

**Women's Legal Services NSW would like to acknowledge the
Wongal and Burramattagal people who are the
traditional owners of the land on which we work.**





women's legal resources ltd



Trading as

Women's Legal Services NSW

and incorporating

Women's Legal Resources Centre (WLRC)

Indigenous Women's Legal Program (IWLP)

Domestic Violence Legal Service (DVLS)

PO Box 206

Lidcombe NSW 1825

Administration line: 02 8745 6900

Fax: 02 9749 4433

Email: reception@wlsnsw.org.au

Web: www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au

Office hours: 9:00am - 4:30pm (Monday to Friday)

Telephone advice services

Women's Legal Contact Line:

8745 6988

1800 801 501

Mondays

9:30 - 12:30

Tuesdays

1:30 - 4:30

Thursdays

9:30 - 12:30

Provides free confidential legal information and referrals for women in NSW with a focus on family law, domestic violence, sexual assault and discrimination. Advice may be given by appointment.

Domestic Violence Legal Advice Line:

8745 6999

1800 810 784

Mondays:

1:30 - 4:30

Tuesdays:

9:30 - 12:30

Thursdays

1:30 - 4:30

Fridays

9:30 - 12:30

Provides free confidential legal information, advice and referrals for women in NSW with a focus on domestic violence and Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders.

Indigenous Women's Legal Contact Line:

8745 6977

1800 639 784

Mondays

10:00 - 12:30

Tuesdays

10:00 - 12:30

Thursdays

10:00 - 12:30

Provides free confidential legal information, advice and referrals for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in NSW with a focus on domestic violence, sexual assault, parenting issues, family law, discrimination and victim's compensation.

Outreach advice clinics

Blacktown

every second Friday

Phone: 02 9831 2070

Fairfield

every second Thursday

Phone: 02 9726 4044

Liverpool

every second Thursday

Phone: 02 9601 3555

Penrith

every second Tuesday

Phone: 02 4721 8749

Local courts domestic violence duty work

Blacktown

every Wednesday

Mt Druitt

every second Monday

Penrith

once a month on Tuesday

Family Relationship Centres

Blacktown

once a month

Penrith

once a month



contents

Our vision, our values	Inside Cover
Chairperson's report	4
Our personnel	5
Pro bono services	6
Our staff photos	7
We provided legal advice and representation	9
We educated women about the law	15
We advocated for changes to law and legal processes	19
Indigenous Women's Legal Program	24
Our publications	28

Annual Audited Accounts and Financial Statements

Treasurer's report	30
Director's report	31
Auditor's independence declaration	36
Statement of comprehensive income	37
Statement of financial position	38
Statement of recognised income and expenditure	39
Cash flow statement	40
Notes to the financial statements	41
Director's declaration	51
Independent auditor's report	52
Auditor's opinion	53
Statements of comprehensive income	54



chairperson's report

This has been another great year for WLS. We have continued the review and restructure of the organisation to ensure we use the resources we have in the most effective way and reach the most disadvantaged women.

During this time, WLS has continued to provide strategic casework, law reform and community education and development services to women across NSW. Janet Loughman, the Principal Solicitor, leads an exceptional team of dedicated staff – who, working together, provided an impressive array of services.

We provided 364 information and referral services and 1,523 legal advices to women during the year either by phone or face-to-face at nine outreach advice clinics, family relationship centres and local courts in Western Sydney. We represented women in 255 cases. We have undertaken 106 community education and 100 law reform projects.

We have continued to provide assistance for those seeking the protection of the Sexual Assault Communications Privilege through our training and resource guides.

Our community education work has focussed on serving the needs of the most disadvantaged women, including working with Aboriginal Women in Bourke and Brewarrina on advocacy for their human rights. We have also undertaken education in Australian family and domestic violence law for recently arrived migrant and refugee women in regional and rural NSW.

We have responded to state and federal inquiries into family and domestic violence law. We have made submissions that emphasise the need to harmonise legal systems to make them more accessible for women in need of protection when facing family breakdown.

We also continued the LEAP for women project which takes community legal education and advice to women in prison. We did this in spite of receiving no further funding for this project.

This Annual Report gives an overview of these and other achievements of WLS.

My thanks to the Board; Emily Winborne, Sue Knox Davis, Natasha Case, Janette Prichard, Lee-May Saw, Shirley Southgate, Belinda Louis, Denele Crozier, Louise Goodchild, Lizzie Simpson and Anusha Duray.

On behalf of the the Board I would like to acknowledge the members of the Aboriginal Women's Consultation Network:

Vicki Dennison, Anusha Duray, Elsie Gordon, Christine Robinson, Tina West, and Sheree Drylee. Thanks to the contribution of these wonderful women we can improve the cultural appropriateness of our services for women and children across NSW.

Our work 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, Anne Cregan and her colleagues at Ashurst, Anton Hermann from Minter Ellison and Nicolas Patrick from DLA Piper. There are also a large number of pro bono solicitors and barristers who provide an incredible amount of assistance to our staff and clients. Thank you all for your support.

To all those who have contributed to the work of Women's Legal Services NSW, 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.

Sara Blazey Chairperson



Sara Blazey, Chairperson



our personnel

During 2011/2012

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sara Blazey	<i>Chairperson</i>
Sue Knox Davis	<i>Treasurer until 30 November 2011</i>
Emily Winborne	<i>Secretary</i>
Natasha Case	<i>retired 30 November 2011</i>
Janette Prichard	<i>retired 30 November 2011</i>
Lee-May Saw	<i>retired 30 November 2011</i>
Shirley Southgate	<i>resigned 2 May 2012</i>
Anusha Duray	
Belinda Louis	<i>Treasurer from 7 December 2011</i>
Denele Crozier	<i>from 30 November 2011</i>
Louise Goodchild	<i>from 30 November 2011</i>
Elizabeth Simpson	<i>from 30 November 2011</i>

ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S CONSULTATION NETWORK

Donna Hensen	<i>Coordinator, Indigenous Women's Legal Program,</i>
Shannon Williams	<i>Program Officer, Indigenous Women's Legal Program,</i>
Vicki Dennison	<i>Aboriginal Women's Representative, Armidale</i>
Anusha Duray	<i>CDEP Reform Manager, Buyinbin Aboriginal Corporation</i>
Aunty Elsie Gordon	<i>TAFE NSW</i>
Christine Robinson	<i>Coordinator, Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre</i>
Tina West	<i>Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Service</i>
Sheree Drylee	<i>DV Service, Taree</i>

STAFF

Management

Helen Campbell	<i>Executive Officer</i>
Janet Loughman	<i>Principal Solicitor</i>
Kim Ly	<i>Management Accountant</i>

INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S LEGAL PROGRAM

Donna Hensen	<i>Co-ordinator</i>
Shannon Williams	<i>Program Officer</i>
Mary Frail	<i>Community Access worker (until 28 June 2012)</i>
Ingrid Giles	<i>Solicitor (from 4 June 2012)</i>

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

Natalie Neumann	<i>Community Legal Education Co-ordinator</i>
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LAW REFORM

Edwina MacDonald	<i>Law Reform and Policy Co-ordinator (until 10 February 2012)</i>
Liz Snell	<i>(from 29 February 2012)</i>

SOLICITORS

Janet Loughman	<i>Principal Solicitor</i>
Carolyn Jones	<i>Senior Solicitor</i>
Felicity Martin	<i>Senior Solicitor (until 7 October 2011)</i>
Rebecca Frost (Hitchcock)	<i>Solicitor,</i>
	<i>Senior Solicitor from 29 February 2012</i>
Alicia Jillard	<i>Solicitor</i>
Cecilia Lee	<i>Solicitor</i>
Maha Najjarine	<i>Solicitor</i>
Louisa Stewart	<i>Solicitor</i>
Mari Vagg	<i>Solicitor</i>
Laura McLaren	<i>Solicitor, Seconded from Freehills (from 14 March 2011 to 30 September 2011)</i>
Angie McClung	<i>Solicitor, Seconded from Gilbert + Tobin (from 31 January 2012 to 20 April 2012)</i>



our personnel



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Kim Ly	<i>Management Accountant</i>
Da Phy	<i>Accounts clerk (until 18 July 2012)</i>
Lita Chiv	<i>Accounts clerk (from 10 August 2011)</i>
Daryna Ieth	<i>Receptionist</i>
Kuny Chhor	<i>Data entry</i>

CASUAL, CONTRACT AND LOCUM STAFF

Anastasia Polites	<i>Solicitor</i>
Tashina Orchiston	<i>Solicitor</i>
Brenda Staggs	<i>Solicitor</i>
Clare Jobson	<i>Solicitor</i>
Justine Field	<i>Solicitor</i>
Megan Cameron	<i>Solicitor</i>
Rebecca Ebel	<i>Solicitor</i>
Kate Duffy	<i>Solicitor, Domestic Violence Back-Up Service project</i>
Shara Turner	<i>Community Access Worker, Safe in Our Place project</i>

VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENTS

We would like to thank all our students and volunteers who give their time to help us to serve our clients. We appreciate your work.

Amelia Hensen	Jenny Mathesan	Melanie Becketl
Amy Davis	Jenny Zadel	Nalin Ouy
Alex Davis	Jin Oak	Rachael Lohrasby
Ariel Hay	Joan Gennery	Scarlet O'Toole
Charissa Sun	Judi Read	Shoshana Roebuck
Clare Sullivan	Kate Harris	Sotheany Vuth
Felicity Lee	Katy Hassanzadeh	Susan Ha
Georgie Herring	Kim Berry	Tasnim Saied
Greem Lim	Lauren Oliver	Xin Xin Shang
Hanh Ho	Lucy Hancock	
Jamilla Giaghazi	Margaret Fahey	

PRO BONO PARTNERS

Individual legal practitioners and firms continue to assist our clients by giving generously of their time by providing pro bono services. We value their contribution and acknowledge the difference they make in our ability to respond to unmet legal need in the community.

Annette Bain	<i>Freehills</i>
Anton Hermann	<i>Minter Ellison</i>
Anne Cregan	<i>Ashurst</i>
John Catsanos	<i>Henry Parkes Chambers</i>
David Hillard	<i>Clayton Utz</i>
Reg Graycar	<i>11th floor St James Hall Chambers</i>
Lorna Sproston	<i>Culwulla Chambers</i>
Suzanne Christie	<i>Culwulla Chambers</i>
Nicolas Patrick	<i>DLA Piper</i>
Michelle Hannon	<i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Helen Wall	<i>Henry Parkes Chambers</i>
Louise Goodchild	<i>Frederick Jordan Chambers</i>
Monica Neville	<i>Sir James Martin Chambers</i>
Sheridan Goodwin	<i>Samuel Griffith Chambers</i>
Michelle England	<i>Third Floor St James Hall</i>

Help with updating the sexual assault communications privilege guide:

Karen Willis	<i>NSW Rape Crisis Centre</i>
Tara Houseman and	
Duncan Cameron	<i>Parramatta UnitingCare Unifam Counselling and Meditation Service</i>
Jeremy Style	<i>NSW Aboriginal Legal Service</i>



our staff photos





our staff photos





we provided legal advice and representation

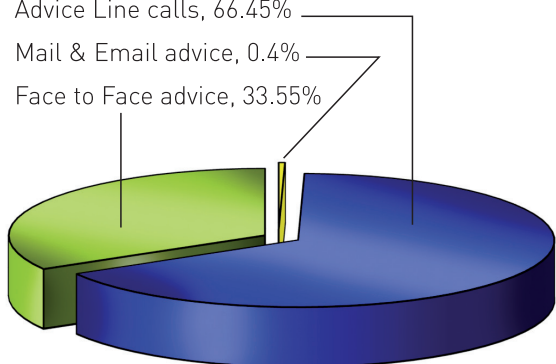
WLS NSW provided legal advice and court representation to the most disadvantaged women in our community. We provided 364 information and referral services and 1,523 legal advices to women during the year either by phone or face-to-face at 4 outreach advice clinic locations and 3 Local Courts in Western Sydney.

