

**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

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@cclc.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



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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

Women's Legal Services' 26th year of operation has gone by in a flash as we come to another annual report. The pace and volume of work has continued, with women from around NSW being provided with legal advice and assistance, and many notable achievements across the variety of programs and projects that fall within the auspices of WLS (NSW).

Perhaps the (public) highlight of the year was the launch, in August 2007, of three wonderful publications. The Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, graciously agreed to launch our report, *A Long Way to Equal*, at Parliament House, together with the innovative pamphlet created for us by Streetwise publications and the report, *Partnerships Prevention and Rural Action II*. In her speech, she referred to the important work done by WLS (NSW) and other community organisations whose resources are devoted to the most disadvantaged (and often, especially in the case of children, the most vulnerable) in our communities. It was a wonderful celebration of some of our most important publications (and most tangible achievements).

Rene Adams, Coordinator of the Indigenous Women's Program, also spoke at the launch, telling the large crowd of attendees about the work being done with Indigenous women at our rural conferences and camps, and noting the forthcoming Lake Burrendong Conference held in October 2007.

A Long Way to Equal is a 'where are we now?' review of a 1994 publication, *Quarter Way to Equal: A Report on Barriers to Access to Legal Services for Migrant Women*. The 2007 report, *Long Way to Equal*, shows that while the needs of immigrant and refugee women are not static, the barriers identified in 1994 [eg lack of knowledge about the Australian legal system; lack of relevant information in community languages; limited financial resources, and lack of access to interpreters and translated information] still provide great difficulty for those women in their dealings with the Australian legal system today. The report calls for a more coordinated approach and WLS looks forward to working collaboratively on these issues with other relevant government and non-government agencies.

The Streetwise pamphlets are remarkable for their innovation: providing helpful legal advice on some key issues solely through the use of visual imagery, without any text. And the *Partnerships Prevention and Rural Action* report of the 2nd conference on Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities provides a sobering account of one of the key aspects of the work of our Indigenous programs in responding to this pervasive issue.

The third of our conferences on Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities, held in October 2007, brought together 138 Aboriginal women and 61 Aboriginal children from all over NSW to talk about child sexual assault issues in Aboriginal communities and work together to find solutions. Some non-Aboriginal service providers also attended the conference, which was a follow up to the 2004 conference, the report of which was launched with the other publications, in August 2007.

Our law reform program was given a great boost by the employment of Edwina McDonald in 2007. While the details of this work are provided elsewhere in this report, the Board has been delighted by the energy that the service has been able to devote to this central part of our work now that we have a full time dedicated law

reform legal officer. This position (along with the Principal Solicitor) coordinates what is very much a function of all the staff at WLS: to identify legal issues that require some response or reform, as well as to respond to current issues (such as Parliamentary inquiries or key judicial decisions) as they arise.

From 2008, WLS (NSW) has again resumed the role of national law reform coordination for Women's Legal Services Australia. We see the change of government as a potential window of opportunity for increased attention to the legal needs of the most disadvantaged women in our communities. The service has made a particular contribution to law reform and policy initiatives around the issues of domestic violence, child protection, family law and child support (including coordinating a national Women's Legal Services workshop), sexual assault (and in particular, the issue of communications privilege), and housing issues.

One of our long standing projects, the Training and Resource Unit that had been connected with our Domestic Violence and Advocacy Service for 12 years, ceased to operate under the auspices of WLS, after a review by Legal Aid NSW of DV services and training. WLS maintains its strong commitment to providing services for women who have experienced domestic violence and continues to do so. We look forward to continuing our training work with Legal Aid NSW and the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Schemes in the future.

The Board has also seen some change during the year. We were sad to receive the resignations of Ann Scahill and Tracey Gleeson, both of whom provided great value, wisdom, insight and good humour. Our newest Board recruit, Jane Wangmann, whose distinguished career includes a period as solicitor at DVAS, has been warmly welcomed. The work of the Board on governance processes has continued through this year (with the assistance of a governance consultant). We hope to finalise that, or at least the current phase of that work, in the coming financial year.

Another key project for the Board during 2007-2008 has been a review of the wages and conditions for staff at WLS. The Board is committed to being a best practice employer and to WLS being a best practice community legal centre. With the aid of a consultant, we are moving toward the implementation of the revised wages and conditions for all parts of the service in 2009.

The 2007 Annual General Meeting, attended by over 70 women, was another great highlight of the year. The staff prepared a terrific presentation about the work of the service, and the Board threw caution to the winds, grabbed the microphones and rocked the audience with a song for the occasion! The Board and audience are still recovering!

I would like to thank all the Board members, and those who have recently left the Board, for their tireless (and of course, voluntary) work for this wonderful organisation. None of the work that the Board oversees would be possible without the dedication, hard work and professionalism of all the staff, under the able management and supervision of our Manager Kim Price and Principal Solicitor Janet Loughman. Thanks to Kim, Janet and all the workers at the service: we are very proud of your work and wish you well in the next year.

Reg Graycar
Chair



principal solicitor's report



It continues to be a privilege to be contributing to the annual report of Women's Legal Services NSW – and to take the time to reflect on the work of a dedicated team who provide a responsive and quality community legal service to women in NSW.

We continued our effort to give priority to the work that will have a strategic impact on women's experiences of access to justice. During the year we allocated staff resources to full-time law reform and community legal education co-ordination positions and all benefited from the focus and energy that this brought.

Of course, our advice and casework is essential to provide a much-needed service to individual women but also to improve justice to the broader community where we can.

During the year we have had outstanding pro bono assistance from experienced and dedicated lawyers who took on complex legal cases for our clients. The many lawyers who represent our clients on a pro bono basis are acknowledged in the report of our advice and casework – and I extend my personal thanks to them all for their contributions. I would particularly like to thank barristers Reg Graycar and Robert Beech-Jones SC who took novel argument to the District Court to successfully persuade the Court that the Victims Compensation Tribunal should review its decision that our client's long history of child sexual assault be treated as one single act of violence – a decision which to us seemed so unjust; barrister Louise Goodchild who assisted us to argue claims of sexual assault communications privilege for several clients and continued to work with us to develop a project to garner more resources for this work; and Helen Wall and John Catsanos SC who agreed to act pro bono in a 'class action' in the District Court for 13 women seeking redress for child sexual abuse in care; barrister Debra Harris accepted a pro bono brief in an application to the Supreme Court to discharge an adoption order in a case in which the NSW Attorney General is appearing *amicus curiae*.

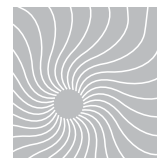
We also received outstanding support from the pro bono programs run by Freehills, Gilbert +Tobin, Clayton Utz and Blake Dawson.

We farewelled solicitors Margaret Small, Helen Taranto and Yasmin Hunter who had been with our service for many years. They made a dedicated and valuable contribution to our clients and the causes promoted by Women's Legal Services. Their commitment was evident as they all moved on to work in other CLCs. Margaret expressed a combination of sadness and joy when leaving us – since she took up a position with the newly created Older Persons Legal Service – an issue dear to her heart.

Thankyou to all the solicitors, other staff and our Manager Kim Price who all work passionately for our clients. I am proud to be part of a team that is so committed to providing access to justice to women.

It was again an honour to work beside the members of the Women's Legal Services board and the members of the Aboriginal Women's Consultation Network. We certainly couldn't provide our services without their significant contributions.

Janet Loughman
Principal Solicitor



manager's report

How quickly a year goes by and this year proved to be no different. As reflected throughout the 07/08 annual report, another year filled with accomplishments achieved by women for women.

WLS NSW continues to grow in terms of the services high standard of work and in providing legal services and education for women across the state. It continues to astonish me the commitment and enthusiasm of this extraordinary team of staff in providing services to the women of NSW.

While this has been a great year, it has not been without its sadness.

It was with sincere regret that Women's Legal Services NSW and Legal Aid NSW agreed to a mutual termination of the service agreement for the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistant Program (WDVCAP) Training and Resource Unit (TRU). This brought to an end 12 years of service provision to the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistant Schemes (WDVCAS) and WDVCAS Network which we are proud to have undertaken.

I would particularly like to acknowledge and pay respect to the excellent work of the past and present staff of the Training Resource Unit. They have worked over the last 12 years collaboratively with a strong commitment to deliver services to both the WDVCASs and the Network.

The WLS Board of Directors has worked tirelessly again this year, giving their time to support WLS. I extend my thanks to this group of dedicated women for their consistent and ongoing work in the area of Governance and Management of WLS NSW.

I would like to acknowledge the funding bodies, without their support this service would not be able to assist the many disadvantaged women within NSW.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Aboriginal Women's Consultation Network for their commitment in providing insight and program initiatives for WLS NSW.

Finally to my colleague Janet Loughman (the other part of WLS executive team...yes ET) it's been a blast and I am sure 08/09, will prove no different.

Until next year,

Kim Price
Manager
Women's Legal Services NSW



our personnel

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sophie Clarke	Danae Harvey
Rhonda Fadden	Debra Maher
Tracey Gleeson (resigned April 2008)	Regina Graycar
Jane Wangmann	

ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S CONSULTATION NETWORK

The 2007/2008 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

Helen Baker	Receptionist
Kaylene Evans	Data Entry Operator
Sharon Kingshott	Administrative Assistant
Judith Levitan	CLE/Project Officer (from March 2008)
Janet Loughman	Principal Solicitor
Kim Ly	Management Accountant
Edwina Macdonald	Law Reform Solicitor
Balwinder Masawan	Librarian
Melanie Phillips	Executive Assistant (from March 2008)
Pichhorda Phy	Accounts Clerk
Kim Price	Manager
Carmen Terceiro	Executive Assistant (from 10 December 07 until February 2008)

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES

Women's Legal Resources Centre Solicitors

Judit Albecz-Solyom	Supervising Solicitor
Marina Bournazos	Solicitor
Carolyn Jones	Solicitor (from April 2008)
Cecilia Kim	Solicitor (from June 2008)
Felicity Martin	Solicitor (from June 2008)
Maha Najjarine	Solicitor (from January 2008)
Margaret Small	Solicitor (from August 2001 until February 2008)
Alex Steel	Solicitor (from October 2007 until December 2007)
Louisa Stewart	Solicitor
Helen Taranto	Solicitor (from January 2002 until March 2008)
Mari Vagg	Solicitor

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES

Indigenous Women's Program

Rene Adams	Coordinator, Indigenous Women's Program (until February 2008)
Shian Barker	Aboriginal Program Officer (from May 2008)
Dianne Hamey	Supervising Solicitor
Jinny Smith	Aboriginal Program Officer (from May 2004 until January 2008)

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES

Domestic Violence Advocacy Service

Elena Grinfeld	Solicitor
Rebecca Hitchcock	Solicitor
Alicia Jillard	Solicitor
Karen Mifsud	Supervising Solicitor



our personnel

WDVCAP Training & Resource Unit

Zouhour El-Ghoul	Administrative Assistant (from October 2006 until May 2008)
Ghada Infante	Trainer (from October 2007 until May 2008)
Judith Levitan	Solicitor (from April 2007 until March 2008)
Merona Martin	WDVCAS/Network TRU Resource Worker (from April 2007 until July 2007)
Janette Prichard	Education, Resource & Development Officer (from April 1998 until May 2008)

Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service

Natasha Dennis	Receptionist
Sandra Dowse	Court Support Worker
Wendy Fernando	Community Development Officer
Vivienne Fernando	Cleaner/ Casual Admin
Kylie Kennedy	Coordinator
Sara Peel	Solicitor
Natascha Rohr	Solicitor

Solicitors Seconded from Freehills to Walgett FVPLS

Emma Wartski (6 months from October 2007)
Magda Paszkiewicz (6 months from April 2008)

Bourke/Brewarrina Family Violence Prevention Legal Service

Sara Crane	Solicitor (from March 2008)
Janice Edwards	Community Development Officer/Receptionist
Audrey Gibbs	Coordinator
Wanita Gibbs	Community Development Officer (from February 2007 until January 2008)
Amy Gordon	Community Worker – Brewarrina (from April 2006 until February 2008)
Yasmin Hunter	Solicitor (from February 2005 until January 2008)
Kathy Mann	Cleaner/Casual Admin
Natalie Neumann	Solicitor

Casual, Contract and Locum Workers

Cheryl Alexander	Training & Resource Worker
Lina Chen	Administration
Kuny Chhor	Assistant Accountant
Sandra de Nardi	Solicitor
Suzanne Derry	Solicitor
Naomi Donovan	Administration
Lyn Francis	Solicitor
Gina Guo	Administration
Megan Neale	Consultant
Michelle Nixon	IWP Program Officer
Yu-Ling Ong	Solicitor
Mary Raum	Receptionist
Shierin Purnama	Accounts Clerk
Melanie Southwell	Administration
Margaret West	Receptionist

Volunteer Students

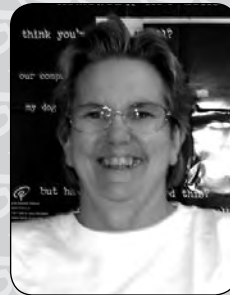
All the staff at Women's Legal Service NSW would like to thank the following student volunteers who kindly donated their time to come to our service providing invaluable assistance to our solicitors. Your work does not go unnoticed. Thank you.

