge of developments in the law and practical skills.

In February 2005 Turner Freeman Solicitors kindly provided a free seminar at our service on employment, discrimination and occupational health and safety. This enabled our solicitors to meet the requirements of the *Legal Profession Act* that solicitors have compulsory training in this area. We invited solicitors from Macquarie Legal Centre, Blue Mountains Community Legal Centre and Hawkesbury-Nepean Community Legal Centre to attend.

Blake Dawson Waldron solicitors offered pro bono intensive workshops for staff of community legal centres. Our solicitors attended their workshops on trade practices, defamation and legal research.

We are fortunate to be able to work collaboratively with skilled and professional members of the legal profession in providing up to date and appropriate training.

Many of our solicitors attended the National Conference of Community Legal Centres held in Adelaide in August 2004. This was a great opportunity for networking of ideas, initiatives and learning more about the areas of law relevant to our legal services.

Solicitors were encouraged to attend seminars offered by external trainers in areas of interest and relevance to our service. Areas of particular interest were criminal law, elder law, family law, mental health and advocacy.

Catherine Carney, Principal Solicitor, and Dianne Hamey, Supervising Solicitor, attended the 11th Biennial National Family Law Conference on the Gold Coast in September 2004. The conference attracted family law professionals and judges from Australia and overseas. It was a tremendous opportunity to hear and learn from experts in various fields relevant to family law, particularly relating to parenting cases.



OUR PERSONNEL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Annette Bain
Elaine Evans
Regina Graycar
Robin Gurr
Nellie Hall
Danae Harvey
Debra Maher

ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S CONSULTATION GROUP

Gloria Matthews – Community Member, Mt Druitt
Elsie Gordon – Women's Housing, Dubbo
Pam Greer – Community Member, Central Coast
Rene Adams – Wirraway Women's Housing, Moree (Resigned)
Denise Burdett – Bega Women's Refuge, Bega
Sara Matthews – Young Aboriginal Women's Representative (Resigned)

WALGETT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Aunty Peggy Barden (Gingie Reserve)
Aunty Dulcie Dennis (Gingie Reserve)
Aunty Fay Sands (Namoi Reserve)
Robyn Morgan (Namoi Reserve)
Aunty Thelma Thorne (Walgett)
Phyllis Tighe (Walgett)
Aunty Fay Green (Walgett)
Patricia Weatherall -Youth Representative (Walgett)

STAFF

Women's Legal Resources Centre

Judit Albecz-Solyom	Acting Principal Solicitor
Helen Baker	Executive Assistant
Marina Bourmazos	Solicitor
Catherine Camey	Principal Solicitor
Sandra de Nardi	Solicitor
Dianne Hamey	Acting Supervising Solicitor
Kim Ly	Management Accountant
Balwinder Masawan	Librarian
Elizabeth Mckenzie	Data Entry Operator
Tamera McManis	Solicitor
Susan Nanlohy	Solicitor until 27 August 2004
Thao Nguyen	Finance and Administration Manager until 4 March 2005
Kim Price	Manager
Margaret Small	Solicitor
Jinny Smith	Receptionist
Tracey Stevens	Solicitor until 20 May 2005
Helen Taranto	Solicitor
Mary Turco	Solicitor
Helen Ung	IT Administrator

Indigenous Women's Program

Rene Adams	Coordinator IWP
Erica Coulston	Solicitor
Annette Hennessy	Aboriginal Programs Officer Trainee
Sara Matthews	IWP Program Assistant until 25 February 2005

Domestic Violence Advocacy Service and WDVCS Training and Resource Unit

Caroline Bass	Solicitor
Vanessa Crawford	Solicitor
Robyn Gilbert	Solicitor
Sharon Kingshott	Administrative Assistant
Maria Kissouri	TRU Training and Resource Worker
Karen Mifsud	Supervising Solicitor
Monica Neville	Supervising Solicitor until 4 March 2005
Janette Prichard	TRU Resource Administrator
Melanie Southwell	WDVCAS/Network TRU Resource Worker

Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service

Rita Chapman	Cleaner
Natasha Dennis	Receptionist
Yasmin Hunter	Solicitor
Ida Lawrence	Centre Solicitor until 29 October 2004
Kylie Pallister	Court Support Worker
Jennifer Trindall	Receptionist until 27 August 2004
Dora Walford	Coordinator
Jennifer Wong	Acting Supervising Solicitor

Casual/Contract/Locum Workers

Women's Legal Services NSW would like to acknowledge the following workers:

Linda Blair	Project Worker
Renee Burke	Casual Receptionist
Trina Francis	Locum Solicitor
Hannah Gregory	Locum Receptionist
Elena Grinfeld	Solicitor
Jennifer Hunt	Casual Administration Assistant
Anna Kerr	Locum Solicitor
Antonella Sanderson	Locum Solicitor
Irene Skordilis	Locum Data Entry Operator
Catherine Valentine	Solicitor
Olivia Wellesley-Coles	Project Worker

Students

Yasmin Hunter
 Anthea Vogl
 Rebecca Haynes
 Rebecca Hitchcock
 Claire Farley
 Maha Najjarine
 Pilar Lopez
 Lisa More

Solicitors Seconded from Freehills

Gabrielle Hart
 Andrea Fung



OUR PUBLICATIONS

WLRC PUBLICATIONS

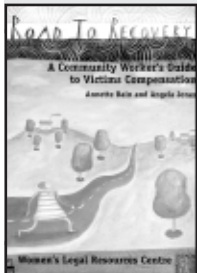


Women & Family Law – 7th Edition

An essential tool to assist women to understand the law as it impacts on their relationships with other partners and children. Women & Family Law was rewritten by Women's Legal Resources Centre in 2002 so that the 7th Edition reflects the status of family law in 2002. This project was co-produced with Redfern Legal Centre Publishing with a grant from the Law Foundation. The 8th Edition will be available in December.

