

# **WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

### **2008 - 2009**



## 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.



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







## women's legal resources ltd

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

### 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)

PO Box 206

Lidcombe NSW 1825

Administration line: 02 9749 7700

Fax: 02 9749 4433

Email: [womens\\_nsw@clc.net.au](mailto:womens_nsw@clc.net.au)

Web: [www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au](http://www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au)

Office hours: 9:00am - 5:00pm (Monday to 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 to 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 to Friday)

### Advice line services

#### Legal Advice Line - WLRC & DVAS

9:30am - 12:30pm and 1:30pm - 4:30 pm

(Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)

Phone: 02 97495533 (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 - 4:00 pm

(Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)

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

every second Monday

Phone: 02 4351 1152

### Local courts domestic violence duty work

Blacktown

every Wednesday

Mt Druitt

every Monday

Penrith

every Tuesday

Sutherland

once a month on Wednesdays





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# chairperson's report

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW



Women's Legal Services (WLS) NSW has had an outstanding year, providing strategic casework, law reform and community education and development services to women across New South Wales.

Alongside this work the Board, the Executive Team, Kim Price and Janet Loughman, and WLS Staff continued to undertake a thorough review of WLS' organisational policies.

## Service achievements

Kim Price, the Manager, and Janet Loughman, the Principal Solicitor, lead an exceptional team of 34 dedicated staff - administrative, accounting, education workers, law reform workers, community development workers; project officers, co-ordinators and solicitors in our Lidcombe, Walgett and Bourke offices - who, working together, provided an impressive array of services.

WLS provided legal advice to 3,341 women by telephone and in person at our various offices and outreach services. In addition, there was a significant increase in the casework, with 647 women being represented in family law, civil and criminal matters. Further, the strategic nature of WLS' work was strengthened by casework informing, and being informed by, the extensive community legal education and law reform work of the service.

Whilst WLS itself achieved outstanding results, our work is greatly enhanced by collaboration with others. WLS Staff continue to be actively involved in state and national community legal centre networks, as well as women's legal services and Indigenous women's services networks. In addition, WLS worked collaboratively with other partners including: community legal centres, Legal Aid NSW, the Law & Justice Foundation, Law Access, NSW Police and the Department of Public Prosecutions.

A summary of major achievements may be found in the Principal Solicitor's report and particulars of WLS' work may be found in the body of this Annual Report.

## Organisational achievements

WLS has become one of the largest community legal services in Australia. Recognising a need to undertake a review of WLS policies, the Board, the Executive Team and Staff have been working on three significant and related projects: Strategic Planning, Wages & Conditions Review and Governance Review.

We were very pleased that WLS had the opportunity to participate in the Community Legal Centres NSW innovative "Legal Needs and Strategic Planning Project". WLS Staff put an enormous amount of work into this project. The research and consultation process produced challenging facts and encouraged vigorous debate amongst Staff and Board. The ideas that were brought forward from the consultations have been worked into a draft Strategic Plan for 2009/10 that will enable WLS to even better serve women in NSW.

The Board recognised that in order to continue to provide such outstanding services and further our strategic service delivery goals, it was necessary to continue to attract and retain excellent Staff. The Board initiated the Wages & Conditions Review to increase wages and improve conditions for all Staff, within the limitations of the program funding upon which we rely. When the Review Committee, made up of Board members and the Executive Team, undertook a thorough analysis of materials, it became apparent that the process would be more complex than originally thought. It was necessary to broaden the terms of reference to include determining optimal staff establishment, regularising position descriptions and translating positions onto a new wage scale. That work was finalised and a Draft Enterprise Agreement went to Staff in April. Negotiations with the Staff and Union are continuing, with a mutual goal to settle an Enterprise Agreement by the end of 2009.

Notwithstanding the significant growth of WLS, the role of the Board and its relationship with the Executive Team was not adequately defined, and had not been reviewed in light of the strategic development and management of the service. Since late 2007, the Board and Executive Team have been undertaking a Governance Policy Review.



# chairperson's report

In September 2008 the Board adopted Draft Governance Policies and Principles, which include the following:

- The Board sets the vision, defines and clarifies all expectations in a set of policies, and delegates control to the Executive.
- The Executive *"makes the vision a reality"* and is held accountable for the performance of the organisation.
- The Board's only connection to operational activities is through the Executive.

Then followed a period of extensive analysis, consultation with the Executive Team and discussion to determine the best way to support this governance model. In May 2009, the Board unanimously resolved on a new executive structure; namely, a CEO with a much higher level of delegation from the Board. This was a very difficult decision, as it included the Manager position being made redundant.

Kim Price has made a very significant contribution to WLS, serving for over 5 years as a Manager and, prior to that, 6 years as a Board Member. She has supported and guided WLS through many developments and changes, represented WLS in CLC networks and other forums and provided advice, direction and support to staff, the Aboriginal Women's Consultation Network and the Board. We acknowledge with our thanks Kim's unwavering commitment to WLS, and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Aspects of organisational change can be very difficult and the challenges are many. However, with those challenges come opportunities and WLS is well positioned to meet both. Our new Strategic Plan will guide many changes and improvements in WLS' services in the coming years.

## Acknowledgements

The Board wishes to acknowledge the members of the Aboriginal Women's Consultation Network: Elsie Gordon, Terry-Anne Carr, Gloria Mathews, Vicki Dennison and Christine Robinson. These wonderful women provide WLS with invaluable advice and support in developing strategic service delivery to women and children across NSW.

The work of WLS is greatly enhanced by our pro bono partners, including: Annette Bain and her colleagues at Freehills, Michelle Hannan and her colleagues at Gilbert & Tobin, David Hillard and his colleagues at Clayton Utz and Anne Cregan and her colleagues at Blake Dawson. There are also a large number of pro bono solicitors and barristers who provide an incredible amount of assistance to WLS Staff and clients. There are too many to name individually in my report but they may be found at page 20.

The Board was greatly assisted by the pro bono advice and assistance of David Hillard and his colleagues Bruce Heddle and Cynthia Elachi at Clayton Utz. Our work in undertaking the abovementioned projects was also supported by a number of consultants: Roger Wood of WoodwardSpice, Lyn Lormer, Lisa Doust, Diane Barnetson, as well as Judy Stubbs and Jane Cipants and the team at Judith Stubbs & Associates.

To all those who have contributed to the work of the WLS, the Board extends its gratitude. To the Board and Staff, I thank you for your dedication and your tireless efforts to better the lives of women through the work of WLS NSW.

Danaë Harvey  
Chairperson





## principal solicitor's report

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW



It is a privilege to be contributing to the 27th annual report of Women's Legal Services NSW - it is always a remarkable journey to reflect on the year's work and an honour to be able to acknowledge and thank the enthusiastic and committed

team in Lidcombe, Walgett and Bourke that our manager Kim Price and I had the honour of leading.

We have had an extraordinarily busy year of varied work. Our work as a community legal centre demands that we take a strategic approach to our work by linking our advice, casework, community legal education and law reform work. This year this has been particularly evident in our work to coordinate the Sexual Assault Communications Privilege Pro Bono Referral Project; the LEAP for women project which has taken community legal education and advice to women in prison; and a Supreme Court case which led to the reported decision of *Re Susan* [2009] NSWSC 592 on what constitutes exceptional circumstances to discharge an adoption order. It was also a privilege this year to provide support for the community based research and analysis which is integral to the NGO shadow report to the UN on Australia's compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW): important work in keeping government accountable.

Our work in improving access to justice for women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds was focussed this year on participating in the NSW Legal Assistance Forum CALD working group. This interagency group prioritised services for the Sudanese community in Blacktown and on community needs in the Liverpool area. We also completed a vibrant poster and checklist, "Working with Interpreters in Legal Settings" which is now available as a free community resource.

We have again had outstanding pro bono assistance from experienced and dedicated lawyers who took on complex legal cases for our clients. On behalf of our staff and clients 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 continued to argue administrative law principles, this time to the Supreme Court, in order to persuade the Court that the Victims Compensation Tribunal review a decision which to us seemed so unjust; and Helen Wall and John Catsanos who continued to provide extraordinary pro bono representation in a 'class action' in the District Court for 13 women. These matters are long running cases, and the continuity of pro bono representation is integral to the running of the litigation.

We also received outstanding support from the pro bono partners in the Sexual Assault Communications Privilege Pro Bono Referrals Project. The project brings together three pro bono firms - Blake Dawson, Clayton Utz and Freehills, the Bar Association and the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) to provide referrals and free legal representation to enable complainants in sexual assault trials to claim and argue the right to the protection of the sexual assault communications privilege (SACP). Barristers Louise Goodchild, Mark Higgins, Lishan Ang and Brian Ferrari provided significant assistance. The unpredictable nature of the work meant that on one occasion Brian Ferrari was in court or inspecting document for 8 full days!

Thanks are also extended to Freehills for continuing to support the Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service by placing a seconded solicitor with us on 6 month rotations; and to Gilbert + Tobin for working closely with us to provide regular outreach advice in Wyong.

Our regular reflection on service delivery was assisted this year by participation in a statewide CLC project to develop an evidence-based approach to strategic planning. This gave us the benefit of external research on legal needs and the opportunity to be part of a pilot program to test this approach. A Strategic Planning Tool Kit will be made available by CLCNSW as a result of the project; a reviewed strategic plan will be finalised for us in the 2009-10 year.

I invite you to read in full the annual report of our work for 2008-09 and to join with me in acknowledging and thanking all those who have worked so hard to make it all happen.

Janet Loughman  
*Principal Solicitor*





The end of the 2008/2009 financial year is upon us, and preparations for the Audit and Annual report are underway.

I would like to thank all staff for their hard work during the year.

As this is my last report as Manager of WLS NSW, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the Aboriginal Women's Consultation Network (AWCN). It has been a pleasure working with you all during the past 5 years. Your input into the service is invaluable, and I wish you all well for the future.

To all the staff: I have enjoyed enormously working with such a dedicated group of women. During the past 5 years, it has been exciting to watch you all, through your hard work and skills, put WLS NSW more on the map... a force to be reckoned with.

To the Heads of State (SMT): a Manager is only as good as the staff around them, and I have had the privilege of working with a great group of hard-working women. Thank you for making my job easier and for your support.

I want to acknowledge the Family Violence Prevention Legal Service staff, who even through difficult times have come through for their communities.

Last but not least, Janet Loughman who made coming to work a pleasure. Thank you for your support over the years. I shall miss working with you.

I am going to miss not being a part of the service. Best of luck to you all and thank you for a most memorable 5 years.

