Women's Legal Services NSW would like to acknowledge the Darag Inland Group and the Eora/Dharawal Coastal Group who are the traditional owners of the land that our Centre is on.





















## women's legal resources ltd

#### **WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LTD**

Trading as

Women's Legal Services NSW

and incorporating

Women's Legal Resources Centre (WLRC)

Indigenous Women's Program (IWP)

Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (DVAS)

Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program

Training and Resource Unit (WDVCAP TRU)

PO Box 206

Lidcombe NSW 1825

Administration line: 02 9749 7700

Fax: 02 9749 4433

Email: Womens\_NSW@clc.net.au Web: www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au

Office hours: 9.00am - 5.00pm,

Monday - Friday

## WALGETT FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICE – WALANBAA YINARR WHAROO

PO Box 148

Walgett NSW 2832

Administration line: 02 6828 3143

Fax: 02 6828 3148

Office hours: 9.00am - 5.00pm, Monday - Friday

#### BOURKE/BREWARRINA FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICE

PO Box 298

Bourke NSW 2840

Administration line: 02 6872 2440

Fax: 02 6872 2445

Office hours: 9.00am - 4.30pm, Monday - Friday

#### ADVICE LINE SERVICES

#### Legal Advice Line - WLRC & DVAS

9.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Mon, Tues, Thu, Fri

Phone: 02 9749 5533 (WLRC)

Phone: 1800 801 501 (WLRC Rural Free Call)

Phone: 02 8745 6999 (DVAS)

**Phone: 1800 810 784** (DVAS Rural Free Call)

#### Legal Advice Line - Indigenous Women's Legal Contact Line

10.00am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 4.00pm Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri. **Phone: 1800 639 784** 

#### **OUTREACH ADVICE CLINICS**

Blacktown – every second Friday Phone: 02 9831 2070 Campbelltown – every second Thursday Phone: 02 4627 2955 Fairfield – every second Thursday Phone: 02 9726 4044 Liverpool – every second Thursday Phone: 02 9601 3555 Penrith – every second Tuesday Phone: 02 4721 8749

Wyong - one Monday and one Friday per month Phone: 02 4351 1152 / 02 4353 1750

#### LOCAL COURT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DUTY WORK

Blacktown – every Wednesday

Campbelltown - once every two months

Mt Druitt – every Monday Penrith – every Tuesday

Sutherland – once each month on a Wednesday



# contents

Our Vision	4
Our Values	4
Chairperson's Report	5
Principal Solicitor's Report	6
Manager's Report	5
Our Personnel	8
Staff Photos	10
We provided legal advice and representation	12
Pro Bono Services	16
We educated women about the law	17
We advocated for changes to law and legal processes	20
Our Auspiced Services	22
WDVCAP Training and Resource Unit	22
Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service - Walanbaa Yinarr Wharoo	24
Bourke / Brewarrina Family Violence Prevention Legal Service	27
Our Publications	28
Treasurer's Report	30
Annual Audited Accounts and Financial Statements	31
Directors' Report	32
Auditor's Independence Declaration	35
Income Statement	
Balance Sheet	38
Statement of Recognised Income and Expenditure	39
Cash Flow statement	40
Notes to the Financial Statements	41
Directors' Declaration	49
Audit Report	50
Auditor's Opinion and Disclaimer	51
Profit and Loss Account	52
Women's Legal Services Profit and Loss Statement	53
Indigenous Women's Program	54
Outreach Program	55
Domestic Violence Advocacy Service	
WCVCAP Training and Resource Unit	57
Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service	
Bourke / Brewarrina Family Violence Prevention Legal Service	59



## our vision, our values

#### **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

2006-2007 has been another successful and eventful year for Women's Legal Services, and the various parts of the organisation (including our auspiced Walgett and Bourke Family Violence Prevention Legal Services) that have continued to make enormously valuable contributions to the women of NSW. As in previous years, we have provided thousands of NSW women with legal advice both by telephone and via our outreach services, and represented them in matters as diverse as recovery orders for children in the Family Court, and sexual assault communication privilege claims.

Our work on law reform continues to be a key part of our role. We do this partly on our own initiative, and partly in consultation with the National Network of Women's Legal Services. Frequent changes to the law have a continuing impact on the work we do, and of course, on the women who are our clients. This year began with the coming into effect of yet another significant tranche of changes to the children's provisions of the Family Law Act 1975 (Cth), a major focus of our advice work. We were significantly involved in the consultation processes and lobbying around these changes, and will be monitoring the impact they have upon our clients. During this period, we have also commenced some developmental work with PIAC for a more long term strategy for sustained improvement to criminal justice responses to sexual assault. This follows our involvement last year in the NSW Attorney General's Task Force on Sexual Assault. We hope through this work to lessen the burden on victim/ survivors of sexual assault.

In March 2007, our principal solicitor was invited to travel to China as part of a Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission delegation under the China-Australia Human Rights Technical Program. While there she participated in a conference of the All China Women's Federation and presented a paper on The Protection of Women's Legal Rights through Specific Legal Services in Australia.

Another highlight of our year was the publication of a pamphlet designed for us by Streetwize Comics, which is aimed at providing legal advice to Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse women. It does so solely through pictures, ie, without using words. It is a great success and it has been a terrific experience working on this innovative project with Streetwize.

As far as the management and governance of the service is concerned, in 2006-2007 we undertook a comprehensive project designed to consolidate and systematize all the policies and procedures of the service. With the adoption of a new Constitution in November 2005 along with on going work planned for the next financial year to develop and implement new governance and management policies, we see this project as part of our plan to ensure that Women's Legal Services is and remains a best practice community legal centre.

In the latter part of calendar year 2006, Nellie Hall chaired the organisation during my absence overseas. However, perhaps the most significant change to the governance of the organisation is the resignation of both Robin Gurr and Nellie Hall from the Board.

Robin had been a member of the Board from 1995 and was Chair from 2000 to 2005. Her contribution to the work of the organisation has been simply outstanding: for its length, for its continuity but most of all for its quality and commitment.

Nellie has also been a very long serving stalwart of our organisation and she made the decision to leave the Board after over 12 years of service. We miss her, as we miss Robin, but we know that the organisation has been considerably enriched in the past by their respective contributions. We are sure we have not seen the last of either Robin or Nellie and look forward to seeing them soon as we are shortly to begin celebrating our 25th year of operation.

I would like to thank all the members of the Board who have given their time and commitment to the service. Thanks also to all of the funding bodies that have supported the work of the service over this past year.

I would also like to give special thanks to our Manager, Kim Price, and our Principal Solicitor, Janet Loughman for all their amazing work and contributions, and for leading our service so successfully in the past year. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work done by each and every member of the staff at Women's Legal Services: without you, we simply wouldn't exist! Bravo to you all and thanks for your hard work: we hope to celebrate with you in our silver anniversary year.

Reg Graycar Chair



# principal solicitor's report

It is a privilege to be contributing to the annual report of Women's Legal Services NSW – an occasion marking the passing of quarter of a century of providing responsive and quality community legal services to women in NSW.

We have had a busy year of varied work

- working with changes in all areas of the law
that primarily affect our clients. Family law,
domestic violence, victims compensation and
sexual assault legislation underwent changes to
a small or significant degree throughout the year

- keeping us busy making submissions, updating
publications or responding to media enquiries.

In an effort to give priority to work that will have a strategic impact on women's experiences of access to justice we shifted some of our resources from advice line work to casework, community education and law reform. Our advice line work continues to be an important service, but in the context of other services being provided across the state such as that provided by LawAccess NSW our priorities can be focussed in other directions.

During the year our solicitors contributed to a number of different plain language publications about the law. We contributed 3 chapters of the Law Handbook, wrote the State Library's Hot Topic publication on sexual assault, up-dated our booklet Women and Family Law – now in it's 8th edition and up-dated Our Dream ... Stopping the Violence a resource for Aboriginal women on domestic violence.

We initiated 6 community forums in Sydney and rural/regional NSW on the Family Law Act changes and in so doing engaged with the new Family Relationship Centres (FRCs). The focus of these community education events was on the impact of domestic violence and how the FRCs would respond to the safety needs and rights of women. I would like to thank the Family Relationship Centres and the Legal Aid Commission for their contributions to this work.

It was also a year in which we both farewelled some staff and welcomed others. In particular Jenny Wong had been with our service for 6 years working in the Indigenous Women's Program. Jenny made a substantial contribution to this work and left to work in Papua New Guinea on domestic violence education. I very much appreciate the energy and commitment of all our solicitors, who like Jenny are working in a community legal centre to express a passion for social justice.

I personally have had a very interesting year – both consolidating my knowledge of the service and expanding my horizons. I was a guest of HREOC on a trip to China to present a paper about Women's Legal Services to the All-China Women's Federation and had the privilege of visiting a women's refuge in Hainan province.

It was an honour to work beside the members of the Women's Legal Services board and the members of the Aboriginal Women's Consultation Network. Their contributions keep us focussed on the 'big picture' and on the continuing work that is needed to bring legal justice for Aboriginal women and children in NSW.

Janet Loughman
Principal Solicitor



# manager's report

It amazes me at this time every year at how quickly the last year has flown by. All the staff at Women's Legal Services (WLS) has worked as usual extremely hard this last year and this is reflected in the Annual Report.

The Women's Legal Services NSW website was totally re-designed this year.

The website is user friendly and systems have been put in place so the service can update the site as needed.

One of the achievements for this year has been the development of a pictorial pamphlet. The pamphlet has been produced with Streetwize Communications for women who identify as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) or Aboriginal, and for women who have minimal English literacy. It responds to the needs of many women, including those who were consulted as part of the Long Way to Equal research. The pamphlet uses only pictures with no words to depict situations where women may need the legal support offered by WLS NSW. The pamphlet has been developed and tested with women in NSW. Streetwize Communications found that the pamphlet is successful in communicating the message that legal advice is available if women find themselves in difficult situations

This year we employed a consultant to review our policies and procedures. This process continues and we hope to have it finalised in 07/08.