THE WAYS OUR CLIENTS CONTACTED US FOR INITIAL ADVICE

Advice Line calls, 66.45%

Mail & Email advice, 0.4%

Face to Face advice, 33.55%



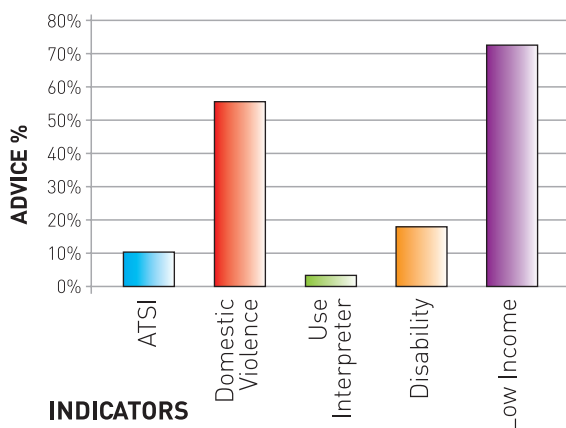
ADVO duty work

Our Domestic Violence Legal Service (DVLS) attended local courts in western Sydney on a weekly or fortnightly basis to represent women in Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) matters and provide associated advice. A solicitor regularly attended Mt Druitt, Penrith and Blacktown Local Courts. During the year we ceased our attendance at Sutherland Local Court and Campbelltown Local Court (both of which have Domestic Violence Practitioner Services funded by Legal Aid NSW).

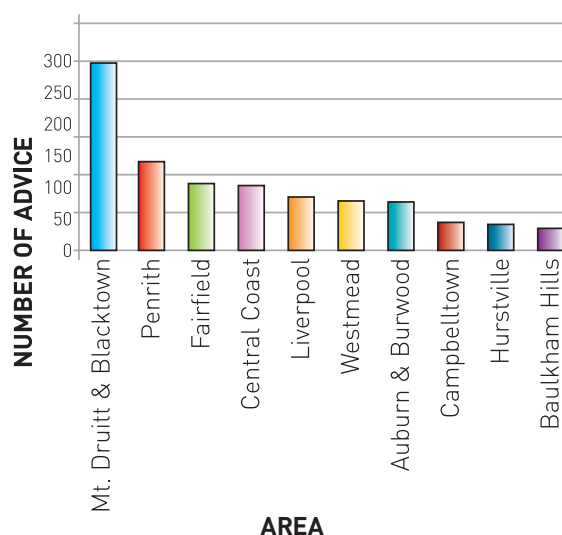
State-wide telephone advice services

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.

ADVICE GIVEN TO CLIENTS



TOP 10 AREAS FOR TELEPHONE ADVICE



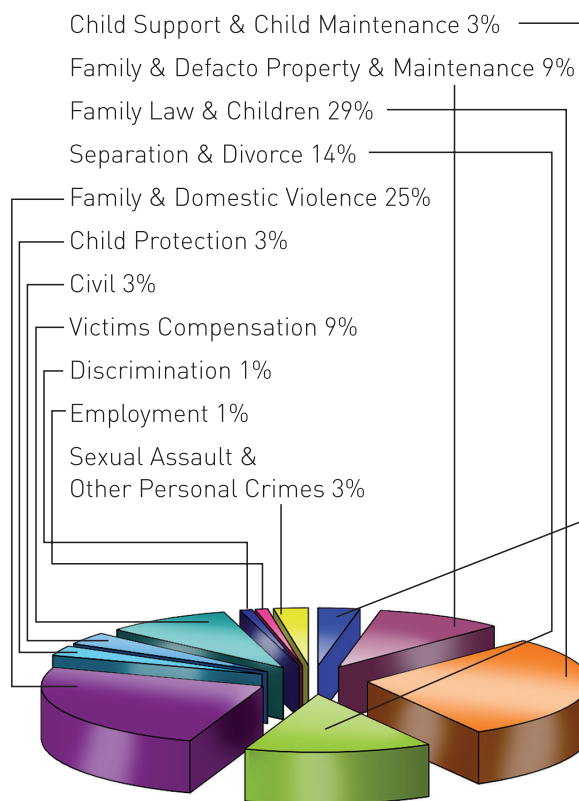


we provided legal advice and representation

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, Separation, Victims Compensation, Discrimination and other civil matters.

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

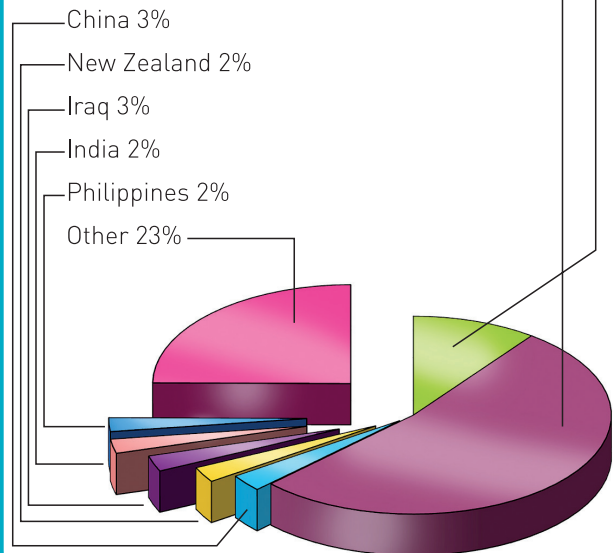
ADVISES BY AREA OF LAW



THE DIVERSITY OF OUR CLIENTS

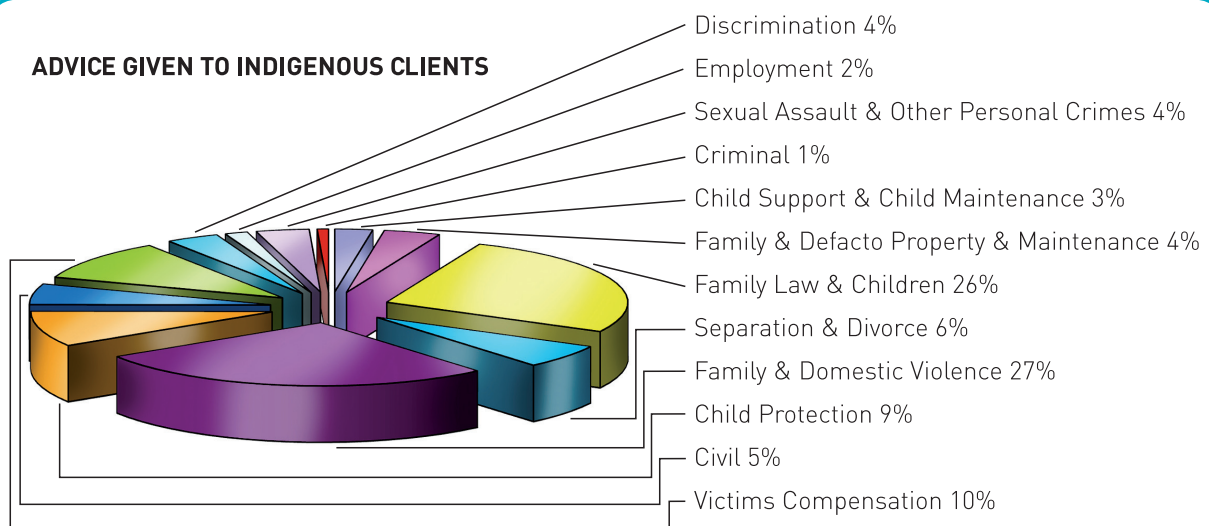
Australia: *Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander origin* 10%

Australia: *Indigenous Status Not Stated* 53%



Our Indigenous Women's Legal Contact Line is answered by an Aboriginal staff member who takes initial details from the client. She refers the call to our solicitors or in some cases to another appropriate service. Answering calls this way enables us to provide an accessible, responsive and culturally appropriate service for Aboriginal women throughout NSW. Areas of law that many Aboriginal women sought advice on in the last year were domestic violence, family law and children, victims compensation, and child protection.

ADVICE GIVEN TO INDIGENOUS CLIENTS





we provided legal advice and representation

Outreach Advice Clinics in western Sydney

We provided face-to-face legal advice through 4 Outreach Advice Clinics in western Sydney at Liverpool, Fairfield, Penrith and Blacktown.



Legal Assistance at Family Relationship Centres – Blacktown and Penrith FRCs

The additional Commonwealth funding to collaborate with Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre and Blacktown and Penrith Family Relationship Centres (FRCs) continues. We provided legal information sessions, advice clinics and lawyer assisted family dispute resolution in family law matters to women clients of the two FRCs.

LEAP for Women

We continued our work in the metropolitan women's prisons through the LEAP for Women (Legal Education and Advice in Prison) project. This collaborative initiative with Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre and Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre is now in its fourth year and has identified high level legal needs of women in prison. Our significant efforts to secure additional funding to provide this service continue and it remains a high priority need in terms of access to justice.

Casework

We represented women in 255 cases. These case studies provide examples of our casework:

Our client originally sought advice at one of our Women's Health Centre Outreaches in relation to another matter. During the course of the appointment the client disclosed that she had been repeatedly sexually assaulted by her father when she was a child.

We advised the client that it was not too late to make a report to the police and about the option of lodging a claim for victims compensation. We assisted her to make a report to the police and advocated with the police to progress the matter (it had been deprioritised as an "historical" matter). After several years the offender was charged with multiple sexual assault offences.

The matter proceeded to a hearing over four days in the District Court of NSW and the client gave evidence in court for two days. WLS continued to advise the client throughout this process. The jury ultimately returned a verdict of not guilty and the defendant was discharged however, the client informed us that despite the verdict she had felt empowered by the experience of giving evidence in court in front of the offender.

WLS also made an application for victims compensation which was determined after the criminal proceedings concluded. Our client was successful in her claim for "Category 3 Sexual Assault" and received compensation of \$37,500.

Karina had been in a relationship with a history of domestic violence. She had two children who had been in her sole care since she had left the relationship about 18 months ago. There were no family law arrangements for the children.*

Karina came to see our solicitor about 6 weeks after she had been taken into custody. She was very worried about what was happening with the children. After she entered custody one of her relatives agreed to look after the children, but Karina had recently been told that her ex-partner had come and taken the children back to his home, which was in another part of the state.

As a result of our advocacy Karina's relative was able to obtain family law advice about making an urgent application for orders in relation to the children and make related notifications about children at risk to Community Services.



Shuttle Legally Assisted Family Dispute Resolution

We represented a client in a legally assisted family dispute resolution (FDR) session at one of the Family Relationships Centres. Our client had experienced domestic violence during her relationship with her ex husband and continued to feel harassed and manipulated by him after their separation, particularly in relation to the children. She also had a current AVO for her protection. Prior to the option of lawyer assisted FDR, the Family Relationship Centre would likely have deemed this matter as inappropriate for FDR and issued a section 60I certificate, leaving our client with the option of filing an application for orders in the Family Court or continuing with the current unworkable arrangements. Lawyer assisted FDR gives clients an opportunity to try to reach an agreement at the Family Relationship Centre while being supported and represented by a solicitor.

Despite feeling prepared for the FDR session and wanting to try a less adversarial way of resolving the parenting arrangements, our client felt unable to sit in the same room with her ex husband to negotiate about the children. In light of this and our client's experiences, it was agreed that we would try a lawyer assisted shuttle FDR session.

At 5 hours duration, the FDR session was longer than most but in the end our client and her ex husband reached an agreement about their children. It is unlikely the parties would have been able to reach this agreement outside of legally assisted FDR due to the history of violence, high emotion and communication breakdown between the parties. Our client expressed the value of having a solicitor with her throughout the FDR session who was able to advise her on the proposals and assist with negotiations. She was also greatly relieved that she was able to reach an agreement without needing to go to Court and believed that the agreement gave both of them ownership over and commitment to it and this would ultimately be to the advantage of their children.

Case study: AA v Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages & BB [2011] NSWDC100.

This was an application under the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995 for our client to be named as the second legal parent on a child's birth certificate.