Kim Price  
Manager





## OUR PERSONNEL

During 2008/2009

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Danaë Harvey	Chairperson
Rhonda Fadden	Treasurer
Sophie Clarke	Secretary
Regina Graycar	
Debra Maher	
Jane Wangmann	

### ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S CONSULTATION NETWORK

Shian Barker	Indigenous Women's Program Officer, WLS NSW
Terry-Anne Carr	Aboriginal Women's Representative, North West Plains
Victoria Dennison	Aboriginal Women's Representative, Armidale
Elsie Gordon	Women's Housing, Dubbo
Donna Hensen	Coordinator, Indigenous Women's Program, WLS NSW
Kylie Kennedy	Coordinator, Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service, WLS NSW
Aunty Gloria Matthews	Western District Foundation Aboriginal Corporation, Mt Druitt
Christine Robinson	Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
Karen Stewart	Coordinator, Bourke/Brewarrina Family Violence Prevention Legal Service, WLS NSW

### Management

Janet Loughman	Principal Solicitor
Kim Price	Manager

### Administrative Staff

Helen Baker	Receptionist
Kaylene Evans	Data Entry Operator
Sharon Kingshott	Administrative Assistant (until 8 August)
Kim Ly	Management Accountant
Balwinder Masawan	Librarian
Melanie Phillips	Executive Assistant (until 20 March)
Pichhorda Phy	Accounts Clerk
Ana Sastrias	Administrative Assistant (from 17 September)

### Women's Legal Resources Centre Solicitors

Judit Albecz-Solyom	Supervising Solicitor (until 1 December)
Dianne Hamey	Acting Supervising Solicitor (from 6 April)
Marina Bournazos	Solicitor
Carolyn Jones	Solicitor
Cecilia Kim	Solicitor
Maha Najjarine	Solicitor
Louisa Stewart	Solicitor
Mari Vagg	Solicitor



**Indigenous Women's Program**

Dianne Hamey	Supervising Solicitor (substantive position)
Donna Hensen	Coordinator (from 4 August)
Shian Barker	Indigenous Women's Program Officer
Natalie Neumann	Acting Supervising Solicitor (from 25 May)
Sara Peel	Acting Supervising Solicitor
Natasha Rohr	Acting Supervising Solicitor (from 30 March until 22 May)

**Domestic Violence Advocacy Service**

Karen Mifsud	Supervising Solicitor
Elena Grinfeld	Solicitor (until 13 November)
Felicity Martin	Solicitor (from 19 January)
Rebecca Hitchcock	Solicitor
Alicia Jillard	Solicitor

**Community Legal Education**

Judith Levitan	Community Legal Education Officer
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**Law Reform**

Edwina MacDonald	Law Reform & Policy Officer
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**Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service**

Kylie Kennedy	Coordinator
Sandra Dowse	Court Support Worker
Wendy Fernando	Community Development Officer (until 21 January 2009)
Vivienne Fernando	Cleaner (until 22 June)
Natasha Kauri	Receptionist
Natascha Rohr	Solicitor
Sara Peel	Solicitor
Narelle Winters	Community Legal Education Worker (from 11 August)
Nina Parsons	Community Development Officer (from 30 March until 4 April)

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

Karen Stewart	Coordinator (from 18 May)
Sara Crane	Solicitor (until 9 April)
Janice Edwards	Community Development Officer/Receptionist
Arlia Fleming	Solicitor (from 4 May)
Audrey Gibbs	Coordinator (until 26 December)
Kathy Mann	Cleaner
Tania Morison	Community Development Officer (from 9 February)
Natalie Neumann	Solicitor

**Solicitors Seconded from Freehills to Walgett FVPLS**

Magda Paszkiewicz	(until 31 October)
Susan Jones	(from 27 October to 24 April)
Danielle Carr	(from 20 April)



# our personnel

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WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

## Casual, Contract and Locum Workers

Sara Blazey	Solicitor
Kuny Chhor	Assistant Accountant
Sue Davis	Solicitor
Zara Griffith	Solicitor
Daryna Ieth	Receptionist
Lin Ma	Accounts Clerk
Felicity Martin	Solicitor
Sandra De Nardi	Solicitor
Yu-Ling Ong	Solicitor
Janette Prichard	Project Officer
Shierin Purnama	Accounts Clerk
Mary Raum	Receptionist
Jinny Smith	IWP Program Officer
Helen Taranto	Solicitor
Margaret West	Receptionist, FVPLS Bourke

## 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.

Yasmin Lauritz  
Sonya Redman  
Rosanna Quach  
Lita Chiu



ABN: 88 002 387 699

## our staff







# our staff

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW





ABN: 88 002 387 699

## we provided legal advice and representation

WLS NSW provided legal advice and court representation to women most disadvantaged in our community. We provided a state-wide telephone advice service with a metropolitan and a rural free call line for general legal advice; a metropolitan and a rural free call line for domestic violence legal advice; and a free call statewide Indigenous women's legal contact line.

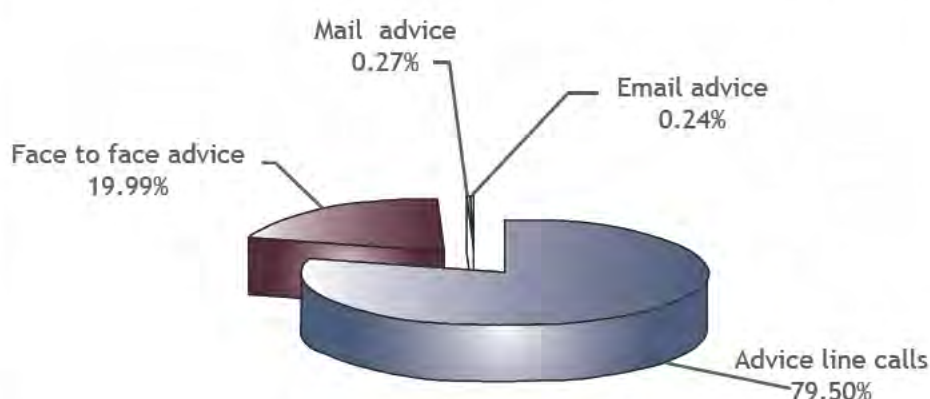
We provided 3,341 legal advices to women during the year either by phone or face-to-face at 6 outreach advice clinic locations and local courts in western Sydney and on the Central Coast.

We provided face-to-face legal advice through our outreach advice clinics in western Sydney at Liverpool, Fairfield, Campbelltown, Penrith, Blacktown and on the Central Coast at Wyong.

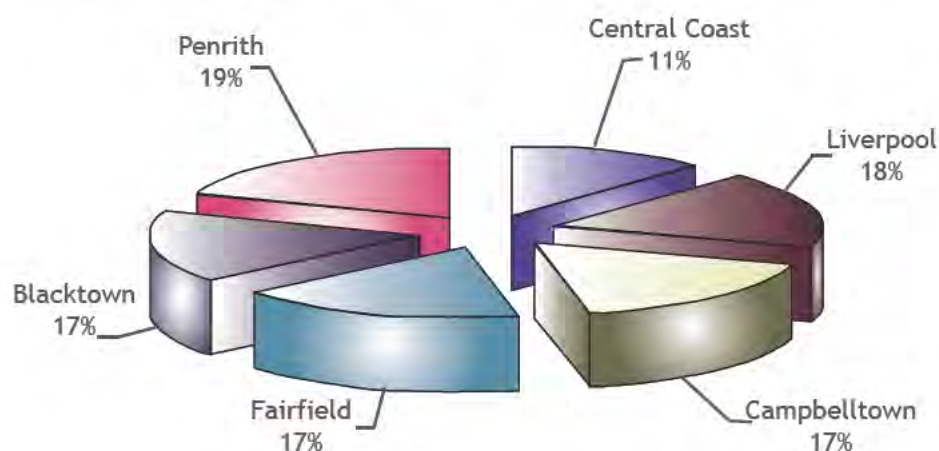
Family Law continued to be the area of law affecting most women who call our service for advice. Other areas of law included Domestic and Family Violence, Victims Compensation, Child Protection, Employment, Discrimination and other civil matters.

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

### THE WAYS OUR CLIENTS CONTACTED US FOR INITIAL ADVICE



### CONTACT WITH CLIENTS AT OUR WLRC OUTREACH ADVICE CLINICS







## we provided legal advice and representation

### WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

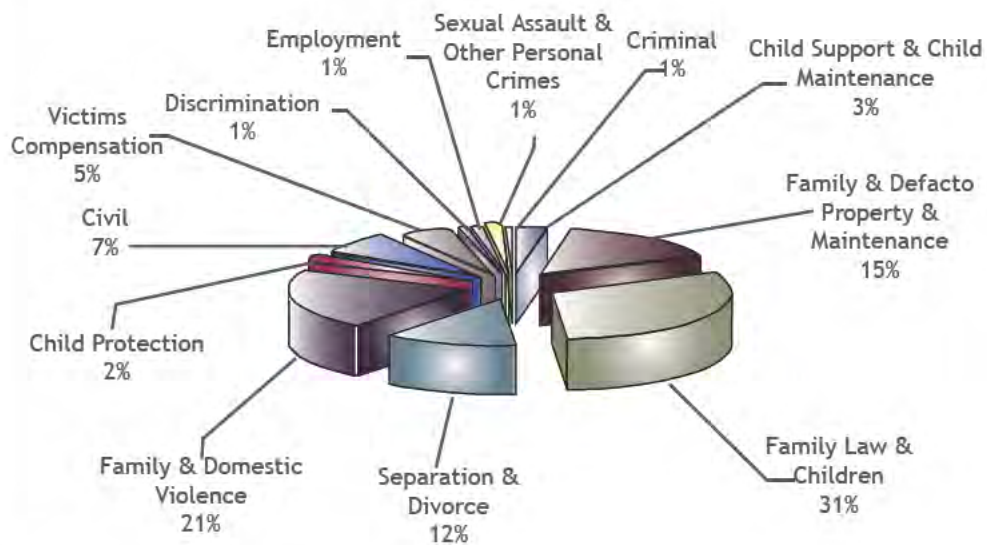
Our Indigenous Women's Legal Contact Line is answered by an Indigenous staff member who takes initial details from the client.

She refers the call to our solicitors or in some cases to another appropriate service.

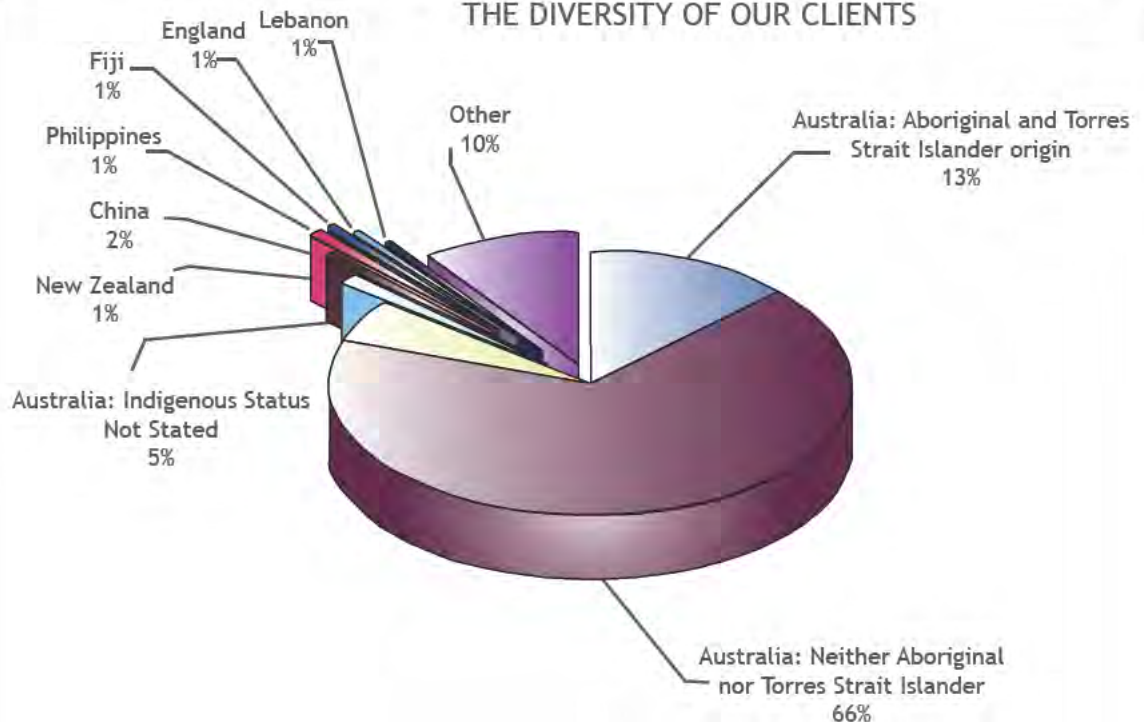
accessible, responsive and culturally appropriate service for Aboriginal women throughout NSW. Areas of law that many Aboriginal women sought advice on in the last year were Care and Protection, Family Law, Employment, Victims Compensation and Discrimination.

Answering calls this way enables us to provide an

ADVICES BY AREA OF LAW



THE DIVERSITY OF OUR CLIENTS







We represented women in 647 cases. This represented a significant increase in the casework undertaken [up from 396 cases in 2008] and reflected our strategy to reduce the resources allocated to telephone advice and to provide enhanced casework services.