I would like to thank the members of the Aboriginal Women's Consultation Network for their dedication to WLS NSW. These women represent most areas of NSW and advise WLS on issues that affect Aboriginal women and children.

I would like to acknowledge our funders. With your support we have been able to assist many disadvantaged women within NSW.

A big thank you to all the volunteer students we have had during the year.

To all the staff at WLS, you are an inspirational group of women. Your dedication to assisting the most disadvantaged women in NSW is inspiring. I would like to thank each and every one of you for all your hard work during the year.

To the group of Directors who unselfishly give your time to aid the disadvantaged women in NSW, your commitment and dedication to WLS is appreciated. Thank you to all.

I know this year coming will be just as inspiring as the previous year and I look forward to working with all, to achieve access to justice for the most disadvantaged women across NSW.

Kim Price Manager Women's Legal Services NSW



# our personnel

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Sophie Clarke Nellie Hall
Rhonda Fadden Danae Harvey
Regina Graycar Debra Maher
Robin Gurr Anne Scahill

#### ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S CONSULTATION NETWORK

The 2006/07 Members are:

Terry-Anne Carr Aboriginal Women's Representative, North West Plains

Victoria Dennison Aboriginal Women's Representative, Armidale

Elsie Gordon Women's Housing, Dubbo

Aunty Gloria Matthews Western District Foundation Aboriginal Corporation, Mt Druitt

Maxine Nixon Aboriginal Women's Representative, Central Coast Roslyn Sampson Aboriginal Women's Representative, North West

#### **WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW STAFF**

#### Women's Legal Services - Administrative staff

Helen Baker Executive Assistant

Renee Burke Receptionist (until January 2007)
Kaylene Evans Data Entry Operator (from June 2007)

Sharon Kingshott

Janet Loughman

Kim Ly

Administrative Assistant

Principal Solicitor

Management Accountant

Balwinder Masawan Librarian
Pichhorda Phy Accounts Clerk

Kim Price Manager

Irene Skordilis Data Entry Operator

#### **WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES**

#### Women's Legal Resources Centre solicitors

Judit Albecz-Solyom Supervising Solicitor

Marina Bournazos Solicitor

Brigid O'Connor Solicitor (until January 2007)
Lee-May Saw Solicitor (until January 2007)

Margaret Small Solicitor
Louisa Stewart Solicitor
Helen Taranto Solicitor

Mary Turco Solicitor (until May 2007)
Mari Vagg Solicitor (from March 2007)

#### **WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES**

#### Indigenous Women's Program

Rene Adams Coordinator, Indigenous Women's Services
Dianne Hamey Supervising Solicitor (from June 2007)

Jinny Smith Aboriginal Program Officer

Jennifer Wong Supervising Solicitor (until January 2007)

#### **WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES**

#### **Domestic Violence Advocacy Service solicitors**

Elena Grinfeld Solicitor

Alicia Jillard Solicitor (from October 2006)
Karen Mifsud Supervising Solicitor

Emily Winborne Solicitor (until January 2007)

#### **WDVCAP Training & Resource Unit**

Bronwyn Bartley Solicitor (until December 2006)

Zouhour El-Ghoul Administrative Assistant (from October 2006)
Maria Kissouri Training & Resource Worker (until June 2007)

Judith Levitan Solicitor (from April 2007)

Merona Martin WDVCAS/Network TRU Resource Worker (from April 2007)

Maha Najjarine Administrative Assistant (until September 2006)

Janette Prichard Education, Resource & Development Officer

Olivia Wellesley-Cole WDVCAS/Network TRU Resource Worker (until January 2007)

#### Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service

Natasha Dennis Receptionist

Charlene Dotti Cleaner (until September 2006)
Wendy Fernando Community Development Officer
Vivienne Fernando Cleaner (from February 2007)

Kylie Kennedy Coordinator

Rebecca Lee Solicitor (until March 2007)
Monica Neville Solicitor (until November 2006)

Sara Peel Solicitor

Natascha Rohr Solicitor (from March 2007)
Dora Walford Coordinator (until April 2007)

Narelle Winters Court Support Worker (from February 2007)

#### Solicitors Seconded from Freehills to Walgett FVPLS

Katy-Jo Turner (until January 2007) Jacqueline Wootton (from May 2007)

#### Bourke/Brewarrina Family Violence Prevention Legal Service

Erica Coulston Solicitor (until August 2006)
Audrey Gibbs Coordinator (from May 2007)

Wanita Gibbs Community Development Officer (from February 2007)

Amy Gordon Community Worker - Brewarrina

Yasmin Hunter Solicitor

Rosemary Knight Coordinator (until September 2006)

Kathy Mann Cleaner

Natalie Neumann Solicitor (from September 2006)

Kathleen Morris Community Development Officer (until July 2006)

Joan Parsons Receptionist (until June 2007)
Raylene Summers Coordinator (until February 2007)

#### Casual, Contract and Locum Workers

Cheryl Alexander Training & Resource Worker

Kuny Chhor Accountant Sandra De Nardi Solicitor Suzanne Derry Solicitor Lyn Francis Solicitor Tamera McManis Solicitor Megan Neale Consultant Mary Raum Receptionist Rebecca Veasey Solicitor Jenny Zhu Accounts Clerk Anthea Vogl Research Pia van de Zandt Solicitor

#### **Volunteer Students**

All the staff at Women's Legal Services NSW would like to thank the following student volunteers who kindly donated their time to come to our service providing invaluable assistance to our solicitors. Your work does not go unnoticed. Thank you.

Angela Chong
Michelle Fraser
Katrene Halteh
Emily Hay
Dominique Lamb
Anna Mahony
Ellen Ruthotas
Nalika Padmasena
Janitha Sirimanne
Alex Tindale

Kelly McDonald

# staff photos





















# staff photos





















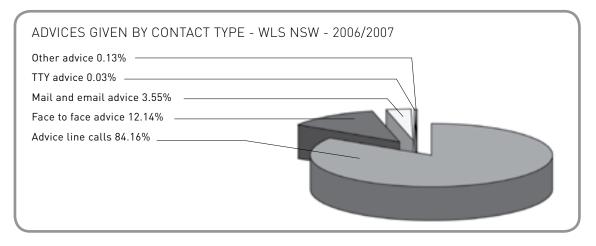


# we provided legal advice

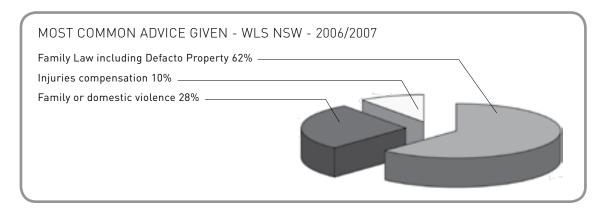
and representation

Women's Legal Services NSW provides legal advice and court representation to women most disadvantaged in our community. We do this through a state-wide telephone advice service with a metropolitan and a Rural Free Call Line for general legal advice; a metropolitan and a Rural Free Call Line for domestic violence and ADVO advice; and a Free Call statewide Indigenous Women's Legal Contact Line.

During 2007 we reduced the resources allocated to our advice line work from 4.5 days per week to 4 days per week and the number of lines answered from 4 to 3, so that we could focus more on representation, community legal education and law reform work.

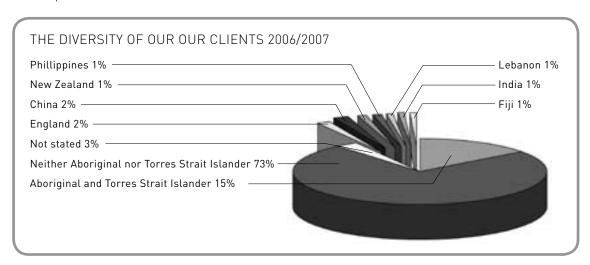


Family law continues to be the area of law affecting most women who call our service for advice. Other areas of law include domestic violence, victims compensation, sexual assault, debt, discrimination, wills and estates.



## we provided legal advice and representation

Women from a diversity of backgrounds contact our telephone advice service.



Our Indigenous Women's Legal Contact Line is answered by an Aboriginal staff member who takes initial details from the client and refers the call to our solicitors or in some cases to another appropriate service. Answering calls this way enables us to provide an accessible, responsive and culturally appropriate service for Aboriginal women throughout NSW. Areas of law that many Aboriginal women are seeking advice on are care and protection, family law, employment, victims compensation and discrimination. We represented women in a range of different cases.

#### IWP case study:

Our client was asked to leave a hotel because she was an Aboriginal person. She lodged a claim for race discrimination with the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board. With the help of a pro-bono barrister, we represented her at mediation with the owners giving her a financial settlement, an apology and agreeing to conduct discrimination and cultural awareness training.

IWP staff commenced prison visits in September 2006 to women's correctional centres at Dillwynia and Emu Plains in the Sydney metropolitan area. These visits are in response to a program that was developed by the correctional centre's welfare workers. Legal advice and follow-up support is given to Aboriginal women in these prisons. These visits are conducted monthly. IWP Staff also visited the Kempsey Women's Prison.

#### Advice line case study:

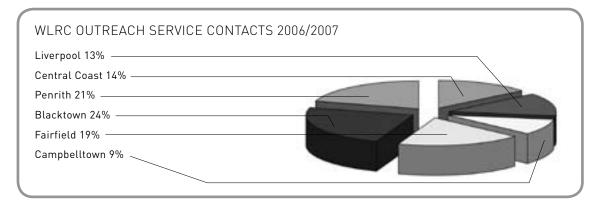
A Cantonese speaking woman called our general advice line using the Telephone Interpreter. We helped her find a counsellor/support worker to assist with reporting domestic violence to the police. We also advised her about family law and victims compensation.

