

WOMEN'S
LEGAL
CENTRE

(ACT & REGION) INCORPORATED

ANNUAL REPORT
2013-2014



Women's Legal Centre (ACT & Region) Inc

Freecall: 1800 634 669
Admin Phone: 02 6257 4377
Advice phone: 02 6257 4499
Fax: 02 6247 0848

Email: admin@womenslegalact.org
Website: www.womenslegalact.org

Mailing Address:
GPO Box 1726
Canberra, ACT 2601

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In 2013–14 the Women's Legal Centre (ACT & Region) received funding from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and the ACT Law Society to provide our core services (described on p. 2–3). The Centre received funding from the ACT Government for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Access to Justice Program (see the report on p.10–13) and to support our move to new premises.

Design by



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Vision

A just, equitable and accessible legal system for all women.

Priorities

The Women's Legal Centre specialises in gender-specific issues that impact women's access to justice including domestic and sexual violence and other gender-based inequalities.

The Centre's service model prioritises vulnerable women in the ACT and region who cannot access safe and appropriate legal assistance elsewhere; this includes:

- being a safe 'first point of call' for vulnerable women needing legal assistance; and
- working effectively 'in the gap' with vulnerable women who are not eligible for Legal Aid and cannot afford private legal assistance.

The Centre also:

- works at a systemic level to challenge systems and policies that limit women's access to justice;
- provides community legal education to assist early identification and resolution of legal issues; and
- undertakes law reform and policy work that promotes better access to justice for vulnerable women.

Values

Client focused service

The Centre prioritises the most vulnerable women in our community including: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women; women from culturally and linguistically diverse communities (particularly new arrivals); women dealing with family violence; and women with disability.

Respect

The Centre recognises that women have diverse experiences. We are client focused and aim to ensure that we respect each client's experiences and choices.

Responsiveness

The Centre strives to be responsive and flexible in the type of assistance we provide to clients and in the way we deliver our services.

Relationships

The Centre recognises the importance of close working relationships with other legal and non-legal services and communities in Canberra and the surrounding area. Our partnerships support responsive service delivery, priority access for the most vulnerable women and holistic support for all clients.

Service at a glance

The Centre undertook the following work in 2013–14. Corresponding figures for 2012–13 are in brackets:

546

Information activities undertaken (594)

2,928

Advice activities undertaken (2,811)

111

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients assisted (103)

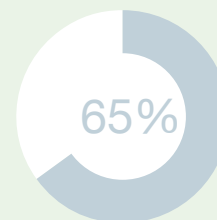
195

The Centre worked on 195 cases (226)

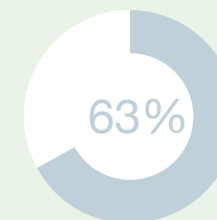
1,184

Clients assisted (1,121)

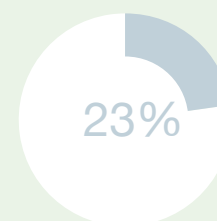
Key features of Centre clients in 2013–14 included:



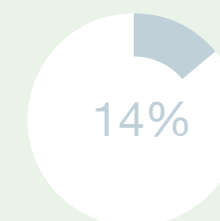
Clients earning under \$35,000 or had no income



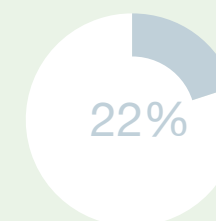
Family law clients experiencing domestic or family violence



Clients with English as their second language



Clients disclosing one or more disabilities



Clients at risk of homelessness

Services

Legal advice line

The Women's Legal Centre offers free, confidential telephone advice and information by way of a phone advice service. The advice line operates Monday to Friday 9.30am to 12.00 noon. Phone 6257 4499 or 1800 634 669

Face-to-face appointments

Face to face appointments are provided to women at the Centre with staff or volunteer solicitors. Appointments are prioritised for clients where an interpreter is needed; documents need to be viewed or drafted; and/or the client is eligible for ongoing assistance or representation.

Night time service

Every Tuesday evening, the Centre offers women appointments out of business hours. These appointments are available to women who may otherwise find it difficult to make an appointment during the day. Tuesday evening appointments are undertaken by the Centre's volunteer solicitors.

Case work

Centre solicitors undertake a range of case work activities for clients. Case work involves a range of legal services including ongoing advice; legal research; drafting and settling of correspondence and court documents; negotiation; and representation.

Community legal education

The Centre develops and delivers community legal education to vulnerable women and the workers that support them across the ACT. This work is aimed at empowering women to identify and resolve legal issues quickly, including knowing the legal and non-legal services that are available to assist them.

Law reform and systemic change

The Centre works to ensure women's voices are heard in the making of law and legal policy. The Centre contributes to a range of systemic law reform projects with the aim of improving access to justice for vulnerable women.

Case study

Evelyn's employer had failed to pay her long service and annual leave entitlements after she retired. When she sought advice, she discovered that she had been significantly underpaid throughout the course of her long-standing employment. Her employer refused to provide information such as pay slips. The Centre organised a volunteer solicitor to help Evelyn submit a Workplace Complaint Form to the Fair Work Ombudsman, and attended the mediation between Evelyn and her employer. With advice and support from the Centre, a settlement was reached.

Thank you for providing a service where respect and care of the client is so evident

Mental Illness Support Worker



People

Board Members

Julie Dobinson	Member
Juliette Ford	Member
Lois Fordham	Member
Rachel Harris	Member
Angela Lauman	Public Officer
Biljana Petrova	Member
Margie Rowe	Member
Julie Whitmore	Treasurer
Louise Taylor	Convenor
Heidi Yates	Executive Director
Rhonda Payget	Staff Representative
Beth Ritchie	Young Observer

Staff

Heidi Yates

Executive Director
(from January 2014) •

Carol Benda

Executive Director
(until December 2013)

Iris Elgueta

Office Manager

Rhonda Payget

Principal Solicitor •

Marilyn Wright

Family Law Solicitor

Jane Campbell

Human Rights Solicitor •

Tracey Harris

Program Manager •

Teletha Elemen

Aboriginal Liaison Officer •

Alison Munro

Solicitor •

Penny Rumble

Office Administrator •

• part-time

Patrons

Professor Hilary Charlesworth
The Hon Elizabeth Evatt

Executive Director's report

Some 18 years after its establishment, the Women's Legal Centre (ACT & Region) continues to uphold its reputation as a highly-respected, specialist legal service provider for vulnerable women in the Canberra region. In 2013–14 the Centre assisted 1184 women including 111 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients. Centre staff provided 2928 advices and worked on 195 cases. Two-thirds of the Centre's clients earned under \$35,000 or had no income and 63% of the Centre's family law clients were experiencing domestic or family violence. Further, 23% of the Centre's clients did not speak English as their first language.

A key highlight of the past year is the ACT Government's commitment to fund the Centre's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Access to Justice Program for a further four years. This demonstration of support from the ACT Government is a tangible recognition of the quality and importance of this Program and the excellence of WLC legal services in reaching women in the most vulnerable circumstances. Operating since 2006, this innovative Program provides flexible and holistic legal support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Through the Program, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have received greater support to gain confidence in accessing and engaging with law and justice services in the ACT.

A further highlight is our move to new premises. Canberra's Community Legal Centre Hub was opened by Attorney-General Simon Corbell in March 2014. The new space brings staff and clients out of crowded offices with questionable plumbing into a modern workspace, complete with meeting rooms, private client interview spaces and plenty of natural light.