Nalika Padmasena
Sonya Redman
Rosanna Quach

staff photos



staff photos





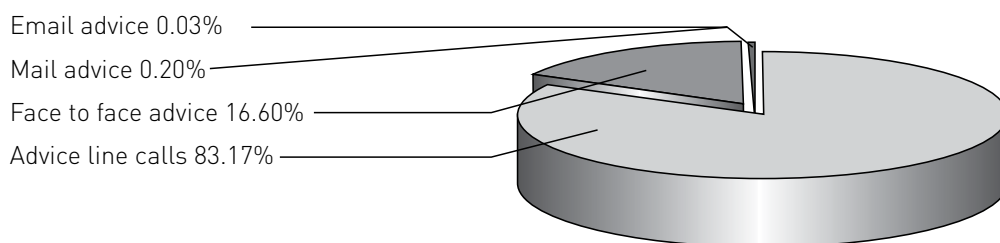
we provided legal advice and representation



WLS NSW provided legal advice and court representation to women most disadvantaged in our community. One way that we did this was through our 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 Apprehended Domestic Violence Order advice; and a Free Call statewide Indigenous Women's Legal Contact Line.

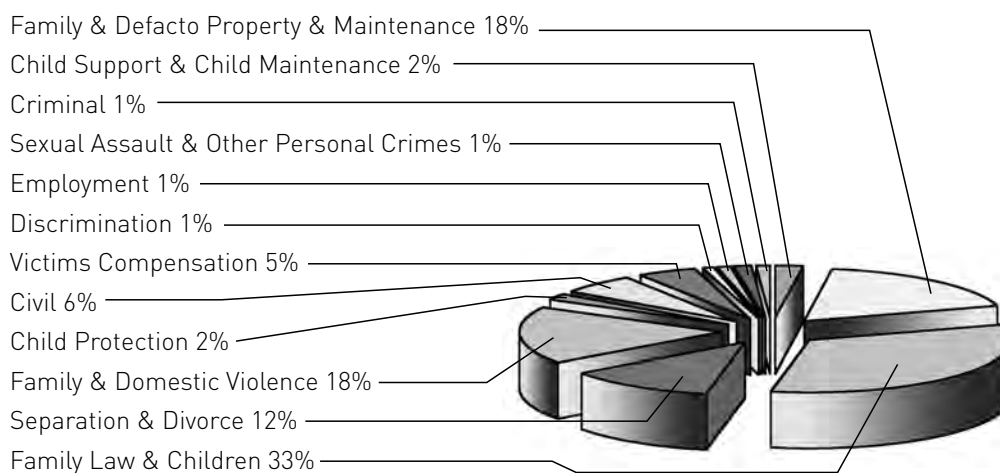
We provided 3,554 advices to women during the year and represented women in 396 cases.

THE WAYS OUR CLIENTS CONTACTED US FOR INITIAL ADVICE



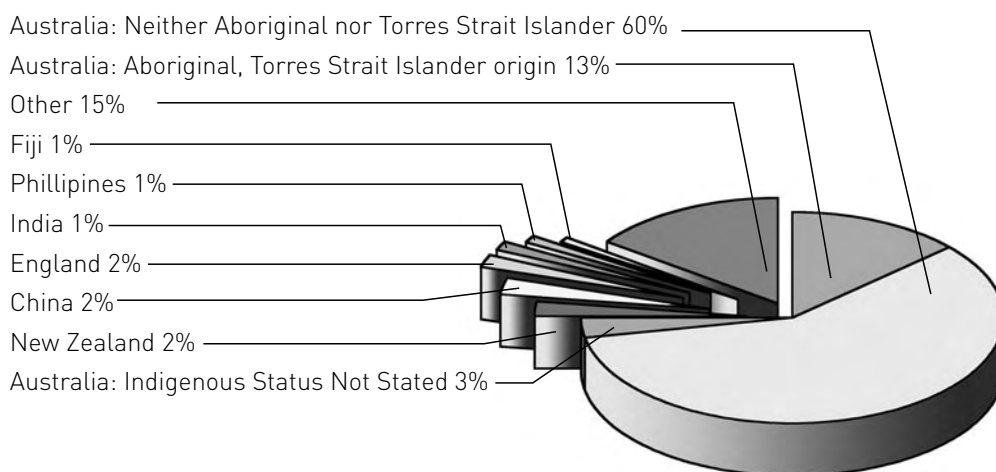
Family Law continued to be the area of law affecting most women who call our service for advice. Other areas of law included Domestic and Family Violence, Victims Compensation, Child Protection, Employment, Discrimination and other civil matters.

ADVICES BY AREA OF LAW



we provided legal advice and representation

THE DIVERSITY OF OUR CLIENTS



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 sought advice on in the last year were Care and Protection, Family Law, Employment, Victims Compensation and Discrimination. We represented women in a range of different cases.

Case study: Victims Compensation

Paula is an Aboriginal lesbian woman living in a small community. She was assaulted resulting in a serious physical injury. Paula was viewed by the police as the perpetrator in the fight and not the victim. We argued that Paula was not the primary aggressor in the incident, that the incident should be seen as part of a pattern of homophobic violence against her, and that the police response should be viewed in the context of her poor relations with police. The Victims Compensation Assessor rejected these arguments and dismissed Paula's claim. However, on appeal, we were successful in obtaining the maximum amount of compensation for her injuries.*

Case study: Coronial Inquiry

Mary came to see us after her 21-year-old granddaughter, Chantelle*, died tragically while alone and holidaying away from her family. Her family was concerned about the cause and nature of Chantelle's death. We were successful in liaising with the police, Coroner and Coroner's counsel. We arranged support for Chantelle's family, counselling and new funeral arrangements. We also arranged for a full brief of evidence to be prepared, including statements by the family, for the Coroner to best assist her in making her ruling. Most importantly, we were successful in advocating for access to the Initial post mortem report so that Chantelle's family could better understand how she died.*

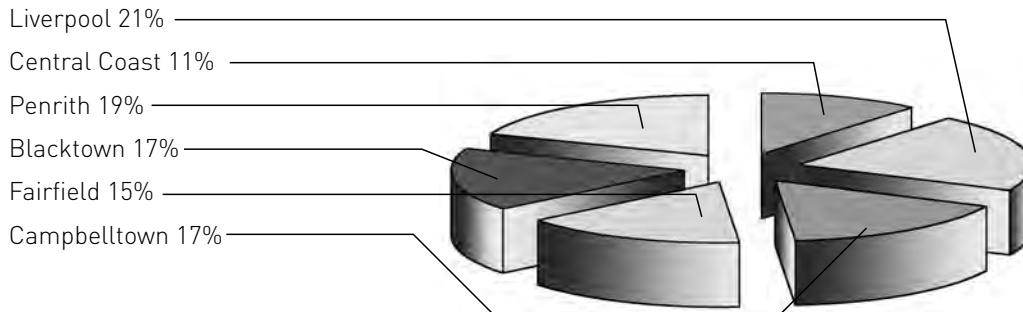
Case study: Victims Compensation

Elsie, a teenage girl, was shot by her mother's partner. He fired a gun and the bullet passed through a wall, and into her body. The Victims Compensation Tribunal initially granted Elsie compensation for the injury of domestic violence. We appealed, arguing that she should receive a greater amount to compensate her for psychological injury. We were successful on appeal, and Elsie received significantly more compensation to be held in trust for her until she reaches 18.*

* Not her real name.

we provided legal advice and representation

CONTACT WITH CLIENTS AT OUR WLRC OUTREACH ADVICE CLINICS



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

Case study: divorce while living under the same roof

We acted for Hana, an immigrant woman who had been a victim of domestic violence. She was separated from her husband but still living in the same house as him, and had been so for approximately 7 years. Hana's husband refused to take her requests for final separation and property settlement seriously. We successfully applied for a divorce for Hana while she remained living in the same house as her husband.*

Case study: superannuation splitting

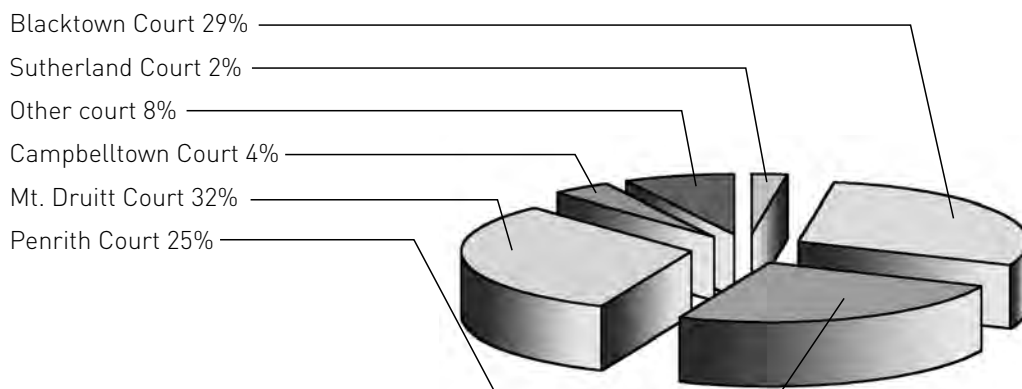
We acted for Brenda in a family law property case where her husband's superannuation was the only asset. There had been a history of domestic violence and our client was not likely to work or accrue super in the future. Brenda's husband sought a 30:70 split in his favour. Consent orders were agreed to at a conciliation conference with a 60:40 split in Brenda's favour.*

* Not her real name.

Our Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (DVAS) continued to attend local courts in western Sydney on a weekly basis, as well as other courts, to represent women in Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) matters.

Each week a solicitor attended Mt Druitt, Penrith and Blacktown Local Courts, with monthly attendance at Sutherland Local Court, bi-monthly at Campbelltown Local Court and other courts.

DVAS REPRESENTED CLIENTS AT DIFFERENT LOCAL COURTS



we provided legal advice and representation

At court, we represented and advised women applying for ADVOs and assisted women defending ADVO applications, which has been an increasing part of our work. The women defendants that we have come across are more often than not the victim of domestic violence, but police may not have taken into account the context of an alleged incident or a woman's partner may have made private ADVO applications. We also represented women in hearings and appeals to the District Court.

Case study: Apprehended Domestic Violence Order

Jenny had been in a relationship characterised by control and manipulation, which had escalated to an assault in 2006 and then to separation in 2007. Jenny's ex-partner broke into her house in March 2008 and took a significant amount of joint property that was in dispute in a property settlement. This incident along with escalating hostility and anger at their child's changeover made Jenny fear for her safety and want the protection of an ADVO. Her ex-partner opposed the ADVO application. With the assistance of an experienced pro bono barrister, we represented Jenny at a two-day hearing. Jenny was granted a final order for her protection and was extremely grateful for our help. Jenny sent a card saying "How can I thank you enough for how you put yourself out for me and how hard you worked for me? You gave me very good advice and you gave me hope! I am so glad to have met you."*

Linking our advice and casework to systemic work – outcomes for the broader community

A crucial part of the work we do as a community legal centre is to identify areas of law or legal process that are unfair, or systemic failures that impact on our clients. Our casework informs our law reform and community legal education work – either directly or indirectly.

