

women's
law centre



Annual Report
2015–2016

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Our Vision, Mission & Values



Opening hours

Women's Law Centre

Women's Law Centre of WA

Ground Floor, 445 Hay Street, Perth
Monday to Friday 9am–5pm

Perth Family Relationships Centre (FRC)

Bi-monthly
By appointment

Warburton Outreach

1 week in every 8 weeks
Various locations throughout the Ngaanyatjarra
Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands

Djinda Services

Perth Office

Ground Floor, 445 Hay Street, Perth
Monday to Friday 9am–5pm

Outreach Locations

Leederville

Relationships Australia
21 Southport Street, West Leederville
By appointment

Midland

Midland Women's Health Place
4 The Avenue, Midland
Weekly on Wednesday, by appointment

Vision

To provide accessible legal services on a non-discriminatory basis to women facing disadvantage with a particular emphasis in the areas of family law (children's issues), care and protection matters, criminal injuries compensation and women with experience or at risk of family and domestic violence.

Values

To operate through a human rights framework and aims to achieve improved access to justice for women in Western Australia.

Mission

To create an environment in which disadvantaged women in Western Australia are able to achieve fair outcomes in the legal system and equal access to justice. Through the provision of legal services, including education and law reform, empower women in Western Australia to make informed legal choices and participate fully in legal processes that greatly impact on their lives and the lives of their children.

The WLCWA provides assistance by appointment only. Clients can call our Centre on 9272 8800 or 1800 625 122 to arrange an appointment. Advice appointments can be in person or by telephone. We work with interpreters to assist women who speak languages other than English.

We also have a website containing legal information and referral information. To visit our site go to

www.wlcwa.org.au

Acknowledgements

The WLCWA is pleased to present our Annual Report for the 2015–2016 year.

Thank you to Allens for kindly producing our Annual Report. We would be unable to produce such a polished report without your assistance.

On behalf of the staff, board and volunteers of the WLCWA we acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and pay our respect to elders past, present and future. We extend this acknowledgement to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people reading this report.

We would also like to thank the following people and organisations that have provided donations, volunteer time, pro bono services, in kind support or funding grants to our Centre in the 2015 – 2016 year:

- The Honourable Antoinette Kennedy, AO (Patron of WLCWA)
- Registrar Danielle Davies, Supreme Court of WA
- Dr Lee Partridge. University of Western Australia
- University to Community (U2C)
- Yvette Fenton, Lawyer, Clayton Utz
- Garth Tinsley, Ashurst, Senior Associate, Pro Bono Manager Australia
- Evan Sylwestrzak, Ashurst Pro Bono Coordinator
- Michael Sheehan, Relationships Australia
- Angela Ryder, Relationships Australia
- Graeme Wovodich & Marcia Johnson, Abbott Solutions, auditors
- Narelle Seth, relief reception
- Anne Westerside, relief reception
- Karen Brown and the team at Cannings Purple, Public Relations Agency
- Sandy Taylor, Esoto

- Relationships Australia WA
- Langford Aboriginal Association
- Unions WA
- The Greens
- HostTel
- Patsy Molloy, Women's Health Care Place, Midland
- Allison Harris, State Program Manager, CLC Funding Program, Legal Aid WA
- Leanne Pauletto, Co-ordinator – Reporting, CLC Funding Program, Legal Aid WA.

Your support motivates us in our work. The monetary donations and increased assistance from volunteers, organisations and pro bono law firms has meant the WLCWA has been able to assist more clients in the 2015–2016 year.

The Team at WLCWA

A huge thank you to the wonderful team of staff, board members and volunteers at the WLCWA! The considerable achievements outlined in this report are a reflection of your commitment, professionalism and integrity. Thank you to the WLCWA Board of Management for your leadership, expertise and insight.

Carrie Hannington
Managing Solicitor

Would you like to be involved? We would love to hear from you!

Thanks for your support and interest in the WLCWA. There are a number of ways that individuals and organisations can assist our Centre. We are grateful to organisations that allow us to use office space for meetings and other training opportunities from time to time. In addition, our staff are also grateful for any professional development training opportunities and sponsorship to attend training that is beyond our budget.

WLCWA produces a number of publications, including a Parenting Orders workbook for separating parents and a Mediation booklet. Offers to print multiple copies of these resources are appreciated by our Centre. Other ways pro-bono partnerships can assist our Centre are the provision of merchandise and sponsorship for events.

Donate Now!

The WLCWA is a not for profit community organisation that gratefully accepts donations. Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible and a receipt is provided on request. Donations can be made by cash, cheque or money order. Please see our website for further details

www.wlcwa.org.au/get-involved

Facebook

WLCWA has a Facebook page! www.facebook.com/wlcwa. The aim of our Facebook page is to raise the public profile of WLCWA and to increase awareness of issues affecting women today. If you haven't already, please 'like' our page and share amongst your contacts and networks. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you on our page!

We hope you enjoy reading this Annual Report and look forward to working with you in 2017 and beyond.



Chairperson's Report

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who have worked hard this year and continued to make such a worthwhile contribution to the Women's Law Centre.

The 2015–2016 year, as with previous years, has been very challenging for the Women's Law Centre of Western Australia Inc (WLCWA). We continue to operate our service in a climate of funding restraints. This has resulted in loss of staff, reduction in hours offered to staff and reduction of services. Notwithstanding such restrictions, everyone associated with WLCWA remains dedicated to assisting the women of Western Australia through the provision of free legal services.

The WLCWA continues in its commitment to providing services to women facing disadvantage in Western Australia. This report provides an excellent description of the range of services we provide to a large number of women from a variety of backgrounds and in various locations around the state.

There are many people and organisations to thank for the support that they have provided to WLCWA in 2015–2016. I acknowledge the organisations that support the WLCWA with funding; The Commonwealth Attorney General's Community Legal Services Program, the Western Australian Attorney General and the NPY Women's Council.

We could not provide the services we do without the support of our partner agencies and the networks to which we belong. I note in particular our ongoing partnership with Relationships Australia that enables us to run the Djinda Services programme which provides legal services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women living in the metropolitan area.

I also want to thank our pro bono partners and the lawyers and students who volunteer or provide advice and assistance to the WLCWA. The centre is that bit better for your involvement and commitment.

I recognise and thank all the staff of WLCWA who work together to provide a diverse and impressive range of services. I also wish to praise the work that all the WLCWA staff do to strengthen our networks through their service on boards and committees within the sector.

I thank those women who have left the staff this year for their contribution to the work of WLCWA including:

- (i) Louahna Lloyd – co-Managing Solicitor
- (ii) Helen Lawrence – co-Managing Solicitor
- (iii) Penny Robbins – Senior Solicitor.

My gratitude extends to our dedicated and long serving staff members. I would also like to welcome all staff members who have joined us over the past year.

Our Managing Solicitor Lesley Kirkwood has been with WLCWA for 8 years. Lesley is currently on Maternity Leave. Her tireless work at the Centre is commendable. The Managing Solicitor's role is currently being filled by Carrie Hannington. Carrie has already brought so much energy and commitment to the position and is to be applauded for her work.

Warm thanks is extended to our patron Antoinette Kennedy AO and all of the board members who have given their time and commitment during the year to ensure that the WLCWA can continue to operate effectively and provide the much needed services that it does.

The WLCWA continues to make a significant contribution to law reform and advocacy on behalf of women in Western Australia who are most at need.

As my first year as Chairperson of the Board of the Women's Law Centre of Western Australia, I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow board members and the staff of the Women's Law Centre for your support and assistance throughout the year.

Kathleen Pemberton
Chair of WLCWA

WLCWA Services

The achievements of the WLCWA over the last 12 months are well documented throughout this annual report. Please see below for a snapshot of our achievements in the 2015–2016 year.

WLCWA Services

The WLCWA is a not for profit Community Legal Centre funded by the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department to provide quality legal services for women of Western Australia.

The WLCWA prioritises services to women facing disadvantage, and focusses on areas of law where women's experience is different to that of men. Our casework areas are:

- family law (children's issues)
- family and domestic violence
- care and protection proceedings
- criminal injuries compensation related to family and domestic violence and/or sexual assault
- women's human rights issues.

The Women's Law Centre also supports women who face exceptional circumstances including those who are illiterate and innumerate, have suffered significant trauma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and women who come from a culturally or linguistically diverse background.

WLCWA Achievements in the 2015–2016 year

Despite difficulties facing the community legal sector in terms of funding in the last 12 months, our dedicated team of staff and volunteers worked together to improve access to justice for women in WA. WLCWA's core work included:

- Provision of comprehensive legal information and referral services to 1,645 women. Legal information is also available on our website at www.wlcwa.org.au
- Empowerment of women to make informed decisions about issues affecting their lives, with provision of 535 legal advices. Legal advice is provided by telephone or in person at the Centre or through one of our 4 outreach locations.

- Provision of casework assistance, including Court representation, to 73 women. WLCWA assists women in the Family Court of WA, Children's Court and Magistrates Court in the Perth metropolitan area and in regional Courts through our outreach service with the NPY Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Service.
- Comprehensive assistance to women in making claims for Criminal Injuries Compensation as a result of domestic and family violence.

