

women's
law centre



Annual Report
2017–2018

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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 legal information, advice/ and some representation 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

Vision

WLCWA: Justice, empowerment & safety for women.

Values



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

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.

The WLCWA is pleased to present our Annual Report for the 2017 – 2018 year.

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

We would also like to thank the following people and organisations that have provided donations, volunteer time, pro bono services, in kind support, funding grants, or other assistance to our Centre in the 2017-2018 year:

- The Honourable Antoinette Kennedy, AO (Patron of WLCWA)
- Registrar Danielle Davies, Supreme Court of WA
- The Hon John Quigley, Attorney General of Western Australia
- The Hon Christian Porter, Commonwealth Attorney General
- The Hon. Simone Frances McGurk MLA, Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services
- Graham Hill, Director of Legal Aid WA
- Allison Harris and Leanne Pauletto, CLC funding program Legal Aid WA
- Nassim Arage, CEO NACLC
- Helen Creed and Sharryn Jackson, Community Legal Centres Association (WA)
- Kate Davis, Tenancy WA
- Ann-Margaret Walsh, Street Law Centre WA
- Kathy Bogoyev and Carol Child, The Humanitarian Group
- Justine Clarke and Sarah Patterson Midland Information Debt and Legal Advocacy Service
- Gai Walker, SCALES
- Patrick Mungar, Gosnells Community Legal Service,
- Judy McLean, Fremantle Community Legal Centre,
- Corina Martin, CEO Aboriginal Family Law Services
- Terri Riley and Michael Sheehan, Relationships Australia
- Angela Ryder, Relationships Australia
- Rachel Lee, Herbert Smith Freehills
- Lauree Coci and Donna Charleswork, Clayton Utz
- Adam Levine and Jason Randall, K & L Gates
- Nicholas van Hattem, Piddington Society
- Zonta House
- Women's Legal Services Australia
- Women Lawyers Western Australia
- St John of God Hospital
- Graeme Wovodich & Joey Fu, Armada Auditing
- Tony Spencer, CPSU CSA
- Unions WA
- Davide Ciotti & Kerrin McLevie, Walker Newman & Associates
- 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 2017-2018 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.

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 – <http://www.wlcwa.org.au/get-involved/>

Facebook

WLCWA has a Facebook page <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 amongst your contacts and networks. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you on our page!

We hope you enjoy reading this Annual Report and look forward to working with you in 2019 and beyond.



Chairperson's Report



The 2017 – 2018 year at Women's Law Centre of Western Australia (WLCWA) has been a prosperous and exciting time. The restructure undertaken at the end of 2017 has been very successful and our new Senior Executive Officer Carrie Hannington has worked tirelessly and effectively in the new role. We hope a number of projects and plans began in 2017 will come to fruition in 2018 and 2019. The Board and staff have undertaken a re-branding exercise to update our logo and look. These new designs will be incorporated into a new website later in this year. Moves are also underway to move into new offices that will not only improve the environment for our current staff, it will also increase our capacity for volunteers and students to assist the work of WLCWA.

Funding is a constant discussion at Board level and we work to position ourselves as a responsive and flexible service that can demonstrate to funders and donors the high value of our services. 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 Relationship's Australia through our Djinda Services program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the metropolitan area. The joint program with Street Law WA and Tenancy WA, 'Safe a Houses' is an award-winning program that we hope is refunded for coming years.

We said goodbye to two board members this year, Caron Cobarg-Sugars and Katie Brown. I thank Caron and Katie for all their contributions. We also gained some wonderful new members in the last year with Eduardo Farate, Nicola Ashford, and Darelle Pola as our new Treasurer. The governance of WLCWA is in good hands with this team of dedicated women; and with Eduardo as our first male board member. As this goes to print, the Board has also welcomed Zoe Henham as our new Chairperson. Zoe has stepped into the Chairperson role after a Board driven recruitment process to find our perfect Chair and that we did! Exciting times are ahead with Zoe as the helm.

As always, I express my appreciation to the volunteers and pro bono providers that assist us throughout the year. Particularly thank you to Clayton Utz, Freehills Herbert Smith and K & L Gates who have continued to provide substantial pro bono advice and assistance to us. We have also had the pleasure of students and graduate law students joining us throughout year and we thank these new professionals for dedicating their time to WLCWA. I will also give special mention and thanks to the Community Legal Centres Association of Western Australia, who as our peak body has been extremely active in advocating for the importance of a strong community legal sector.

Whilst I will no longer be the Chairperson for WLCWA I will continue to sit on the Board and look forward to seeing the upcoming changes and developments. My deepest thanks to the Board and staff for the support and guidance I have received whilst Chairperson, with a special mention to Carrie Hannington, who is not only an excellent SEO but the consummate professional and a lovely lady. My thanks to all the staff who work so hard for WLCWA and may the organisation continue the life changing work they do for clients for many, many years to come.

Marnie Williams
Chairperson WLCWA

Senior Executive Officer's Report



Despite many strides in addressing gender inequality in Australia, women continue to be disadvantaged, with the statistics of lower wages, less seniority and less superannuation well known¹. With continued under-recognition for much unpaid work, particularly the key role that women perform as carers of children and others, women are also highly over-represented as victims of family and domestic violence (and resulting homelessness), sexual harassment, sexual violence and elder abuse. Many challenges thus remain.

At WLCWA we aim to provide an emotionally and culturally safe space for women who - not surprisingly - are often in complex situations, disempowered and unable to see which way to turn. Applying our core values we sensitively assess individual needs, assisting access to justice through quality information and advice, the fostering of informed choices and wherever possible a joined up, holistic approach through referrals and arrangements with the many organisations both legal and non legal with whom we collaborate and partner.

Unfortunately, with the economic downturn and funding uncertainties in WA, demand for our services continues to outstrip available resources, with the levels of family and domestic violence and children in care at unacceptably high levels in WA. WLCWA continues to rise to the challenge by providing a professional and dedicated service to Western Australia's most vulnerable and disadvantaged women and in assisting as many women as we can.

With increasing pressure to achieve operational efficiencies, it is imperative that we maintain our accreditation and operate sound governance and financial management through our strategic planning process, funding initiatives, partner relationships and reporting. In order to ensure an adequate focus on the legal practice, division of the previous Managing Solicitor role was undertaken in late 2017, with myself assuming the title of Senior Executive Officer and Sarah Bright recruited into a Principal Legal Officer position.

The new roles have allowed a focus on future strategies to assess and build our team of dedicated staff and to investigate new and innovative ways of working, as well as maximising the output of the legal practice. A rebranding and upgrade to our website commenced this year together with improved evaluation and marketing strategies will considerably assist this process.

¹ Australian Human Rights Commission: *Face the Facts: Gender Equality*. 2018

The new SEO role has not been without challenges, but I am fortunate to have had an excellent team whose support has assisted invaluable. I would like to recognise all of our wonderful staff and volunteers for their continued hard work and dedication in an environment that is far from easy. Everyone has a unique role and special place in our team, and all deserve the highest of appreciation, but I would like to thank Sarah Bright particularly for stepping into the Principal Legal Officer role with her wealth of legal practice and law reform experience; also Jacquie Carter for her continuing splendid financial management in the new role of Business and Finance Officer and Sharm Greenwood, our long term Client Services Officer who has now left us but who we wish all the best in a new job.

I would like particularly to thank the Board members for their support, and for the considerable time and expertise devoted to development of strategy, policy and new ideas. A special thanks to the Chair Marnie Williams for providing such understanding and positivity during the changes, and to Lizzie Thelwell the Deputy Chair. Whilst we have recently welcomed in a new Chair in Zoe Henham, and look forward to the afresh perspective she brings to our organisation, we are fortunate in having Marnie remain on the Board as a valuable member.

This report would not be complete without a huge thank you to our many volunteers, who have provided of their time in so many and valuable ways. I wish every success to those who have moved on to paid employment. I also 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.

As a specialist community legal centre, WLCWA does not operate alone and I thank sincerely the Community Legal Centres Association of WA for their support. I have been fortunate enough to be Chair of this organisation and also represent the state on committees of the National Association of Community Legal Centres, whose support along with that from the Women's Legal Services Australia is so crucial to our operations and to the national development of all law and policy affecting human rights and women's rights in particular.

The making of a new Strategic Plan in 2019 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. WLCWA will continue in the next year to seek new opportunities for partnership and collaboration, and to find innovative responses to meeting the needs of Western Australian women.