Our client and her same-sex de facto partner decided to have a baby with the help of a known sperm donor. Our client's partner was the birth mother and the baby was born in 2000. If the birth mother had been in a heterosexual relationship her male partner would have been recognised as the baby's other parent. However, until 2008, when the law changed to remove discrimination towards same-sex couples and thus recognised lesbian parents, the child had only one legal parent. Initially the birth mother was the only person named on the birth certificate, however the relationship between the couple and the donor deteriorated after the baby was born, and a few years later the donor's name was recorded on the child's birth certificate as part of an agreement to settle family law proceedings.

The case was an application under the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995 for our client to be named as the second legal parent on the child's birth certificate. The legislation was retrospective so after the amendments commenced our client was legally a parent, but she was in limbo because she couldn't give anyone a birth certificate with her name on it to prove that she was a parent. This was a problem on many levels but in particular there were practical difficulties because many agencies use birth certificates as evidence of who a child's parents are.

If the donor had agreed the child's birth record could have been corrected with a simple form, but because the donor would not consent a court order was needed. There is no ability for the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages to make an administrative decision on the issue.

Judge Walmsley made the orders our client sought, that is, for the donor's name to be removed and our client's name to be recorded on the birth register.

* Not her real name



we provided legal advice and representation

MEDIA mentions

Mari Vagg

Women's Legal Services

The case: It's an application under the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995* for my client to be named as second legal parent on a child's birth certificate. She and her de facto partner had a baby in 2000 with the help of a known sperm donor. If the partner, who was the birth mother, had been in a heterosexual relationship, her male partner would have been recognised as the baby's other parent, but until 2008 there was only one legal parent, the birth mother. Initially, only she was named on the birth certificate, but the relationship between the couple and the donor deteriorated, and a few years later his name was recorded as part of an agreement to settle family law proceedings.

How did you become involved?

We were contacted mid-2008 after the NSW government legislated to remove discrimination towards same-sex couples from a range of laws. It was retrospective, so my client was legally a parent. But she was in limbo – she couldn't give anyone the certificate with her name to prove it. You can run into issues with school enrolment and applying for a passport. If the donor had agreed, the birth record could have been corrected with a simple form, but he wouldn't, so a court order was needed. Judge Walmsley ordered that the donor's name be removed and my client's name recorded on the birth register.

Your reflections: The interest in the case shows how the law, and perhaps also the public, is struggling to keep up with the reality of what modern families look like. There are



many multi-parent families that cannot be legally recognised under current law.

How did the media treat the case?

My client and the birth mother decided it was not in their child's interests to have their family's private life dragged through the news. But the first article, on page 3 of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, named the adults and printed several photos. Although the child wasn't named, they live in a small town and the child goes to a small school, so there was no hiding. How traumatic for a ten-year-old. We obtained a suppression order, but the article had already spread across the web. It's a real issue that while there are protections in specific legislation, such as the *Family Law Act*, child protection legislation and so on, there is no automatic protection of children's privacy in general civil cases. Even the judge who made the original non-publication order expressed surprise about that. Most difficult has been the homophobic nature of much of the coverage – some of it truly awful. It's interesting that the case has been presented as a father losing his rights. People understand the role of a sperm donor when it comes to a heterosexual couple, but somehow many struggle when the partner is a woman. □

LAW SOCIETY JOURNAL 23

Pro bono partnerships

We continued to adjust to working as a smaller team after the significant reduction in our funding in 2010-11. Our colleagues in the pro bono sector provided an essential alternative service for many clients who approached us for representation where we did not have the capacity to respond. We made 35 'warm referrals' for representation in victims compensation matters for clients who would ordinarily meet our criteria for assistance. Also, Gilbert + Tobin provided us with a secondee for 3 months early in 2012 to assist on a large litigation case.

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 [See also separate Law Reform and Policy section].

Domestic violence trends and issues in NSW

The Standing Committee on Social Issues of the NSW Legislative Council held an Inquiry into domestic violence. Our advice and casework experience enabled us to make informed submissions, give evidence to the Inquiry and to contribute to a roundtable discussion on proposed recommendations.

Review of victims compensation scheme

The NSW government announced a review of the statutory scheme for victims compensation. For our clients, victims compensation can validate their very difficult disclosures of violence and provide some sense of accountability and acknowledgement by the community of the harm done and impact on their lives. Many of our clients are Aboriginal women and claims include long histories of domestic violence or child sexual assault. The compensation awards, although not large amounts of money by today's standards, provide practical support and assistance that beneficially impact on our clients' lives. We made a submission to the review, campaigned to retain lump sum compensation, and advocated the benefits of a compensation scheme for people who have experienced domestic violence and sexual assault.



we provided legal advice and representation

Sexual Assault Communications Privilege

In February 2009 we took a lead role in a collaborative project to improve the practical application of the sexual assault communications privilege. The project ultimately resulted in changes to the Criminal Procedure Act to strengthen the privilege and over \$4million funding over 4 years to Legal Aid NSW to establish a Sexual Assault Communications Privilege Unit to provide representation to complainants in sexual assault trials seeking to claim the privilege. The partnership project was acknowledged at the Law and Justice Foundation awards in 2011



Law and Justice Foundation (Photograph courtesy of www.imagetechnique.com.au)

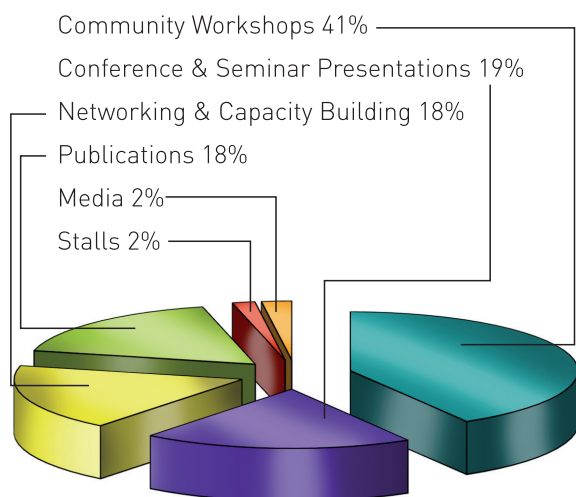


we educated women about the law

The volume and scope of our community legal education (CLE) initiatives over 2011 – 2012 demonstrate our strong commitment to facilitating women's awareness of the law, their legal rights and access to legal services.

We provided 188 CLE activities for more than 3300 people by conducting training workshops, presenting at conferences, hosting stalls and producing publications. We worked with Aboriginal women, women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, older women and women with disabilities.

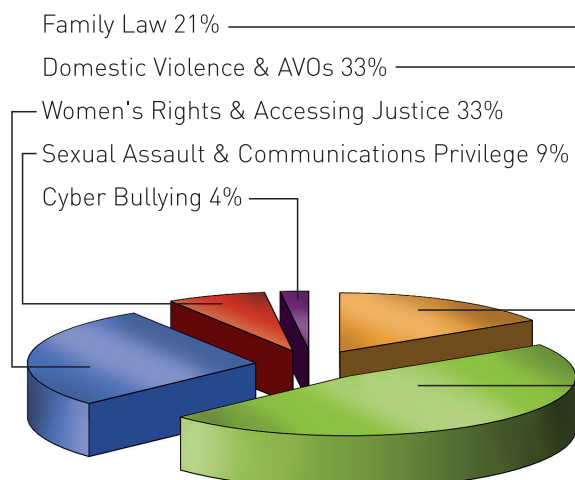
CLE ACTIVITIES



Our Community Legal Education sessions covered topics including:

- ◆ Women's rights and accessing justice
- ◆ Domestic and family violence
- ◆ Family law
- ◆ Sexual Assault Communications Privilege and subpoenas
- ◆ Cyber bullying

CLE TOPICS



We informed 400 people about the work of WLS through stalls and participation at International Women's Day events, White Ribbon Day stalls, and at Yabun.



Auburn White Ribbon Day stall



we educated women about the law



Legal Information Expo at Kooloorra Community Centre, Malabar.

Law Week workshop in Mt Druitt with Blacktown FRC on Family Law, Discrimination and DV for CALD and Aboriginal community leaders.



Law Week Western Sydney

We went to the following areas:

Sydney: North Sydney, Penrith, Sydney CBD, Doonside, Sylvania, Parramatta, Balmain, Blacktown, Granville, Milsons Point, Fairfield, Auburn, Gymea, Campbelltown, Toongabbie, Mt Druitt, Lakemba

Regional NSW: Newcastle, Griffith, Wagga Wagga, Katoomba, Albury, Cobar, Forbes, Nyngan, Parkes, Peak Hill, Wilcannia, Bourke, Cattai, Goulburn, Moree, Lismore, Hawkesbury.



At Parkes for Safe in Our Place workshop

Interstate: We presented 5 workshops at the National Association of Community Legal Centres conference in Hobart in October 2011:

- ◆ Human Rights
- ◆ Cyber Bullying
- ◆ Family Law changes
- ◆ Safe in our place project
- ◆ Skill Up Speak Up

we educated women about the law

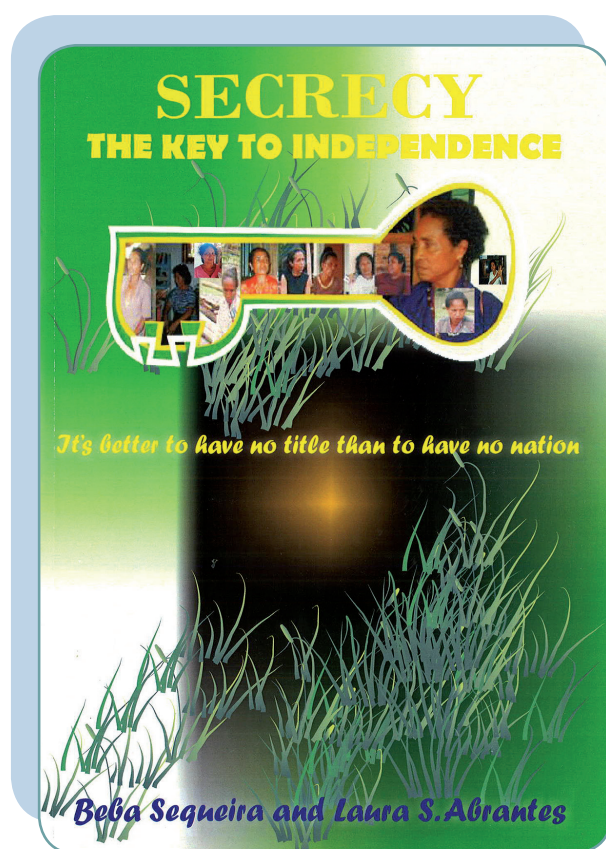
Publications and Resources

We updated four chapters of the Law Handbook:

- ◆ Aboriginal people and the law
- ◆ Domestic and family violence
- ◆ Family law
- ◆ Sexual offences

Supporting East Timor sisters

Together with the Women Lawyers' Association of NSW and the Law Society of NSW we hosted the launch of the oral history of women surviving the occupation of East Timor: "*Secrecy: the Key to Independence.*"



"*Secrecy: the Key to Independence*"

Innovation in service delivery:

ASK LOIS

In October 2011 Women's Legal Services NSW was successful in its application for a grant from the Attorney General's Department Grants to Australian Organisations Program to develop a secure website to provide online training, resources and a support network for community workers in rural and regional areas who are responding to women with legal needs.

In early 2012 WLS contracted Webgirl Consulting to develop the site and employed solicitor, Kate Duffy, to implement the project. The website which is now called

the Legal Online Information Service, or *Ask LOIS* will aim to provide community workers with relevant and necessary information to assist them in their role when responding to women who are experiencing or escaping domestic and family violence.

Features of *Ask LOIS* include free online training through webinars (online workshops), access to case studies with handy tips for responding to domestic violence, a comprehensive resource library with fact sheets, toolkits and videos, discussion forums for community workers to connect with their peers and links to domestic violence services in NSW.



WLS is looking forward to embarking on a new method of service and community legal education delivery online!

Ask LOIS will go live in September 2012.

Partnerships and working with other organisations

The Community Legal Education Co-ordinator, Natalie Neumann, participates in several committees including as co-convenor of the NSW Community Legal Centres Community Legal Education Workers (CLEW) committee.