Responding to emerging issues and providing advice to Government

The WLCWA actively engages in government reviews and is committed to advocating for social change in the areas of women's equality and access to justice.

In the 2015–2016 year, WLCWA undertook a variety of activities such as:

- participating in inquiries
- providing submissions in relation to proposed Government policy changes
- writing letters to politicians and the Prime Minister
- providing advice to Government advocating for women and their children
- representing women at public awareness events such as White Ribbon Day
- undertaking a social impact study.

Educating women about the law

WLCWA provides community legal education (CLE) and training to both professional and community groups. We are a QA provider and can offer Continuing Professional Development training for solicitors.

WLCWA completed 38 CLE activities in a range of mediums including (but not limited to):

- Articles of interest posted on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/wlcwa
- Legal information sheets and self help booklets for clients
- Legal Information sessions/workshops for clients and service providers
- Information stalls and dissemination at public events
- Presentations to students bodies, clients and service providers
- Training volunteers
- Through service provider and stakeholder networks.

Assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the Gibson Desert

In partnership with the NPY Women's Council Domestic and Family Violence Service, WLCWA Solicitor Penny Robbins travelled to the NPY Lands to provide legal services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women living in remote communities. Solicitor Louise McDermott has now taken on this role, and her report provides insight into this rewarding and challenging work.

Djinda Services

Djinda Services is run in partnership with Relationships Australia WA and is funded by the Western Australian Government. With the auspicing of Djinda Services (the Perth Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Service), WLCWA has an additional team of staff to assist with front line services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the Perth metropolitan area, including the provision of services in outreach locations. You can read more about the great work of Djinda Services later in this report.

Targeting services to those most in need

Unfortunately our prison outreach service was not funded beyond 1 July 2015. WLCWA recognises the extreme disadvantage that women in prison face, and has continued to assist former prison clients (and some new ones) by telephone and correspondence, and by appearing in the Family Court via tele-link.

Mention has already been made of our services to disadvantaged women such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and women who come from a culturally or linguistically diverse background.

Family Relationships Centre Legal Assistance Partnership Programme

WLCWA provided family law advice to clients referred from the Family Relationships Centre as part of a legal assistance partnership programme that aims for holistic delivery of services.

Evening Legal Clinic

The WLCWA is aware of the vast service gap experienced by disadvantaged women in WA in need of low cost or free assistance in property settlement matters, especially in circumstances where family and domestic violence is present. Services providing women facing disadvantage with low cost or free assistance in this area are extremely limited, and have been recognised as a prime area of legal need among disadvantaged women. The WLCWA holds a monthly evening legal clinic staffed by volunteer solicitors. We are very grateful to our team of volunteer solicitors and coordinator who assist women in this much needed area.

Pro-bono partnerships

In addition to the Evening Legal Clinic, WLCWA also commenced working successfully with several private firms to provide pro-bono legal assistance to clients in 2015–16, particularly where matters are complex and beyond the usual scope of WLCWA work. We are especially grateful for referrals made in relation to claims for Criminal Injuries Compensation.

Network Coordination

During 2015–16 WLCWA continued to auspice the Coordinator positions for the following networks:

- Women's Legal Services Australia National Network (WLSA)
- Domestic Violence Legal Workers Network (DVLWN); and
- Community Legal Centres and Family Relationships Centres Network

Heidi Guldback has coordinated each of the above positions. You can read about each of the networks throughout this report.



WLCWA Casework Guidelines

Please note, these casework guidelines apply to all WLCWA outreach services.



What does WLCWA do?

The Women's Law Centre provides information about legal issues and referral to support services, legal advice, casework, community legal education and law reform advocacy to women in Western Australia. Our ability to assist someone will depend on the circumstances of their case and may be affected by our Centre's capacity at the time. We have limited appointments, and target our services to women in crisis and women facing disadvantage, but we can provide information and referral options to anyone who calls.

What areas of law can WLCWA assist with?

WLCWA is committed to providing high quality legal advice and assistance to women who face disadvantage, in the areas of law that are most needed. WLCWA provides advice, minor assistance and representation in the following areas:

- ✓ **Children's Issues (Family Law)**
 - child contact issues (spend time with / access)
 - child residence (live with / custody)
 - consent orders (referring to children only)
 - parenting plans
 - location and recovery orders
 - specific issues order
 - contravention applications.
- ✓ **Property Settlement Matters (Family Law)**
 - One off initial advice appointment through our evening legal clinic held once a month.
- ✓ **Divorce Applications**
 - Where the matter is not a straightforward application (eg. the woman does not know where her husband is)
 - Where the woman has special needs (e.g. culturally and linguistically diverse).
- ✓ **Domestic Violence**
 - Restraining orders advice
 - Negotiation and representation on defended hearings
 - Appeal matters.
- ✓ **Protection and Care Matters**
 - Advice for women who are respondent parents and extended family where children are subject to orders or some involvement with the Department for Child Protection & Family Support.
- ✓ **Criminal Injuries Compensation**
 - Particularly where claims result from domestic violence, sexual abuse, or child sexual abuse.

Unfortunately, WLCWA cannot provide advice/assistance in the following areas/situation:

- ✗ Centrelink/Social Security
- ✗ commercial or small business issues
- ✗ consumer and debt
- ✗ criminal matters
- ✗ disputes with builders / strata title companies
- ✗ immigration
- ✗ loans and credit contracts
- ✗ neighbourhood disputes
- ✗ personal injuries / negligence
- ✗ real estate
- ✗ taxation
- ✗ tenancy
- ✗ traffic offences
- ✗ unfair dismissal
- ✗ wills and probate
- ✗ workers compensation.

What are WLCWA's advice and assistance priorities?

In assessing whether to provide initial advice and further services, the WLCWA prioritises the following areas of service:

- ✓ Where the woman has been referred from another community agency and the woman is in crisis, especially referrals from a Women's Refuge or Multicultural Women's Advocacy Service;
- ✓ Where the woman has experienced or is currently experiencing family or domestic violence;
- ✓ Family law children's issues in general; and
- ✓ Urgent family law children's matters, such as recovery orders (where staffing permits).

In all areas of service provision, the WLCWA seeks to prioritise assisting women who face disadvantage, including:

- ✓ Women receiving Centrelink benefits and/or women with no or below average income
- ✓ Women in prison
- ✓ Women living in remote, rural or regional areas with limited access to other legal services
- ✓ Women with a disability
- ✓ Women from CALD backgrounds particularly women for whom English is a second language
- ✓ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
- ✓ Women experiencing or overcoming domestic violence
- ✓ Young women
- ✓ Older women
- ✓ Women experiencing discrimination on the basis of sexuality.

How are appointments made?

Appointments are made by phoning our office on 9272 8800 from 9:30am each weekday. Appointments can be made directly by clients or by workers on their behalf. Appointments are filled quickly and it is important to call as soon as possible.

When appointments are made, WLCWA staff will require the following information:

- Client's name, DOB, address and contact details;
- General nature of the problem;
- Name of the other party or parties (to ensure there is no conflict of interest);
- If it is a children's matter we will need the names and DOB's of the children involved;
- Whether the client has been to WLCWA before;
- Whether the client has had advice on this matter from another solicitor, and if so, the name of that solicitor.

What if WLCWA is unable to help?

We may not be able to assist for various reasons, including:

- the client's legal issue is outside of Western Australia
- we do not have the expertise to assist the client
- we have a conflict of interest
- we do not have capacity.

If we cannot assist, we may refer the person to appropriate alternative services, which may include Legal Aid, another community legal centre, private practitioner or another service or support group.

What other services does WLCWA provide?

- ✓ Outreach to Women's Prisons
- ✓ Outreach to NPY Lands
- ✓ Domestic Violence Legal Workers Network
- ✓ CLC/FRC Services Network
- ✓ Coordinator for the Women's Legal Services Australia Network
- ✓ Djinda Services (PAFVPLS) assisting Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander women in the Perth metro area affected by family violence and/or sexual assault
- ✓ Law Reform
- ✓ Community Legal Education.

Our People



Patron

The Patron of WLCWA is the Honourable Antoinette Kennedy, AO.

WLCWA Staff

Biddy Brennan

Solicitor Full-time – Djinda Services

I joined the WLC in August of 2014 after working as a criminal lawyer in Kalgoorlie with the Aboriginal Legal Service. In my current position at WLC I am part of Djinda Services, specifically assisting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients who are at risk of family violence or sexual assault. I have now been with the WLC for two years working mainly in the areas of Family Law, Criminal Injuries Compensation, and Care and Protection. The work is both enjoyable and challenging and overall very rewarding. Prior to studying law at a mature age I was a school teacher, business woman and I am a mother of 2. My interest in social justice has been fundamental to pursuing a career in law and I am excited to have the opportunity to now be working in the community legal sector. I hold a Bachelor of Arts, Diploma of Education and Juris Doctor. I am a member of Family Law Practitioners Association and Women Lawyers of WA.

