



We are a not-for-profit community legal centre that provides a social model of legal health to

- 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

We also deliver community legal education and contribute to law and policy reforms that promotes the rights of, and better outcomes for, women.

We are person centred, we tailor our integrated legal services to the unique needs of each woman. We take a gendered and trauma-informed approach to providing these services to women. Women are mostly not conflicted out of women's legal services by the other party. We are a service for women delivered by women.

Women encounter disproportionate and significant barriers to justice, safety and equality. Violence is gendered, driven by gendered inequalities. Women have less income, opportunities, and power than men. Women who have experienced family and domestic violence are ten times more likely to face legal issues. Women have a range of legal, social, economic and cultural needs that requires a holistic approach. Women's legal services have specialist experience in providing assistance across intersecting and relevant areas of law – family and domestic violence, protection and care, family law and criminal injuries compensation.

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ABOUT US

WHY WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES

This is a milestone year for Women's Legal Service WA, our 25th since we have been delivering services to women around the state, and the 20th since we have been incorporated. Over the course of a quarter of a century we have provided assistance to women in many settings in many locations and through many programs. Collectively there is much to do to achieve true gender equality, eliminate gender-based violence and to keep mothers and children together. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our success over this time, the outcomes achieved are important, not only for the women we work with, but for society at large. 2021/22 was a busy and changing year for Women's Legal Service WA. With new funding received our capacity was significantly increased. We grew our services, expanded our team and enhanced our reach, to deliver greater impact. The different projects we undertook complemented and added value to our core programs. This growth created an opportunity for WLSWA to review our service model and explore other ways of providing legal assistance. We refined our eligibility criteria to target those women living with the most disadvantage. We workshopped strategies to deepen the level of integrated service responses we provide, and we thought more carefully about how we measure whether we are making a difference. We were able to do this and sustain as an organisation due to the incredible staff, volunteers, pro bono partners and Board who have all played a role in realising our vision of Justice for Women. Despite our efforts, unmet demand was still encountered by WLSWA on a regular basis as new cases beyond our current resourcing were referred to the service. This included the growing breadth and complexity of the issues that women presented with. The long tail of COVID continued to disproportionately affect women, more likely to be living in poverty, more likely to be the primary caregiver, and with the elevated rates of family violence persisting. In this context, we are incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated and passionate team who are unequivocally up for the challenges of striving to meet women's unmet needs and we thank them for an incredibly successful year.

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

If you haven't already, please 'like' our page and share

www.facebook.com/womenslegalservicewa

with your contacts and networks. We appreciate your support.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

Join in our conversations with other aligned services, groups, researchers, policy makers and so on [@womenslegalwa](https://twitter.com/womenslegalwa)

DONATE NOW

We are 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 via our QR code below



For a comprehensive summary of WLSWA's annual performance, this document should be read in conjunction with the full WLSWA Annual Report 2021/22 available on our website.

FOLLOW US ON LINKEDIN

To keep up to date with our Service, you can follow us on LinkedIn at:

au.linkedin.com/company/womens-legal-service-wa



**Women's
Legal Service WA**
Justice for women



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Women's Legal Service WA acknowledges that we work on Aboriginal land, traditionally the home of the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation. We pay deep respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.





In 2021/22 Women's Legal Service WA

Provided services across WA, working alongside our local partners in Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Esperance Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Newman and Hedland.

Formed new relationships and collaborations in the metropolitan area and regions for in-reach service delivery and place-based responses.

Established Health Justice Partnerships to ensure integrated and holistic psychosocial, financial, housing and cultural supports to clients.

Delivered 17 Legal Health Check Workshops to frontline workforces in gender-specific agencies to assist them to identify legal issues early and make appropriate warm referrals.

Remained an important stakeholder provider in the Perth Children's Court.

Consolidated our BHP funded work in the Pilbara.