We provided expert comment and collaboration on Family Law fact sheets for the Public Interest Advocacy Centre.

We presented workshops on Subpoenas and the Sexual Assault Communication Privilege to the NSW Statewide meeting of Women's Health Centres, and to Blacktown/Mt Druitt Sexual Assault services.

We provided a care and protection workshop at Penrith Women's Health Centre to support establishment of group to support mothers whose children have been removed.



we educated women about the law

Together with our Legal Education and Advice for Women (LEAP) partners, Warringa Baiya and Hawkesbury-Nepean community legal centres, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre and Legal Aid we planned introducing legal literacy programs for women in prison.

Training:

We provided training sessions to our outreach partners at Liverpool Women's Health Centre to develop the skills of intake workers. We presented a workshop on domestic violence and women with a disability for the NSW Public Trustee and Guardian. We participated in a panel discussion on Family law changes for the F Collective. We also provided training in collaboration with the Education Centre Against Violence, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre Law for non-lawyers course, and assisted in the training of new staff at Law Access.

Conference presentations

We presented on our experiences providing legal advice by telephone to the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network conference.

We presented workshops at the NSW Community Legal Centres conference including an introduction to our online back-up service for community workers, cyber bullying and care and protection for Aboriginal children.

Safe in Our Place project

This is a project created by Women's Legal Services NSW and funded by the Office for Women as part of their Violence Prevention Coordination Unit. The project aims to assist newly arrived migrants and refugees to understand the laws relating to violence against women and the unacceptability of violence against women and girls through workshops that are practical and culturally competent. Our solicitors Rebecca Frost and Maha Najjarine conducted workshops for settlement and community workers in Auburn, Gymea, Campsie, Wagga Wagga, Griffith and Orange as part of this project.

By invitation we did additional workshops in Newcastle and in Campbelltown in collaboration with Immigrant Women's Speakout.

Workshops for Indigenous women and service providers

The Indigenous Women's Legal Program delivered workshops in South Coast, Moree region and Central NSW as part of the Skill Up Speak Up project. Workshops on cyber bullying were delivered to high school girls in Wilcannia, other towns in western NSW, and in Doonside. We raised awareness of human rights for women in Bourke and Brewarrina. Indigenous staff attended Allawah Day in Cattai National Park.

Two healing workshops for Aboriginal women were held, which included community legal education sessions about kinship and care and protection.

Reclaim the Night October 2011



Workshops for culturally and linguistically diverse communities

We presented information on domestic violence and apprehended violence orders to Sierra Leone, Tamil, and the Fijian Indian communities. We presented radio interviews about domestic violence for Arabic-speaking communities. We hosted a visit from delegates of the Chinese Women's Federation. We provided training for Bilingual Educators in Parramatta.



we advocated for changes to law and legal processes

We continued our strong commitment to engaging in law and policy reform, with 148 projects completed over the year. Our law and policy reform activities focus on the justice needs of women, and aspects of the law and the legal structures that affect women's lives.

We engage in this work through making submissions, appearing at inquiry hearings, participating in roundtables and other consultative forums, meeting with politicians and government, forming and participating in strategic partnerships and networks, using the media and building the capacity of others to engage in law reform processes.

Our priority areas for law and policy reform activities this year were:

- ◆ Domestic and family violence
- ◆ Sexual assault
- ◆ Family law
- ◆ Victims rights
- ◆ Discrimination
- ◆ Human rights
- ◆ Access to justice
- ◆ Aboriginal women (see Indigenous Women's Legal Program for detail of this work)

Some highlights of our advocacy work

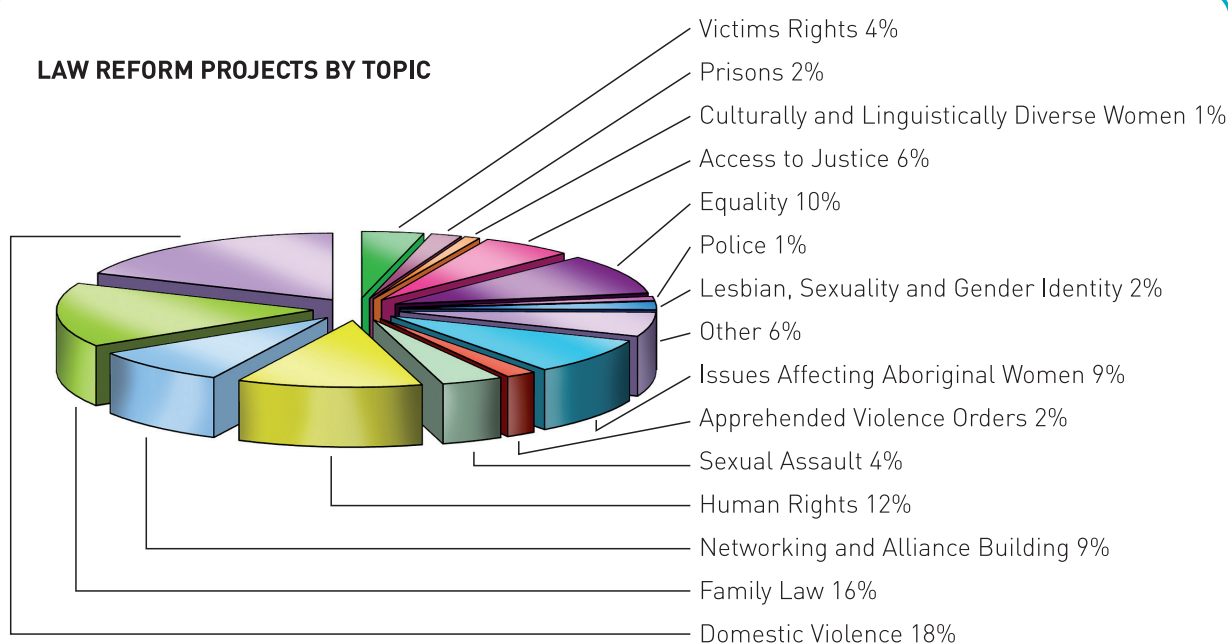
STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN FAMILY LAW

Women's Legal Services NSW has long been strongly advocating for the strengthening of protections in family law for women and children who have experienced violence. Following many reports identifying problems with the family law systems response to family violence, the Australian Government consulted on and introduced a Bill to make amendments to the Family Law Act 1975.

Throughout 2011, we coordinated the Women's Legal Services Australia campaign around this Bill – including alliance building, submission writing, letter writing, meetings with politicians, a campaign website and capacity building activities.

We saw significant results from our advocacy work. Our submission was cited heavily in the Senate Committee review of the Bill, and our campaign materials were used in more than 40 submissions to the Committee inquiry, politicians' second reading speeches, single mothers forum discussions, a NSW State Library brief, key messages for a rally on children's safety and other organisations' campaign materials. Our campaign website has also had over 9000 hits, with our educative and capacity building material being downloaded over 1000 times.

LAW REFORM PROJECTS BY TOPIC





we advocated for changes to law and legal processes

On 24 November 2011 the Family Law Legislation Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Act 2011 was passed by Parliament. The family violence provisions took effect on 7 June 2012.

The key amendments made by the Act include:

- ◆ prioritising the safety of children by placing greater weight on protecting children from harm in determining the best interests of the child;
- ◆ changing the definitions of 'abuse' and 'family violence' to better capture harmful behaviour;
- ◆ removing the express obligation to facilitate a relationship with the other parent;
- ◆ giving greater direction on how evidence of family violence orders may be used;
- ◆ removing the mandatory requirement to make a costs order if a false allegation is made in the proceedings;
- ◆ providing a range of measures to improve the identification and response to child abuse allegations.

While we welcome the changes, further work is required. There needs to be greater recognition that every family is unique and therefore the starting point should not be a presumption of Equal Shared Parental Responsibility. Such a presumption may compromise the safety of children and should therefore be removed. Children's safety must always come first.

Engaging with the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women

We were delighted to co-ordinate the Sydney Generalist Roundtable with the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Ms Rashida Manjoo, as part of Ms Manjoo's study visit to Australia. We co-ordinated the roundtable with Kingsford Legal Centre and the NSW Rape Crisis Centre and together co-hosted the event attended by over 30 participants with the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC).

Ms Manjoo was in Australia for a 10-day study visit co-hosted by AHRC and FaHSCIA, with a particular focus on issues of culture and violence against Indigenous women. There were two roundtables in Sydney – a CALD roundtable and a generalist roundtable. The Special Rapporteur also travelled to Western Australia, Northern Territory, Melbourne and Canberra.

A number of issues were discussed at the Sydney Generalist Roundtable, including: transgenerational trauma and its impact on domestic violence; family violence, sexual assault; women in prisons; and access to justice and

services. It was an important opportunity to raise concerns and discuss solutions.

Following the Roundtable, we identified the need to promote the use of United Nations Special Procedures as an advocacy tool and have since co-facilitated a workshop 'Strengthening accountability: working with human rights special procedures' with Kingsford Legal Centre, the Human Rights Law Centre and the Australian Human Rights Commission at the National Association of Community Legal Centres conference.



Helen Campbell and Number Woman

Advocating for affordable telecommunications – Fair calls for all

We saw fantastic results from our advocacy around fair calls for all.

We have long been concerned by the cost of calling 1800 so called 'freecall' numbers and 13/1300 so called 'local call' numbers from a mobile. Calls from a landline to 1800 numbers are free and calls to 1300/13 cost a local rate (about 30 cents). This range of numbers was designed so that the service providing the number pays for the call – thus making their services more accessible. However, 1800 and 1300/13 calls from a mobile can cost up to \$1.78 per minute.

The cost of these calls was an issue frequently raised by our clients. Women escaping domestic violence who needed to make calls on their mobiles to legal or counselling services or to access Centrelink were being faced with significantly high phone bills.



we advocated for changes to law and legal processes

Drawing on these experiences we joined the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network's 'Fair Calls for All' campaign calling for 1800 calls from mobiles to be free and 1300/13 calls from mobiles to be charged at the local call rate. We participated in panel discussions, wrote submissions and undertook capacity building activities to help others write submissions. We also participated in meetings with the Attorney-General's Department to share the experiences of our clients and express our concerns.

In April 2012 the Australian Communications and Media Authority committed to amending the relevant legislation so that 1800 calls from mobiles are free and 1300/13 calls from mobiles are charged at the local rate. Following further consultation, industry will be expected to implement the changes by January 2015.