Carrie Hannington
Senior Executive Officer WLCWA

Principal Legal Officer Report

The financial year ending 30 June 2018 saw a significant amount of change occurring at Women's Law Centre of Western Australia (WLCWA) including the restructure of roles of Managing Solicitor and Office Manager into the three new roles. I commenced as the inaugural Principal Legal Officer of WLCWA on 25 October 2018.

When I came on board in October 2017, WLCWA had been through a difficult period. The funding cliff and the introduction of CLASS were just two changes that caused significant stress, confusion and anxiety for our sector as a whole. The result for many was that FYE 2018 became a trial period to see how to adapt their legal service delivery to the new reporting system and introduce new ways to obtain evidence of unmet legal need in the context of collaborative service planning.

Over the course of FYE 2018, much of my work as the new PLO was spent trying to address these issues and design with staff new processes which ensure that WLCWA (including our generalist services, Safe as Houses program and Djinda Services program) run efficiently and include more direct oversight of legal operations by all staff (legal and admin) to ensure risk is better managed.

The outcome though as we head into FYE 2019 is that WLCWA is clear about the nature of the work we seek to provide (and why), has service targets which are achievable for staff mindful of staff wellbeing and more comprehensively and transparently plans for the future (to assist staff to better manage their workloads and time.)

Aside from operational matters, FYE 2018 was a big year for WLCWA. Highlights included:

- Contribution to the WA Law Handbook published on AustLII
- The WA Parliament Elder Abuse Inquiry
- The Australian Law Reform Commission Family Law Review (and related family law reforms)

- Collaborative Research Project mapping unmet legal need of family law property advice in family violence matters
- Financial Abuse Roundtable in Melbourne with Rosie Batty

More detail is in my Non-Case Work Project report.

It has been a busy, challenging (and experimental) year but one which was necessary to prepare the ground work for many potential new, exciting and innovative projects. I am very much looking forward to seeing what opportunities the next financial year brings for WLCWA and working with our staff, volunteers and collaborating with our professional colleagues from the wider community to continue to help WA women in need access quality legal support.

I would like to thank Sharm Greenwood and Biddy Brennan who departed WLCWA in this reporting period for all their hard work and wish them best of luck. I would also like to thank all our staff and volunteers at WLCWA who kept soldiering on with the brilliant work that they do assisting our clients despite the challenges faced.

Sarah Bright
Principal Legal Officer, 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



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

LEADERSHIP

Champion Women's rights and access for women to social justice

- Be at the forefront in law reform for women's rights by providing advice to Government and governmental inquiries
 - Develop a Marketing/Communications Plan that will allow the WLCWA to raise its profile across all sectors: government, community and private
 - Be a leader in development and opportunity for women volunteers and graduates
-

CLIENT SERVICES

Ensure our specialist legal services reach disadvantaged women in Western Australia

- Work with other agencies 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.
 - Explore alternative legal service models, including community legal education.
 - Explore opportunities to re-establish services to women in prison.
 - Develop an outcomes based evaluation framework of all WLCWA services.
-

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

Strengthen partnerships and collaborative working models

- 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 relationships with Universities.
-

GOVERNANCE & SUSTAINABILITY

Ensure excellence in governance and strengthen sustainability

- Ensure the Board has the right mix of skills and expertise and that members have access to training and support.
- Review the operations structure and work practices to create the space for innovation and sustainability.
- Review current ways of providing legal & administrative services to increase productivity
- Ensure staff have best possible skills to deliver services.
- Be a model employer for women in WA.
- Investigate potential income streams that can support existing or new projects, including corporate giving models



WLCWA Services

The achievements of the WLCWA over the last 12 months are well documented throughout this annual report. Please see below for a snapshot of our achievements in the 2017–2018 year.

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 2017–2018 year

Our dedicated team of staff and volunteers continue to work together to improve access to justice for women in WA and to empower women to make informed decisions about issues affecting their lives. WLCWA's core work included:

- Comprehensive legal information and referral services to women. (Legal information is also available in our pamphlets and on our website at www.wlcwa.org.au).
- Legal advice, 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.
- Advice to women undergoing family law proceedings through the Perth Family Relationships Centre.
- Assistance and representation of 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.
- Court representation.
- Assistance to women in making claims for Criminal Injuries Compensation as a result of domestic and family violence or sexual assault.

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 2017–2018 year, WLCWA undertook a variety of activities that included:

- participating in inquiries
- providing submissions to both Western Australian and Australian Government in relation to proposed law and policy changes
- writing letters to and meeting with politicians
- providing advice to Government advocating for women and their children
- representing women at public awareness events.
- 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).
- 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 a range of activities including (but not limited to):

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

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, a WLCWA Solicitor, Tracey Collier, travelled to the NPY Lands to provide legal services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women living in remote communities. It will continue into 2018-19 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

In 2017 WLCWA commenced service provision in 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, has been funded by the WA Government. Funding is currently being sought to continue this program beyond 31 December 2018.

Evening Legal Clinic

The WLCWA has continued to hold a monthly 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 and Law Access WA to provide pro bono legal assistance to clients in 2017–18, particularly in the area of criminal injuries compensation. We also engaged graduate secondees through the Piddington Program and other legal and non-legal graduates and students, whilst a succession of pro bono secondee practitioners from a private firm continued to gain experience and provide valuable service to clients and solicitors.

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 has included the recent engagement of the Principal Legal Officer in a national policy coordination role.

Network Coordination

During 2017–18 WLCWA continued to auspice the Coordinator positions for the following networks:

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

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



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 until mid 2018.

Since joining the Board I have transitioned from working in the refugee sector as a trauma counsellor, to working as a lawyer for the Aboriginal Family Law Service. My areas of work are family law, child protection and criminal injuries compensation for victims of family violence. I currently live in Carnarvon in the Gascoyne region, enjoying the change of scenery that comes with rural and remote work.

Lizzie Thelwell (Deputy Chairperson)

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 communications and 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, making our communities safer and happier places in which to live.

Darelle Pola (Treasurer)

I joined the WLCWA Board in November 2017

I am a qualified Accountant with over 20 years' commercial experience in Accounting, Administration and Project Management. More recently I have developed my expertise in Systems Accounting and Business Excellence and am currently employed with Metso Australia Ltd as their Business Systems Manager. I joined the WLCWA Board to support the great work the organisation does in empowering women. I feel grateful for the opportunity to support the organisation in providing essential services and the right to justice.

Katie Brown (Secretary)

I joined the WLCWA Board in January 2017 and acted as secretary between October 2017 and July 2018.

I am a senior social worker and have worked for the WA Department of Health for the last 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.

Nicola Ashford (Ordinary Member)

I joined the Board in October 2017.

I am a family lawyer working at Kim Wilson & Co in Subiaco. I started my involvement with WLCWA as a volunteer in the evening clinic before becoming a Board member in 2017. As a family lawyer I am well aware of the great need for the services WLCWA provides the community. I am very proud and grateful to be able to make a contribution to such valuable and important work.

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.

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.

Eduardo Farate (Ordinary Member)

I joined the WLCWA Board in October 2017

I am currently the Principal Policy and Planning Officer, Cultural Diversity, for the Department of Communities. I have previously worked as a Family Court Counsellor at the Family Court of Western Australia, and as a counsellor in private practice. I hold a Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) and have a keen interest in multicultural issues, as demonstrated by my PhD research and previous Masters of Social Work (2000) research. Joining the board of the WLCWA gave me an opportunity to support the critical work that this organisation undertakes with women in WA, including those of cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Caron Sugars (Ordinary Member)

I joined the WLCWA Board in September 2017.

I am a Partner in KPMG's Risk Consulting division specialising in risk management and corporate governance and work with clients to establish sound governance processes including risk management and internal audit. As a Course Director for the Governance Institute of Australia and a member of their WA State Council, I bring a depth of knowledge and experience in the practical aspects of sound governance applicable to listed and unlisted companies as well as not for profits. As a Chartered Accountant having worked in senior finance roles I also have a good appreciation for financial rigour and controls needed. I joined the Board because I wanted to apply my knowledge and experience to support a very important part of our community, the women as well as the children in their care.

Amanda Blackburn (Secretary)

I joined the WLCWA Board in February 2012 and retired in September 2017.

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.

Kath Pemberton (Deputy Chairperson)

I joined the WLCWA Board in March 2014 and resigned in September 2017.

I am the Managing Director of Pemberton Robertson. I practice 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 and resigned in October 2017.

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.