Sexual assault communications privilege

Through the course of the year we continued to represent women in cases where they were required to appear in court to press their claim of the sexual assault communications privilege, that is to keep their counselling records confidential. WLS NSW was part of the campaign to introduce the privilege in the 1990s

* Not her real name.

and has undertaken considerable community legal education work about its application, including through our publication, *Counsellors and Subpoenas*. We have used our casework experience as the basis for a law reform project looking into improvements that could be made to the privilege and its operation.

Case study: sexual assault communications privilege

Rita was the victim of an indecent assault by an adult family member. She first contacted us after she was referred to us by her psychologist, who had been served with a subpoena requiring her to produce records relating to Rita's counselling. Other confidential records had also been subpoenaed. We advised Rita about the sexual assault communications privilege and appeared in court on two occasions to object to the production of documents. We then referred Rita to a law firm, who acted on a pro bono basis and also retained pro bono counsel. As a result, the defence was only allowed access to a limited number of documents.*

Right to appeal to the District Court

Our District Court work meant that we were in a position to identify an omission in proposed legislation and successfully seek a correction. The right of a 'person in need of protection' to appeal against the failure of a Magistrate to make an order when the original application for the ADVO had been made by the police was retained following our submissions to the Attorney General.

Case study: Magistrate's exercise of discretion not to grant an ADVO

Mary was seeking an ADVO against her former partner. She alleged ongoing intimidation and harassment when they met to handover the child. There was also a history of violence. At a hearing in the Local Court the magistrate found that acts of violence had occurred but declined to grant an ADVO. We lodged an appeal in the District Court and briefed counsel to appear. With our assistance, counsel successfully argued that the conduct was sufficient for an ADVO to be granted. The District Court made an order for Mary's protection for 12 months and included her child as a protected person on the ADVO.*

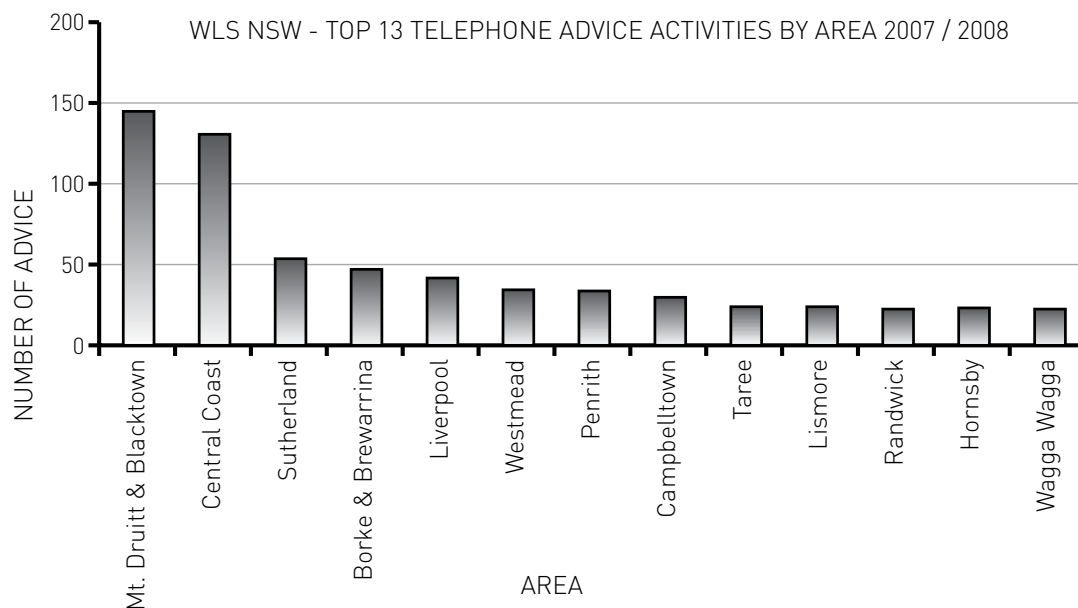
we provided legal advice and representation

Related acts of violence in Victims Compensation cases.

We run a significant number of Victims Compensation cases, especially for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault over long periods of time. Many of our clients have experienced multiple acts of violence over many years, however the approach of the Victims Compensation Tribunal is often to decide that the acts of violence are related to each other and therefore only one act of violence. This has a significant impact on our clients' sense that their experiences have been properly acknowledged (an important part of their recovery) and on the fairness of the amount of compensation they receive. We ran the following appeal to the District Court in an effort to clarify the law for our client and for others.

Case study: 'related acts of violence'

We ran a successful District Court appeal from a decision of a magistrate in the Victims Compensation Tribunal. The magistrate decided that the numerous sexual assaults perpetrated on our client as a child over a 10-year period were related to each other, which limited the potential award to the maximum of \$50,000 instead of multiple awards of \$50,000 for each separate incident. The case was about the interpretation of the legislative term "unrelated acts" in the context of a pattern of sexual abuse.



pro bono services

Our advice work was enhanced by our volunteer solicitors who provided free appointments in their offices for women referred by us. Our representation work was enhanced by the assistance of pro bono barristers who provided advice and representation in more complex cases. Our clients also benefited from the valuable work undertaken by many law firms with pro bono practices.

Aileen Slattery	<i>Abrams Turner Whelan</i>
Jen McGowan	<i>Adams Partners</i>
Shanna Riddle	<i>Adams Partners</i>
Zoe Ung	<i>Adams Partners</i>
Robert Beech-Jones,SC	<i>Barrister</i>
John Catsanos,SC	<i>Barrister</i>
Michelle England	<i>Barrister</i>
Louise Goodchild	<i>Barrister</i>
Reg Graycar	<i>Barrister</i>
Martin Hadley	<i>Barrister</i>
Debra Harris	<i>Barrister</i>
Gillian Mahoney	<i>Barrister</i>
Emily Pender	<i>Barrister</i>
John Thompson	<i>Barrister</i>
Helen Wall	<i>Barrister</i>
Richard Waldersee	<i>Barrister</i>
Anne Cregan	<i>Blake Dawson Waldron</i>
Amelia Davis	<i>Blake Dawson Waldron</i>
Janice Tully	<i>Blake Dawson Waldron</i>
Angela Wood	<i>Blake Dawson Waldron</i>
David Hillard	<i>Clayton Utz</i>
Belinda Wilson	<i>Clayton Utz</i>
Anita Vayanos	<i>De Mestre & Company</i>
David Cohen	<i>David H Cohen</i>
Trina Francis	<i>Francis Lawyers</i>
Annette Bain	<i>Freehills</i>
Brooke Massender	<i>Freehills</i>
Jacqueline Wootten	<i>Freehills</i>
Michelle Hannan	<i>Gilbert & Tobin</i>
James Pomeroy	<i>Gilbert & Tobin</i>
Tamara Sims	<i>Gilbert & Tobin</i>
Jane Stratton	<i>Gilbert & Tobin</i>
Lee-May Saw	<i>JPM Legal</i>
Simone Greene	<i>Kr Lawyers</i>
Joe Harmon	<i>Lamrocks Solicitors</i>
Grace Basaglia	<i>McDonnell Milne Toltz</i>
Maxine Morris	<i>Morris Corkill Solicitors</i>
Kate Nolan	<i>Musgrave & Peach</i>
Maya Sen	<i>Musgrave & Peach</i>
Stephanie Lee	<i>Musgrave & Peach</i>
Nicholas Patrick	<i>Phillips Fox</i>
Kate Rafton	<i>Rafton Family Lawyers</i>
Anne Kazas	<i>Rogaris KR Lawyers</i>
Kate O'Grady	<i>Sanderson Partners Lawyers</i>
Antonella Sanderson	<i>Sanderson Partners Lawyers</i>
Sarah Bevan	<i>Sarah Bevan & Associates</i>
Asha Miller	<i>Sarah Bevan & Associates</i>
Elizabeth Haynes	<i>Sayan & Associates</i>
Joanne Sharah	<i>Sharah & Associates</i>
Tracey Flintoff	<i>Stacks the Law Firm</i>
Andrea Brooks	<i>Beilby Poulden Costello</i>
Steven Penning	<i>Turner Freeman Solicitors</i>
Vaughan Roles	<i>VJ Roles Solicitor</i>
Alexandra Harland	<i>Watts McCray Lawyers</i>



we educated women

about the law

Community Legal Education (CLE) initiatives featured as a strong component of the work we undertook in 2007 – 2008:

We provided a range of CLE initiatives. We:

- ◆ ran workshops
- ◆ facilitated training sessions
- ◆ operated stalls at expos and open day
- ◆ presented at conferences
- ◆ produced publications.

We delivered over 70 CLE programs to approximately 3000 participants.

We provided these CLE programs to various groups of women in the community and to professionals working with women, including social workers, psychologists, community workers, health workers, police and lawyers.

Some of the places that we travelled to in NSW to deliver CLE included Dubbo, Gilgandra, Parkes, Griffith, Leeton, Mudgee, Orange, Nowra, Central Coast and Kempsey.

We also delivered CLE in metropolitan Sydney in areas including Leichhardt, Canterbury, Bankstown, Campbelltown, Mt Druitt, Auburn, Burwood, Lakemba, Liverpool, Central Sydney, Randwick and Campsie.

Our commitment to CLE was also demonstrated by creating the position of Community Legal Education Project Officer – a dedicated CLE position within WLS NSW. The role involves the coordination and delivery of CLE activities and the development of CLE resources and strategy. Judith Levitan commenced employment with WLS NSW in this position in March 2008.

legal information about domestic violence that LawAccess workers use when providing their clients with information and referrals.

We conducted a workshop at the Federal Attorney General's Family Violence Prevention Legal Services solicitor's conference in Canberra.

We delivered training sessions for Domestic Violence Liaison Officers of the NSW Police Force about the interaction of family law, Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs) and domestic violence.

We attended the annual Croc Fests in Dubbo and Kempsey, where we delivered legal workshops for primary and high school students.

We delivered workshops about women's rights, family law and AVOs to young mum's groups, and groups for women attempting to break the cycle of long-term unemployment.



Highlights of Community Legal Education

We provided a series of training sessions for workers at LawAccess about domestic violence; and also reviewed and updated the



Jane Wangmann (above), Karen Mifsud (left) and Alicia Jillard (below) at the State Conference of Community Legal Centres



we educated women about the law

We trained community workers from the Rape Crises Centre, other community health centres, as well as workers from NSW Health, Centrelink and NSW Department of Community Services.

We trained lawyers who undertake pro bono work for WLS NSW about representing victims of crime in Victims Compensation matters.

Together with the Intellectual Disability Rights Service, we delivered CLE about domestic violence and AVOs to women with an intellectual disability.

Together with Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre, we delivered several workshops for women who were separating from their partners about family law and preparing for mediation.

We delivered a training session about Family Law as part of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre's training course for community workers titled 'Law for Non Lawyers'.

We marched in Sydney on International Women's Day and hosted an information stall in Hyde Park.

We presented papers and facilitated workshops at several conferences including:

- ◆ Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program Conference organised by Legal Aid NSW in August 2007
- ◆ National Community Legal Centres Conference
- ◆ Lexis Nexus solicitor conference on Family Law
- ◆ NSW Combined Community Legal Centres Conference

We published the 8th edition of Women and Family Law, a plain English guide to family law for women.

We hosted a service visit by the Chinese Supreme Peoples Court organised by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

We worked with Streetwise Comics to produce a wordless pamphlet about our service, almost entirely relying on pictures to get the message across. The publication was launched by Governor Marie Bashir at Parliament House.



Solicitor Maha Najjarine playing legal rights game at a community legal education session for young women from the Horn of Africa.



Launch of publications by Governor at Parliament House : "Long Way to Equal"

Service visit by the Chinese Supreme Peoples Court organised by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission





Legal service gets graphic

IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE a first for a community legal group, Women's Legal Services NSW has published a promotional brochure relying almost entirely on pictures to get its message across.

"Using pictures ... is a great way for people who don't understand written English to get an idea about what is going on," Kim Price, WLS manager, said.

The pamphlet promotes the service's advice line. The challenge for the service was to depict the legal assistance the advice line offered with no words. "We could and we did," Price said.

