

**women's**  
law centre



Annual Report  
2016–2017

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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

4-5 times per year  
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

#### Midland

Relationships Australia  
27 The Crescent, Midland  
Weekly on Wednesday, by appointment

The WLCWA provides assistance by appointment and through our advice line. 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](http://www.wlcwa.org.au)

## Vision

WLCWA: Justice, empowerment & safety for women.

## Values

**JUSTICE:** We promote equitable access to justice.

**EQUALITY:** We uphold gender equality and cultural diversity.

**INTEGRITY:** We value and uphold honesty, professionalism and dedication.

**LEADERSHIP:** We drive law reform and lead public debate.

**RESPECT:** We value and care for our clients and each other.

## Mission

We:

1. Educate women to know their legal rights.
2. Support women in gaining equitable access to information, advice and advocacy.
3. Assist women to achieve fair outcomes.
4. Empower women to make informed legal choices.

# Acknowledgements

The Women's Law Centre of Western Australian is pleased to present our Annual Report for the 2016-17 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 the land on which we work, 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 2016-17 year:

- The Honourable Antoinette Kennedy, AO (Patron of WLCWA)
- Registrar Danielle Davies, Supreme Court of WA
- The Hon. Simone Frances McGurk MLA, Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community
- Nassim Arrage, CEO National Association of Community Legal Centres
- Helen Creed and David Kernohan, Community Legal Centres Association (WA)
- Kate Davis, Tenancy WA
- Ann-Margaret Walsh, Street Law Centre WA
- Kathy Bogoyev, The Humanitarian Group
- Toni McCallum, Department of Communities
- Justine Clarke, Midland Information Debt and Legal Advocacy Service
- Terri Riley and Michael Sheehan, Relationships Australia
- Angela Ryder, Relationships Australia
- Corina Martin, Aboriginal Family Law Services

- Sam Witton, Freehills Herbert Smith
- Lauree Coci and Armin Fazeley, Clayton Utz
- Adam Levine and Jason Randall, K & L Gates
- Catriona Martin, DLA Piper
- Nicholas van Hattem, Piddington Society
- Zonta House
- Women's Legal Services Australia
- Graeme Wovodich & Joey Fu, Armada Auditing
- Karen Brown and the team at Cannings Purple, Public Relations Agency
- Allison Harris, State Program Manager, CLC Funding Program, Legal Aid WA
- Leanne Pauletto, Co-ordinator – Reporting, CLC Funding Program, Legal Aid WA
- Jessica Peake, Julie Hardy and Anne Westerside, relief reception
- Tony Spencer, CPSU CSA
- Unions WA
- HostTel

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 2016-17 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 or please see our website for further details

[www.wlcwa.org.au/get-involved](http://www.wlcwa.org.au/get-involved)

## Facebook

WLCWA has a Facebook page!

[www.facebook.com/wlcwa](http://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 among 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 2018 and beyond.

# Chairperson's Report

The 2016-17 year at WLCWA continued to present challenges for the Board and the dedicated staff. A siren call reprieve from the Commonwealth Government to the expected further funding cuts to Community Legal Centres has eased some of the financial pressure in the general CLC area for the coming year, but we continue to face uncertainty in the future. The Board continues to work with staff and volunteers to develop pathways, in both the structure of our service delivery, and in diversified funding areas, to lessen the impact of the current political funding vagaries, and to ensure the viability of WLCWA into the future.

In this year's report, you will see that despite the pressures faced in this environment the staff of WLCWA have continued to provide first rate legal services to some of Western Australia's most vulnerable and disadvantaged women. We continue to provide services through the Commonwealth Attorney General's Community Legal Service Program, through the State Attorney General's Office and the NPY Women's Council. We have continued to work with our partners at Relationships Australia through our Djinda Services program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the metropolitan area. We also welcomed this year, a new partnership with Street Law WA and Tenancy WA in our 'Safe as Houses' Program. Our thanks and appreciation go to our funders and partners.

We are also deeply appreciative of the volunteer and pro bono assistance provided to us throughout the year. It is always remarkable and pleasurable to see the level of support offered to WLCWA by the broader community and from within the legal profession. Specifically thank you to Clayton Utz, Freehills Herbert Smith and K & L Gates who have provided substantial pro bono advice and assistance to us throughout the year.

At the end of 2016 we had an opportunity for a meet and greet with staff and Board members and were delighted that our patron Antoinette Kennedy was also able to come along that afternoon. Warm thanks are extended to Antoinette for continuing

her strong support of WLCWA. I also thank all the Board members who take the time to bring their considerable expertise to the WLCWA Board. The women of the Board are exceptional in the level of commitment, worth and integrity they bring to the governance of WLCWA.

We welcomed two new Board members last year, Lizzie Thelwell and Katie Brown, who have both been outstanding in their contributions to the Board over this year. I would also like to make special mention of three Board members we sadly say goodbye to this year; Heather Miller, Amanda Blackburn and Kath Pemberton. All were long term Board members whose professionalism and commitment to WLCWA will be sorely missed. I thank them all sincerely for the hard work they have put in over the years.

We also said a sad goodbye this year to our Managing Solicitor Lesley Kirkwood. Lesley had been with WLCWA for over eight years and, with regret informed us that she would not be returning after her maternity leave. We wish Lesley and her family all the best in their future. Carrie Hannington has admirably stepped into Lesley's shoes as our Managing Solicitor, and, as our soon to be, Executive Officer. I thank Carrie deeply for the assistance and support she has provided to me this year.

Change lies ahead for WLCWA in the 2017-18. To prepare ourselves for the times ahead the organisation will undergo a re-structure to better equip itself for the situation today's not-for-profits find themselves working within. We will continue to grow our relationships with volunteers and pro bono partners so that we can meet the needs of our clients. And we continue to explore and expand new opportunities for services to the women of Western Australia. An exciting time lies ahead.

Lastly, I say to the staff of WLCWA that you are an incredible group of people who make a profound difference in the lives of the women you assist and is privilege to be the WLCWA Chairperson. I salute you and the work you do.

**Marnie Williams**  
Chairperson WLCWA



# Managing Solicitor's Report

The 2016-17 year at Women's Law Centre of Western Australia has been a challenge. The environment in the recent economic downturn is a tough one that has impacted with highly negative consequences on families and disadvantaged women. An increased demand for services has placed considerable strain on community legal centres, yet only a last minute reprieve saved us from severe cuts to core funding.