Our People

Patron

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

WLCWA Staff

Carrie Hannington

Senior Executive Officer

I initially came from Aboriginal Family Law Services to join Djinda Services as a senior solicitor in February 2016. I have a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from the University of WA. I took up the role of Managing Solicitor in June 2016 and became the Senior Executive Officer when WLCWA restructured earlier this year. I have diverse legal experience in both the community sector and private practice, as well as in government, public policy, unions and the health sector. I also have many years' experience in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in legal practice, the public service and Aboriginal organisations.

I have worked extensively in both metro and remote areas of WA and have this year served this year as Chair of the Community Legal Centres Association (WA). I have long been dedicated to human rights, social justice and organisations that promote the same. Particularly, I am passionate about access to justice for women, addressing gender inequality and empowering women to exercise their legal rights by way of informed choices within a safe and culturally secure environment. I am committed to maximizing the potential of WLCWA to achieve this aim through, sound networks, an expert team and high quality services. I believe WLCWA must also set an example in women's' employment by assisting staff and volunteers to achieve their potential through a supportive environment and professional development.

Although challenges to both community legal centres and justice for women continue, our fantastic team of employees and volunteers has worked tirelessly to maintain our vision. It has been an honour to lead and work with all staff, Board members and volunteers in my new role and I look forward to further enhancing and expanding our important role in the community.

Sarah Bright

Principal Legal Officer (part-time); Domestic Violence Legal Worker Coordination (part time); National Policy and Law Reform Coordinator (Women's Legal Service Australia (part-time))

I commenced as PLO at WLCWA in October 2017. I am also currently job-sharing the role of Domestic Violence Legal Workers' Network Coordinator and National Policy Coordinator for Women's Legal Services Australia with Allison Munro. Originally from Perth, my background is in private family law in Perth and Melbourne. In 2015 I established my own 'newlaw' practice "Bright Family Lawyers" providing unbundled legal services focusing on assisting self-represented litigants to better represent themselves. In Melbourne I managed the Law Institute of Victoria response to family law, family violence and care and protection on behalf of the Family Law Section. I have (and am) also a precedent lawyer and have been a contributing author of Lexis Nexis Practical Guidance Family Law program for WA and Victoria since around 2010 and continue to work as a Consultant for the Law Institute of Victoria developing professional development materials and working with the Family Law Accredited Specialist Team to develop and host conferences to improve how family lawyers respond to family violence.

I am passionate about innovative solutions to legal problems and am particularly interested in the technological solutions to increase access to justice and services for disadvantaged women. I am very much looking forward to exploring opportunities in FYE 2019 and hope is to see WLCWA become a leader in innovative legal service delivery in WA.

Jacquie Carter

Business & Finance Officer (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. My role at WLCWA includes coordinating all financial requirements including budgeting, reporting and the annual audit. I also coordinate WLCWA's annual report, manage IT requirements and have this year taken on a handful of projects. 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. I thoroughly enjoy working with the passionate women at WLCWA and look forward to working with them in the year ahead!

Hayley Barbarich

Restricted Practitioner (part-time)

I joined WLC in July 2017 as a volunteer solicitor. I have been employed with WLC since April 2018. In my current position I am a part-time solicitor (restricted practitioner). I work in all of WLC's core practice areas - Family Law, Family Violence, Criminal Injuries Compensation and Care and Protection. I enjoy providing on-the-ground, practical assistance to vulnerable women in relation to their legal matters. The Community Legal sector is of great value to our community and I am proud to represent this sector in my professional capacity. Prior to my time at WLC I completed my Practical Legal Training at The Humanitarian Group. I hold a Bachelor of Communications and a Juris Doctor and was admitted to practice in 2016.

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.

Molly May-Easterling

Client Service Officer (part-time)

I started volunteering at WLCWA in November 2016. I was just over halfway through my law degree and felt that I wanted to gain some practical experience. I decided to approach WLCWA because I am very passionate about women's issues, especially domestic violence. In July 2018, I was offered employment at WLCWA as a part time Client Service Officer which I eagerly accepted. I cannot express how much I have learnt during my time at WLCWA, both as a volunteer and member of staff. I love working at WLCWA and I know my experience here will be of the utmost benefit to my legal career when I qualify.



Jacinta Geen

Client Service Officer (part-time)

I joined WLCWA in February 2018 as a relief Customer Services Officer, working once a week for five hours. Progressively my hours extended to two days a week part-time as CSO. My previous work has been in the Employment Services for 15 years assisting job-seekers with various disabilities and able body.

Anita Moretta

Safe as Houses Solicitor (part time), WLCWA Solicitor (part time)

I currently work as the 'Safe as Houses' Solicitor providing legal advice and advocacy to women who are homeless (or at risk) as a result of family violence. These women have high complex needs; are often culturally diverse; and greatly disadvantaged. It has been rewarding but challenging and has provided me with a unique opportunity to help influence and change these women's lives for the better.

Prior to working for WLC, I was in private practice for 4 years working extensively in family law and as the head of department. I also worked closely with students and restricted practitioners to mentor and help develop their legal skills and knowledge.

I am passionate about advocating for the rights of women, in both a professional and at a community level. I am also equally passionate about empowering women (and men) to take action and to be aware of gender inequality issues that remain present in our everyday lives.

Allison Munro

Coordinator – Domestic Violence Legal Workers' Network

I joined WLCWA in October 2016 as a Solicitor at Djinda Services. Prior to working at WLCWA I have worked as a Solicitor at the Women's Legal Centre in Canberra and volunteered at The Humanitarian Group in Perth. Since April 2017 I have utilised my legal experience to coordinate Domestic Violence Legal Workers' Network and provide advocacy on family violence laws and policies. It has a wonderful experience to work together with lawyers from all over Western Australian to work towards systemic change for family violence victim-survivors.

Tameka Brown

Senior Solicitor – 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 April 2018 I became Djinda's Senior Solicitor. I enjoy my role with Djinda and am fortunate I get to work with some wonderful colleagues and clients.

Jessica Peake

Restricted Practitioner - 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 included going out to the two (then) women's prisons. I was admitted in September 2014, after graduating from the University of Notre Dame (Bachelor of Laws/ Bachelor of Arts). After working as a Solicitor with WLCWA for a few months, I left to work for Youth Legal Service in 2015, assisting with Criminal Injuries Compensation matters. I returned in late 2016 to work as a Client Services Officer with WLCWA and later Djinda Services. In December 2017 I was overjoyed to begin working as a Solicitor with Djinda Services, gaining some unique, varied and valuable experience, including a lot of court work!

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 and engaging in further training to ensure the legal advice and support for Aboriginal Women and Children continues.

Carol Bahemia

Solicitor (part-time) (ceased employment November 2017)

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. In 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.

Biddy Brennan

Senior Solicitor (part-time) – Djinda Services (ceased employment December 2017)

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 2. I am now also a grandmother of 2. 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.

Sharm Greenwood

Client Service Officer (resigned July 2018)

I joined WLCWA in January 2013 after completing a degree in Legal Studies and Criminology at Murdoch University. In the last 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.

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 predominantly law students, law graduates, law graduates undertaking their practical legal training (PLT) or restricted practitioners.

This year, our PLT and RP volunteers have assisted by providing legal information (or advice under supervision) on our legal information line. The assistance provided by our volunteers is extremely valuable to us and allows WLCWA to increase its capacity to help women in need.

Our volunteers also assist our solicitors with tasks including research, casework, updating WLCWA precedents and collecting statistical data.

We have continued our partnership with Clayton Utz this year and have benefited from a number of their solicitors who have worked in the WLCWA office under the partnership arrangements to provide support and assistance to our solicitors.

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

Our Volunteers

- Megan Arrowsmith, Clayton Utz Seconded
- Cassie Bailey, Law Student
- Hayley Barbarich, Restricted Practitioner
- Zoe Barham, Law Student
- Dell Butler, Clayton Utz Seconded
- Annabelle Caska, Law Graduate
- Laura Clarke, Clayton Utz Seconded
- Tess Dillon, Law Student
- Brenda Fleming, Law Graduate
- Sarah Gresham, PLT Placement
- Catherine Hall, Solicitor
- Sarah Nielson-Harvey, PLT Placement
- Celine Harrison, Social Worker
- Molly May-Easterling, Law 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. 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.

- Nicola Ashford, Kim Wilson & Co
- Kate Behrens, Bannerman Solicitors
- Craig Bloxham, Bloxham Legal
- Hayley Dodson, Cullen MacLeod
- Amy Fels, DCH Legal
- Celeste Saxon, Saxon Legal
- Daniel Loreck, DCH Legal
- Kate Hill, Hartrey Legal
- Kath Mitchell, Alexanders Lawyers
- Toni Parkinson, DCH Legal
- Miranda Robertson, Pemberton Robertson Lawyers
- Narelle Seth
- Tess Dillon, Law Student
- Kate Hill, Hartrey Legal

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to 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 strengthening existing relationships and continuing to build our volunteer program in the coming year.

