

The image features a solid blue background. In the center, there are two black silhouettes of human heads in profile, facing each other. The silhouettes are positioned such that their heads overlap, creating a central space where the text is located. The text is white and consists of three lines: 'COMMUNITY', 'COMPASSION', and 'JUSTICE', all in a bold, sans-serif font.

# COMMUNITY COMPASSION JUSTICE

Community Legal Centres NSW  
Annual Report | **2010/2011**

Community Legal Centres (CLCs) are independent community organisations providing equitable and accessible legal services. NSW CLCs work for the public interest, particularly for disadvantaged and marginalised people and communities. CLCs not only provide legal advice and assistance, but also encourage and enable people to develop skills to be their own advocates. CLCs promote human rights, social justice and a better environment by advocating for access to justice and equitable laws and legal systems. Centres work towards achieving systemic change through community legal education, and through law and policy reform.

Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. (CLCNSW) is the peak body for CLCs in NSW. It is resourced by a small State Office which is funded by the NSW Government and Public Purpose Fund. CLCNSW has 40 member organisations including generalist and specialist CLCs. For more information on CLCNSW go to [www.clcnsw.org.au](http://www.clcnsw.org.au) or call (02) 9212 7333.

The State Office of CLCNSW acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which it works: the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation. CLCNSW also acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which community legal centres work throughout NSW and thanks them for their custodianship of country.

## Annual report 2010/2011

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# Community Legal Centres NSW



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## Who we are

The State Office of Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. (CLCNSW) plays a critical role in the law and justice sector in NSW. As the peak body for community legal centres (CLCs) in New South Wales, CLCNSW supports and represents CLCs in a range of government and community forums. The State Office works with the NSW CLC sector to advance the work of CLCs.

## Vision

CLCNSW aims to be an innovative, dynamic and effective provider of support services to CLCs in New South Wales, and to assist the community legal centre movement to achieve equitable access to justice for all citizens.

## Purpose

CLCNSW, through its State Office, provides services to community legal centres as a group and to individual centres, in the areas of network maintenance and development, communications and information, legal policy development and advocacy, and sector maintenance and development. CLCNSW coordinates strategic direction and development for the sector as a whole, liaises and negotiates with Government on relevant legal and equity issues as well as funding and program issues.

# Chairperson's report

## Anna Cody

### Highlights and movements in the sector

We have seen yet another busy year for CLCs around NSW and the State Office.

#### New Community Legal Centre on the Mid North Coast of NSW

In April we welcomed our newest CLC member – the Mid North Coast CLC. Based in Port Macquarie and serving the Macquarie-Hastings, Greater Taree and Kempsey local government areas, MNCCLC started seeing clients in June. We extend a warm welcome to them and look forward to having them contribute to the growing vibrancy of the CLC sector in NSW.

#### Equal remuneration for the CLC sector

We have continued to lobby hard and strenuously for equal pay for our sector. This has been a significant issue for community organisations and one that has been growing in momentum with the ASU's Equal Pay Case, currently before Fair Work Australia. This is one of the most important cases for the rights of women to equal pay in over 20 years. CLCNSW has provided its support to the ASU campaign, including joining the ACOSS Fair Pay campaign and supporting the ASU rallies in December.

CLCNSW also updated the NACLC 2006 report on CLC remuneration which demonstrated that CLC salaries are significantly lower than those in comparable jobs elsewhere. In conjunction with NACLC and other state associations around Australia, we worked with Mercer Human Resources Consulting to develop sound evidence that salaries in the CLC sector remain well under par in comparison to similar roles elsewhere, including roles in other public legal service providers. The 2011 Mercer report has been used extensively in submissions and other lobbying efforts for the equal pay campaign.

#### CLC/Legal Aid NSW Partnership Program

This year, Legal Aid NSW announced the formation of the CLC/Legal Aid NSW Partnership Program, a funding program for one-off projects which are undertaken in genuine partnership between at least one CLC and Legal Aid NSW. A total of \$100,000 is made available every financial year for innovative and responsive projects conducted in genuine partnership, and which aim to provide access to justice for disadvantaged people in NSW.

CLCNSW congratulates those CLCs that have been successful in securing funding under this program to date and encourages all member CLCs to consider applications for future funding rounds. We also look forward to building more positive collaborations with units within Legal Aid NSW working on the funded programs.

#### New government elected in NSW

In March 2011 we saw a Coalition government elected by NSW voters. In the months leading up to the election, CLCNSW undertook a number of initiatives to raise CLC issues with Members of Parliament and other government stakeholders. In November 2010, we hosted a forum for MPs and staffers at NSW Parliament House, which aimed to raise awareness of the work of CLCs. The forum was attended by the then Attorney General, the Hon. John Hatzistergos, the then Shadow Attorney General Mr Greg Smith, Greens spokesperson on legal issues, David Shoebridge MLC, and a number of other MPs. Presenters from CLCNSW spoke about funding, law reform and RRR issues.

CLCNSW also distributed to all political parties its 2011/12 budget submission, which had a particular focus on the 2011 state election. In that submission, CLCNSW called for State funding of \$8.5 million. This includes existing maintenance funding, minimum baseline funding for all CLCs and enhanced funding for the provision of specialist services such as consumer law, prisoners and care and protection.

Since the formation of the new government, CLCNSW has met with the Attorney General, Greg Smith SC MP, and the Shadow Attorney General, Paul Lynch MP. We look forward to working with Mr Smith, Mr Lynch and other Government stakeholders to ensure that issues affecting disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals and communities are taken into account when changes to laws and policies are being considered.

#### The National Accreditation Scheme

CLCNSW has been working hard with NACLC on the implementation of the National Accreditation Scheme, one of the most significant projects NACLC has undertaken in recent years. The Scheme is driven by NACLC's desire to demonstrate to the Australian community that member CLCs deliver services of the highest quality and in accordance with best practice.

CLCNSW is committed to assisting member CLCs achieve accreditation under the scheme. To that end, a new position of Regional Accreditation Coordinator, funded by both Legal Aid NSW and the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department, has been created at the State Office. The primary role of this position will be to assess individual CLCs' service delivery against standards under the Scheme and to identify, if necessary, areas of improvement to enhance such service delivery. More details on accreditation can be found elsewhere in this annual report.

## State Office

It has been yet another busy year for the state office. Detailed reports and highlights for the State Office and its committees and networks are found elsewhere in this report.

I thank staff for their efforts supporting, coordinating and leading the sector through their work for CLCNSW. I particularly thank the Director, Alastair McEwin, for his leadership of the organisation. In looking ahead to 2011/12, it promises to be another busy and challenging year. Activities will include participating in the review of NSW legal services, an evaluation of the Sector Development Program, and finalising the new CLCNSW strategic plan for 2012–2015.

## Funding and support

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the following individuals and organisations for their support during 2010/11:

- The Hon. John Hatzistergos, former NSW Attorney-General, for his interest in and support of CLCs;
- The Hon. Greg Smith SC MP, NSW Attorney-General, for his interest in and support of CLCs;
- The Hon. Robert McClelland, Federal Attorney-General, for his support for the CLC program;
- Mr Laurie Glanfield, Director General, Department of Attorney General and Justice, for his support for the CLC program;
- Alan Kirkland, CEO of Legal Aid NSW, for his support of CLCNSW and his willingness to collaborate with CLCs;
- Bronwyn McCutcheon, CLC Funding Program Manager, Legal Aid NSW, and her team of Timika Williams and Jane Cipants, for their support of the State office and the community legal service program;
- Michelle Jones, Program Manager, Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Scheme;
- The Trustees and Administrator of the NSW Public Purpose Fund;
- Geoff Mulherin and Jane Kenny from the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW; and
- Julia Hall, Executive Director of the National Association of CLCs.