Nevertheless, we have continued to build a strong and resilient team of dedicated workers who strive for excellence and to uphold our core values of justice, equality, integrity, leadership and respect in providing legal services and helping to empower Western Australia's most vulnerable and disadvantaged women. I am enormously grateful to our highly skilled staff and dedicated volunteers for making this possible, as well as to the Board members and Chairperson who give of their valuable time and expertise in governing and developing our organisation. A very special thanks also to our patron, Antoinette Kennedy.

In November 2016 the Board endorsed the WLCWA Strategic Plan. This will continue to guide us in enhancing access for women through our programs, projects and partnerships, pursuing excellence and innovation and in delivering flexible services through sound operational planning. This will help WLCWA greatly to maintain accreditation through the National Association of Community Legal Centres.

I thank all those who have partnered with us, supported us or provided advice, particularly our pro bono partners and volunteers without whom our progress this year would not have been possible. I acknowledge also the valuable assistance and learning opportunities provided by the Community Legal Centres Association (WA) for which I have been fortunate to be an executive member and manager's network convenor at the quarterly sessions.

Further, I thank sincerely the dedicated women of Women's Legal Services Australia in all states and territories through which the women of WA can importantly be kept in the loop regarding national and also international development of important law and policy that affects women's human rights.

Despite constraints and tough times, WLCWA will continue in the next year to seek new opportunities for funding and collaboration in both the public and private sectors, and to seek out innovative responses to meeting the needs of Western Australian women. Exciting plans to upgrade our website and marketing strategies, improve evaluation and restructure management will help considerably with this process.

Finally, I would like to thank former managing solicitors Lesley Kirkwood and Helen Lawrence, and also solicitor Penny Robbins and domestic violence network coordinator Heidi Guldback for building such a solid foundation prior to my arrival and for their ongoing support to WLCWA staff. I look forward to my new role as Executive Officer, to meeting the exciting challenges that the next year will bring and to working on with the incredible people so rightly recognised as such by our similarly awesome Chairperson.

**Carrie Hannington**  
Managing Solicitor WLCWA





# Strategic Plan 2016 - 2019

## Key principles

- Excellence in service delivery
- Sound governance and management
- Recognise and maximise staff and volunteer skills and potential
- Continuous improvement
- Innovation, creativity and adaptability

## Values

<b>JUSTICE</b> We promote equitable access to justice	<b>EQUALITY</b> We uphold gender equality and cultural diversity	<b>INTEGRITY</b> We value and uphold honesty, professionalism and dedication	<b>LEADERSHIP</b> We drive law reform and lead public debate	<b>RESPECT</b> We value and care for our clients and each other
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## Mission

- Educate women to know their legal rights
- Support women in gaining equitable access to information, advice and advocacy
- Assist women to achieve fair outcomes
- Empower women to make informed legal choices

## Objectives

### To ensure specialist legal services are accessible to disadvantaged women in Western Australia

- Improve services to our most disadvantaged clients
- Work collaboratively with other services to ensure our services are targeting and reaching women with the greatest unmet legal needs
- Improve our ability to deliver services in a flexible manner

### To identify and pursue partnerships and develop collaborative working models

- Develop a Marketing/ Communications Plan that will allow the WLCWA to raise its profile across all sectors: Government, Community and Private
- Investigate and develop partnerships and collaborations with legal assistance service providers
- Investigate and develop partnerships/ work collaboratively with Government organisations, private law firms, corporate entities, non government organisations and relevant support services
- Explore partnership opportunities to re-establish services to women in prison
- Explore relationships with Universities

### To review operations structure and work practices to create the space for innovation and sustainability

- Review the existing management structure
- Review current ways of providing administrative services to increase productivity.
- Review current ways of providing legal services to increase productivity
- Explore alternative legal service models
- Outcomes based evaluation of all WLCWA services
- Explore fundraising opportunities
- Investigate Potential income streams that can support existing or new projects
- Investigate Corporate giving models
- Explore a fee paying membership base for WLCWA

# 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 focus particularly on assistance to victims of family and domestic violence (FDV) and include:

- family law (children's issues)
- care and protection proceedings
- criminal injuries compensation related to FDV and/or sexual assault
- violence restraining orders
- some complex divorce applications

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 2016-17 year

Many difficulties have confronted the community legal sector in the past 12 months in terms of maintaining the funding to continue our services. Our dedicated team of staff and volunteers have worked together to improve access to justice for women in WA.

Through our assistance, we aim to empower women to make informed decisions about issues affecting their lives. We provided:

- Comprehensive legal information and referral services to 1604 women. (Legal information is also available in our pamphlets and on our website at [www.wlcwa.org.au](http://www.wlcwa.org.au)).
- 605 legal advices, provided by telephone or in person at the Centre or through outreach locations.
- Assistance in completion of applications, correspondence and documents.

- Assistance with negotiations and mediations.
- Provision of casework assistance to 73 women, including some court representation.
- Assistance to women in making claims for Criminal Injuries Compensation as a result of domestic and family violence or sexual assault.
- 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.

## 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 2016-17 year, WLCWA undertook a variety of activities that included:

- participating in inquiries;
- providing submissions to Government in relation to proposed law and policy changes;
- participating in the review of the Children and Community Services Act 2004 (WA);
- writing letters to and meeting with politicians;
- providing advice to Government advocating for women and their children;
- representing women at public awareness events such as White Ribbon Day;
- supporting and assisting organisations that advocate for women, such as Women's Legal Services Australia and the Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA); and
- engaging volunteers and students to assist in research and preparation of reports.

## 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 17 CLE activities in a range of mediums including (but not limited to):

- Articles of interest posted on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/wlcwa](https://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 and secondees; and
- Through service provider and stakeholder networks.

## Targeting services to those most in need

WLCWA recognises the extreme disadvantage that many women in Western Australia face, including women in poverty or who are homeless, victims of family and domestic violence, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, women from culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds and women in prison. We provide advice by appointment in person and by telephone. (We provide advice by telephone to women in prison in exceptional circumstances even though we are no longer specifically funded).