The service commissioned

Streetwise Communications to work on the project, and used focus groups to make sure its message was being understood. "We consulted ... lots of different groups," Price said.

One of the hurdles was how to depict solicitors. "We dressed them up with books and pens because we didn't want them to think we were social workers," Price said.

The pamphlets have gone out to courts, youth centres, refuges and migrant centres across the state, and have been so popular that a second print run was commissioned.

A Long Way to Equal found that low levels of literacy among refugee and migrant



women in their first languages meant simply translating legal material into their first language would not assist them to access legal services.

Although the pictorial pamphlet was in production before the publication of *A Long Way to Equal*, it clearly meets the needs identified in that report. □

The new Women's Legal Services NSW pamphlet uses pictures rather than words to get its message across to women with low literacy skills.

The Law Society Journal published an article about our "no words pamphlet" October 2007



From left: Kim Price, Governor Marie Bashir, Reg Graycar and Janet Loughman at the publications launch

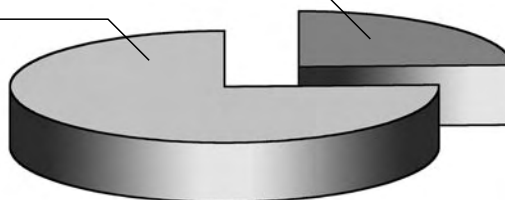


From left: Rene Adams, Governor Marie Bashir and Elsie Gordon at the launch of the report of "Partnerships, Prevention and Rural Action II"

CLE'S PROVIDED TO RURAL AND METRO AREAS

Number of rural sessions 24%

Number of metro sessions 76%





we advocated for changes to law and legal processes

We maintained a strong commitment to our objective of engaging in law reform, including the establishment of a full time law reform and policy officer position. Edwina MacDonald was appointed to this position in late 2007. Our law reform activities focus on the justice needs of women, and aspects of the law and the legal structures that affect women's lives.

Following the change of federal government in late 2007, we made and contributed to numerous submissions and consultation processes. Many of these are outlined below.

In January 2008, we took responsibility for the law reform coordination role for Women's Legal Services Australia, which is a network of the National Association of Community Legal Centres. As part of this we coordinated a two-day workshop in Sydney attended by about 30 women from all over Australia to discuss family law issues, with a particular focus on recent changes, community legal education and law reform.

Some highlights of our advocacy work

PROTECTING WOMEN FROM FAMILY VIOLENCE IN THE FAMILY LAW SYSTEM

With Women's Legal Services Australia, we lobbied the federal Attorney-General and his department to better protect women from family violence throughout the family law system. We wrote to both the Attorney and the department outlining our concerns and some possible solutions, and met with departmental staff several times. We look forward to further consultations on this topic later in 2008.

INFLUENCING LEGISLATION ON APPREHENDED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORDERS

New legislation, dealing specifically with apprehended violence orders, was introduced this year. We made a submission to the Apprehended Violence Legal Issues Coordinating Committee highlighting some of the major issues with the proposed legislation, including the practical impact of automatically including children on orders. Our submission significantly informed the Committee's views put to the Parliamentary Counsel's Office.

We also made a submission to the Attorney-General on additional proposed legislation on appeal rights in ADVO cases. We argued for the right of complainants in police ADVO applications

to have their own right of appeal to the District Court, which was accepted by the Attorney and included in the legislation tabled in Parliament.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES IN NSW (THE 'WOOD INQUIRY')

We participated in the Commission's public forum in Bourke as well as the National Council of Social Services and the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies' peak forum in Sydney. We also made a written submission to Commissioner Wood to lobby for numerous changes in child protection in NSW, including to:

- ◆ enhance the safety of children by empowering their carers
- ◆ address the proliferation of reports by comprehensive funding for community based and preventative services, in particular, domestic violence services
- ◆ increase the coherence of child protection systems by addressing issues across criminal and family jurisdictions as well as the child protection jurisdiction and
- ◆ implement strategies to ensure that Aboriginal children in out of home care are not alienated from their culture.

Submissions

We coordinated or contributed to submissions made to:

- ◆ NSW Attorney-General on the Courts and Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2008, primarily on appeal rights to District Court of protected persons on police applications for apprehended domestic violence orders
- ◆ Legal Aid Commission for their Review of Legal Aid Services to People in Domestic Violence Matters
- ◆ Australian Crime Commission on ways in which our service communicates crime prevention messages to Aboriginal communities
- ◆ Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW
- ◆ NSW Attorney-General's Department on sexual assault communications privilege
- ◆ NSW Government's review of the Violence Against Women Strategy Unit and government co-ordination

we advocated for changes to law and legal processes



- ◆ Productivity Commission on paid parental leave
- ◆ Australian Government on the homelessness green paper (under Women's Legal Services Australia)
- ◆ 2020 Summit (under Women's Legal Services Australia)
- ◆ Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department on family relationship centre and family dispute resolution screening and assessment framework (under Women's Legal Services Australia)
- ◆ Commonwealth Attorney-General on Family Violence and Family Relationship Centres (under Women's Legal Services Australia)
- ◆ United Nations on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (contributed to NGO Shadow Reports)
- ◆ NSW Legislative Council Inquiry into Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage (contributed to the NSW Combined Community Legal Centres Group submission)
- ◆ Apprehended Violence Legal Issues Coordinating Committee on the proposed Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Bill
- ◆ Sydney University on suggested focus areas for its new Indigenous Health Centre

Media contacts

Our main contacts with media during the year were:

- ◆ An article on 'Surviving Justice: Family violence, sexual assault and child sexual assault in remote Aboriginal communities in NSW' in the *Indigenous Law Bulletin* (Rene Adams and Yasmin Hunter, November 2007)
- ◆ Interview with 2SER radio on obtaining apprehended domestic violence orders
- ◆ Comment on the new child support scheme to the *Courier Mail*, published on 5 May 2008
- ◆ Information and comment on the new child support scheme to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, published on 19 April 2008
- ◆ Comment on our service and rural workshops to the *Mudgee Guardian*, published on 27 March 2008
- ◆ Interview with 2SM radio on changes to domestic violence law, aired on 14 December 2007
- ◆ Interview with *Law Society Journal* on Long Way to Equal report and our pictorial pamphlet, published in October 2007.

- ◆ Information to *Sydney Morning Herald* on legal ramifications of a father and daughter having a child together
- ◆ Information on women and housing issues to ABC's *Law Report*
- ◆ Information on domestic violence and holiday period to ABC radio

Consultations and meetings

We have participated in various consultative forums, including:

- ◆ Australian Institute of Family Studies' evaluation of family law reforms
- ◆ People with Disability's consultation on disability access
- ◆ Meeting with the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department to discuss family law and family violence
- ◆ Meeting with the Commonwealth Minister for Women's advisor on women's issues to discuss concerns about family law and family violence
- ◆ Meeting with NSW Attorney-General to discuss our Long Way to Equal report
- ◆ Meeting with a local Commonwealth member of parliament to discuss family law and family violence concerns
- ◆ Meeting with police prosecutor, Domestic Violence Liaison Officer and Court Assistance Scheme workers in Bourke to discuss ways to improve assistance to victims of violence
- ◆ NSW Minister for Women's Peak Bodies Consultation Forum
- ◆ Sex Discrimination Commissioner's Listening Tour
- ◆ NSW Police Stakeholder forum on police domestic violence policy and procedure
- ◆ NCOS Peak Forum on child protection policy
- ◆ Public forum (Bourke) for the Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW

Conferences

We have presented at several conferences, including:

- ◆ Auspiced the Partnerships, Prevention and Rural Action III Conference on Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities
- ◆ Seminars on violence against women and our *Long Way to Equal* report at the NSW Combined Community Legal Centres Group annual conference

we advocated for changes to law and legal processes

- ◆ Coordinated Women's Legal Services Australia Family Law Workshop
- ◆ A family law training update session at the Women's Legal Services Australia Family Law Workshop
- ◆ A paper on "Surviving Justice" at the National Victims of Crime Conference
- ◆ A presentation on the implementation of the *Breaking the Silence* Report to the NSW Combined Community Legal Centres Group quarterly meeting
- ◆ A presentation on domestic violence and family law parenting matters at the Lexis Nexis Conference
- ◆ A presentation on holistic service provision at the Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Solicitors Conference
- ◆ Family Law Forum chaired by the Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia
- ◆ Sydney West Legal Services Group
- ◆ Central Coast Cooperative Legal Services Delivery
- ◆ Apprehended Violence Legal Issues Coordinating Committee
- ◆ Domestic Violence Intervention Court Model Senior Officers Group
- ◆ Domestic Violence Committee Coalition
- ◆ Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program (WDVCAP) Advisory Committee
- ◆ Adult Sexual Assault Interagency Meeting
- ◆ CEDAW NGO Report Advisory Group
- ◆ National Stolen Wages Network

Committees

NSW COMBINED COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES GROUP:

- ◆ Board
- ◆ Coordinators and Directors Forum
- ◆ DV Review Sub-committee
- ◆ Domestic Violence Sub-Committee
- ◆ Community Legal Education Workers
- ◆ Law Reform and Policy Committee
- ◆ Child Protection Sub-committee
- ◆ Rural Regional and Remote (RRR) Network
- ◆ Practice and Insurance Committee
- ◆ Aboriginal Advisory Group

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES:

- ◆ Management Committee
- ◆ Women's Legal Services Australia
- ◆ Community Legal Education Workers Network
- ◆ Human Rights Network

INTERAGENCY AND OTHER EXTERNAL COMMITTEES:

- ◆ Law Access Board
- ◆ Law Access Strategic Working Party
- ◆ NSW Legal Assistance Forum Training Reference Group
- ◆ NSW Legal Assistance Forum Cultural and Linguistically Diverse Working Group

Projects

SEXUAL ASSAULT COMMUNICATIONS PRIVILEGE

Our law reform in the area of sexual assault focused on problems with the operation of the sexual assault communications privilege. This privilege provides some protection for the counselling reports of victims in sexual assault court cases. However, through our advice and casework we have identified some concerns with the way the privilege is operating in practice.

We made a submission to the NSW Attorney-General's Department outlining our concerns and some possible solutions and presented a paper on this topic at the NSW Combined Community Legal Centres Group conference. We explored options for using pro bono legal assistance in these matters. Our work in this area will continue in 2009.

LONG WAY TO EQUAL

We released this report on the barriers migrant women face in accessing legal services in August 2007. The report updated our earlier report 'Quarter Way to Equal' and documents the results of our research in this area, as well as drawing from the research undertaken by the NSW Government's Violence Against Women Specialist Unit.

We were honoured to have the Governor of New South Wales Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir launch the report at Parliament House.

Throughout the year, we publicised the report to ensure that legal service providers are

we advocated for changes to law and legal processes

aware of its recommendation. We met with the NSW Attorney-General, were interviewed for a Law Society Journal article, liaised with the Legal Aid Commission, presented to the NSW Legal Assistance Forum and the Migrant Resource Centre group, and wrote to various legal and interpreting services. The Community Relations Commission referred the report to the Standing Committee on Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (SCIMA), which resolved to establish a working group to address a range of issues including the shortage of interpreters in emerging languages.

We also worked towards improving our own service delivery in line with the recommendations of the report. As part of this we developed a poster about working with interpreters and worked with the NSW Legal Assistance Forum Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Working Group, which considered the recommendations in this report. Our work in this area will continue in 2009.



Governor of NSW Her Excellency Marie Bashir launching "Long Way to Equal"

As a major part of this project, we auspiced the Partnerships, Prevention and Rural Action III Conference on Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities, which was held at Lake Burrendong in October 2007 on Wiradjuri land. The purpose of the conference was for Aboriginal women to gather and yarn about child sexual assault issues in Aboriginal communities and work together to find solutions.

We also continued to monitor the NSW Government's implementation of the NSW Aboriginal Child Sexual Assault Taskforce 2006 report, *Breaking the Silence, Creating the Future: Addressing child sexual assault in Aboriginal communities in NSW*, and presented on this report and its implementation at the NSW Combined Community Legal Centres Group quarterly meeting.