Lesbians & The Law – A Practical Guide

What legal rights do lesbians have? Are they the equals of their heterosexual sisters? Well... yes and no. This book is an up-to-date and easy to read explanation of the law as it affects lesbians. It covers property and finances, care of children, inheritance, superannuation, wills, powers of attorney, immigration, discrimination, employment, violence and harassment. No lesbian should be without it!



The Road to Recovery

The Road to Recovery has been written to assist community, health and welfare workers support clients seeking compensation for injuries arising from violent crimes. It provides details of eligibility for compensation, what evidence your client will need, how the Victims Compensation Tribunal deals with applications and includes the key forms. This resource is being updated and is not currently available.

Counsellors & Subpoenas 3rd Edition

A practical guide for counsellors about the law on subpoenas. The guide is now in its 3rd edition and covers the law on criminal proceedings, namely sexual assault trials, and family law proceedings. It sets out the law and procedure in the area, with particular reference to the 'sexual assault communications privilege' in sexual assault trials. More importantly, the guide provides practical guidance to counsellors on how to comply with subpoenas and disclosure notices and what steps to take when making an objection on a client's behalf. Included are a number of draft letters to the Court setting out reasons for objection. The guide also provides reference to further resources in the area and



contact details for further assistance. Please note that all previous editions of this publication do not reflect the current law and therefore should not be used for guidance in this area.



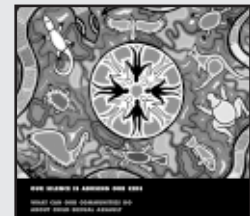
Quarter Way to equal

Quarter Way To Equal gives a comprehensive assessment and analysis of the barriers to access to legal services for migrant women in Australia. The 1992 report addresses access and equity in a number of key legal and other areas of need and considers strategies for change. The project was funded by the Law Foundation of NSW. We are currently updating this publication.

IWP PUBLICATIONS

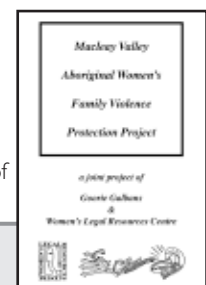
Our Silence is Abusing our Kids

Unique and innovative stories about Aboriginal women working locally to stop child sexual assault. Jointly produced by Dymrna House and Women's Legal Services NSW, the booklet contains interviews with community women and Aboriginal workers about their own efforts in their communities to protect children and support young people. Also contains vital information about child sexual assault.



Women Out West

Women Out West was an innovative project initiated by WLRC and funded by a grant from The Law Foundation of NSW for Aboriginal women in the far west of NSW during 1992. This publication was reprinted in June 2005. The project used a multi-disciplinary approach to provide legal education workshops, information, legal advice and resources on domestic violence, family law and sexual assault. The report describes the project objectives, the distribution of legal and health information and fliers. It includes maps of places visited and photos documenting the work. Reprinted in June 2005.



Macleay Valley Project

Aboriginal one-stop-shop best practice manual. Reprinted in June 2005.

**Partnerships, Prevention & Rural Action II Report
A Conference on Child Sexual Assault in
Aboriginal Communities**

17 – 21 May 2004

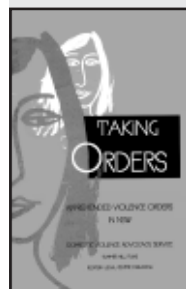
Sport and Recreation Centre, Lake Burrendong, Wellington



DVAS AND TRU PUBLICATIONS AND VIDEOS

Go Girl

This is an information and training video about AVO hearings, which includes an accompanying booklet. The video is aimed both at women victims of domestic violence and the service providers who assist them. The video is the story of two Aboriginal sisters who guide us through their experience and bring clarity to what can be a daunting and confusing process. DVAS are distributors of this video produced by NSW Department for Women and Northern Rivers CLC.



Taking Orders - Apprehended Violence Orders in NSW

This is a training package that includes a video and an accompanying booklet. The two-part video is aimed both at women victims of domestic violence and the service providers who assist them. The first part of the video follows three women through the AVO process, showing different outcomes. The second part of the video uses a flow chart to clearly illustrate the legal process. Subtitled videos and accompanying booklets available in Arabic and Vietnamese.

Domestic Violence Community Workers Kit

This is the 7th edition of the very successful Community Workers Kit, which was updated to incorporate the legislative amendments that came into effect in April 2000. The kit looks at common perceptions of domestic violence and provides a supportive framework in which to work to assist women victims of domestic violence. The kit outlines the resources available to assist with appropriate referral. The legal process is explained in plain English with the non-legal person in mind.

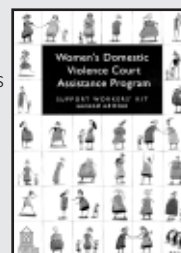
Domestic Violence – The Legal Process

This document outlines the Apprehended Violence Order legal process available to women victims of domestic violence. It has been written in plain English and was updated to incorporate the legislative amendments that came into effect in April 2000.