Additional office space has importantly increased the Centre's capacity to work with pro bono solicitors and administrative volunteers. I would like to thank the ACT Government for their considerable financial support which made the move possible.

As mentioned in the legal practice report, the Centre now runs four standing pro bono programs each week, supplemented by a range of secondments and legal projects. Our partnerships with pro bono providers allow us to maximise our service provision to clients, whilst supporting private practitioners to develop their expertise in working with traumatised and vulnerable women. Supervised by the Centre's expert staff, our pro bono programs also increase awareness of the legal needs of women in the ACT and aim to strengthen the local profession's capacity to respond to that need in the long-term. We express our particular thanks to the Australian Government Solicitor, Bradley Allen Love, Clayton Utz, and Farrar Gesini Dunn for their regular commitment of time and resources.

The Centre is facing significant challenges in the year ahead as we prepare to weather our share of significant cuts in Federal funding to the Community Legal Sector. The loss of \$100,000 over two years will directly impact frontline services, falling on the shoulders of women who already face considerable disadvantage. The Centre is set to lose up to a third of our solicitor capacity in 2015–16, with the real possibility that some 400 women each year will no longer be able to access the Centre as a direct result of these cuts.

On the eve of these considerable changes to the legal assistance sector, the Centre continues to highlight the important role of the Centre as a specialist service, which ensures that women affected by domestic and family violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment and pregnancy-related discrimination have access to a safe service with specific expertise in these issues.

The Centre's consistent success is underpinned by the remarkable commitment of our experienced staff team, our board members and our many volunteers. This year, the Centre particularly recognises the remarkable contribution of Carol Benda, who is moving on from the Centre after almost 14 years of service. There is no doubt that Carol's vision, leadership and tremendous commitment to the Centre, its staff and its clients has made the Centre what it is today. We hope Carol remains connected to the Centre and wish her the very best for her further career.

I also take this opportunity to recognise the exceptional contribution of Board Convenor Louise Taylor, Treasurer Julie Whitmore and long-term member Rachel Harris who are stepping down from the Board after more than 25 years' of collective service.

The value of their collective contribution is impossible to quantify, and staff and board together thank them for their extraordinary generosity and commitment to driving better access to justice for women in the Canberra region.

Looking forward, the Centre will continue to review and improve our services to best grasp the opportunities that will undoubtedly arise in a changing legal assistance sector. The Centre is committed to remaining at the forefront of specialist legal service provision to women and I warmly invite interested readers to contact us to discuss how you might support our work in the year ahead.

Heidi Yates
Executive Director



Carol Benda, Executive Director
(until December 2013)



Convenor's report

It is with a heavy heart that I pen this Convenor's Report. After many happy and rewarding years of association with the Centre, I will not be seeking re-appointment to the Board in 2015. My decision arises from a desire to see some fresh faces on the WLC Board along with recognising that, with the impending birth of my fourth child, something has to give. My connection with the Centre has truly been a joy and I have made many valued friendships and connections over the years.

The last 12 months has been a period of change and growth for the Centre.

We saw our Executive Director, Carol Benda, leave us in December 2013 after many years of committed and passionate leadership at the helm of the Centre. This was an emotional and difficult decision for Carol and, on behalf of the Board, I want to mark the very significant contribution Carol made to improving access to justice for women and girls across the ACT and region in her time with us. Carol's departure represented a loss not only to the Board but most significantly to staff who had become accustomed to her calm leadership style and thrived under her ability to get the best out of the people she led. Under Carol's charge, the Centre enhanced its profile in the community and across the sector, established the Indigenous Women's Law Support Program, made meaningful contributions to many local and national law reform campaigns, established the fabulous Bags 'n' Bling fundraiser, drove the lobby for the creation of the new CLC Hub accommodation and assisted thousands of women in need of legal advice and support. Carol regularly went above and beyond the boundaries of her role in the provision of services to clients, in her management of staff and in her support of the Board. We miss Carol and wish her all the very best as she moves on into the next phase of her career.

Happily the Centre was able to coax the fabulous Heidi Yates back to the Centre to take on the Executive Director role and lead the transition to the Centre establishing itself at the new CLC Hub premises. This was an exciting and challenging time for the Centre and Heidi's skilful navigation of those challenges eased the way for staff and the Board. The new premises are a significant improvement for our staff and clients and, in this respect, we remain very grateful for the support of the ACT Government. Heidi's history with the Centre has placed her in an excellent position to lead the Centre into this new chapter of our operations and the Board has every confidence that under her leadership, the Centre will continue to prosper and flourish.

The next 12 months will present some real challenges for the Centre as our funding significantly diminishes. Unless that funding gap can somehow be stemmed it will manifest in a reduction to front line services and see the Centre unable to assist up to 400 women each year who seek our support. The demand for our service never wanes. Already the Centre struggles to meet it despite our creativity with a dollar and our flexible approach to service delivery ('flexibility' in this context usually means staff doing more than they should). Our tireless staff already work incredibly hard, often at personal cost, reflecting their commitment to the philosophies of a specific legal service



for women and to improving the lives of the women who come through our doors. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to them and to our wonderful band of enthusiastic volunteers who share that deep commitment and assist the Centre to help as many clients as we possibly can. The contribution of volunteers and the 'above and beyond' attitude of staff will become crucial in a funding environment squeezing the already pressed capacity of community legal centres.

The Board, in light of our funding position, may be forced to make some difficult determinations about the nature and scope of the services we provide over the next 12 months. This may unfortunately see the Centre unable to assist women in some important justice-related areas. I remain hopeful that the Centre will not be forced into that position, but it must be recognised that our capacity to continue to operate at the level we do, with less funding, represents an almost impossible task. Ultimately it will be women and girls in legal need in the ACT community who will bear the brunt of any reduction in our services and support.

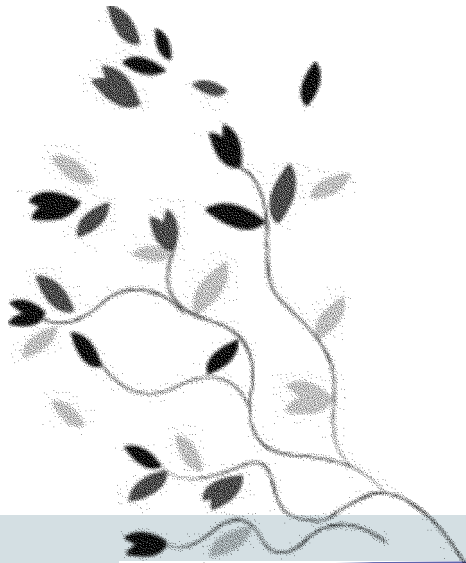
The snapshot of our work on page two reveals the breadth of our reach and the importance of our work. The Centre rightly takes great pride in the contribution we make to improving access to justice for women in the ACT and region particularly for those women who experience disadvantage acutely and whose marginalisation from accessing justice is compounded further by factors such as cultural identity, disability, language or violence (or in some cases an intersection of all of those factors). The ACT Community should take heart in the service and support we provide to the women in our communities most in legal need. I can confidently assert that our collective commitment to that service and support is stronger than ever.

I indulge for a moment to reflect on my time with the Centre. I am particularly proud of my role in the establishment of the Indigenous Women's Law Support Program. It is my deepest hope that the funding of that program will one day enjoy permanent and recurrent status so that my Indigenous tiddas have certainty in the support and services we provide and meaningful long term planning of the program can occur. In addition it would be wonderful to provide certainty of employment to the wonderful Indigenous women we employ to run our program. I live in hope of that occurring, comforted by the commitment I know the staff and Board have to our important work in this area.