Tameka Brown

Solicitor (Restricted Practice) Full-time – Djinda Services

I joined WLC at the end of May 2016, notching up another stop on my rounds of CLCs! Previously I worked at Peel Community Legal Services and Albany Community Legal Centre and completed my Practical Legal Training at the Albany Family Violence Prevention Legal Service. I graduated from UWA with a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce and was admitted to practice in 2014. Come the end of September 2016 I will also (hopefully!) be an unrestricted practitioner. Although being somewhat thrown into the deep end with Djinda Services, I am enjoying this new role and have been getting plenty of help and advice from everyone.

Jacquie Carter

Office Manager (part-time)

I joined WLCWA in June 2009, returning to the Community Legal Sector after taking time out from the workforce to care for my 2 children. I manage all financial requirements of the Centre, including budgeting, reporting and co-ordinating the annual audit. I also co-ordinate WLCWA's annual report, manage the WLCWA Facebook page and am involved in maintaining WLCWA's policies and procedures and risk management processes. In addition, I convene a network of CLC Administrators (called the Admin Network) as a forum for administration workers in CLCs to meet and support one another.

Sharm Greenwood

Administration/Reception

I joined WLCWA in January 2013 after completing a degree in Legal Studies and Criminology at Murdoch University. WLCWA is a wonderful place to start working after completing my studies. I particularly enjoy working with such a positive team of women. The most important aspect of my role is being the first point of contact with clients and other service providers. It is my job to assess if we can assist potential clients or to provide an appropriate referral if we are unable to assist. I enjoy this part of my role immensely. I also co-ordinate the Evening Legal Clinic, manage CLSIS data entry and assist with payroll and accounts processing.

Heidi Guldbaek

Coordinator, Domestic Violence Legal Workers' Network

National Law Reform Coordinator, Women's Legal Services Australia (till November 2015)

Coordinator, Legal Assistance Service Providers FRC Partnership Program

Originally hailing from the backwoods of Northern British Columbia, I have spent the last 11 years in sunny Perth and since 2007 I have worked in the anti-violence against women sector as an educator, advocate and activist, without regret! I am an intense social justice nerd, unwavering optimist and am humbled to work with victims and victim advocates to ensure that the voices of women escaping violence are heard in policy, program and legislative development to overcome structural oppression and injustice. When I'm not nerding-out and helping people recognise their own power and deepen their understanding of social justice, I love a good latte, getting excited by stationery and hanging out with my fur baby and Kelpie sidekick, Mitsey. I am a human rights advocate, social entrepreneur and a community development practitioner with a Bachelor of Behavioural Science and a Master of Human Rights.

Carrie Hannington

Managing Solicitor

I am delighted to have taken up the Managing Solicitor position in June 2016 during Lesley's absence on maternity leave. I am a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Western Australia, admitted since 2000, and have diverse experience in law including with the Aboriginal Legal Service, Aboriginal Family Law Services, the Department of Public Prosecutions and in private practice. I have been a Board member and Chair of Kimberley Community Legal Services, and have worked substantially in both metro and remote areas of WA. I initially joined Djinda Services in February 2016, following eleven years' experience of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in law, the public service and Aboriginal organisations. I have a comprehensive understanding of the needs of disadvantaged women and am committed to their empowerment, to the advancement of justice and their safety and to upholding gender and cultural equality. I am confident that the excellent and dedicated staff at WLCWA and

Djinda can help us continue such a vision through sound teamwork, positive strategic planning, building networks and delivering high quality client services.

Vicki Karlake

Typist (part-time)

As my title suggests, I do the typing and word processing for WLCWA. I am rarely seen in the WLCWA offices as I work remotely via computer technology. We have had a few staff changes since I started with WLCWA but I know every staff member has been committed to helping women of disadvantage. I am proud to be a small part of such a team.

Louise McDermott

Solicitor

I started with the WLCWA just before the end of the financial year, having moved over from Sydney where I was admitted to the Supreme Court in July 2012. I am passionate about social justice and have career history that reflects this spanning law, media and communications and social work. Immediately before taking up my role with the WLCWA, I was a locum solicitor at the Women's Legal Service NSW, in Sydney. Prior to that, I worked at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and was employment and discrimination solicitor at Redfern Legal Centre in Sydney. I have also worked as a criminal lawyer with the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service in Alice Springs which took me to remote NT community bush courts where I represented Aboriginal people from Central Australia in pleas, bail applications and defended hearings. I am very much looking forward to my role with the WLCWA and am particularly keen to undertake the outreach work to the NPY Lands.

Bianca Orchard

Administrative Assistant (Djinda Services)

I was employed by WLCWA in January 2014, this is my first time working within the Community Legal Sector which appealed to me when applying for the role. I am a Murri woman from Queensland and moved to Perth in 2007 with my two children. I bring over 5 years administrative work experience to Djinda Services and have enjoyed working alongside very dedicated and friendly ladies within the Women's Law Centre. I am first point of contact for our

clients, setting up appointments and assisting the solicitors with administrative duties. I look forward to learning various aspects of the Community Legal Sector & engaging in further training to ensure the legal advice and support for Aboriginal Women and Children continues.

Penny Robbins

Senior Solicitor (part-time), 2008 to April 2016

I have been practicing law since 2006, and have worked in the Community Legal Sector since then. I started at WLCWA in September 2008. During that period I have worked as a solicitor in the Perth office and as one of the solicitors responsible for the Ngaanyatjarra Lands Outreach Service to Aboriginal women. I particularly enjoy this aspect of my work at WLCWA and the opportunity it gives me to meet some wonderful women and assist with their legal problems. I am a member of Women Lawyers of WA and the Family Law Practitioners Association. I hold a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws. I left WLCWA in April 2016 after 7 and a half very fulfilling and enjoyable years to take on a new challenge within the community legal sector.

Helen Lawrence

Senior Solicitor, Djinda Services, finished May 2015

Managing Solicitor (part time/job-share March–April 2016)

I joined the Women's Law Centre as a Senior Solicitor in November 2013, taking up a newly created position in Djinda Services. I am a barrister and solicitor admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Western Australia of over thirty years standing. My commitment to social justice lead to my employment at numerous Community Law Centres, Legal Aid WA, Yamatji Land and Sea Council and the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody ('RCADC'). In the past 30 years I have acquired a broad based knowledge and experience across many areas of law relating to social justice. My work for the RCADC gave me a comprehensive understanding of the legal and social issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I left the WLCWA to help care for my first grandson.

Lesley Kirkwood

Managing Solicitor (part time/job-share)

I have worked in the community sector since 2003 and have been a part of the fabulous team at the WLCWA for almost 9 years! I have worked in many roles at WLCWA – assisting women in prison and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the Fitzroy Valley area and the NPY Lands. I became the Managing Solicitor in 2011. I believe the provision of quality legal advice and working in collaboration with support services achieves the best outcomes for clients. It is a privilege to work in a way that empowers women to make informed decisions that impact on their lives and the lives of their children. I am lucky to be supported by such a great team of women at the WLCWA. In May 2016 I commenced maternity leave for a period of 12 months.

Louahna Lloyd

Managing Solicitor (part-time/job-share) (April 2014 to November 2015)

I first joined the WLCWA team as part of the Djinda Services team in September 2014. I came to WLCWA having previously been employed at the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation and Fremantle Community Legal Centre. I have significant experience in the areas of restraining orders and domestic violence, family law, criminal injuries compensation and native title law. In April 2014, an opening arose at WLCWA to job-share the Managing Solicitor role on a part time basis. I successfully applied for this role, which I shared with Lesley Kirkwood until my resignation in November 2015. I also remain the director of my company, Native Title Legal Services Pty Ltd and provide consultant legal services to native title representative bodies and Indigenous organisations.

Our Board of Management

Kath Pemberton (Chairperson)

I joined the WLCWA Board in March 2014.

I am the Managing Director of Pemberton Robertson. I practise exclusively in the area of family law. I specialise in the resolution of financial matters and child related matters. I have been involved in many complex matters including matters involving international business structures and assets in a range of locations. I am also experienced in being sensitive to difficult situations surrounding children and their relationships with their parents. I am a member of the Family Law Practitioners' Association. I have been a Council Member and Vice President of Collaborative Professionals WA in recent years. I joined the WLCWA Board because, after several years volunteering at the WLCWA in the evening legal clinics, I was impressed with the Centre and wanted to make a greater contribution by being part of the Board.

Danielle Davies (Deputy Chairperson)

I joined the board in February 2011.

I am a Registrar at the Supreme Court of Western Australia. I joined the Board in order to support the important work carried out by the Centre. I am committed to ensuring that women facing disadvantage in Western Australia have access to legal advice and information.

Helen Herbage (Treasurer)

I joined the WLCWA board in October 2014.

I am a qualified accountant with over 27 years' experience in finance and administration through 20 years with KPMG and 7 years' commercial experience as Head of Finance and Administration functions. I am also a board member of Scouts WA and Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee of Scouts WA. In addition I am a strong supporter and active member of Oxfam WA. I am committed to supporting the WLCWA to continue to provide essential services to disadvantaged women in WA across the broadest range of legal advice and support that is possible.