WOMEN'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PUBLICATIONS

Support Workers' Kit - Second Edition

This information handbook, developed in association with Jane Mulroney, was designed to accompany Court Support Worker training conducted by the WDVCA Training and Resource Unit. The handbook can also stand alone as a comprehensive resource for workers assisting women and children experiencing domestic violence. Topics include how to apply for an Apprehended Violence Order and how to support women through the legal process. Overall the handbook aims to promote amongst workers, an understanding of domestic violence and the capacity to meet the needs of victims, through the provision of appropriate support, legal information and referral, as part of a criminal justice system response to domestic violence. Third edition – November 2005



Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program Distance Learning Package

This package is designed for self-paced learning or small group training and is presented as modules that cover the key learning areas required for effective court support to assist women applying for Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders in NSW, Australia. This package builds upon and makes reference throughout to the WDVCA Support Workers Kit (detailed above).

Our Dream... Stopping the Violence

This is an information booklet for Aboriginal women on domestic violence and the law in NSW. It is designed primarily for Aboriginal women; it may also be a useful resource for non-Aboriginal service providers.

Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program Co-ordinator's Kit – 2002

The kit includes information about WDVCA, TRU, DVAS, WDVCA Network, Liason and relationship building, advocacy and complaints and promoting your Scheme.

Women's Legal Services NSW Publication Order Forms are available for download at www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au
For information about ordering our publications call Sharon Kingshott on (02) 9749 7700.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FUNDERS

These agencies and organisations provided core funding and small grants for various projects in 2004/2005 for which we are grateful:

Attorney General's Department	Central Coast Area Assistance Scheme
Department of Community Services	Department of Gaming and Racing
Department of Corrective Services	Law and Justice Foundation
Legal Aid Commission of NSW	Rio Tinto Aboriginal Foundation

PRO BONO SERVICES

Legal practitioners continue to assist WLS NSW clients by giving generously of their time through the provision of pro bono services. Legal practitioners are amongst the most generous profession in providing services without costs to our clients. These pro bono services from individuals and organisations make an enormous contribution to the work of WLS NSW allowing us to provide legal services to those women who suffer the greatest disadvantage.

Aileen Slattery	Abram & Associates
Kate Rafton	Harman & Co
Kate Nolan	Musgrave & Peach Solicitors
Antonella Sanderson	Sanderson Partners
Sarah Bevan	Sarah Bevan & Associates
Elizabeth Haynes	Sayan & Associate Solicitors
Joanne Sharah	Sharah & Associates
Grace Basaglia	McDonnell Milne Tolve
Claudia Castro	KR Lawyers & Consultants
Ann Kazas Rogaris	KR Lawyers & Consultants
Tracey Flintoff	Stacks, The Law Firm
Trina Francis	Francis Lawyers
Jennifer Fraser	Adams Partners
Zoe Ung	Adams Partners
Julie Hart	Blake Dawson and Waldron
Anne Cregan	Blake Dawson and Waldron
David Hilliard	Clayton Utz
Deborah Callaghan	Doolan Wagner & Callaghan
Lisa Wagner	Doolan Wagner & Callaghan
Annette Bain	Freehills
Michelle Hannan	Gilbert and Tobin
Iknur Bayari	I & T Solicitors
Elizabeth Picker	Musgrave & Peach Solicitors
Candice Rosborough	Musgrave & Peach Solicitors
Lydia Lucs	Sarah Bevan & Associates
Glenn Bartley	Barrister, Frederick Jordan Chambers
Margaret Cleary	Barrister, Frederick Jordan Chambers
Harriet Graham	Barrister, Frederick Jordan Chambers
Emily Pender	Barrister, Windeyer Chambers
Philip Dogherty	Garfield Barwick Chambers
Steven Penning	Turner Freeman Solicitors
Andrea Brooks	Turner Freeman Solicitors
Cathy-Anne Grew	Watson Stafford Solicitors
Martin Hadley	Windeyer Chambers

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

ANNUAL AUDITED ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005



We promoted excellence



DIRECTORS' REPORT

Your directors present this report on the company and its controlled entities for the financial year ended 30 June 2005.

Directors

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

Annette Bain	Elaine Evans (appointed 17/05/2005) (resigned 4/08/2005)
Regina Graycar	Robin Gurr
Nellie Hall	Danae Harvey
Debra Maher	

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

Operating Results

The profit of the economic entity for the financial year amounted to \$132 (2004: \$748).

A review of the operations of the economic entity during the financial year and the results of those operations are as follows:

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Operating profit/(loss) for the year	132	748
Income	2,277,613	2,264,780
Expenditure	2,277,481	2,264,032

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the economic entity during the financial year were the provision of free legal services to women in New South Wales as well as specific services relating to domestic violence towards women and children. There were no other significant changes in the nature of the economic entity's principal activities during the financial year.

Significant Changes in State of Affairs

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the economic entity, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the entity in subsequent financial years.

Future Developments

Likely developments in the operations of the entity and the expected results of those operations in future financial years have not been included in this report, as the inclusion of such information is likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the entity.

Environmental Issues

The entity's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.

Dividends Paid or Recommended

No dividends were paid or declared since the start of the financial year. No recommendation for payment of dividends has been made.

Options

No options over issued shares or interests in the company were granted during or since the end of the financial year and there were no options outstanding at the date of this report.

Insurance of Directors

During the financial year, the entity has given indemnity and paid insurance premiums to insure directors against liabilities for costs and expenses incurred by them in defending any legal proceedings arising out of the conduct while acting in the capacity of director of the company, other than conduct involving a wilful breach of duty in relation to the company.

Total premium paid was \$1,621. The directors and officers' liability of the company insures any past, present or future director, secretary, executive officer or employee of Women's Legal Resources Limited.