Finally, I want to thank all the past and current Board members and staff I have worked closely with for so many years. In particular, without diminishing the role of many, many others, I wish to recognise Rosemary Budavari, Katie Firster (my much missed partner in troublemaking), Margie Rowe, Julie Whitmore, Rachel Harris, Heidi Yates, Belinda Barnard, Rhonda Payget, Tracey Harris, (more recently) Lois Fordham and of course Carol Benda who all provided me with unfailing support and have listened to my endless rants. I have learnt so much from my association with so many fabulously talented women over the years. I have regularly been bolstered, encouraged and inspired by our collective commitment to addressing gender inequality at a grassroots level. It is an emotional wrench for me to leave the Centre after so many years of it playing a hugely important part of my life but I am confident it is in excellent shape to face the challenges of the future and to continue to improve the lives of the women we seek to assist.

Louise Taylor
Convenor of WLC Board

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's access to justice program



The Centre's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Access to Justice Program was established by the Centre in 2006 in recognition of the fact that many mainstream services, particularly mainstream legal services, are often not safe, accessible or culturally appropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.¹ In 2013–14, the Program was run collaboratively by Program Manager Tracey Harris and Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Teletha Elemes.

¹ ACTCOSS and the Aboriginal Justice Centre, *Circles of Support: Towards Indigenous Justice* (2008) 16.

Case study Domestic violence

Tessa, an Aboriginal women with a number of children, has been abused by her partner on and off for many years. Over the past year, the abuse has included physical violence, extreme controlling behaviour, theft and damage to her property. As a result of this abuse, Care and Protection Services involved themselves with the family. The client first had contact with the Centre by talking to Teletha at a 'Knowing Your Rights' outreach session. Teletha linked the client in with two homelessness services and a health service, and supported the client in an urgent conference with Care and Protection. Teletha also supported the client to get an interim Domestic Violence Order, including driving her to and from court and following up with support in the months after the order was made.

The Program provides culturally appropriate legal information, case management and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. As a result, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients have greater confidence when it comes to accessing and engaging with law and justice services in the ACT.

The Centre's growing number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients reflects our long-term dedication to outreach and legal education activities with local community, led by the fantastic Program team.

The Centre continues to build a relationship of trust with local community members, elders and front-line support

providers within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, ensuring that women feel safe accessing our service. We are extremely pleased to announce the ACT Government's decision to fund the Program for a further four years, allowing this important work to continue.

During 2013–2014, the Centre assisted 111 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Program workers provided specific support for 70 of these clients, which involved an average of 3 contacts. 25 Aboriginal clients approached the Centre by contacting the Program workers personally, reflecting the importance of our Program staff being personally known and respected by women in the local community.

Case study Care and Protection

Ellen, an Aboriginal Elder, had maintained a close relationship with her eight year old grandson since he had been placed in foster care by Care and Protection Services at the age of 14 months. Ellen's grandson was subsequently removed from his long-term Foster Carer and placed in residential care. Ellen sought advice, support and advocacy from the Centre about maintaining a relationship with her grandson after Care and Protection had refused her contact with him for an extended period.

Tracey Harris, Program Manager



The Program's main activities are:

- carrying out regular outreach at local services and community centres;
- organising and running community legal education sessions;
- meeting with clients at the Centre or in the community;
- working with clients to identify their legal problems and access the most appropriate legal service;
- accompanying clients to legal appointments (at the Centre, or with other legal services) and to court to help clients feel safe and supported;
- following up with clients after appointments and court dates to check-in about the progress of their legal matter; and
- referring clients to health, homelessness and other essential services, and following up with those services to provide wrap-around support.

Teletha Elemes, Aboriginal Liaison Officer



Outreach

In 2013–14 Program Staff also undertook extensive outreach activities including regular visits to clients and women's groups at Gunyah Women's House, Gudan Gulwan Aboriginal Youth Corporation, Winnunga Aboriginal Health Service, Beryl Women's Refuge and Innana Crisis Accommodation and Support Service. Program workers also held information stalls at a range of events including NAIDOC celebrations, the Legal Aid Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Expo and the Multicultural Festival.

Yarning circle

The Program Manager, Tracey Harris, also continued her leadership work with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Yarning Circle. The Yarning Circle is a collaborative project between the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body and the Women's Legal Centre. The project has been providing opportunities for networking and leadership for Aboriginal Women since its inception in August 2011.

Systemic work

A significant benefit of the casework undertaken by the Program workers and Centre Solicitors is the fact that client experiences directly inform the Centre's systemic work regarding key issues that commonly arise for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women. A recent example of this is the Centre's participation in a number of Centre-initiated interagency meetings relating to the way that Child Protection Services engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women and their children. Throughout 2013–14, Program Staff also contributed to a broad range of ACT Government consultations including those relating to the Aboriginal Justice Agreement and the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Whole of Government Agreement.

Tracey Harris
Program Manager

Teletha Elemes
Aboriginal Liaison Officer

Program highlight

The Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Access to Justice: Knowing Your Rights program was a great success, with 12 sessions held for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women between March–June 2014 at Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Medical Service and the Gudan Gulwan Aboriginal Youth Corporation. Aboriginal Liaison Officer Teletha Elemes worked with other local services including the Domestic Violence Crisis Service, the Consumer Law Centre and the Tenants' Union to run information sessions on specific areas of law affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Case study

Sharee, an Aboriginal woman, was dismissed from her workplace and the workplace obtained an interim Personal Protection Order against her. The Order was sought as a result of emails Sharee sent to the workplace while she was suffering from a medical condition that resulted in serious mental health issues. The Return Conference was scheduled while Sharee was in hospital. The Centre represented Sharee and adjourned the Conference until our client was well enough to attend. The solicitor was able to establish the exact nature of her medical condition and the effects of her mental health on her behaviour. Once Sharee was in better health, the solicitor represented her at the Return Conference with our Aboriginal Liaison Officer for support. The Centre negotiated to have the Order discharged and replaced with a 12 month undertaking without admissions between the parties.

‘I support the competent, efficient and valuable work being done by the Centre on behalf of women in the ACT, women who in other circumstances would be unable to access legal advice and representation...the popular misconception of the ACT is that we are all middle-class, speak English, are highly educated, homogeneously created and unlikely to require legal assistance that we can't pay for ourselves. This is patently misinformed and untrue. A Centre such as this makes a real difference to peoples' lives, people already amongst the most vulnerable and marginalised in our so-called affluent, educated society. This Centre helps redress some of the manifest imbalances in our society and I would urge broader support of its work.’

Support Worker for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Women



Legal Practice report

Advice and casework

The Centre primarily provides advice about:

- family law
- domestic violence
- employment law
- discrimination law and
- financial assistance to victims of crime.

As is often the case with disadvantaged clients, problems are often multifaceted and intersectional. We prioritise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and women on low incomes who are not eligible for legal aid. Demand continues to grow and we are frequently unable to assist all of the women who seek assistance. There are many women who are not eligible for legal aid and cannot afford to pay a private lawyer. We are frequently advising women who are representing themselves in family courts.

Staff

We are proud of the work that we are able to achieve with four solicitors, three of whom work part time. We were fortunate to have experienced lawyers Marilyn Wright (family lawyer) and Jane Campbell (employment, discrimination and human rights lawyer) on the legal team in 2013–2014. Allison Munro joined the legal team part time to assist with family law work.