Some case studies provide examples of our casework:

#### **Case study: Victims compensation - family violence legal arguments**

*We acted for Mary\*, an Indigenous woman, who had been stabbed in the arm by her second cousin. Due to the nature of her injuries, the only compensable injury available to her was the category of domestic violence. We argued that the claim should meet the requirements of this category, as Applicant and Defendant had an established and active relationship as members of an extended family. We successfully argued that this relationship should also be seen in its cultural context; acknowledging the importance of extended families in Indigenous communities and the failure of mainstream definitions and conceptions of families to reflect the reality of familial relationships in these communities.*

#### **Case study: discrimination in the workplace**

*Lucia\* was sexually harassed on numerous occasions at work. She made many internal complaints, resulting in her being further disadvantaged, such as demotion, multiple office relocations and ineffectual supervision. We successfully advocated on behalf of Lucia at the Anti-Discrimination Board NSW. Lucia obtained written apologies from the company and the offender, improved work conditions, implementation of compulsory anti-discrimination training in the workplace, change of company policy and procedure regarding complaint process and financial compensation for stress and suffering.*

#### **Case study: District Court case - success in interim hearing**

*We are running a civil matter in the District Court with 13 plaintiffs who were all victims of sexual abuse in a foster home. Another solicitor has 2 clients with the same facts, filed under a different matter number. The defendant is the State of NSW. The same barristers are representing all 15 plaintiffs on a pro bono basis. We had a notice of motion to join the 2 matters and the defendants had a notice of motion that we should file 15 separate statements of claim. We were successful in an interim hearing to have the two matters joined and all 15 plaintiffs consolidated in the one matter.*

#### **Case study: Successful victims compensation appeal under old legislation "shock"**

*We acted for Pamela\* in a VCT appeal from a decision of an assessor under earlier provisions of the legislation relating to shock (where there had been a sexual assault). Previous solicitors acted in her original claim that was dismissed by the assessor some years ago. The perpetrator was charged but the trial was eventually no-billed as the client was unable to cope with the trial process, due to the severe impact on her of the assault. We successfully argued for leave to apply out of time and for the admission of fresh evidence. The Chairperson awarded Pamela the maximum amount available for "shock". The matter was particularly complicated due to Pamela's experience of childhood sexual assault and domestic violence in relationships prior to and after the sexual assault the subject of the appeal. The Chairperson stated in his decision that he was particularly impressed by the work of WLS in the appeal including the submissions, the support of the client and the analysis of the old legislation and guidelines.*

\* Not her real name



## we provided legal advice and representation

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

### Case study: Change of the child's surname

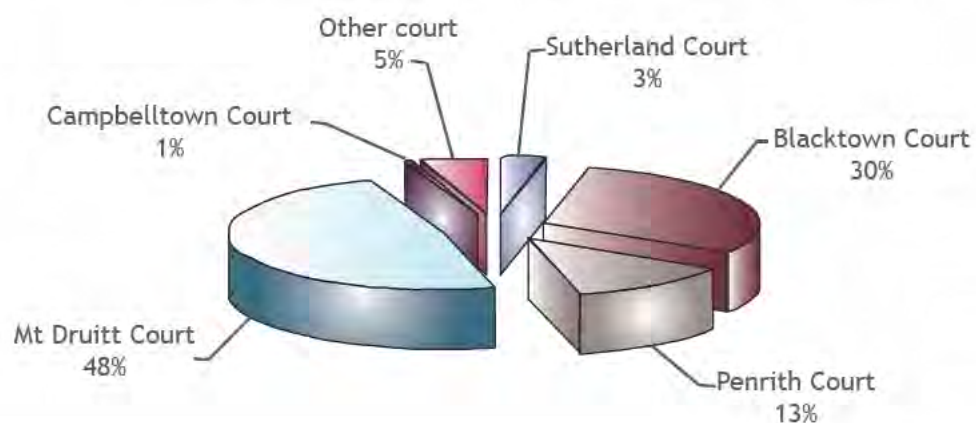
*We acted for Clare\* in an application made by the father to the Federal Magistrate's Court to change the name of the child of their relationship. The child had her mother's surname from birth and was registered with the Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages. The father applied to change the child's surname to his surname only.*

*The father argued that he had been the primary carer for the child based on orders from the Children's Court. We made various arguments emphasising the importance of the child remaining connected with the mother by having the mother's surname. The Federal Magistrate agreed with the mother's application and decided that it would be in the best interest of the child to have a hyphenated name.*

\* 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





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 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 make a private ADVO application. We also represented women in hearings and appeals to the District Court.

### Case study: False allegations of family violence by the father

*We previously acted for Sera\* to obtain an AVO against her former partner on appeal in the District Court. Sera was later served with an AVO application by the police seeking an order for the protection of her son. Sera's former partner had taken the son to the police and alleged she had thrown an object at the son, causing an injury to his leg. We spoke to the police informant and on instructions from the client made representations to the police to withdraw the application. The son of his own volition rang the police and told them that the incident did not happen. Our solicitor appeared at the Local Court on a number of mentions. The police withdrew the application against our client and were investigating charging her former partner with making a false statement.*

Our Domestic Violence Advocacy Service took a lead role in our project to improve the practical application of the sexual assault communications privilege. Please see "We advocated for changes to law and legal processes" on page 24 for further detail of the project. We managed and supported 17 referrals of SACP claims as part of the Pilot Pro Bono Referrals project. WLS NSW solicitors also represented clients in several of the pilot cases, and also non-pilot cases that are arising because of the increased awareness of the issue. In one matter the pro bono barrister and our solicitor were in court or inspecting documents for 8 days. The related sexual assault prosecution was successful.

\* Not her real name

### 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.

### Case Study: Meaning of 'exceptional circumstances' to discharge adoption order

*We acted for Susan\* in Supreme Court proceedings which sought to have her childhood adoption order discharged. Susan was adopted by her natural mother and step-father. She was sexually abused by her adopted father as a child and sought the discharge of the adoption order to regain her identity and to alleviate her psychological trauma. The Attorney General appeared in the case as amicus curiae. Debra Harris appeared pro bono as counsel for Susan. The case was novel in that there was no case law on what constitutes 'exceptional circumstances' for the discharge of an adoption order. Justice Palmer agreed to discharge the adoption order and his reasons form a 'guideline judgment' on the issue. Re Susan [2009] NSWSC 592.*

### Sexual Assault Communications Privilege (SACP)

Last year we reported that we represented 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 and has undertaken considerable community legal education work about its application, including through our publication, Counsellors and Subpoenas. During the course of 2008-2009 this work developed into a significant project - the Sexual Assault Communications Privilege Pilot Pro Bono Referrals Project. Please see "We advocated for changes to law and legal processes" on page 24 for full report. We have used our casework experiences, such as the case outlined below, to inform our law reform work on improvements that could be made to the privilege and its operation.





### Case study: Sexual Assault Communications Privilege claims

*Rosa\* was a complainant in a sexual assault trial. She was referred to us by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP). We instructed a barrister (pro bono) who appeared for Rosa at short notice to object to confidential records being shown to the other parties. The Defence had subpoenaed Rosa's records from a sexual assault service based at a hospital. The Judge inspected the material for the purpose of ruling on the objection and granted leave for Rosa's representatives to inspect as well. Neither the Defence nor the Crown had access to the records.*

*Following legal argument by Rosa's barrister the Judge made an order limiting the records that could be shown to the Defence and Crown to all but a single expert certificate. Rosa was very happy with this outcome, however she now has reservations about opening up to a counsellor again knowing that it could be used in court or subpoenaed.*

### Right to apply to vary an ADVO

Our Domestic Violence casework undertakings meant that we were well placed to bring practical experience to the law reform and policy development work undertaken through the Apprehended Violence Legal Issues Coordinating Committee (AVLICC), a key consultative group for the Attorney General's Department.

\* Not her real name

### Case study: ADVO District Court appeal

*Nina\* had an "ancillary property" recovery order made against her by the Local Court. Both she and her children had an existing final Apprehended Violence Order in place for their protection that had been applied for by the Police. The defendant then later applied to the Local Court to vary this order arguing that the court should make an order to allow him to recover property from Nina that he alleged she had. The Local Court made a property recovery order against Nina in her absence. The police were attempting to enforce the property order (including a suggestion that Nina leave the house to allow the police to accompany the defendant into the house while he removes property). Nina said that she had returned all property to the defendant anyway and had evidence that this had occurred. She was worried that proceedings were part of a pattern of ongoing harassment that she and her children were facing.*

*We were successful in appealing the variation of the AVO (the making of the property recovery order) that had been granted by the Local Court. The grounds of the appeal included that it was improper for the Local Court to grant the application to vary the AVO as there were children listed as protected persons and only the police can apply to vary the order in these circumstances. In this case the Court had allowed the defendant himself to make the application.*

This case informed our submission to AVLICC on possible amendments to the domestic violence legislation to allow a party other than the police to apply to vary an AVO. Our submission was also influenced by our duty court work where we have acted on a number of applications to vary and extend AVOs.



## we provided legal advice and representation

### Related acts of violence in Victims Compensation cases.

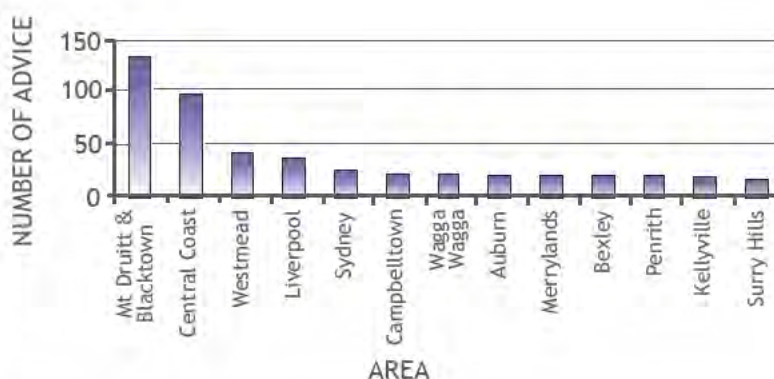
We ran a significant number of Victims Compensation cases, especially for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault over long periods of time. Many of our clients have experienced multiple acts of violence over many years. The approach of the Victims Compensation Tribunal, however, is often to decide 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. Last year we reported on a successful appeal to the District Court in an effort to clarify the law for our client and for others. However, when the matter was remitted back to the Tribunal for re-decision, the Tribunal came to the same conclusion. Our pro bono barristers Robert Beech-Jones SC and Reg Graycar continued to act and an application for judicial review was made to the Supreme Court. We are awaiting the outcome of this case.

### Case study: Judicial review in the Supreme Court on 'related acts of violence'

*We acted for a client in an application to the Supreme Court for judicial review of a decision of the VCT. We previously acted for the client in a District Court appeal from the decision of the VCT [as reported in our 2008 Annual Report]. The client was the victim of numerous sexual assaults perpetrated on her while she was in a foster home. The perpetrator was charged with 7 counts of sexual assault, convicted of 3 in relation to this client and other convictions in relation to other children at the home. The Supreme Court judicial review case seeks to clarify the meaning of 'related acts of violence'.*