Proceedings on Behalf of Entity

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the economic entity or intervene in any proceedings to which the entity is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the entity for all or any part of those proceedings.

The entity was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

INFORMATION ON DIRECTORS

Robin Gurr

Director – Chairperson

Qualifications

BA (Hons) LL.B (Hons) Dip.ED
Admitted as Legal Practitioner of the Supreme Court of NSW
and the High Court of Australia

Experience

Secondary Teacher, Social Planner
Registrar Family Court of Australia
Barrister in Private Practice
President Community Services Appeals Tribunal (NSW)
Senior Member Fair Trading Tribunal (NSW)
Member Residential Tribunal (NSW)
Legal Member SSAT
Chairperson of the Board of NSW Council of Social Services
Arbitrator and Mediator NSW Workers Compensation Commission
Presiding Member Guardianship Tribunal (NSW)
P/T Chairperson Government and Related Employees Appeals Tribunal (NSW)
Private Consultancy

Debra Maher

Director – Treasurer

Qualifications

Bachelor of Legal Studies
Admitted as a Legal Practitioner since February 1995

Experience

Employed by the Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service
Solicitor in Private Practice
Solicitor in the NSW Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
Solicitor in the Legal Aid Commission (NSW)
Accredited Specialist (Children's Law)

Reg Graycar

Director – Secretary

Qualifications

LLB (Hons) Adelaide; LLM Harvard
Admitted to NSW Bar 1982

Experience

Since 1997 Professor of Law, University of Sydney
Previously Professor of Law University of NSW
1998 – 2002 Full-time Commissioner, NSW Law Reform Commission

Annette Bain

Director

Qualifications

1998 Admission as Solicitor to the Supreme Court of NSW
1994 Admission as Barrister to the High Court of Australia
1993 Admission as Barrister to the Supreme Court of Australia
1992 Bachelor of Legal Studies, Macquarie University
1980 Master of Arts (Politics), Macquarie University
1978 Dip.ED, Sydney Teachers College

Experience

1975 Bachelor of Arts (Politics and English), Macquarie University
Since 2001 National Pro Bono Co-ordinator, Freehills
1996 – 2001 Solicitor and Educator at Women's Legal Resource Centre
and the Domestic Violence Advocacy Service
Previously: Barrister, Forbes Chambers; Researcher and writer, self-employed
and on several inquiries including Royal Commission of Inquiry into NSW
Police, the War Crimes Inquiry, the Age Tapes, Nugan Hand Group and "Mr Asia"

Nellie Hall

Qualifications
Experience

Director

B.Sc (Hons), M.Math
1980's – Statistical consultant
1990 - 2000 – Managed information, analysis and research branches in four NSW Government Departments (Premiers (ODEOPE), Health, Workcover and Women)
Since 2001 – Manager, Housing Market Analysis and Research in the Department of Housing

Danae Harvey

Qualifications

Experience

Director

BA (Hons) LL.B
Admitted as a Legal Practitioner of the Supreme Court of NSW and the High Court of Australia
1991-1995 Senior Solicitor with Hunter Community Legal Centre
1995-2002 Principal Solicitor with Illawarra Community Centre
Member of Consumer Trader and Tenancy Tribunal
Assessor of Small Claim Division Local Court
Solicitor, Private Practice

Elaine Evans

Experience

Director

Resigned 4/08/2005

Meetings of Directors

During the financial year, 9 meetings of the Board of Directors, 9 Management Committee meetings were held. Attendances were:

	Board of Directors Meetings		Management Committee Meetings	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
Annette Bain	9	7	9	7
Elaine Evans	2	2	2	2
Regina Graycar	9	3	9	3
Robin Gurr	9	5	9	5
Nellie Hall	9	8	9	8
Danae Harvey	9	7	9	7
Debra Maher	9	7	9	7

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of directors;

Robin Gurr - Director

Debra Maher - Director

Dated this 7th day of November 2005

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

CLASSIFICATION OF EXPENSES BY FUNCTION

	Note	2005	2004
		\$	\$
Operating revenue from ordinary activities	2	2,277,613	2,264,780
Service expenses		363,356	358,801
Occupancy expenses		89,466	152,488
Administration expenses		199,323	189,243
Employment and contract expenses		1,597,473	1,539,079
Financing expenses		27,863	24,421
Total Expenses		2,277,481	2,264,032
Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities before income tax expense	9	132	748
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities		–	–
Net profit/(loss) from ordinary activities after income tax	9	132	748
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year		41,940	41,192
Retained profits at the end of the financial year		42,072	41,940

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

AS AT 30 JUNE 2005

	Note	2005 \$	2004 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash Assets	3	872,436	555,363
Receivables	4	25,019	70,124
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		897,455	625,487
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	5	681,091	681,091
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		681,091	681,091
TOTAL ASSETS		1,578,546	1,306,578
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	6	505,760	259,848
Provision	7	446,273	421,763
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		952,033	681,611
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Interest bearing liabilities	8	387,708	396,677
Provision	7	51,309	40,926
		439,017	437,603
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		439,017	437,603
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,391,050	1,119,214
NET ASSETS		187,496	187,364
EQUITY			
Capital Reserve		—	—
Special Reserve		145,424	145,424
Retained Profits	9	42,072	41,940
TOTAL EQUITY		187,496	187,364

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	Note	2005 \$	2004 \$
Cash Flow from Operating Activities			
Receipts from grants		2,056,470	2,035,290
Other receipts		230,680	109,357
Interest received		35,568	27,276
Interest paid		(27,863)	(24,421)
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,968,813)	(2,061,201)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	10(b)	<u>326,042</u>	<u>86,301</u>
Cash Flow from Investing Activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		–	(151,964)
Proceeds from borrowings		–	104,056
Payment of borrowings		(8,969)	(8,797)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>(8,969)</u>	<u>(56,705)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held			
Cash at 1 July 2004		<u>555,363</u>	<u>525,767</u>
Cash at 30 June 2005	10(a)	<u>872,436</u>	<u>555,363</u>



NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Corporations Act 2001.