Who we work with

WLCWA's core funding comes from the Commonwealth Government through the National Partnership Agreement (NPA). Our obligations under the NPA include working in collaboration with other service providers. In any event WLCWA operates with various stakeholders according to our strategic plan. This links us with the legal assistance sector and other legal providers. We are also able to adopt a holistic approach to the complex matters with which our clients present through our many relationships with both legal and non-legal providers.

We work closely with:

Peak bodies of which we are members, including the National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) and the Community Legal Centres Association of WA. Our SEO has served as Chair of the CLCA(WA) during 2017-18 and is a member of the NACLC Advisory Committee and NPA Advisory Group. WLCWA has also worked closely with Women's Legal Services Australia (WLSA) and has hosted the National Policy Coordinator position.

Private law firms, of which we are particularly grateful to K&L Gates, Herbert Smith Freehills and Clayton Utz for their valued corporate advice. Other ongoing arrangements established with Clayton Utz include the engagement of graduate secondees and the referral of clients in areas of law with which we do not assist. Clayton Utz have also now expertly assisted 34 client-victims of family and domestic violence and sexual assault with assistance in claims for criminal injuries compensation. Clients have spoken highly of this services, and our thanks to Lauree Cochi and Donna Charlesworth in this regard.

Other Community Legal Centres which include our Safe as Houses partnership with Tenancy WA and Street law WA as well as a close working relationship with Midland Information Debt Legal and Advocacy Services (MIDLAS). In June 2018 MIDLAS hosted a solicitor employed by WLCWA at their Midland office, providing an additional means for disadvantaged women for whom the location was convenient to get assistance.

The Family Relationship Centres.

Despite specific funding for the FRC funding having been discontinued in June 2017, WLCWA continues to provide legal advice appointments once per month as part of the FRC Legal Assistance Partnership program with the Principal Legal Officer coordinating a roster with two other CLC's. Solicitors attend the clinic once per month on a rotating basis. The program also offers volunteers the opportunity to gain experience in this area though observing and assisting experienced solicitors.

Prisons: Bandyup Women's prison, Boronia Pre-release Centre and Melaleuca Remand Centre: although our specific funding to assist women in prison ceased in 2015, WLCWA has been able to continue through its core funding to provide telephone assistance and provide Community Legal Education, with well received sessions held at both Boronia and Melaleuca. This will continue in 2018-19.

Among the numerous other stakeholders which WLCWA liaises and works regularly with we acknowledge Legal Aid WA, Aboriginal Family Law Services, the Aboriginal Legal Service, Humanitarian Group, Family Inclusion Network Australia (FINWA), the Women's Council for Family and Domestic Violence, Safe Systems WA, Our Watch, The Women's Resource and Emergency Network, SCALES, of course Relationships Australia, with whom we partner in Djinda Services.



WLCWA Casework Guidelines

Who we are

The Women's Law Centre of WA (WLCWA) is a specialist community legal centre providing legal advice and assistance to women throughout Western Australia.

What we do (our client work)

Subject to our capacity, WLCWA provides the following assistance to women in WA:

- Information and referrals
- Legal advice (in our core practice areas)
- Limited representation in court or mediation
- Assistance to prepare documents (legal tasks)

Who we help

As a community legal centre, we have limited resources. Whether we can assist depends on the circumstances of your matter and our capacity (availability) at the time.

We prioritise women experiencing additional barriers to services, including:

- Women who have been conflicted out or turned away of other services
- Women with a disability
- Women in prison and in remand
- Women living in remote, rural or regional areas
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
- Women from diverse backgrounds
- Women at risk (inc from family violence)
- Women identifying as LGBTIQ
- Younger and older women

If we can't assist you (e.g. we have no capacity or there is a conflict of interest, we have acted for another party in your matter before) we will provide you with legal information and refer you to someone you can.

What we can help with (core practice areas)

Our Centre provides legal advice and assistance only in the following areas of law (practice areas):

- **Family Law**
(children's matter, divorce, procedural and limited property advice)
- **Family Violence**
(restraining orders and intersection with family law or care and protection)
- **Care and Protection**
(child protection)
- **Criminal Injuries compensation**
(particularly claims resulting from family violence, sexual abuse or child abuse)

How we Help

Legal Info Line: From February to October we run a Legal Info Line 9:30 – 11:30am Monday to Thursday to provide women with free legal information and referrals. This is a good starting point.

Advice Appointments: For those needing legal advice you can request an appointment with one of our lawyers

Legal Clinic (family law property matters): We provide family law property advice only through limited one-off appointments in this Clinic.

Pro Bono Advice: In partnership with private lawyers and firms, we may be able to assist you find a pro bono (free lawyer) for your matter, especially for criminal injury compensation or if you require help outside our practice areas.

There are a range of areas of law in which we are unable to assist. These include Centrelink/Social security matters, commercial matters, criminal matters, neighbourhood disputes, personal injuries, unfair dismissal and wills/probate. WLCWA undertakes referrals to appropriate organisations where we cannot assist.

Requesting an Appointment

You can request an appointment by either:

- Phoning our reception between 9:30 and 4:30 Monday to Thursday on 9272 8800 (or 1800 625 122 for country callers)
- Emailing info@wlcwa.org.au
- If you are a service provider, completing a Client Referral Form

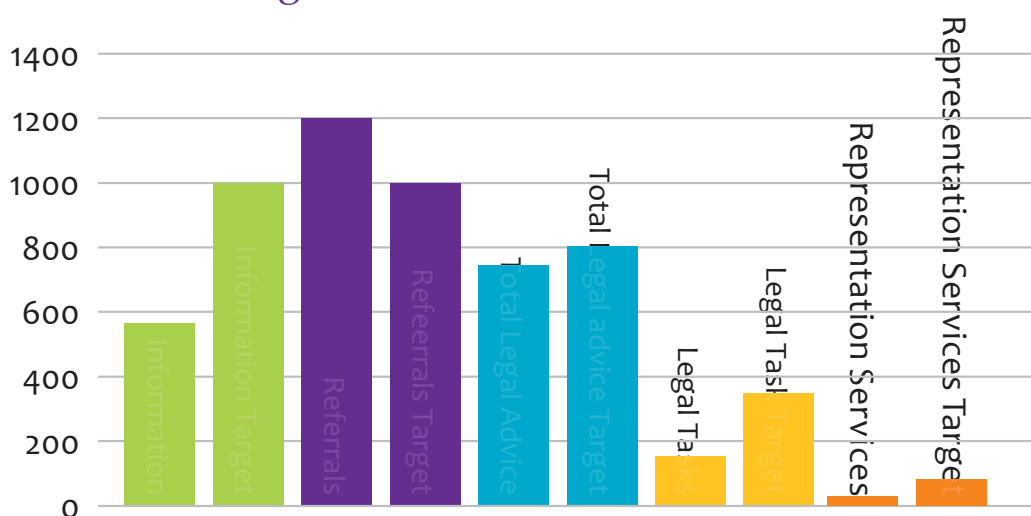
We will require the name and date of birth of the client and the names of all other parties (including anyone caring for children) before an appointment can be made. This is to ensure we don't act for more than one party in any matter (conflict of interest).

**Note from PLO: These Guidelines are intended as a guide only. Each matter is assessed on its merit. Requests for appointments, including Legal Clinic, may be referred to the SEO for final approval.*



Providing legal services to women

Actuals vs Targets



Total Clients 17/18

563

Information	515
Referrals	1196
Total Legal Advice	760
Total Legal Tasks	149
Representation services	67

Warburton Outreach Service

Total Clients	10
Legal Advice	9
Legal Tasks	5
Other Assistance	8

Representation Services

Open at start	60
Open during period	67
Closed during period	90

Projects

Community Legal Education	39
Law Reform and Stakeholder Engagement	157

Top Problem Types 17/18

Parenting matters	847
Family or Domestic Violence	153
Property in marriage/De Facto	139
Injuries compensation	94
Child Protection	89
Divorce/separation	81
Other	65

Client Demographic

Age of Clients

0-17	4
18-24	30
25-34	163
35-49	211
50-64	54
65+	8

Disadvantage Indicators

Indigenous Australian	40
Family and Domestic Violence	326
Financial	478
Homelessness	81
Disability/Mental Illness	63

Income Level

No Income	40
Low Income	155
Medium Income	75
High income	18

A note on stats for 2017-2018

This is the first full financial year in which new reporting definitions and guidelines under the National Data Standards were in place. This meant that we were required to set targets for and report against a number of new categories. This has meant a change in the way we work and the way statistics are recorded. Annual targets will be reviewed for the 2018-2019 financial year to be in line with the capacity of our staff.