Submissions and hearings

We coordinated or contributed to submissions and written comments made to:

- ◆ Submission to the NSW Legislative Council Committee – DV Trends and Issues
- ◆ Submission to the Australian Attorney-General's Department on the National Human Rights Baseline Study
- ◆ Position paper on constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People – prepared on behalf of the Aboriginal Advisory Group of Community Legal Centres NSW.
- ◆ Briefings and support provided to Women's Legal Services Australia representatives to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee hearing into the Family Law Bill
- ◆ Contributed to WLSA supplementary submission responding to questions on notice at the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee hearing into the Family Law Bill
- ◆ Submission made to Family Law Council on CALD clients and Family Law System
- ◆ Contributed to WLSA submission to Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee on International Child Abduction
- ◆ Contributed to NACLC submission to the Australian Attorney General's Department on Federal Court fee changes
- ◆ Submission to Attorney-General's Department on its report under the Convention Against Torture (focusing on violence against women)
- ◆ Submission to the NSW Department of Attorney General and Justice on its Statutory Review of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act

- ◆ Submission responding to Questions on Notice to the NSW Legislative Council Social Issues Committee on DV Trends and Issues
- ◆ Submission to the Australian Communications and Media Authority consultation on its Numbering Plan
- ◆ Comments to Legal Aid on the proposed Local Court process for the sexual assault communications privilege matters
- ◆ Submission to Attorney-General's Department on the Draft Human Rights Action Plan
- ◆ Contributed to WLSA submission in response to the Attorney General Department's Discussion Paper: International Parental Child Abduction proposed amendments
- ◆ Submission to Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010
- ◆ Submission to House Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2012 and the Marriage Amendment Bill 2012
- ◆ Submission to the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women – Issues of concern
- ◆ Submission to the Review of NSW Victims Compensation Scheme
- ◆ Submission to Commonwealth Attorney General's Department in response to their consultation paper 'A new scheme for assistance with disbursements.'
- ◆ Submission to Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee into the Australian Human Rights Commission Amendment (National Children's Commissioner) Bill 2012
- ◆ Response to NGO Coalition International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) list of priorities survey and contributed to submission
- ◆ Response to CEDAW mid review survey
- ◆ Standing Committee on Social Issues' Roundtable discussing draft report to the Inquiry into domestic violence issues and trends in NSW

Hearing, consultations, forums and meetings

We sought to change laws and policies by attending and engaging in the following formal and informal consultations, forums, meetings and hearings:

- ◆ Hearing – NSW Legislative Council Social Issues Committee on DV Trends and Issues
- ◆ Participated in Roundtable on Equality Law
- ◆ Participated in consultation on legal aid means test



we advocated for changes to law and legal processes

- ◆ Federal Attorney-General's Department multi-stakeholder consultative forum on its project to consolidate anti-discrimination laws
- ◆ On the organising committee and participated in the Sydney Generalist Roundtable with the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women
- ◆ Meeting with Federal Court Magistrates to discuss ways to improve Indigenous participation in the Family Law Courts
- ◆ Participated in the Standing Committee on Social Issues' Roundtable discussing draft report to the Inquiry into domestic violence issues and trends in NSW
- ◆ Participated in domestic violence /family violence death reviews national network
- ◆ Participated in NSW Police Stakeholder consultation on Domestic Violence Policy
- ◆ Contributed to the ongoing development of the NACLC Reconciliation Action Plan
- ◆ Contributed to the ongoing development of the CLCNSW Reconciliation Action Plan
- ◆ Participated in consultation on pro bono and family law

Capacity building

We built the capacity of others to engage in law reform and policy activities by:

- ◆ Preparing a brief on constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People to assist organisations to engage in consultation process
- ◆ Providing expert advice to other organisations for their campaigns in family law and human rights
- ◆ Human rights and advocacy project building the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and communities to advocate for their human rights
- ◆ Providing an information kit and submission template to assist organisations engage in the Australian Communication and Media Authority consultation on its Numbering Plan
- ◆ Providing an information kit and submission template to assist organisations engage with the Victims Compensation review and the Victims Compensation Issues Paper
- ◆ Developing with other community legal centres resources to assist organisations and individuals to participate in the Victims Compensation campaign
- ◆ Providing expert advice to other organisations regarding issues around provocation and self-defence

Media and articles

Our main contacts with media during the year were:

- ◆ Comment on 'Clare's Law' published in online SMH article
- ◆ Numerous interviews/briefing undertaken on birth certificate case, including an interview published in the NSW Law Society Journal
- ◆ Guest Blog on the National Human Rights Action Plan NGO website on the relevance of the plan to women
- ◆ Blog on the Human Rights Law Centre website on priorities for the new Attorney-General
- ◆ Media comment on our forced marriages submission to Insight, Four Corners and The Australian
- ◆ Contributed to Women's Legal Services Australia's media release about the family law amendments
- ◆ Media comment in response to the Singh provocation sentencing decision to SMH
- ◆ Short article to Alternative Law Journal about the NSW victims compensation review
- ◆ Short article to Alternative Law Journal about the provocation inquiry

Committees

We built alliances and worked strategically with others by participating in Community Legal Centres NSW, National Association of Community Legal Centres and external committees.



Helen Campbell, Carolyn Jones, Liz Snell and Janet Loughman, International Women's Day March, Sydney, 2012



Community Legal Centres NSW

- ◆ Aboriginal Advisory Group (convened by WLS)
- ◆ Community Legal Centres NSW Board
- ◆ Domestic Violence and Victims Compensation Subcommittee (co-convened by WLS)
- ◆ Law Reform And Policy Committee
- ◆ Indigenous Rights Working Group
- ◆ Prisoner's Rights Working Group (co-convened by WLS)

National Association of Community Legal Centres

- ◆ National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Network (convened by WLS)
- ◆ Human Rights Network
- ◆ LGBTI Network
- ◆ National Association of Community Legal Centres Board
- ◆ Women's Legal Services Australia

Interagencies, networks and other external committees

- ◆ Apprehended Violence Legal Issues Coordinating Committee
- ◆ Australian Communication Consumers Action Network
- ◆ Blacktown and Penrith Family Relationship Centres Partnership Steering Group
- ◆ Coordinated Family Dispute Resolution Pilot Advisory Committee
- ◆ Corrective Services Women's Advisory Council
- ◆ Domestic/Family Violence Death Review network
- ◆ Equality Rights Alliance Steering Group (until February 2012)
- ◆ Equality Rights Alliance (WLSA representative)
- ◆ Legal Aid's Family Relationship Centre Legal Service Pilot Steering Committee
- ◆ Blacktown and Penrith Family Relationship Centres Partnership Steering Group
- ◆ Legal Education Advice in Prison
- ◆ Legal Aid's Sexual Assault Communications Privilege Reference Group
- ◆ NLAF Domestic Violence Working Group (chaired by WLS)
- ◆ Organising Committee for the Sydney Generalist Roundtable with the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women (convened by WLS)
- ◆ Same Sex Domestic Violence Interagency
- ◆ Sexual Assault Review Committee
- ◆ Sydney Registry Domestic Violence Reference Group
- ◆ Sydney West Legal Services Group
- ◆ South West Sydney Legal Interagency
- ◆ WDVCA Advisory
- ◆ Women in Prison Advocacy Network



Indigenous Women's Legal Program (IWLP)

The Indigenous Women's Legal Program continued to provide services that best meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women through a variety of projects over the last year. Skill Up Speak Up workshops last year clearly showed the need to develop a resource for women to understand the DoCS process. This is still being developed and will be used in community legal education sessions over the coming year.

Law Reform activities

- ◆ Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women (convened by WLS)
- ◆ Roundtable with the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women
- ◆ Meeting with Federal Court Magistrates to discuss ways to improve Indigenous participation in the Family Law Courts

Staff

We said farewell to Mary Anne Frail, the Skill Up Speak Up Community Access Worker. Sadly the project Mary was involved in came to an end. We wish her well in her new research position at UNSW.



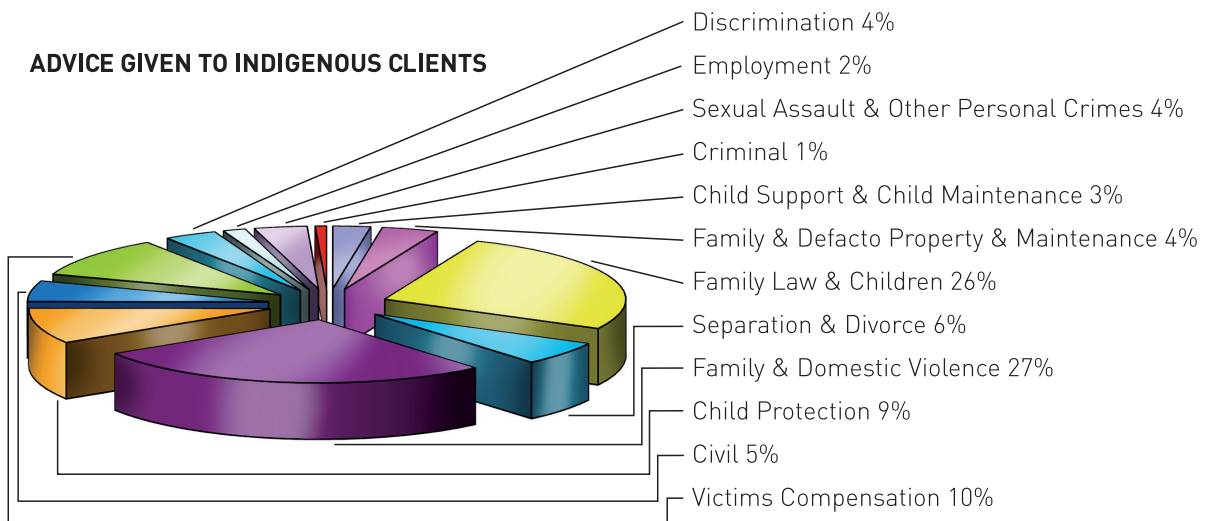
Left to right – IWLP Staff Mary Anne Frail, Donna Hensen and Shannon Williams.

Indigenous women were reached through the Indigenous Women's Legal Advice Line, and the many workshops, forums and CLE's we attended or delivered. We also provided casework and representation.

The Aboriginal Women's Consultation Network provided guidance to IWLP and met 4 times throughout the year.

- ◆ Position paper on constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People – prepared on behalf of the Aboriginal Advisory Group
- ◆ Submission to Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee into the Australian Human Rights Commission Amendment (National Children's Commissioner) Bill 2012

ADVICE GIVEN TO INDIGENOUS CLIENTS



- ◆ Response to NGO Coalition International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) list of priorities survey and contributed to submission
- ◆ Response to CEDAW mid review survey

Indigenous Women's Legal Program (IWLP)

- ◆ Contributed to the ongoing development of the NACLC Reconciliation Action Plan
- ◆ Contributed to the ongoing development of the CLCNSW NACLC Reconciliation Action Plan
- ◆ Brief on constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People to assist organisations to engage in consultation process
- ◆ Human rights and advocacy project building the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and communities to advocate for their human rights



Hobart 2011 NATSIWLS Network day: Left Back: Christine Robinson Coordinator Wirringa Baiyia, Jodie Vincent -Community Development Worker ATSIWLSNQ Donna Hensen IWLP Coordinator WLSNSW, Colleen Wall ATSIWLS, Joe Ravot Aboriginal Legal Access Worker, Hawkesbury Napean CLC, Nancy Bamaga Boardmember ATSIWLS. Left Front Row: Agnes Tapim - Chair person ATSIWLSNQ, Mary-Anne Frail Assistant Project Officer, WLSNSW, Shannon Williams Project Officer, WLSNSW, Michelle Murr - Vice Chair ATSIWLSNQ

Boards and Committees.

- ◆ National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Network (NATSIWLS) convened by IWLP Coordinator /WLS
- ◆ Aboriginal Advisory Group for CLCNSW (convened by IWLP Coordinator/WLS)
- ◆ Community Legal Centres NSW Board
- ◆ Indigenous Rights Working Group
- ◆ National Association of Community Legal Centres Board

IWLP VIDEO PROJECTS



Cyber bullying

The Think B4 U Click cyber bullying material was improved by filming interviews with Indigenous people at Yarburn (26th January 2012) ACCAN who were the funders for the workshops did the recording and editing. It was then incorporated into a ten minute video which has been imbedded into the power point presentation.

Workshops were delivered in Wilcania, Forbes, Cobar, Peak Hill, Forbes, Nyngan and Brewarrina.

IWLP are now providing Think B4 U Click training to Indigenous workers in NSW.



The Human Rights and Advocacy Project

This is a project to give women the skills and opportunity to document the condition in Bourke and Brewarrina through a Human Rights framework.

Community consultations were held last year and we have spent the remaining time working with a film crew to document the project and develop a resource for the community to lobby for change and improvement. From this project we have open new case matters and have helped make changes for women who were fighting for self determination.

Healing Retreats for Elder Aboriginal Women

To address elder abuse in a safe and comfortable space we held two Healing Retreats with specialist services providing legal and healing workshops for Elder Aboriginal women in La Perouse, Campbelltown, Illawarra and Redfern areas. Workshop topics included elder abuse, kinship and DoCS, wills generally, funeral insurance and plans, wills for artists. The retreats also gave women the opportunity to relax address their own healing.

The Location for both retreats was the Billabong Sydney Retreat in Windsor area. This was very successful and the participants are organising a reunion.