## Legal advice line

WLCWA operates a telephone advice line four mornings per week from 9.30-11.30 am through which women are referred directly to a solicitor or paralegal and can receive a 20 minute advice in our core areas of law. Further appointments can be made if required.

## Assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Lands

In partnership with the NPY Women's Council Domestic and Family Violence Service, WLCWA solicitors travelled to the NPY Lands to provide legal services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women living in remote communities. Solicitor Tracey Collier currently has this role. It will continue into 2017-18 and Tracey's report details the comprehensive and valuable services.

## 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 who are victims of family violence and sexual assault, including the provision of services in Midland. The great work of Djinda Services is detailed later in this report.

## Safe as Houses

This year WLCWA embarked on a partnership with Tenancy WA and Street Law Centre WA Inc to provide services to women and children left homeless or at threat of homelessness from family and domestic violence. This holistic approach, which utilises expertise from all three specialist community legal centres, is largely funded by the WA Government and Lotterywest. The program is coordinated by a highly qualified social worker based at Tenancy WA. WLCWA will commence operations in August 2017 by providing advice in our core areas and also, particularly, in family property law.



## Evening legal clinic

The WLCWA continues to hold a fortnightly evening legal clinic staffed by volunteer solicitors in which one-off advices are provided with regard to property settlements. In so doing we are helping to breach the vast service gap experienced by disadvantaged women in WA who require low cost or free assistance in property settlement matters, especially those who are victims of family and domestic violence. We are very grateful to our team of volunteer solicitors and coordinator who assist women in this much needed area.

## Family Relationships Centre Legal Assistance Partnership Programme

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

## Pro-bono partnerships

WLCWA also continued to work successfully with private firms to provide pro bono legal assistance to clients in 2016-17, particularly in the area of criminal injuries compensation. We also engaged a pro bono secondee graduate/restricted practitioner from a private firm who joined our team of volunteers in gaining experience and providing valuable service to clients and solicitors. We are very grateful for referrals made in relation to claims for Criminal Injuries Compensation.

## WLSA

We have continued to participate actively in the Women's Legal Services Australia National Network (WLSA) through communication and liaison with members, the government and other stakeholders to educate and promote shared understandings in relation to access to justice for women. This includes submissions and participation in the WLSA Network meeting at the NALC conference and regular attendance at meetings via tele-link. WLCWA continues to support the Safety First in Family Law Five Step Plan and we are encouraged by recent decisions of the Australian Government in relation to the protection of vulnerable witnesses in cross-examination.

## Network coordination

During 2016–17 WLCWA continued to auspice the Coordinator positions for the following networks:

- Domestic Violence Legal Workers Network (DVLWN); and
- Community Legal Centres and Family Relationships Centres Network

You can read more about these networks in this annual report.

# WLCWA Casework Guidelines

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



## What does WLCWA do?

The WLCWA 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 and can also assist via our legal advice line.

## 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
- ✓ **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 of Child Protection & Family Support
- ✓ **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 (i.e. the woman does not know where her husband is)
  - Where the woman has special needs (e.g. culturally and linguistically diverse)
- ✓ **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
- ✗ immigration
- ✗ tenancy
- ✗ commercial or small business issues
- ✗ loans and credit contracts
- ✗ traffic offences
- ✗ consumer and debt
- ✗ neighbourhood disputes
- ✗ unfair dismissal
- ✗ criminal matters
- ✗ personal injuries/negligence
- ✗ wills and probate
- ✗ disputes with builders/strata title companies
- ✗ real estate
- ✗ workers compensation
- ✗ taxation



## 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 capacity 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 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 of the children involved;

- Whether the client has been to WLC 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; and/or
- 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 NPY Lands;
- ✓ Domestic Violence Legal Workers Network;
- ✓ CLC/FRC Services Network;
- ✓ Djinda Services (PAFVPLS) provides legal information, advice, casework and some court representation to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander women in the Perth metro area who are victims of family and domestic violence and/or sexual assault;
- ✓ Assistance in core casework areas to women and children made homeless or at threat of homelessness as a result of family and domestic violence through the Safe as Houses project;
- ✓ Law Reform and advocacy for social change through law and policy reform in the interests of women, with a particular focus on reform in the areas of women's equality and access to justice; and
- ✓ Community Legal Education to both clients and service providers.

# Our People

## Board of management



### Marnie Williams (Chairperson)

I joined the WLCWA Board in early 2015 acting as secretary until 2016, deputy chair until 2017 and taking over as Chairperson in early 2017.

I currently work for the Overseas Services to Survivors of Torture & Trauma (OSSTT). I am a qualified trauma counsellor with expertise in cross cultural approaches and complex trauma. Prior to working for OSSTT, I was the Clinical Manager at the Association of Services for Torture and Trauma Survivors (ASeTTS) in Perth with responsibility for contract management, stakeholder liaison and staff management. In 2017 I also graduated from Charles Darwin University with a Bachelor of Laws and have volunteered within the CLC sector for several years. It is a great privilege to be the current Chair of WLCWA and to contribute to the growth and governance of such an important organisation for the women of Western Australia.

### Kath Pemberton (Deputy 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.

### 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.

### Amanda Blackburn (Secretary)

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 practice 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.

# Our People

## Staff

### Donna Charlesworth (Ordinary Member)

I joined the WLCWA Board in September 2016.

I am a lawyer at Clayton Utz specialising in construction and major projects. Clayton Utz assists WLCWA with Criminal Injuries Compensation applications on a pro bono basis and I supervise each of those pro bono matters. I joined the Board because I wanted to become more involved in supporting the WLCWA and the fantastic role it plays in supporting disadvantaged women in WA by improving their access to justice.

### Lizzie Thelwell (Ordinary Member)

I joined the WLCWA Board in January 2017.

I have worked in the public relations field across private, not-for-profit and government sectors for over ten years. I currently work in healthcare and am responsible for the public relations at a major private hospital. My work spans the areas of PR, media relations, content marketing, event management, digital communications and community relations. I joined the Board to help support the fantastic work of the WLCWA in giving vulnerable West Australian women access to vital legal services.

### Katie Brown (Ordinary Member)

I joined the WLCWA Board in January 2017.