My thanks also to my fellow Board members for their expertise and commitment to the State Office over the past 12 months. I would like to particularly thank and acknowledge the work of the convenors and co-convenors of the CLCNSW networks. Without your commitment and dedication, the sector would not be as informed and united as it is on the various issues that we work on.

Finally, I would like to thank the management committees, staff and volunteers of community legal centres in NSW.



**Anna Cody, CLCNSW chairperson.**  
**Source: Kingsford Legal Centre**

# CLCNSW State Office report

The State Office of CLCNSW has the following seven objectives under its strategic plan:

1. Maintain a functional, collaborative and effective network of CLCs in NSW;
2. Develop, preserve and promote a clear identity for CLCs and our unique place in the justice sector;
3. Build the organisational capacity of CLCs to operate effectively and deliver quality services;
4. Advocate for appropriate law reform and effectively promote respect for Human Rights;
5. Improve funding for CLCs;
6. Increase access to justice and legal services;
7. Operate an efficient, effective and best-practice office.

## Aboriginal Legal Access Program

### Long-term planning strategies and a review of the program

2010/11 was a very busy year for the Aboriginal Legal Access Program (ALAP), with the State Office specifically focussing on long-term planning initiatives to support and strengthen the sector to deliver CLC services to Aboriginal people and communities. In September 2010, Lee Atkinson commenced with CLCNSW as the ALAP Community Development Worker. Within weeks, Lee met with ALAP workers and their managers from around NSW in Ballina to review progress of Aboriginal legal access programs and to undertake planning for the rest of the 2010/11 year and onwards. It was a valuable opportunity for the workers to take a critical look at progress of the ALAP since its commencement in 2006.

A significant outcome from the Ballina workshop was the development of a longer-term 'strategic directions' proposal to develop a case and funding model for ALAP, in order to present an evidence-based foundation to seek additional and ongoing funding to grow the program. Working with a consultant and the ALAP workers and managers, Zachary Armytage, new ALAP Community Development Worker, and CLCNSW looked at the following: community needs through the relationships of the ALAP and CLC staff; lessons learnt from past program activities; and reports into legal needs of Aboriginal people and communities. The final report, completed in June 2011, outlined a set of strategies for the long-term sustainability of the ALAP, including best practice models for a CLC to run an Aboriginal legal access program.

At the same time as the development of this proposal, Legal Aid NSW undertook a review of ALAP, focussing on the current ALAP projects at CLCNSW, Hawkesbury Nepean CLC, Northern Rivers CLC, Shoalcoast CLC, Macarthur Legal Centre and Illawarra Legal Centre. The review report found compelling evidence to maintain

the program and we were pleased to obtain ongoing funding from the NSW Public Purpose Fund. We were particularly pleased to be able to move on from the uncertainty of the pilot/one-year funding arrangements to a more sustainable three-year program. The latter approach provides a greater degree of certainty with program planning and job security for ALAP workers.

### Promoting CLC access to Aboriginal communities

The State Office developed a set of promotional materials which is targeted to Aboriginal people and communities around NSW. The materials, which include brochures and a poster, aim to encourage Aboriginal people to contact their local CLC to discuss legal issues. These materials were distributed to CLCs and other stakeholders in January and have been well received by stakeholders.

## Advocacy and Human Rights program

### Lobbying for improvements to the NSW Police complaints system

This project, initiated in 2009, is designed to develop recommendations and lobby for changes to the NSW police complaints system. Activities for this year have included the formation of the 'NSW Police Accountability Network' to share information and ideas, and the distribution, in conjunction with Charles Sturt University (CSU), of a survey of solicitors' perceptions and experiences in relation to the police complaints system.

### Monitoring and responding to changes to Victims Compensation legislation

The Program supported the Domestic Violence/Victims Compensation Subcommittee with advocacy around the recent changes to Victims Compensation law. The immediate focus was monitoring the impact of the changes to costs payments on CLCs and on claimants' ability to access legal assistance. CLCNSW produced an information sheet for a forum for stakeholders to discuss the changes to the legislation. Other issues include measures to allow RRR CLCs to inspect VCT files without travelling to Sydney at the CLC's expense. A review of the Victims Services scheme has been announced, which CLCNSW will monitor and, where possible, participate in.

### Enabling CLCs to do better law reform

A key objective of the Program is to provide tools and resources for CLCs to improve their law reform activities. To this end, CLCNSW has created a separate Law Reform section on its website to provide



Panel session 'Working in public legal assistance organisations', Australian Law Students Association conference. (L-R): Ed Santow (PIAC), Ben Fogarty (PIAC), Uzma Abbas (Legal Aid NSW), Alastair McEwin (Director, CLCNSW). Source: Legal Aid NSW July 2011

specific information to CLCs in various aspects of law reform work. Information includes a page on media skills, providing resources on a range of media-related topics, and information about UN human rights recommendations and complaints mechanisms. CLCNSW, in conjunction with NACLC, is also able to assist CLCs to distribute media releases through the AAP MediaNet online facility.

## Sector Development program

Previously known as the Learning & Development Program, the Sector Development Program received funding from the NSW Public Purpose Fund for a further two years from 1 July 2011. As part of the preparation for the re-funding submission to the PPF, Matrix on Board, a consultancy specialising in the not-for-profit sector, undertook an evaluation of the program. Key findings included an emphasis on the value of the Quarterlies, professional development and training opportunities, and subsidies available to RRR CLCs to attend professional development opportunities.

### Going from junior solicitor to Principal Solicitor: the first-ever Practice Management Course for CLC solicitors

The Sector Development program worked in partnership with the NSW College of Law to design and deliver the first CLC-specific

Practice Management Course for solicitors working in CLCs. The course, run over three days, is the only one of its type offered in NSW and is a significant strategy under the CLCNSW Sector Development Program to provide skills to CLC workers, particularly those looking for promotion within the sector. This course was developed in response to consistent feedback over the years from CLC lawyers that existing legal practice management courses lacked community-based content that was relevant to CLCs. Participants heard from a range of presenters, including specialists who work in CLCs or have experience in community-based organisations. Topics included strategic planning and financial management for CLCs, dealing with difficult clients, cooperative legal service delivery, and avoiding or reducing the risk of burnout.

### Mentoring program

In 2010/11, CLCNSW undertook, with a consultancy, a scoping exercise to ascertain the need and interest of the CLC sector for a mentoring program. This exercise found that there was strong interest and support for such a program, noting in particular the support needs of CLC workers in rural and remote areas. CLCNSW is now exploring options to develop a program that will meet the specific professional support needs of the CLC sector.

# CLCNSW State Office report (cont.)



## CLCs delivering high quality services: The National Accreditation Scheme

Launched by NACLC in October 2010, the National Accreditation Scheme is a sector-led initiative designed to recognise, encourage and actively support good practice in the delivery of community legal services and the operations of community organisations, utilising a streamlined and web-based accreditation and certification process for CLCs. The process is a joint

initiative between NACLC and State/Territory CLC Associations.

To become accredited, a CLC must demonstrate compliance with nationally consistent service standards. The foundation for these standards are the existing Commonwealth Community Legal Services Program (CCLSP) Service Standards and the NACLC National Risk Management Guide. As part of its introduction and the first 3-year cycle, all CLCNSW member CLCs will be required to either comply with the accreditation standards or provide evidence they are working towards compliance.