The financial report covers the economic entity of Women's Legal Resources Limited. Women's Legal Resources Limited is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

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

(a) Statement of Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Position of Women's Legal Resources Ltd incorporates the assets and liabilities of the Women's Legal Resources Centre, Domestic Violence Advocacy Service, the Walgett Violence Prevention Unit and the Bourke/Brewarrina Violence Prevention Unit.

(b) Income Tax

The principal activities of the economic entity are to provide free legal services to disadvantaged women in New South Wales and are therefore exempt from tax.

(c) Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis.

Depreciation

All assets, excluding freehold land, are depreciated on a straight line basis over the useful lives to the economic entity commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

(d) Leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

(e) Cash

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in at call deposits with banks or financial institutions, net of bank overdrafts and investment in money market instruments.

(f) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits expected within one year together with entitlements arising from wages and salaries and annual leave which will be settled after one year, have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Other employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

Contributions made by the entity to employee superannuation funds are charged as expenses when incurred.

(g) Revenue

Revenue from Government funding is recognised upon receipt.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the clients.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rate applicable to the financial assets.

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

(h) Good 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 Australian Taxation 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.

(i) Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards

The Company is preparing and managing the transition to Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) effective for financial years commencing 1 January 2005. The adoption of AIFRS will be reflected in the Company's financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2006. On first time adoption of AIFRS comparatives for the financial year ended 30 June 2005 are required to be restated.

The majority of the AIFRS transitional adjustments will be made retrospectively against retained profits at 1 July 2004. The Company's management, along with its auditors, has assessed the significance of the expected changes and is preparing for their implementation. Although the changed rules may result in different reporting results, no impacts are expected on the underlying operations of the Company.

No material changes in cash flows are expected to occur.

A reliable estimation of the financial effects of the impacts on the financial report had it been prepared using the AIFRS are unknown at this time.

NOTE 2 – REVENUE

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission (Commonwealth)	754,287	762,799
Legal Aid Commission (State)	844,936	820,870
NSW Attorney General's Department - Indigenous	583,460	378,336
Less: Uncommitted / unspent funds	(223,239)	–
Dept. of Aboriginal Affairs	–	4,227
Dept. of Corrective Services	15,000	15,000
Law and Justice Foundation	12,811	3,387
Law Reform Contributions	5,657	–
Junaya for Families	3,750	–
Rio Tinto Aboriginal Foundation	10,000	–
Dept. of Gaming and Racing	12,384	11,458
Area Assistant Scheme Hunter & Central Coast	27,524	26,602
Macquarie Area Health Service	–	10,000
NSW Dept. of Community Services	9,900	2,250
Dympna House	–	11,257
	<u>2,056,470</u>	<u>2,046,186</u>
Other income		
Interest received	35,568	27,276
Donations	–	1,849
Fees and contributions	95,434	70,367
Costs recovered and retained	32,237	34,819
Rental income	50,627	69,913
Sales of publications and merchandise	7,277	14,370
Total other income	<u>221,143</u>	<u>218,594</u>
	<u>2,277,613</u>	<u>2,264,780</u>

NOTE 3 – CASH

Cash at bank	87,365	71,673
Cash on deposit	783,571	482,190
Cash on hand	1,500	1,500
	<u>872,436</u>	<u>555,363</u>



NOTE 4 – RECEIVABLES

	2005	2004
Current	\$	\$
Trade debtors	6,841	42,773
Prepayments	18,178	27,351
	<u>25,019</u>	<u>70,124</u>

NOTE 5 – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Building – at cost	623,564	623,564
Plant & equipment – at cost	68,423	68,423
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(10,896)</u>	<u>(10,896)</u>
	<u>681,091</u>	<u>681,091</u>

Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year		
	Property, Plant & Equipment	Total
Balance at the beginning of year	681,091	681,091
Additions	–	–
Disposals	–	–
Depreciation Expense	–	–
Carrying amount at the end of year	681,091	681,091

NOTE 6 – PAYABLES

Current		
Trade creditors	108,621	89,607
Grants in Advance	6,117	64,593
Uncommitted/ Unspent Grant Funds	261,558	–
Payroll liabilities	76,851	37,402
GST Payable	<u>52,613</u>	<u>68,246</u>
	<u>505,760</u>	<u>259,848</u>

NOTE 7 – PROVISION

Current		
Provision for annual leave	114,400	115,969
Provision for long service leave	25,385	27,674
Provision for maternity leave	19,594	25,950
Provision for locum fees	37,959	30,000
Provision for IWP Consultation	18,000	12,000
Provision for research and reprint of publications	40,346	32,000
Provision for staff development	28,038	13,000
Provision for re-establishment	34,537	50,000
Provision for service evaluation	14,500	14,500
Provision for resource development	8,888	4,500
Provision for equipment replacement	80,393	76,000
Provision for Directors' planning meetings	13,063	15,000
Provision for legal expenses	6,000	–
Provision for other	<u>5,170</u>	<u>5,170</u>
	<u>446,273</u>	<u>421,763</u>
Non-Current		
Provision for Employees' LSL	51,309	40,926
Other	–	–
	<u>51,309</u>	<u>40,926</u>