I am a senior social worker and have worked for the WA Department of Health for the past 13 years. I am currently working in a major public teaching hospital in Perth and prior to that worked for 3 years in Child and Adolescent Mental Health. I have completed a 2-year post graduate qualification in family therapy and it is working with families that I most enjoy. A particular interest is improving the way we care for people with dementia. I have seen the effects on women across the life span of not having access to sound legal advice in times of need. The legal services provided by the WLCWA creates access to justice for women facing profound disadvantage in complex circumstances. Being on this board is an opportunity to support and contribute to the governance of WLCWA and the life changing work they engage in every day with women.

### Heather Millar (Ordinary Member, resigned July 2017)

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.

### Patron

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

## WLCWA Staff

### Carrie Hannington

#### Managing Solicitor

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. It was a privilege to take up the position of Managing Solicitor in June 2016 during Lesley's Kirkwood's maternity leave and I have continued in the role following Lesley's resignation in early 2017. I am a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Western Australia and have diverse experience in law in both the community sector and private practice. I also have experience in policy development with both the Australian and Western Australian governments and in the community sector, and am a previous Chair of Kimberley Community Legal Services. I have worked in both metro and remote areas of WA, and am committed to the provision of services to disadvantaged women, to empowerment of the needs of all women, to access to justice, safety and upholding gender and cultural equality. This year has been one of challenges for all community legal centres, but our excellent and dedicated staff and volunteers at WLCWA and Djinda have worked hard to maintain our vision through positive strategic planning, building networks and partnerships and the delivery of high quality client services. I would like to acknowledge their high standards and dedication, and look forward to working together to further enhance and expand our important role in the community.

### 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

#### Client Service Officer

I joined WLCWA in January 2013 after completing a degree in Legal Studies and Criminology at Murdoch University. In the past year at WLCWA, I have worked as a Paralegal, Coordinator of the Domestic Violence Legal Workers Network (DVLWN) and Client Service Officer, yes all at the same time! The last year in a snap shot has included providing training to victims of family and domestic violence, presenting lectures to Murdoch University students, drafting submissions for DVLWN and contributing to some really exciting round tables and forums. I really enjoy working with our clients many who are super brave and I gladly have a great rapport with. After almost five years in the community legal sector I have made many friends and contacts and can proudly say I have contributed to the wonderful work all the people working in our sector provide to clients who are disadvantaged.



Board meet  
and greet



## Carol Bahemia

### Solicitor (part-time)

I joined WLCWA in December 2016 as a solicitor and Co-coordinator of the Legal Assistance Providers FRC Partnership Program. I have over 30 years' experience in law across government, community agencies and private practice. On joining WLC, I was very keen to work directly with women who included some of the most disadvantaged women in our community. My goal is to use my broad legal background to support women accessing the legal system in their attempts to obtain equitable outcomes for themselves and their families. This almost invariably involves women who have experienced family domestic violence and are fighting to re-establish their life and provide a safe and peaceful environment for their children.

## Tracey Collier

### NPY Lands Outreach Solicitor

I joined WLCWA in November 2016. My first position at WLCWA was family law solicitor and FRC Coordinator. Shortly after I started at WLCWA, I took over the role of outreach solicitor for the NPY Lands. I go to the central Gibson Desert region to provide legal advice to the Aboriginal women in the communities. I have always had a passion for social justice and completed my articles of clerkship and restricted practice at Gosnells Community Legal Centre (GosCLC). I then went to a large private law firm in 2012. I missed the community sector so returned to GOsCLC and also took a casual role at Aboriginal Family Law Service. In 2014 I started as the Family Violence Solicitor at SCALES Community Legal Centre, before joining WLCWA. I received my LLB (graduate entry) from Murdoch University. My first degree was a Bachelor of Arts in English majoring in film and television. I am enjoying my role at WLCWA, particularly visiting the NPY Lands and assisting the women in the remote communities. I enjoy working with a group of inspiring and positive women at WLCWA.

## 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.

Sadly, Vicki's time with WLCWA came to an end on 30 June 2017. We are deeply appreciative of her long years of commitment and excellent service.

## Allison Munro

### Solicitor, Djinda Services (part time)

### Coordinator, Domestic Violence Legal Workers' Network (part time)

I joined WLCWA in October 2016 as a part time Solicitor at Djinda Services. In this role I assisted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who have experienced or are at risk of family violence or sexual assault in family law and care and protection matters. Prior to joining the WLCWA I worked as a Solicitor at the Women's Legal Centre in Canberra and volunteered at The Humanitarian Group in Perth. I am now utilising my Solicitor experience in my new role as the Coordinator of the Domestic Violence Legal Workers' Network. It has been a real pleasure to work collectively with legal workers from around Western Australian to improve legal outcomes for family and domestic violence victims.

## Biddy Brennan

### Senior Solicitor (part-time) – Djinda Services

I am now in my 4th year at the WLCWA, having joined the team in 2014. Over the time I have been at the WLCWA I have been part of Djinda Services, specifically assisting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients who are experiencing or are at risk of family violence or sexual assault. Prior to working at WLCWA my experience was primarily in criminal law. I now work with some of the most disadvantaged clients in the areas of Family Law, Criminal Injuries Compensation, and Care and Protection. Prior to studying law at a mature age I was a school teacher, business woman and mother of two. I am now also a grandmother of two. My commitment to social justice continues to be integral to my career in law. 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 from Murdoch University.

## Tameka Brown

### Solicitor (full-time) – Djinda Services

I joined WLC at the end of May 2016, notching up another stop on my rounds of CLCs! I have previously worked with Peel Community Legal Services, Albany Community Legal Centre and the Albany Family Violence Prevention Legal Service. I graduated from UWA with a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce in 2012 and was admitted to practice in July 2014. In October 2016 I finally finished my Restricted Practice. I enjoy my role with Djinda and am fortunate I get to work with some wonderful colleagues and clients.

## Bianca Orchard

### Administrative Assistant (part-time) – 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.

## Jessica Peake

### Client Services Officer (part-time) – WLCWA & Djinda Services

I first joined WLCWA as a volunteer in 2010 during the final stages of my law degree. I completed my Practical Legal Training at WLCWA, which was a valuable experience that included going out to the prisons with one of the lawyers. I later worked as a solicitor at WLCWA, until leaving in 2015 to work for Youth Legal Service. In late 2016, I returned to WLCWA to work as one of 3 Client Services Officers, assisting clients over the phone by providing information and referrals. In early 2017 I also began working in an administrative capacity with Djinda Services.