Best Practice and Sector Collaboration

As part of our national accreditation process under the National Association of Community Legal Centre, we are reviewing our policies and procedures so that we can continue to deliver a quality legal service. We value our partnerships with other community organisations and continue to develop warm referral pathways so that the Centre can target the most vulnerable women who require assistance to access legal services. There were 715 clients referred to the Centre from other agencies or through a client's personal networks in 2013–14. The agencies most commonly referring clients to the Centre included the Domestic Violence Crisis Service (77 referrals) and the ACT Family Relationship Centre (73 clients).

The Centre referred 1,043 clients to other agencies. The two key referral points were private law firms (302 referrals) and Legal Aid ACT (206 referrals). This referral information highlights the Centre's key role as a safe 'first point of call' for vulnerable women. It is not unusual for clients who are eligible for legal aid, or have the resources to engage a private solicitor, to contact the Centre in the first instance to discuss their matter. Many women do so knowing that when they contact the Centre, they will have the chance to speak to a female solicitor with specific expertise in the sensitive issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment and gender-based discrimination.

Case study

Phoebe suffered from severe physical and psychological injuries as a result of a brutal attack. When Phoebe applied for Victims of Crime compensation, the Government Solicitor requested detailed information that was difficult for Phoebe to obtain given her extensive injuries. The Centre represented Phoebe in negotiations with the Government Solicitor and ultimately obtained the maximum compensation available for her.

Your commitment to justice and women's rights and your sensitivity to the needs of vulnerable women is inspirational. I will carry that inspiration with me everywhere I go. Thanks!

Graduate student volunteer



Volunteer lawyers

Moving into new space in February 2014 has meant that the Centre can better harness the enthusiastic support of our pro bono volunteer lawyers. We thank our volunteer solicitors for enabling us to deliver the following programs:

Tuesday Night Family Law Service: a rotating roster of private family law practitioners provide appointments to clients.

Friday Morning Family Law Service: solicitors from local firm Farrar Gesini Dunn provide family law appointments to vulnerable clients.

Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme Service: The ACT office of Clayton Utz provides ongoing casework and advice under this Program, undertaking approximately 200 hours of casework per annum on behalf of the Centre.

Tuesday Morning Employment and Discrimination Service: Solicitors from local Canberra firm Bradley Allen Love provide four hours of interview time every Tuesday morning, then undertake approximately 200 hours of additional casework and appearance work for the Centre each year.

Community Legal Education

CLE for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women: The Centre continued its focus on delivering community legal education programs to the Indigenous Community, which you can read about in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program report. These sessions are delivered in an informal, accessible environment and often result in clients who may not otherwise approach the Centre pursuing advice about individual legal problems

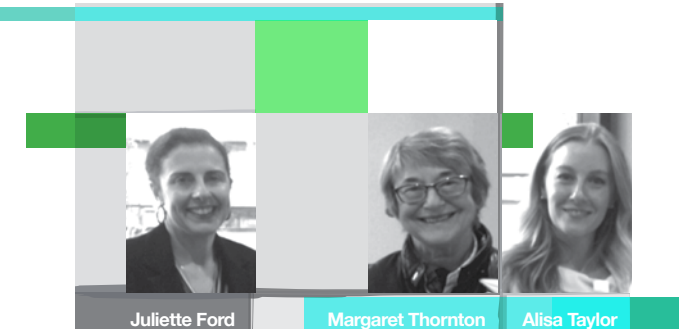
19th Women and Justice Forum: Each May the Centre presents its annual 'Women and Justice Forum' during National Law Week to provide the opportunity for education and discussion about vulnerable women's access to justice. This year, the Centre's 19th 'Women & Justice Forum' was titled 'Women and the Workplace: Lean In or Left Out?'. A panel of three expert speakers—ACTU President Ged Kearney, Feminist Legal Scholar Margaret Thornton and Construction Law Specialist Alisa Taylor—shared their considerable expertise with forum attendees in a lively, informal debate about the challenges women face in the modern workplace. The forum was generously sponsored by Canberra Firm Dobinson Davey Clifford Simpson and was energetically facilitated by Women's Legal Centre board member and respected local family lawyer, Juliette Ford.

'Girls Gotta Know' App: The Centre also participated in the national rollout of the 'Girls Gotta Know' phone application. This online 'app' was designed to deliver legal information to girls aged 14 years to 24 years. There is specific information about ACT referral points and the Centre thanks pro bono partners DLA Piper for their generous assistance with this work.

'Talking Turkey': Thanks to an ACT Women's Grant, the Centre also continued work on a community legal education resource titled 'Talking Turkey: a legal information guide for Lesbian Women, Sperm Donors and Rainbow families'. The Centre will continue to develop this resource with a view to publication in 2015.

Centre staff also provided one-off education talks, workshops and seminars to a broad range of community organisations, community groups and audiences at local and national conferences.

Women and Justice Forum Facilitator and Presenters



Juliette Ford

Margaret Thornton

Alisa Taylor

Law Reform

The Women's Legal Centre utilises the expertise gained through our client work to contribute to improving the law and legal processes. This work aims to prevent common legal problems from arising and to improve access to justice for all women.

Centre staff contributed to law reform and policy initiatives through participation on a range of boards, networks and committees including the ACT Legal Assistance Forum, the ACT Law Society Family Law and Access to Justice Committees, the ACT Women's Services Network, the ACT Ministerial Advisory Council on Women, the ACT Law Reform Advisory Council, the ACT Victims Advisory Board and the Women's Legal Services Australia Coordinating Committee.

The Centre's law reform work for this year also included work on the following projects.

Formulation of systemic policy and practice about domestic and family violence

The Women's Legal Centre sees the impact of domestic and family violence on our clients every day, with two thirds of our family law clients reporting an experience of violence. The Centre participated in the development of the Federal Government's Second Action Plan for the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children. The Centre advocated for increased support for front line services working with victims of violence as well as broader issues relating to early intervention and prevention.

Review of the ACT Financial Assistance Scheme for Victims of Crime

The Centre welcomed review of the scheme, including the ACT Government's proposal to transform the existing court-based scheme into an administrative scheme. The Centre also supports the Government's proposal to re-distribute funds through increased eligibility arrangements, including eligibility for victims of Domestic Violence to receive 'emergency' payments to assist with safety measures. The Centre worked intensively with the Justice and Community Safety Directorate and our colleagues in the Women's Sector to highlight our significant concerns regarding proposed cuts to payments available to victims of sexual assault. The Centre remains concerned about how the new scheme will impact some of our most traumatised and vulnerable clients.

Productivity Commission Review of the Legal Assistance Sector

Following a written submission, the Centre was invited to appear before the Commission to elaborate on the important issue of funding specialist women's services that offer accessible, expert legal services using a holistic and flexible service model.

Review of the ACT Discrimination Act

The Centre's submission to this review addressed a range of issues such as protection for persons who have been subjected to domestic or family violence, the definition of the attribute of 'gender identity', the use of exceptions and best-practice regulation of sexual harassment.

Supporting Working Parents: Pregnancy and Return to Work National Review

The Centre's submission to this Australian Human Rights Commission Review noted the broad trends in discrimination experienced by our clients upon becoming pregnant or returning to work after parental leave, these include:

- having their employment terminated or being made redundant upon disclosure of pregnancy or whilst on parental leave;
- allocation to inferior roles during pregnancy or upon return to work after parental leave;
- lack of employer flexibility in assigning 'safe jobs' during pregnancy.