To assist CLCs with undertaking accreditation, NACLC has developed two user-friendly online tools: the Standards and Performance Pathways (SPP) and the Management Support Online (MSO). The SSP contains the accreditation criteria and online self-assessment process. CLCs can upload documents (e.g. a Client Intake policy) as part of its evidence that it is meeting the standards. The MSO provides a suite of resources, including sample policies, which CLCs can download and adapt for their own internal purposes.

Following the online self-assessment, CLCs will have a site visit, conducted by the CLCNSW Regional Accreditation Coordinator. The Coordinator will provide a report to CLCNSW with a recommendation for accreditation of the CLC, with CLCNSW making a determination about each CLC's level of compliance with the accreditation standards. The Scheme is a tiered one and it is possible for a CLC to achieve certification and accreditation at the end of the first cycle, even if it does not meet all the standards, as long as it can demonstrate to the Certifier that it is actively working towards full compliance.

## Equal pay: it's time to ensure all workers are fairly remunerated for the work they do

Equal remuneration has been a significant issue for many years for Australian community organisations, including around 200 community legal centres. In 2010, the Australian Services Union (ASU), supported by the ACTU and the Federal Government, lodged a test case in Fair Work Australia using the new Equal Remuneration Laws contained in the Fair Work Act. In May, Fair Work Australia ruled that the ASU and its Equal Pay Case partners have proved that social and community services workers in the not for profit sector are underpaid, with part of the reason for underpayment being gender-based. At the time of this annual report, FWA has sought further submissions from the parties to the case concerning the determination of the rate of increases.

In 2011, CLCNSW, in partnership with NACLC, QAILS, Federation of CLCs (Victoria), and Community Legal Centres Association (WA), engaged Mercer, Human Resources Consulting, to review and update the 2006 NACLC report on CLC remuneration.

The 2011 consultancy conducted a work value assessment of 6 CLC roles: Principal Solicitor, Manager/Coordinator, Solicitor, Community Worker, Administrator, and Finance Officer. Mercer then benchmarked the salaries of these roles against comparable roles, such as those in the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department, and Legal Aid Victoria. As much anecdotal evidence in the sector has shown over the years, the report found that, when benchmarked against similar positions, CLC salaries are lower than other positions. In some cases, the differences are quite marked. The report states that the following award pay increases are needed for CLCs to be competitive:

Centre Manager 75%,  
Principal Solicitor 75%,  
Solicitor 24% and  
Community Worker 14%.

CLCNSW is using the findings of the 2011 report in its lobbying efforts in the equal pay campaign, including a joint submission with the Victorian Federation to the Fair Work Australia test case and the CLCNSW 2012/13 budget submission.



# CLC awards and commendations

## At a glance: the work CLCs did in 2010/11

In 2010/11, community legal centres in NSW:

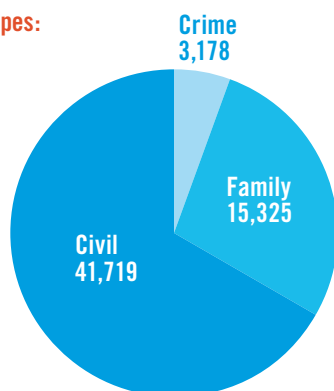
- Assisted 48,291 clients, an increase of 5% from the previous year (2009/10: 45,823 clients);
- Provided a total of 46,920 instances of legal information:
  - Civil law: 31,770
  - Family law: 11,851
  - Criminal law: 3,299
- Provided a total of 60,222 instances of legal advice:
  - Civil law: 41,719
  - Family law: 15,325
  - Criminal law: 3,178
- Opened 9,014 new cases;
- Completed 7,922 cases;
- Provided 1,047 community legal education programs;
- Undertook 466 instances of law reform/legal policy work.

## The top 10 matters CLCs assisted clients with in 2010/11:

Problem Type	Number
Family or domestic violence order	5,264
Child contacts or contact orders	5,123
Credit and debt (consumer credit)	4,963
Credit and debt owed by client	3,972
Government pensions/benefits allowances	3,930
Family or domestic violence	3,766
Injuries compensation	2,940
Credit and debt recovery (court)	2,429
Child residency	2,279
Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences	2,161

## Activities

### - Number of Advices by Law Types:



## CLCNSW extends its congratulations to the following people and member Community Legal Centres for their awards or commendations.

### University of Newcastle Legal Centre

The University of Newcastle Legal Centre was shortlisted for the 2010 Law Society award for the Enhancement of the NSW Legal Profession at the ALB Australasian Law Awards in Sydney. The Law Society award recognises significant contributions to the enhancement of the NSW legal profession.

### Kingsford Legal Centre shortlisted for 2010 Human Rights Awards

Kingsford Legal Centre was shortlisted in the Law Category for the 2010 Human Rights Award, presented annually by the Australian Human Rights Commission.

### International Women's Day honour for Christine Robinson

Christine Robinson, Coordinator at Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre, was honoured by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance as one of 100 women who have made a contribution to their community and have inspired, challenged and broken down barriers to enable other women to access services and support.

### Legal Assistance Programme Partnership Award 2011

South West Sydney Legal Centre and Fairfield Family Relationship Centre were the recipients of this award, awarded by the NSW Family Relationship Centre Legal Partnership Steering Committee.

### Kingsford Legal Centre Staff Win UNSW Excellence in Community Engagement Award 2010

KLC staff were the recipients of the UNSW Excellence in Community Engagement award in 2010. The award is recognition of its intensive engagement with its local and broader communities.

## CLC awards and commendations (cont.)

### Highly commended awards:

#### Central Coast Homeless Outreach Legal Service (Central Coast Community Legal Centre)

The Central Coast Homeless Outreach Legal Service (CCHOLS) provides free legal advice, representation, community legal education and referrals to homeless people, or people at risk of becoming homeless, on the Central Coast. The service provides outreach at 6 sites which are familiar and easily accessible to target clients, with a solicitor attending each of the sites on a weekly basis. The focus of the service is working in partnership with various community welfare and emergency housing service providers, to provide socially informed and appropriate legal assistance.

#### Caring for Country project (Environmental Defender's Office NSW)

Through the Caring for Country project, the Environmental Defender's Office NSW (EDO) has sought to increase Indigenous access to its services. It is the only NSW legal service to provide specialist, targeted environmental legal and technical advice to Aboriginal communities. Its activities include policy and law reform, community education and litigation to prosecute destruction and damage of Aboriginal cultural heritage. It has also convened two major Roundtables on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage to draw attention to the deficiencies in the legal framework.

#### Justice Medal

CLCNSW was delighted to see Rachael Martin, Principal Solicitor at Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre, win the 2010 Justice Medal. This medal is awarded to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in improving access to justice in NSW, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged people. Rachael has been Principal Solicitor at Wirringa Baiya AWLC for more than a decade where she provides high quality legal assistance and advice, delivers community legal education and has influenced law reform and policy development. She works closely with the community legal sector and government bodies to ensure that Aboriginal women and children are able to better access legal and support services, particularly in relation to domestic violence and victims compensation. Rachael is a strong voice within the community legal sector and has worked with passion and determination to ensure that legal services and victim's compensation are more accessible to Aboriginal women and children, particularly in the complex field of violence and sexual assault. CLCNSW extends its warmest congratulations to Rachael for winning the medal.



Jessica Hannam, Solicitor, South West Sydney Legal Centre, with the Legal Assistance Programme Partnership Award.  
Source: South West Sydney LC, 2011.

### 2010 Justice Awards

The annual Justice Awards, hosted by the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW, recognise and honour the contributions and achievements of individuals and organisations to improving access to justice, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged people.