Case Studies

For the financial year ending FYE 2018, most of the work undertaken by the WLCWA generalist services focused on providing self-represented women with discrete assistance as and when they required to better prepare them to represent themselves.

Highlights included:

Case Study 1

“Louise” came to us 2 years into her family court matter. Louise had experienced horrific family violence and abuse at the hands of her husband for more than 50 years and despite being separated over 20 years earlier she was being pursued by him for a family law property settlement division. If his claim was successful, she would be left homeless, with no capacity to earn an income and without sufficient assets to house herself, her adult dependent son and her grandchildren for whom she cared. She had been denied legal aid assistance who claimed her case had no merit.

We were able to assist with trial preparation and to explain why we considered her case did have merit. We have assisted her to attend further court hearings herself and to seek procedural orders to adjourn her matter pending the finalisation of other related proceedings and are currently working to increase her prospects of obtaining a pro bono lawyer with sufficient experience in family law financial matters to argue her legally complicated matter. We were also able to identify possible compensation claim. At the end of her initial appointment with us she said she felt for the first time since she can remember a sense of hope now that someone was going to help her.

Case Study 2

“Doris” was a young mother who has experienced lifelong abuse by family members and who was incarcerated. She had experienced abuse at the hands of officers while incarcerated and vulnerable. This abuse resulted in her giving birth while in prison and her child being removed from her care and her being targeted by others while incarcerated. At the time she reached out to WLCWA she was particularly vulnerable, traumatised and desperate.

While her legal needs were outside of the practice areas of WLCWA, we collaborated with our pro bono partners to work together so that our expertise in practicing in a trauma informed way could assist the client recount the events what she had been through and brief our pro bono partner to provide legal advice outside our expertise.

This was a great example of collaboration and recognising the value in the different skills sets of private and CLC lawyers.

Case Study 3

“Annie” was a young mother who had arrived in Australia at the commencement of her relationship and had had three young children in WA. Annie experienced family violence and abuse at the hands of her former (and drug-addicted) partner. Over time with the help of women’s refuges she learned that his behaviour was dangerous for her and the children and that it wasn’t acceptable. She built up the courage to flee WA but was unfortunately made to return to WA once her former partner successfully applied to the Family Court for recovery orders which were made ex parte.

By the time Annie reached out to us, she had been living in the same remote WA town as the perpetrator pursuant to family court orders the partner had managed to obtain while not disclosing the family violence. The partner had moved in to live next door to her and owned the house she lived in so she could be monitored at all times. Again with the assistance of women’s refuge services she was able to flee.

She was at that stage referred to us by that service. We were able to urgently (on the day of her first appointment with us) attend Court on her behalf to limit the risk of the perpetrator stalking her back and locating her and the children who were still living in the refuge. We were also able to coordinate the WA Police serving the perpetrator at Family Court with a Family Violence Restraining Order Annie had obtained but which was not yet in force as the perpetrator had been avoiding being served. We managed to get the risk factors for Annie and the children squarely before the Family Court judge who then adjourned the matter and suspended all interim orders for contact.

Later we assisted Annie when the perpetrator objected to the Family Violence Restraining Order and assisted her to prepare her affidavit material detailing the family violence history, the risk factors and her application to support no contact and a relocation application to move interstate where she had more support. We worked together with her legal aid lawyer (once granted) to ensure her limited grant was not wasted duplicating work we had undertaken and avoiding the client having to retell her story.





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 Report

Safe as Houses (“SASH”) is a partnership between three WA community legal centres, Women’s Law Centre; Street Law Centre and Tenancy WA. Each agency works in collaboration with other each other to provide integrated and holistic support to help these women work through their complex issues. The SASH program is specifically aimed to provide both legal and non-legal advice and support to women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness as a result of family violence. The centres work together to increase the ability to resolve issues and help women and children move towards a safer and brighter future.

Anita is the Safe as Houses Solicitor with Women's Law Centre WA and commenced her role in August 2017. She has assisted women from a range of diverse cultural and linguistic communities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; women who experience disadvantage, have high complex needs. These women often suffer from trauma as a result of family violence, of which is frequently compounded by other challenges including poverty, disability, differences in language and culture, lack of education and mistrust of the legal system.

Anita has provided assistance across various areas of law that arise from family violence, including family law property; family law parenting; family violence restraining orders; criminal injuries compensation; care and protection; and spousal maintenance.

Anita has successfully obtained injunctions preventing selling or disposing of assets; preserving the asset pool; exclusive occupancy orders; interim family violence restraining orders; supervised contact arrangements for children at risk of further family violence; and assisted in applying for criminal injuries compensation claims.

In addition to the legal support Women’s Law Centre provided, relevant referrals are made to assist women:

- in securing transitional housing;
- provide advice relating to their criminal proceedings;
- with addressing financial issues such as debt; unpaid fines and welfare issues. The work provided aims to:
- Prevent Homelessness by making referrals and providing support to secure or maintain suitable accommodation. This is assisted by resolving their complex legal, social and practical issues.
- Keep women and children safe by offering securing housing, coupled with appropriate protection orders and safety planning. This provides safety for women and children affected by family violence.
- Prevent crime, as women and children who are in safe, stable housing have better health, employment and education outcomes and are less likely to end up in the criminal justice system.
- Increase the general health and wellbeing of these women by referring them to support services such as trauma violence counselling and psychiatrists. This immediately impacts on health and wellbeing, including physical and psychological injury such as anxiety and depression. This decreases the likelihood that they engage in harmful practices, such as self-harm and/or substance abuse.
- Reduce costs to the community, given the significant costs of family violence in relation all relevant parties including the victims; perpetrators, friends and families, communities and government. This includes costs associated to meeting the medical needs; the impact of employment; replacing damaged property; the response of the criminal justice system, prisons and support services.

Safe as Houses Case Studies

Amanda – Background

Amanda fled to a women's refuge with her 18-month son after the Father had threatened to send Amanda back to Iraq and keep the child with him. Throughout the 4-year marriage, Amanda experienced various forms of FDV including verbal abuse; physical assault; isolation; deprivation of food and water; and financial abuse.

Amanda was concerned for her and her son's safety. With the assistance of the refuge support worker, Amanda immediately obtained a FVRO protecting herself and her son. Soon after, Amanda was served with Family Court documents from the Father, whereby ex parte orders were made preventing the son from leaving the state of Western Australia.

Within weeks of fleeing the marriage, Amanda had discovered that the Father placed the family home on the market for sale. Amanda was concerned that the Father was attempting to sell all of the assets in an attempt to defeat Amanda's entitlements in property and financial matters.

Legal assistance provided through SASH

WLC assisted Amanda in making an urgent family court application both in relation to parenting and property matters.

In relation to the property and financial matters, WLC were successful in obtaining various injunctions and orders for disclosure. Orders were made for Amanda to be kept informed as to the sale process of the family home and required the Father to place the proceeds of sale in a joint bank account.

After the house was sold, WLC represented Amanda at a mediation and were able to reach a Heads of Agreement. The Agreement provided for 15 months of spousal maintenance for Amanda in addition to Amanda retaining the entire proceeds from the sale of the family home.

As to parenting matter, WLC represented Amanda at an Interim Hearing concerning the care arrangements for the child. Leading up to the Interim Hearing the Father continued to dispute the allegations of family violence and was insisting that the son be returned into his care. At the Interim Hearing, WLC successfully obtained orders from the Court for the child to remain in Amanda's care and for the Father to initially spend supervised time by an agency.

Other assistance provided through SASH

WLC provided advice to Amanda regarding the effects of a FVRO. WLC also assisted Amanda in reporting various breaches of the FVRO by the Father. The Father was subsequently charged for those breaches.

WLC also referred Amanda to the Humanitarian Group who were able to provide advice in relation to her immigration status. Amanda was given permanent residency in April 2018.

Wendy - Background

Wendy, was married to her ex-husband for over 20 years and they had 5 children together. During their marriage, Wendy's ex-husband was physically, financially and emotionally violent.

Wendy and her ex-husband purchased a shared equity home together, of which they were jointly liable to the mortgage. When the ex-husband left the marriage, he stopped making any contributions to the mortgage, which resulted in the mortgage being in default. Wendy was left to solely support herself and the children, with one child having to undergo multiple medical assessments for an unnamed medical condition.