#### IWP case study:

Our client was married to a man who subjected her to severe and escalating domestic violence. During one assault on her, our client killed her husband. She was convicted of manslaughter. Her children from the relationship had been awarded \$50,000 in victim's compensation and the VCT were claiming this as a debt from her. The children were under 18 and lived with our client. Our client had no assets and received social security. She had extremely limited capacity to meet a restitution debt. Any reduced financial circumstances suffered by our client in meeting the debt would have had a direct impact on those intended to benefit from the award of compensation. We represented our client in the Victims Compensation Tribunal and at hearing before a magistrate the restitution debt was reduced from \$50,000 to nil.

## we provided legal advice and representation

We provide face-to-face legal advice through our Outreach Advice Clinics at six locations in western Sydney and on the Central Coast.



#### Outreach case study:

We assisted an 18 year old CALD woman with a hearing impairment who was assaulted while on her way to TAFE. The incident was reported to police, who decided not to lay charges. The other party had also waited outside the TAFE and the client was intimidated and afraid. We provided legal advice on ADVOs, contacted support services for the client and also advised her on making complaints to the police. A victims compensation claim was made with the assistance of pro bono firm Gilbert & Tobin.

Our Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (DVAS) continues to attend local courts in western Sydney on a weekly basis, as well as other courts, working with the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Schemes to represent women in ADVO matters. Each week a solicitor attends Mt Druitt, Penrith and Blacktown Local Courts, with monthly attendance at Sutherland Local Court, bi-monthly at Campbelltown Local Court and other courts. (chart overleaf)

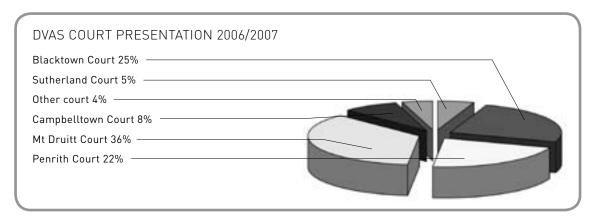
The DVAS court work consists of representing and advising women applicants for ADVOs and, increasingly, assisting women defendants to ADVO applications. Women defendants are more often than not the victim of domestic violence, but are subject to police not taking into account the context of an alleged incident or are defendants in private ADVO applications brought by their partners. DVAS also represented women in hearings and appeals to the District Court.

#### IWP case study:

Our client and her de facto partner and eight children were subject to ongoing threats and racist abuse from new neighbours who hit the fence with an iron bar and called our client's family "black boong rats" and repeatedly shouted "I'll get my gun and shoot you all". The family were so afraid they slept on mattresses in the lounge room because the bedroom windows faced the neighbours. Our client suffered from panic attacks and depression. Our client called the police repeatedly but received no assistance - they "did not get involved in neighbourhood disputes". When they did attend, our client said they accepted the neighbours' version of events without speaking to her. In one major incident, our client said she was assaulted by the father, who broke his window when she ducked to avoid his punch. The police attended, spoke to the neighbours and charged our client with malicious damage without taking a statement from her. The charge was later dismissed.

We advised our client on making a police complaint and represented her in APVO proceedings. The APVO matter went to a 1.5-day final hearing in the Local Court, where our client succeeded in obtaining APVOs against two of the neighbours for the protection of her and her children for a period of two years. There were no further incidents after the orders were made.

## we provided legal advice and representation



#### **DVAS** case study

We represented a female applicant for an ADVO. The matter involved allegations aired on "A Current Affair" and "Today Tonight" that were part of the alleged harassment. We instructed counsel to appear at the hearing as there were complex facts in issue. At the start of the second day of the hearing the defendant reconsidered his position and consented to a 12 month final order for our client's protection.

## LINKING OUR ADVICE AND CASEWORK TO SYSTEMIC WORK.

A crucial part of the work we do as a community legal centre is to identify areas of law or legal process which are unfair or where systemic failures are impacting on our clients.

Through the course of the year we represented 3 women, including a young 16 year old, in cases where they were required to appear in court to press their claim of the sexual assault communications privilege (to keep counsellors records confidential). Women's Legal Services had been part of the campaign to introduce the privilege in the 1990's and has undertaken considerable community legal education work about its application (including the publication Counsellors and Subpoenas). The cases came to our attention because either the health service did not have the funds to engage legal representation to argue for the privilege in court or the medical records of our client's GP were subpoenaed and he was unaware of the privilege. The cases laid the groundwork for the development of further lobbying.

Our advice work is enhanced by our volunteer solicitors who provide free appointments in their offices for women referred by us. Our representation work is also enhanced by the

#### **DVAS** case study

We acted in a Sydney District Court matter in an appeal by a female defendant in a police application for the protection of her former partner. Our client had consented to an ADVO without the benefit of legal advice. We successfully argued for leave to appeal to the District Court. The DPP advised us 2 days prior to the hearing that they would not pursue the ADVO against our client. The ADVO was then revoked as if never made.

## Sexual assault communications privilege case study

We acted in a sexual assault communications privilege matter in the District Court on behalf of a young woman who was the complainant in a sexual assault trial. The initial enquiry was in relation to her rights over her counselling records. We advised her and liaised with the sexual assault counselling service holding the records. We then acted on her behalf in interlocutory proceedings on the privilege. The appearances included two mentions and then two interlocutory hearings over four days. Ms Louise Goodchild of counsel appeared on a pro bono basis. Without our assistance the client would have had to bear the cost of defending her right to confidentiality over her counselling records: the DPP claims their duty of disclosure prevents them from acting in these matters; and there is no specific funding allocated to the representation of complainants.

assistance of pro bono barristers who provide advice and representation in more complex cases. Our clients also benefit from the valuable work undertaken by many law firms with pro bono practices.

### pro bono services

#### **Pro Bono Services**

Legal Practitioners continue to assist WLS NSW clients by giving generously of their time through the provision of pro bono services. 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 SlatteryAbrams & AssociatesJen McGowanAdams PartnersShanna RiddleAdams PartnersZoe UngAdams Partners

Kate EastmanBarristerLouise GoodchildBarristerEmily PenderBarrister

Anne CreganBlake Dawson & WaldronAmelia DavisBlake Dawson & Waldron

David HillardClayton UtzBelinda WilsonClayton Utz

Anita Vayanos De Mestre & Company

David CohenDavid H. CohenTrina FrancisFrancis Lawyers

Annette BainFreehillsBrooke MassenderFreehillsMichelle HannanGilbert + TobinJames PomeroyGilbert + Tobin

Lena MirzabegianGilbert + TobinTamara SimsGilbert + TobinJane StrattonGilbert + TobinKate RaftonHarmon & CoClaudia CastroKR LawyersSimone GreenKR Lawyers

Anne KazasRogaris KR LawyersGrace BasagliaMcDonnell Milne ToltzMaxine MorrisMorris Corkill SolicitorsKate NolanMusgrave & Peach Solicitors

Maya SenMusgrave & Peach SolicitorsStephanie LeeMusgrave & Peach SolicitorsAntonella SandersonSanderson Partners LawyersDianne HameySanderson Partners LawyersSarah BevanSarah Bevan & Associates

Framy Anne Browne Sarah Bevan & Associates
Asha Miller Sarah Bevan & Associates
Elizabeth Haynes Sayan & Associates

Joanne Sharah Sharah & Associates
Tracey Flintoff Stacks the Law Firm

Andrea Brooks Turner Freeman Solicitors
Steven Penning Turner Freeman Solicitors

**Vaughan Roles** VJ Roles Solicitor



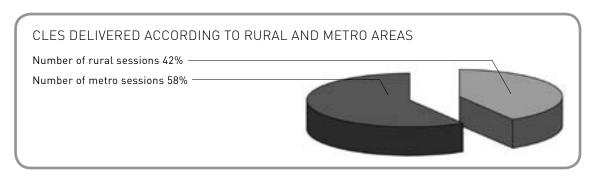
## we educated women

about the law

Our objective to promote women's understanding of the legal system and their legal rights, and educate the community and the legal profession in the conduct and resolution of legal problems affecting women continues to be a high priority for the service.

Our community legal education (CLE) program is an important part of our capacity to provide services state-wide, by focusing on providing workshops to community workers and developing publications.

We provided a total of 105 workshops to 5,853 participants in both metropolitan Sydney and rural NSW. We responded to 96 requests for our publications.



## Some highlights of community legal education

- International Crime Prevention Conference held in Canberra (Rene Adams).
- ♦ 6 'Family Law Changes' forums, held in Lidcombe, Sydney City, Lismore and Richmond in collaboration with the new Family Relationship Centres, the Legal Aid Commission and local CLCs to inform community workers about the changes to family law.
- NSW Attorney General's Department engaged us to provide seminars on the family law changes to Community Justice Centre mediators (Sydney and Lismore).
- → International Women's Day speech in Taree (Janet Loughman).
- Rural trip to Griffith and Hay where we presented seminars on Counsellors and Subpoenas, Family Law and Elder Law and provided a legal advice service (Karen Mifsud and Margaret Small).
- Workshops on sexual assault in Dubbo and on domestic violence and family law in Wagga Wagga, family law and ADVOs in Nyngan (Louisa Stewart and Emily Winborne).

Family Law Changes forum held in Sydney Kylie Beckhouse (Legal Aid Commission), Lee-May Saw and Janet Loughman (Women's Legal Services NSW)



### we educated women about the law







- Janet Loughman
- We provided CLEs to members of the Sudanese community at Nepean Migrant Access, (Lee-May Saw).
- ◆ IWP contributed to the Aboriginal Women's and Children's Corroboree, Redfern Park (Jinny Smith and Rene Adams).
- Reclaim the Night speech at Town Hall steps (Janet Loughman) and many of us marched under the Women's Legal Services banner and operated a stall in Hyde Park.
- Janet Loughman attended a training workshop in Hainan Province, China. The workshop was a joint HREOC and All-China Women's Federation project. Janet presented a paper on WLS NSW services and our work in promoting women's rights.