#### CLCNSW award

The 2010 CLCNSW award, presented at the Justice Awards, recognises the range of activities and projects undertaken by NSW CLCs to provide effective and appropriate services to people and increase their awareness of their legal rights and the legal resources available to help them resolve legal issues. Eight nominations were received for the 2010 award.

### Winner

#### Street Care (Homeless Persons' Legal Service)

Street Care, established by the Homeless Persons' Legal Service, is an advisory group made up entirely of people experiencing homelessness. Its aims are to assist in upholding the human rights of homeless people to participate in public affairs and to lead to the development of more effective government responses to homeless issues. Street Care now regularly provides advice to the Federal and NSW Governments, which has led to legislative and policy reform. Due to its creation, government agencies and providers of services to homeless people now consider consumer participation essential in developing responses to homelessness.

## Assisting GLBTI people experiencing domestic violence

The Safe Relationships Project (SRP), the first of its kind in Australia, is a project of the Inner City Legal Centre. The SRP is a court assistance scheme for people in same sex relationships, transgender and transsexual people, and intersex people who are experiencing domestic violence. The aim of the SRP is to assist clients in accessing legal representation and applying for Apprehended Violence Orders as well as providing support, advocacy, referrals and information. People who are experiencing domestic violence are already in a vulnerable position. Often they feel isolated and scared, not knowing where to turn to for help. What stops people who are gay, transgender or intersex from taking steps to get help is the additional fear of being discriminated against because of their sex, gender or sexuality. Inner City LC, by creating the SRP, has developed a service where people from these communities can seek help without fear of being discriminated, and without fear that the abuse they have suffered will not be misunderstood because of their sex, gender or sexuality.



Source:  
<http://www.iclc.org.au/srp/>

## Young people and false imprisonment by NSW police: class action against the State of NSW

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) and law firm Maurice Blackburn commenced proceedings in June 2011 in the NSW Supreme Court for children and young people who have been falsely imprisoned in NSW because of wrong or out-dated bail information. PIAC and Maurice Blackburn claim that these imprisonments are because of a long-standing problem with the NSW police computer system, with young people being deprived of their liberty because police are acting on outdated information on bail conditions. The class action's lead applicant is 19-year-old Musa Konneh. Mr Konneh was arrested and unlawfully detained in southwest Sydney in August 2010. Acting on the basis of incorrect bail information, police detained Mr Konneh overnight. The next day the court ordered his immediate release. PIAC has said that said Mr Konneh's experience is all too common.

## Law Reform and Policy Committee report Lizzie Simpson and Emma Gollidge, Co-convenors

Natasha Case resigned as co-convenor in December 2010 and Lizzie Simpson from PIAC joined as co-convenor in the Board appointed position. The Committee met every three months at the CLC Quarterlies and meetings were well attended. The meetings were primarily used to share information about law reform and policy projects and opportunities that CLCs and/or the state office were working on. Discussions about law reform priorities provided guidance to the CLCNSW Advocacy & Human Rights Officer.

## Issues considered by the Committee during the year included: Victims Compensation Changes

The Committee worked with the DV/VC Subcommittee in response to the retrospective changes to the Victims Compensation Scheme early in 2010, which many CLCs were concerned about.

## Police Accountability Project

The Committee continued to support work around systemic reform of the police complaints system, including participation in a survey designed to collect NSW-specific data about experiences and perceptions of the police complaints system.

# CLCs advancing Human Rights (cont.)

# Educating the community about its legal rights

## The Legal Aid Means Test

Members of the committee participated in focus groups run by Legal Aid NSW, about potential changes to the Legal Aid Means Test, focussing on the accessibility of the means test, and the implications for access to legal assistance for people with a variety of financial situations.

## Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians

The Committee continued to prioritise the Constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and supported a session at the May 2011 Quarterlies with guest speakers who shared their ideas about Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal people with CLC workers.

## Working Groups of the Committee

The Committee has several working groups that address particular issues, including the Indigenous Rights Working Group and the Police Accountability Working Group. During the year the Family Law Working Group wound up, as did the Care and Protection Working Group.



PIAC solicitor Gemma Namey (left), Julie Haraksin (centre) and Chris Ronalds SC: *Haraksin v Murrays Australia Ltd*. PIAC is representing Ms Haraksin, who is suing Murrays Australia after she tried unsuccessfully to book a seat on a Murrays Australia coach to attend a work conference in Canberra.  
Source: PIAC, October 2010

## Informing prisoners of their tenancy rights and responsibilities

Western Sydney Tenants Service (WESTS) and Macquarie Legal Centre, in conjunction with Legal Aid NSW, ran a series of twelve community education seminars in prisons in the Sydney metropolitan area. WESTS provided inmates with information on their rights and obligations as tenants, and Housing NSW (HNSW) policies. Legal Aid NSW provided credit/debt advice, and a financial counsellor was also present to provide information and advice on sustaining a tenancy and repaying debts. The team at Macquarie LC have worked very hard to get this project off the ground, and are very excited to be able to extend the service to a group that is normally isolated and unable to access such assistance.

## Think B4 U Click: Young people understanding their rights on cyber bullying

Women's Legal Services NSW (WLS) developed a cyber bullying presentation, which they delivered to a focus group of high school aged girls in Sydney to get a better understanding of the issues that girls face in relation to access and use of today's technology. After this pilot, WLS then travelled to the remote greater western area of NSW and delivered its workshop, with the theme "Think B4 U Click". The participants were a group of 26 Aboriginal girls ranging from Years 7–12. The workshop covered the areas of cyber safety, legal rights, the effects and tips on how to deal with being cyber bullied, and cyber bullying as a whole. The response was very positive from both students and teachers. A point that really stood out was that cyber bullying is not gender specific: the girls requested that the boys take part in future cyber bullying workshops. In response to that demand WLS is sharing resources with Western NSW CLC (based in Dubbo) to meet regional needs, and to provide the information for both girls and boys. With access to technology, in particular social networking sites, growing in all areas of Australia, it seems that cyber bullying is an issue that is fast expanding with technology even in remote areas. WLS has received a grant from the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) to further develop and deliver workshops for Aboriginal high school girls throughout NSW.

## Community Legal Education Workers (CLEW) Group Report

### Natalie Neumann and Dianne Anagnos, Co-Conveners

The NSW CLEW group is made up of community legal service workers who participate or who are interested in community legal education. The Conveners for the past year have included Susan Winfield from Consumer Credit Legal Centre and Anna Hartree from Kingsford Legal Centre. Susan and Anna resigned from their positions in May 2011, when Natalie Neumann from Women's Legal Services NSW and Dianne Anagnos from Kingsford Legal Centre stepped in as co-conveners.

The CLEW group holds meetings at every CLCNSW Quarterlies to share our collective knowledge and experiences, as well as organising training sessions on community legal education. The meeting attendees include dedicated CLE workers, as well as co-ordinators and solicitors who perform community legal education as part of their jobs. CLE workers from other organisations such as Legal Aid NSW, NLAf and the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW also regularly attend our meetings. This year we have had an average attendance of 18 participants at each meeting.

The group generally includes a training component to each of its meetings. This year we have had presenters including:

- Steven Womersley from Loddon Campaspe CLC in Victoria, who came to talk to us about the National Community Legal Centre database;
- Abigail Gray and Erol Digiusto from the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW spoke about the Foundation's new research project into the effectiveness of CLE;
- Jane Kenny from the Law and Justice Foundation introduced a new DVD resource produced in partnership with Fairfield City Council targeted at the legal needs of new and emerging communities;
- Natalie Ross from Redfern Legal Centre discussed their project "Money Matters" on providing CLE on credit and debt matters to CALD communities;
- LawAccess presented on their LawAssist online resources for self-represented people.