Wendy initially presented to SASH with a second default notice from Keystart due to ongoing outstanding debt to the mortgagor.

Further issues identified were a Telstra account debt, unpaid child support debt from Wendy ex-husband, regular breaches of (FVRO) by her ex-husband, divorce and property settlement.

Legal assistance provided through SASH

WLC provided initial advice as to Wendy's outstanding property and financial matters. As Keystart were threatening to take legal action in relation to the default of the mortgage WLC provided a referral to SLC who assisted Wendy with negotiations with Keystart to prevent further legal action. The negotiations included discussing the options available to Wendy in having her home transferred into her name and refinancing. Unfortunately, due to Wendy's financial position and the lack of financial support from her ex-husband, re-financing was not an option.

WLC continued the negotiations with Keystart to assist Wendy in voluntarily surrendering the property to minimise any further liability for Wendy. WLC (Djinda) assisted in successfully applying for a divorce for Wendy; and initiating proceedings in the Family Court to commence action for the outstanding financial matters. Wendy is seeking interim order for spousal maintenance and final orders for a superannuation split. Further advice and assistance was given to Wendy regarding breaches of the FVRO and child support arrears. The matter is currently ongoing.

Other assistance provided through SASH

SASH Caseworker assisted Wendy with referrals to transitional accommodation providers, food and 'Share the Dignity' bags, support letters for Housing Authority Priority Assistance, advocacy with Telstra and the client obligations to a debt no longer being in the client's name, provided school uniforms including those for a specialist sports program, referral for furniture for the new house and advocacy around housing security.

Assistance was also provided in securing a house from the Department of Housing for her and the children. Wendy and her children recently moved into this home.

Julie - Background

Julie is 59 years old and retired, with adult children. Julie and her husband immigrated from South Africa in 1997 and have been married for 35 years. Throughout the marriage, Julie suffered from a long history of severe FDV including physical; emotional; severe financial and mental abuse from her husband.

During the marriage, Julie made the majority of the financial and non-financial contributions. She worked as a school teacher and was the primary caregiver for the 2 children. Throughout the marriage, under duress from the husband, Julie was coerced into sign on to various credit cards and redraw on the mortgage to pay for luxury items for husband, totalling over \$100,000. Julie had also had an operation on her back 3 years ago and was in receipt of nominal benefits, pending approval of a disability pension.

When the parties separated, the asset pool was mostly made up of liabilities. The main assets left for division were the family home which had equity of approximately \$40,000 and Julie's superannuation of approximately \$55,000.

Julie had successfully obtained a FVRO when the parties separated, which gave Julie exclusive occupancy of the house. However, given the large amount of liabilities Julie was left to pay, the mortgage was at risk of default.

Julie initially presented to SASH with the need for assistance in representation at mediation for property and financial matters in the Family Court. This included preparing for the mediation and negotiating with the husband with a view to reach a settlement. Julie was fearful that both the family home and her superannuation would be lost.

Legal assistance provided through SASH

At mediation, WLC negotiated with the husband and assisted Wendy in reaching an agreement. Final orders were made for Julie to solely retain the family home and 100% of her superannuation entitlements. Orders were also made that the husband remain liable for all of the liabilities that he had accrued during the marriage.

Julie was given 6 months to refinance and transfer the property into her sole name. In the event that Julie cannot refinance an order was made that Julie retain 100% of the proceeds from the family home should it be sold.

Safe as Houses Testimonials

Before I was referred to see Anita, my health was spiralling down for unknown reasons. I did not understand at the time that I was a target of ... emotional and mental assault. I was and have been depleted of energy, I was completely isolated and had my family and friends were manipulated against me. I felt confused, guilty and nervous, vulnerable.

I am in the process of building strength and resilience. Anita has been informative, insightful and patient, as I am ... trying to untangle from what's real and fake. Life is tough now. I do have clarity, dignity and my sanity, and understand my safety requires a positive strategy before dealing with a pathological and manipulative individual.

Anita picked up on a threat in an email, which I could not read. I also received encouraging calls from Anita that would empower me. With the increased erratic, impulsive behaviour from my husband, and learning that the main bank account was in his sole name, I could safe guard our savings. If Anita did not ask me to check, I would have trusted him that everything is in joint names. Since then I have discovered that everything else, is controlled by him.

Anita understood my isolation, which is now extreme, as everyone I knew has turned away without even knowing the truth. Anita introduced to a social worker who has been an equally trusting support person, helping with a few resources needed, like a laptop. Anita has also made other referrals to assist me with my trauma recover.

I feel confident with Anita who saw my situation very quickly. As I gain more strength, I know what my entitlements are and know that I will not be manipulated by my husband. This program is made up of quality agents like Anita providing such a needed service. I feel empathic support, as I was protected and made aware of not being controlled by my husband.

The best thing about the SASH program is that knowledgeable, insightful and quick thinking professionals like Anita provide the service without fail. I never felt like a number or a case, rather a respected individual, which felt safe. I don't know the last time I felt safe.

When I first saw Anita, I was confused, lost and I don't know my legal rights. With her help, I feel I'm strong woman, she has made me feel more safe and relaxed; I have support and I have a clean picture about my case. Anita is very clever and the staff are very friendly. Thank you very much for this service

Before I started with Women's Law, I did not know what to do with my problem. My language barrier is huge but with Anita's patience she has helped me. Anita's service has taught me my rights and I can stand for them. Anita's services have many benefit as she teaches people about the law which we didn't know. The service is free which means that I do not have to worry for paying. The people working at Women's Law are very friendly and helpful. There are many women like me that need Anita's help to be strong and hopeful for future.

Providing legal advice to women in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands

Women's Law Centre of WA (WLCWA) continues to provide legal services to the women in the remote Aboriginal communities of the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Lands in the Gibson Desert region. The partnership between WLCWA and the NPY Women's Council Domestic Violence Service (NPYWC DV) continues, ensuring that women in the NPY Lands receive ongoing legal advice and assistance. We also work closely with other agencies such as the WA Police, Department of Communities, the Kalgoorlie Magistrates Court, Kalgoorlie refuges and various services located in the remote communities.

Tracey visited the NPY Lands and Alice Springs in the 2017 – 2018 year. Visits to the communities were in August 2017 and May 2018 with trips to the Alice Springs office of the NPYWC DV service in November 2017 and end of March 2018.

Visits to the Alice Springs office provided a good opportunity for Tracey to meet with the WA caseworkers and other staff of NPYWC. Tracey also met with other service providers in Alice Springs, such as the Central Australian Women's Legal Service and the Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit.

Tracey provided community legal education for the staff of NPYWC DV Service and met with clients who attended the Alice Springs office.

Visits to the communities provided Tracey the opportunity to see existing and new clients and meet with other service providers in Warburton, Warakurna and Wanarn Communities. Tracey also provided assistance to clients during the Court circuit at Warburton and Warakurna.

Most of the work is around family violence restraining order (FVRO) matters and assisting clients to obtain an FVRO. We also provide legal advice and assistance for criminal injuries compensation (CIC) claims and care and protection matters.

Tracey's next NPY Lands trip will be when the Court circuit sittings are conducted in Warburton, Blackstone 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 NPY Lands, and to continue assisting clients in the remote communities to seek better access to justice.

Tracey Collier
Lands Outreach Solicitor



Djinda Services

Djinda Services

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

What is Djinda Services?

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

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

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

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

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

How can we help?

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

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

How much does it cost?

Nothing, all appointments with Djinda Services are free.

Support Services

We can provide support and advocacy assistance in relation to:

- housing & crisis accommodation;
- dealing with the Department of Communities; and
- general support (i.e. transport, court support, referral to domestic violence counselling and related programs).

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 maintain strong relationships with other organisations who specialise in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women affected by domestic violence and sexual assault and who have experience in navigating the areas of law in which we assist.

Djinda Services Senior Solicitor Report

This reporting period was a busy one for Djinda Services, but we see this as a positive sign as it means more people are accessing our services and we are widening our reach out in to the community.

Thanks to our wonderful capable small team (2 x solicitors, 3 x resource workers and 2 x client service officers) we have been able to participate in a number of community events, deliver a broad range of community legal education and have a client's voices heard in regards to proposed law reform.