- Workshops for Arabic and Turkish speaking women in Fairfield (Judit Albecz-Solyom) and at Penrith Women's Health Centre, organised with the council for Filipino women (Louisa Stewart).
- ◆ IWP staff attended the annual Croc Festivals in Moree and Kempsey and presented the 'Know Your Rights' legal games kit. They provided legal games and resources to over 600 children at the Kempsey and Moree Croc Festivals.

HREOC and All-China Women's Federation training workshop in Hainan Province, China



## we worked on the following publications

## We worked on producing the following publications:

- Law Handbook 10th edition 3 chapters on Family Law, Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences.
   (Yasmin Hunter, Lee-May Saw, Emily Winborne, Karen Mifsud, Janet Loughman, Sarah Bevan, Marina Bournazos).
- Women and Family Law 8th edition (published in July, 2007). Contributions from Brigid O'Connor, Janet Loughman, Karen Mifsud and Judit Albecz-Solyom.
- ◆ For the State Library of NSW Legal Information Access Centre, we wrote the 56th in the series 'Hot Topics: legal information issues in plain language' on Sexual Assault (Pia Van de Zandt, Yasmin Hunter, Lee-May Saw and Janet Loughman).
- We up-dated "Our Dream stopping the violence" 2nd edition (Karen Mifsud).
- A Long Way to Equal: an update of "Quarter Way to Equal: a report on barriers to access to legal services for migrant women" (Janet Loughman). Published in August 2007.



## we advocated for changes

We maintained a strong commitment to our objective of engaging in law reform. Our focus is in areas concerning the justice needs of women and aspects of the law and the legal structures that affect women's lives.

This year we had responsibility for organising the national network meeting for Women's Legal Services Australia. Over 40 women met at Wollongong university to share experiences of our work over the past 12 months, discuss the impact of the Family Law (Shared Parental Responsibility) Act, 2006 on women, particularly those who experience family violence and to plan the advocacy work for the year ahead.

#### Some highlights of our advocacy work

- Submissions and comments about proposed changes to Part 15A of the Crimes Act NSW (the ADVO provisions) introduced into the NSW Parliament.
- Attended a forum on the review of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act, hosted by NCOSS and ACWA and prepared a submission to the review.
- ◆ Gave evidence to the NSW Parliament Inquiry into the impact of the Family Law (Shared Parental Responsibility) Act, 2006.
- Hosted a delegation from Legal Aid Foundation Taiwan.
- Presented workshop at NACLC conference about the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services and their operational framework and about police relations in regional communities.
- Submission to Senate Inquiry into Stolen Wages.
- We worked collaboratively with other community legal centres particularly through Women's Legal Services Australia and the Combined Community Legal Centres Group (NSW).

## to law and legal processes

#### Media contacts

Our main contacts with media during the year were:

- Interview SMH article on domestic violence and police powers (Karen Mifsud).
- Interview ABC radio about family law changes (Janet Loughman).
- Interview Daily Telegraph about sexual assault legal process and difficulties with sexual assault communications privilege (Janet Loughman).
- → Interview Sunday Telegraph about domestic violence case (Karen Mifsud).
- Interview 2SER radio about the update of Quarter Way to Equal following our presentation at No-Licence to Abuse conference (Janet Loughman).
- Interview with Steve Price on 2UE Drive Show about domestic violence (Karen Mifsud).
- Interview Australian Women's Weekly about domestic violence (Karen Mifsud).
- Guest on Margaret Throsby Morning Interview program on ABC FM radio with discussion about domestic violence and sexual assault, access to justice and legal aid issues (Janet Loughman).

## we advocated for changes to law and legal processes

#### **Projects**

#### LONG WAY TO EQUAL

WLS NSW worked on the update of "Quarter Way to Equal: a report on barriers to access to legal services for migrant women". A Long Way to Equal primarily documents the results of the Women's Legal Services NSW research but also describes and documents the recommendations from the Violence Against Women Specialist Unit research. (Long Way to Equal was launched in August 2007).

#### FAMILY LAW AFFIDAVIT PROJECT

The extended pilot of this project, funded by the Law and Justice Foundation, was undertaken during the course of the year.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT CAMPAIGN DEVELOPMENT

A forum was jointly organised by PIAC and WLS NSW, bringing together key workers in the sexual assault sector, sexual assault survivor groups and others to test the strengths and weaknesses of a proposal to seek funding to undertake development of networks of advocates to lobby for improvements to the sexual assault legal process.

We made a submission to NSW Attorney General on the proposed change to the definition of consent in sexual assault cases.

Practical difficulties in claiming the sexual assault communications privilege came to our attention through our advice and casework [see Advice and representation section].



#### **Committees**

- National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) state representative (Janet Loughman).
- National Coalition of Aboriginal Legal Services (Rene Adams).
- Combined Community Legal Centres Group (NSW CCLCG) Board (Janet Loughman).
- National Network of Indigenous Women's Legal Services (Rene Adams).
- ◆ Women's Legal Services Australia committee (Kim Price and Janet Loughman).
- NSW CCLCG Aboriginal Advisory Group (Rene Adams).
- NSW CCLCG Domestic Violence sub-committee
   convenor (Elena Grinfeld).
- → Family Court Children's Cases Program (Judit Albecz-Solyom).
- Women's Advisory Committee, Department of Corrective Services (Lee-May Saw).
- ◆ Aboriginal Justice Advisory Group Circle Sentencing Program, Western Sydney (Jinny Smith).
- Apprehended Violence Legal Issues Coordinating Committee (Karen Mifsud).
- Domestic Violence Intervention Court Model Senior Officers Group (Karen Mifsud).
- Domestic Violence Committee Coalition (Karen Mifsud).
- Non-English Speaking Domestic Violence Network (Judit Albecz-Solyom).
- DoCS Communities Division Partners Reference Group (Janet Loughman).
- Hebersham Aboriginal Youth Service Youth Reference Committee (Jinny Smith).
- → Blackout Violence Campaign Committee (Rene Adams).

Reclaim the Night Rally



# our auspiced services

### WOMEN'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TRAINING & RESOURCE UNIT

The Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Training and Resource Unit (WDVCAP TRU) provides training and resources for the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Schemes (WDVCAS) in NSW, which operate according to the principles and guidelines of the WDVCAP, Legal Aid Commission NSW. The TRU aims to increase the capacity of the WDVCAS to provide an effective, holistic and empowering court assistance service for women applying for Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (ADVOs) in Local Courts.

#### **HOW DO WE DO THIS?**

- ♦ We train and resource WDVCAS workers on issues related to domestic violence, legal information about domestic violence, and appropriate and effective court assistance.
- We develop and update training resources and a website for the WDVCAS.
- We coordinate and facilitate the WDVCAS. Network
- We maintain high quality staff, and a professional culture.
- ♦ We maintain and develop administrative systems that maximise the efficient and effective use of the resources available to us.
- ♦ We work cooperatively and in consultation with legal and government service providers, Indigenous communities, specialised services addressing violence against women, and other community service providers who support the principles and practices of the WDVCAP and WLS NSW.

#### Changes to legislation & resource development

We revised WDVCAP TRU training material to reflect the family law changes instituted in July 2006. The Advanced Training Module was constantly refined as the year progressed.

Then the changes to domestic violence law enacted on 12 March 2007 became the focus of our training, with immediate work revising training materials. Writing and distributing supplements to TRU published resources was critical in the weeks that followed. New editions of publications are underway.

"Our Dream...stopping the violence: An information booklet for Aboriginal women on domestic violence and the law in NSW" 2nd edition containing accurate legal information about the 12 March 2007 changes to DV Law. Free copy/copies distributed to all WDVCAS and state and national libraries.

Some members of the WDVCAP TRU team



## our auspiced services

The WDVCAP Support Workers' Kit, fourth edition is under development. This is a core training resource distributed free to all participants at Introductory Training in WDVCAS Work. TRU engaged Sara Blazey to develop a new Advanced Chapter on Family Law in WDVCAS Work. It incorporates information about Family Law Amendment (Shared Responsibility) Act 2005.

We published supplements this year to the third edition of WDVCAP Support Workers Kit and to the WDVCAP Distance Learning Package.

Two new Training Modules have been developed: Counsellors and Subpoenas, and Managing a Seconded Worker Roster. And a separate "Working with Police" workshop was also run for the first time for Coordinators.

#### Training highlights & evaluation

We presented 33.5 training sessions throughout the year in Gosford, Blacktown, Lithgow, Bankstown, Redfern, Surry Hills, Liverpool, and Haymarket, with 561 participants attending in 2006/2007. A further 65 workers across NSW engaged actively with the WDVCAP Distance Learning Package, with 10 receiving a certificate of completion. Of the 369 participants who completed evaluation forms at WDVCAP TRU training, 77% reported very good or excellent as their level of overall satisfaction with the training.

WDVCAP TRU also assisted the Specialist Worker (Aboriginal) Network to meet twice this year. This enhanced their capacity to assist Aboriginal women in their own communities through networking and discussion of local, state and national issues.

WDVCAP TRU are not involved directly with law reform work, but do support the WDVCAS Network. Maria Kissouri attended a consultation at YWCA in November 2006, to provide the Commonwealth government with feedback on the potential areas for Justice Practitioners training, in relation to sexual assault.

WDVCAP TRU consulted with a number of independent experts to supply quality specialist training to our clients. Thanks go specifically to:

**Lauren Kelly**, Psychologist and Counsellor, North Sydney Area Sexual Assault Service

**Jeanette Wong**, Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS)

Jude Page, MERIT Program

Sara Blazey, external solicitor

**Kelly Griffin**, Coordinator of Hawkesbury WDVCAS

Amy David, Northside Women's Services

Aboriginal Women's Consultation Network, WLS NSW

Southern Sydney Family Relationship Centre Manager

Thanks also to representatives from Attorney General's, and NSW Police Force including the Police Prosecutor, Gosford Court.