Marnie Williams (Secretary)

I joined the WLCWA Board in early 2015.

I am currently the Clinical Services Manager at the Association of Services for Torture and Trauma Survivors (ASeTTS). I am a qualified trauma counsellor with expertise in cross-cultural approaches and complex trauma. Whilst currently working with refugees and people seeking asylum, I have worked with Indigenous communities, domestic violence survivors and children who have been victims of sexual abuse. I have also worked in the court system supporting victims of crime, include special victims and child witnesses. In my current role I provide training on managing vicarious trauma and the role of the 'incidental counsellor' to non-mental health services interacting with vulnerable and traumatised clients.

I am currently studying a B.A. in law and joined the WLCWA board because the work the WLCWA does is incredibly important to the women of Western Australia. Having an opportunity to contribute to the governance of an organisation that is furthering the access to justice for women who would otherwise not be provided with the support that they need, is a privilege.

Amanda Blackburn (Ordinary Member)

Solicitor, DG Price & Co

I joined the WLCWA Board in February 2012.

I am a solicitor employed by DG Price & Co. I have also worked for Legal Aid (WA), for a barristers' Chambers and for a large corporate law firm. I hold a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and Bachelor of Arts (Hons). I practise mainly in criminal law. I joined the Board because I believe that justice should be accessible to everyone and hope that I can assist WLCWA to ensure that disadvantaged women have greater access to legal advice, information and representation.

Karen Brown (Ordinary Member)

I joined the WLCWA Board in early 2015.

I am the National Director for Perth-based strategic communications consultancy, Cannings Purple. The firm provides tailored strategies and high-level communication programs to a diverse client base across media, government, investor, employee and community audiences. I have previously worked in the media and held senior roles in both State and Federal politics. I am also a Director at Rural Health West, Rural Workforce Australia, Edge Employment Solutions and a Board Member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board. I joined the WLCWA Board as my long-standing commitment to women's issues and social justice strongly aligned with WLCWA's mission.

Rachel Cain (Ordinary Member)

I joined the WLCWA Board in September 2012.

I am a corporate lawyer specialising in construction and major projects at Clayton Utz in Perth after relocating from Adelaide in early 2012. I joined the WLCWA Board in September 2012 because I am passionate about lawyers "giving back" and achieving equality for all women, including access to justice. My current and previous pursuits outside of my day job closely align with the WLCWA's vision.

Heather Millar (Ordinary Member)

I joined the WLCWA Board in September 2014.

I am a lawyer specialising in employment law. I am currently employed by the Department of Health where I advise a highly unionized workforce on industrial relations, employment disputes and workforce policies and procedures. I joined the WLCWA Board as I wanted to support the valuable services that WLCWA provides to women in WA.

Lucy Young (Ordinary Member)

I joined the WLCWA Board in September 2012.

I am a solicitor with Legal Aid WA. I joined the WLCWA Board in 2012 when I was working in the Legal Aid office in Kununurra. I have huge admiration for the work that the staff at WLCWA do for disadvantaged and vulnerable women. Having worked as a criminal lawyer in regional areas, I am particularly proud of WLCWA's outreach work with women in the NPY lands and women in prison.



Our Volunteers

The Women's Law Centre is extremely grateful for the assistance it has received from a number of volunteers this year. Our volunteers assist our solicitors with a variety of tasks which include research, casework, updating WLCWA precedents and collecting statistical data.

The assistance provided by our volunteers is extremely valuable to us and assists WLCWA to increase its capacity to help women in need. This year, we were fortunate enough to engage 2 university student volunteers to carry out social impact studies on 2 of our services. This information is very valuable for us and will allow us to illustrate the impact of some of our services in funding applications in the future.

We have continued to operate our monthly Evening Legal Clinic with a volunteer co-ordinating the Clinic and volunteer solicitors providing legal advice. We thank our dedicated volunteer solicitors who volunteer their time on the first Monday of every month. These solicitors provide one-off advice, information and referral for women in relation to family law property matters. In addition to this, we are grateful to a number of solicitors and their private law firms for providing us and our clients with much needed pro bono advice and assistance.

Volunteers

Catherine Hall, Solicitor

Mia De Leo, Law Student, University of Western Australia

Karess Dias, Behavioural Science Internship, University of Notre Dame

Libby Bevis, Student, Chisholm Catholic College

Mariesa Greenwood, Student, Murdoch University

Simone Ward, Law Graduate, University of Western Australia

Tyler Reysenbach, Student, University of Western Australia

Kubra Serin, Student, University of Western Australia

Anne Westerside, Receptionist

Evening Legal Clinic Volunteers

Kate Hill, Hartrey Legal

Miranda Robertson, Pemberton Robertson Lawyers

Kath Pemberton, Pemberton Robertson Lawyers

Kath Mitchell, Alexanders Lawyers

Emma Douglas, Australian Workers' Union

Celeste Saxon, Saxon Legal

Rebecca Bunney, Cullen MacLeod

Clare Prestegar, Clairs Keeley Lawyers

Jessie Yeow-Cinquina, Shalom Legal

Catherine Cousins, Law Student

Providing legal information, advice & representation

Total Clients 15/16

345

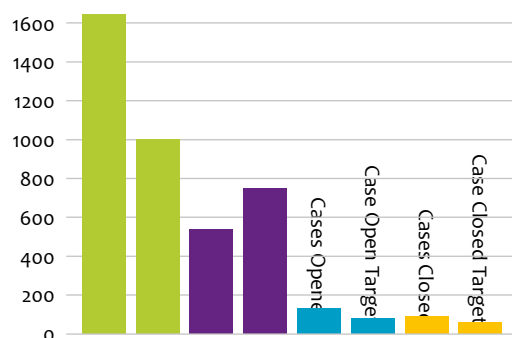
Information Activities

1,645

Total Advice Activities

536

Actuals v Targets



Top Problem Types 15/16

Children's Matters	209
Family Law Property	80
Domestic/family violence	78
Divorce/Separation	24
Other Family Law	17
Child Protection	11
Injuries Compensation	6

Total cases open 15/16

130

Open at start	58
New	72
Ongoing as at 30 June 2016	39

Total cases closed 15/16

91

Minor <6 hours	22
Medium 6–20 hours	33
Major <20 hours	36
Closed cases with Court representation	38

Non-casework projects

100

Completed	98
Community Legal Education	46
Law Reform and Legal Policy	26

Outreach Services

NPY Lands

Advice	30
Casework	21

Prison

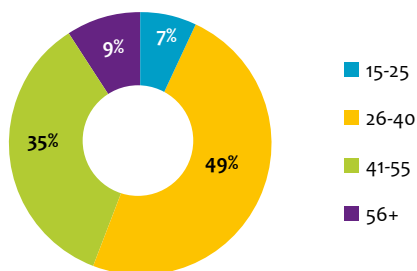
Advice	18
Casework	35

Perth FRC

Advice	27
Community Legal Education	7

Our Clients

Age of clients



ATSI

Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander	23
Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	2
Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander	198

Country of Origin

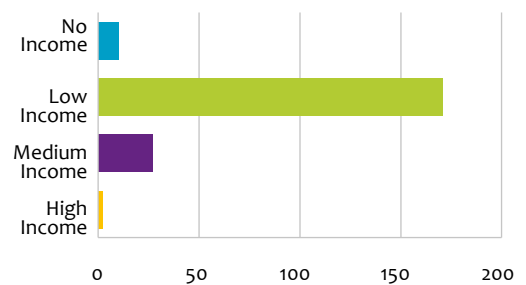
Australia	146
New Zealand	14
England	10
Indonesia	6

As well as women from Bangladesh, Brazil, Burma, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Liberia, Malaysia, Mali, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, USA and Vietnam.

Disability

Clients with a Disability	27
No Disability	176

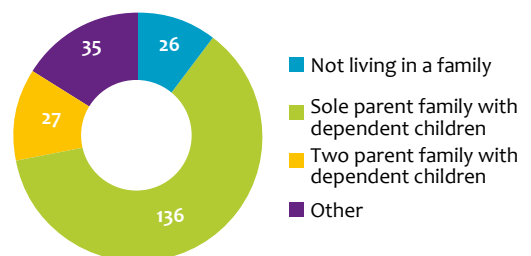
Income Scale



Income Source

Earned (eg. wages, salary)	74
Government benefit	120
Other/Not stated	39
No Income	3

Family Type



What our clients say

To the Women's Law Centre,

Thank you so much for your help with my matter. You never know these services are available until you need them and I am very grateful for your advice and support. It's a great comfort to get professional legal advice you otherwise couldn't afford and from such experienced caring people. Thank you for all your time you guys work very hard and its much appreciated.

Yours thankfully,

Mary Jane*



**Name has been changed*



Case Studies

Case Study 1 – CIC

Ann lived in a remote aboriginal community. We first met Ann after her partner had assaulted her and her son. This was the last of many acts of violence committed against her, some of which were serious indictable offences. Ann's ex partner is currently serving a lengthy prison term.