WOMEN ADVO DEFENDANTS

We undertook an audit of our own client files for cases involving women who were ADVO defendants, with a view to finding out the incidence of ongoing domestic violence and cross-applications. This research is ongoing and we hope to publish the results in 2009.



partnerships, prevention and rural action III

A Conference on Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities

HELD FROM 15-19 OCTOBER 2007 AT LAKE BURRENDONG, WELLINGTON, ON WIRADJURI LAND

This conference, auspiced by WLS NSW, brought together 138 Aboriginal women and 61 Aboriginal children from all over NSW to yarn about child sexual assault issues in Aboriginal communities and work together to find solutions. Some non-Aboriginal service providers also attended the conference, which was a follow up to the 2004 conference on the same topic.

Child sexual assault has been much discussed since the 2006 NSW Aboriginal Child Sexual Assault Taskforce Breaking the Silence report, but public discussion has been dominated by people from outside the community, such as politicians or lawyers. The conference provided an opportunity for Aboriginal women to speak for themselves about these very important issues, to network and to support each other.

The participants emphasised the need for action, rather than the creation of a list of recommendations to add to the growing number of report recommendations. They agreed to send a delegation of Aboriginal women to the NSW Parliament House to meet with ministers about child sexual assault and discuss plans for action to deal with the issue effectively; and to hold another conference in two or three years.

More details of the conference and the people and organisations that were involved can be found in the conference report, to be published by WLS NSW.

Workshops

In the opening workshop, the Aboriginal Women's Gathering, Aboriginal women reflected in a closed session on child sexual assault issues in their communities and about their expectations of the conference.

Other workshops at the conference covered a range of legal and non-legal topics, such as victims compensation, identifying family violence and sexual assault, care and protection legal issues, support for survivors of sexual assault, indicators and effects of sexual assault, and trusting yourself and others in the context of sexual assault.

Strong Young Women's Group: Tidda's talkin' it up

Aboriginal girls and young women aged 12 to 25 participated in the two-day Young Women's Program aimed at developing practical community sexual assault plans.

The young women recognised that more stories of sexual abuse in the community are coming out, and that this is a good thing because people are starting to notice it is a problem and are connecting the stories. They talked about how it's okay for young Koori women to talk and to be educators about the problems sexual abuse causes.

The young women wanted teenage boys in their communities to have strong role models for standing up against violence. They saw that boys often don't have groups to support them, like girls do, and this means they copy behaviour. They also suggested books for young kids on body language and their bodies, using words from their own languages, such as Gamilaroi, Wiradjuri and Bundgalung.

Support and Relaxation

Participants were provided with time and space to debrief, relax and have a laugh amidst the serious and personal discussions that were taking place. They could use childcare facilities, and see counsellors from the NSW Rape Crisis Centre and Dymphna House to chat, debrief or find out information about other counselling services.

The women and children also took advantage of the pampering services and fun activities on offer, including haircuts and styling, pedicures, massages, jewellery-making workshops, bingo and a Koorioke competition. These provided opportunities to relax and have fun, and also to debrief in an informal environment.

Legal Advice Clinics

Participants could talk in private to our solicitors about their legal issues. Information about the Indigenous Women's Legal Contact Line was also distributed throughout the conference. Calls to this line increased afterwards, with calls coming from participants and others who had heard about us through friends and community members who had come to the conference.

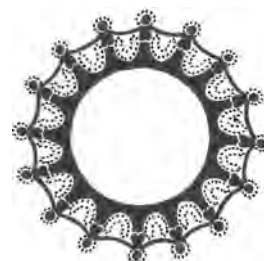


"The workshops were really good."

"I'm disappointed that other people from the community couldn't get here."



Aboriginal women and children gathered from all over NSW.



"It was the best."



WLS staff and volunteers at Lake Burrendong 2007

"When's the next one?"



our auspiced services

The WDVCAP Training and Resource Unit

It was with sincere regret that Legal Aid NSW and WLS NSW agreed to a mutual termination of the service agreement for the WDVCAP Training and Resource Unit (TRU) during the 2007-08 year. It brought to an end 12 years of service provision to the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Schemes (WDCASs) and WDCAS Network, which we are proud to have undertaken. TRU increased the capacity of WDCASs to provide an effective, holistic and empowering service for women applying for Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (ADVOs) in Local Courts.



Celebrating 12 years of WDVCAP TRU

WLS NSW acknowledges the excellent work of TRU's past and present staff. They worked collaboratively with unwavering commitment over 12 years to deliver services to WDCASs and the Network.

Janette Prichard longstanding member of the WDVCAP Training & Resource Unit (TRU)

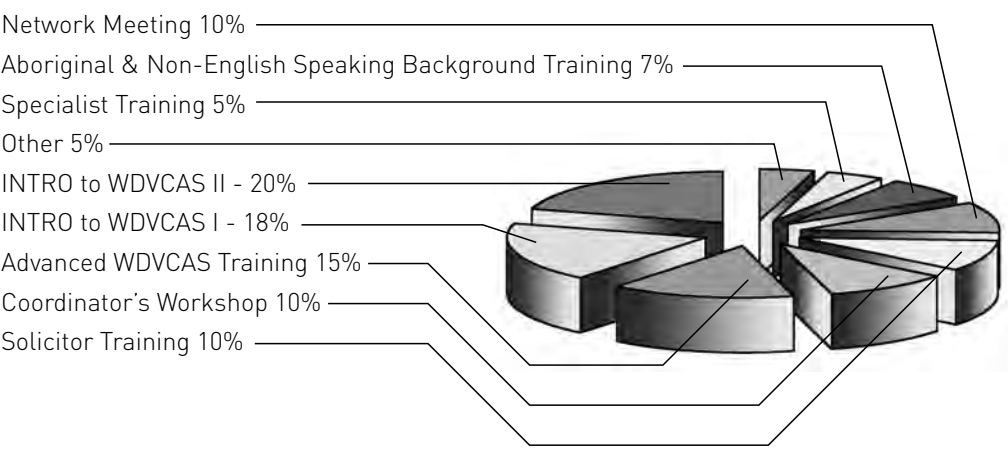
TRU set in place training and resourcing systems that were responsive to the needs of WDCASs in an environment of increasing responsibility, interagency collaboration and growing professionalism. TRU assisted coordinators to establish and develop their advocacy skills through the creation and development of the autonomous WDCAS Network. TRU developed specialised training and published resources that set benchmarks for other court support staff throughout NSW and were even referenced by interstate services as a model for their domestic and family violence work.



our auspiced services

In 2007-08, TRU provided training to 315 WDVCS workers, with 20.5 training days, and planning and support for 3 WDVCS Network days. TRU presented 12 metropolitan sessions, and 7 rural sessions, including Maitland, Wollongong and Port Macquarie. During the course of the year TRU staff also worked with Legal Aid NSW to re-develop the training modules to meet the changing needs of the program.

TRU TRAINING BY TYPE - OVER 12 YEARS - 1996 TO 2008



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.

Our Community Development Officer was selected to be on the Ministerial Advisory Panel for Child Protection and Sexual Assault in Sydney. This enables issues within our community and surrounding towns to be heard and positive ways we can work towards helping our women and children.

Casework

The casework in the service was mainly victims compensation matters including appeals. Other casework included applications for ADVOs, some family law, civil law and care and protection. Some examples of our casework are:

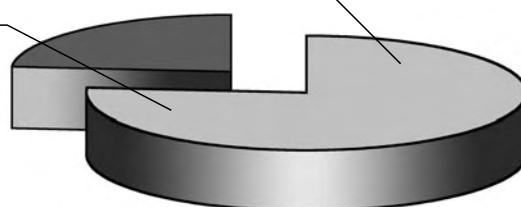
- ◆ a family law parenting case in Lightning Ridge Local Court and then subsequently Dubbo family law court where existing parenting orders were finally overturned and the child returned to live with our client.
- ◆ an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order matter at Walgett Local Court where our client was a female defendant. Following our solicitor's negotiations with the police, the application for the ADVO was withdrawn.
- ◆ a victims compensation case where we argued that specific acts of violence were unrelated and our client received 2 awards of compensation for acts of violence perpetrated by her ex-partner.

ADVICES GIVEN

THE WAYS OUR CLIENTS CONTACTED US FOR INITIAL ADVICE

Telephone 24%

Face to face 76%



MAIN AREAS OF LAW FOR CASES

MAIN AREAS OF LAW FOR CASES

Injuries compensation 35%

Health consumer complaints 3%

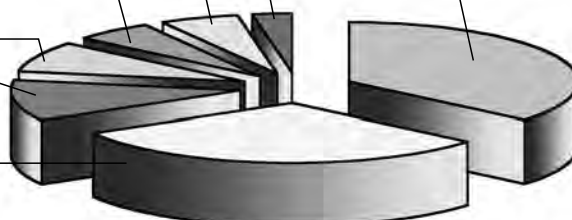
Sexual assault & related offences 6%

Other civil violence/restraining orders 6%

Child protection 8%

Family law (children) 11%

Family or domestic violence 31%



walgett family violence prevention legal service



Community Legal Education and Community Programs

We provided the Walgett Community College High School with education on family law, domestic violence and sexual assault.

We held a community legal education BBQ at Lightning Ridge Park, where service providers attended and took our information back to their services.

We held a community legal education BBQ at Collarenebri Community Park where the local women attended and spent time talking to our solicitors.

Staff set up an information table at NO.1 oval for Child Protection Week and gave out resources for the children to take back home to their parents.

Our solicitors attended a meeting with the Dharriwaa Elders in Walgett to discuss stolen wages claims and procedures.

Our solicitors worked with the IWP and Bourke-Brewarrina FVPLS to conduct a workshop at the Federal Attorney General's Family Violence Prevention Legal Services solicitor's conference in Canberra. The workshop was on holistic service provision in the Family Violence Prevention Legal Services around Australia. We received excellent feedback from solicitors and it was a good opportunity for all solicitors, particularly those from remote areas to discuss legal and ethical issues.

NAIDOC Week Celebrations

We attended the NAIDOC Week celebrations organised by The Walgett Health Service and held at the Walgett hospital. We set up an information table along with other Service providers such as Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service, Centrelink, Dharriwaa Elders Group and the Walgett Health Service.

We attended NAIDOC WEEK celebrations held at the Walgett Community College Primary School and set up an information table. The students danced and played the didgeridoo and later were all presented with awards and achievements.

Community Programs

The Women's Group has run very successfully over the last 12 months. This group meets each month and a variety of speakers attend to provide information on various topics. Some of these were: Dr Vivien Cebola from Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service, Youth off the Streets, The Department of Fair Trading,

the Department of Housing, Probation and Parole and a worker from Sport and Recreation gave our women self defence lessons. Our solicitors gave a presentation on victim's compensation, Apprehended Violence Orders and child care and protection.

The Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service staff signed up to volunteer for the PCYC van that comes from Dubbo.

Staff attended the book week celebrations held at the Walgett Scout Hall where they assisted with face painting and got presented with a book award.

Staff assisted Families First with "Paint n Play" a program designed for mums and their children aged 0-5yrs held at our Walgett office on the front lawn every fortnight.

Staff set up an information table at NO.1 oval for Child Protection Week and gave out some resources for the children to take back home to their parents.

One special month for our staff was in October as we all got to attend The Sexual Assault Conference in Lake Burrendong and take our children.

One of our staff members has been working with our local service provider "Reconnect" to set up a program for teenage mums and it's called Mum's n Bubs'. The program itself is aimed at letting them know that they can return to school to finish their Yr 12 Certificate.

Our Service attended the Community Family Fun Day, which was hosted by Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service and held at the Walgett RSL auditorium where we set up an information table about healthy eating and healthy lifestyle and got involved with dancing with the children.

Staff assisted with "Youth off the Streets" by donating boxes of food that was given to our service from "Youth off the Streets" and handed out to local families for Christmas.

The staff attended the grand opening of the new Dharriwaa Elders Group office and fundraising launch.

Staff attended the Public Apology for the stolen generations from Prime Minister Kevin Rudd at the Walgett Sporting Club.

Our staff attended the public forum held in Coonamble and International Women's Day walk through Walgett Main Street where we had breakfast at the Walgett Sporting Club and some of the women were presented with outstanding awards and achievements.

walgett family violence prevention legal service

Our staff attended various meetings in town, including DV Sub Committee, Community Working Party, Families First, Indigenous Business Australia Home Ownership information session from Wagga Wagga and Community Drug Action Team.