## Heidi Guldback

### (May 2008 – August 2016)

### 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 past 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 deepening 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.

## Julie Hardy

### (October 2016 to 22 March 2017)

### Client Services Officer

I commenced working for the Women's Law Centre as a Client Services Officer in November 2016. I was attracted to the position due to the strong social justice work that Women's Law does. In my position, I answered calls from women who wanted to know their legal rights regarding separation and their children. Some clients are very distressed about their situation and it is nice to be able to advise them on the help that was available to them. Most of the women that come to our office have been in a family violence situation and have no idea what to do after they separate. We give them a safe place to explore their options and advise them of their legal rights and responsibilities. I have always been passionate about law and in particular family law in an arena where clients are disadvantaged. To that end, I am studying an Associate Degree in Law (Paralegal).



### Lesley Kirkwood

(2008 to March 2017)

#### 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.

### Louise McDermott

(June 2016 to October 2016)

#### 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.





# 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 are primarily law students in their final year of study, law graduates, law graduates undertaking their practical legal training or restricted practitioners.

Our legal volunteers assist our solicitors with a variety of tasks which include research, casework, updating WLCWA precedents and collecting statistical data. Our volunteers also assist by providing paralegal and legal advice (under supervision) on our daily legal advice line. Our non-legal volunteers have provided assistance in research and submissions. Students can use this as a way of contributing to their own degree. The assistance provided by our volunteers is extremely valuable to us and assists WLCWA to increase its capacity to help women in need.

We extend our sincere thanks to the dedicated legal volunteers below who have been in the WLCWA office this year:

## Our Volunteers

- Catherine Hall, Solicitor
- Tess Dillon, Notre Dame University Law Student
- Sarah Nielson-Harvey, Law Graduate
- Celine Harrison, Social Worker
- Molly May-Easterling, Edith Cowan University Law Student
- Charlotte Westbrooke, DLA Piper Seconded
- Kendra Turner, Notre Dame University Law/Behavioural Science Student

## Evening Legal Clinic Volunteers

We have continued to operate our Evening Legal Clinic with a volunteer co-ordinating the Clinic and volunteer solicitors providing legal advice. This year, we expanded the Evening Legal Clinic to operate on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. We are extremely grateful to our dedicated volunteer solicitors who volunteer their time to operate this service. These solicitors provide one-off advice, information and referral for women in relation to family law property matters.

- Miranda Robertson, Pemberton Robertson Lawyers
- Kath Mitchell, Alexanders Lawyers
- Kate Behrens, Bannerman Solicitors
- Natasha Chakich, Bannerman Solicitors
- Teleisha Wall, Bannerman Solicitors
- Toni Parkinson, DCH Legal
- Amy Fels, DCH Legal
- Emma Douglas, Australian Workers' Union
- Celeste Saxon, Saxon Legal
- Clare Prestegar, Clairs Keeley Lawyers
- Hayley Dodson, Cullen MacLeod
- Kate Hill, Hartrey Legal
- Narelle Seth, The Humanitarian Group
- Tess Dillon, Notre Dame University Law Student

We are also highly appreciative of those solicitors and their private law firms who give generously of their time to provide WLCWA and our clients with much needed pro bono advice and assistance.

We look forward to the further expansion of our volunteer program in 2018.

# Pro Bono Partnerships

## DLA Piper

In August 2016, we engaged a law graduate secondee from DLA Piper who commenced her restricted practice later that year. Charlotte Westbrooke provided excellent service to WLCWA clients and assistance to our solicitors before taking up an exciting new opportunity in Singapore in 2017.

## Clayton Utz

In 2015, a partnership was established with Clayton Utz for the referral of clients from WLCWA in some areas of law in which we are unable to assist and, particularly in relation to claims for compensation for criminal injuries suffered as a result of family and domestic violence and sexual assault. Since the start of the partnership we have referred 17 clients to Clayton Utz and a number of outcomes. Clients have spoken highly of the service provided by Clayton Utz solicitors and solicitors have been appreciative of the experience provided through servicing the clients. Our thanks to Lauree Coci for her assistance in the partnership. Our latest endeavour has been to engage law graduate secondees from Clayton Utz for one day per fortnight for set periods.

# 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, the charity drive was renamed "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 bit of extra help made this year extra special...

In 2016, we were assisted by Public Relations company Cannings Purple to promote the event on social media. Cannings Purple also donated cash to enable the purchase of additional items and held a collection box in their offices.

The WLCWA donated the items to a number of 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.



## A note of thanks

*"This is where your generous donations come in to play, covering the extras and special treats that our limited funding doesn't cover, making the special times even more special. As you are well aware, holiday periods, while exciting for most of us are often very different for our families. 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 the true meaning of Christmas to the families, giving them reasons to believe and have faith in the world again.*

*Your generous donation of the skin care packs and other items have become our Christmas Day gifts for our residing women and for some of our Outreach clients. I'm sure the ladies will enjoy this little bit of luxury that they don't often received usually."*



# Providing legal information, advice & representation to women

## Information Activities

1612

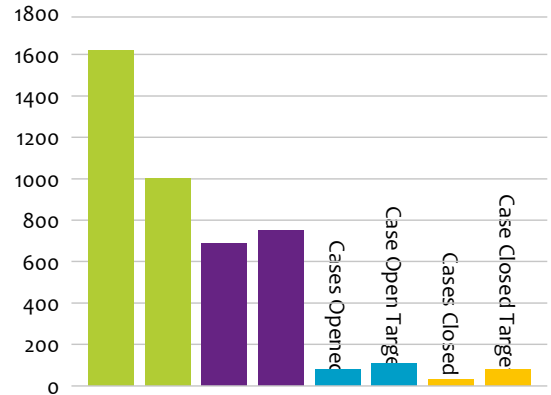
## Advice Activities

654

## Referrals

2257

### Actuals v Targets



### Top Problem Types 16/17

Children's Matters	370
Domestic/family violence	93
Family Law Property	84
Divorce/Separation	64
Injuries Compensation	39
Child Protection	30
Other Family Law	21

### Non-casework activities 102

Community Legal Education	72
Law and Legal Services Reform	9
Stakeholder Engagement	21

### Total Clients 424

New Clients	354
Repeat Clients	52
Existing Clients	18

### New cases open 16/17 75

### Cases closed 16/17 52

\*\*During the 2016/2017 year we were required to migrate to a new database. We therefore cannot guarantee the accuracy of the above figures.\*\*





# Case Studies

The existing resources of the WLCWA are such that the center can no longer undertake extensive court representation for clients, or conduct trials.