We worked with Ann with the assistance of NPY Women's Council to prepare and submit a criminal injuries compensation claim. We obtained a personal

statement from her about the effect that the offences had on her over the years. We obtained her numerous medical records and police records and organised for her to obtain a psychologist report.

Ann had a total of 4 claims for criminal injuries against her ex partner, including sexual assaults. She received over \$70,000 in compensation for the four offences.

Case Study 2 – Family Law

Donna came to WLC for assistance to enable her to travel overseas with her child to visit her family in Turkey. English was her second language and whilst she spoke English adequately, WLC used interpreters for most appointments. Donna was separated from her husband and also wanted a divorce. She had fled interstate with her young baby due to family violence by her husband and his family and had a restraining order against him and his parents.

When Donna came to WLC she had been separated for 18 months. His family had made threats to her family in Turkey demanding that she return the child to him.

WLC helped Donna by preparing and filing applications in the Family Court for a divorce and for parenting orders. As there had been family violence, WLC also filed a Form 4 Notice of Abuse and Family Violence. The parenting orders sought sole parental responsibility and for the husband to do all things necessary to facilitate the issue of an Australian passport for the child. WLC also organised for the Family Court documents to be served on the husband and his parents.

The Court issued orders for the child to live with Donna and granted her sole parental responsibility.

The Court also ordered that the father do all things necessary to facilitate the issue of a passport for the child. In the event this did not happen, the Registrar of the Family Court would sign the passport application. WLC sent the passport application to the father but unfortunately he did not sign it.

A further issue arose for the client regarding her child's eligibility for an Australian passport. As Donna did not have permanent residency at the time of the child's birth, the child's citizenship was derived by virtue of the father's Australian citizenship. As the father did not sign the passport application and would not provide proof of his citizenship, Donna needed to obtain an Australian Citizenship certificate for the child. WLC helped Donna by preparing the application form (which like many government forms was complex) and in obtaining supporting documents to obtain the certificate. This process took a couple of months and the child now has the Citizenship Certificate. WLC also assisted Donna to fill out the passport application for the child.

WLC then needed to further represent Donna in the Family Court to have the Registrar sign the child's passport application, which he did. Donna's matter is now almost resolved, with the passport application in hand and Family Court Orders soon to be made final.

Bringing some legal advice to women in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands

Solicitors visited the Ngaanyatjarra Lands four times in the 2015 – 2016 funding year, with all visits bar one undertaken by Penny Robbins, and the final visit in May by Biddy Brennan.

Despite visits being held two-three months apart, our partnership with the Ngaanyatjarra Women's Council (NPYWC) continues to ensure that regular client phone contact, updates, follow-up work and information exchange occurs throughout the year.

Our work in the Lands is very different to working in the office. Many client interviews are done in the car, or when safe, sitting on the client's veranda at home.

The NPY Lands work sees us continue to work closely with the WA Police Service in the communities to identify needs and ways the existing MoU between the Goldfields Esperance Police District and NPY Women's Council can be updated to make it the most practicable and relevant that it can be.

The bulk of our work is in obtaining VRO's for women and through that, possible claims for criminal injuries compensation with most of ongoing files for the year being the latter.

It was through our networking while on the Lands that we gather information that can link into other WLC roles such as law reform. In this regard, it was a meeting with Aboriginal Legal Service Court staff that made us aware of the need for Contact VRO's as distinct from VRO's.

It was conveyed to us that a contact VRO has the advantage of educating the offending party about what is actually required of them and what behaviour is unacceptable. A contact VRO, where appropriate, also allows a family to remain intact which is what the woman often requires and teaches the man he is welcome at home if he refrains from all forms of violence.

Within this context, we assisted a total of 29 clients in the Lands in the 2015 – 2016 funding year. Nine of these were new clients, 10 were existing clients and 10 were repeat clients.

We had 21 cases at the beginning of the period with 11 of these being new cases and by year's end, we had closed 11 major cases.

We gave advice on 30 matters including Violence Restraining Orders, Family Law and care and protection. Criminal injuries compensation was a major advice topic which subsequently turned into larger, more complex and labour-intensive cases. We were able to achieve some excellent results for clients in the criminal injuries compensation area in the financial year with one Lands client being awarded more than \$60,000.

During the year we took on eight new clients from the Lands in addition to the 10 existing clients we had and 10 repeat clients.

It is anticipated that the Lands outreach work will continue to occur four times a year and may align more with Court circuit sittings to enable us to provide duty lawyer work when required.

Louise McDermott
Solicitor



Djinda Services

Djinda Services

Assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the Perth Metropolitan area.

What is Djinda Services?

Djinda Services is the name given to the Perth Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Service.

Djinda Services is run in partnership by Relationships Australia WA and the Women's Law Centre of WA Inc. The program is funded by the Western Australian Attorney General's Department.

We are Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women, mother's and sisters who care about the future of Aboriginal communities. We have personal and professional experience and understanding of family and domestic violence.

"Djinda is a Noongar word meaning 'star'. The stars represent us as women who guide our families, shine brightly, survive against the odds and are strong in our determination to keep our families safe."

The partnership between Relationships Australia and the Women's Law Centre enables accessible and appropriate legal, counselling and support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

How can we help?

Djinda Services provides specialist legal and non-legal support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the Perth metropolitan area who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing family and domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

Our Solicitors work cooperatively in a team environment with Aboriginal Resource Workers to ensure quality legal and non-legal services are provided in a culturally appropriate way.

How much does it cost?

Nothing. An appointment with Djinda Services is free and we welcome new clients and referrals.

Support Services

In addition to face to face meetings and support to attend appointments, we can provide information, advocacy, referrals and support to a range of services including:

- Legal;
- Counselling; and
- Crisis Accommodation.

Legal Services

We can provide legal information, advice, limited court representation and community legal education in the areas of:

- Identifying and responding to family and domestic violence;
- Violence Restraining Orders;
- Children's care & protection matters;
- Criminal Injuries Compensation (where it relates to family and domestic violence or sexual assault); and
- Family Law (parenting related matters).

If we cannot assist we will try to refer the client to alternative services, including Legal Aid, another Community Legal Centre, private practitioner or support agency.

Outreach Services

To ensure our services are accessible, we take appointments in a range of locations in addition to our main office in East Perth. We have capacity to do outreach at Leederville, Langford and Midland.

Collaborations

A significant focus of our holistic service is that clients are supported in a culturally secure environment. To that end, we are building strong relationships with other organisations who specialise in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women affected by domestic violence and sexual assault and who have experience in navigating the areas of law in which we assist.

Djinda Services

Providing legal information, advice & representation

Total Clients 15/16

119

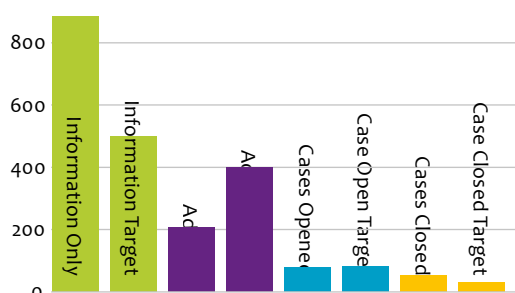
Information Activities

885

Total Advice Activities

208

Actuals v Targets



Total cases open 15/16 **78**

Open at start	47
New	31
Ongoing as at 30 June 2016	25

Total cases closed 15/16 **53**

Minor <6 hours	20
Medium 6–20 hours	19
Major <20 hours	14
Closed cases with Court representation	22

Top Problem Types 15/16

Family/Domestic violence	26
Children's matters	24
Child Protection	21
Other family law	19

Non-casework projects **28**

Completed	26
Community Legal Education	13
Law Reform and Legal Policy	5

Outreach Services

Leederville

Information	308
Advice	70
Casework	5

Langford

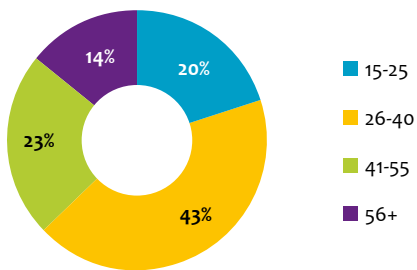
Information	20
Advice	16
Casework	10

Midland

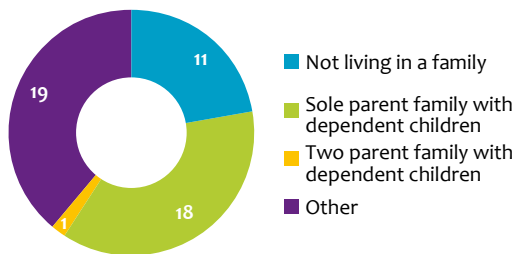
Information	2
Advice	14
Casework	1

Our Clients

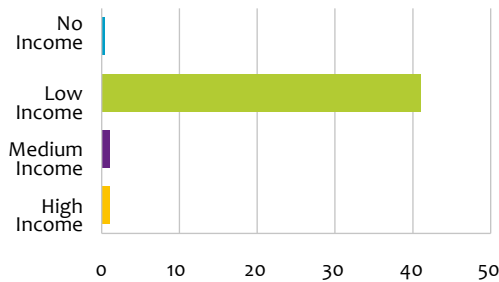
Age of clients



Family Type



Income Scale



Income Source

Earned (eg. wages, salary)	4
Government benefit	39
Other/Not stated	6

Djinda Services

Case Study

Djinda Services has had many positive cases in the 2015–2016 year which have resulted in outstanding outcomes for our clients.