Staff attended various meetings held around town etc, DOCS meeting, CDAT meeting, safe house and SAAPS meeting, ACLO's, strategic planning meeting, AWCN meeting, Community Justice/Circle Sentencing meeting and the safe house advisory group meeting.

Staff attended Walgett Community College Primary School and St Joseph's schools to put in proposals for workshops in both schools to educate the student's on safety and feelings.

Staff attended the Community Justice Coordinator meeting re: Anger Management course, meeting with Aboriginal Education Assistant from Walgett Community College High School re: our Girls and Boy's group and meeting with Families First.

Future Plans

Now that the Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service has achieved in getting the awareness out in the community and surrounding local areas through promotion we can now focus on providing programs which will include our monthly women's group, our girl's and boy's group which gives support information and awareness on different types of Violence/ Sexual Assault.



Youth Week

The Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service have had feedback from local service providers, our women's group, our teenage girl's and boy's group and CLE saying that we were doing a great job and to keep up the good work and we've also got a few thank you letters from **Walgett Shire Council** for our assistance and participation in Youth Week. Our staff attended the celebrations held at the Walgett Youth Centre and the kid's were so thrilled that we had baked them a cake which read YOUTH WEEK.



We also got a thank you letter from The Walgett Youth Group who held a disco for the local kids was a success. We were happy to participate providing supervision for our kids.

Women's Group

Our Service received the evaluation from our women's group saying that the groups are very useful and that they went home at the end of the session with a better understanding of what their rights are.

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.

The Bourke/Brewarrina Family Violence Prevention Legal Service has had a turnover of staff in the last 12 months, however all staff have contributed to promoting the service within the local community and this has resulted in a considerable number of clients utilising the service.

Casework

The casework in the service was mainly victims compensation matters including appeals. Other casework included applications for ADVOs, some family law, civil law and care and protection. Some examples of our casework are:

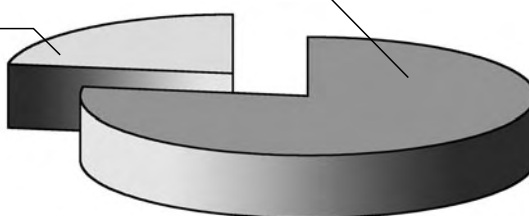
- ◆ we successfully obtained a family law recovery order and interim parenting orders for a client in Brewarrina Local Court
- ◆ in 2 family law matters we obtained a grant of legal aid and organised a mediator from Sydney to go to Bourke for family dispute resolution between the parties
- ◆ we acted in ADVO proceedings in Bourke and Brewarrina Local Courts that resulted in final ADVOs being granted for the protection of our clients

ADVICES GIVEN

THE WAYS OUR CLIENTS CONTACTED US FOR INITIAL ADVICE

Telephone 22%

Face to face 78%



MAIN AREAS OF LAW FOR CASES

MAIN AREAS OF LAW FOR CASES

Injuries compensation 48%

Divorce 2%

Other civil violence/restraining orders 7%

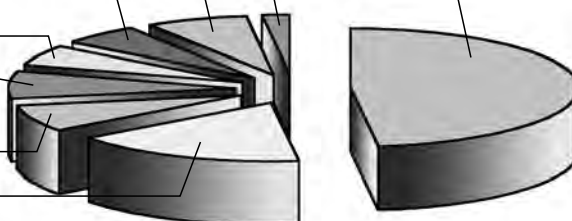
Sexual assault & related offences 6%

Child residency 6%

Govt/admin complaints against other govt official 7%

Child protection 7%

Family or domestic violence 17%



○ bourke/brewarrina family violence prevention legal service

We ran a successful victims compensation appeal for a client who was originally unrepresented and filed an application out of time which was refused. We succeeded in arguing that the presumption that leave be granted out of time in domestic violence cases apply to our client.

Community Legal Education and Community Events

CLEs were conducted throughout the year in various locations.

- ◆ Dunbi Place
- ◆ Edith Edwards Women's Refuge
- ◆ Brewarrina High School

Our solicitors worked with the IWP and Walgett FVPLS to conduct a workshop at the Federal Attorney General's Family Violence Prevention Legal Services solicitor's conference in Canberra. The workshop was on holistic service provision in the Family Violence Prevention Legal Services around Australia. We received excellent feedback from solicitors and it was a good opportunity for all solicitors, particularly those from remote areas to discuss legal and ethical issues.

Stop Domestic Violence BBQ held in the park. All staff attended and had a table with promotional items for the general public. This event was in conjunction with the local Domestic Violence Interagency Committee of which our service are members.

Bourke Public School Breakfast Bonanza. All staff attended including the solicitor. Opportunity to talk to mums, grandmothers and aunts to inform them of the B/BFVPLS role and responsibilities.

Murdi Paaki Young Leaders Project. B/BFVPLS donated 29 promotional kit bags to all participants and 5 t-shirts to staff. This raised awareness of our service to the young people in the local area.

Nibble and Natter. Mothers Day 11.5.08. All staff attended this afternoon at the Bourke High School, organised by the teachers and students.

Mother's Day Outing. The BBVPLS Coordinator assisted 4 of 10 Aboriginal Women to travel to and from Dubbo to participate in a Family Support event.

Fatty Vautin Challenge. We provided 4 promotional kit bags, 2 caps, 1 Football and 1 t-shirt to students at this event as prizes for children who were outstanding on the day. The students were from Bourke, Brewarrina, Wilcannia, Enngonia and Nyngan.

Sorry Day. Staff attended a BBQ held at the Intensive Family Based Support office. All staff networked with other participating services.

Bourke Indigenous Business Awards. BBFLVPS was approached to sponsor the "encouragement award" for this event. Coordinator and Community Development Officer attended. Coordinator presented the award and also gave an overview of our service.

Committees/Memberships

All staff is encouraged to attend, participate and formalise membership to meetings and agencies that are relevant to family violence and sexual assault such as:

- ◆ Murdi Paaki Community Working Party
- ◆ Law and Justice committee
- ◆ Koori Foster Care Group
- ◆ Domestic Violence Interagency Group
- ◆ YAAMMA Festival
- ◆ DoCS Interagency meeting
- ◆ BBFVPLS Steering Committee.



our publications

Counsellors & Subpoenas 3rd Edition (with addendum)

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. [1]

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

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. [2]

Quarter Way to equal

The 1994 report is still available. [3]

Women & Family Law – Eighth Edition 2007

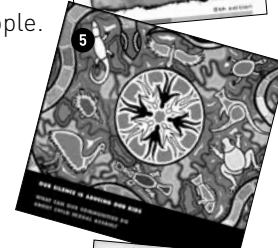
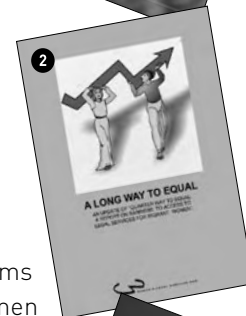
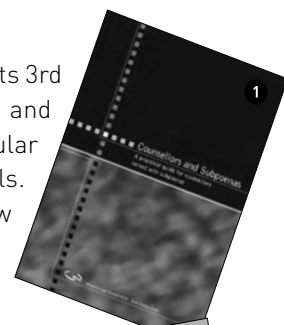
An essential tool to assist women to understand the law as it impacts on their relationships with other partners and children. [4]

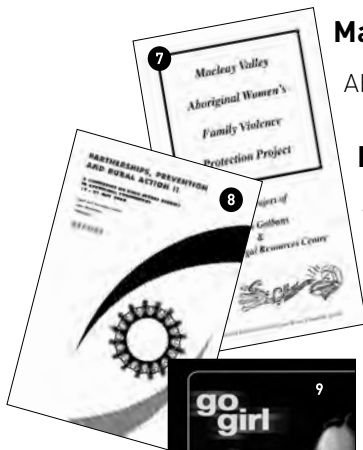
Our Silence is Abusing our Kids

Unique and innovative stories about Aboriginal women working locally to stop child sexual assault. Jointly produced by Dymrna House and Women's Legal Services NSW, the booklet contains interviews with community women and Aboriginal workers about their own efforts in their communities to protect children and support young people. Also contains vital information about child sexual assault. [5]

Women Out West

Women Out West was an innovative project initiated by WLRC and funded by a grant from The Law Foundation of NSW for Aboriginal women in the far west of NSW during 1992. This publication was reprinted in June 2005. The project used a multi disciplinary approach to provide legal education workshops, information, legal advice and resources on domestic violence, family law and sexual assault. The report describes the project objectives, the distribution of legal and health information and fliers. It includes maps of places visited and photos documenting the work. Reprinted in June 2005. [6]





Macleay Valley Project

Aboriginal one stop-shop best practice manual. Reprinted in June 2005. [7]

Partnerships, Prevention & Rural Action II Report

A Conference on Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities

17 – 21 May 2004, Sport and Recreation Centre, Lake Burrendong, Wellington [8]

Go Girl video



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. [9]

Women's Legal Services NSW pictorial pamphlet 2007



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 Streetwise 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. [10]

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 (Indigenous and non Indigenous)

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. [11]



WLS NSW Folding Cards

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. [12]

ORDERING PUBLICATIONS

WLS NSW Publication Order Forms are available for download at
www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au

For information about ordering our publications call Ana Sastrias on (02) 9749 7700.



treasurer's report

I am pleased to present the 2007-2008 Audited Financial Statements of Women's Legal Resources Limited, trading as Women's Legal Services New South Wales (WLS NSW).

In this period WLS NSW grant income and other income including interest totalled \$3,486,168.

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 \$641,276 to the Women's Legal Services NSW Program and \$176,815 to the Outreach Program. \$270,901 was provided to the Indigenous Women's Program, \$387,338 to the Domestic Violence Advocacy Service, \$792,898 to the Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service, and \$399,549 to the Bourke/Brewarrina Family Violence Prevention Legal Service. Additionally \$202,485 supported the Training and Resource Unit through the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program.

With overall expenditure of \$3,486,839, there is a deficit of \$671 for the 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 accounting staff. 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 2008

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

directors' report

Your directors present this report on the company and its controlled entities for the financial year ended 30 June 2008.

Directors

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

Sophie Clarke

Danae Harvey

Rhonda Fadden

Debra Maher

Tracey Gleeson (*appointed 18/07/2007, resigned 23/04/2008*)

Anne Scahill (*resigned 15/08/2007*)

Regina Graycar

Jane Wangmann (*appointed 27/02/2008*)

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

Operating Results

The loss of the economic entity for the financial year amounted to \$671 (2007: profit \$8).

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

	2008 \$	2007 \$
Operating profit/(loss) for the year	(671)	8
Income	3,486,168	2,639,062
Expenditure	3,486,839	2,639,054

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.



directors' report

Options

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

Insurance of Directors

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

Total premium paid was \$1,636.36. 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

Rhonda Fadden **Director – Treasurer**

Qualifications

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 Dympha House. Consultant to community service and peak organisations.

Experience

2000 – 2002: Senior Policy Officer, Department of Aging, Disability and Home Care; Literacy tutor (voluntary)

Current: Teacher of English as a Second Language.

Sophie Clarke **Director**

Qualification

BA (Hons.) LLB

Experience

Admitted as a Legal Practitioner of the Supreme Court of NSW
Socio-legal Researcher, Law and Justice Foundation of NSW
Experience in CLC's in both volunteer and paid capacity including - PIAC, National Children's and Youth Law Centre and UTS Community Law Centre
Current: Solicitor with Department of Community Services

Tracey Gleeson **Director** *(appointed 18/07/2007, resigned 23/04/2008)*

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



directors' report

Debra Maher

Director

Qualifications

Bachelor of Legal Studies, Law Society of NSW
Accredited Specialist (Children's Law) and Accredited Specialist (Crime)
Admitted as a Legal Practitioner since February 1995

Current Experience:

Solicitor in charge of Children's Legal Service, Legal Aid NSW.
Legal Aid solicitor since 2001.
Member Law Society Juvenile Justice Committee.