In terms of community events we had information stalls or attended at the following:

- NAIDOC Opening Ceremony 2017
- Mirrabooka, Midland and Ashfield NAIDOC Events
- Marr Mooditj Open Day
- Bandyup Women's Prison Careers & Services Expo
- Homeless Connect
- Women's Council Annual Silent Domestic Violence March
- Midland March that Matter for White Ribbon Day

We provided community legal education on our practice areas and issues relevant to the women we work with to:

- Various Service Providers
- Marr Mooditj Mental Health and Counselling Students
- ECU Community Service Students
- First year law students at Murdoch University
- Melaleuca Remand Centre Residents
- Derbarl Yerrigan Mothers Group

Submissions and consultation was provided in regards to:

- Changes to the Police Freedom of Information process with regard to Criminal Injuries Compensation matter.
- Introduction of the Legal Assisted Culturally Appropriate Family Dispute Resolution Pilot Program.
- Amendments to the Adoption Act 1994.
- Amendments to the Family Law Act 1975 to ban direct cross examination in family violence matters.

And on top of all this, Jessica and myself somehow still had time to draft the Protection and Care chapter of the WA Law Handbook which has now gone live.

But the big news for the end of this financial year was our win as the 2018 NAIDOC Perth Program of the Year at the NAIDOC Perth Awards. This is something we are extremely proud of in Djinda and are very grateful our hard work has been recognised.

I would like to say a massive thanks to our previous Senior Solicitor Biddy Brennan who left us at the end of 2017. Her support and guidance were greatly appreciated.

Tameka Brown

Senior Solicitor, Djinda Services

Djinda NAIDOC Award

2018 NAIDOC Perth Award Winners

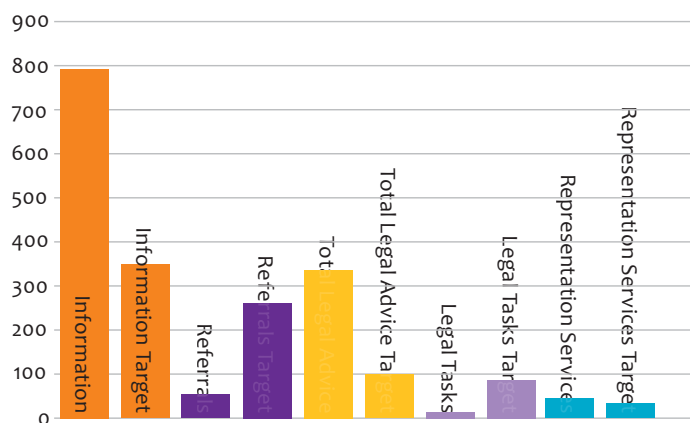
This year Djinda Services won the 2018 NAIDOC Perth Award for Program of the Year.

The Program of the Year category recognises not-for-profit organisations who deliver quality programs to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and are based in the Perth metropolitan area.



Providing legal services to women

Actuals vs Targets



Total Clients 17/18 **104**

Information: **788**

Referrals: **55**

Total Legal Advice: **339**

Total Legal Tasks **8**

Representation services: **40**

Representation Services

Open at start	23
Opened During Period	40
Closed During Period	31

Projects

Community Legal Education	25
Law Reform and Stakeholder Engagement	34

Top Problem Types 17/18

Parenting Matters	163
Child Protection	90
Family and Domestic Violence	49
Injuries Compensation	30
Other Family Law	20
Property in Marriage/De facto	10
Other problem types	22

OUTREACH SERVICES

Midland

Total Clients	13
Legal Advice	32
Legal Tasks	0
Other Assistance	5

Leederville

Total Clients	2
Legal Advice	4
Legal Tasks	0
Other Assistance	0

Our Clients

Age of Clients

0-17	0
18-24	8
25-34	29
35-49	26
50-64	18
65+	1

Disadvantage Indicators

Indigenous Australian	75
Family and Domestic Violence	111
Financial	76
Homelessness	19
Disability/Mental Illness	20

Income Level

No Income	5
Low Income	37
Medium Income	9
High income	2

A note on stats for 2017-2018

This is the first full financial year in which new reporting definitions and guidelines under the National Data Standards were in place. This meant that we were required to set targets for and report against a number of new categories. This has meant a change in the way we work and the way statistics are recorded. Annual targets will be reviewed for the 2018-2019 financial year to be in line with the capacity of our staff.



Case Studies

Case Study 1

“Taya” came to us for help part-way through her long running Family Court parenting proceedings. The orders at that point in time provided for the child to live with his dad and spend limited time with Taya. However, Taya was being asked to look after her son more than what was ordered but it was ad hoc and all over the place.

Taya wanted to amend the orders to reflect how much she actually had the child so her ex could not go back on the arrangements and there could be some routine for them and the child.

Both Taya and her ex had a history of mental health issues and the nature of their relationship pre and post-separation made it difficult for them to discuss matters properly and come to any agreement.

We assisted Taya to negotiate a Minute of Consent Orders with her ex which was in line with the child’s best interests and would work for both parents.

If we had not got involved in this matter and assisted with the negotiation, the matter would have progressed to trial with both parties remaining unrepresented and the issues in dispute being trivial.

Case Study 2

“Rose” separated from her abusive husband and soon found he was stalking her, had organised a home break-in and was harassing her family. Rose applied for a Family Violence Restraining Order, which her ex objected to. She then came to us seeking support.

We were able to assist with trial preparation and intensively worked with Rose leading up to trial. We were able to correspond with the Court, collect the necessary evidence and negotiate with her ex through his lawyer. We assisted Rose to negotiate a Conduct Agreement Order with terms that better suited her safety needs. This Conduct Agreement Order was agreed to by her ex on the morning of trial.

During the process of negotiating the Conduct Agreement Order, we also assisted Rose to make an application to the Family Court for a Divorce. A month after the Conduct Agreement Order was agreed to, the Divorce Order was made.



Djinda Services

Djinda Services has had many matters in the 2017-2018 year which have resulted in positive outcomes for our clients.

Case Study 3

“Julie” is a young mother whose children were removed by the Department of Communities due to domestic violence and drug abuse concerns. When we first met, Julie was incredibly anxious about attending the Children’s Court, as both of her abusive ex-partners would be in attendance.

We were able to assist Julie with negotiating her Section 143 Written Proposals with the Department to ensure she had a safe and appropriate arrangement in place for her and her children to work towards reunification. We attended numerous Court dates and meetings with Julie, which involved advocacy and managing Julie’s anxiety.

Julie was incredibly pro-active and was able to attend the courses and counselling required by the Department, and was able to get clean off drugs.

The Orders for her children were eventually amended to 12-month Protection Orders, with the children expected to be fully reunified before October 2018.

Case Study 4

“Amy” was assaulted by a family member in her late teens. She was unaware for a long time that she could claim Criminal Injuries Compensation for what happened and when she did find out about it, she wasn’t sure she would be able to do it.

When Amy finally built up the courage to come and see us, she was already 15 years out of time.

We helped Amy to obtain her records through Freedom of Information and linked her in with Women’s Health and Family Services for counselling and to obtain a Psychological Report.

Putting the application together took some time as Amy had not previously spoken to many people about what had happened. We worked with Amy at her pace and together we were able to put together a comprehensive application.

Amy’s application was accepted out of time and she was awarded a fair and reasonable amount of compensation.



WLCWA Non-Casework Highlights (Law Reform and CLE)

Aside from operational matters, FYE 2018 was a big year for WLCWA.

Highlights included:

- Djinda Services receiving the 2018 NAIDOC Award for Program of the Year. Congratulations to our Djinda lawyers, Tameka, Jess and Bidy and the commitment and dedication they bring to their very difficult work
- Safe as Houses Program receiving the Attorney-General's community service award for 2018. Congratulations to Anita, who brings a level of organisation, efficiency and expertise to the role that could not be matched despite the very difficult and traumatic nature of the work
- Authoring both the Family Violence and Children and Young People (Care and Protection) chapters of the 6th Edition of the WA Law Handbook published on AustLII.
- The WA Parliament Elder Abuse Inquiry
- The Australian Law Reform Commission Family Law Review (and related family law reforms including the ban on direct cross-examination of victim-survivors by perpetrators).
- Family Violence in Family Law Collaborative Research Project –to map the gaps in service delivery and investigate the reasons for such gaps for the provision of family law financial advice in family violence matters.
- Presenting a series of lectures at Murdoch University and Edith Cowan University as a guest lecturer to explain best practice responses to family violence.
- Financial Abuse Roundtable in Melbourne, hosted by the Women's Information and Referral Exchange to explore better protections for women in family violence from being financially abused.
- Continuing to enjoy a close working relationship with our pro bono partners Clayton Utz and exploring opportunities for further collaboration and in-kind support, including joint professional development and training sessions and expansion of pro bono services. Thank you to Lauree for making the experience enjoyable and smooth for both our organisations.