Kim Berry: PLT student volunteer for the Human Rights and Advocacy Project



Indigenous Women's Legal Program (IWLP)



Over 8,000 Breach Diaries were distributed through the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (WDVCAS), community legal education and other services. The NSW Police distributed 10,000 Breach Diaries through the Domestic Violence Liaison Officers (DVLLO) and reprinted another 20,000.



our publications

Women and Family Law (9th Edition 2010)

An essential tool to assist women to understand the law as it impacts on their relationships with other partners and children. Women & Family Law is being rewritten by Women's Legal Resources Centre so that the 8th Edition reflects the current status of Family Law. (Hard copy) [1]

A Long Way to Equal (2007)

A 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. (An update of A Quarter Way to equal: a report on barriers to access to legal services for migrant women). [2]

Our Silence is Abusing our Kids

Unique and innovative stories about Aboriginal women working locally to stop child sexual assault. Jointly produced by Dympna House and Women's Legal Services NSW, the booklet contains interviews with community women and Aboriginal workers about their own efforts in their communities to protect children and support young people. Also contains vital information about child sexual assault. [3]

Our Dream: Stopping the Violence (2nd Edition 2007)

This is an information booklet for Aboriginal women, which discusses domestic violence and the law in NSW. The second edition has been updated to include legal information about the changes to NSW Domestic Violence Law that occurred in March 2007. It is designed primarily for Aboriginal women; but may also be a useful resource for non-Aboriginal service providers. [4]

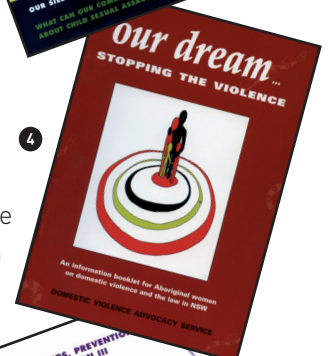
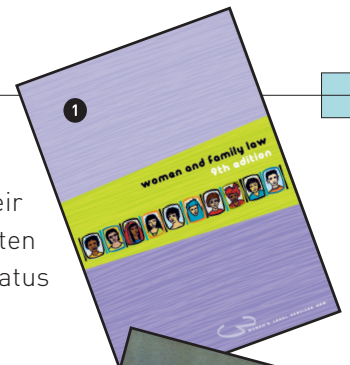
Partnerships, Prevention and Rural Action III (Burrendong Report)

Report from a Conference on Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities dated 15–19 October 2007 at the Sport and Recreation Centre, Lake Burrendong, Wellington. [5]

Brochures and Cards

Women's Legal Services NSW Brochure

This is a informational pamphlet with Advice Line contact numbers for Women's Legal Services NSW. [6]



our publications

Women's Legal Services NSW Pictorial Brochure

This is a pictorial informational pamphlet with Advice Line contact numbers for Women's Legal Services NSW. [7]

Quick Guide to Working with Interpreters in Legal Settings – Checklist and Poster

[8]

Indigenous Women's Legal Program Card

This is an informational card with contact details and numbers for Women's Legal Services NSW Indigenous Women's Legal Program. [9]

Domestic Violence Legal Service Card

This is an informational card with contact details and numbers for the Domestic Violence Legal Service. [10]

Women's Legal Services NSW Card

This is an informational card with contact details and numbers for the Advice Line contact numbers for Women's Legal Services NSW. [11]

Indigenous Women's Program Fridge Magnet

This fridge magnet has contact details and numbers for Women's Legal Services NSW Indigenous Women's Program. [12]

Is this Love? (Indigenous pamphlet)

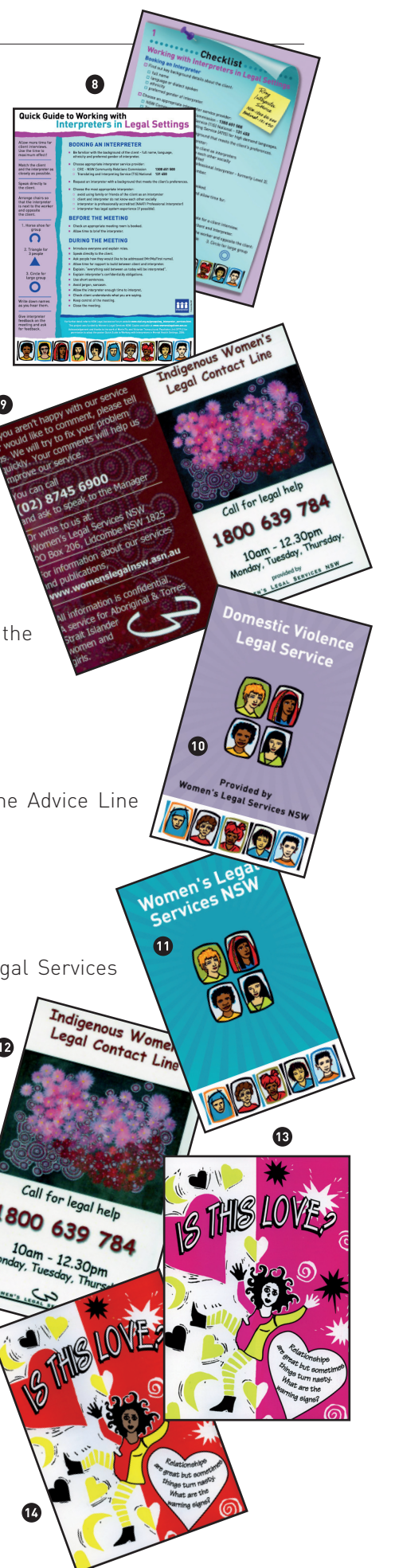
A resource made for young Aboriginal women in reference to their relationships. [13]

Is this Love? (Non-Indigenous pamphlet)

A resource made for young women in reference to their relationships. [14]

ORDERING PUBLICATIONS

Ordering publications: Prices and postage charges may vary and discounts are available for community service organisations. Please download order forms at www.womenslegal.asn.au





treasurer's report

I am pleased to present the 2011-2012 audited Financial Statements of Women's Legal Resources Limited, trading as Women's Legal Services NSW.

Our core income for services was received from the New South Wales and Commonwealth Governments through the Legal Aid Commission of NSW.

In brief, funding income was made up of:

- ◆ Women's Legal Resource Centre Program - \$829,063
- ◆ Outreach Program - \$190,452
- ◆ Indigenous Women's Legal Program - \$291,793
- ◆ Domestic Violence Legal Service - \$431,808
- ◆ One off funding from:
 - ◆ NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet "Skill Up Speak Up" - \$52,349
 - ◆ NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet "Legally Safe in our Place" \$51,615
 - ◆ Attorney General's Department, "Human Rights and Advocacy - Women in Bourke, Brewarrina and Walgett" \$27,932
 - ◆ Attorney General's Department "Domestic Violence Back up Service - Ask Lois" \$44,149
 - ◆ ACCAN "Cyberbullying: Untangling the Web" \$40,000
 - ◆ Department of Family and Community Services "Aboriginal Women's Healing Retreat" \$37,000

With an overall revenue of \$2,138,941 and total expenditure of \$2,142,123 there is a loss of \$3,182 for the year.

On behalf of WLS NSW, 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.

I would like to acknowledge the Board's appreciation of the contribution of our staff during the last 12 months. Their professionalism and skill have been essential to effective Board management and to the strategic planning of the development of our services.

Belinda Louis
Treasurer

Belinda Louis





director's report

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Your directors present this report on the company and its controlled entities for the financial year ended 30 June 2012.

Directors

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

Sara Blazey - *Chairperson*

Belinda Louis - *Treasurer (from 7 December 2011)*

Sue Knox Davis - *Treasurer (until 30 November 2011)*

Emily Winborne - *Secretary*

Denele Crozier *(from 30 November 2011)*

Anusha Duray

Louise Goodchild *(from 30 November 2011)*

Elizabeth Simpson *(from 30 November 2011)*

Natasha Case *(retired 30 November 2011)*

Janette Prichard *(retired 30 November 2011)*

Lee-May Saw *(retired 30 November 2011)*

Shirley Southgate *(resigned 2 May 2012)*

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

Operating Results

The loss of the entity for the financial year amounted to \$3,182 (2011: \$5,239).

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

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Operating profit/(loss) for the year	(3,182)	(5,239)
Income	2,138,941	2,152,348
Expenditure	2,142,123	2,157,587

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the entity during the financial year were the provision of free community legal services, including legal advice and information, education, training and resources across metropolitan and regional areas of New South Wales. The entity provides free service for all women in the community, particularly for those who are socially and economically disadvantaged. There were no other significant changes in the nature of the entity's principal activities during the financial year.



director's report

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED
ABN 88 002 387 699



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 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 \$1,478.18. 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 The Entity

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the 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.



director's report

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

INFORMATION ON DIRECTORS

Sara BLAZEY

Qualifications

Experience

Director - Chairperson

BA (Hons) LLB

Current – Family and Care Legal Officer for Law Access NSW.

Solicitor – 30 years experience, specialising in family law, care and protection. First practice in private practice in the United Kingdom where she was a senior partner and head of the family law department. Work as a generalist solicitor for WLS NSW and other community legal centres for 15 years. Extensive experience being a board member, including Board of Legal Aid NSW as a Legal Aid Commissioner.

Belinda LOUIS

Qualifications

Experience

Director - Treasurer (from 7 December 2011)

B Commerce, Chartered Accountant, MBA (in progress)

November 2010 to present - PricewaterhouseCoopers Sydney - Risk Management.
April 2008 - May 2010 - PricewaterhouseCoopers London - Transaction Services/
Mergers & Acquisitions.

February 2002 - November 2010 - PricewaterhouseCoopers Sydney -
Various roles in Audit/Forensics/Transaction Services

Sue Knox DAVIS

Qualifications

Experience

Director - Treasurer (until 30 November 2011)

MBA; ME; B.SSc; B Legal Studies; Grad Dip Com; Grad Dip S Admin;
Grad Dip Adult Ed; Dip S.W. Dip D Rad.

Admitted to NSW Bar; Admitted Legal Practitioner.

Legal practitioner private practice, management, policy, training and administration; community services and government positions; Board positions children and family services and community legal services, consultant policy and strategic planning Aboriginal Services, government and community organisations.

Emily WINBORNE

Qualifications

Experience

Director - Secretary

BA/LLB. Admitted as a practitioner of the Supreme Court of NSW (2005 - present)

Solicitor, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW) (2005 - 2006;
2007 - present)

Solicitor, Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (2006 - 2007)

Youth worker, Juvenile Justice (2004)

Socio-legal researcher, Justice Policy Research Centre (2003)

Volunteer, University of Newcastle Legal Centre (Missing Persons Project, 2001 -
2002; Aboriginal Civil Legal Rights Service, 2003)



director's report

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED
ABN 88 002 387 699

Denele Crozier

Qualifications

Experience

Director

RPN, Dip. Acc

28 years working in the NGO sector.

2001 -2012 Executive Officer, Women's Health NSW Peak for community women's health centres. 1993 – 2001 Administrator, Redfern Legal Centre, 1982 – 1992 Health Worker, Liverpool Women's Health Centre and Women's Health Information Resource and Crisis Centres Association

Currently involved in range of management and advisory committees including NSW Premiers Council Preventing Violence Against Women, FGM Advisory Committee, NSW Health NGO Advisory Committee, Treasurer at Council of Social Service NSW (NCOSS) and the Australian Women's Health Network

Anusha Duray

Qualifications

Experience

Director

BA, Grad Dip Business, TAA, Cert IV Governance, Cert IV Community Services (Aboriginal Family Mediation)

Ten years experience working in Aboriginal Community Development administration, policy and management. Currently works as Enterprise Training Company (ETC) Aboriginal Projects Coordinator for Business

Solutions and trainer in Frontline Management. Workshop Facilitator for Indigenous Business Australia. Experienced board member. Member of the Australian College of Educators. Current member of the Aboriginal Women's Consultation Network. Film Producer.