The dominant form of service delivery centers around discreet initial legal advice and assistance under the Minor Assistance Program (MAP). The MAP assistance is tailored to provide specific targeted legal advice and support to crucial junctions with the client undertaking the day-to-day case management themselves. In so doing we aim to empower our clients through informed choices based on accurate information and skilled advice.

## Case Study 1

A litigant in person in the Family Court had an upcoming 3-day trial where the other party was represented. The client sought advice on how to present her case, deal with irrelevant material in the other party's affidavit and effectively cross examine him to establish the factual matters important to her case.

Our legal practitioner was able to suggest techniques and strategies that would assist the client and the court in clearly and easily identifying the facts that were agreed, those that were in issue and to formulate an approach to cross examination that the client could readily adopt and adapt as the circumstances required.

## Case Study 2

The client had been subject to domestic violence by her former husband and had successfully obtained a Restraining Order. Her former husband breached the restraining order twice and she was seriously assaulted on the second occasion. The former husband was charged and convicted of the assault and jailed for a period.

The client came to WLCWA because the former husband had been released from prison and had instigated family mediation. The Family Relationship Centre had written to her to tell her she was required to attend the mediation. She was in a dilemma – she did not want to attend the mediation and wanted to know what the consequences would be if she simply did not turn up.

We were able to reassure her that the requirement for family mediation was exempt in circumstances of family violence and provided practical tips for her to communicate with the mediator to explain the key issues involving past family violence and how to proceed if and when proceedings were commenced in the Family Court.

Without this advice, the client may well have compromised her safety and the safety of her children.

# Providing legal advice to Women in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands

WLCWA continues to provide legal services to the women in the remote Aboriginal communities of the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands in the Gibson Desert region. The partnership between WLCWA and the NPY Women's Council Domestic Violence Service continues, ensuring that women in the Lands receive ongoing legal advice and assistance. We also work closely with other agencies such as the WA Police, Child Protection and Family Support and the Kalgoorlie Magistrates Court.

Solicitors visited the Ngaanyatjarra Lands on three occasions in the 2016-17 year. The previous Lands Solicitor, Louise McDermott, did a trip in August 2016. Carrie Hannington (Managing Solicitor) and Tracey Collier (current Lands Solicitor) visited in March 2017, with Tracey also going in May 2017. Carrie's visit to the Lands was in lieu of the fourth trip.

In March 2017 both Carrie and Tracey got the chance to see a lot of the communities on the WA side of the border. The NPYWC DV caseworkers took us to Warburton, Wanarn, Warakurna, Wingellina, Blackstone and Jameson communities. We met other service providers such as the police, child protection worker, health services staff and the CEO of the communities.

Most of the work is around violence restraining order (VRO) matters and assisting clients to obtain a VRO. We also provide legal advice around criminal injuries compensation (CIC) claims. We had some great outcomes this year with two long standing clients receiving between \$60,000 and \$100,000 in CIC awards.

Tracey's next Lands trip will be when the court circuit sittings are conducted in Warburton and Warakurna. It is anticipated that the Lands outreach work will continue to align with the court sittings. We hope to provide further community legal education to both service providers and clients in the Lands.

**Tracey Collier**  
Lands Outreach Solicitor





# 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, mothers 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 currently have capacity to do outreach at Leederville 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.

# Providing legal information, advice & representation

## Information Activities

528

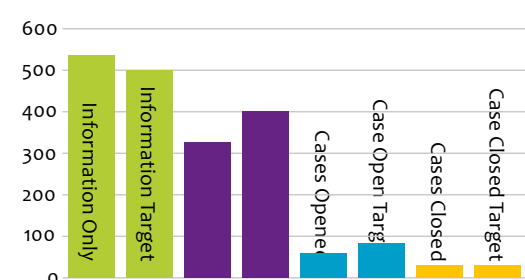
## Advice Activities

325

## Referrals

597

### Actuals v Targets



### Total Clients 91

New Clients	59
Repeat Clients	23
Existing Clients	9

### New cases open 16/17 36

### Cases closed 16/17 35

### Top Problem Types 16/17

Children's matters	109
Child Protection	103
Family/Domestic violence	77
Criminal Injuries Compensation	20
Other family law	17

### Non-casework Activities 36

Community Legal Education	21
Law and Legal Services Reform	11
Stakeholder Engagement	4

## Case Studies

Djinda Services has had many positive cases in the 2016-17 year which have resulted in outstanding outcomes for our clients.

### Case Study 1

“Linda” originally came to Djinda Services for assistance with a Criminal Injuries Compensation application following assaults committed by her husband. Linda was in her 50s and this was her second marriage.

Linda was extremely traumatised from the assaults and it took us a significant length of time to work with Linda to build her trust and put the details of what happened together piece by piece.

We also worked with Women's Health and Family Services (Northbridge) during the process to assist Linda with counselling and to obtain a comprehensive psychological report in support of Linda's application.

In the end we were able to submit a strong, well-rounded application for Linda which resulted in her getting a fair and reasonable award of compensation.

After receiving her award, Linda was then able to afford to apply for divorce from her abusive ex. We assisted Linda to make her application and with representation at court. We are happy to report Linda's divorce was granted without a hitch.

### Case Study 2

“Kelly” was referred to Djinda Services from a service in New South Wales some time after submitting an application for Criminal Injuries Compensation.

Upon reviewing Kelly's completed application we realised it was lacking quite a bit of detail and a much stronger application could be put to the Assessor to improve any potential award of compensation made to Kelly.

We were able to work with the Office of Criminal Injuries Compensation to put Kelly's application on hold so that we could gather further supporting evidence and obtain a more in-depth Victim Impact Statement from Kelly.

Despite Kelly being based in the Eastern States we were able to take detailed instructions so as to obtain the correct Freedom of Information documents and draft a more robust statement.

We were able to then submit additional information to the Assessor which resulted in a fairer award of compensation being made to Kelly.