NOTE 8 – INTEREST BEARING LIABILITIES

	2005	2004
Non-Current	\$	\$
Homeloans Ltd	285,175	292,620
Homeloans Ltd	102,533	104,057
	<u>387,708</u>	<u>396,677</u>

NOTE 9 – RETAINED EARNINGS

Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year	41,940	41,192
Net profit/(loss)	132	748
Retained profits/(Accumulated Losses) at the end of the financial year	<u>42,072</u>	<u>41,940</u>

NOTE 10 – NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

Cash at bank	87,365	71,673
Cash on deposit	783,571	482,190
Cash on hand	1,500	1,500
	<u>872,436</u>	<u>555,363</u>

(b) Reconciliation of cash flows from operations with profit from ordinary activities after income tax

Profit from ordinary activities after income tax	132	748
Depreciation	–	–
Changes in assets and liabilities		
Decrease / (Increase) in prepayments	9,173	(3,304)
Decrease / (Increase) in receivables	35,932	(28,855)
Increase / (Decrease) in provisions	34,893	74,842
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors	245,912	93,523
Increase / (Decrease) in Capital Reserve	–	(50,653)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>326,042</u>	<u>86,301</u>

(c) The economic entity has no credit, standby or financing facilities in place.

(d) There were no non-cash financing or investing activities during the year.

NOTE 11 – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Interest Rate Risk

The entity's exposure to interest rate risk, which is the risk that a financial instrument's value will fluctuate as a result of changes in market interest rates and the effective weighted average interest rates on those financial assets and financial liabilities, is as follows:

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate		Floating Interest Rate	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
FINANCIAL ASSETS	%	%	\$	\$
Cash	1.55	–	88,865	73,173
Cash on Deposit	5.20	1.20	783,571	482,190
TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS			872,436	555,363



(b) Credit Risk

The maximum exposure to credit risk, excluding the value of any collateral or other security, at balance date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for doubtful debts, as disclosed in the statement of financial position and notes to the financial statements.

The economic entity does not have any material credit risk exposure to any single debtor or group of debtors under financial instruments entered into by the entity.

(c) Net Fair Values

Methods and assumptions used in determining net fair value.

For other assets and other liabilities the net fair value approximates their carrying value. No financial assets and financial liabilities are readily traded on organised markets in standardised form other than listed investments. Financial assets where the carrying amount exceeds net fair values have not been written down as the entity intends to hold these assets to maturity.

The aggregate net fair values and carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities are disclosed in the balance sheet and in the notes to and forming part of the financial statements.

(d) Industry and Geographical Segments

The economic entity operates predominantly in one industry and geographical segment being the provision of free legal services to women throughout New South Wales.

NOTE 12 – ENTITY DETAIL

The economic entity was incorporated on 13 October 1982.

NOTE 13 – MEMBERS’ GUARANTEE

The company is limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$20 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the company.

NOTE 14 – AUDITORS’ REMUNERATION

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Remuneration of the auditor for:		
auditing or reviewing the financial report	6,600	6,000
- other services	6,000	6,000
	<u>12,600</u>	<u>12,000</u>

NOTE 15 – ADOPTION OF AUSTRALIAN EQUIVALENTS TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS

Australia is currently preparing for the introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) effective for financial years commencing 1 January 2005. This requires the production of accounting data for future comparative purposes at the beginning of the next financial year.

The economic entity’s management, along with its auditors, are assessing the significance of these changes and preparing for their implementation.

NOTE 16 – DIRECTORS’ REMUNERATION

Since the end of the previous year, no Director of the Company has received or become entitled to receive a benefit by reason of a contract made by the Company or a related corporation with the Director or with a firm of which she is a member, or with a Company in which she has a substantial financial interest. All Directors of the Company act in an honorary capacity.

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The directors of the company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 5 to 14, are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001;
 - a) comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
 - b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2005 and of the 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.



Robin Gurr - Director



Debra Maher - Director

Dated this 7th day of November 2005



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

Scope

We have audited the financial report of Women's Legal Resources Limited for the financial year ended 30 June 2005 as set out on pages 39 to 47.

The financial report includes the financial statements of the company at the year's end. The company's directors are responsible for the financial report. We have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the company.

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

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

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Women's Legal Resources Limited is in accordance with:

- a) the Corporations Act 2001, including:
 - (i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2005 and of their performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) complying with Accounting Standards in Australia and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
- b) other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

Grosvenor Schiliro

Mark Schiliro
Partner
Level 2, 333 George Street Sydney 2000

Dated this 7th day of November 2005



WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Rental Income	50,627	69,913
Interest	4,817	4,689
Client's disbursements reimb.	6,073	–
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$61,517</u>	<u>\$74,602</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Professional development & Training	–	50
Directors' planning meetings	5,140	15,000
IWP Consultation Group	6,000	12,000
Legal & accountancy fees	6,894	571
Research, Reprint & Publication	9,000	26,000
Interest Expenses – Mortgage	27,863	24,421
Property Insurance	1,985	1,798
Property repairs & maintenance	–	(8,515)
Rates & levies	4,303	2,726
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>61,185</u>	<u>74,501</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	<u>\$332</u>	<u>\$101</u>