Concluded our Djinda service, for Aboriginal women in the metropolitan area experiencing family violence, that we had delivered in partnership with Relationships Australia for eight years.

Had in excess of 400 clients seeking assistance that we did not have capacity to support.

Continued to add significant value to our integrated legal services through the addition of a financial counsellor, and who successfully advocated for almost \$100,000 in client debts to be waived.

Recruited specialist trainers to deliver programs to sustain our trauma informed and culturally secure service model.

Continued to boost our capacity via pro-bono support from private firms, and the volunteer contributions from legal and non-legal personnel and students.

Amended the structure of our organisation as we added new positions, including a Deputy Principal Legal Officer, Finance and Operations Manager, and paralegal staff.

Annual National Accreditation Scheme Improvement Plan was approved.

Realised efficiencies with improved inquiry handling, and the transition to more secure and collaborative IT systems.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND INSIGHTS



1,113 women received legal assistance

41 community legal education sessions



14 law and policy reforms

175 court and other representations



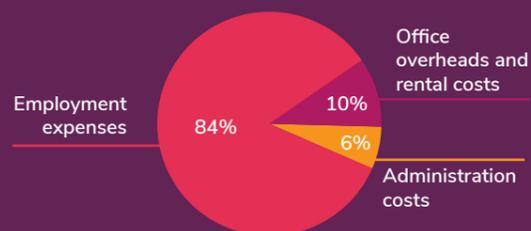
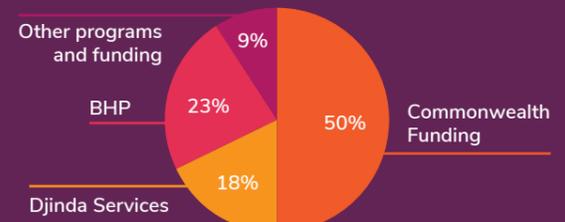
195 stakeholder engagements

2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Annual Performance

For the year ending 30 June 2022 we recognised a profit of **\$71,993**

Our total income recognised was **\$1,986,472**, including grant, and program funding of **\$1,976,493** broken down as:



Our total expenditure for the year was **\$1,914,479** and our major expenses related to staff and office costs.

Financial Position

At 30 June 2022 our net assets were **\$547,665**.

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash and cash equivalents	1,062,508	Trade and other payables	116,818
Trade and other receivables	90,954	Lease liabilities	48,637
Prepayments	21,600	Provisions	84,404
PPE and Right of use asset	77,106	Contract liabilities	454,644
Total Assets	1,252,168	Total	704,503

The audited financial statements are available on our website or on request.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR KEY PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

In particular, BHP, Community Legal WA, Department of Communities, Department of Justice WA, Lotterywest and Relationships Australia.

REFORM

WLSWA continued to raise awareness of the issues impacting women in judicial and other systems in 2021/22, participating in strategic activities for both State and Federal legal and social policy reforms. This included,

- Legislative Responses to Coercive Control in Western Australia
- WA Sexual Violence Strategy
- Review of WA Sexual Offences and the Law Relating to Consent
- WA Ombudsman's investigation into family and domestic violence and suicide
- Serial Family Violence Offender Provisions
- National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2022-2032
- Domestic Violence Orders (National Recognition) Act 2017

We leveraged from the network of our women's legal service counterparts across Australia to speak with a unified voice to advocate justice, safety and equality for women.

NETWORKS

WLSWA remained an active member of relevant networks including,

- Alliance of Lawyers Practicing in Protection and Care
- Community Legal WA executive and subcommittees
- Family Pathways Network Committee
- Family Violence Law Reform Bill Shuttle Conferencing Working Group
- Law Access Stakeholder Advisory Committee
- Network of Duty Lawyers (Children's Court WA)
- Pilbara Domestic and Family Violence Network
- Pilot Court Operational Group (Children's Court WA)
- Protection and Care Advocacy Network
- Specialist Sexual Violence Advisory Group