Review of the ACT Out of Home Care Strategy

The Centre's submission to this review recommended that the secondary aim of the Strategy: 'strengthening support arrangements around the delivery of out of home care' should be afforded the same weight as the primary aim of the Strategy: 'to ensure the supply and quality of out of home placements'. The Centre also supported the development of a proposed 'Placement Prevention Program' and recommended that, in the first instance, the program should prioritise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. The Centre also recommended that the ACT Government employ experienced Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers to increase the likelihood that clients will engage with the program. The Centre further supported:

- the need for greater reunification support;
- the need for strengthened support for kinship carers; and
- the need for the ACT Government to commission independent, community-based cultural advice to assist in decision making in relation to Indigenous children.

Sentencing practice in the ACT, its effects and implications

The Centre provided a submission to this inquiry run by the ACT Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety. Our submission was informed by our experience representing victims of criminal offences who then make a Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Claim. These clients are predominantly women who have been victims of sexual assault, including child sexual assault, and/or victims of domestic violence. The Centre recommended that:

- delays in sentencing offenders be minimised wherever possible;
- Victim Impact Statements continue to be used, with the use of CCTV where possible, to avoid unnecessary stress for victims;
- courts consider greater use of reparation orders; and
- the investigation of a possible Diversionary Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults who have been detained for public drunkenness.

Rhonda Payget
Principal Solicitor



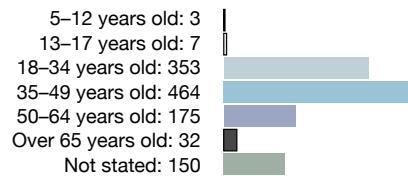
Our clients

1,184 clients

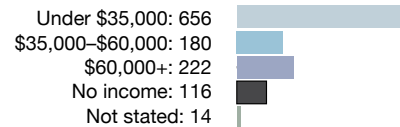
**774
new**

**410
returning**

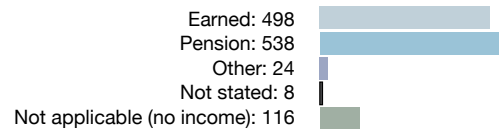
Age



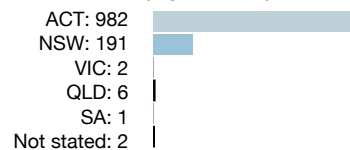
Income



Income source



Address (by state)



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



‘Your volunteer solicitor went above and beyond to help resolve a matter that has caused a lot of stress to me and my family, she was professional and had a very kind and understanding manner. The matter was dealt with interstate where your solicitor travelled to represent me. The matter has now been resolved thanks to you.’

Employment client



‘The WLC Solicitor listened to the difficult situation I was in, advised on an exit strategy, provided guidance, feedback, advice and assistance throughout the process, and provided the wise advice of someone who has ‘seen it before.’

Employment client



Disabilities

Clients that disclosed one or more disabilities: 165

Clients not disclosing type: 57

Total disabilities disclosed from 108 clients: 154

Disabilities disclosed	
Intellectual (including Down Syndrome)	7
Specific learning (including Attention Deficit Disorder)	3
Physical	34
Hearing sensory	3
Speech sensory	1
Psychiatric	89
Neurological (including Epilepsy and Alzheimer’s disease)	7
Other blood borne/other disease	10
Not Specified	57

Case study

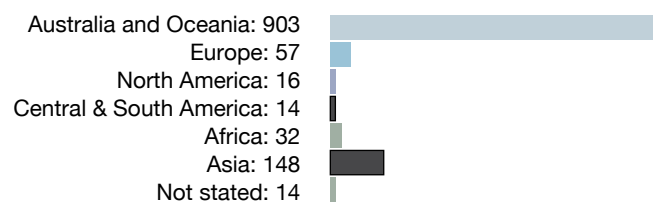
Waneta was on a low income and divorced after a marriage of almost 30 years. She and her ex-husband, Max, had reached an agreement about property settlement, including a split of Max’s superannuation into her name. However, the agreement had not been implemented and the Trustee of a superannuation fund cannot act without an Order of the Court.

Waneta did not know that applications for property settlements must be made within 12 months from the date of divorce and there were delays while Max consolidated several superannuation funds into the one account. Waneta first approached the Centre for advice less than a month before this deadline. This meant she was unable to provide the Trustee of the superannuation fund with the required 28 days notice.

The Centre drafted the application for Consent Orders asking that the court make the Orders on the basis that the Trustee could apply to vary the Orders if required. The Centre also wrote to the Trustee asking for any objections regarding the proposed Orders.

The application was filed in time and Waneta received final Orders and was able to activate the superannuation split. Without the urgent assistance from the Women’s Legal Centre our client may have missed the deadline and been unable to access her entitlements, including her share of the superannuation.

Countries of birth



Australia	877	Iraq	2	Sri Lanka	10
New Zealand	14	Israel	1	Afghanistan	3
Papua New Guinea	6	Sri Lanka	1	Uzbekistan	1
Fiji	4	Lebanon	1	Canada	4
Tonga	2	Turkey	1	United States of America	12
England	21	Burma (Myanmar)	2	Chile	4
Scotland	1	Cambodia	5	Colombia	1
Ireland	1	Laos	2	Ecuador	1
France	5	Thailand	6	Paraguay	1
Germany	4	Vietnam	12	Peru	3
Netherlands	1	Indonesia	4	Uruguay	1
Finland	2	Malaysia	7	Venezuela	1
Sweden	1	Philippines	11	Costa Rica	1
Italy	4	Singapore	3	El Salvador	1
Portugal	1	China (excludes SARs and Taiwan Province)	26	Congo	1
Spain	1	Hong Kong (SAR of China)	2	Ghana	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	Taiwan	1	Nigeria	4
Croatia	2	Japan	5	Senegal	1
Cyprus	1	Korea, Democratic		Sierra Leone	2
Slovenia	1	People's Republic of (North)	2	Ethiopia	1
Czech Republic	1	Korea, Republic of (South)	4	Kenya	3
Hungary	1	Bangladesh	7	Mauritius	2
Lithuania	1	Bhutan	1	Rwanda	1
Poland	2	India	20	South Africa	3
Russian Federation	1	Nepal	1	Uganda	1
Slovakia	1	Pakistan	4	Zimbabwe	3
Ukraine	2			Southern and East Africa Other	1
Sudan	7			Not stated	14
Iran	3				

Main language spoken

Clients with English as second language: 274
 Clients not stating their main language: 109

English	910	Middle Eastern and North African Languages Other (includes Riff, Kabyle, Shluh)	1	Indonesian	1
German	4	Turkish	1	Tagalog (Filipino)	7
Swedish	1	Turkish and Central Asian Languages Other (includes Azeri, Mongol, Tatar)	1	Other Southeast Asian Languages	1
French	5	Tamil	2	Other	
Greek	1	Telugu	1	Cantonese	3
Portuguese	1	Bengali	3	Mandarin	15
Spanish	13	Hindi	2	Chinese Other (includes, Chang Chow, Hunan, Kan)	3
Italian	4	Nepali	1	Japanese	5
Lithuanian	1	Sinhalese	2	Korean	5
Finnish	1	Urdu	1	Other Eastern Asian Languages	
Hungarian	1	Burmese	2	Other (includes Ainu, Tibetan, Bhotia)	1
Russian	1	Khmer	5	Dinka	2
Ukrainian	2	Vietnamese	12	African languages (excluding North Africa), Other	20
Bosnian	2	Mon-Khmer Other (includes Khasi, Khmu, Muong)	1	Fijian	3
Croatian	2	Lao	2	Tongan	2
Serbian	2	Thai	6	Auslan	1
Slovene	1			Not stated	109
Czech	1				
Polish	2				
Slovak	1				
Persian	3				
Arabic (including Lebanese)	4				

Case study

Donetta had been a fulltime employee for 3.5 years. Donetta informed her employer that she required surgery as part of her cancer treatment and would need 6 weeks off work. Ten days before her surgery the employer told Donetta that she was being made redundant due to 'hard economic times.' The Centre assisted Donetta to make an unfair dismissal claim to Fair Work Australia, and represented her at the Conciliation where an agreement was made that the employer pay her 3 months' salary.