Previous 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

Anne Scahill

Director (resigned 15/08/2007)

Jane Wangmann

Director (appointed 27/02/2008)

Qualifications:

BA/LLB. Admitted as a legal practitioner of the Supreme Court of NSW

Current Experience:

PhD candidate in the Faculty of Law, University of Sydney examining an area of domestic violence and the law.
Jan 2008-June 2008, Sessional Lecturer, Faculty of Law, UNSW
2002-2007 Research Associate (p/t), Faculty of Law, University of Sydney
2000-2002 Senior Policy Officer, Violence Against Women Specialist Unit, NSW Attorney General's Department
1996-2000 Solicitor, Domestic Violence Advocacy Service
1995-1996 Research Officer, Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service
1993-1994 Law Reform Officer, Australian Law Reform Commission

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	
	<i>Number eligible to attend</i>	<i>Number attended</i>	<i>Number eligible to attend</i>	<i>Number attended</i>
Sophie Clarke	11	8	11	8
Rhonda Fadden	11	11	11	11
Tracey Gleeson	8	5	8	5
Regina Graycar	11	7	11	7
Danae Harvey	11	10	11	10
Debra Maher	11	8	11	8
Anne Scahill	1	0	1	0
Jane Wangmann	4	3	4	3

Auditor's Independence Declaration

The lead auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2008 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


Director

Dated this 13th day of November 2008



auditor's independence 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 2008 there have been:

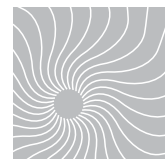
- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

GROSVENOR SCHILIRO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

MARK SCHILIRO

Partner

DATED THIS 13th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2008 AT SYDNEY



income statement

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED ABN 88 002 387 699

INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

CLASSIFICATION OF EXPENSES BY FUNCTION

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
Operating revenue from ordinary activities	2	3,486,168	2,639,062
Service expenses		843,950	352,287
Occupancy expenses		158,858	149,803
Administration expenses		200,913	208,267
Employment & contract expenses		2,269,418	1,928,697
Financing expenses		15	-
Depreciation Expenses		13,685	
Total Expenses		3,486,839	2,639,054
Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities before income tax expense	9	(671)	8
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities		-	-
Net profit/(loss) from ordinary activities after income tax	9	(671)	8
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year		42,676	42,668
Retained profits at the end of the financial year		42,005	42,676



balance sheet

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2008

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	941,438	761,933
Trade and other receivables	4	32,932	17,810
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		974,370	779,743
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	5	733,953	747,638
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		733,953	747,638
TOTAL ASSETS		1,708,323	1,527,381
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	6	1,110,696	896,606
Short term provisions	7	370,772	405,001
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,481,468	1,301,607
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Long term borrowings	8	100	60
Provisions	7	39,326	37,614
		39,426	37,674
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		39,426	37,674
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,520,894	1,339,281
NET ASSETS		187,429	188,100
EQUITY			
Special Reserve		145,424	145,424
Retained Profits	9	42,005	42,676
TOTAL EQUITY		187,429	188,100



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 2008

	Note	Retained Earnings \$	Special Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 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
Profit attributable to entity	9	(671)	-	(671)
Balance at 30 June 2008		42,005	145,424	187,429



cash flow statement

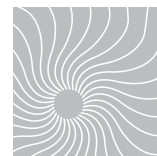
WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
Cash Flow from Operating Activities			
Receipts from grants		3,046,291	2,344,342
Other receipts		(859,962)	(115,121)
Interest received		76,162	46,993
Interest paid		-	-
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,083,026)	(2,051,803)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	10(b)	179,465	224,411
Cash Flow from Investing Activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		-	-
Repayment of borrowings		-	58
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		-	58
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		179,505	224,469
Cash at 1 July 2007		761,933	537,464
Cash at 30 June 2008	10(a)	941,438	761,933



notes to the financial statements

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2008

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	Depreciation Rate
Buildings	-
Plant and equipment	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 those assets are transferred to retained earnings.



notes to the financial statements

(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.



notes to the financial statements

NOTE 2 – REVENUE

	2008 \$	2007 \$
Operating activities		
Grants		
- Legal Aid Commission (Commonwealth)	802,025	786,298
- Legal Aid Commission (State)	943,276	918,141
- Fund carried forward from previous year - LAC	78,897	-
- Attorney General's Department - FVPLS	1,192,448	814,892
- Fund carried forward from previous year - FVPLS	145,631	-
- Less: Uncommitted / unspent funds	(123,486)	(174,988)
- Sundry Grants	7,500	-
	<u>3,046,291</u>	<u>2,344,343</u>
Other income		
- Interest received	76,163	46,993
- Donations	240	-
- Fees and contributions	91,500	91,500
- Costs recovered and retained	69,944	43,453
- Rental income	91,860	91,860
- Sales of publications and merchandise	4,116	3,004
- Referral Fees	14,182	17,909
- Fund from previous provisions and from WLRC Ltd	54,092	-
- Law Reform – Women's Legal Service Australia	37,780	-
	<u>439,877</u>	<u>294,719</u>
Total other income	<u>3,486,168</u>	<u>2,639,062</u>

NOTE 3 – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash at bank	19,422	9,334
Cash on deposit	921,516	752,099
Cash on hand	500	500
	<u>941,438</u>	<u>761,933</u>

NOTE 4 – TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Current

Trade debtors	11,600	569
Deposits / Bonds	1,200	1,200
Prepayments	20,132	16,041
	<u>32,932</u>	<u>17,810</u>

NOTE 5 – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Building – at cost	717,480	717,480
Plant & equipment – at cost	68,423	68,423
Less accumulated depreciation	(51,950)	(38,265)
	<u>733,953</u>	<u>747,638</u>



notes to the financial statements

Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	Property, Plant and Equipment	Total
2007		
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
2008		
Balance at the beginning of year	747,638	747,638
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation Expense	(13,685)	(13,685)
Carrying amount at the end of year	733,953	733,953

NOTE 6 – TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES

	2008 \$	2007 \$
Current		
Trade creditors	103,537	178,046
Uncommitted/ Unspent Grant Funds	380,782	486,143
Payroll liabilities	37,228	31,177
GST Payable	54,018	(1,416)
Employee benefits	535,131	202,656
	1,110,696	896,606

NOTE 7 – PROVISION

Current		
Provision for long service leave	36,151	37,721
Provision for locum fees	131,496	167,984
Provision for IWP Consultation	33,522	27,024
Provision for research and reprint of publications	5,984	19,129
Provision for staff development	53,959	49,010
Provision for re-establishment	21,883	12,810
Provision for service evaluation	10,583	2,500
Provision for resource development	-	8,102
Provision for equipment replacement	50,342	50,292
Provision for Directors' planning meetings	16,435	14,929
Provision for legal expenses	10,000	10,000
Provision for other	417	5,500
	370,772	405,001
Non-Current		
Provision for Employees' LSL	39,326	37,614
	39,326	37,614



notes to the financial statements

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

Non-Current

National Australia Bank	20	20
National Australia Bank	80	40
	100	60

NOTE 9 – RETAINED EARNINGS

Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year	42,676	42,668
Net profit/(loss)	(671)	8
Retained profits/(Accumulated Losses) at the end of the financial year	42,005	42,676

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:

	2008 \$	2007 \$
Cash at bank	19,422	9,334
Cash on deposit	921,516	752,099
Cash on hand	500	500
	941,438	761,933

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

Profit from ordinary activities after income tax	(671)	8
Non cash flows		
Depreciation	13,685	13,685
Changes in assets and liabilities		
Decrease / (Increase) in prepayments	(4,091)	(1,578)
Decrease / (Increase) in receivables	(11,031)	179
Increase / (Decrease) in provisions	299,958	83,229
Increase / (Decrease) in payables	(118,385)	128,888
Net cash provided by operating activities	179,465	224,411

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

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



notes to the financial statements

NOTE 11 – FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Financial Risk Management Policies

The entity's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, local money market instruments, short-term investments, accounts receivable and payable.

The entity does not have any derivative instruments at 30 June 2008.

i) Treasury Risk Management

A finance committee consisting of senior committee members meet on a regular basis to analyse financial risk exposure and to evaluate treasury management strategies in the context of the most recent economic conditions and forecasts.

ii) Financial Risk Exposures and Management

The main risks the entity is exposed to through its financial instruments are interest rate risk, liquidity risk and credit risk.

Interest rate risk. The entity is not materially affected. At 30 June 2008, balance from long-term borrowing is \$100.

Foreign currency risk. The entity is not exposed to fluctuations in foreign currencies.

Liquidity Risk. The entity manages liquidity risk by monitoring forecast cash flows and ensuring that adequate unutilised borrowing facilities are maintained.

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 impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. The entity does not have any material credit risk exposure to any single receivable or group of receivables under financial instruments entered into by the entity.

There are no material amounts of collateral held as security at 30 June 2008.

Credit risk is managed by the entity and reviewed regularly by the finance committee. It arises from exposures to customers as well as through deposits with financial institutions.

The entity monitors the credit risk by actively assessing the rating quality and liquidity of counterparties:

- Only banks and financial institutions with an 'A' rating are utilised.
- Only accredited fund managers linked to 'A' rated financial institutions are used.
- No more than 3% of total investments may be held at any time in a particular investment.
- The credit standing of counterparties is reviewed monthly for liquidity and credit risk.

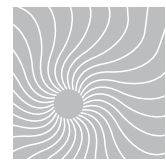
The trade receivable balances at 30 June 2008 and 30 June 2007 do not include any counterparties with external credit ratings.

Price risk. The entity is not exposed to any material commodity price risk

(b) Financial Instruments Composition and Maturity Analysis

The table below reflects the undiscounted contractual settlement terms for financial instruments of a fixed period of maturity, as well as management's expectations of the settlement period for all other financial instruments. As such, the amounts may not reconcile to the balance sheet. The table below reflects the undiscounted contractual settlement terms for financial instruments of a fixed period of maturity, as well as management's expectations of the settlement period for all other financial instruments. As such, the amounts may not reconcile to the balance sheet.

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate		Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate Maturing		Non-interest Bearing		Total	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
	%	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets										
Cash at bank	0.10	1.55	19,922	9,834					19,922	9,834
Cash on Deposit	6.80	6.20	921,516	752,099					921,516	752,099
Trade & other receivables							32,932	17,810	32,932	17,810
Investments										
Total financial assets			941,438	761,933			32,932	17,810	974,370	779,743



notes to the financial statements

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate		Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate Maturing		Non-interest Bearing		Total	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
Financial Liabilities	%	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Trade and sundry payables							103,537	178,046	103,537	178,046
Lease liability										
Total financial liabilities							103,537	178,046	103,537	178,046

Trade payables are expected to be paid as follows:

Trade payables	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Less than 6 months	94,639	169,066
6 months to 1 year	8,898	8,980
Total trade payables	\$103,537	178,046

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.

Sensitivity analysis:

Interest rate risk. The entity has performed a sensitivity analysis relating to its exposure to interest rate risk at balance date. This sensitivity analysis demonstrates the effect on current year results and equity which could result from a change in this risk.

As at 30 June 2008, the effect on profit and equity as a result of changes in the interest rate, with all other variables remaining constant, would be as follows:

	2008	2007
Change in profit	\$	\$
- Increase in interest rate by 2%	18,827	15,237
- Decrease in interest rate by 2%	(18,827)	(15,237)
Change in equity		
- Increase in interest rate by 2%	18,827	15,237
- Decrease in interest rate by 2%	(18,827)	(15,237)

This sensitivity analysis has been performed on the assumption that all other variables remain unchanged.

No sensitivity analysis has been performed for foreign exchange risk, as the entity is not exposed to fluctuations in foreign exchange.

(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.



notes to the financial statements

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	Standards Affected	Outline of Amendment	Application Date of Standard	Application Date for Entity
AASB 2007–6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards	AASB 1	First-time adoption of AIFRS	1.1.2009	1.7.2009
	AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements		
	AASB 107	Cash Flow Statements		
	AASB 111	Construction Contracts		
	AASB 116 AASB 138	Property, Plant and Equipment Intangible Assets		
AASB 123: Borrowing Costs	AASB 123	Borrowing Costs	1.1.2009	1.7.2009
AASB 2007–8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards	AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements	1.1.2009	1.7.2009
AASB 101	AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements	1.1.2009	1.7.2009
AASB 1004	AASB 1004	Contributions	1.1.2008	1.7.2008



director's declaration

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. At 30 June 2008 the number of members was 52.