Louise Goodchild

Qualifications

Experience

Director

BA/LLB MA

Admitted to practice as a solicitor in 1992, called to the NSW Bar 2005 Part time Judicial Member Administrative Decisions Tribunal 2010 – 2013

Barrister seven years experience, prior experience over eighteen years including: Law lecturer at University of Western Sydney and University of Technology. Principal Solicitor and Project Co-ordinator National Youth and Children's Law Centre, Legal Aid, Aboriginal Legal Service, Cape York Land Council. Solicitor in private practice

Elizabeth Simpson

Qualifications

Experience

Director

BA (Hons)/Arts - University of Queensland

Msc (Dist) - London School of Economics

Admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2001. Practised in NSW since 2008

Senior Solicitor - Public Interest Advocacy Centre 2011 - present
(solicitor 2008-2011)

Committee Member – Council for Civil Liberties NSW 2009 - present

Director Community Legal Centre NSW 2011 - present

NSW Co-Convenor Australian Lawyers for Human Rights 2009 - 2010

Solicitor - Treasury Solicitors Department (United Kingdom) 2002 - 2006 Solicitor, Ashurst Australia 2000 - 2001



director's report

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

During the financial year, 5 meetings of the Board of Directors were held. Attendances by each of the director were as follows:

Board of Directors' Meetings		
	<i>Number eligible to attend</i>	<i>Number attended</i>
Sara Blazey	5	5
Belinda Louis	5	4
Sue Knox Davis	5	4
Emily Winborne	5	4
Denele Crozier	3	3
Anusha Duray	5	3
Louise Goodchild	3	1
Elizabeth Simpson	3	2
Natasha Case	2	1
Janette Prichard	2	2
Lee-May Saw	2	2
Shirley Southgate	4	2

Auditor's Independence Declaration

The lead auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2012 has been received and can be found on page 36 of the financial statements.

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

Director

Director

Dated this 16th of October 2012



auditor's declaration

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED
ABN 88 002 387 699



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

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2012 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 PTY LTD
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

MARK SCHILIRO
DIRECTOR
DATED THIS 18th DAY OF OCTOBER 2012 AT SYDNEY

MNSA PTY LTD
ABN 59 133 605 400

Level 2, 333 George St
Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 2943 Sydney 2001

Tel (02) 9299 0901
Fax (02) 9299 8104
Email admin@mnsa.com.au

Liability limited by the
Accountants Scheme,
approved under the
Professional Standards
Act 1994 (NSW)





comprehensive income statement

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

CLASSIFICATION OF EXPENSES BY FUNCTION

Note		2012 \$	2011 \$
Operating revenue from ordinary activities	2	2,138,941	2,152,348
Service expenses		401,400	243,373
Occupancy expenses		81,822	102,967
Administration expenses		178,273	138,378
Employment & contract expenses		1,473,815	1,662,535
Financing expenses		396	668
Depreciation Expenses		6,417	9,666
Total Expenses		2,142,123	2,157,587
Profit / (Loss) from ordinary activities before income tax expense	9	(3,182)	(5,239)
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities		-	-
Net profit/(loss) from ordinary activities after income tax	9	(3,182)	(5,239)
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year		36,766	42,005
Retained profits at the end of the financial year		33,584	36,766

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



financial position

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED

ABN 88 002 387 699

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2012

	Note	2012 \$	2011 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	1,202,302	1,009,532
Trade and other receivables	4	46,854	23,136
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,249,156	1,032,668
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	5	643,896	641,254
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		643,896	641,254
TOTAL ASSETS		1,893,052	1,673,922
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	6	1,334,464	1,120,276
Short-term provisions	7	353,795	299,772
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,688,259	1,420,048
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Borrowings	8	4	2
Long-term provisions	7	25,781	71,682
		25,785	71,684
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		25,785	71,684
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,714,044	1,491,732
NET ASSETS		179,008	182,190
EQUITY			
Special Reserve		145,424	145,424
Retained Profits	9	33,584	36,766
TOTAL EQUITY		179,008	182,190

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



income and expenditure

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED
ABN 88 002 387 699

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	Note	Retained Earnings \$	Special Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2010		42,005	145,424	187,429
Loss attributable to entity	9	(5,239)	-	(5,239)
Balance at 30 June 2011		36,766	145,424	182,190
Loss attributable to entity	9	(3,182)	-	(3,182)
Balance at 30 June 2012		33,584	145,424	179,008

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



cash flows

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED
ABN 88 002 387 699

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	Note	2012 \$	2011 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from grants	2	1,924,145	1,894,189
Other receipts		122,220	205,266
Interest received		68,858	70,293
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,913,396)	(2,744,602)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	10(b)	201,827	(574,854)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Proceeds/payment for property, plant and equipment		(9,059)	106,386
Repayment of borrowings	2		(62)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(9,057)	106,324
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		192,770	(468,530)
Cash at 1 July 2011		1,009,532	1,478,062
Cash at 30 June 2012	10(a)	1,202,302	1,009,532

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



notes to financial statements

The financial statements are 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.

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Act 2001. The company is not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

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

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

Accounting Policies

(a) Statement of Financial Position

The statement of financial position of Women's Legal Resources Ltd incorporates the assets and liabilities of the Women's Legal Resources Centre, Indigenous Women's Legal Program, Outreach Program, Domestic Violence 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, 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 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 reporting period.

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 statement of comprehensive income. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to those assets are transferred to retained earnings.



notes to financial statements



(d) Impairment

At each reporting period, 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 statement of comprehensive income.

Where the future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon the asset's 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 determined as the 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 the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits expected to be settled within one year together with benefits arising from wages, salaries and annual leave which may be settled after one year, have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled plus related on costs. Other employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the net present value.

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

(h) Revenue

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income 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 statement of financial position 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 (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

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

(j) 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.



notes to financial statements

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

(l) New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods

The AASB has issued a number of new and amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods, some of which are relevant to the company. The company has decided not to early adopt any of the new and amended pronouncements. The company's assessment of the new and amended pronouncements that are relevant to the company but applicable in future reporting periods is set out below:

- AASB 9: Financial Instruments (December 2010) and AASB 2010-7: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2010) (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2013).

These Standards are applicable retrospectively and include revised requirements for the classification and measurement of financial instruments, as well as recognition and derecognition requirements for financial instruments.

The key changes made to accounting requirements include:

- simplifying the classifications of financial assets into those carried at amortised cost and those carried at fair value;
- simplifying the requirements for embedded derivatives;
- removing the tainting rules associated with held-to-maturity assets;
- removing the requirements to separate and fair value embedded derivatives for financial assets carried at amortised cost;
- allowing an irrevocable election on initial recognition to present gains and losses on investments in equity instruments that are not held for trading in other comprehensive income. Dividends in respect of these investments that are a return on investment can be recognised in profit or loss and there is no impairment or recycling on disposal of the instrument;
- requiring financial assets to be reclassified where there is a change in an entity's business model as they are initially classified based on: (a) the objective of the entity's business model for managing the financial assets; and (b) the characteristics of the contractual cash flows; and
- requiring an entity that chooses to measure a financial liability at fair value to present the portion of the change in its fair value due to changes in the entity's own credit risk in other comprehensive income, except when that would create an accounting mismatch. If such a mismatch would be created or enlarged, the entity is required to present all changes in fair value (including the effects of changes in the credit risk of the liability) in profit or loss.

The company has not yet been able to reasonably estimate the impact of these pronouncements on its financial statements.

- AASB 1053: Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards and AASB 2010-2: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 101, 102, 107, 108, 110, 111, 112, 116, 117, 119, 121, 123, 124, 127, 128, 131, 133, 134, 136, 137, 138, 140, 141, 1050 & 1052 and Interpretations 2, 4, 5, 15, 17, 127, 129 & 1052] (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing on or after 1 July 2013).

AASB 1053 establishes a revised differential financial reporting framework consisting of two tiers of financial reporting requirements for those entities preparing general purpose financial statements:

- Tier 1: Australian Accounting Standards; and-
- Tier 2: Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements.



notes to financial statements



Tier 2 of the framework comprises the recognition, measurement and presentation requirements of Tier 1, but contains significantly fewer disclosure requirements.

Since the company is a not-for-profit private sector entity, it qualifies for the reduced disclosure requirements for Tier 2 entities. It is anticipated that the company will take advantage of Tier 2 reporting at a later date.

- AASB 13: Fair Value Measurement and AASB 2011-8: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 13 (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2013).

AASB 13 defines fair value, sets out in a single Standard a framework for measuring fair value, and requires disclosures about fair value measurement.

AASB 13 requires:

- inputs to all fair value measurements to be categorised in accordance with a fair value hierarchy; and
- enhanced disclosures regarding all assets and liabilities (including, but not limited to, financial assets and financial liabilities) measured at fair value.

These Standards are not expected to significantly impact the company.

- AASB 2011-9: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing on or after 1 July 2012).

The main change arising from this Standard is the requirement for entities to group items presented in other comprehensive income (OCI) on the basis of whether they are potentially reclassifiable to profit or loss subsequently.

This Standard affects presentation only and is therefore not expected to significantly impact the company.

- AASB 119: Employee Benefits (September 2011) and AASB 2011-10: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 119 (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2013).

These Standards introduce a number of changes to accounting and presentation of defined benefit plans. The company does not have any defined benefit plans and so is not impacted by the amendment.

AASB 119 (September 2011) also includes changes to:

- (a) require only those benefits that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service to be classified as short-term employee benefits. All other employee benefits are to be classified as either other long-term employee benefits, post-employment benefits or termination benefits, as appropriate; and
- (b) the accounting for termination benefits that require an entity to recognise an obligation for such benefits at the earlier of:
 - (i) where for an offer that may be withdrawn – when the employee accepts;
 - (ii) where for an offer that cannot be withdrawn – when the offer is communicated to affected employees; and
 - (iii) where the termination is associated with a restructuring of activities under AASB 137 and if earlier than the first two conditions – when the related restructuring costs are recognised.

The association has not yet been able to reasonably estimate the impact of these changes to AASB 119.



notes to financial statements

NOTE 2 – REVENUE

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Operating activities		
Grants		
- Legal Aid Commission (Commonwealth)	991,394	971,987
- Legal Aid Commission (Commonwealth) - Prior Year	12,453	44,128
- Legal Aid Commission (State)	751,721	731,248
- Attorney General's Dept - FVPLS - Prior Year	-	70,833
- Less: Uncommitted / unspent funds	(84,469)	(66,152)
- Sundry Grants	253,046	142,145
	1,924,145	1,894,189
Other income		
- Interest received	68,858	70,293
- Donations	-	105
- Fees and contributions	62,040	59,273
- Costs recovered and retained	30,832	29,706
- Rental income	49,900	80,121
- Sales of publications and merchandise	3,166	1,918
- Referral Fees	-	4,273
- Profit from Sale of Fixed Asset	-	12,470
Total other income	214,796	258,159
	2,138,941	2,152,348

NOTE 3 – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Current		
Cash at bank	1,415	19,847
Cash on deposit	1,200,387	989,185
Cash on hand	500	500
	1,202,302	1,009,532

NOTE 4 – TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Current		
Trade receivables	33,161	12,032
Deposits / Bonds	30	30
Prepayments	13,663	11,074
	46,854	23,136



notes to financial statements

NOTE 5 – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Building - at cost	623,564	623,564
Plant & equipment - at cost	105,720	96,660
Less accumulated depreciation	(85,388)	(78,970)

643,896	641,254
----------------	----------------

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

2011

	Property, Plant and Equipment	Total
Balance at the beginning of year	744,836	744,836
Additions	-	-
Disposals	(93,916)	(93,916)
Depreciation Expense	(9,666)	(9,666)
Carrying amount at the end of year	641,254	641,254

2012

Balance at the beginning of year	641,254	641,254
Additions at cost	9,059	9,059
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation Expense	(6,417)	(6,417)
Carrying amount at the end of year	643,896	643,896

NOTE 6 – TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES

Current

Trade payables	176,372	83,476
Uncommitted/ Unspent Funds	263,244	162,673
Payroll liabilities	62,746	109,329
GST Payable	40,481	(2,922)
Employee benefits	791,621	767,720
	1,334,464	1,120,276

NOTE 7 – PROVISIONS

Current

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Provision for long service leave	83,283	25,634
Provision for locum fees	50,230	50,230
Provision for IWP Consultation	34,476	34,476
Provision for printing and publications	11,451	5,053
Provision for staff development	78,352	89,432
Provision for re-establishment	5,855	17,610
Provision for equipment replacement	55,996	43,185
Provision for Directors' planning meetings	24,152	24,152
Provision for legal expenses	10,000	10,000
	353,795	299,772

Non-Current

Provision for long service leave	25,781	71,682
	25,781	71,682



notes to financial statements

PROVISION FOR LONG TERM EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

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

NOTE 8 – BORROWINGS

Non-Current

National Australia Bank

2012	2011
\$	\$
4	2
4	2

NOTE 9 – RETAINED EARNINGS

Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year

Net profit/(loss)

Retained profits at the end of the financial year

36,766	42,005
(3,182)	(5,239)
33,584	36,766

NOTE 10 – CASH FLOW INFORMATION

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Cash at bank	1,415	19,847
Cash on deposit	1,200,387	989,185
Cash on hand	500	500
	1,202,302	1,009,532

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

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Profit (loss) from ordinary activities after income tax	(3,182)	(5,239)
Non cash flows		
Depreciation	6,417	9,666
Profit on sale of property, plant and equipment	-	(12,470)
Changes in assets and liabilities		
(Increase) / Decrease in prepayments	(2,589)	23,876
(Increase) / Decrease in receivables	(21,129)	5,994
Increase / (Decrease) in provisions	8,122	7,935
Increase / (Decrease) in payables	214,188	(604,616)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	201,827	(574,854)

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

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



NOTE 11 – FINANCIAL 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 2012.