During the May 2011 meeting the CLEW group identified a common theme in the difficulties faced by many CLE workers in accessing NSW prisons in order to deliver CLE to prisoners. CLE workers from all across NSW gave examples of facing hurdles in organising CLE to prisoners, who we know have a myriad of civil law problems that should ideally be addressed before their release date. The CLEW group is committed to working towards addressing these issues in 2011/2012.

The NSW CLEW co-conveners participate in the Legal Information and Referral Forum (LIRF), which aims to improve referral pathways and access to legal information and reports to the NSW Legal Assistance Forum on a quarterly basis. This year's LIRF meetings concentrated on the legal needs of people following natural disasters as well as the legal needs of newly arrived migrants and refugees. The NSW CLEW group co-conveners are involved in the National CLEW network through regular phone link-ups and by contributing an update of what's new in CLE from NSW to the National CLEW Newsletter.

Finally, the NSW CLEW Group continues to provide a forum for CLC workers to share their CLE experiences and resources in an informal and supportive way. We provide each other with ideas, support and helpful materials at all of our meetings, and update each other on our current CLE projects. The co-conveners would like to thank all participants for making this such a supportive and pro-active group.



Elizabeth Morley, Principal Solicitor, Redfern Legal Centre, at a CALD playgroup event in Redfern Park.  
Source: Redfern Legal Centre, June 2011

# Improving access to justice for Aboriginal people and communities

## Northern Rivers CLC campaigns for anti-violence in Aboriginal communities

One of Northern Rivers CLC's projects, Mirrung Ngu Wanjarri, has launched an anti violence campaign "Yoogumbeh Boomaleh". A TV commercial was produced and went to air in June, with repeats in October and in January 2012. 'Yoogumbeh' means 'No' and 'Boomaleh' literally means 'no playing around' but in this instance refers to violence. The advertisement features a Bundjalung elder speaking the language and urging people to stop the violence, get help and to celebrate life. It has two parts: a 15 second scan of people saying 'Yoogumbeh', then a 30 second advertisement follows with the message.

Northern Rivers CLC reports that the advertisement has generated much discussion and that they are very pleased with the first run. The campaign will soon have posters at bus stops, and the words will play on local community radio stations.



Source:  
[www.mirrung.com.au](http://www.mirrung.com.au)

## Aboriginal Advisory Group report

### Donna Hensen, convenor

The Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG) meets at the Quarterlies throughout the year and continues with projects while feeding into the NACLC ATSI Women's network. The AAG would like to thank Nancy Walke, Northern Rivers CLC, for her leadership and direction as the previous AAG Convenor. The new Convenor is Donna Hensen, Coordinator, Indigenous Women's Legal Program at Women's Legal Services NSW.

We also thank Lee Atkinson and Zac Armytage, the previous and current ALAP Community Development Workers, for the development of two much needed documents that were finalised this year.

## Protocols For Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country

The process of 'Welcome to Country' and 'Acknowledgement of Country' recognises the unique position of Aboriginal people in Australian culture and history. Aboriginal people are the original Custodians of the Land. It is important this unique position is recognised by CLCs and incorporated as part of official protocol and events to enable the wider community to share in Aboriginal culture and heritage, facilitating better relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

It is important that CLCs embrace the spirit of reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians and for CLCs to be inclusive of all groups. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to ensure that the correct protocols are used by all CLCs for 'Welcome to Country' and 'Acknowledgement of Country' ceremonies.

## The Aboriginal Employment Strategy

This document has been developed with the aim of providing our CLCs with a foundation to increasing Aboriginal employment. CLCNSW is committed to developing a culturally diverse, skilled and innovative CLC workforce. This Aboriginal Employment Strategy outlines CLCNSW's commitment to significantly increase the representation of Aboriginal people in the legal sector and to contribute to improving legal access to all Aboriginal people across New South Wales. The Strategy outlines principles, issues and actions that CLCs in NSW should consider to provide best practice Aboriginal legal access programs.

We have been involved in successfully lobbying for ongoing funding for the Aboriginal Legal Access Program (ALAP). This program is now funded for a further three years.

We have contributed to Law Reform projects such the Universal Periodic Review, other NGO Shadow reports, the Aboriginal Recognition in the Constitution, Indigenous people and the Family Law System. We would like to encourage more Indigenous staff to join our AAG meetings in the coming year.

# Ensuring access to justice for people in rural, regional and remote (RRR) areas

## Legal advice and assistance to women in the South East of NSW

Launched by Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre in January 2011, the South East NSW Women's Legal Service provides legal advice and assistance to women in the South East region of NSW. Funded by Legal Aid NSW under the Rural Women's Outreach Program, the service covers Local Government Areas in South East NSW, including Palerang, Queanbeyan, Cooma-Monaro, Bombala and Bega. The Service provides advice via telephone and once a month has face-to-face outreach in Braidwood, Cooma and Bega. Each month there are also alternate visits between Bombala and Wallaga Lake Aboriginal community. These particular towns were chosen as a result of a scoping study identifying a lack of free legal services in these areas. The most common problem types to date have been family law, care and protection, wills/power of attorney, debt and discrimination.

## Rural, regional and remote CLCs network report

**Angela Pollard, Convenor**

The RRR Network has seen significantly increased participation at quarterly network meetings over the last twelve months, with many participants reporting that RRR meetings were their "must go" sessions at the quarterlies. Apart from the camaraderie of interacting with their RRR colleagues, the decision to hold 'themed' meetings proved to be a very successful draw card. Topics were selected, with each CLC giving a short presentation which then generated group discussions.

Topics over the year included:

- "Outreaches in RRR communities", with guest speakers Suzie Forell and Abigail Gray, Law & Justice Foundation of NSW, giving an overview of the research they undertook on outreach legal services to people with complex needs. RRR CLCs gave presentations on a range of issues such as outreach services to prisoners, the importance of finding the right venue for outreach



Arts Law Centre of Australia's Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Shian Se'l Barker, standing (centre) with indigenous musicians at Ross River, Northern Territory, as part of the 'Musicians in the Black' workshop 'Bush Band Business'.

Source: Oliver Eclipse, 2011, reproduced with permission

# Ensuring access to justice for people in rural, regional and remote (RRR) areas (cont.)

at Aboriginal communities, the challenges involved in large catchment areas with long distances travelled by the more remote CLCs, and the occupational health and safety issues for workers in isolated outreaches.

- “Clients: who we see, who we don’t, and why” was another successful themed meeting. This was a useful exercise in sharing how each CLC managed their limited resources and how decisions were influenced by local factors including demographics and identified community needs.
- The focus of the February Meeting was “on casework in an RRR context” with presentations outlining the difficulties of engaging in complex family law work with limited referral and support options as well as concerns for procedural fairness in VCT matters with Victims Service’s refusal to allow files to be transported for viewing in rural areas. This issue has now been taken up by the CLCNSW Advocacy and Human Rights Officer, with negotiation underway with Victims Services to improve outcomes for rural victims of

crime seeking compensation.

- There was also a positive example of a RRR CLC partnership with a local Law Society with the development of a client referral program for subsidised assistance regarding wills, power of attorney and guardianship. This then led to the next themed meeting “Working with your local Law Society”, with a guest presentation by Philip Coster, President, North Metro Law Society, who discussed the ways in which CLCs could tap into local Law Society resources such as their small grants program.

The perennial issue of attracting and retaining solicitors in RRR CLCs remained a significant problem, with recommendations for RRR CLCs to attend University Open Days to promote public interest legal careers in a rural environment. NLAF’s work in promoting this issue to professional and governmental bodies was also appreciated.