NOTE 14 – AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	2008 \$	2007 \$
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 2008 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.

The registered office of the entity is:



The principal place of business is:

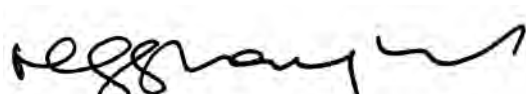


THE DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY DECLARE THAT:

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 2008 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 13th 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 2008 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 13th November 2008, 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 2008 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.

GROSVENOR SCHILIRO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

MARK SCHILIRO
PARTNER

DATED THIS 13th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2008 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 2008. 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 13th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2008 AT SYDNEY



profit and loss account

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Rental Income	91,860	91,860
Interest	21,513	13,192
Costs recovered and retained	63,741	26,228
Referral Fees	14,182	17,909
Other Income	-	13,474
TOTAL INCOME	191,296	162,663
EXPENDITURE		
Salaries & Wages	114,275	67,400
Audit fees & accountancy	1,800	1,500
Directors' planning meetings	15,441	5,000
Legal & filing fees	979	4,270
Depreciation Expenses	13,685	13,685
Equipment / Asset Replacements	19,029	45,000
Rent	16,120	15,600
Interest Expenses	15	-
Property insurance	852	1,032
Property repairs & maintenance	2,528	2,727
Rates & levies	6,665	6,441
TOTAL EXPENSES	191,389	162,655
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	(93)	8



women's legal services profit and loss account

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission - Commonwealth	354,309	347,361
Legal Aid Commission - State	286,967	282,800
Less: Unspent Funds	-	(41,000)
Funds carried forward from previous year	41,000	-
Sub Total	682,276	589,161
Interest received	23,287	14,174
Donations	240	-
Fees and contributions received	91,500	91,500
Cost recovered and retained	3,552	3,752
Sale of books and publications	3,078	2,419
Law Reform - Women's Legal Services Australia	37,780	-
Sub Total	159,437	111,845
TOTAL INCOME	841,713	701,006
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related		
Salaries & wages	622,331	538,062
Superannuation	54,377	46,457
Workers' compensation insurance	5,747	5,063
Staff conferences, training and development	12,382	12,398
Staff recruitment	6,088	2,049
	700,925	604,029
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	1,384	1,879
Committee expenses	2,057	1,085
Communication (Telephone & Internet)	14,465	17,459
Community education & travel	15,277	6,742
Service promotion & other expenses	2,713	5,514
Law Reform - Women's Legal Services Australia	37,780	-
"Central Coasting - Law for Women" project	-	2,868
	73,676	35,547
Other operating expenses		
Audit fees & accountancy	5,000	5,000
Bank charges	383	402
Computer running costs	3,461	2,878
Equipment repairs and maintenance	2,494	2,133
Insurance	3,724	3,947
Library, resources & subscriptions	6,301	6,462
Office amenities	3,167	2,879
Office maintenance	5,354	5,877
Postage & freight	2,830	2,595
Printing & stationery	7,818	7,090
Rent and accommodation	20,000	20,000
Utilities	1,939	2,167
Capital expenditure	5,000	-
	67,471	61,430
TOTAL EXPENSES	842,072	701,006
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	(359)	-



indigenous women's program

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S PROGRAM

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$	2007 \$
INCOME		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission	270,901	265,590
Funds carried forward from previous year	26,200	-
Less: Unspent Funds	-	(26,200)
Sub Total	297,101	239,390
Interest received	7,616	4,906
Cost recovered and retained	1,329	-
Sub Total	8,945	4,906
TOTAL INCOME	306,046	244,296
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related		
Salaries and wages	185,943	122,225
Superannuation	15,574	10,279
Workers' compensation insurance	1,644	1,094
Staff conferences, training and development	4,132	4,478
Staff recruitment	4,005	10,849
	211,298	148,925
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	1,469	1,707
Committee expenses	359	541
Communication (Telephone & Internet)	5,781	6,427
Community education & travel	17,618	18,806
IWP Consultation Group	12,059	12,241
Management fees	25,000	25,000
Service promotion & other expenses	2,040	2,114
	64,326	66,836
Other operating expenses		
Audit fees & accountancy	1,500	1,500
Bank charges	178	184
Computer running costs	2,268	1,778
Equipment repairs and maintenance	2,405	1,797
Insurance	1,819	1,984
Library, resources & subscriptions	2,687	2,274
Office amenities	1,051	1,059
Office maintenance	2,605	2,694
Postage & freight	1,387	1,029
Printing & stationery	4,017	3,790
Rent and accommodation	9,660	9,660
Utilities	853	786
	30,430	28,535
TOTAL EXPENSES	306,054	244,296
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	(8)	-



outreach program

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

OUTREACH PROGRAM

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$	2007 \$
INCOME		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission	176,815	173,348
Funds carried forward from previous year	5,520	-
Less: Unspent Funds	-	(5,520)
Sub Total	182,335	167,828
Interest received	6,855	3,818
Cost Recovered and retained	852	-
Sub Total	7,707	3,818
TOTAL INCOME	190,042	171,646
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related		
Salaries and wages	125,958	117,061
Superannuation	10,692	6,757
Workers' compensation insurance	1,121	736
Staff conferences, training and development	3,202	2,929
Staff recruitment	1,164	367
	142,137	127,850
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	2,645	923
Committee expenses	250	586
Communication (telephone & internet)	3,441	4,072
Community education & travel	8,700	6,803
Management Fees	11,000	11,000
Service promotion & other expenses	522	844
	26,558	24,228
Other operating expenses		
Audit fees & accountancy	1,500	1,500
Bank charges	169	138
Computer running costs	1,472	1,177
Equipment repairs and maintenance	314	663
Insurance	1,455	1,534
Library, resources & subscriptions	2,170	1,935
Office amenities	610	659
Office maintenance	3,162	2,225
Postage & freight	873	648
Printing & stationery	2,613	2,051
Rent and accommodation	6,500	6,500
Utilities	547	542
	21,385	19,568
TOTAL EXPENSES	190,080	171,646
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	(38)	-



domestic violence advocacy service

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY SERVICE

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$	2007 \$
INCOME		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission - State	387,338	374,964
Funds carried forward from previous year	6,177	
Less: Unspent Funds	-	(6,177)
Sub Total	393,515	368,787
Interest received	10,663	6,542
Cost Recovered and retained	470	-
Sale of books and publications	909	322
Fund from WLRC Ltd	4,092	-
Sub Total	16,134	6,864
TOTAL INCOME	409,649	375,650
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related expenses		
Salaries and wages	307,484	281,013
Superannuation	26,120	23,871
Workers' compensation insurance	2,844	2,591
Staff conferences, training and development	6,368	6,362
Staff recruitment	2,012	1,779
	344,828	315,616
Service expenses		
Client disbursement	2,000	696
Committee expenses	553	695
Communication (telephone & internet)	8,050	9,179
Community education & travel	11,110	7,940
Service promotion and other expenses	1,199	1,158
	22,912	19,667
Other operating expenses		
Audit fees & accountancy	3,000	3,000
Bank charges	290	291
Computer running costs	3,123	2,457
Equipment repairs & maintenance	3,747	2,672
Insurance	2,346	2,692
Library, resources & subscriptions	4,217	3,701
Office amenities	1,171	1,538
Office maintenance	3,491	3,435
Postage & freight	1,653	1,174
Printing & stationery	4,900	5,169
Rent and accommodation	13,000	13,000
Utilities	1,144	1,238
	42,082	40,367
TOTAL EXPENSES	409,822	375,650
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	(173)	-



wdvcap training and resource unit

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

WDVCAP TRAINING AND RESOURCE UNIT

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$	2007 \$
INCOME		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission - State	268,971	260,378
Less: Unspent Funds	(66,486)	(33,383)
Sub Total	202,485	226,995
Interest received	6,229	4,361
Sales of publication and merchandise	129	263
Sub Total	6,358	4,624
TOTAL INCOME	208,843	231,619
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related expenses		
Salaries and wages	130,153	137,709
Superannuation	9,196	11,228
Workers' compensation insurance	1,025	1,226
Staff conferences, training and development	5,823	5,630
Staff recruitment	2,998	2,702
	149,195	158,494
Service expenses		
Committee expenses	368	468
Communication (telephone & internet)	5,716	6,964
Community education & travel	6,485	14,626
Management fees	12,000	12,000
Service promotion and other expenses	2,723	4,374
	27,292	38,432
Other operating expenses		
Audit fees & accountancy	2,300	2,200
Bank charges	255	251
Computer running costs	2,578	2,722
Equipment repairs & maintenance	3,055	2,583
Insurance	1,751	1,984
Library, resources & subscriptions	1,793	2,432
Office amenities	1,438	1,343
Office maintenance	2,330	3,081
Postage & freight	1,683	1,405
Printing & stationery	2,789	4,114
Rent and accommodation	11,500	11,500
Utilities	884	1,077
	32,356	34,692
TOTAL EXPENSES	208,843	231,619
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	-	-



walgett family violence prevention legal service

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

WALGETT FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICE

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$	2007 \$
INCOME		
Attorney General's Funds		
Operational	473,870	410,440
Capital	337,028	3,000
Funds carried forward from previous years	35,607	-
Less: Unspent Funds	(57,000)	(27,988)
TOTAL INCOME	789,505	385,452
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related expenses		
Salaries and wages	275,630	229,869
Superannuation	24,226	19,117
Workers' Compensation insurance	2,760	2,579
Staff conferences, training and development	5,000	5,000
Staff recruitment	2,232	1,978
	309,848	258,543
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	6,186	3,930
Committee / meeting expenses	1,527	1,899
Consultants / debriefing	-	300
Communication (telephone & internet)	6,117	6,122
Management fees	26,000	26,000
Service promotion	2,657	-
Travel & accommodation	51,554	43,232
Motor vehicle	5,635	5,131
	99,676	86,614
Other operating expenses		
Bank charges	398	382
Computer running costs	2,094	1,812
Equipment repairs & maintenance	3,141	5,280
Insurance	2,649	2,871
Library, resources & subscriptions	5,407	3,233
Office amenities	1,873	1,605
Office maintenance	8,170	3,474
Postage, courier & freight	1,081	689
Printing & stationery	3,416	4,289
Rent and accommodation	15,600	15,600
Utilities	2,321	1,060
Capital expenditure	333,832	-
	379,982	40,295
TOTAL EXPENSES	789,505	385,452
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	-	-



bourke/brewarrina family violence prevention legal service

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

BOURKE / BREWARRINA FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICE

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Attorney General's Funds		
Operational	393,676	400,452
Capital Funding	5,874	1,000
Funds carried forward from previous years	92,024	-
Less: Unspent Funds	-	(34,722)
Sub Total	491,574	366,730
Sundry Grants	7,500	-
Funds from WLS NSW Provisions	50,000	-
Sub Total	57,500	-
TOTAL INCOME	549,074	366,730
EXPENDITURE		
Employee related expenses		
Salaries and wages	265,684	220,636
Superannuation	21,089	18,603
Workers' Compensation insurance	2,437	2,180
Staff conferences, training and development	5,064	5,079
Staff recruitment	2,639	1,341
	296,913	247,839
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	8,849	3,095
Committee expenses	1,118	2,340
Communication (telephone & internet)	4,168	5,309
Management fees	17,500	17,500
Service promotion	2,056	-
Travel & accommodation	47,357	48,060
Motor vehicle	6,393	4,659
Child Sexual Assault Conference	97,363	-
	184,804	80,963
Other operating expenses		
Bank charges	255	384
Computer running costs	2,016	2,086
Equipment repairs & maintenance	2,147	1,789
Insurance	2,683	2,871
Library, resources & subscriptions	5,691	4,775
Office amenities	1,212	1,490
Office maintenance	23,000	4,183
Postage, courier & freight	955	713
Printing & stationery	5,919	2,696
Rent and accommodation	15,600	15,600
Utilities	2,005	1,340
Capital expenditure	5,874	-
	67,357	37,929
TOTAL EXPENSES	549,074	366,730
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	-	-