Problems experienced

Number of matters: 1,334

Number of problems: 2,580

ALO support	70	Employment unfair dismissal	47	Other civil contracts	3
Acts intended to cause injury	6	Family Law Other	20	Other civil defamation/libel	6
Adoption	3	Family or domestic violence	187	Other civil legal system or process	5
Change name or birth records	8	Family or domestic violence order	127	Other civil property disputes	10
Child contacts or contact orders	324	Govt pensions/benefits allowances	4	Other civil property/conveyance/body corp/squatting	1
Child protection application/orders	64	Other		Other civil violence/restraining orders	14
Child protection other	72	Govt pensions/benefits allowances breaches	2	Overseas jurisdiction	1
Child residency	250	Govt/admin FOI/privacy	1	Parental abduction	22
Child support agreement S128 application	50	Govt/admin complaints - govt processes/procedures	2	Parenting plan	25
Child support appeal	2	Govt/admin complaints against other govt official	1	Paternity	10
Child support other	4	Govt/admin complaints against police	8	Property damage and environmental offences	1
Consumer complaints Other	2	Govt/admin complaints against police	8	Property de facto	98
Consumer complaints financial/insurance/super etc	2	Govt/admin complaints/issues relating to govt Other	1	Property in marriage	290
Consumer complaints health	1	Govt/admin mental health	1	Property other	6
Consumer complaints legal/solicitors	11	Immigration Misc	2	Relationship issues	1
Consumer complaints medical, including psychiatric	7	Immigration Other Visa	6	Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences	6
Consumer complaints services	1	Immigration Refugee/Humanitarian-Offshore	2	Royal Commission	4
Contempt	1	Injuries Other	2	Separation	90
Credit and debt bankruptcy	2	Injuries assaults	7	Specific issues	27
Credit and debt consumer credit	2	Injuries compensation	42	Taking child interstate	40
Credit and debt management/negotiation	1	Injuries employment	19	Taking child overseas	37
Credit and debt owed by client	9	Injuries sexual assaults, including rape	76	Technology or surrogacy	1
Credit and debt owed to client	10	Injuries transport/motor vehicle accident	1	Tenancy - domestic violence	7
Credit and debt recovery (court)	1	Maintenance agreement spouse	4	Tenancy Other	24
DNA testing	1	Maintenance application child	2	Tenancy agreement	2
Dangerous/neg acts endanger persons/abduct/offence	1	Maintenance application spouse	1	Tenancy bond	3
Deception and related offences	4	Maintenance enforcement spouse	1	Tenancy general rights and responsibilities	1
Discrimination Other	7	Maintenance issues other	1	Tenancy privacy	1
Discrimination age	4	Motor vehicle accident	4	Tenancy termination by lessor	1
Discrimination disability	15	Motor vehicle property damage	1	Tenancy termination by tenant	1
Discrimination pregnancy	15	Neighbourhood disputes Other	4	Theft and related offences	1
Discrimination race	14	Neighbourhood disputes complaints about neighbours	2	Unlawful entry with intent burglary break/enter	1
Discrimination sex/gender	17	Offences-justice procedure govt security/oprtns	1	Wills/probate Other	19
Discrimination sexual orientation	1	Other and misc offences incl weapons/explosives	4	Wills/probate guardianship/trusteeship	5
Divorce	105	Other civil	6	Wills/probate making/contest/obtain benefit under	6
Employment - parental leave	8			Wills/probate power of attorney	11
Employment Other	74				
Employment conditions/entitlements	41				



Risk of homelessness

Clients at risk of homelessness: 264

22%

Domestic violence

Limited to clients with family law problems

893 clients had a family law problems

Clients experiencing DV: 565

Not stated: 305

63%

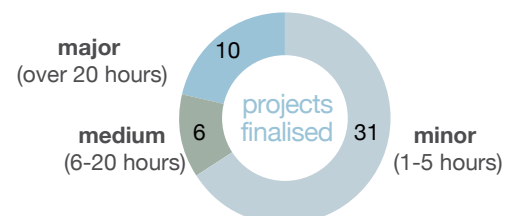
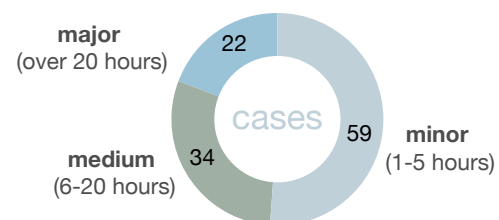
Referrals to WLC

166	Self/friend/relative/ neighbour	12	Welfare rights	3	Police
77	DVCS	12	Human rights/equal opportunity/commissions, tribunals etc	3	Local government
73	Community support Other	8	Prison	3	Education (eg school, university, educator)
73	Family Relationship Centre	7	Private legal practitioner	2	Generalist - tenancy
36	Fair Work Australia	7	Financial (including financial counselling)	2	Centrelink (including Family Assistance Office)
27	Legal Aid Commission	6	Women's	1	Generalist - credit and debt
27	Mediator/mediation centre	5	Gunyah Women's Housing	1	Generalist - DVAS
26	Refuge	4	Law Society	1	Residential/tenancy etc tribunal
25	WLC ALO	4	Community Legal service Other	1	Housing
	Health (eg doctor, nurse, paramedic, alcohol and drug counsellor etc)	4	Family Court	1	Gugan Gulwan
18	VSS	4	Ombudsman	1	Health/community services department
15	Street Law	4	Government department/ authority Other	1	Housing department/ authority
15	Counselling service (non-financial), eg relationships, grief counseling etc)	3	Aboriginal legal aid	1	Other
13	WIRC	3	State/Territory courts		

Referrals to

302	Private legal practitioner	12	Women's	3	Government department/ authority Other
206	Legal Aid Commission	11	Housing	2	Federal courts
95	Mediator/mediation centre	10	CRCC	2	Financial (including financial counselling)
69	Family Relationship Centres	10	Community Legal service Other	2	Trade union
63	DVCS	8	Aboriginal legal aid	2	WIRC
36	Police	8	Centrelink (including Family Assistance Offices)	1	Court support
	Community support Other (eg youth worker, disability worker etc)	8	Health (eg doctor, nurse, paramedic, alcohol and drug counsellor etc)	1	Fair Work Australia
30	Counselling service (non-financial), eg relationships, grief counseling etc)	6	Family Court	1	Federal/State politician
22	Law Society	6	Generalist - credit and debt	1	Gunyah Women's Housing
20	Generalist - tenancy	5	Child Support Agency	1	Health/community services department
18	Refuge	5	Ombudsman	1	Other
18	Welfare rights	5	Pro bono	1	Tribunals Other
13	VSS	5	State/Territory courts	1	Other
12	Generalist - immigration	4	Private company (eg insurance, bank etc)		

General



Case study

Kasi came to the Centre when her employment had been terminated upon failing a police check. She had been to court for a minor theft charge—her first ever time to Court—and represented herself. She thought that she was not convicted and only a fine had been imposed (which she had paid). The Centre sought an extension of time to appeal her conviction out of time (many months over the time limit). This was granted and an appeal against her conviction and penalty was lodged. The appeal to the Supreme Court was successful and a non conviction order was imposed, with a good behaviour order for 12 months. The Magistrates Court refunded all the costs paid by our client, which included the fine, court costs and Victims Levy. This result has a life long impact on Kasi as she now does not have a criminal conviction recorded.