Case Study 1

“Sally” came to Djinda Services through the Langford Aboriginal Association outreach. She required assistance with pre-birth meetings as she was 6 months pregnant. DCPFS had proposed making an application for a Protection Order until 18 years in respect of the unborn child. After extensive ongoing advocacy, DCPFS revised their decision and Sally kept her baby.

Sally later experienced personal family tragedy when the child was ~8 months old and she self-medicated with drugs and alcohol. As a result DCPFS removed the child.

With the ongoing support of Djinda Services and a referral to FinWA, Sally has recovered quickly and engaged with intensive counselling. The child was returned to her within a few months of being taken into care. Happily the child was returned on their first birthday. DCPFS have continued to monitor the situation.

This matter has involved nearly a year’s worth of advocacy and Sally has become much stronger, empowered and now believes in herself. Sally rang with the news she intended to study to become a counsellor and help other women who will be going through the things she has been through.

Concurrent with the DCPFS submissions, we assisted Sally with her CIC application and in the same week her child was returned, she was informed that her CIC application had been successful and she was to be awarded \$14,000.

Case Study 2

“Pearl” is a grandmother who has been working towards having her grandson in her care despite the ongoing difficulties she has been having with DCPFS.

Recently, through courtroom advocacy in the Children’s Court, Pearl was provided with an opportunity where the Magistrate agreed to hear submissions that summarised Pearl’s concerns. An Affidavit had been prepared by us outlining serious inconsistencies in the approach and information of DCPFS. Given this information the Magistrate spoke respectfully towards Pearl and acknowledged the poor behaviour of DCPFS in the presence of both the client and DCPFS.

DCPFS had included inappropriate and inconsistent comments in their Affidavits and s. 143 Written Proposals in respect to Pearl’s matter and to Pearl.

This is a grandmother who had been treated with alarming inconsistency by DCPFS. In 2015 she was successful in making a complaint to DCPFS through the correct channels with the support of Djinda Services.

Djinda Services advocacy not only facilitated this matter being brought before the court, but afforded Pearl the rare opportunity of such positive public acknowledgement. Further, DCPFS were ordered by the Magistrate to engage in an alternative direction. We continue to support Pearl in 3 separate matters.

Case Study 3

“Janelle” is a young mother who has used the support of Djinda Services to help her remove herself and her children from ongoing domestic violence, protect herself with a VRO and make an application for sole parental responsibility in the Family Court.

Janelle has taken control of her life and is successfully working through her 2nd year of a demanding university degree. Janelle is a strong empowered young woman who has gained a lot of support from our service in dealing with her personal issues. This has allowed Janelle to continue with her professional development alongside her parenting.

Case Study 4

“Carly” is 22 years old and the mother of 2 boys (7 years and 6 months). Carly and her partner were involved in a domestic violence incident whilst Carly was pregnant. DCPFS intervened and placed the children into provisional care 2 days after the youngest was born. The eldest was soon returned to Carly but remained under a time limited order, whilst the baby was placed with a carer.

Carly came to see us soon after the orders were made. As a result, we were able to attend DCPFS meetings with Carly from an early stage and advocate on her behalf. Carly did her best to attend regular contact visits and meetings and continued to liaise with her Case Worker.

Despite a few minor hiccups, the baby was returned to Carly ~4 months after being taken into care. We have continued to work closely with Carly and her Case Worker to ensure Carly has met and addressed all issues of concern raised by DCPFS.

Happily, the baby remains in Carly's care and DCPFS are now in the process of stepping back and are supportive of full reunification.



Djinda Team
at IWD

FRC Legal Assistance Partnership Program

The FRC Legal Assistance Partnership Program is a partnership between family relationship centres and community legal centres to ensure that clients attending family dispute resolution and related separation services at an FRC have access to legal advice at an early stage to ensure they are aware of their full range of obligations in relation to their children and their rights in relation to settling their dispute.

The Partnership Program objectives are to:

- assist clients to better understand their legal responsibilities and advise them in resolving their own disputes where possible;
- increase the FRC's flexibility in how they provide services to separated parents;
- increase the likelihood that clients will be able to utilise legal assistance in the FRC in a timely, non-adversarial way; and
- help maximise client safety, as clients go through separation and divorce.

In Western Australia, a consortium of 13 CLCs practicing family law, in collaboration with the 7 FRCs have formed a child focused cooperative model of service delivery to collaboratively deliver non-adversarial, child focused family law services to the WA community, under the Program.

To achieve the objective, the model is inclusive of:

a) Resource Unit (hub)

The Women's Law Centre of WA is the resource unit or "hub" for this model and facilitates networking and professional development of solicitors in the network. These hub services are managed by the program Coordinator.

b) Partnership community legal centres (spokes)

The participating CLCs or "spokes" are each partnered with a particular FRC to ensure that legal services are available to FRC clients, and delivered in partnership with FRCs in ways that enhance separating parent's options and ability to resolve family law issues safely and in the children's best interests. These services include the following and are negotiated individually between each partnership:

- Legal Advice appointments at FRCs;
- Legal advice by telephone, and at CLCs for FRC clients;
- Information sessions at FRCs;
- Information and referrals;
- Community legal education for FRC workers, and clients; and
- Consent orders for clients referred from FRCs, where appropriate.



This year, some of the Network's activities included:

- Ongoing participation in the Steering Committee and Conference and Seminar sub-committees of the Family Law Pathways Network to ensure smooth referral pathways between service providers working within or alongside the family law system;
- Coordinating a presentation from Deputy Chief Justice, John Faulks on how CLCs can best assist the Family Court of WA;
- Coordinating a one day conference in conjunction with the Family Pathways Network regarding perpetrator accountability strategies in the justice system;
- Holding regular network meetings for lawyers to network, liaise, collaborate and support each other in the area of family law;
- Contributing to the organisation and planning of the Annual Family Law Pathways Network Conference which was highly regarded with keynote speaker child psychiatrist, Peter Krabman.

Women's Law Centre would like to thank all CLCs and FRCs involved in the Partnership Program for their commitment to collaborative service delivery. We look forward to striving to continually improve our collaborative service delivery approaches to ensure the best outcomes for clients and their children.

Heidi Guldbaek
Program Coordinator

Domestic Violence Legal Workers' Network

The DV Legal Workers Network (the Network) is a Network of legal and other professionals specialising in domestic and family violence, advocating for the rights of victims of family and domestic violence (FDV) through education, reform and capacity building.

The Network is funded by the State Attorney General's Department and is coordinated by 4 community legal centres; Fremantle Community Legal Centre, Gosnells Community Legal Centre and SCALES community legal centre (who each employ a DV solicitor through the funding received) and the Women's Law Centre (who employ the Network Coordinator).

Recognising that DV solicitors often work in isolation, the Network was developed as a collaborative support model. Regular meetings for caseworkers encourage a collegiate and collaborative approach to one's work and ensure that solicitors are supported with opportunities for networking and collaborating, can explore and strategise ways to overcome individual casework issues, are able to collectively identify training needs, identify issues and trends within policy, law and procedure, to strategise for resolutions and reform, and to ensure the best outcomes for clients.

The Network at large is also resourced with regular sector updates including memos, notices and reports regarding policy, law and procedural matters in relation to family and domestic violence as well as updates and overviews on training, education, programs, services and other sector-related news. This ensures that workers are informed and knowledgeable on key current issues and sharing information across agencies, and in turn, promotes better outcomes for clients.

The Network is engaged in a number of Networks, Committees and Peak Body memberships, mainly through the Coordinator. This allows the Network on the one hand to contribute its experience and voice to various agendas representing victims' rights and women's equality, and on the other hand to have other voices contribute to the work the Network undertakes.

One of the main ways the Network advocates for the rights of victims of FDV is by advocating for policy and legislative reform in areas likely to impact on the rights of people experiencing family and domestic violence. Our main focus on legal policy and law reform is in relation to family law, restraining orders, criminal injuries compensation, anti-discrimination, the State Prevention Strategy (FDV), the National Plan of Action to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, and Human Rights Law. Accordingly, we undertake projects and monitor legislation in all of these areas and also in other areas as issues arise.