\* Not her real name

WLS NSW - TOP 13 TELEPHONE ADVICE ACTIVITIES BY AREA





PRO BONO BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS USED 2008-2009

Aileen Slattery	<i>Abrams Turner Whelan</i>	Anita Vayanos	<i>De Mestre &amp; Company</i>
Jen McGowan	<i>Adams Partners</i>	David Cohen	<i>David H Cohen</i>
Shanna Riddle	<i>Adams Partners</i>	Nicholas Patrick	<i>DLA Phillips Fox</i>
Zoe Ung	<i>Adams Partners</i>	Trina Francis	<i>Francis Lawyers</i>
Heather Sare	<i>Bar Association</i>	Annette Bain	<i>Freehills</i>
Lishan Ang	<i>Barrister</i>	Danielle Carr	<i>Freehills</i>
Robert Beech-Jones	<i>Barrister</i>	Amanda Eggleton	<i>Freehills</i>
Sophie Callan	<i>Barrister</i>	Tania Finikiotis	<i>Freehills</i>
John Catsanos	<i>Barrister</i>	Lee-Anne Graham	<i>Freehills</i>
Robyn Druitt	<i>Barrister</i>	Brooke Massender	<i>Freehills</i>
Michelle England	<i>Barrister</i>	Jacqueline Wootton	<i>Freehills</i>
Brian Ferrari	<i>Barrister</i>	Michelle Hannan	<i>Gilbert &amp; Tobin</i>
Juliana Friedlander	<i>Barrister</i>	James Pomeroy	<i>Gilbert &amp; Tobin</i>
Melissa Gilles	<i>Barrister</i>	Lena Mirzabegian	<i>Gilbert &amp; Tobin</i>
Louise Goodchild	<i>Barrister</i>	Tamara Sims	<i>Gilbert &amp; Tobin</i>
Reg Graycar	<i>Barrister</i>	Jane Stratton	<i>Gilbert &amp; Tobin</i>
Martin Hadley	<i>Barrister</i>	Lee-May Saw	<i>JPM Legal</i>
Debra Harris	<i>Barrister</i>	Simone Green	<i>Rafton Family Lawyers</i>
Terry Healey	<i>Barrister</i>	Joe Harmon	<i>Lamrocks Solicitors</i>
Mark Higgins	<i>Barrister</i>	Grace Basaglia	<i>McDonnell Milne Toltz</i>
Paul Johnson	<i>Barrister</i>	Maxine Morris	<i>Morris Corkill Solicitors</i>
Robert Lethbridge SC	<i>Barrister</i>	Kate Nolan	<i>Musgrave &amp; Peach</i>
Gillian Mahoney	<i>Barrister</i>	Maya Sen	<i>Musgrave &amp; Peach</i>
Emily Pender	<i>Barrister</i>	Stephanie Lee	<i>Musgrave &amp; Peach</i>
John Thompson	<i>Barrister</i>	Kate Rafton	<i>Rafton Family Lawyers</i>
Brenda Tronson	<i>Barrister</i>	Anne Kazas	<i>Rogaris KR Lawyers</i>
Helen Wall	<i>Barrister</i>	Kate O'Grady	<i>Sanderson Partners Lawyers</i>
Richard Waldersee	<i>Barrister</i>	Antonella Sanderson	<i>Sanderson Partners Lawyers</i>
Nathan Bellgrove	<i>Blake Dawson</i>	Sarah Bevan	<i>Sarah Bevan &amp; Associates</i>
Anne Cregan	<i>Blake Dawson</i>	Asha Miller	<i>Sarah Bevan &amp; Associates</i>
Amelia Davis	<i>Blake Dawson</i>	Elizabeth Haynes	<i>Sayan &amp; Associates</i>
Dorothy Lo	<i>Blake Dawson</i>	Joanne Sharah	<i>Sharah &amp; Associates</i>
Janice Tully	<i>Blake Dawson</i>	Tracey Flintoff	<i>Stacks the Law Firm</i>
Angela Wood	<i>Blake Dawson</i>	Andrea Brooks	<i>Beilby Poulden Costello</i>
David Hillard	<i>Clayton Utz</i>	Steven Penning	<i>Turner Freeman Solicitors</i>
Melissa Leon	<i>Clayton Utz</i>	Alexandra Harland	<i>Watts McCray Lawyers</i>
Belinda Wilson	<i>Clayton Utz</i>		





## we educated women about the law

The volume and scope of our Community Legal Education (CLE) and community development initiatives over the year demonstrate our strong commitment to facilitating women's awareness of the law, their legal rights and access to legal services.

We embarked on over 150 CLE initiatives and connected with an estimated 2,850 women and professionals working with women. We responded to 317 requests for our resources and 39 publications sales.

We:

- facilitated discussion groups
- conducted training sessions and workshops
- hosted stalls
- presented at conferences
- produced and contributed to publications about the law
- promoted and disseminated our publications and information about our service.

We connected with a range of women in the community as well as professionals working with women including social workers, psychologists, community workers, health workers, police and lawyers.

We undertook CLE in a range of places across NSW including Goulburn, Cooma, Taree, Newcastle, Tamworth, Bathurst and the Central Coast.

We also facilitated CLE programs across the Sydney metropolitan area, in particular:

- Outer Western Sydney - in areas such as Penrith and Windsor
- Western Sydney - in areas such as Parramatta, Mt Druitt, Blacktown, Doonside, Campbelltown, St Mary's and Liverpool
- Inner Western and Southern Sydney - in areas such as Marrickville, Auburn, Ashfield and Kogarah.
- Central and Eastern Sydney - in areas such as Kingsford, Sydney CBD, Waterloo and Surry Hills.

### CLE Partnerships

We consolidated our relationships with a number of organisations with whom we have partnered

to provide regular or ongoing training throughout the year, such as:

#### LawAccess:

- training for customer service officers about domestic violence.

#### NSW Police:

- training for Domestic Violence Liaison Officers (DVLOs) about the interaction between family law, Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs) and domestic violence.

#### Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC):

- training on Family Law as part of PIAC's course for community workers titled 'Law for Non Lawyers'.

#### Kingsford Legal Centre (KLC):

- training about domestic violence and AVOs for community workers as part of the KLC 'Law for community workers' training program.

#### Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV):

- we spoke as part of a legal panel to Aboriginal community and health workers participating in Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV) training courses.

### Training for lawyers

We trained solicitors who undertake pro bono work for WLS NSW about:

- representing victims of crime in victims compensation matters.
- advising clients about family law.
- representing clients in sexual assault communication privilege matters (as part of the Sexual Assault Pro Bono Referral Pilot Project).

We also trained barristers and solicitors from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions about issues relating to the sexual assault communication's privilege.

### International dialogue about human rights and the law

We participated in the Australian Human Rights Commission's Human Rights Technical Cooperation Programs. The aim of these programs is to promote international dialogue about human rights.



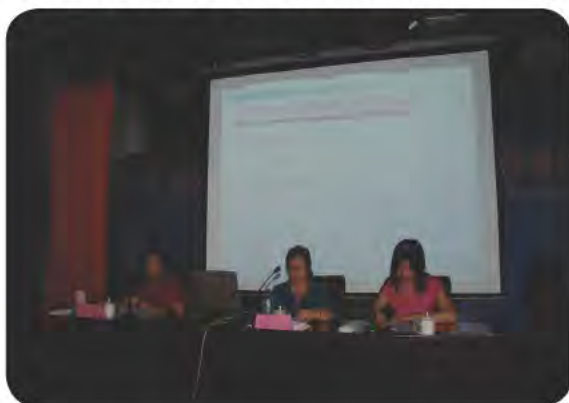
## we educated women about the law

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW



*Edwina MacDonald at the Train the Trainer in Vietnam*

Edwina MacDonald, Law Reform Officer, visited Vietnam to participate in a Train the Trainer workshop organised in cooperation with the Vietnam Women's Union. She presented on Australia's implementation of the 'Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women' (CEDAW) Convention and the role of Women's Legal Services NSW.



*Karen Mifsud at the Domestic Violence Workshop in China*

Karen Mifsud, Supervising Solicitor, visited China to participate in a Domestic Violence Workshop. She presented on the legal framework for responding to domestic violence in NSW and the work of DVAS.

Solicitors from WLS NSW also met with a delegation from the All China Women's Federation who were visiting Australia and participating in a Domestic Violence Study visit as part of the Australia - China Human Rights Technical Cooperation Program.

### Women in prison

We worked together with Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre and Hawkesbury Nepean Legal Centre to establish the 'Legal Education and Advice in Prison' (LEAP) project for Women. The project aims to provide individual face-to-face advice and group legal education workshops for women in prison at the three metropolitan correctional centres in Sydney: Emu Plains, Dillwynia and Silverwater.

We also continued to host stalls and advise women in prison at the pre-release exhibitions at Dillwynia Correctional Centre.

### Other CLE highlights

We participated in the 'International Women's Day' and 'Reclaim the Night' events in Sydney and hosted stalls at both events.



*Carolyn Jones at the WLS NSW stall in the 'International Women's day' event*

We talked to lesbian women at workshops and forums about the recent changes to laws affecting same sex couples in de facto relationships.



*Women visiting the WLS NSW stall at the 'International Women's Day' event*





ABN: 88 002 387 699

## we educated women about the law

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

We trained community workers, social workers, psychologists, welfare workers, family support workers and volunteer telephone counsellors from a range of community organisations including, Family Relationship Centres, Life Line, the WASH House in Mt Druitt, the Benevolent Society and Barnardos.

WLS NSW facilitated a workshop for community workers about writing submissions to the National Human Rights Consultation. Solicitors also met with workers at the legal outreaches and facilitated submission writing workshops at the Outreach Services.

**WRITE FOR RIGHTS!**

*Human Rights*

We participated in CLE networking groups including the NSW Legal Assistance Forum Training Reference Group and CLCNSW Community Legal Education Workers group.

We presented papers at several conferences including:

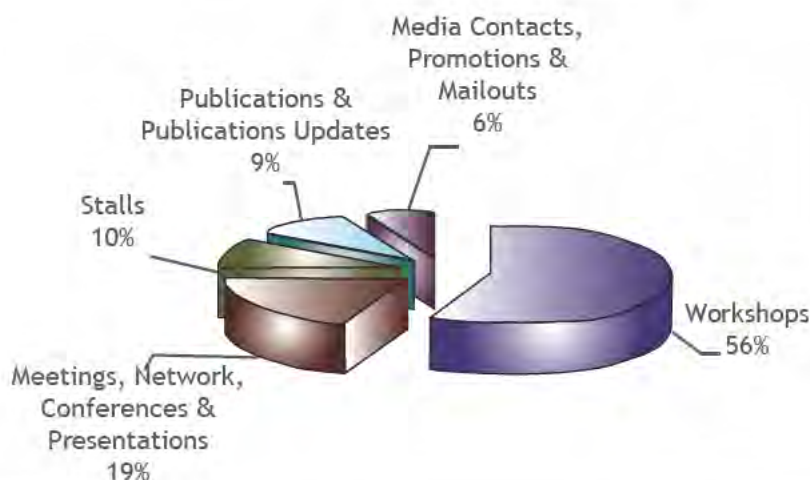
- National Pro Bono Conference
- Domestic Violence Intervention Court Model Forum
- Domestic Violence Forum in South East Sydney

### Publications

We worked on producing the following publications:

- Law Handbook 11th Edition - four chapters on Family Law, Domestic Violence, Sexual Offences and Aboriginal people and the law
- For the State Library of NSW Legal Information Access Centre, we wrote the 66th in a series of 'Hot Topics: Legal Information Issues in Plain Language' on Domestic Violence
- In consultation with the NLAF CALD Working Group, we produced a poster, 'Working with Interpreters in Legal Settings'. This resource addresses one of the recommendations set out in the WLS NSW Report entitled 'Long Way to Equal' about access to justice for women from CALD backgrounds.
- Almost Equal: A guide for community legal centre lawyers to the 2008 changes to Commonwealth Laws affecting same sex couples. We wrote the chapter on changes to Family Law.

CLE ACTIVITIES BY CATEGORY







## we advocated for changes to law and legal processes

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

We maintained a strong commitment to our objective of engaging in law reform. 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.

We continued to engage in numerous government inquiry and consultation processes, as well as work on major service law reform projects. We also coordinated the law reform work of Women's Legal Services Australia, which is a network of the National Association of Community Legal Centres.

### Some highlights of our advocacy work

#### Protecting the privacy of sexual assault victims



*Alicia Jillard presenting at the Sexual Assault Communications Privilege training.*

We coordinated the Sexual Assault Communications Privilege Referral Pilot, which brings together three pro bono firms (Blake Dawson, Clayton Utz and Freehills), the Bar Association and the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP).

The project provides free legal representation to enable complainants in sexual assault trials to claim and argue the right to the protection of the sexual assault communications privilege. In doing so, it provides practical legal help to victims of sexual assault who may experience intimidation and further violation when sensitive counselling records are subpoenaed in a criminal trial. The project also aims to gather evidence for a case for publicly funded legal services as well as identify the legal and procedural changes that are needed to turn the right into a more widespread reality.



*The Hon John Hatzistergos, NSW Attorney General, at the Launch of the Sexual Assault Communication Privilege*

The project was launched in April 2009 by the NSW Attorney General the Hon John Hatzistergos, MLC and is due to run until February 2010. The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Nicholas Cowdery QC said: "This initiative is unique, as it involves the ODPP collaborating with private law firms and community sector legal service providers, uniting to address a need for legal assistance for a vulnerable group, to assist in training of those involved and in pursuing a law reform issue".