The year was capped off by the commencement of planning for the 2012 State Conference RRR Network Day with lots of great ideas for workshops and speakers.



Speakers at Shoalcoast’s Law Week forum (May 2011): (L-R) Gary Pudney (Nowra ALS), Peter Robson (Nowra Mental Health Team), Danielle Castles (Legal Aid NSW), Barry Penfold (Shoalcoast CLC), Dr Zhen Zhang and Jodie Massey (Justice Health Community and Court Liaison Service). Source: Law Society of NSW, 2011

## Domestic Violence and Victims Compensation Subcommittee report

### Rebecca Hitchcock and Rachael Martin, Co-convenors

The Domestic Violence and Victims Compensation Subcommittee consists of members from different community legal centres, and meets every three months to discuss various legal and policy issues that affect our clients and the way we provide our services to the community.

In addition to domestic violence and victims compensation it was decided to include the issue of sexual assault as a separate and permanent agenda item. A regular time slot was also created for the Same Sex Domestic Violence Working Group. Numbers of attendees at meetings were consistently between 20 and 30 people.

### Victims Compensation

The legislative amendments to the *Victims Support and Rehabilitation Act 1996* (VSRA) and related lobbying dominated much of the Subcommittee's work. The work of the Subcommittee included the following:

- Summary of the amendments to the VSRA Bill introduced in November 2010 was given to the group by Rachael Martin. A table summarising the amendments was produced and distributed to the network.
- A letter was drafted for and sent by CLCNSW to members of parliament regarding the concerns CLCNSW had about the proposed changes to VSRA.
- The Subcommittee met with a member of parliament regarding the proposed changes.
- The Subcommittee liaised with the members of the Victims Advisory Board regarding advocating for amendments to the proposed Bill. A letter was sent to the community members of the Victim's Advisory Board that were not spoken to alerting them to our concerns.
- Members of the Subcommittee attended the forum organised by the Victims Compensation Coalition held at Parliament House.
- The Subcommittee developed a CLCNSW Information Sheet summarising concerns about the amendments to the VSRA that were passed, and calling for urgent reversal of those amendments.
- The group discussed the issue and remedies for rural CLCs accessing VCT files in Sydney.

### Domestic Violence

- The group provided a forum to bring unusual cases and/or policing practices. For example, Redfern Legal Centre brought the issue of witnesses/victims being subpoenaed to attend AVO and assault

proceedings. The subpoena was not served on the witness/victim and a bench warrant to arrest was issued. This resulted in one woman being incarcerated for 6 nights.

- We discussed the 'Shooters Party amendments' to the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007. We researched the validity of the s.72 amendment, which sought to revoke something that had expired. This included investigating what the Domestic Violence Clearing House knew about research between guns and AVOs.
- Avenue to feed issues raised by the Subcommittee to the Apprehended Violence Legal Issues Coordinating Committee (AVLICC). Pip Davis is CLCNSW's representative on this committee.
- Update regarding the 'Reaching Out For Rights' project. This project was run by WLSNSW and ran workshops for women in the community and community workers.
- There were regular updates on the Family Law (Amendment) Family Violence Bill. The group went through the main proposed changes. WLSNSW discussed a position paper they had developed with some other solicitors. A template letter to the Attorney General was distributed to the group for other CLCs to use.
- The group also wrote to the NSW Attorney General welcoming the announcement of a working party to examine proposals for specialist family violence and sexual assault courts. We also suggested that a CLC representative be on the working party with the response that we would be informed of the process in establishing the working party once it is established.

### Sexual Assault

- Update on the Sexual Assault Communications Privilege (SACP) project. The group was given the report that was handed to the NSW Attorney General's Department.
- Detailed the partnership between WLSNSW, ODPP, Bar Association, Clayton Utz and Freehills. There were 39 criminal matters and 45 SACP matters.
- Reported on the bill containing amendments to the sexual assault communications privilege, which was in the Courts and Crimes Further Legislation Amendment Bill 2010. Our submissions and the pilot project were mentioned in the Bill.
- Update on the announcement of the passage of the changes to the law and the allocation of \$4.4 million fund to provide legal representation in SACP matters. Announcement that the unit will be responsible for raising awareness of the changes to the law and represent victims under the SACP.

# Network and working group reports (cont.)

## **Presentations**

- The DV/VC group organised training on the new Tenancy and DV legislative changes to be held at the Quarterlies.

Once again, we would like to thank the staff of the State Office of CLCNSW in particular Roxana Zulfacar, who through the year provided ongoing support to the convenors of this Subcommittee. Roxana was especially of great assistance to Rachael with the ongoing work around the amendments to the VSRA.

## **Practice and Indemnity Insurance (PII) Committee report**

### **Pip Davis and Kat Lane, Co-convenors**

The Practice and Indemnity Insurance Committee is made up of representatives from all CLCs in NSW and meets at each of the quarterly meetings. Thank you to everyone who attends and contributes to these meetings.

All CLCs agree to comply with standardised practice management systems and the Committee performs an essential role in reviewing and discussing practice issues to improve risk management in NSW CLCs.

A key role performed by the group this year has been the review of the amended and updated document which sets out the practice management systems – a time consuming and mammoth job! Other work completed by the committee includes the drafting of a CLSIS definitions document, which has now been adopted nationally and the drafting of a NSW limitation date document. The current PII committee co-convenors are Pip Davis and Kat Lane. Work carried out by the co-convenors this year has included:

- Ongoing work and review of the updated national practice management standards;
- Working through risk management issues associated with auspiced services;
- Mentoring of new principal solicitors in risk management systems for CLCs;
- Reporting to the Board of CLCNSW regarding PII issues;
- Working with the National PII Committee and attending national PII meetings;
- Presenting a session at the Practice Management Course on PII and risk management issues for CLCs;
- Reviewing the application by Mid North Coast CLC to join CLCNSW and the PII scheme;
- Overseeing the annual cross check of all centres in NSW;
- Supporting individual centres in practice management issues;
- Visiting Thiyama–Li Family Violence Service and Far West Community Legal Centre.

## **Coordinators/Directors/ Sector Development Network**

### **Amanda Smithers and Anna Hartree, co-convenors**

As with other years the Coordinators/Directors network meetings were all well attended, often with standing room only. And with good reason. Each meeting included training, resource sharing, updates on the Learning and Development program and presentations by the CLSP Program Mangers: Bronwyn McCutcheon, Jane Cipants and Michelle Jones. Training included Truda Gray, (Macquarie Legal Centre) giving a very informative presentation on what do when clients threaten suicide. With the launch of the NALCL Accreditation process, Lis Maier, National Accreditation Coordinator, conducted a session on using the website which was followed up by more detailed and hands-on training later in the year. In March 2011 the network held a colloquium on CLSIS. A number of issues were raised regarding the collection of data, common definitions and the assumptions we make when collecting data. Our thanks go to Karen Cox and Kat Lane who presented the review of CLSIS undertaken by Consumer Credit Legal Centre (NSW).

The network was convened by Amanda Smithers (Illawarra Legal Centre) and assisted by Anna Hartree (Kingsford Legal Centre) and Joanna Mantziaris (CLCNSW). Amanda Smithers resigned her position in June. We thank her for the work she undertook as the Board Sector Development representative.