Sarah Bright
Principal Legal Officer



Domestic Violence Legal Workers' Network

The Domestic Violence Legal Workers' Network was established in 2004 as a peak body for family violence legal workers in Western Australia. Our members consist primarily of solicitors from community legal centres who work with family violence victim-survivors throughout the Perth metropolitan region and regional Western Australia.

The Network works towards systemic change for family violence victim-survivors by providing advocacy on family violence laws and policies. It also plays an important role in providing education and information to members to ensure best practice and consistency of service delivery across the sector.

As governments have sought to make family violence a higher priority in recent years, there have been significant legislative and policy changes in both federal and state jurisdictions. The Network has played an essential role in advocating for family violence victim-survivors throughout this time, as well as keeping members up to date with the changing environment.

It has thus been a busy time for the Network and some of the highlights from the last year include:

- Providing a submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission's Family Law Review identifying challenges facing family violence victim-survivors in the family law system.
- Providing a submission to the federal Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs on the Family Law Amendment (Family Violence and Cross-examination of Parties) Bill 2018 supporting additional funding for legal representatives to conduct cross-examination.
- Attending a roundtable workshop with the Western Australian government and other key stakeholders to provide input into reforms to the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (WA) and providing further input together with the Tenancy Network into proposed regulations to support the changes to the Act.
- Providing a submission to the Western Australian government review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme calling for further research and consultation to develop the best method of compensation and financial assistance for family violence victim-survivors in Western Australia.
- Contributing to the Domestic Violence Advisory Network, and providing direct input into the Western Australian Family and Domestic Violence Prevention Strategy and the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.
- Facilitating professional development workshops for members, including workshops on changes to the Restraining Orders Act 1997 (WA), perpetrator programs, technology facilitated abuse and the intersection of family violence and migration laws.

On behalf of the Network's Coordinators we would like to thank all members for their participation in the Network and their commitment towards a collaborative approach to achieving systemic change for family violence victim-survivors.

Allison Munro and Sarah Bright

Coordinators

Domestic Violence Legal Workers' Network

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 2018

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	30 June 2018 \$	30 June 2017 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	308,619	299,276
Trade and other receivables	3	1,600	0
Prepayments		5,379	5,821
Total Current Assets		315,598	305,097
Non-current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	129,050	116,330
Total Non-current Assets		129,050	116,330
TOTAL ASSETS		444,648	421,427
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5	59,811	44,835
Provisions	6	102,450	78,305
Total Current Liabilities		162,261	123,140
Non-current Liabilities			
Provisions	6	0	0
Total Non-current Liabilities		0	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES		162,261	123,140
NET ASSETS		282,387	298,287
EQUITY			
Retained earnings	7	282,387	298,287
TOTAL EQUITY		282,387	298,287

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**INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	30 June 2018	30 June 2017
	\$	\$
Income		
Grant Income	447,912	409,399
Scales Community Legal Centres	11,087	11,759
City of Fremantle	11,087	9,340
City of Gosnells	11,087	9,340
SACS Supplementation	68,339	58,235
Quarterly Warburton	69,787	68,375
FRC	0	38,513
Safe as Houses	37,595	0
Interest Received	2,144	2,713
Other income	5,224	29,497
PAFVPLS	279,367	279,367
Lotterywest Grant	34,226	0
Total Income	977,855	916,556
Expenses		
Communications	13,061	14,846
Depreciation	8,732	8,170
Employment expenses	797,029	736,411
Finance & Accounting Fees	4,226	4,502
Insurance	6,194	5,415
Library, Resources & Subscriptions	20,830	24,216
Office Overheads	15,817	17,569

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Page 2	30 June 2018	30 June 2017
	\$	\$
Expenses (continued)		
Other Premises	26,365	21,539
Programming and Planning	19,801	2,549
Rent	36,040	35,990
Staff Recruitment	845	500
Staff Training	13,377	4,111
Sundry Expenses	1,132	808
Loss on sale of property, plant & equipment	241	1,021
Travel	12,196	11,787
Expense of Lotterywest Grant	17,870	0
Total Expenses	993,755	889,434
Net Profit	(15,900)	27,122
Retained Earnings At the Beginning of the Financial Year	298,287	271,165
Retained Earnings At the End of the Financial Year	282,387	298,287

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

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.
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CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from fees, subsidies and other income		982,041	921,914
Payments to suppliers and employees		(953,390)	(891,701)
Interest received /(paid)		2,144	2,731
Net cash provided by operating activities	8	30,795	32,944
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(21,452)	(5,053)
Net cash provided by /(used in) investing activities		(21,452)	(5,053)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		9,343	27,891
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		299,276	271,385
Cash at the end of the year	2	308,619	299,276

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

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.
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Annual Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2018

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

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

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

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

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

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

Property, Plant and Equipment

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

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

Depreciation

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

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.
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Annual Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2018

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.

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Annual Financial Report
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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

	2018	2017
Cheque Account	218,577	211,373
Cash Investment Account	33,202	32,714
Term Deposit	56,639	54,989
Petty Cash	200	200
Services		0
Undeposited Funds		0
	308,618	299,276

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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

3. Trade and Other Receivables

	2018	2017
Current		
Pledges Receivable	<u>1,600</u>	<u>0</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

	2018	2017
Assets		
Computers & IT AT Cost	70,929	49,586
Computers & IT Accumulated Depreciation	(35,321)	(31,135)
Phone At Cost	10,449	10,449
Phone Accumulated Depreciation	(5,910)	(5,213)
	<u>40,147</u>	<u>23,687</u>
Buildings		
Leasehold Improvements	102,249	102,249
Leasehold Improvements Depreciation	(24,769)	(22,213)
	<u>77,480</u>	<u>80,036</u>
Furniture & Equipment		
Furniture & Equipment At Cost	28,474	28,474
Furniture & Fixtures Accumulated Depreciation	(17,051)	(15,867)
	<u>11,423</u>	<u>12,607</u>
Total Property, Plant, And Equipment	<u>129,050</u>	<u>116,330</u>

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.
A.B.N. 44 551 144 230
Annual Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2018

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

5 Trade and Other Payables

	2018	2017
Current		
Trade Creditors	0	0
PAYG Payable	13,612	10,224
Superannuation Payable	3,082	2,950
Business Credit Card	92	1,556
Other current liabilities	29,754	7,500
Accrued Salaries	0	4,728
GST Liabilities	13,271	17,877
	<u>59,811</u>	<u>44,835</u>

6 Provisions

Provision for Annual Leave	51,252	27,107
Provision for Long Service Leave	51,198	51,198
	<u>102,450</u>	<u>78,305</u>

7 Retained Earnings

Retained Earnings at the beginning of the year	298,287	271,165
Net Profit for the year	<u>(15,900)</u>	<u>27,122</u>
Retained Earnings at the end of the Financial Year	<u>282,387</u>	<u>298,287</u>

Women's Law Centre of WA INC.
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For the year ended 30 June 2018

Notes to the Financial Statements continued

8 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities

	2018	2017
(Loss)/profit for the period	(15,449)	27,122
Non-cash flows from ordinary activities		
Depreciation	8,732	8,170
Loss on sale of property, plant & equipment	0	1,021
	<u>(6,717)</u>	<u>36,313</u>
 (Increase)/Decrease in Trade receivables	 (1,600)	 40
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments	441	8,049
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade Payables	14,766	(6,981)
Increase/(Decrease) in provisions	24,142	(4,477)
Net Cash from operating activities	<u>31,035</u>	<u>32,944</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.
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Annual Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2018

Statement by Members of the Committee

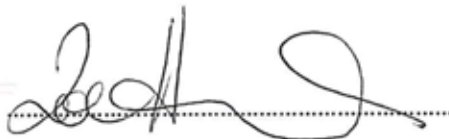
The Committee has determined the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The committee declares that:

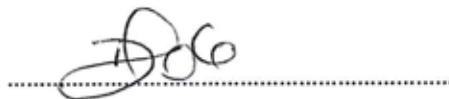
1. The financial statements and notes presents fairly the committee's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and it's performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements;
2. In the committee's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay it's debts as and when they become due and payable.

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

Chairperson:



Treasurer:



Dated:

20.09.18

Auditor's Report



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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 2018, 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 2018 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 SERVICES PTY LTD



Graeme Wovodich

Registered Company Auditor Reg.No. 13421

Dated 11th day of September 2018



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**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 2018 there have been:

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

ARMADA AUDIT SERVICES PTY LTD

Graeme Wovodich

Registered Company Auditor No.13421

Dated this 11 day of September 2018 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 ten years. WLCWA would be unable to produce such a polished report without your assistance.