#### Taking the voices of women to the United Nations

Along with the YWCA Australia, we coordinated the Australian NGO Report on Australia's implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

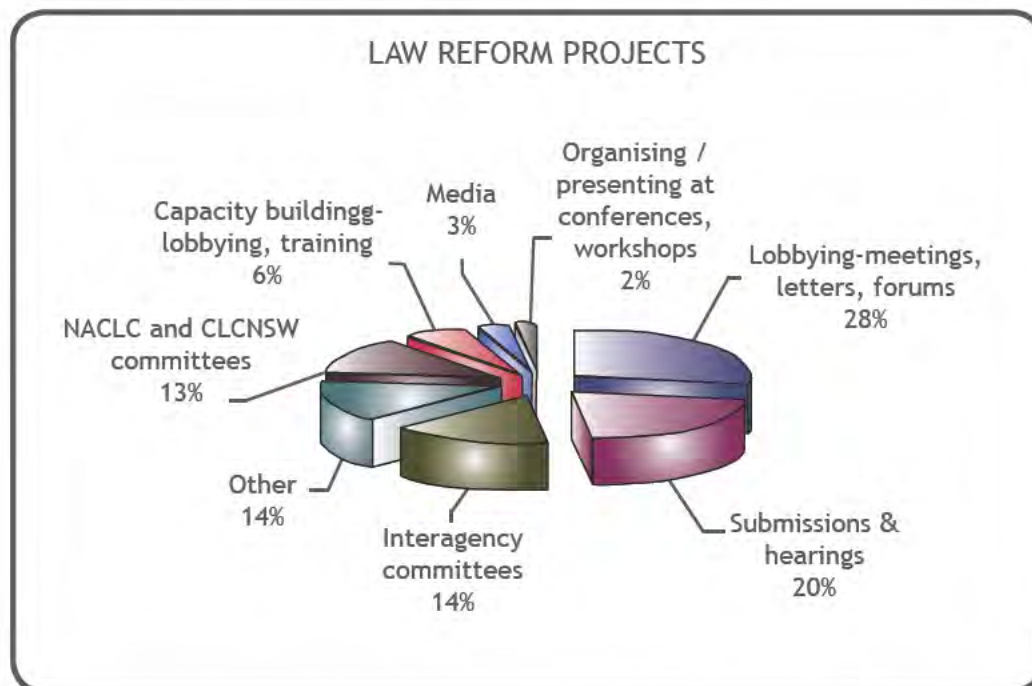


*Edwina MacDonald presenting a workshop on CEDAW at Broken Hill*

As part of the project, 17 capacity building workshops and consultations were held in Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Darwin, Alice Springs, Perth, Canberra, Broome, Townsville, Brisbane, Adelaide, Broken Hill and Bourke.

## we advocated for changes to law and legal processes

Following the workshop, a comprehensive report was prepared to reflect the concerns of the community sector in relation to women's human rights, and gives voice to the views of Australian women and Australian women's organisations at the United Nations. *"Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women"*  
[www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/)



### Influencing new family law legislation

With Women's Legal Services Australia, we made submissions to, and appeared before, the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs regarding de facto access to the family law courts for property matters. We supported the proposed legislation, and suggested some minor amendments. One of our suggested amendments - providing an 'opt in' mechanism for the transitional period - made it through to the final legislation.

### Building the capacity of others to engage in human rights consultations



From left: Carolyn Jones, Natalie Neumann, Mari Vagg, Cecilia Kim and Janet Loughman

As well as participating in the National Human Rights Consultation directly, we undertook joint community legal education and law reform projects to build the capacity of women and women's organisations to participate in the process.





## we advocated for changes to law and legal processes

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW



*Korean Group at the International Women's Day*

As part of this, we ran a workshop on human rights and the consultation process for community workers in the domestic violence field. We also developed a lobbying kit that explained the consultation process and its relevance to women, collected submissions from individuals at International Women's Day and assisted our outreach organisations in making submissions. One participant in our workshop told us that as a result of our workshop, her organisation was making its first policy submission ever.

### Submissions

We coordinated or contributed to submissions made to:

- National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children on the development of a National Plan
- NSW Legislative Council on Adoption by Same Sex Couples
- NSW Office for Women on the Strategic Framework for Domestic Violence
- National Human Rights Consultation
- Apprehended Violence Legal Issues Coordinating Committee on the term 'Domestic Relationship'
- Australian Attorney-General's Department on the Federal Courts Review (under Women's Legal Services Australia)
- Australian Government on its paper 'Australia's Children: Safe and Well' (under Women's Legal Services Australia)
- Australian Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs on the Personal Properties Securities Bill (under Women's Legal Services Australia)
- Australian Senate Committee on Legal and

Constitutional Affairs on De Facto Access to Family Law Courts (under Women's Legal Services Australia)

- Australian Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs on its Review Of Sex Discrimination Act (under Women's Legal Services Australia)
- Standing Committee of Attorneys-General on Surrogacy Harmonisation (under Women's Legal Services Australia)
- Australian Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs on Access to Justice (under Women's Legal Services Australia)
- Australian Human Rights Commission on Freedom of Religion Enquiry (under Community Legal Centres NSW)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights NGO Shadow Report (a joint report coordinated by NACLC and other centres)

### Media contacts

Our main contacts with the media during the year were:

- Opinion piece in Sydney Morning Herald on domestic violence death review panels (Edwina MacDonald, 03/07/08)
- Interview with SE NSW ABC Radio on domestic violence (Edwina MacDonald, 11/07/08)
- Provided comments to Sydney Morning Herald on changes to de facto laws (Edwina MacDonald, 20/07/08)
- Appeared on SBS television show Insight to comment on changes to de facto laws (Edwina MacDonald, 04/11/08)
- Comments published in Sydney Morning Herald and The Age on shared care and domestic violence homicide (Karen Mifsud, 25/11/08)
- Interview with ABC Radio on police policy and domestic violence (Karen Mifsud, 26/11/08)
- Interview with 2UE on police policy and domestic violence (Karen Mifsud, 26/11/08)
- Interview with ABC Radio on domestic violence homicide (Edwina MacDonald, 17/12/08)
- Interview with Koori Radio (Karen Mifsud, 05/02/09)





## we advocated for changes to law and legal processes

- Interview on Broken Hill ABC Radio on human rights workshops (Edwina MacDonald, 05/03/09)
- Interview with SE NSWABC Radio regarding changes to domestic violence laws (Alicia Jillard, 18/03/09)
- Interview with ABC Radio National program Life Matters on sexual assault communications privilege (Alicia Jillard 20/4/09)

### Committees

- Community Legal Centres NSW
- Aboriginal Advisory Group
- Care & Protection Working Group (convened by WLS NSW)
- Community Legal Centres NSW Board
- Coordinators & Directors Forum (convened by WLS NSW)
- Domestic Violence and Victims Compensation Subcommittee (co-convened by WLS NSW)
- Domestic Violence Review Subcommittee
- Family Law Working Group (convened by WLS NSW)
- Law Reform And Policy Committee
- Victims Compensation Working Party

### National Association of Community Legal Centres

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services Network
- Human Rights Network
- LGBTI Network
- NSW state representative to Management Committee (until November 2008)
- Women's Legal Services Australia (convened by WLS NSW)

### Interagencies and other external committees

- Apprehended Violence Legal Issues Coordinating Committee (AVLICC)
- CEDAW NGO Report Working Group
- Legal Aid NSW Central Coast Cooperative Legal Service Delivery (CLSD )
- Chief Justice's Family Law Forum
- Corrective Services Women's Advisory Council Consultancy Group
- Domestic Violence Intervention Court Model - DVICM Senior Officers Group
- Law Access Board
- Law Access Strategic Working Party
- NSW Legal Assistance Forum - NLAF CALD Working Group
- Same Sex DV Interagency
- Sexual Assault Review Committee
- Sydney West Legal Services Group
- Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program Advisory Committee

### Major Projects

- Our major projects for the year have been:
- Sexual Assault Communications Privilege Pro Bono Referral Pilot
- CEDAW NGO Report
- Long Way to Equal implementation
- VCT Decisions project
- Monitoring AVO Amendments s.72



## walgett family violence prevention legal service

### *walanbaa yinarr wharoo*

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

The Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service provides support, legal advice and representation, information and advocacy for Indigenous 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 give women and children in our

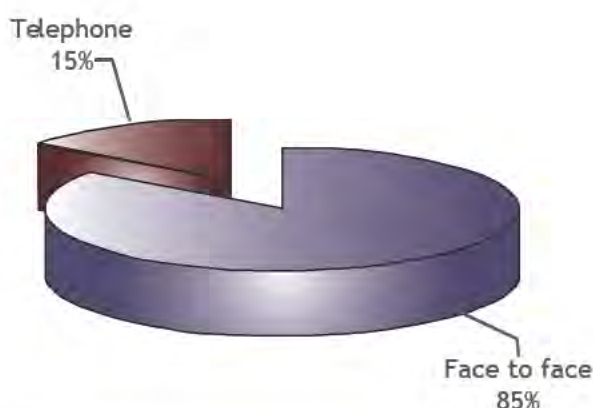
community support and guide them towards a better and brighter future without Family Violence or Sexual Assault.

We continue to increase awareness of our service throughout the Aboriginal community.

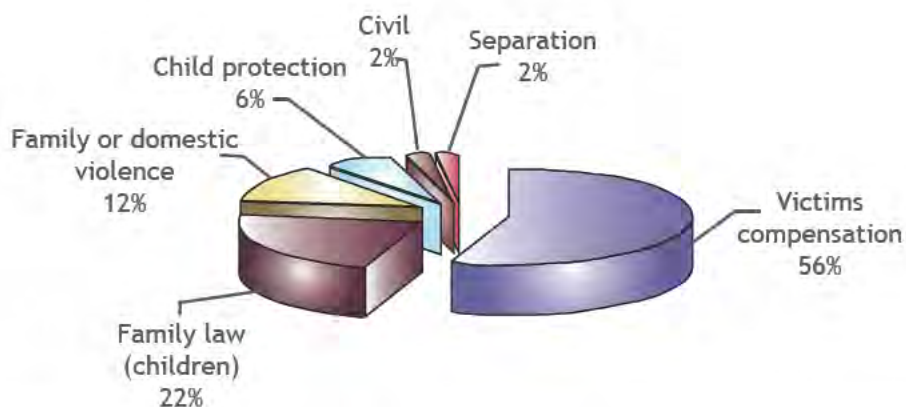
### Casework

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.

### THE WAYS OUR CLIENTS CONTACTED US FOR INITIAL ADVICE



### MAIN AREAS OF LAW FOR CASES



Some examples of our casework are:

- **Opposed DoCS application to remove children**  
A child was sexually assaulted by a man who was not a member of her family. DoCS sought urgent orders for the removal of the child and her sibling or to transfer parental responsibility to the Minister. Our solicitor represented the mother in the Children's Court at short notice and opposed both applications. The Magistrate declined to make the orders sought by DoCS. We assisted the mother to obtain legal aid for ongoing representation in the case.
- **Successful victims compensation appeal**  
Our client had been in a relationship for several years with a man who subjected her to frequent incidences of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Victim Compensation Tribunal awarded our client \$10,000 for domestic violence. We appealed against this decision and the award was increased to \$25,000 for sexual assault.
- **Family law parenting case**  
Our solicitor successfully represented a client in a parenting case heard in the Federal Magistrates Court in Dubbo. The Family Report writer recommended the child live with his mother, our client. The child now lives with his mother.

## Community Legal Education and Community Programs

**Our Women's Group:** we organise monthly women's group meetings and during the year we covered a different range of topics and activities including:

- sexual assault and a DVD called "Shout it Loud"
- child protection
- domestic violence
- workers from Lightning Ridge Health spoke to the women on sexual health and women's health
- we worked with Barwon Cottage who participated and interacted with the women and did some scrap booking which the women were thrilled about
- one monthly women's group was held at Euragai Goondi. We showed the women how to make yum yum balls from an easy recipe with no mess
- we had a representative from the Walgett Shire Council come to talk about issues in the community and ask the women their views on what the Council can do to improve services

The feedback from our women's group was great with the women saying that the groups are very useful

and that they went home at the end of the session knowing what their rights were. They also said that they have a better understanding and knowledge of what we discussed with them in the group about the day's topic.



*Participants in the women's group*

Some comments were:

*"Thank you, I have learnt a lot and really enjoy coming to these groups."*

*"I've been telling more women to come to these groups as I've told them that they are fun and you have a lot of support."*

**Workshops in local schools:** Together with the Walgett 'Safe House', we held workshops in the local schools to students from kindergarden to year 6 and



*School children learning not to bully each other*

for girls and boys groups from years 7-8 and years 9-10 for 2008 on safety and feelings, bullying and respect.