## **Administrators and Finance Officers working group report**

### **Linda Wall and Graeme Chambers, Co-convenors**

The Quarterlies provide the opportunity for all Administrators from community legal centres throughout NSW to meet other colleagues and discuss various work practices and issues they have in common. Finance Officers, Front Desk, IT and Coordinators are most welcome. Our aim over the past year was to encourage non-legal workers to attend our meetings, to expand our numbers and ultimately our topics and special guests. We have seen a huge increase in attendance at our meetings and have had some lively discussion that's for sure. There has definitely been a growing interest and support for our meetings.

Over the past year various agenda items were discussed, including MYOB accounting and payroll matters including the transition into the new Modern Award, costs of audit and other operational expenses, budgets, IT, trialling of MYOB add-on software, etc. Also a standing agenda item is the Admin Mentoring List, which is a database of all

our contact details and skills, which is available on the BBS. We had special guests from Legal Aid: State Program Manager Bronwyn McCutcheon, Jane Cipants and Michelle Jones attended our meetings. They provided the opportunity to ask questions in relation to CLSIS and financial reporting requirements, excess surplus templates, carried forward surpluses, standard chart of accounts, etc. They also provided helpful handouts and these are available on the BBS. Graeme and Linda were also appointed Co-Convenors of the National Admin & Finance Network. They organised the Network meeting in Hobart at the National Conference and were involved in arranging two other admin-related sessions for the non-legal workers. They also circulated a national survey to help us gain a better understanding of how CLCs across Australia provide non-legal support (Finance/Administration/IT support) to their Centres. This will also aid future training priorities to these meetings. The survey results will be available in October. We would like to thank all those who not only attend our meetings, but who also contribute to the running of our meetings by offering agenda items and lively discussion.

## Legal Aid Commission representative report

**Maria Girdler, Legal Aid Commissioner**

**(Alternate Legal Aid Commissioner: Patrick O'Callaghan)**

In the last year the Legal Aid Board met 6 times and dealt with many issues of concern to our sector.

At the May 2011 meeting, we had the pleasure of meeting the new Attorney General, the Hon Greg Smith, SC MP. It was useful to meet the Attorney and I took the opportunity to ask him questions about funding of our sector as well as inviting him to get to know our sector better. For his part the Attorney spoke of his wish to consult with the Board in the future.

Corporate Planning has been discussed at a number of meetings; the commitment to working with other legal services including CLCs was also evident in this process.

As in previous years the Board has considered how to promote awareness in the community of the availability of legal services, and how to fill service gaps, including for particularly disadvantaged groups and in rural and remote areas.

In addition to the Board meetings, I have taken an active part in 2 Board sub-committees: the CLC Funding Committee and the Civil Law Committee. These Committees allow for more discussion of issues and make recommendations to the Board. I am also a member of the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy

Program (WDVCAP) Advisory Committee.

Rev Harry Herbert has chaired the CLC Funding Committee. As well as representatives from the Board, the CLC Funding Committee has drawn on the expertise of the Chairperson of the CLCNSW Board (Ms Helen Campbell in 2010 and Associate Professor Anna Cody in 2011), and Mr Alastair McEwin, Director of CLCNSW. Throughout the year the Committee has been very ably assisted by Bronwyn McCutcheon, State Program Manager, and more recently Jane Cipants, Special Projects Officer.

One of the major tasks of the Committee has been assessing applications from CLCs for LAC/CLC partnership Funding. It has been good to see the interesting and diverse projects submitted for funding. Whilst the overall funding pool is small, this program has been a useful new source of funding for our sector.

Associate Professor Andrea Durbach has chaired the Civil Law committee and has been assisted by Ms Monique Hitter, Director Civil Law. This committee has been a useful forum to talk about how to enhance civil law services and policies and procedures in this area of law.

The Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program (WDVCAP) Advisory Committee has been a great way for service providers to discuss any issue of concern and how to promote best practice in service delivery. Ms Michelle Jones, Manager, WDVCAP has chaired this Committee.

In the coming year I look forward to participating in the Board and the Committees.

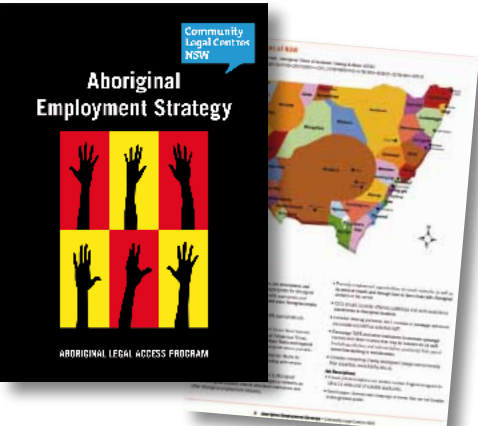
Welcome to Country/  
Acknowledgment of Country

The Welcome to Country/Acknowledgement of Country brochure seeks to provide guidance to CLCs for their Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country protocols. It contains information on the difference between a Welcome and an Acknowledgement, as well as cultural ceremonies.



CLCNSW Aboriginal Employment Strategy

The CLCNSW Aboriginal Employment Strategy has been developed to provide principles and guidelines for CLCs to include in their own Aboriginal employment strategies. It contains suggested actions for the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal workers, their ongoing professional development and ways a CLC can provide specific support for the unique position many Aboriginal people find themselves in CLC employment. A sample Aboriginal worker exit questionnaire is also included for CLCs to adapt in their own policies and procedures.



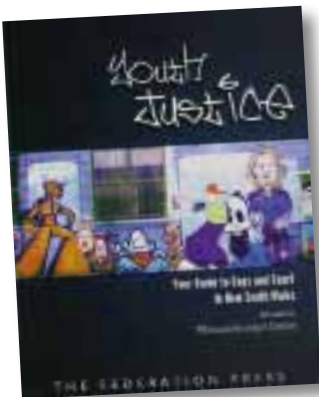
Updated version of Appealing to the  
Social Security Appeals Tribunal

The Welfare Rights Centre, in conjunction with Legal Aid NSW, has published an updated version of its self-help guide for people who want to appeal against a Centrelink decision: Appealing to the Social Security Appeals Tribunal. The guide provides an overview of the process of appealing to the SSAT, tips on how to prepare for a hearing, an outline of what will happen at a hearing, and resources available to help with an appeal.



Youth Justice:  
Your Guide to cops and court in NSW

Macquarie Legal Centre's Youth Justice: Your Guide to Cops and Courts in NSW provides a practical guide for young people who come into contact with the police or criminal justice system in NSW. Presented in a clear and jargon-free style, the book covers a broad range of topics including police interviews, police searches, the Young Offenders Act and youth justice conferences, bail, court processes, court outcomes, AVOs, and dealing with unpaid fines. Aside from helping young people understand their rights, this book is an essential resource for youth workers, youth advocates, social workers, counsellors, teachers and anyone else who works to support young people.



## Soldis Arts: Respecting and Protecting Indigenous Intellectual Property

Arts Law's Solid Arts website provides a hub that directs users not only to new resources created as part of the Solid Arts project (e.g. case studies, audio recordings) but also directs users to the many useful resources already in existence. The website organises the information by art forms (e.g. visual arts, dance and literature) and legal topics (e.g. copyright, moral rights, contracts). It includes case studies, information about working ethically (protocols, best practice for work on collaborative projects), hot topics including what is happening in Australia and overseas, as well as a guide to useful organisations. Audio recordings (MP3 files) and audio visual resources will be added to the website as they are completed.



Source: [www.soldiarts.com.au](http://www.soldiarts.com.au)

## DVD on young people's rights at work

This DVD, produced by Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre, depicts real stories of young people's experience at work. It is designed to encourage young people living in the Northern Rivers region to seek free legal advice and assistance on their rights at work from the Centre. The rights at work portrayed on the DVD include an unfair dismissal, an adverse action, sexual harassment, a work trial and conditions of employment. Young people from the region performed in and filmed the DVD. They were also involved in all aspects of pre production, including cinematography and sound.