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 2012, balance of long-term borrowings is \$4

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 borrowings facilities are maintained.

There are no material amounts of collateral held as security at 30 June 2012.

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 a Standard & Poor's rating of at least AA- 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 2012 and 30 June 2011 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 statement of financial position.

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate		Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate Maturing		Non-interest Bearing		Total	
	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011
	%	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial assets										
Cash at bank	0.00	0.01	1,917	20,347					1,917	20,347
Cash on deposit	4.00		1,200,387	989,185					1,200,387	989,185
Trade and other receivables							46,854	23,136	46,854	23,136
Total financial assets			1,202,304	1,009,532			46,854	23,136	1,249,158	1,032,668
Financial liabilities										
Trade and other payables							176,372	83,476	176,372	83,476
Total financial liabilities							176,372	83,476	176,372	83,476



notes to financial statements

Trade payables are expected to be paid as follows:

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Trade Payables		
Less than 6 months	154,886	83,476
6 months to 1 year	21,486	-
Total Trade Payables	176,372	83,476

c. Net Fair Values

The fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position at their carrying values. Fair values are those amounts at which an asset could be exchanged or a liability settled, between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

Cash and cash equivalents, trade and other receivables and trade and other payables are short term instruments in nature whose carrying values is equivalent to fair value. Trade and other payables exclude amounts provided for annual leave which is not considered a financial instrument.

Sensitivity Analysis:

Interest rate risk

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

As at 30 June 2012, 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:

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Change in profit		
— Increase in interest rate by 2%	24,046	20,190
— Decrease in interest rate by 2%	(24,046)	(20,190)
Change in equity		
— Increase in interest rate by 2%	24,046	20,190
— Decrease in interest rate by 2%	(24,046)	(20,190)

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.

NOTE 12 – 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 2012 the number of members was 55.

NOTE 13 – AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Remuneration of the auditor for:		
- auditing or reviewing the financial report	6,330	6,330
- other services	6,330	6,330
	12,660	12,660



NOTE 14 – 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 15 – 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 statement of financial position as at 30 June 2012 and the results and cash flows of the Company for the year ended on that date.

NOTE 16 – ENTITY DETAILS

The entity was incorporated on 13 October 1982

The registered office of the entity is:
Level 2 333 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000



director's declaration

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 41 to 50, are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001:
 - a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards; and
 - b. give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2012 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 16th day of October 2012



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

Scope

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Women's Legal Resources Limited (the company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2012 and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of recognised income and expenditure and statement of cash flows 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 Statements

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Act 2001. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are 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 statements 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 statements is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, 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 statements 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 statements.

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, would be in the same terms if provided to the directors as at the date of this auditor's report.

MNSA PTY LTD
ABN 59 133 605 400

Level 2, 333 George St
Sydney NSW 2000
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Accountants Scheme,
approved under the
Professional Standards
Act 1994 (NSW)





auditor's opinion

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Women's Legal Resources Limited as of 30 June 2012, 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 PTY LTD

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

MARK SCHILIRO
DIRECTOR

DATED THIS 16th DAY OF OCTOBER 2012 AT SYDNEY



comprehensive income statement

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED
ABN 88 002 387 699

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Rental Income	49,900	80,121
Interest	7,152	6,988
Donation	-	105
Referral Fees	-	4,273
Other Income	1,000	5,734
Profit from sale of Fixed Asset	-	12,470
Costs Recovered and Retained	18,822	15,753
TOTAL INCOME	76,874	125,444
EXPENDITURE		
<i>Employee Related Expenses</i>		
Salaries & Wages	-	53,561
Workers' Compensation Insurance	-	491
	-	54,052
<i>Service Expenses</i>		
Directors' Meetings	1,087	842
Service Promotion & Consultancy Expenses	25,628	-
	26,715	842
<i>Other Operating Expenses</i>		
Audit & Accountancy Fees	1,500	1,500
Legal & Filing Fees	299	2,582
Depreciation Expenses	6,417	9,666
Equipment / Asset Replacements	12,258	18,122
Printing & Publications	6,398	18,017
Rent	-	1,650
Bank Fees & Interest Expenses	396	668
Property Insurance	1,271	1,026
Property Repairs & Maintenance	3,148	8,725
Rates & Levies	6,772	8,594
	38,459	70,550
TOTAL EXPENSES	65,174	125,444
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	11,700	-



women's legal resources limited

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED
ABN 88 002 387 699

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES CENTRE

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission - Commonwealth	452,825	470,111
Legal Aid Commission - State	319,912	311,200
Legal Aid Commission - FRC	56,326	27,692
Legal Aid Commission - Prior Year	12,453	44,129
Sundry Grants - Cyber / HRC / DVB / SIOP / SUSU	253,046	130,833
Less: Unspent Funds	(17,652)	(66,152)
Sub Total	1,076,910	917,813
Interest Received	23,997	24,872
Fees and Contributions Received	55,406	48,000
Cost Recovered and Retained	5,697	13,473
Sale of Books and Publications	3,166	1,918
Sub Total	88,266	88,263
TOTAL INCOME	1,165,176	1,006,076
EXPENDITURE		
Employee Related Expenses		
Salaries & Wages	721,335	727,439
Superannuation	60,622	58,455
Workers' Compensation Insurance	5,471	6,493
Conferences, Training and Development	10,604	10,331
Staff Recruitment	505	1,622
	798,537	804,340
Service Expenses		
Client Disbursements	2,533	1,689
Committee Expenses	1,169	618
Communication (Telephone & Internet)	9,185	12,078
Community Education & Travel	15,890	16,972
Service Promotion & Other Expenses	11,669	3,742
Sundry Grants	253,618	95,441
	294,064	130,540
Other Operating Expenses		
Audit & Accountancy Fees	5,000	5,500
Bank Charges	323	367
Computer Running Costs	8,638	5,077
Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	8,237	2,328
Insurance	5,425	6,661
Library Resources & Subscriptions	12,375	10,542
Office Amenities	2,422	2,961
Office Maintenance	7,384	7,340
Postage & Freight	2,348	2,024
Printing & Stationery	13,449	5,609
Rent & Accommodation	20,000	20,000
Utilities	3,260	3,435
	88,861	71,844
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,181,462	1,006,724
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	(16,286)	(648)



indigenous women's legal program

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED
ABN 88 002 387 699

INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S LEGAL PROGRAM

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
INCOME		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission	291,793	286,916
Less: Unspent Funds	(31,014)	-
Sub Total	260,779	286,916
Interest Received	13,712	13,976
Cost Recovered and Retained	6,247	485
Sub Total	19,959	14,461
TOTAL INCOME	280,738	301,377
EXPENDITURE		
Employee Related Expenses		
Salaries and Wages	157,508	198,010
Superannuation	12,412	16,193
Workers' Compensation Insurance	1,152	1,718
Staff Conferences, Training and Development	4,829	4,194
Staff Recruitment	180	899
	176,081	221,014
Service Expenses		
Client Disbursements	1,677	59
Committee Expenses	146	150
Communication (Telephone & Internet)	4,037	4,463
Community Education & Travel	10,591	6,729
AWCN Expenses	7,963	9,969
Management Fees	25,000	25,000
Service Promotion & Other Expenses	14,249	2,728
	63,663	49,098
Other Operating Expenses		
Audit & Accountancy Fees	2,000	2,000
Bank Charges	138	174
Computer Running Costs	3,953	2,302
Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	3,620	1,257
Insurance	2,731	2,972
Library, Resources & Subscriptions	4,140	3,090
Office Amenities	1,335	1,483
Office Maintenance	2,726	2,718
Postage & Freight	1,516	1,105
Printing & Stationery	6,247	2,815
Rent & Accommodation	10,400	10,400
Utilities	1,449	1,688
	40,255	32,004
TOTAL EXPENSES	279,999	302,116
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	739	(739)



outreach program

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED
ABN 88 002 387 699

OUTREACH PROGRAM

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
INCOME		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission	190,452	187,268
Less: Unspent Funds	(2,527)	-
Sub Total	187,925	187,268
Interest Received	6,856	6,988
TOTAL INCOME	194,781	194,256
EXPENDITURE		
Employee Related Expenses		
Salaries and Wages	137,478	143,727
Superannuation	11,152	11,596
Workers' Compensation Insurance	1,006	1,248
Conferences, Training and Development	3,335	3,117
Staff Recruitment	90	243
	153,061	159,931
Service Expenses		
Client Disbursements	897	-
Committee Expenses	48	75
Communication (Telephone & Internet)	1,862	2,732
Community Education & Travel	3,876	1,316
Management Fees	11,000	11,000
Service Promotion & Other Expenses	1,554	538
	19,237	15,661
Other Operating Expenses		
Audit & Accountancy fees	1,500	1,800
Bank Charges	96	117
Computer Running Costs	1,947	1,178
Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	1,945	552
Insurance	1,483	1,523
Library, Resources & Subscriptions	2,944	2,627
Office Amenities	659	565
Office Maintenance	1,240	1,483
Postage & Freight	630	490
Printing & Stationery	2,560	1,188
Rent & Accommodation	6,500	6,500
Utilities	724	896
	22,228	18,919
TOTAL EXPENSES	194,526	194,511
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	255	(255)



comprehensive income statement

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCES LIMITED
ABN 88 002 387 699

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGAL SERVICE

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
INCOME		
Grants		
Legal Aid Commission - State	431,808	420,048
Less: Unspent Funds	(33,276)	-
Sub Total	398,532	420,048
Interest Received	17,140	17,470
Cost Recovered and Retained	67	-
Sub Total	17,207	17,470
TOTAL INCOME	415,739	437,518
EXPENDITURE		
Employee Related Expenses		
Salaries and Wages	311,276	340,668
Superannuation	26,085	26,355
Workers' Compensation Insurance	2,298	2,697
Staff Conferences, Training and Development	6,251	5,566
Staff Recruitment	225	608
	346,135	375,894
Service Expenses		
Client Disbursements	1,972	1,767
Committee Expenses	178	281
Communication (Telephone & Internet)	5,159	6,027
Community Education & Travel	7,587	8,757
Service Promotion and Other Expenses	3,908	525
	18,804	17,357
Other Operating Expenses		
Audit & Accountancy fees	3,000	3,500
Bank Charges	238	326
Computer Running Costs	4,713	2,960
Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	4,615	1,342
Insurance	3,350	3,821
Library, Resources & Subscriptions	6,420	6,123
Office Amenities	1,498	1,588
Office Maintenance	3,409	3,672
Postage & Freight	1,790	1,178
Printing & Stationery	6,545	5,028
Rent & Accommodation	13,000	13,000
Utilities	1,811	2,140
	50,389	44,678
TOTAL EXPENSES	415,328	437,929
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	411	(411)