Thank you

The Centre thanks the many local solicitors who dedicated hours of volunteer work during 2013–14. These generous contributions support the Centre's core work and allow us to assist many more clients each year. Special thanks to:

Volunteer Solicitors	
Christina Huesch	Alliance Family Law
Carla Stocks	Armstrong Legal
Margie Rowe	ANU Legal Workshop
Allison Ballard	Bradley Allen Love
Elishka Skelding	
Juno Tajudeen	
Geetha Nair	Australian Government Solicitor
Sophie Maltabarow	
Eleanor Cannon	
Anna Wynne	Capon & Hubert
Dunja Cvjeticanin	Ashurst
Monica Campbell	
Peter McNulty	
Paul Vane-Tempest	
Barbara Campbell	Campbell & Co. Lawyers
Neshi Sooknandan	Certus Law
Kirsty McLeod	
Claire Naidu	Claire Naidu & Co.
Kavina Mistry	Clayton Utz
Lucinda Watson	
Ingrid Paterson	
Melissa de Jongh	
Jan Cumming	
Amanda Graham	
Phoebe Richards	
Edwina Renshaw	
Sophie Alexander	
Suriyaa Rome	
David Blencowe	Dobinson Davey Clifford Simpson
Bronwyn McNeil	
Caroline Bush	
John Carroll	
Juliet Behrens	Evans Family Lawyers
Jacquelyn Curtis	
Sally McGuinness	
Rebecca Tetlow	
Andrea Evans	Elringtons
Chloe Curran	
Iveta Bales	Farrar Gesini Dunn
Dara Isaacson	
Jessica Kennedy	
Jessica Wynd	
Anna Neilan	
Siobhan Mullins	
Julia Heinze	
Claudia Maclean	Infinity Legal
	KJB Law

Volunteer Solicitors	
Sally Hiles	Legal Aid ACT
Lou Pope	
Chris Park	Nicholl & Co. Lawyers
Perpetua Kish	
Rhiannon Dwyer	Strong Law
Natasha Jude	
Lessli Strong	Trinity Law
Eileen Webb	
Pam Lyndon	Watts McCray
Catherine Coles	
Gillian Yeend	Yeend & Associates
Magdalena	
Orczykowski	

The Centre is very fortunate to receive administrative, research and paralegal assistance from students studying law across the region. In 2013–14, the following women generously donated time to the Centre:

Amy Bascomb
Anika Khwaja
Beth Ritchie
Carol Brain
Cate Schmohl
Emma Buckland
Fatima Ali
Hannah Walker
Jessica Avalon
Kate Robinson
Raina Singh
Stephanie Giblin

Financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2014

WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE (ACT & REGION) INC.

STATEMENT BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS


In accordance with the requirements of the Section 73(1)(c) of the Association's Incorporation Act 1991, the Committee submits its report for the financial year ended 30 June 2014.


1. The names of each who held a position as a member of the management Committee during the year ended 30 June 2014 and at the date of this report are:

Angela Lauman	Secretary
Julie Whitmore	Treasurer
Louise Taylor	Convenor
Rachel Harris	Member
Juliette Ford	Member
Margie Rowe	Member
Julie Dobinson	Member
Lois Fordham	Member
Biljana Petrova	Member
Rhonda Payget	Member
Heidi Yates	Member

2. The principal activity of the association during the year ended 30 June 2014 is to provide legal advice for women in Canberra and the surrounding regions.
3. The net surplus (loss) for the financial year ended 30 June 2014 was **(\$ 2,882)**

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Management Committee.

Signed:  Date: 8 OCT. 2014
(Committee Member)

Signed:  Date: 9 Oct. 2014
(Committee Member)

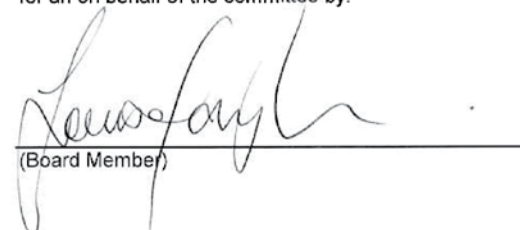
WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE (ACT & REGION) INC.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

In the opinion of the committee of the Women's Legal Centre (ACT & Region) Inc.:

1. The statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance have been drawn up to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the association as at 30 June 2014 and the trading results for the year ending 30 June 2014.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Women's Legal Centre (ACT & Region) Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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


(Board Member)


(Board Member)

Dated this 9 day of October 2014

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

2013		2014
\$		\$
	INCOME	
480,598	Grants	598,076
9,765	Interest Income	7,993
2,510	Membership Fees	1,520
920	Miscellaneous Income	6,418
8,392	Donations & Fundraising	12,042
30,000	Program Income	-
111,659	Indigenous Women's Project - ACT Gov't	114,622
<u>643,843</u>	TOTAL INCOME	<u>740,671</u>
	LESS EXPENSES	
-	ACTLAF Expenses	34,536
2,200	Auditing & Accounting	2,200
773	Bank Charges	997
2,244	Cleaning	2,732
929	Client/Staff Amenities	341
1,100	Computer Expenses	3,281
9,844	Depreciation & Ammortisation	8,495
646	Equipment Purchases	790
3,287	Insurance	3,002
1,124	Library & Subscriptions	900
3,398	National Law Reform Contribution	3,219
21,366	Phone, Fax & Internet	16,057
3,929	Postage and Office Supplies	3,517
3,045	Practising Certificates	3,333
5,675	Printing & Photocopying	1,645
(5,947)	Provision of Annual Leave	(4,588)
3,901	Provision of Long Service Leave	5,101
(5,000)	Other Provisions	-
12,984	Rent & Room Hire	14,152
7,676	Staff Training & Conferences	7,854
10,596	Sundry Expenses	12,773
33,943	Superannuation	40,026
1,204	Women & Justice Forum	2,507
373,397	Wages & Salaries	432,714
4,126	Workers' Compensation Insurance	4,225
155,752	Indigenous Project	143,745
<u>652,193</u>	TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>743,554</u>
<u>(8,350)</u>	OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	<u>(2,882)</u>

WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE (ACT & REGION) INC.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2014

2013		NOTES	2014
\$			\$
	CURRENT ASSETS		
286,274	Cash	2	265,855
12,050	Prepayments & Sundry Debtors		11,620
<u>298,324</u>	CURRENT ASSETS		<u>277,475</u>
	NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
7,269	Property, Plant & Equipment	3	2,915
2,404	Leasehold improvements	3	-
<u>9,673</u>	NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>2,915</u>
<u>307,997</u>	TOTAL ASSETS		<u>280,390</u>
	LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		
21,856	Creditors & Other Payables		15,434
57,009	Provision for Employment Entitlements	4	52,421
5,000	Other Provisions	5	5,000
137,680	Unexpended Grants & Funds	6	126,078
<u>221,545</u>	CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>198,933</u>
	NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
21,674	Provision for Employee Entitlements	4	19,561
<u>21,674</u>	NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>19,561</u>
<u>243,218</u>	TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>218,494</u>
<u>64,778</u>	NET ASSETS		<u>61,896</u>
	ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
73,128	Opening Balance		64,778
(8,350)	Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(2,883)
<u>64,778</u>	TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>61,896</u>

WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE (ACT & REGION) INC.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

2013 \$		NOTE	2014 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
41,822	Receipts from Customers and Members		19,979
574,924	Receipts from Grants		701,096
9,765	Interest Received		7,993
(647,645)	Payment to Suppliers and Employees		(747,751)
(21,134)	NET CASH FLOW RELATING TO OPERATING ACTIVITIES		(18,682)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
-	Payments for Property, Plant & Equipment		(1,737)
-	NET CASH FLOWS RELATING TO INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(1,737)
(21,134)	Net movement in cash held		(20,419)
307,408	Plus cash at the Beginning of year		286,274
286,274	CASH AT THE END OF THE YEAR		265,855

A. RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOWS RELATING TO OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO OPERATING RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

(8,350)	Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,882)
Non Cash Flows:		
9,844	Depreciation	6,845
	Loss on Disposal of assets	1,650
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(7,205)	Movement in prepayments & sundry debtors	430
14,967	Movement in creditors	(6,422)
(13,057)	Movement in employee entitlements	(6,701)
(17,332)	Movement in unexpended grants	(11,602)
(21,134)	NET CASH FLOWS RELATING TO OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(18,682)

WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE (ACT & REGION) INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

NOTE 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991.

The financial report covers Women's Legal Centre (ACT & Region) Incorporated as an individual entity. The Association as an association incorporated in the ACT under Association Incorporation Act 1991.

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

Basis of Preparation

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

Accounting Policies

a. Income tax

No provision has been made for income tax as the Association is exempt from taxation under Section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

b. Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Where an asset is acquired at no cost, the cost is its fair value as at the date of acquisition

The carrying amount of the assets is reviewed annually by directors 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 assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows is discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a prime cost basis over its useful lives to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciating rates used for each class are:

Class of Fixed Asset	Rates
Plant & Equipment	20-33%
Leasehold Improvements	10-15%



WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE (ACT & REGION) INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

c. Financial Instruments

Recognition

Financial instruments are initially measured at cost on trade date, which includes transaction costs, when the related contractual rights or obligations exist.

Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss

A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term or if so designated by management. Derivatives are also categorised as held for trading unless they are designated as hedges. Realised and unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of these assets are included in the income statement in the period in which they arise.

Financial liabilities

Non-derivative financial liabilities are recognised at amortised cost, comprising original debt less principal payments and amortisation.

Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Held-to-maturity investments

These investments have fixed maturities, and it is the group's intention to hold these investments to maturity. Any held-to-maturity investments held by the group are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, the group assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to determine whether a impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

d. Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, the Association reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the group estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

e. Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. 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, plus related on-costs. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE (ACT & REGION) INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

f. 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.

g. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

h. Revenue

Sales of goods and services

Revenue is recognised upon the delivery of goods and services to customers.

Government Grants

Government grants are recognised as income on a systematic and rational basis over the periods necessary to match them with the related costs.

Donations

Donations revenues are recognised when they are received.

Interest revenue

Interest is recognised on an accrual basis.

i. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of 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.

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

WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE (ACT & REGION) INC.

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

NOTES	2014 \$	2013 \$
2 CASH		
Main Cheque Account	14,635	14,248
Power Saver	81,220	102,027
Term Deposit	170,000	170,000
	<u>265,855</u>	<u>286,274</u>
3 PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT (REFER NOTE 1(b))		
Office Equipment (at cost)	95,278	93,540
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(92,363)	(86,272)
Leashold improvements (at cost)	-	5,491
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-	(3,087)
	<u>2,915</u>	<u>9,673</u>
4 PROVISION FOR EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS		
<u>Current Liability</u>		
Provision for Annual Leave	26,921	31,509
Provision for Redundancy	5,500	5,500
Provision for Maternity	20,000	20,000
	<u>52,421</u>	<u>57,009</u>
<u>Non-Current Liability</u>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	19,561	21,674
	<u>19,561</u>	<u>21,674</u>
5 OTHER PROVISIONS		
Provision for Locums	5,000	5,000
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
6 UNEXPENDED GRANTS & FUNDS		
Bush Retreats	-	10,000
ACTLAF14/15	28,000	-
Law Society Grants	90,408	90,408
Nannies Group	-	3,000
Talking Turkey Grant	7,670	-
ACT Justice & Community Safety	-	13,000
ACTLAW Website	-	20,000
ACT Women's Grant	-	1,272
	<u>126,078</u>	<u>137,680</u>

**HOUSTON & HANNA
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT**

K D Hanna FCA (Principal)

Telephone: (02) 6249 8515

(02) 6248 8175

Facsimile: (02) 6249 6792

GPO Box 810, Canberra ACT 2601

Suite 15, George Turner Offices

11 McKay Gardens, Turner ACT

email: kim@khanna.com.au

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE (ACT & REGION) INCORPORATED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

Scope

I have audited the attached financial statements of the Women's Legal Centre (ACT & Region) Incorporated (The Association) for the year ended 30 June 2014. The Committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. I have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the Association.

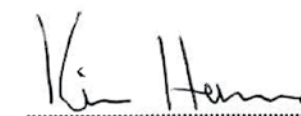
My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Association's position and the results of its operations.

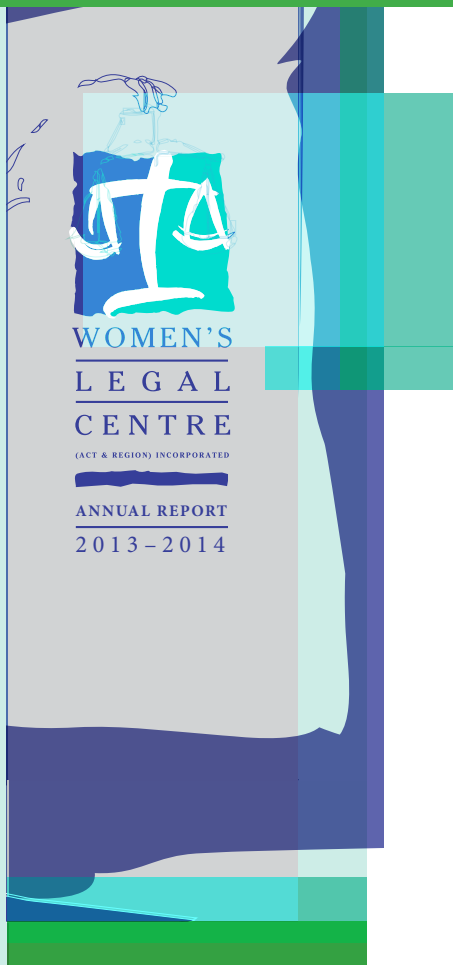
The audit opinion in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion,

- (a) The financial statements of the Association are properly drawn up:
- (i) So as to give a true and fair view of matters required by subsection 72(2) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 to be dealt with in the financial statements
 - (ii) in accordance with the provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991; and
 - (iii) in accordance with proper accounting standards, being Applicable Accounting Standards;
- (b) I have obtained all the information and explanations required;
- (c) Proper accounting records have been kept by the Association as required by the Act; and
- (d) The audit was conducted in accordance with the rules of the Women's Legal Centre (ACT & Region) Incorporated.


Kim Hanna FCA
 Registered Company Auditor
 Date 9/10/14



www.womenslegalact.org