## walgett family violence prevention legal service

### *walanbaa yinarr wharoo*

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

The topics were an introduction to family/ domestic violence. We received some great feedback from our workshops:



*Celebrating Children's Day*

*"The children run around in the playground and say that you cannot bully anyone cause that's bad hey Mr Xxxxx" - The school principal*

*"The children are always saying that they know who they can go to for help and show me their hands and tell me the 5 people who they can go to for help" - A teacher*

We contributed to **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day** where we set up an information table and did some activities with the school kids.

Staff attended the Sexual Assault Forum held at the Walgett Shire Council.

**Victims Services:** we attended a meeting with Victims Services about counselling and other issues with clients. We had been without a counsellor for all of 2008 and then we had the privilege of being appointed a new counsellor, Claire Woods, who travels from Dubbo to our service every fortnight to provide counselling to our clients who are victims/survivors of family violence / sexual assault.

**Child Protection week:** we attended and worked with local services for a celebration held at Gray Park for White Balloon Day for Child Protection Week.

Staff attended a **forum** about priorities for the women of Walgett Township.

All staff attended the **healthy eating book launch** held on the lawn of WAMS and the special guest was celebrity chef Mark Olive, better known as the Black Olive. We had a chance to meet him and he signed

autographs for us along with the menu books he gave to us and some bush herbs.

**Outreach:** We undertook a range of outreach visits including:

- Grawin Opal Fields
- Goodooga
- Bourke and Brewarrina
- Wanaaring and Grawin
- Weilmoringle,
- Lightning Ridge
- Collarenebri
- Enngonia.

**Reclaim the Night:** we organised and participated in the Reclaim the Night street march and later a BBQ held at Gray Park in Walgett.



*Reclaim the Night at Walgett*

**Dharriwaa Elders Group:** a community service announcement was held at the Walgett Sporting Club with messages from our elders against alcohol, drugs and abuse.

**Law Week:** staff attended and assisted with the Victims Services and Legal Aid talks during Law Week in Walgett

**Circle Sentencing:** our Community Development Officer sat on the Board of Circle Sentencing.



## bourke/brewarrina family violence prevention legal service

ABN: 88 002 387 699

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

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

The Bourke/Brewarrina Steering Committee meets monthly and provides support, guidance, leadership and commitment to local initiatives of the B/BFVPLS.

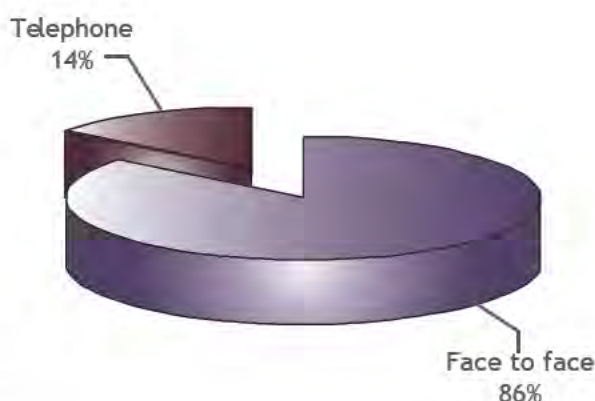
The Bourke/Brewarrina Family Violence Prevention Legal Service has had a turnover of staff in the last 12 months, however all staff have contributed to promoting the service within the local community and this has resulted in a considerable number of clients using the service.

### 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:

- **Separate VCT claims for DV and sexual assault**  
Solicitors represented a client who had been the victim of significant domestic violence and sexual abuse throughout her life. She was successful in victim's compensation claims for both domestic violence by an ex-partner and a separate child sexual assault claim.
- **Successful bail application**  
Our client had failed to appear at Bourke Local Court in response to a subpoena to give evidence as a victim of serious domestic violence. A warrant was issued for her arrest due to her failure to appear and she was remanded in police custody. There was a possibility that she would be in custody for 3 - 5 days until the matter could be heard. No legal representation was available to her through Legal Aid, ALS or other avenues. Our solicitors appeared for her and successfully argued that she be released on bail.

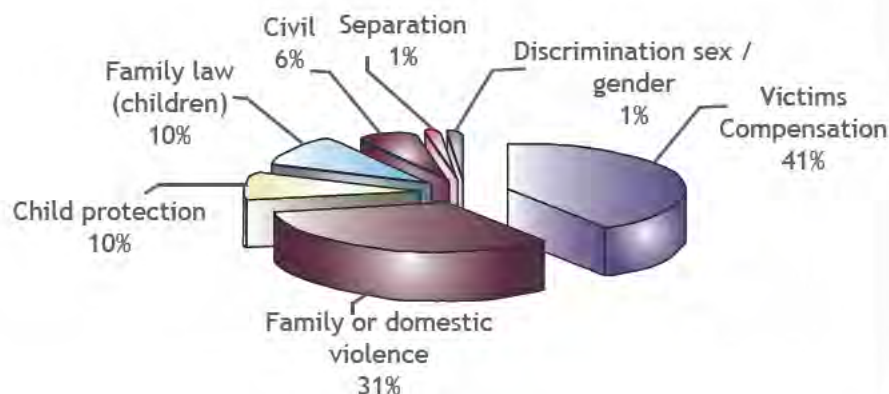
### THE WAYS OUR CLIENTS CONTACTED US FOR INITIAL ADVICE







MAIN AREAS OF LAW FOR CASES



- **Defending an ADVO that was based on false allegations**  
Police applied for an ADVO against our client for the protection of her ex-partner, who had been charged with domestic violence offences against our client, on the basis of allegations that she committed malicious damage to his property. We were instructed the allegations were false and represented our client in court. The application against our client was dismissed.

### Promoting Service with Community Focus

The B/BFVPLS promotes its service to all ages within all communities in the area.

**Indigenous Women's Gathering:** we initiated this forum for Aboriginal women to meet regularly to identify and implement strategies to address community issues.

#### NAIDOC Celebrations:

- St Ignatius School, Bourke Public School and Bourke High School combined for this day. Our staff attended to show support for the community. We had lunch with the teachers and discussed future community legal education.
- Fun Day in the park with DoCS and other services. B/BFVPLS provided promotional bags for boys and girls.

**Dunbi Place:** We networked and helped organise Certificates for the Indigenous awards night.

**Alcohol Forum:** Staff attended this forum to gather information and community concerns around alcohol abuse in Bourke for recommendations.

**David Peachy Knockout:** B/BFVPLS sponsored 2 women's teams and donated shirts and promotional bags with our service information in them.

**Yaamma Festival:** B/BFVPLS sponsored the Golf Tournament by donating shirts and promotional bags with our service information in them.

**Pink Ribbon Day:** An event was held in the park to raise awareness of Breast Cancer. Staff attended and raised awareness of our service.

**Women's Group:** All staff facilitated and participated in a 3-day women's group at TAFE. All topics of women's issues were discussed.

**White Ribbon Day:** Staff handed out white ribbons and explained what they represent.

**Behind Closed Doors:** Staff attended a 3 day forum on domestic violence.





**Violence Against Older Women:** This committee met with staff to talk about ongoing issues with the elderly and how they can be addressed.

**Sexual Assault Unit:** we met with Bourke Hospital CEO about the Sexual Assault Unit.

**Outreach to Enngonia:** we visited Enngonia to meet with locals in the community, meet with the local police and also the principal of the local school to tell them about our service and what services we can provide and to set up a community legal education event.

**Human Rights Consultation:** we participated in the Bourke meeting as part of the national consultation on a human rights charter for Australia.

### Committees/Memberships

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

- Law & Justice Committee.
- Working Party Meeting.
- CDAT (Community Drug and Alcohol Team)
- Interagency Meeting
- Family Support
- DV Interagency
- Dunbi/Refuge meetings.



## 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, such as sexual assault trials and family law proceedings. It sets out the law and procedure in the areas, 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 objections. The guide also provides reference to additional 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]

### A 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 - 8<sup>th</sup> Edition 2007

An essential tool to assist women to understand the law as it impact on their relationships with partners and children. The 8th Edition reflects the current status of Family Law up to March 2009. [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. It also contains vital information about child sexual assault. [5]

### Women Out West

Women Out West was an innovative project initiated by WLS 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 III Report

A Conference on Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities  
15 - 19 October 2007  
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 who are 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 experiences 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 pictorial pamphlet provides advice to women about the telephone legal services of Women's Legal Services 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.

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. [10]



### 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]



### Working with Interpreters in Legal Settings

We have a poster and checklist available. [13]

### Ordering Publications

Please download order forms at:  
[www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au](http://www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au)  
For further information please call  
Ana Sastrias on (02) 9749 7700





## treasurer's report

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW



I am pleased to present the 2008-2009 audited Financial Statements of Women's Legal Resources Limited, trading as Women's Legal Services New South Wales. Thank you to Mark Schiliro and

his staff for their detailed work on the Audited Statements and for their advice.

Our core income for services was received from the Commonwealth Government through the Attorney General's Department, and from the New South Wales and Commonwealth Governments through the Legal Aid Commission of NSW.

In brief, income was made up of:

- Women's Legal Resource Centre Program - \$657,830
- Outreach Program - \$180,351
- Indigenous Women's Program - \$276,320
- Domestic Violence Advocacy Service Program - \$400,120
- Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service - \$542,840
- Bourke/Brewarrina Family Violence Prevention Legal Service - \$448,300
- WLS NSW also received law reform project income through Women's Legal Services Australia.

I would like to acknowledge with thanks the continuing support provided by the New South Wales and Commonwealth Governments, and to extend our appreciation to the program officers who have worked with us during the year.

During 2007-2008 the Board made a commitment to review wages and employment conditions and set aside provisions to support the outcomes of that review. The Board and Staff continued to work on this review during 2008-2009 and look forward to finalising new employment arrangements. Additional provision has been included in the current year.

This has been a year of significant organisational review and change, placing additional responsibilities on Staff and the Board and I would like to thank everyone for their skill and dedication to WLS NSW. I would particularly like to acknowledge the Board's appreciation of the contribution of our accounting staff, whose skill and thoroughness are so essential to effective management and to developing our services.

Rhonda Fadden  
*Treasurer*



## WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

Your directors present this report on the company and its controlled entities for the financial year ended 30 June 2009.

**Directors**

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

Danaë Harvey  
Rhonda Fadden  
Sophie Clarke  
Regina Graycar  
Debra Maher  
Jane Wangmann

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

**Operating Results**

The profit of the economic entity for the financial year amounted to \$0 (2008: loss \$671).

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

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Operating profit/(loss) for the year	-	(671)
Income	2,777,886	3,486,168
Expenditure	2,777,886	3,486,839

**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.



## director's report

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### Significant Changes in State of Affairs

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

### Future Developments

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

### Environmental Issues

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

### Dividends Paid or Recommended

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

### Options

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

### Insurance of Directors

During the financial year, the entity has given indemnity and paid insurance premiums to insure directors against liabilities for costs and expenses incurred by them in defending any legal proceedings arising out of the conduct of the entity 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

### Danaë Harvey

#### *Qualifications*

### Director - Chairperson

BA (Hons) LL.B

Admitted as a Legal Practitioner of the Supreme Court of NSW and the High Court of Australia (1992)

#### *Experience*

Assessor, Small Claim Division Local Court (2003 - current)

Member of Consumer Trader and Tenancy Tribunal (2002 - current)

Member, Mental Health Review Tribunal (2005 -2008)

Principal Solicitor with Illawarra Community Centre (1995 - 2002)

Senior Solicitor with Hunter Community Legal Centre (1991 - 1995)



**Rhonda Fadden***Qualifications**Experience***Director - Treasurer**

BAgrSc, M Policy Studies, Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults

Management, administration, policy and representative roles and board positions in community health and legal service organisations including with Community Legal Centres peaks; policy roles as a consultant and in government positions.  
TESOL teacher.