Some of the highlights from the work we have undertaken this year include:

- Continuing to support CLC lawyers with networking and collaboration opportunities at the CLC Network Days of the "Quarterlies" the quarterly CPD training and networking event;
- Participation in the FDV NGO Roundtables which contribute to the governance mechanism of the State Family and Domestic Violence Prevention Strategy and its work plans;

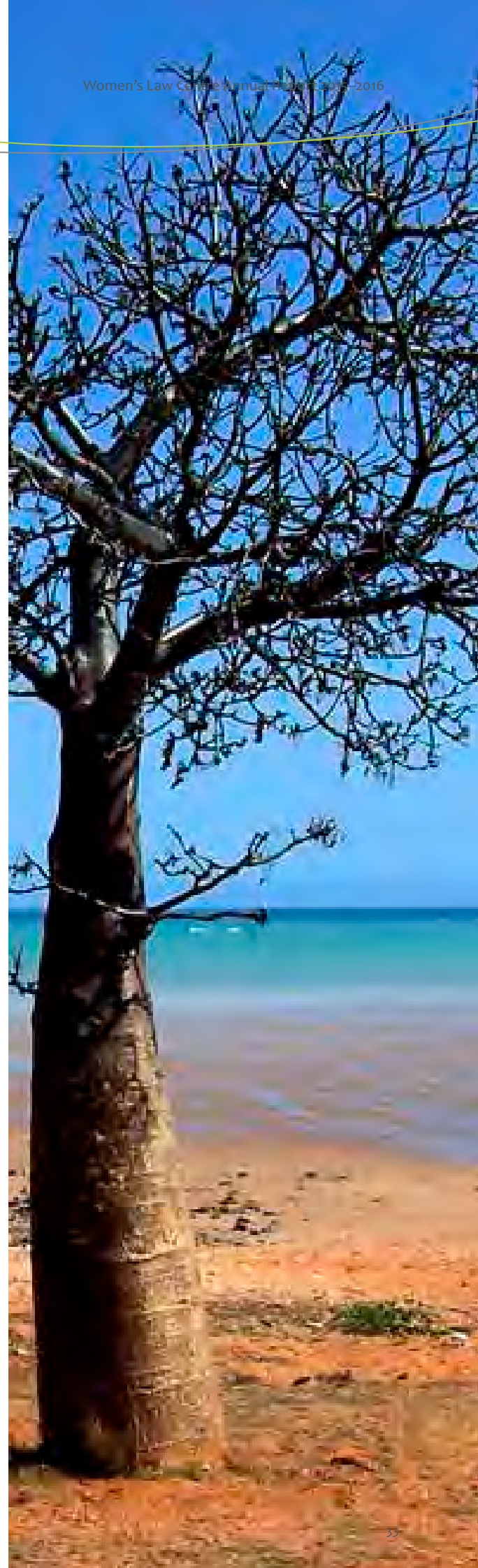
- Guest lecturing on domestic violence legal policy for the “Law in Context” unit at Murdoch University for their Law School students;
- Continued advocacy and advice to government regarding the family violence court reforms and expected legislative amendments regarding restraining orders;
- Professional development training for Justices of the Peace hearing restraining order applications, individual refugees, the legal profession (Legalwise seminars) and for the Women’s Council’s training days;
- Keynote speaking for White Ribbon Day March;
- Participating in the Community Legal Centre Association’s Social and Legal Policy Committee;
- Continued advocacy around the National Plan of Action to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children; and
- Collaboratively coordinating the #safesystems campaign to ensure all major WA political parties adequately address violence against women in their policy platform election commitments.

On behalf of the Network, thank you to all people and organisations who contributed to the objectives of the Network this year. We sincerely appreciate your commitment to social justice and the promotion and protection of the rights of victims of FDV.

Heidi Guldbaek

Coordinator

Domestic Violence Legal Workers’ Network



Women's Legal Services Australia (WLSA)

WLSA is a national network of women's specialist CLCs (and other members who support the aims of WLSA) promoting a legal systems that is safe, supportive, non-discriminatory and responsive to the needs of women in accessing justice.

The objectives of WLSA are to:

- Network, communicate and liaise with members, the government and other stakeholders to educate and promote shared understandings in relation to access to justice for women;
- Provide leadership and a strategic, coordinated and collaborative approach to law reform and policy advocacy at a national level on behalf of women disadvantaged in their access to the legal system; particularly in relation to family law, domestic violence, sexual assault, child protection, reproductive rights, discrimination and other areas of law from time to time relevant to women; and
- Harness, highlight and amplify the work of member organisations.

WLSA employs a National Law Reform Coordinator to drive and coordinate the work of the network. This is a one day a week position that gets auspiced by women's legal services across the country for two-year terms. From Nov 2013 to Nov 2015, I had the privilege of being appointed the National Law Reform Coordinator and my role was hosted by Women's Law Centre WA.

Some of the highlights from the work we undertook this year include:

- Submissions to the Family Law Council Reference (regarding families with complex needs and the intersection of the family law and child protection systems) to provide advice on the prospect of streamlining and improving the safety of victims of family violence and their children in navigating these two overlapping jurisdictions;
- Submissions and attendance at the round tables for the Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity's consultations to develop a national framework to improve accessibility to Australian courts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women and migrant and refugee women;
- Participation in the NGO advisory group and the women's subcommittee to inform NGO submissions to Australia's Universal Periodic Review;
- Continuing to raise awareness with decision-makers about the issue of the lack of specific provisions in the *Family Law Act 1975* to adequately protect victims of violence from being directly cross-examined by their abusers;
- Submissions to (the somewhat profound) Inquiry into Domestic Violence and Gender Inequality;
- Participation in consultations, submissions, reviewing and feedback of draft material and media work relating to *Change the Story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence*;
- Development of the Safety First in Family Law 5 Step Plan and joint campaign with Rosie Batty;
- Feedback and review of materials for the National Family Violence Bench Book being developed that will promote best practice and consistency in judicial decision making in cases involving family violence; and my favourite,
- Presenting as a keynote at National Conference on a panel with Rosie Batty and other activists in the field.

In November 2015 my term as the Law Reform Coordinator came to an end and Pasanna Mutha from Womens Legal Service Victoria became the new National Law Reform Coordinator.

I would like to extend my gratitude and thanks to the high calibre women on the WLSA Executive Committee who supported me during my term. Their contributions and input have been invaluable. I would also like to thank all members who made financial contributions to WLSA to allow us to carry out this important work. Lastly I would like to recognise and honour all survivors of violence. You matter and you deserve respect and we will continue to amplify your voice to make the system safer for women escaping violence.

Hi Heidi,

My name is Belinda Lo and I met you last week in Melbourne at the NACLC conference. I've been raving and raving about your plenary presentation to our lawyers here, and I was wondering if you were in a position to send us a copy so that I could rave some more?

Thanks again for a great presentation last week. It really made an impact on me.

Kind regards,

Belinda Lo
Principal Lawyer
Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC)



What is Project Purple Santa?

In November 2013, the WLCWA launched a charity drive, originally called “Project Unite”. Our goal was to collect cosmetics, toiletries and other much needed items for women and children living in refuges as a result of family and domestic violence over the Christmas and holiday period. Due to the success of the drive it became an annual event. In 2015, we re-named the charity drive “Project Purple Santa” and used the WLCWA Facebook page as our main platform to promote the event.

What an amazing response!

Thank you very much to all of the donors that donated items to such a worthwhile cause. We were really impressed with the quantity and quality of the cosmetics and toiletries donated. The response from individuals, the legal profession, businesses and the community was overwhelming. We even received donations from country areas. There were too many donors to name in this report.





A note of thanks

A lovely thank you letter received from one of our donor refugees explains perfectly:

'The holiday period, while exciting for most of us is often very different for families in refuge accommodation. These families often struggle through this time, emotionally and financially while they rebuild their lives. It is through the kindness of people such as yourselves that we are able to provide Christmas cheer to the families, giving them reasons to believe in the human spirit again.

With your generous donations, we will provide each of our current clients and also our previous clients, attending our children's Christmas party, with one of these bags filled with pampering goodies for Christmas. Luxuries such as these are often something these women don't receive and these gifts are sure to make their day.'

A bit of extra help made this year extra special...

In 2015, we were assisted by public relations company Cannings Purple to promote the event on social media. Cannings Purple also donated \$1000 to be distributed to 4 rural, regional and remote refuges. In addition, this year we received a very generous donation of 100 handbags from Sandy Taylor of Easoto (www.easoto.com) to fill with donated goods and provide as gifts for the women and children. Check out the video detailing the success of the project <https://youtu.be/uap688jgNdQ>

The WLCWA donated the items to 8 different refuges throughout the Perth metropolitan area whom allocated the goods through their accommodation and programs. The feedback received from the contributors and recipients has been extremely positive. The staff and volunteers at WLCWA all enjoy being involved in the project and agree this is a fantastic way to end the year.

See you again in December

We look forward to another successful year of Project Purple Santa in 2016!