# FRC Legal Assistance Partnership Program

## Case Study 3

“Tara” was a young single mother whose abusive ex-partner was due for release from prison. Tara had been working with our Resource Workers at Djinda Services (Relationships Australia) before being referred to us for some legal advice.

Tara was also working with a number of other agencies at the time and we supported Tara through collaborative safety planning meetings with these agencies to ensure all aspects of hers and the children's safety had been considered ahead of the ex's release. This included assisting Tara and the children to go into safe refuge accommodation.

Tara had a Life Time Violence Restraining Order in place against her ex but was wanting to obtain Violence Restraining Orders to protect her children from him too. We assisted Tara to draft and lodge the application forms with the Children's Court, as well as represented her in court when the applications were heard.

Tara successfully obtained the Violence Restraining Orders and we then liaised with Police to ensure they were served prior to the other party's release.

## Case Study 4

“Diane” contacted Djinda Services for assistance to make an application to the Family Court for Parenting Orders to formalise arrangements for her young grandchild that had been living with her.

We assisted Diane to draft and file her application, but before the matter could be heard, the child was not returned following a visit with her father. As a result, we helped Diane to make an urgent Recovery Order application which the court was able to hear the same day. A Recovery Order was granted and the child was returned to Diane's care.

We subsequently assisted Diane with representation in court and with drafting further court related documents.

This was a matter in which the parties were willing to negotiate and we were able to aid Diane through an Alternative Dispute Resolution Conference with Legal Aid WA. Fortunately, the parties were able reach agreement and consent orders were made.

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.





# Domestic Violence Legal Workers' Network

## Network activities for 2016-17

This year, some of the network activities included:

- Ongoing participation in the Steering Committee of the Family Law Pathways Network;
- Contributing to the organisation and planning of the Annual Family Pathways Network Conference, themed “Exploring solutions to complex problems: responding to alcohol and other drugs in the family law system”;
- Organising CLE sessions through the CLC Quarterlies meeting of Family Court judicial officers, and FDV in mediation and Family Court WA applications;
- Hosting regular family network meetings for CLC lawyers to network, collaborate and support each other;
- Coordination of the delivery of outreach legal advice sessions to Family mediators centers in Perth;
- Providing outreach legal advice to participants in Family mediation at FRC in Perth;
- Developing and providing a FDV workshop to Family Mediators and staff.

## Future Network activities

The recent Commonwealth funding announcement provided for participating CLCs to determine for themselves whether to continue with the outreach legal advice sessions to FRCs or to roll the funding allocation into its budget.

The WLCWA has re-affirmed its commitment to providing legal advice to individuals undertaking mediation, to empower the participants to negotiate and make informed decisions.

In keeping with this philosophy, WLCWA will continue its role in coordinating and participating in, the collaborative service delivery between participating CLCs and FRC. WLCWA will also continue its role as coordinator of the Family Network sessions at the CLC quarterly meetings, into 2017-18.

## Thanks

WLCWA 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.

**Carol Bahemia**  
Program Co-ordinator

The Domestic Violence Legal Workers' Network (the Network) is a network of legal and other workers specialising in family and domestic violence. The Network aims to improve the legal outcomes for family and domestic violence victims through advocacy, education and the support of best practice. A Coordinator hosted at the Women's Law Centre facilitates the Network and is supported by Fremantle Community Legal Centre, Gosnells Community Legal Centre and SCALES Community Legal Centre.

In recent years there have been vast legislative and other changes in the family and domestic violence environment, with legislative changes across several different areas of law and jurisdictions. A planning workshop for the Network was consequently facilitated and a new Terms of Reference for the Network has been developed and agreed upon by members to provide clear guidance for the Network's role in the future.

One of the core functions of the Network will be to continue to support the professional development and best practice of members through the on-going provision of education, information and support. Information and trends on family and domestic violence matters are regularly distributed to members and legal education sessions on current issues are facilitated. Quarterly meetings for members encourage a collaborative approach and allow solicitors to collectively identify issues and trends and provide strategies for resolutions and reform. The Network is also establishing an intranet for members to further engage with each other.

The Network also collaborates with a number of other family and domestic violence networks, committees and service providers such as the Women's Legal Services Australia. These collaborations ensure the Network stays informed of current issues and trends as well as allowing the Network to contribute its experiences and views to various family and domestic violence agendas.

The Network will continue to use the knowledge and experience of members to work towards systemic change for family and domestic violence victims and provide law reform and policy advocacy where required. In addition, members will work together to identify areas of unmet legal need and gaps in community legal education and work collectively to address these.

As the year draws to a close the Women's Law Centre and Network members would like to thank Heidi Guldbæk who resigned from her position as Network Coordinator in 2016. Heidi's skill and dedication to the role has been crucial in establishing the Network as the collaborative advocacy and support model that it is today. We would also like to thank and acknowledge Sharm Greenwood who stepped in as Network Coordinator after Heidi's departure.

Finally, we would like to thank all community legal centres and other members for their commitment to providing collaborative approach to continue to improve the legal and other outcomes for family and domestic violence victims.

**Allison Munro**  
Coordinator  
Domestic Violence Legal Workers' Network



# SAFE as HOUSES

Preventing Homelessness for Women & Children

Providing legal and support services to women and children affected by family and domestic violence



**SAFE** as **HOUSES**

## Safe as Houses

The Safe as Houses project was commenced in recognition of the rising homelessness among women and children in Western Australia. By far the biggest cause is family and domestic violence. Victims are often burdened with a complex tangle of legal and practical issues and the need for a range of support services that require coordinated legal and support services to provide safe, secure housing and a fresh start.

Funded through the Criminal Property Confiscation Grants program (WA Government) and Lotterywest, and supported by in-kind funding from partner agencies, Safe as Houses has joined up the skills from three specialist community legal centres (Tenancy WA, WLCWA and Street Law WA). Together we will provide assistance in family law, child support, child protection, debt, injuries compensation, criminal proceedings, tenancy, business and employment issues. Assisted by a range of other non-government and government agencies, services will be coordinated by a social worker in an integrated case managed approach.