**Sophie Clarke***Qualification**Experience***Director - Secretary**

BA (Hons.) LLB

Legal and Project Officer, Community Services, Department of Housing (2007 - present)  
Socio-Legal Researcher, Law and Justice Foundation of NSW (2005 - 2006)

**Regina Graycar***Qualifications**Experience***Director**

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

Full-time Commissioner, NSW Law Reform Commission (1998-2002)  
Professor of Law, University of Sydney (since 1997)  
Previously Professor of Law University of NSW

**Debra Maher***Qualifications**Experience***Director**

Bachelor of Legal Studies  
Accredited Specialist Criminal Law  
Admitted as a Legal Practitioner since February 1995

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

**Jane Wangmann***Qualifications:**Experience:***Director**

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

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



## auditor's independence declaration

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

### Meetings of Directors

During the financial year, 12 meetings of the Board of Directors were held. Attendances were:

#### *Board of Directors' Meetings*

	<i>Number eligible to attend</i>	<i>Number attended</i>
Danaë Harvey	12	12
Rhonda Fadden	12	11
Sophie Clarke	12	9
Regina Graycar	12	7
Debra Maher	12	6
Jane Wangmann	12	9

### Auditor's Independence Declaration

The lead auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2009 has been received and can be found on page 41 of the directors' report.

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

Director

Director

Dated this

4<sup>th</sup>

day of November 2009



## 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 2009 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.

MNSA CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

  
.....  
**MARK SCHILIRO**  
**PARTNER**

DATED THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2009 AT SYDNEY





## income statement

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

### WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

#### INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

#### CLASSIFICATION OF EXPENSES BY FUNCTION

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>Operating revenue from ordinary activities</b>	2	2,777,886	3,486,168
Service expenses		396,005	843,950
Occupancy expenses		152,725	158,858
Administration expenses		149,891	200,913
Employment & contract expenses		2,071,512	2,269,418
Financing expenses		377	15
Depreciation Expenses		7,376	13,685
		-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>2,777,886</b>	<b>3,486,839</b>
Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities before income tax expense	9	-	(671)
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities		-	-
Net profit/(loss) from ordinary activities after income tax	9	-	(671)
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year		42,005	42,676
<b>Retained profits at the end of the financial year</b>		<b>42,005</b>	<b>42,005</b>



## WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	1,249,877	941,438
Trade and other receivables	4	24,712	32,932
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,274,589</b>	<b>974,370</b>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	5	750,726	733,953
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>750,726</b>	<b>733,953</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>2,025,315</b>	<b>1,708,323</b>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	6	1,411,555	1,110,696
Short-term provisions	7	363,887	370,772
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,775,442</b>	<b>1,481,468</b>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Long term borrowings	8	63	100
Long-term provisions	7	62,381	39,326
		62,444	39,426
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>62,444</b>	<b>39,426</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,837,886</b>	<b>1,520,894</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>187,429</b>	<b>187,429</b>
EQUITY			
Special Reserve		145,424	145,424
Retained Profits	9	42,005	42,005
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>187,429</b>	<b>187,429</b>



# statement of recognised income and expenditure

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

## WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

### STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	Note	Retained Earnings \$	Special Reserve \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2007</b>		42,676	145,424	188,100
Profit attributable to entity	9	(671)	-	(671)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2008</b>		42,005	145,424	187,429
Profit/(loss) attributable to entity	9	-	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2009</b>		42,005	145,424	187,429





## WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

# CASH FLOW STATEMENT

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>Cash Flow from Operating Activities</b>			
Receipts from grants		2,434,929	3,046,291
Other receipts		(270,581)	(859,962)
Interest received		72,378	76,162
Interest paid		-	-
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,904,100)	(2,083,026)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	10(b)	332,624	179,465
<b>Cash Flow from Investing Activities</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(24,149)	-
Repayment of borrowings		(36)	40
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(24,185)	40
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>		308,439	179,505
Cash at 1 July 2008		941,438	761,933
Cash at 30 June 2009	10(a)	1,249,877	941,438



### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

#### 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, 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 as indicated less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

#### Property

There was no revaluation of land and buildings during the year.

#### Plant and equipment

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

#### Depreciation

All assets, excluding freehold land and buildings, 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.

Asset classes 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.

**(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.

Additional provision has been included in the current year due to the staff salary review currently under negotiation and not yet settled as at the signing date of this financial report.

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





## notes to the financial statements

### (h) Revenue

Grant revenue is recognised in the income statement when the entity obtains control of the grant. 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 floating 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 balance sheet 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.

### (k) Provisions

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

Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at reporting date.

## NOTE 2 - REVENUE

	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Grants		
- Legal Aid Commission (Commonwealth)	818,065	802,025
- Legal Aid Commission (State)	696,556	943,276
- Fund carried forward from previous year - LAC	-	78,897
- Attorney General's Department - FVPLS	991,140	1,192,448
- Fund carried forward from previous year - FVPLS	-	145,631
- Less: Uncommitted / unspent funds	(70,833)	(123,486)
- Sundry Grants	-	7,500
	<u>2,434,928</u>	<u>3,046,291</u>
Other income		
- Interest received	72,378	76,163
- Donations	300	240
- Fees and contributions	80,059	91,500
- Costs recovered and retained	78,740	69,944
- Rental income	86,300	91,860
- Sales of publications and merchandise	2,787	4,116
- Referral Fees	4,182	14,182



## notes to the financial statements

- Fund from previous provisions and from WLRC Ltd	-	54,092
- Law Reform - Women's Legal Services Australia	18,212	37,780
<b>Total other income</b>	342,958	439,877
	<u>2,777,886</u>	<u>3,486,168</u>

### NOTE 3 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Cash at bank	29,926	19,422
Cash on deposit	1,219,451	921,516
Cash on hand	500	500
	<u>1,249,877</u>	<u>941,438</u>

### NOTE 4 - TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Trade receivables	5,670	11,600
Deposits / Bonds	1,200	1,200
Prepayments	17,842	20,132
	<u>24,712</u>	<u>32,932</u>

### NOTE 5 - PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Building - at cost	717,480	717,480
Plant & equipment - at cost	92,572	68,423
Less accumulated depreciation	(59,326)	(51,950)
	<u>750,726</u>	<u>733,953</u>

### Movements in Carrying Amounts

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

	Property, Plant and Equipment	Total
<b>2008</b>		
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	<u>733,953</u>	<u>733,953</u>
<b>2009</b>		
Balance at the beginning of year	733,953	733,953
Additions	24,149	24,149
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation Expense	(7,376)	(7,376)
Carrying amount at the end of year	<u>750,726</u>	<u>750,726</u>



## notes to the financial statements

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

### NOTE 6 - TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Trade payables	171,963	103,537
Uncommitted/ Unspent Grant Funds	422,927	380,782
Payroll liabilities	92,556	37,228
GST Payable	37,807	54,018
Employee benefits	686,302	535,131
	<u>1,411,555</u>	<u>1,110,696</u>

### NOTE 7 - PROVISION

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Provision for long service leave	28,952	36,151
Provision for locum fees	80,355	131,496
Provision for AWCN Consultation	33,522	33,522
Provision for research and reprint of publications	5,984	5,984
Provision for staff development	71,213	53,959
Provision for re-establishment	17,610	21,883
Provision for service evaluation	10,583	10,583
Provision for equipment replacement	80,355	50,342
Provision for Directors' planning meetings	25,313	16,435
Provision for legal expenses	10,000	10,000
Provision for other	-	417
	<u>363,887</u>	<u>370,772</u>
<b>Non-Current</b>		
Provision for Employees' LSL	62,381	39,326
	<u>62,381</u>	<u>39,326</u>

### 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

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
<b>Non-Current</b>		
National Australia Bank	42	20
National Australia Bank	21	80
	<u>63</u>	<u>100</u>



**NOTE 9 - RETAINED EARNINGS**

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

**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:

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Cash at bank	29,926	19,422
Cash on deposit	1,219,451	921,516
Cash on hand	500	500
	1,249,877	941,438

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

Profit from ordinary activities after income tax	-	(671)
Non cash flows		
Depreciation	7,376	13,685

**Changes in assets and liabilities**

Decrease / (Increase) in prepayments	2,291	(4,091)
Decrease / (Increase) in receivables	5,929	(11,031)
Increase / (Decrease) in provisions	167,341	299,958
Increase / (Decrease) in payables	149,687	(118,385)
Net cash provided by operating activities	332,624	179,465

(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

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

### 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 2009.

##### 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 2009, balance of long-term borrowings is \$63

##### *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*

There are no material amounts of collateral held as security at 30 June 2009.

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 receivables balances at 30 June 2009 and 30 June 2008 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.



## notes to the financial statements

	<i>Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate</i>		<i>Floating Interest Rate</i>		<i>Fixed Interest Rate Maturing</i>		<i>Non-interest Bearing</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	2009 %	2008 %	2009 \$	2008 \$	2009 \$	2008 \$	2009 \$	2008 \$	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>Financial assets</b>										
Cash at bank	0.01	0.10	30,147	19,922					30,147	19,922
Cash on deposit	3.05	6.80	1,219,730	921,516					1,219,730	921,516
Trade and other receivables							24,712	32,932	24,712	32,932
Investments										
<b>Total financial assets</b>			<b>1,249,877</b>	<b>941,438</b>			<b>24,712</b>	<b>32,932</b>	<b>1,274,588</b>	<b>974,370</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>										
Trade and sundry payables							171,963	103,537	171,964	103,537
Lease liability										
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>							<b>171,963</b>	<b>103,537</b>	<b>171,964</b>	<b>103,537</b>

Trade payables are expected to be paid as follows:

	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>Trade payables</b>		
Less than 6 months	119,400	94,639
6 months to 1 year	52,563	8,898
<b>Total trade payables</b>	<b>171,963</b>	<b>103,537</b>

### (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.





## notes to the financial statements

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

As at 30 June 2009, 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:

	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>Change in profit</b>		
— Increase in interest rate by 2%	24,997	18,827
— Decrease in interest rate by 2%	(24,997)	(18,827)
<b>Change in equity</b>		
— Increase in interest rate by 2%	24,997	18,827
— Decrease in interest rate by 2%	(24,997)	(18,827)

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.

## NOTE 12 - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### *New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods*

The AASB has issued new, revised and amended standards and interpretations that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods. The company has decided against early adoption of these standards. A discussion of those future requirements and their impact on the company is as follows:

- AASB 2008-11: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard — Business Combinations among Not-for-Profit Entities (applicable to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2009). These amendments make the requirements in AASB 3: Business Combinations applicable to business combinations among not-for-profit entities (other than restructures of local governments) that are not commonly controlled, and to include specific recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements in AASB 3 for restructures of local governments.
- AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 2007-8: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 101, and AASB 2007-10: Further Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 101 (all applicable to annual reporting periods commencing from 1 January 2009). The revised AASB 101 and amendments supersede the previous AASB 101 and redefines the composition of financial statements including the inclusion of a statement of comprehensive income. There will be no measurement or recognition impact on the company. If an entity has made a prior period adjustment or reclassification, a third balance sheet as at the beginning of the comparative period will be required.



- AASB 123: Borrowing Costs and AASB 2007-6: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 123 [AASB 1, AASB 101, AASB 107, AASB 111, AASB 116 and AASB 138 and Interpretations 1 and 12] (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing from 1 January 2009). The revised AASB 123 has removed the option to expense all borrowing costs and will therefore require the capitalisation of all borrowing costs directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset. Management has determined that there will be no effect on the company as a policy of capitalising qualifying borrowing costs has been maintained by the company.
- AASB 2008-2: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Puttable Financial Instruments and Obligations arising on Liquidation [AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 132 and AASB 139 and Interpretation 2] (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing from 1 January 2009). These amendments introduce an exception to the definition of a financial liability to classify as equity instruments certain puttable financial instruments and certain other financial instruments that impose an obligation to deliver a pro-rata share of net assets only upon liquidation.
- AASB 2008-5: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project (July 2008) (AASB 2008-5) and AASB 2008-6: Further Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project (July 2008) (AASB 2008-6) detail numerous non-urgent but necessary changes to accounting standards arising from the IASB's annual improvements project. No changes are expected to materially affect the company.
- AASB 2008-8: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Eligible Hedged Items [AASB 139] (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing from 1 July 2009). This amendment clarifies how the principles that determine whether a hedged risk or portion of cash flows is eligible for designation as a hedged item should be applied in particular situations and is not expected to materially affect the company.
- AASB 2008-13: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 17 – Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners [AASB 5 and AASB 110] (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing from 1 July 2009). This amendment requires that non-current assets held for distribution to owners to be measured at the lower of carrying value and fair value less costs to distribute.
- AASB Interpretation 15: Agreements for the Construction of Real Estate (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing from 1 January 2009). Under the interpretation, agreements for the construction of real estate shall be accounted for in accordance with AASB 111 where the agreement meets the definition of 'construction contract' per AASB 111 and when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the work in progress transfer to the buyer continuously as construction progresses. Where the recognition requirements in relation to construction are satisfied but the agreement does not meet the definition of 'construction contract', revenue is to be accounted for in accordance with AASB 118. Management does not believe that this will represent a change of policy to the company.
- AASB Interpretation 16: Hedges of a Net Investment in a Foreign Operation (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing from 1 October 2008). Interpretation 16 applies to entities that hedge foreign currency risk arising from net investments in foreign operations and that want to adopt hedge accounting. The interpretation provides clarifying guidance on several issues in accounting for the hedge of a net investment in a foreign operation and is not expected to impact the company.
- AASB Interpretation 17: Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing from 1 July 2009). This guidance applies prospectively only



## notes to the financial statements

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

and clarifies that non-cash dividends payable should be measured at the fair value of the net assets to be distributed where the difference between the fair value and carrying value of the assets is recognised in profit or loss.