It has been a year of unexpected staff changes, many related to career growth. WDVCAP TRU thanks Maria Kissouri, Maha Najjarine, Bronwyn Bartley, Olivia Wellesley-Cole and Merona Martin, for their excellent contributions. TRU also thanks Karen Mifsud, DVAS Supervising Solicitor and her staff for their extensive assistance throughout the year.

## walgett family violence prevention legal service

#### WALANBAA YINARR WHAROO

The Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service provides support, legal advice and representation, information and advocacy for Aboriginal women and children who are victims/ survivors of family violence and sexual assault.

The Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service's aim is to provide culturally appropriate assistance to the Walgett and surrounding remote communities, such as Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri and Goodooga in the areas of family violence and sexual assault.

We continue to increase awareness of our service throughout the Aboriginal community. One way we have achieved this, is by running monthly women's groups and separate monthly groups for high school girls and high school boys.

#### Legal Advice & Representation

Our solicitors fly out to Walgett each fortnight following the Local Court circuit. The solicitors attend the Local Court at Walgett and Lightning Ridge.

We give advice to clients in the Walgett office, at and after court in Walgett and Lightning Ridge and at client's homes as needed. The non-legal staff at the Walgett office accompany solicitors on outreach and home visits for legal advice.

During the year we have represented clients in two care matters in the Children's Court, represented a client in obtaining a recovery order in a family law parenting matter and represented clients each visit at the Local Court in Apprehended Violence Order proceedings.

Our solicitors have had the carriage of numerous victims' compensation claims for victims of family violence and sexual assault.

Legal advice has been given to clients, being victims of family violence or sexual assault, on a range of matters including family law, credit and debt, medical and police complaints, victims' compensation and care and protection.

Our staff participate in meetings with interagency workers, in relation to family violence and sexual assault issues. Solicitors, with staff at the Walgett office, have presented community legal education workshops to key members of the community, for example to teachers at a local school about domestic violence.

Our solicitors assist clients in other ways to enable our clients to navigate the legal system and to enforce their rights. Solicitors have attended the police station with clients to obtain copies of statements, when clients requests for the documents are not being met. Other clients need assistance with explaining the meaning of letters they have received from other solicitors or understanding the outcome of legal matters they have had in the past.

#### Some of our highlights

- Staff attended Naidoc week celebrations at the Walgett Health Service and Dhariwaa Elders Group in July 2006. We provided information to clients on ADVOs, victims compensation, family and domestic violence and information about our service
- We attended the YAAMA festival in Bourke in September 2006.
- ◆ In September 2006, staff attended the 'Do it Right' forum with clients in Walgett, where they received information from Department of Fair Trading, Anti-Discrimation Board, Legal Aid and Banking Ombudsman.
- In October 2006, we attended and participated in the "Reclaim the Night" march with the Walgett Safehouse.
- Staff attended the White Ribbon Day luncheon for men's awareness of domestic violence in December 2006, where they gave a presentation of our service and our involvement within the community.
- ◆ In February 2007, staff attended the Liquor Accord workshop to address alcohol related problems affecting our communities and to 'have our say' about the Liquor Licensing process.
- Staff attended and assisted with the International Women's Day celebrations on 8 March 2007.
- 2 May 2007, staff held their first Women's Group session for the year, where we gave information to women about our service, family violence, and also invited a worker from the Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service to talk to the women.
- In June 2007, staff attended the Naidoc Week celebrations at the Walgett High school and set up an information table.
- In May 2007, staff hosted the 'Stop Domestic Violence Day' with assistance from the Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service and Walgett Safehouse.

## walgett family violence prevention legal service

The service has been thanked at community meetings for their ongoing support and assistance to the other services within the community. Service providers from the Walgett community have said:

"Your service has been very helpful and supportive and it is going great, there has been a huge improvement to your service within the community".

"We didn't know much about your service and what you do until now and it is great to know that we have that service for our community and it is great to see you get out and be more involved".

We have a counsellor who travels to Walgett once a month to see our clients, and our staff transports clients to and from their appointments. In May 2007 we appointed a new co-ordinator, Kylie Kennedy, who had been acting in the position since April 2006.

In the coming year WFVPLS will facilitate CLE workshops to the Walgett and surrounding area schools, and continue monthly women's groups and groups for teenagers.

With the assistance of other services we are planning to take the teenage groups on educational camps where we will provide young girls and boys with information on family violence and sexual assault and provide Aboriginal leadership.



Stop Domestic Violence Day, Walgett



Stop Domestic Violence Day, Tash and Kylie





## bourke/brewarrina family violence prevention legal service

The Bourke/Brewarrina Family Violence Prevention Legal Service (BBFVPLS) provides support, legal advice and representation, information and advocacy for Aboriginal women and children who are victims/survivors of family violence and sexual assault.

Our service's aim is to provide culturally appropriate assistance for Aboriginal women and children of Bourke/Brewarrina and surrounding remote communities, such as Engonnia and Weilmoringle.

The Bourke/Brewarrina Steering Committee has been established. The core role of the committee is to meet monthly and provide support, guidance, leadership and commitment to local initiatives of the BBFVPLS.

## Bourke/Brewarrina Steering Committee members are:

Libby Carney Mary Ronayne
Alister Ferguson Sharon Dykes
Rosemary Knight Dot Martin
June Smith Joan Dixon
Keith Carney

BBFVPLS Coordinator and other staff are active members of local committees that are relevant to family violence and sexual assault, including:

- Murdi Paaki Community Working Party
- ◆ Law and Justice committee

- ◆ Koori Foster Care Group
- ◆ Domestic Violence Interagency Group
- ♦ YAAMMA Festival
- ◆ Department of Community Services Interagency

#### **Legal Advice & Representation**

Our BBFVPLS solicitors travel to Bourke every second week for the court circuit. They attend Brewarrina Local Court on Tuesdays and Bourke Local Court on Thursdays. The solicitors and the community development officers meet with clients at the local court, a support service or the client's home. They have also provided outreach services to remote communities such as Weilmoringle and Enngonia. The non-legal staff at the Bourke office accompany solicitors on outreach and home visits for legal advice.

Our solicitors have had the carriage of numerous victims' compensation claims for victims of family violence and sexual assault. Legal advice has been given to clients, being victims of family violence or sexual assault, on a range of matters including family law, credit and debt, medical and police complaints, victims' compensation, care and protection and sexual assault and the legal process.

Our staff participate in meetings with interagency workers, in relation to family violence and sexual assault issues.





## bourke/brewarrina family violence prevention legal service

#### Some of our highlights

- ◆ BBFVPLS solicitors and Indigenous staff conducted Community Legal Education (CLE) programs at Dunbi Place, Edith Edwards Women's Refuge, Brewarrina High School, Bourke Family Support Service and Bourke TAFE. The CLE workshops targeted issues regarding family violence and sexual assault.
- We attended the Stop Domestic Violence Day BBQ held in the park, organised by the local Domestic Violence Committee.
- Our Service gave a presentation at the Murdi Paaki Young Leaders Project and presented
   29 promotional kit bags to participants. This initiative increased young people's awareness of our service in the local area.
- ◆ BBFVPLS provided promotional kit bags, caps, footballs and t-shirts to students at the Fatty Vautin Rugby League Challenge. The kits were used as prizes for children who were outstanding on the day. This promoted our service to students from Bourke, Brewarrina, Wilcannia, Enngonia and Nyngan.
- Our Indigenous staff and solicitors attended the local YAAMA Festival which promotes positive community initiatives – all service providers and Aboriginal organisations have individual stalls to promote their services
- Staff attended local NAIDOC week activities at schools, community venues, services and presentation events where we distributed our promotional resources.



# our publications

#### Lesbians & The Law - A Practical Guide [1]

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!

#### Counsellors & Subpoenas 3rd Edition [2]

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.

**Long Way to Equal** an update of "Quarter Way to Equal: a report on barriers to access to legal services for migrant women" 2007 [3]

Long Way to Equal gives a current assessment and analysis of the legal problems and barriers to access to legal services experienced by migrant and refugee women in Australia. The 2007 report considers government and community sector responses to recommendations made in 2004, and considers strategies for change.

#### Quarter Way to equal [4]

The 1994 report is still available.

#### Women & Family Law - Eighth Edition 2007 [5]

This publication has been substantially revised this year. The new edition will be available in September 2007.

#### Our Silence is Abusing our Kids [6]

Unique and innovative stories about Aboriginal women working locally to stop child sexual assault. Jointly produced by Dympna 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 [7]

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 [8]

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

#### Partnerships, Prevention & Rural Action II Report [9]

A Conference on Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities, 17 – 21 May 2004, Sport and Recreation Centre, Lake Burrendong, Wellington

#### Go Girl video [10]

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. WLS NSW are distributors of this video produced by NSW Dept for Women and Northern Rivers CLC.

#### Taking Orders - Apprehended Violence Orders in NSW video [11]

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. (Subtitled videos & accompanying booklets available in Arabic and Vietnamese.)



## our publications



This is the seventh 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 [13]

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.

#### WDVCAP TRU PUBLICATIONS AND VIDEOS

## Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program [14] Support Workers' Kit - Third Edition

This information handbook, developed in association with Jane Mulroney, was designed to accompany Court Support Worker training conducted by the WDVCAP Training and Resource Unit. The handbook can also stand alone as a comprehensive resource for workers assisting women and children experiencing domestic violence. 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.

The Fourth edition is under development and will include a new Advanced Chapter on Family Law in WDVCAS Work, incorporating the Family Law Amendment (Shared Responsibility) Act 2005.

## Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program [15] Distance Learning Package - Second Edition 2004

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 second edition includes an eighth module "Family Violence – An Aboriginal Context". This package builds upon and makes reference throughout to the WDVCAP Support Workers Kit (detailed above).

#### Our Dream...Stopping the Violence - Second Edition 2007 [16]

This is an information booklet for Aboriginal women on domestic violence and the law in NSW. The second edition has been updated to include legal information about the changes to NSW Domestic Violence Law that occurred in March 2007. 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 Coordinator's Kit - 2002

The kit includes information about WDVCAP, TRU, DVAS, WDVCAS Network, Liaison and relationship building, advocacy and complaints and promoting your Scheme.

## WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW PAMPHLETS & RESOURCES Women's Legal Services NSW pictorial pamphlet 2007 [17]

This new pictorial pamphlet provides advice to women about the telephone legal services of Women's Legal Services NSW (WLS NSW). The pamphlet has been produced with Streetwize Communications for women who identify as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) or Aboriginal, and for women who have minimal English literacy. It responds to the needs of many women, including those who were consulted as part of the Long Way to Equal research. The pamphlet uses only pictures with no words to depict situations where women may need the legal support offered by WLS NSW. Available free of charge.

#### Is this Love? Pamphlet [18]

our dream

Women's Legal Advice Line 13

This pamphlet is a colourful visual pamphlet about domestic and relationship violence, particularly aimed at young women. Support services are listed at the back of the pamphlet. The pamphlet is also available in Indigenous colours, for the Aboriginal community. Available free of charge.

#### WLS NSW Folding Cards [19]

We have several folding cards available, one for our Domestic Violence Advocacy Service, one for our Indigenous Women's Program and a generic WLS NSW card. Our Walgett and Bourke / Brewarrina Family Violence Prevention Legal Services also produce their own folding cards. These cards provide advice line phone numbers and contact details of our services and programs, and are available free of charge by contacting WLS NSW.

#### **ORDERING PUBLICATIONS**

WLS 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.



# treasurer's report

I am pleased to present the 2006-2007 Audited Financial Statements of Women's Legal Resources Limited, trading as Women's Legal Services New South Wales.

In this period WLS NSW grant income and other income including interest totalled \$2,814,050.

Core grants for services were received from the Commonwealth Government, through the Attorney General's Department and the New South Wales Government through the Legal Aid Commission of NSW.

These grants supported Women's Legal Services New South Wales by providing \$630,161 to the Women's Legal Services NSW Program and \$173,348 to the Outreach Program. \$265,590 was provided to the Indigenous Women's Program, \$374,964 to the Domestic Violence Advocacy Service, \$413,440 to the Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service, and \$401,452 to the Bourke/Brewarrina Family Violence Prevention Legal Service. Additionally \$260,378 supported the Training and Resource Unit through the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program.

With overall expenditure of \$2,639,054, the surplus of \$174,996 is mostly made up of grants received in 2006-2007 budgeted to be fully expended in the coming financial year.

On behalf of WLS NSW I would like to thank the Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments for their continued support for our services, and to extend our appreciation to the program officers who have worked with us during the year.

I also extend my thanks to all the staff at WLS NSW for the continuing skill and commitment they bring to our services. In particular, I want to express my appreciation and thanks to our Management Accountant, Kim Ly and our accounting staff, Pichhorda Phy, Kuny Chhor and Jenny Zhu. They have worked hard to develop and manage our accounts system, to support program and project budgeting and to provide financial analyses. All are an important part of continuously improving our services.

Rhonda Fadden Treasurer



# annual audited accounts

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED ABN 88 002 387 699

#### **ANNUAL AUDITED ACCOUNTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007



# directors' report

Your directors present this report on the company and its controlled entities for the financial year ended 30 June 2007.

#### **Directors**

The names of each person who has been a director during the year and to the date of this report are:

Sophie Clarke Nellie Hall (resigned 17/04/2007)

Rhonda Fadden Danae Harvey Regina Graycar Debra Maher Robin Gurr (resigned 20/02/2007) Anne Scahill

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 \$8 (2006: \$596).

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

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Operating profit/(loss) for the year	8	596
Income	2,639,062	2,701,438
Expenditure	2,639,054	2,700,842

#### **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.



## directors' 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 \$1,636.36. 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

#### Regina Graycar Director - Chairperson

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

#### Robin Gurr Director - Chairperson

Resigned 20/02/2007

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

#### Rhonda Fadden Director - Treasurer

Qualifications Experience BAgrSc, M Policy Studies, Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults 1980's-1990's: Management, administration, policy and representative roles and board positions in community health and legal service organisations including with the Combined Community Legal Centres Group (NSW), National Association of Community Legal Centres, Redfern Legal Centre Publishing and Dympna House. Consultant to community service and peak organisations.

2000 – 2002: Senior Policy Officer, Department of Aging, Disability and Home

Care; Literacy tutor (voluntary)

Current: Teacher of English as a Second Language.



### directors' report

Sophie Clarke Director

Qualification BA (Hons.) LLB

Admitted as a Legal Practitioner of the Supreme Court of NSW

Experience Socio-legal Researcher, Law and Justice Foundation of NSW

Nellie Hall Director

Resigned 17/04/2007

Qualifications B.Sc (Hons), M.Math

Experience 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 Director

Qualifications BA (Hons) LL.B

Admitted as a Legal Practitioner of the Supreme Court of NSW

and the High Court of Australia

Experience 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

Debra Maher Director

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)

Anne Scahill Director

Qualifications BA (Hons) LL.B; Grad Certif Public Sector Management

Day job: University of Sydney

Director Staff and Student Equal Opportunity and University Case Manager

Legal Member Mental Health Review Tribunal

#### **Meetings of Directors**

During the financial year, 11 meetings of the Board of Directors, 11 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
Sophie Clarke	11	9	11	9
Rhonda Fadden	11	9	11	9
Regina Graycar	11	7	11	7
Robin Gurr	7	6	7	6
Nellie Hall	9	7	9	7
Danae Harvey	11	11	11	11
Debra Maher	11	9	11	9
Anne Scahill	11	4	11	4



### auditor's indendence declaration

#### **Auditor's Independence Declaration**

The lead auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2007 has been received and can be found on page 5 of directors' report.

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

Director

Norte Falle

Director

Dated this 7 th day of November 2007



## auditor's indendence declaration

### WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

#### **AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION**

UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001
TO THE DIRECTORS OF WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2007 there have been:

i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and

ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

GROSVENOR SCHILIRO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

MARK SCHILIRO

Partner

Dated this 7th day of November 2007 at Sydney



### income statement

## WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED ABN 88 002 387 699

#### **INCOME STATEMENT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

#### CLASSIFICATION OF EXPENSES BY FUNCTION

	Note	2007	2006
		\$	\$
Operating revenue from ordinary activities	2	2,639,062	2,701,438
Service expenses		352,287	386,679
Occupancy expenses		149,803	129,014
Administration expenses		208,267	404,016
Employment and contract expenses		1,928,697	1,764,180
Financing expenses		-	16,953
Total Expenses		2,639,054	2,700,842
Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities before income tax expense	9	8	596
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities		-	-
Net profit/(loss) from ordinary activities after income tax	9	8	596
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year		42,668	42,072
Retained profits at the end of the financial year		42,676	42,668



## balance sheet

## WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

#### **BALANCE SHEET**

AS AT 30 JUNE 2007

	Note	2007	2006
		\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	761,933	537,464
Trade and other receivables	4	17,810	16,411
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		779,743	553,875
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	5	747,638	761,322
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		747,638	761,322
TOTAL ASSETS		1,527,381	1,315,197
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	6	693,950	565,062
Provisions	7	607,657	513,132
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,301,607	1,078,194
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Long term borrowings	8	60	2
Provisions	7	37,614	48,909
		37,674	48,911
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		37,674	48,911
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,339,281	1,127,105
NET ASSETS		188,100	188,092
EQUITY			
Special Reserve		145,424	145,424
Retained Profits	9	42,676	42,668
TOTAL EQUITY		188,100	188,092



## statement of recognised income and expenditure

## WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

#### STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

	Note	Retained Earnings	Special Reserve	Total
		\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2005		42,072	145,424	187,496
Profit attributable to entity	9	596	-	596
Balance at 30 June 2006		42,668	145,424	188,092
Profit attributable to entity	9	8	-	8
Balance at 30 June 2007		42,676	145,424	188,100



## cash flow statement

### WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

#### **CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

	Note	2007 \$	2006 \$
Cash Flow from Operating Activities		•	•
Receipts from grants		2,344,342	2,419,251
Other receipts		(115,121)	(180,655)
Interest received		46,993	47,625
Interest paid		-	(16,953)
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,051,803)	(2,136,303)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	10(b)	224,411	132,965
Cash Flow from Investing Activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		-	(80,231)
Repayment of borrowings		58	(387,706)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		58	(467,937)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		224,469	(334,972)
Cash at 1 July 2006		537,464	872,436
Cash at 30 June 2007	10(a)	761,933	537,464



#### Notes to the 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 Australian Accounting Standards including Australian Accounting Interpretations, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the *Corporations Act 2001*.

The financial report is for Women's Legal Resources Limited as an individual entity, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Women's Legal Resources Limited is a company limited by guarantee.

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

#### BASIS OF PREPARATION

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs. It 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.

#### ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### (a) Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet of Women's Legal Resources Ltd incorporates the assets and liabilities of the Women's Legal Resources Centre, Indigenous Women's Program, Outreach Program, Domestic Violence Advocacy Service, WDVCAP Training and Resource Unit, Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service and the Bourke/Brewarrina Family Violence Prevention Legal Service.

#### (b) Income Tax

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

#### (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 and impairment losses.

#### Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis, less depreciation and impairment losses.

#### 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.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of Fixed Asset

Buildings

Plant and equipment

Depreciation Rate
10%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimate recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that assets are transferred to retained earnings.



#### (d Impairment

At each reporting date, the entity reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the Income Statement.

Where the future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon on the assets ability to generate net cash inflows and when the entity would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use is depreciated replacement cost of an asset.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an assets class, the entity estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the class of assets belong.

#### (e) 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.

#### (f) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

#### (g) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the entity's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to Balance Sheet date. Employee benefits expected to be settled within one year together with benefits arising from wages, salaries and annual leave which may 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 net present value.