Lesley Kirkwood
Managing Solicitor



Financial Statements

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.
A.B.N. 44 551 144 230
Annual Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2016

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	30 June 2016 \$	30 June 2015 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	271,385	356,353
Trade and other receivables	3	40	40
Prepayments		13,870	9,852
Total Current Assets		285,295	366,245
Non-current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	120,468	124,404
Total Non-current Assets		120,468	124,404
TOTAL ASSETS		405,763	490,649
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5	51,816	68,496
Provisions	6	82,782	89,781
Total Current Liabilities		134,598	158,277
Non-current Liabilities			
Provisions	6	0	0
Total Non-current Liabilities		0	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES		134,598	158,277
NET ASSETS		271,165	332,372
EQUITY			
Retained earnings	7	271,165	332,372
TOTAL EQUITY		271,165	332,372

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.
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For the year ended 30 June 2016

**INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

		30 June 2016	30 June 2015
	Note	\$	\$
Income			
Grant Income		409,399	451,396
Scales Community Legal Centres		11,819	11,192
City of Fremantle		11,819	11,192
City of Gosnells		11,819	11,192
SACS Supplementation		46,029	34,558
Quarterly Warburton		65,174	65,174
PPT Grant		0	55,000
FRC		38,513	42,464
Interest Received		2,458	1,985
Other income		5,696	9,480
WLSA Memberships		0	22,668
PAFVPLS		265,255	206,304
Total Income		867,981	922,605
Expenses			
Communications		13,090	13,218
Depreciation		8,363	9,459
Employment expenses		771,205	762,383
Finance & Accounting Fees		4,374	5,480
Insurance		4,994	3,922

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.
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Annual Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2016

		30 June 2016	30 June 2015
	Note	\$	\$
Expenses (continued)			
Library, Resources & Subscriptions		17,131	12,115
Office Overheads		14,370	17,177
Other Premises		22,571	22,972
Programming and Planning		4,805	1,186
Rent		34,496	31,577
Staff Recruitment		560	699
Staff Training		16,494	14,907
Sundry Expenses		2,692	3,415
Loss on sale of property, plant & equipment		0	2,219
Travel		14,043	13,251
Total Expenses		929,188	913,980
Net Profit		-61,207	8,625
Retained Earnings At the Beginning of the Financial Year		332,372	323,747
Retained Earnings At the End of the Financial Year		271,165	332,372

The above income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.
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Annual Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2016

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from fees, subsidies and other income		866,421	935,821
Payments to suppliers and employees		(949,420)	(979,010)
Interest received /(paid)		2,458	1,985
Net cash provided by operating activities	8	<u>(80,541)</u>	<u>(41,204)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		<u>(4,427)</u>	<u>(4,838)</u>
Net cash provided by /(used in) investing activities		<u>(84,968)</u>	<u>(46,042)</u>
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		<u>356,353</u>	<u>402,395</u>
Cash at the end of the year	2	<u><u>271,385</u></u>	<u><u>356,353</u></u>

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.
A.B.N. 44 551 144 230
Annual Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2016

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial statement is a special purpose report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Association's Incorporation Act WA. The committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the following applicable Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB101:	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB110:	Events after the Balance Sheet Date
AASB116:	Property, Plant and Equipment
AASB1031:	Materiality

No other Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this report:

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property Plant and equipment are carried at cost. All assets are depreciated over their useful lives to the association. The depreciable amount of plant, property and equipment is depreciated on a reducing balance basis. Depreciation commences from the time the asset is available for its intended use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The carrying value of plant, property and equipment is reviewed annually by members to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the asset's employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have not been discounted in determining recoverable amounts.

Depreciation

The depreciation method and useful life used for items of property, plant and equipment reflects the pattern in which their future economic benefits are expected to be consumed by the company. Depreciation commences from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements. The depreciation method and useful life of assets is reviewed annually to ensure they are still appropriate.

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.
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Annual Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2016

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Trade and Other Payables

Trade payables represent the liabilities for goods and services received by the association that remain unpaid at the end of the reporting period. Trade payables are recognised at their transaction price. They are subject to normal credit terms and do not bear interest.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Association 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.

Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than twelve months after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cash flows are discounted using market yields on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cash flows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

Employee benefits are presented as current liabilities in the balance sheet if the association does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date regardless of the classification of the liability for measurement purposes under AASB 119.

Cash & cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Bank overdrafts also form part of cash equivalents and are presented within current liabilities on the balance sheet when applicable.

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.
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Annual Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2016

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Revenue and Other Income

Grant income received on condition that specified services are delivered or conditions are fulfilled is recognised as services are performed or conditions are fulfilled in terms of the funding agreements.

Interest income is recognised as it accrues, using the effective interest method.

Donation income is recognised upon receipt.

Other

Other revenue is recognised when the association is entitled to the funds.

Goods and Service 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 Tax Office (ATO).

In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

2 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2016	2015
Cheque Account	186,146	273,468
Cash Investment Account	32,223	31,584
Term Deposit	52,785	51,070
Petty Cash	200	200
Services	30	30
Undeposited Funds	1	1
	271,385	356,353

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Annual Financial Report
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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

3. Trade and Other Receivables

Current	2016	2015
Pledges Receivable	<u>40</u>	<u>40</u>

Trade receivables are recognised initially at the transaction price (i.e. Cost) and are subsequently measured at cost less provision for impairment.

At the end of each reporting period, the carrying values of trade and other receivables are reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that the amounts are not recoverable. A provision for impairment of trade receivable is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

4. Property, plant and equipment

	2016	2015
Assets		
Computers & IT AT Cost	58,526	56,270
Computers & IT Accumulated Depreciation	(40,727)	(36,909)
Phone At Cost	10,449	8,278
Phone Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(4,390)</u>	<u>(3,958)</u>
	<u>23,858</u>	<u>23,681</u>
Buildings		
Leasehold Improvements	102,249	102,249
Leasehold Improvements Depreciation	<u>(19,657)</u>	<u>(17,101)</u>
	<u>82,592</u>	<u>85,148</u>
Furniture & Equipment		
Furniture & Equipment At Cost	28,474	28,474
Furniture & Fixtures Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(14,456)</u>	<u>(12,899)</u>
	<u>14,018</u>	<u>15,575</u>
Total Property, Plant, And Equipment	<u>120,468</u>	<u>124,404</u>

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.
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Annual Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2016

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

5 Trade and Other Payables

	2016	2015
Current		
Trade Creditors	0	1,310
PAYG Payable	13,466	9,792
Superannuation Payable	2,950	9,995
Child Support Payable	0	397
Business Credit Card	192	1,503
Accrued Salaries	19,352	24,433
Employee FBTE Payable	(461)	(462)
GST Liabilities	16,317	21,528
	<u>51,816</u>	<u>68,496</u>

6 Provisions

Provision for Annual Leave	30,320	30,861
Provision for Long Service Leave	52,462	58,920
	<u>82,782</u>	<u>89,781</u>

7 Retained Earnings

Retained Earnings at the beginning of the year	332,372	323,747
Net Profit for the year	(61,207)	8,625
Retained Earnings at the end of the Financial Year	<u>271,165</u>	<u>332,372</u>

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.
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Annual Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2016

Notes to the Financial Statements continued

8 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities

	2016	2015
(Loss)/profit for the period	(61,207)	8,625
Non-cash flows from ordinary activities		
Depreciation	8,363	9,459
Loss on sale of property, plant & equipment	0	2,219
	<u>(52,844)</u>	<u>20,303</u>
 (Increase)/Decrease in Trade receivables	 0	 21,083
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments	(4,018)	(9,852)
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade Payables	(16,680)	31,691
Increase/(Decrease) in provisions	(6,999)	(104,429)
Net Cash from operating activities	<u>(80,541)</u>	<u>(41,204)</u>

9 Event's after balance sheet date

There are no material matters subsequent to year end that would require adjustment or disclosure.

10. Commitments and Contingencies

The association has a lease for the property at 445 Hay Street, Perth to 30 June 2019.

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.
A.B.N. 44 551 144 230
Annual Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2016

Statement by Members of the Committee

The Committee has determined the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The committee declares that:

1. The financial statements and note presents fairly the committee's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and it's performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements;
2. In the committee's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay it's debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and signed for on behalf of the committee by:

Chairperson: 

Treasurer: 

Dated: 23/8/16

Auditor's Report



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT TO MEMBERS OF WOMEN'S LAW CENTRE OF WA INC.

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Women's Law Centre of WA Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2016. The financial report comprises the balance sheet as at 30th June 2016, and the income statement, cash flow statement for the year then ended, notes comprising of a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the Committee Members' declaration for the year then ended.

Committee Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Association's Committee Members' are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Accounting Standards in Australia. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from any 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

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Auditing Standards in Australia. Those standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

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

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

Independence

I am independent of the association, and have complied with the independence requirements of Australian ethical pronouncements.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly in all material respects, the financial position of Women's Law Centre of WA Inc. as at 30 June 2016 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report..

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw your attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the financial reporting obligations under the association's constitution. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Dated: 05 day of August 2016

Abbott Audit Services Pty Ltd



.....
GRAEME WOVODICH CPA
Registered Company Auditor No. 13421



**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 307C OF
THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001**

TO THE MEMBERS OF WOMEN'S LAW CENTRE OF WA INC.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during year ended 30 June 2016 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.

ABBOTT AUDIT SERVICES PTY LTD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G.V. Wovodich", written in a cursive style.

.....
G.V. Wovodich

Registered Company Auditor No.13421

Dated this5thday of August 2016 at Perth, Western Australia.

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women's law centre



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Thank you very much to Allens for kindly producing our annual report for the last eight years. WLCWA would be unable to produce such a polished report without your assistance.