Independent audit report to the members



WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

Independent audit report to the members

	2005 \$	2004 \$
INCOME		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission - Commonwealth	333,220	337,882
Legal Aid Commission - State	265,818	255,676
NSW Attorney General's Dept.	-	-
Rio Tinto Funding	10,000	-
Dept. of Aboriginal Affairs	-	4,227
Dept. of Corrective Services	-	15,000
Law and Justice Foundation	12,811	3,387
Dept. of Gaming and Racing	12,384	11,458
Area Assistant Scheme Hunter & Central Coast	27,524	26,602
Macquarie Area Health Service	-	10,000
NSW Dept. of Community Services	9,900	2,250
Dympna House	-	11,257
	<u>671,657</u>	<u>677,739</u>
Interest received	10,809	7,003
Donations	-	-
Fees and contributions received	101,636	70,369
Cost recovered and retained	14,223	39,722
Sale of books and publications	5,011	6,053
	<u>803,336</u>	<u>800,886</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related		
Salaries & wages	552,096	510,847
Superannuation	52,043	38,663
Workers' compensation insurance	4,315	6,209
Staff conferences, training and development	10,427	11,919
Staff recruitment	3,320	3,798
	<u>622,200</u>	<u>571,436</u>
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	1,627	863
Committee expenses	1,193	1,309
Communication	16,256	14,283
Community education & travel	12,148	11,407
Service promotion & other expenses	267	302
"Girls' Camp" project	-	9,857
"Gaming with the Law" project	12,306	11,458
"Child Sexual Assault" conference	19,718	48,509
"Central Coasting - Law for Women" project	28,046	26,057
"Law and Justice Foundation" Project	12,811	-
Outreach project	-	3,387
	<u>104,372</u>	<u>127,432</u>
Other operating expenses		
Audit fees & accountancy	6,949	3,782
Bank charges	632	883
Computer running costs	1,763	3,179
Equipment repairs and maintenance	1,678	3,357
Insurance	9,126	10,903
Library, resources & subscriptions	14,920	12,740
Office amenities	2,822	2,820
Office maintenance	4,925	6,635
Postage & freight	2,558	3,570
Printing & stationery	7,552	5,113
Rent and accommodation	16,000	32,000
Structural maintenance	-	14,882
Utilities	1,792	2,076
Capital expenditure	5,679	-
	<u>76,394</u>	<u>101,940</u>
	<u>802,966</u>	<u>800,808</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>370</u>	<u>78</u>



INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S PROGRAM

Independent audit report to the members

	2005 \$	2004 \$
INCOME		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission	254,777	257,106
	<u>254,777</u>	<u>257,106</u>
Interest received	3,900	5,164
Junaja for Families	3,750	
	<u>262,427</u>	<u>262,270</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related		
Salaries and wages	144,629	137,802
Superannuation	12,256	11,717
Workers' compensation insurance	1,086	1,426
Staff conferences, training and development	2,837	6,933
Staff recruitment	1,624	915
	<u>162,432</u>	<u>158,793</u>
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	440	2,394
Committee expenses	(65)	580
Communication	7,642	5,545
Community education & travel	17,233	14,869
IWP Consultation Group	12,491	9,164
Management fees	25,000	25,000
Service promotion & other expenses	1,255	3,421
	<u>63,995</u>	<u>60,973</u>
Other operating expenses		
Audit fees & accountancy	3,642	2,035
Bank charges	196	332
Computer running costs	796	1,604
Equipment repairs and maintenance	843	1,056
Insurance	4,586	3,356
Library, resources & subscriptions	6,427	4,765
Office amenities	702	837
Office maintenance	2,552	2,233
Postage & freight	1,591	1,455
Printing & stationery	6,509	9,116
Rent and accommodation	7,026	10,000
Structural maintenance	-	4,928
Utilities	896	714
Capital expenditure	1,193	-
	<u>36,958</u>	<u>42,431</u>
	263,385	262,197
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(958)	73



OUTREACH PROGRAM

Independent audit report to the members

	2005 \$	2004 \$
INCOME		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission	166,291	167,811
	<u>166,291</u>	<u>167,811</u>
Interest received	3,113	2,179
	<u>169,404</u>	<u>169,990</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related		
Salaries and wages	113,307	123,878
Superannuation	9,988	8,883
Workers' compensation insurance	1,060	1,654
Staff conferences, training and development	2,142	2,662
Staff recruitment	79	520
	<u>126,577</u>	<u>137,597</u>
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	1,634	239
Committee expenses	-	360
Communication	3,740	3,355
Community education & travel	7,395	6,965
Management Fees	11,000	-
Service promotion & other expenses	66	283
	<u>23,835</u>	<u>11,202</u>
Other operating expenses		
Audit fees & accountancy	2,204	335
Bank charges	88	597
Computer running costs	357	1,507
Equipment repairs and maintenance	421	820
Insurance	2,417	1,838
Library, resources & subscriptions	4,153	3,318
Office amenities	412	346
Office maintenance	1,276	1,130
Postage & freight	1,680	667
Printing & stationery	843	1,152
Rent and accommodation	4,000	7,000
Structural maintenance	-	1,887
Utilities	448	495
Capital Equipment	363	-
	<u>18,660</u>	<u>21,092</u>
	<u>169,072</u>	<u>169,891</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>332</u>	<u>99</u>