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

#### (h) Revenue

Grant revenue is recognised in the income statement when it is controlled. When there are conditions attached to grant revenue relating to the use of those grants for specific purposes it is recognised in the balance sheet as a liability until such conditions are met or services provided.

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).

#### (i) 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.

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

#### (j) Comparative Figures

Where required by Accounting Standards comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.



### **NOTE 2 – REVENUE**

	2007 \$	2006 \$
Operating activities		
Grants		
- Legal Aid Commission (Commonwealth)	786,298	770,880
- Legal Aid Commission (State)	918,141	888,969
- Attorney General's Department - FVPLS	814,892	810,000
- Less: Uncommitted / unspent funds	(174,988)	(71,365)
- Dept. of Corrective Services	-	14,650
- Area Assistant Scheme Hunter & Central Coast	-	6,117
	2,344,343	2,419,251
Other income		
- Interest received	46,993	47,625
- Donations	0	50
- Fees and contributions	91,500	100,920
- Costs recovered and retained	43,453	45,134
- Rental income	91,860	80,340
- Sales of publications and merchandise	3,004	8,118
- Referral Fees	17,909	-
Total other income	294,719	282,187
	2,639,062	2,701,438
NOTE 3 – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at bank	9,334	5,868
Cash on deposit	752,099	531,096
Cash on hand	500	500
	761,933	537,464
NOTE 4 – TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Current		
Trade debtors	569	748
Deposits / Bonds	1,200	1,200
Prepayments	16,041	14,463
	17,810	16,411
NOTE 5 – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Building – at cost	717,480	717,480
Plant & equipment – at cost	68,423	68,423
Less accumulated depreciation	(38,265)	(24,581)
	747,638	761,322
	747,000	701,022



### **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, Plan and Equipment	Total
2006		
Balance at the beginning of year	681,091	681,091
Additions	93,916	93,916
Disposals	(40 (05)	- (40 /05)
Depreciation Expense	(13,685)	(13,685)
Carrying amount at the end of year <b>2007</b>	761,322	761,322
Balance at the beginning of year	761,322	761,322
Additions	=	-
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation Expense	(13,684)	(13,684)
Carrying amount at the end of year	747,638	747,638
NOTE 6 – TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES		
	2007 \$	2006 \$
Current Trade, and disease	170 0//	1/2 021
Trade creditors	178,046	142,821
Uncommitted/ Unspent Grant Funds Payroll liabilities	486,143 31,177	332,922
GST Payable	(1,416)	50,568 38,751
OST Fayable	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
NOTE 7 – PROVISION	693,950	565,062
Current		
Provision for annual leave	84,019	90,418
Provision for long service leave	37,721	26,811
Provision for maternity leave	118,637	115,056
Provision for locum fees	167,984	127,372
Provision for IWP Consultation	27,024	18,000
Provision for research and reprint of publications	19,129	30,781
Provision for staff development	49,010	41,638
Provision for re-establishment	12,810	710
Provision for service evaluation	2,500	12,513
Provision for resource development	8,102	8,375
Provision for equipment replacement	50,292	17,226
Provision for Directors' planning meetings	14,929	13,063
Provision for legal expenses	10,000	6,000
Provision for other	5,500	5,170
Non Comment	607,657	513,132
Non-Current Provision for Employees' LSL	37,614	48,909
	37,614	48,909



#### **Provision for Long-term Employee Benefits**

A provision has been recognised for employee entitlements relating to long service leave. In calculating the present value of future cash flows in respect of long service leave, the probability of long service leave being taken is based on historical data. The measurement and recognition criteria relating to employee benefits have been included in Note 1 to this report.

#### **NOTE 8 - BORROWINGS**

Nο	n-	Cu	rre	nt
110		vu		

National Australia Bank	20	1
National Australia Bank	40	1
	60	2
NOTE 9 – RETAINED EARNINGS		
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year	42,668	42,072
Net profit/(loss)	8	596
Retained profits/(Accumulated Losses) at the end of the financial year	42,676	42,668

#### **NOTE 10 - CASH FLOW INFORMATION**

#### (a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the cash flow statement is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Cash at bank	9,334	5,868
Cash on deposit	752,099	531,096
Cash on hand	500	500
	761,933	537,464

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

Profit from ordinary activities after income tax	8	596
Non cash flows		
Depreciation	13,685	13,685
Changes in assets and liabilities		
Decrease / (Increase) in prepayments	(1,578)	3,715
Decrease / (Increase) in receivables	179	4,893
Increase / (Decrease) in provisions	83,229	50,774
Increase / (Decrease) in payables	128,888	59,302
Net cash provided by operating activities	224,411	132,965

- (a) The economic entity has no credit, standby or financing facilities in place.
- (b) 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 In	terest Rate
	2007	2006	2007	2006
Financial Assets	%	%	\$	\$
Cash	1.55	1.55	9,834	6,368
Cash on deposit	6.20	5.20	752,099	531,096
Total Financial Assets			761,933	537,464

#### (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 balance sheet 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 - ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The following Accounting Standards issued or amended and are applicable to the entity but not yet effective and have not been adopted in preparation of the financial statements at reporting date.

AASB Amendment	Stan	dards Affected	Outline of Amendment	Application Date of Standard	Application Date for Group
AASB 2005–10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards	AASB 1 AASB 4 AASB 101 AASB 117 AASB 133 AASB 1023 AASB 1038 AASB 139	First-time adoption of AIFRS Insurance Contracts Presentation of Financial Statements Leases Earnings per Share General Insurance Contracts Life Insurance Contracts Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement	The disclosure requirements of AASB 132: Financial Instruments: Disclosure and Presentation have been replaced due to the issuing of AASB 7: Financial Instruments: Disclosures in August 2005. These amendments will involve changes to financial instrument disclosures within the financial report. However, there will be no direct impact on amounts included in the financial report as it is a disclosure standard.	1.1.2007	1.1.2007
AASB 7 Financial In- struments: Disclosures	AASB 132	Financial Instru- ments: Disclosure and Presentation	As above.	1.1.2007	1.7.2007

#### **NOTE 13 - MEMBERS' GUARANTEE**

The entity is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* and is an entity 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**

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Remuneration of the auditor for:		
- auditing or reviewing the financial report	6,600	6,600
- other services	6,500	6,500
	13,100	13,100

#### **NOTE 15 – KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONAL COMPENSATION**

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.



#### **NOTE 16 - EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE DATE**

No significant events have occurred since the reporting date which would impact on the financial position of the Company as disclosed in the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2007 and the results and cash flows of the Company for the year ended on that date.

#### **NOTE 17 - ENTITY DETAIL**

The economic entity was incorporated on 13 October 1982.



### director's declaration

#### THE DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY DECLARE THAT:

- 1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 6 to 17, 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 2007 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the entity.
- 2. In the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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

Director

Director

Dated this 7th day of November 2007



## audit report

## WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED ABN 88 002 387 699

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

#### Scope

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Women's Legal Resources Limited (the company), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2007 and the income statement, statement of recognised income and expenditure and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the directors' declaration.

#### Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Act 2001. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

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

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

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

#### Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Corporations Act 2001, provided to the directors of Women's Legal Resources Limited on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2007 would be in the same terms if provided to the directors as at the date of this auditor's report.



## auditor's opinion and disclaimer

#### **Auditor's Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial report of Women's Legal Resources Limited is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2007 and of their performance for the year ended on that date; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

CDOCVENOD COULIDO

GROSVENOR SCHILIRO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

MARK SCHILIRO PARTNER

DATED THIS 7th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2007 AT SYDNEY

#### **DISCLAIMER**

The additional financial data presented in the following pages is in accordance with the books and records of Women's Legal Resources Limited (the company) which have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our statutory audit of the company for the year ended 30 June 2007. It will be appreciated that our statutory audit did not cover all details of the additional financial data. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on such financial data and no warranty of accuracy or reliability is given.

In accordance with our firm policy, we advise that neither the firm nor any member or employee of the firm undertakes responsibility arising in any way whatsoever to any person (other than the company) in respect of such information, including any errors or omissions therein, arising through negligence or otherwise however caused.

GROSVENOR SCHILIRO

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

MARK SCHILIRO

**PARTNER** 

DATED THIS 7th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2007 AT SYDNEY



## profit and loss account

### WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

	2007	2006
	s	\$
INCOME	2727	
Rental Income	91,860	80,340
Interest	13,192	5,572
Costs recovered and retained	26,228	26,482
Referral Fees (Lifeline)	17,909	
Other Income	13,474	
TOTAL INCOME	162,663	112,394
EXPENDITURE		
Bank Charges - Mortgages		2,165
Salaries & Wages	67,400	54,500
Audit fees & accountancy	1,500	
Directors' planning meetings	5,000	7,537
Legal & filing fees	4,270	1,078
Depreciation Expenses	13,685	13,685
Equipment / Asset Replacements	45,000	11,315
Rent	15,600	19 (1995)
Interest Expenses	10 ·	14,788
Property insurance	1,032	1,800
Property repairs & maintenance	2,727	19000
Rates & levies	6,441	5,391
TOTAL EXPENSES	162,655	112,259
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	8	135



## women's legal services profit and loss account

## WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

#### **WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW**

INCOME	2007	2006 \$
Grants	347,361	340,550
Legal Aid Commission - Commonwealth	282,800	268,924
Legal Aid Commission - State	(41,000)	200,924
Less: Unspent Funds	(41,000)	6 117
Area Assistant Scheme Hunter & Central Coast Sub Total	589,161	6,117
Sub lotal	505,101	610,000
Interest received	14,174	13,383
Donations	7.	50
Fees and contributions received	91,500	100,920
Cost recovered and retained	3,752	4,383
Sale of books and publications	2,419	7,004
Sub Total	111,845	125,740
TOTAL INCOME	701,006	741,330
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related		
Salaries & wages	538,062	555,180
Superannuation	46,457	47,251
Workers' compensation insurance	5,063	4,905
Staff conferences, training and development	12,398	10,372
Staff recruitment	2,049	4,855
Service expenses	604,029	622,563
Client disbursements	1,879	1,881
Committee expenses	1,085	1,078
Communication (Telephone & Internet)	17,459	17,200
Community education & travel	6,742	12,229
Service promotion & other expenses	5,514	4,263
"Central Coasting - Law for Women" project	2,868	6,117
	35,547	42,768
Other operating expenses Audit fees & accountancy	5,000	3,500
Bank charges	402	293
Computer running costs	2,878	5,884
Equipment repairs and maintenance	2,133	8,489
Insurance	3,947	4,655
Library, resources & subscriptions	6,462	8,040
Office amenities	2,879	2,889
Office maintenance	5,877	8,507
Postage & freight	2,595	2,805
Printing & stationery	7,090	8,825
Rent and accommodation	20,000	20,000
Utilities	2,167	1,916
Others	61,430	75,805
TOTAL EXPENSES	701,006	741,136
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year 2007	<del></del>	194
		1000