The project commenced in the first half of 2017, with WLCWA set to engage a lawyer in August 2017 who will provide advice in our core areas of law and also family property law. Our role will include particularly assistance to women who need to seek family property settlement as a result of family and domestic violence. Our thanks to Kate Davis and Ann Margaret Walsh from our partner CLCs for your expertise and dedication in setting up the project. Foundation corporate partners are currently being sought to assist in the delivery of project sustainability and prevention of homelessness in women and children in WA.



# 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 2017

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	30 June 2017 \$	30 June 2016 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	299,276	271,385
Trade and other receivables	3	0	40
Prepayments		5,821	13,870
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>305,097</b>	<b>285,295</b>
<b>Non-current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	4	116,330	120,468
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>		<b>116,330</b>	<b>120,468</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>421,427</b>	<b>405,763</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	5	44,835	51,816
Provisions	6	78,305	82,782
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>123,140</b>	<b>134,598</b>
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	6	0	0
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>123,140</b>	<b>134,598</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>298,287</b>	<b>271,165</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings	7	298,287	271,165
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>298,287</b>	<b>271,165</b>

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.  
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## INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	30 June 2017 \$	30 June 2016 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Grant Income	409,399	409,399
Scales Community Legal Centres	11,759	11,819
City of Fremantle	9,340	11,819
City of Gosnells	9,340	11,819
SACS Supplementation	58,235	46,029
Quarterly Warburton	68,375	65,174
FRC	38,513	38,513
Interest Received	2,731	2,458
Other income	29,497	5,696
PAFVPLS	279,367	265,255
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>916,556</b>	<b>867,981</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Communications	14,846	13,090
Depreciation	8,170	8,363
Employment expenses	736,411	771,205
Finance & Accounting Fees	4,502	4,374
Insurance	5,415	4,994
Library, Resources & Subscriptions	24,216	17,131
Office Overheads	17,569	14,370



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**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	30 June 2017	30 June 2016
	\$	\$
<b>Expenses (continued)</b>		
Other Premises	21,539	22,571
Programming and Planning	2,549	4,805
Rent	35,990	34,496
Staff Recruitment	500	560
Staff Training	4,111	16,494
Sundry Expenses	808	2,692
Loss on sale of property, plant & equipment	1,021	0
Travel	11,787	14,043
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>889,434</b>	<b>929,188</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>27,122</b>	<b>-61,207</b>
Retained Earnings At the Beginning of the Financial Year	271,165	332,372
<b>Retained Earnings At the End of the Financial Year</b>	<b>298,287</b>	<b>271,165</b>

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from fees, subsidies and other income		921,914	866,421
Payments to suppliers and employees		(891,701)	(949,420)
Interest received /(paid)		2,731	2,458
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>32,944</b>	<b>(80,541)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(5,053)	(4,427)
<b>Net cash provided by /(used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(5,053)</b>	<b>(4,427)</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>27,891</b>	<b>(84,968)</b>
<b>Cash at the beginning of the financial year</b>		<b>271,385</b>	<b>356,353</b>
<b>Cash at the end of the year</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>299,276</b>	<b>271,385</b>

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

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 2017

## 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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## 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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**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**

	2017	2016
Cheque Account	211,373	186,146
Cash Investment Account	32,714	32,223
Term Deposit	54,989	52,785
Petty Cash	200	200
Services	0	30
Undeposited Funds	0	1
	<u>299,276</u>	<u>271,385</u>

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.  
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**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**3. Trade and Other Receivables**

	2017	2016
Current		
Pledges Receivable	<u>0</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**

	2017	2016
<b>Assets</b>		
Computers & IT AT Cost	49,586	58,526
Computers & IT Accumulated Depreciation	(31,135)	(40,727)
Phone At Cost	10,449	10,449
Phone Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(5,213)</u>	<u>(4,390)</u>
	<u>23,687</u>	<u>23,858</u>
<b>Buildings</b>		
Leasehold Improvements	102,249	102,249
Leasehold Improvements Depreciation	<u>(22,213)</u>	<u>(19,657)</u>
	<u>80,036</u>	<u>82,592</u>
<b>Furniture &amp; Equipment</b>		
Furniture & Equipment At Cost	28,474	28,474
Furniture & Fixtures Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(15,867)</u>	<u>(14,456)</u>
	<u>12,607</u>	<u>14,018</u>
<b>Total Property, Plant, And Equipment</b>	<u>116,330</u>	<u>120,468</u>

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.  
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## 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

	2017	2016
Cheque Account	211,373	186,146
Cash Investment Account	32,714	32,223
Term Deposit	54,989	52,785
Petty Cash	200	200
Services	0	30
Undeposited Funds	0	1
	<u>299,276</u>	<u>271,385</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements continued

### 8 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities

	2017	2016
(Loss)/profit for the period	27,122	(61,207)
<b>Non-cash flows from ordinary activities</b>		
Depreciation	8,170	8,363
Loss on sale of property, plant & equipment	<u>1,021</u>	<u>0</u>
	36,313	(52,844)
 (Increase)/Decrease in Trade receivables	40	0
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments	8,049	(4,018)
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade Payables	(6,981)	(16,680)
Increase/(Decrease) in provisions	<u>(4,477)</u>	<u>(6,999)</u>
Net Cash from operating activities	<u>32,944</u>	<u>(80,541)</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 2017

### 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 notes presents fairly the committee's financial position as at 30 June 2017 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: mauwilians

Treasurer: Helen B. Herbage

Dated: 7/9/17

# Auditor's Report



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strength in numbers

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

### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Women's Law Centre of WA Inc. which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of income & expense, the statement of cash flow and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the declaration by committee members.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Entity is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code") that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, which has been given to committee members, would be in the same terms if given as at the time of this auditor's report.

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

### Responsibilities of Committee members for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the special purpose financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the relevant Australian Accounting Standards in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission Regulations 2013* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the special purpose financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intend to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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Committee members are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with committee members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the committee members with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

### ARMADA AUDIT & ASSURANCE PTY LTD



**Graeme Wovodich**  
Registered Company Auditor Reg.No. 13421  
Dated 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 2017



*strength in numbers*

### 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 2017 there have been:

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

### ARMADA AUDIT & ASSURANCE PTY LTD



Graeme Wovodich

Registered Company Auditor No.13421

Dated this .....15.....day of August 2017 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 nine years. WLCWA would be unable to produce such a polished report without your assistance.