- AASB Interpretation 18: Transfers of Assets from Customers (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing from 1 July 2009). This guidance applies prospectively to entities that receive transfers of assets, such as plant and equipment, from their customers in order to connect customers to a network and provide them with access to a supply of goods or services. The Interpretation outlines the appropriate accounting treatment in respect of such transfers.

The company does not anticipate early adoption of any of the above reporting requirements and does not expect them to have any material effect on the company's financial statements.

### 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 2009 the number of members was 54.

### NOTE 14 - AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Remuneration of the auditor for:		
- auditing or reviewing the financial report	7,260	6,600
- other services	7,150	6,500
	<u>14,410</u>	<u>13,100</u>

### 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 2009 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:







WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED  
ABN 88 002 387 699

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

THE DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY DECLARE THAT:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 37 to 66, are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*:
  - a. comply with Accounting Standards; and
  - b. give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2009 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the 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 4<sup>th</sup> day of November 2009



### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S 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 2009 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 4th November 2009, would be in the same terms if provided to the directors as at the date of this auditor's report.



WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED  
ABN 88 002 387 699

**Auditor's Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Women's Legal Resources Limited as of 30 June 2009, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and the Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations).

MNSA  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

  
.....  
**MARK SCHILIRO**  
**PARTNER**

DATED THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2009 AT SYDNEY





## income statement

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

### WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Rental Income	86,300	91,860
Interest	22,228	21,513
Costs recovered and retained	50,940	63,741
Donation	300	-
Referral Fees	4,182	14,182
Other Income	14,944	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>178,894</b>	<b>191,296</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Salaries & Wages	102,564	114,275
Audit fees & accountancy	2,000	1,800
Directors' planning meetings	20,241	15,441
Legal & filing fees	601	979
Depreciation Expenses	7,376	13,685
Equipment / Asset Replacements	13,314	19,029
Rent	18,150	16,120
Bank Fees & Interest Expenses	377	15
Property insurance	1,866	852
Property repairs & maintenance	5,159	2,528
Rates & levies	7,246	6,665
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>178,894</b>	<b>191,389</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(93)</b>

**WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES CENTRE**

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission - Commonwealth	361,394	354,309
Legal Aid Commission - State	296,436	286,967
Funds carried forward from previous year	-	41,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>657,830</b>	<b>682,276</b>
Interest received	26,137	23,287
Donations	-	240
Fees and contributions received	80,060	91,500
Cost recovered and retained	8,356	3,552
Sale of books and publications	2,787	3,078
Law Reform - Women's Legal Services Australia	18,212	37,780
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>135,552</b>	<b>159,437</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>793,382</b>	<b>841,713</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Employee related		
Salaries & wages	620,788	622,331
Superannuation	52,947	54,377
Workers' compensation insurance	5,562	5,747
Staff conferences, training and development	12,372	12,382
Staff recruitment	361	6,088
	<b>692,030</b>	<b>700,925</b>
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	5,600	1,384
Committee expenses	1,055	2,057
Communication (Telephone & Internet)	15,191	14,465
Community education & travel	15,368	15,277
Service promotion & other expenses	1,772	2,713
Law Reform - Women's Legal Services Australia	-	37,780
	<b>38,986</b>	<b>73,676</b>
Other operating expenses		
Audit fees & accountancy	6,000	5,000
Bank charges	426	383
Computer running costs	3,453	3,461
Equipment repairs and maintenance	2,158	2,494
Insurance	4,774	3,724
Library, resources & subscriptions	5,906	6,301
Office amenities	2,972	3,167
Office maintenance	5,474	5,354
Postage & freight	3,038	2,830
Printing & stationery	5,890	7,818
Rent and accommodation	20,000	20,000
Utilities	2,275	1,939
Capital expenditure	-	5,000
	<b>62,366</b>	<b>67,471</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>793,383</b>	<b>842,072</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(359)</b>



## income statement

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

### INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S PROGRAM

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission	276,320	270,901
Funds carried forward from previous year	-	26,200
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>276,320</b>	<b>297,101</b>
Interest received	7,882	7,616
Cost recovered and retained	4,140	1,329
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>12,022</b>	<b>8,945</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>288,342</b>	<b>306,046</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Employee related		
Salaries and wages	182,690	185,943
Superannuation	16,051	15,574
Workers' compensation insurance	1,747	1,644
Staff conferences, training and development	4,298	4,132
Staff recruitment	142	4,005
	<b>204,928</b>	<b>211,298</b>
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	616	1,469
Committee expenses	263	359
Communication (Telephone & Internet)	6,568	5,781
Community education & travel	10,818	17,618
AWCN Expense	7,795	12,059
Management fees	25,000	25,000
Service promotion & other expenses	2,581	2,040
	<b>53,641</b>	<b>64,326</b>
Other operating expenses		
Audit fees & accountancy	2,000	1,500
Bank charges	207	178
Computer running costs	2,008	2,268
Equipment repairs and maintenance	1,021	2,405
Insurance	1,876	1,819
Library, resources & subscriptions	2,302	2,687
Office amenities	1,107	1,051
Office maintenance	2,553	2,605
Postage & freight	1,224	1,387
Printing & stationery	4,061	4,017
Rent and accommodation	10,400	9,660
Utilities	1,014	853
	<b>29,773</b>	<b>30,430</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>288,342</b>	<b>306,054</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(8)</b>

**OUTREACH PROGRAM**

## INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission	180,351	176,815
Funds carried forward from previous year	-	5,520
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>180,351</b>	<b>182,335</b>
Interest received	5,095	6,855
Cost Recovered and retained	-	852
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>5,095</b>	<b>7,707</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>185,446</b>	<b>190,042</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Employee related		
Salaries and wages	127,012	125,958
Superannuation	10,629	10,692
Workers' compensation insurance	1,120	1,121
Staff conferences, training and development	3,139	3,202
Staff recruitment	90	1,164
	<b>141,990</b>	<b>142,137</b>
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	2,535	2,645
Committee expenses	255	250
Communication (telephone & internet)	3,052	3,441
Community education & travel	6,658	8,700
Management Fees	11,000	11,000
Service promotion & other expenses	392	522
	<b>23,892</b>	<b>26,558</b>
Other operating expenses		
Audit fees & accountancy	1,800	1,500
Bank charges	195	169
Computer running costs	1,460	1,472
Equipment repairs and maintenance	298	314
Insurance	1,194	1,455
Library, resources & subscriptions	2,317	2,170
Office amenities	597	610
Office maintenance	1,872	3,162
Postage & freight	651	873
Printing & stationery	2,072	2,613
Rent and accommodation	6,500	6,500
Utilities	608	547
	<b>19,564</b>	<b>21,385</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>185,446</b>	<b>190,080</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(38)</b>





## income statement

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NSW

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY SERVICE

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission - State	400,120	387,338
Funds carried forward from previous year	-	6,177
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>400,120</b>	<b>393,515</b>
Interest received	11,035	10,663
Cost Recovered and retained	360	470
Sale of books and publications	-	909
Fund from WLRC Ltd	-	4,092
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>11,395</b>	<b>16,134</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>411,515</b>	<b>409,649</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Employee related expenses		
Salaries and wages	312,513	307,484
Superannuation	27,426	26,120
Workers' compensation insurance	2,982	2,844
Staff conferences, training and development	6,085	6,368
Staff recruitment	1,218	2,012
	<b>350,224</b>	<b>344,828</b>
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	929	2,000
Committee expenses	341	553
Communication (telephone & internet)	8,156	8,050
Community education & travel	9,330	11,110
Service promotion and other expenses	896	1,199
	<b>19,652</b>	<b>22,912</b>
Other operating expenses		
Audit fees & accountancy	3,500	3,000
Bank charges	328	290
Computer running costs	2,429	3,123
Equipment repairs & maintenance	2,918	3,747
Insurance	2,728	2,346
Library, resources & subscriptions	4,119	4,217
Office amenities	1,516	1,171
Office maintenance	3,121	3,491
Postage & freight	2,027	1,653
Printing & stationery	4,457	4,900
Rent and accommodation	13,000	13,000
Utilities	1,497	1,144
	<b>41,640</b>	<b>42,082</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>411,516</b>	<b>409,822</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(173)</b>

**WALGETT FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICE**

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Attorney General's Funds		
Operational	542,840	473,870
Capital	-	337,028
Funds carried forward from previous years	-	35,607
Less: Unspent Funds	(28,629)	(57,000)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>514,211</b>	<b>789,505</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Employee related expenses		
Salaries and wages	283,648	275,630
Superannuation	25,628	24,226
Workers' Compensation insurance	2,959	2,760
Staff conferences, training and development	4,733	5,000
Staff recruitment	941	2,232
	317,909	309,848
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	4,847	6,186
Committee / meeting expenses	2,159	1,527
Consultants / debriefing	3,875	-
Communication (telephone & internet)	6,215	6,117
Management fees	22,569	26,000
Service promotion	1,433	2,657
Travel & accommodation	45,810	51,554
Motor vehicle	4,977	5,635
CLE Project	51,825	-
	143,710	99,676
Other operating expenses		
Bank charges	298	398
Auditing & Accounting	1,500	-
Computer running costs	2,948	2,094
Equipment repairs & maintenance	4,509	3,141
Insurance	3,410	2,649
Library, resources & subscriptions	6,781	5,407
Office amenities	1,955	1,873
Office maintenance	7,318	8,170
Postage, courier & freight	976	1,081
Printing & stationery	4,876	3,416
Rent and accommodation	15,600	15,600
Utilities	2,421	2,321
Capital expenditure	-	333,832
	52,592	379,982
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>514,211</b>	<b>789,505</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>



## income statement

### BOURKE / BREWARRINA FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICE

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Attorney General's Funds		
Operational	448,300	393,676
Capital Funding	-	5,874
Funds carried forward from previous years	-	92,024
Less: Unspent Funds	(42,204)	-
Sundry Grants	-	7,500
Funds from WLS NSW Provisions	-	50,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,500</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>406,096</b>	<b>549,074</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Employee related expenses		
Salaries and wages	230,894	265,684
Superannuation	20,764	21,089
Workers' Compensation insurance	2,542	2,437
Staff conferences, training and development	4,488	5,064
Staff recruitment	3,184	2,639
	<b>261,872</b>	<b>296,913</b>
Service expenses		
Client disbursements	4,933	8,849
Consultants / debriefing	3,654	-
Committee expenses	1,077	1,118
Communication (telephone & internet)	6,362	4,168
Management fees	21,490	17,500
Service promotion	2,022	2,056
Travel & accommodation	49,195	47,357
Motor vehicle	7,148	6,393
Child Sexual Assault Conference	-	97,363
	<b>95,881</b>	<b>184,804</b>
Other operating expenses		
Bank charges	293	255
Computer running costs	851	2,016
Equipment repairs & maintenance	1,328	2,147
Insurance	3,069	2,683
Library, resources & subscriptions	5,789	5,691
Office amenities	2,526	1,212
Office maintenance	5,239	23,000
Postage, courier & freight	1,143	955
Printing & stationery	4,826	5,919
Rent and accommodation	20,800	15,600
Utilities	2,479	2,005
Capital expenditure	-	5,874
	<b>48,343</b>	<b>67,357</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>406,096</b>	<b>549,074</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>