## indigenous women's program

# WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED ABN 88 002 387 699

#### **INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S PROGRAM**

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission	265,590	260,382
Less: Unspent Funds	(26,200)	
	239,390	260,382
Interest received	4,906	5,272
TOTAL INCOME	244,296	265,654
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related		
Salaries and wages	122,225	141,884
Superannuation	10,279	12,055
Workers' compensation insurance	1,094	1,120
Staff conferences, training and development	4,478	6,143
Staff recruitment	10,849	1,829
	148,925	163,031
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	1,707	885
Committee expenses	541	366
Communication (Telephone & Internet)	6,427	8,210
Community education & travel	18,806	17,929
IWP Consultation Group	12,241	13,209
Management fees	25,000	25,000
Service promotion & other expenses	2,114	724
	66,836	66,323
Other operating expenses	-	
Audit fees & accountancy	1,500	2,000
Bank charges	184	231
Computer running costs	1,778	2,558
Equipment repairs and maintenance	1,797	4,654
Insurance	1,984	2,159
Library, resources & subscriptions	2,274	3,081
Office amenities	1,059	1,020
Office maintenance	2,694	3,293
Postage & freight	1,029	1,362
Printing & stationery	3,790	6,011
Rent and accommodation	9,660	9,000
Utilities	786	846
	28,535	36,214
TOTAL EXPENSES	244,296	265,569
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year		85





### WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

#### **OUTREACH PROGRAM**

	2007	2006
INCOME	s	\$
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission	173,348	169,949
Less: Unspent Funds	(5,520)	100,010
Less, Olispelit Fullus	167,828	169,949
Interest received	3,818	3,295
Cost Recovered and retained	5,010	815
TOTAL INCOME	171,646	174,059
TOTAL INCOME	171,040	174,000
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related		
Salaries and wages	117,061	112,057
Superannuation	6,757	9,563
Workers' compensation insurance	736	980
Staff conferences, training and development	2,929	3,245
Staff recruitment	367	1,139
	127,850	126,984
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	923	444
Committee expenses	586	257
Communication (telephone & internet)	4,072	4,329
Community education & travel	6,803	8,752
Management Fees	11,000	11,000
Service promotion & other expenses	844	380
	24,228	25,162
Other operating expenses		-
Audit fees & accountancy	1,500	1,200
Bank charges	138	135
Computer running costs	1,177	1,075
Equipment repairs and maintenance	663	1,632
Insurance	1,534	2,162
Library, resources & subscriptions	1,935	3,045
Office amenities	659	556
Office maintenance	2,225	2,267
Postage & freight	648	874
Printing & stationery	2,051	2,285
Rent and accommodation	6,500	6,000
Utilities	542	552
	19,568	21,782
TOTAL EXPENSES	171,646	173,929
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	•	130



## domestic violence advocacy service

## WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

#### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY SERVICE**

	2007	2006
INCOME	\$	\$
Grants	274.004	202.005
Legal Aid Commission - State	374,964	362,985
Less: Unspent Funds	(6,177)	*****
Department of Corrective Services	368,787	14,650 377,635
	**************************************	
Interest received	6,542	5,970
Sale of books and publications	322	508
TOTAL INCOME	375,650	384,113
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related expenses		
Salaries and wages	281,013	264,983
Superannuation	23,871	22,860
Workers' compensation insurance	2,591	2,302
Staff conferences, training and development	6,362	6,278
Staff recruitment	1,779	2,752
	315,616	299,175
Service expenses		
Client disbursement	696	188
Committee expenses	695	457
Communication (telephone & internet)	9,179	9,702
Community education & travel	7,940	9,532
Service promotion and other expenses	1,158	736
Dept of Corrective Services " Counsellors & Subpoena		14,650
	19,667	35,265
Other operating expenses	S-11	:
Audit fees & accountancy	3,000	2,500
Bank charges	291	229
Computer running costs	2,457	5,417
Equipment repairs & maintenance	2,672	4,786
Insurance	2,692	3,046
Library, resources & subscriptions	3,701	5,054
Office amenities	1,538	1,465
Office maintenance	3,435	5,765
Postage & freight	1,174	1,620
Printing & stationery	5,169	6,266
Rent and accommodation	13,000	12,500
Utilities	1,238	1,008
	40,367	49,657
TOTAL EXPENSES	375,650	384,097
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	•	15
	FI	



## wdvcap training and resource unit

### WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

#### **WDVCAP TRAINING AND RESOURCE UNIT**

	2007 \$	2006 \$
INCOME	87.0	
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission - State	260,378	257,060
Less: Unspent Funds	(33,383)	
	226,995	257,060
Interest received	4,361	4,613
Sales of publication and merchandise	263	607
TOTAL INCOME	231,619	262,280
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related expenses		
Salaries and wages	137,709	153,482
Superannuation	11,228	13,198
Workers' compensation insurance	1,226	1,399
Staff conferences, training and development	5,630	6,179
Staff recruitment	2,701	3,270
Otali recidilinent	158,494	177,528
Service expenses	***	
Committee expenses	468	292
Communication (telephone & internet)	6,964	7,077
Community education & travel	14,626	12,382
Management fees	12,000	12,000
Service promotion and other expenses	4.374	9,620
5	38,432	41,371
Other operating expenses	55,500,500,6	549,572
Audit fees & accountancy	2,200	2,000
Bank charges	251	266
Computer running costs	2,722	3,982
Equipment repairs & maintenance	2,583	9,341
Insurance	1,984	2,161
Library, resources & subscriptions	2,432	2,707
Office amenities	1,343	1,785
Office maintenance	3,081	3,769
Postage & freight	1,405	1,915
Printing & stationery	4,114	4,399
Rent and accommodation	11,500	10,000
Utilities	1,077	1,018
	34,692	43,344
TOTAL EXPENSES	231,619	262,243
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	•	37



## walgett family violence prevention legal service

## WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

#### **WALGETT FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICE**

Attorney General's Funds		
morrie) central or array	\$	s
Operational	410,440	402,000
Capital	3,000	3,000
Capital - Motor Vehicle re 2004-2005	•	34,000
Less: Unspend Funds	(27,988)	(12,638
	385,452	426,362
Interest		4,809
Costs recovered and retained		13,453
TOTAL INCOME	385,452	444,624
EXPENDITURE	-	
Employee related expenses		
Salaries and wages	229,869	218,144
Superannuation	19,117	19,012
Workers' Compensation insurance	2,579	2,074
Staff conferences, training and development	5,000	5,349
Staff recruitment	1,978	1,678
	258,543	246,257
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	3,930	6,201
Committee / meeting expenses	1,899	1,992
Consultants / debriefing	300	
Communication (telephone & internet)	6,122	6,120
Management fees	26,000	27,600
Service promotion		1,269
Travel & accommodation	43,232	57,383
Motor vehicle	5,131	5,918
Other operating expenses	86,614	106,483
Audit fees & accountancy		1,500
Bank charges	382	249
Computer running costs	1,812	3,012
Equipment repairs & maintenance	5,280	2,634
Insurance	2,871	2,997
Library, resources & subscriptions	3,233	3,826
Office amenities	1,605	1,823
Office maintenance	3,474	6,721
Postage, courier & freight	689	1,364
Printing & stationery	4,289	3,743
Rent and accommodation	15,600	14,700
Utilities	1,060	1,287
Capital expenditure	•	48,027
At the	40,295	91,884
TOTAL EXPENSES	385,452	444,624



## bourke/brewarrina family violence prevention legal service

## WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

#### **BOURKE / BREWARRINA FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICE**

INCOME	2007 \$	2006 \$
Attorney General's Funds	70	0.5
Operational Control Fundament	400,452	405,000
Capital Funding	1,000	89,910
Less: Unspent Funds	(34,722)	(182,637)
	366,730	312,273
Interest		4,709
Costs recovered and retained		
TOTAL INCOME	366,730	316,982
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related expenses		
Salaries and wages	220,636	114,636
Superannuation	18,603	8,827
Workers' Compensation insurance	2,180	1,101
Staff conferences, training and development	5,079	3,151
Staff recruitment	1,341	927
Service expenses	247,839	128,642
Client disbursements	3,095	-
Committee expenses	2,340	105
Communication (telephone & internet)	5,309	3,085
Management fees	17,500	24,000
Service promotion	17,500	5,520
Travel & accommodation	48,060	34,247
Motor vehicle	4,659	2,345
110101 1011010	80,963	69,302
Other operating expenses	00,903	09,302
Audit fees & accountancy		1,500
Bank charges	384	210
Computer running costs	2,086	
Equipment repairs & maintenance	1,789	2,689
Insurance	2,871	2,118
Library, resources & subscriptions	4,775	2,977
Office amenities	1,490	1,206
Office maintenance	4,183	5,208
Postage, courier & freight	713	951
Printing & stationery	2,696	3,007
Rent and accommodation	15,600	8,822
Utilities	1,342	440
Capital expenditure		89,910
	37,929	119,038
TOTAL EXPENSES	366,730	316,982
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year		
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