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY SERVICE

Independent audit report to the members

	2005 \$	2004 \$
INCOME		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission - State	353,269	344,771
	<u>353,269</u>	<u>344,771</u>
Interest received	5,527	4,133
Fees and contributions received	636	-
Donations	-	854
Sale of books and publications	1,095	2,365
	<u>360,527</u>	<u>352,123</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related expenses		
Salaries and wages	261,423	246,555
Superannuation	22,293	22,038
Workers' compensation insurance	2,258	2,828
Staff conferences, training and development	4,975	3,999
Staff recruitment	3,070	1,661
	<u>294,018</u>	<u>277,081</u>
Service expenses		
Client disbursement	179	183
Committee expenses	94	304
Communication	9,841	9,915
Community education & travel	6,174	7,577
Service promotion and other expenses	199	(353)
	<u>16,487</u>	<u>17,626</u>
Other operating expenses		
Audit fees & accountancy	5,904	3,564
Bank charges	362	175
Computer running costs	1,084	4,857
Equipment repairs & maintenance	1,114	1,358
Insurance	4,835	4,216
Library, resources & subscriptions	7,574	5,802
Office amenities	575	750
Office maintenance	4,169	9,578
Postage & freight	1,882	1,706
Printing & stationery	8,515	4,792
Rent and accommodation	10,509	11,369
Structural maintenance	-	8,111
Utilities	1,222	1,072
Capital Equipment	2,188	-
	<u>49,933</u>	<u>57,350</u>
	<u>360,438</u>	<u>352,057</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>89</u>	<u>66</u>



TRAINING AND RESOURCE UNIT

	2005 \$	2004 \$
INCOME		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission - State	225,849	220,423
	<u>225,849</u>	<u>220,423</u>
Interest received	3,548	3,116
Costs recovered and retained	-	300
Sales of publication and merchandise	535	322
	<u>229,932</u>	<u>224,161</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related expenses		
Salaries and wages	132,286	113,064
Superannuation	10,085	9,540
Workers' compensation insurance	1,262	1,341
Staff conferences, training and development	4,697	4,980
Staff recruitment	2,757	2,259
	<u>151,086</u>	<u>131,184</u>
Service expenses		
Committee expenses	-	370
Communication	7,205	8,266
Community education & travel	25,823	20,376
Management fees	12,029	11,200
Service promotion and other expenses	72	6,366
	<u>45,129</u>	<u>46,578</u>
Other operating expenses		
Audit fees & accountancy	2,924	1,882
Bank charges	295	164
Computer running costs	2,271	1,390
Equipment repairs & maintenance	1,632	1,460
Insurance	2,417	3,117
Library, resources & subscriptions	3,725	3,357
Office amenities	1,495	579
Office maintenance	1,876	4,139
Postage & freight	1,785	1,177
Printing & stationery	5,220	10,227
Rent and accommodation	6,938	10,503
Structural maintenance	-	7,500
Utilities	775	813
Capital Equipment	2,396	-
	<u>33,750</u>	<u>46,308</u>
	<u>229,965</u>	<u>224,070</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>(33)</u>	<u>91</u>



WALGETT VIOLENCE PREVENTION UNIT

Independent audit report to the members

	2005 \$	2004 \$
INCOME		
Attorney General's Funds		
Operational	383,866	378,336
Less: Unspent Funds	(48,179)	-
	<u>335,687</u>	<u>378,336</u>
Interest	3,853	991
Donations	-	995
Costs recovered and retained	11,396	425
	<u>350,936</u>	<u>380,747</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related expenses		
Salaries and wages	201,642	215,894
Superannuation	16,699	17,577
Workers' Compensation insurance	2,413	2,674
Staff conferences, training and development	9,082	6,795
Staff recruitment	3,540	-
	<u>233,376</u>	<u>242,940</u>
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	2,622	776
Committee expenses	1,222	202
Communication	6,428	7,930
Management fees	31,926	35,755
Project expenses	-	2,002
Service promotion	60	304
Travel & accommodation	34,861	45,885
Motor vehicle	2,938	6,677
	<u>80,056</u>	<u>99,531</u>
Other operating expenses		
Audit fees & accountancy	1,620	1,620
Bank charges	556	665
Computer running costs	5,880	280
Equipment repairs & maintenance	2,995	605
Insurance	3,850	5,616
Library, resources & subscriptions	1,881	1,857
Office amenities	1,328	4,310
Office maintenance	2,997	8,133
Postage, courier & freight	676	742
Printing & stationery	3,556	2,130
Rent and accommodation	11,498	10,588
Utilities	667	1,490
Capital expenditure	-	-
	<u>37,504</u>	<u>38,036</u>
	350,936	380,507
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-	240



BOURKE / BREWARRINA VIOLENCE PREVENTION UNIT

	2005 \$	2004 \$
INCOME		
Attorney General's Funds		
Operational	199,594	-
Less: Unspent Funds	(175,060)	-
	<u>24,534</u>	<u>-</u>
Interest	-	-
Costs recovered and retained	-	-
	<u>24,534</u>	<u>-</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related expenses		
Salaries and wages	5,161	-
Superannuation	464	-
Workers' Compensation insurance	58	-
Staff conferences, training and development	-	-
Staff recruitment	2,099	-
	<u>7,783</u>	<u>-</u>
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	-	-
Committee expenses	-	-
Communication	-	-
Management fees	9,314	-
Project expenses	-	-
Service promotion	-	-
Travel & accommodation	5,088	-
Motor vehicle	-	-
	<u>14,402</u>	<u>-</u>
Other operating expenses		
Audit fees & accountancy	600	-
Bank charges	-	-
Computer running costs	1,749	-
Equipment repairs & maintenance	-	-
Insurance	-	-
Library, resources & subscriptions	-	-
Office amenities	-	-
Office maintenance	-	-
Postage, courier & freight	-	-
Printing & stationery	-	-
Rent and accommodation	-	-
Utilities	-	-
Capital expenditure	-	-
	<u>2,349</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>24,534</u>	<u>-</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-	-