Source: <http://vimeo.com/22316104?ab>

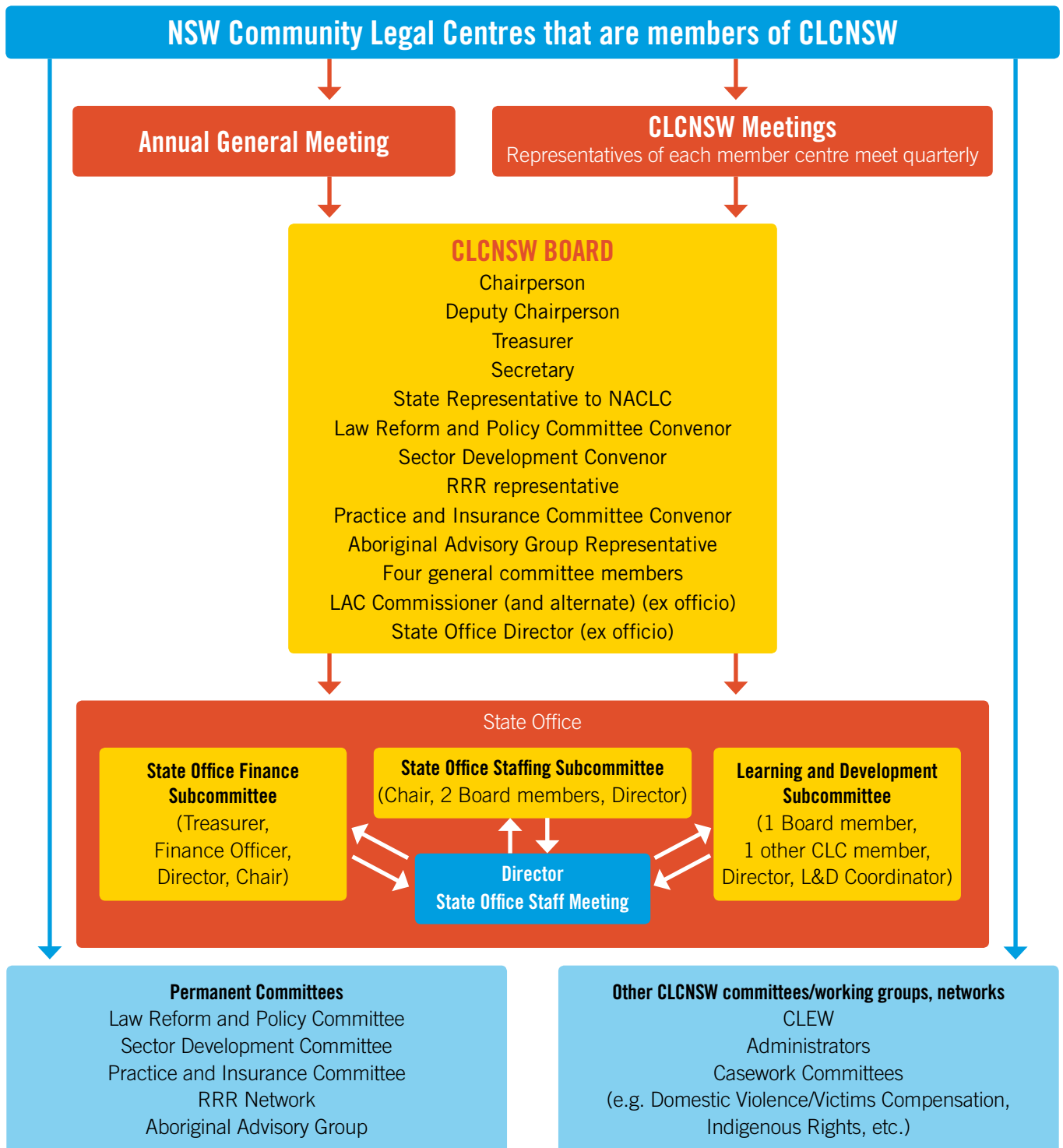
# Membership, governance and operations

## CLCNSW Member Centres 2010/11

### FULL MEMBERS:

Generalist Centres	Specialist Centres
Central Coast Community Legal Centre	(The) Aged-Care Rights Service
Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre	Arts Law Centre of Australia
Far West Community Legal Centre	Consumer Credit Legal Centre (NSW)
Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre	Court Support Scheme
Hume Riverina Community Legal Service	Disability Discrimination Legal Centre NSW
Hunter Community Legal Centre	Environmental Defenders Office NSW
Illawarra Legal Centre	HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (NSW)
Inner City Legal Centre	Immigration Advice and Rights Centre
Kingsford Legal Centre	Intellectual Disability Rights Service
Macarthur Legal Centre	National Children's and Youth Law Centre
Macquarie Legal Centre	National Pro Bono Resource Centre
Marrickville Legal Centre	Public Interest Advocacy Centre
Mid North Coast Community Legal Centre	Public Interest Law Clearing House NSW
Mt Druitt & Area Community Legal Centre	Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia)
North & North West Community Legal Service	Tenants' Union of NSW
Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre	Thiyama-Li Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Unit
Redfern Legal Centre	Welfare Rights Centre (NSW)
Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre	Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
South West Sydney Legal Centre	Women's Legal Services NSW
Western NSW Community Legal Centre	
ASSOCIATE MEMBER:	
University of Newcastle Legal Centre	

# Organisational structure of Community Legal Centres NSW



# CLCNSW Board 2010/11

Name	Member centre	Position	No. of board meetings attended	No. of board meetings eligible to attend
<b>Helen Campbell</b>	Women's Legal Services NSW	Chairperson (until November 2010)	2	2
<b>Anna Cody</b>	Kingsford Legal Centre	Chairperson (from November 2010) Deputy Chairperson (until November 2010)	4	4
<b>Robyn Ayres</b>	Arts Law Centre	Deputy Chairperson (from February 2011) Secretary (until February 2011)	3	4
<b>Hilary Chesworth</b>	Redfern Legal Centre	Treasurer	4	4
<b>Philippa Davis</b>	Hawkesbury Nepean CLC	Practice & Insurance Committee Convenor (leave of absence April–June 2011)	3	3
<b>Katherine Lane</b>	Consumer Credit Legal Centre	Acting Practice & Insurance Committee Convenor (term appointment: April–June 2011)	1	1
<b>Kim Price</b>	Hawkesbury Nepean CLC	State representative to NACLC (from November 2010)	2	2
<b>Melissa Stubbings</b>	Hawkesbury Nepean CLC	Aboriginal Advisory Group Convenor (resigned August 2010)	0	0
<b>Donna Hensen</b>	Women's Legal Services NSW	Aboriginal Advisory Group Convenor (from November 2010)	1	2
<b>Amanda Smithers</b>	Illawarra Legal Centre	Sector Development Convenor (resigned June 2011)	4	4
<b>Natasha Case</b>	Public Interest Advocacy Centre	Law Reform & Policy Convenor (resigned February 2011)	2	2
<b>Elizabeth Simpson</b>	Public Interest Advocacy Centre	Law Reform & Policy Convenor (from February 2011)	1	1
<b>Angela Pollard</b>	Northern Rivers CLC	Rural, Regional and Remote Convenor	4	4
<b>Maria Girdler</b>	Macquarie Legal Centre	Legal Aid Commissioner (ex officio)	3	4
<b>Patrick O'Callaghan</b>	Western NSW CLC	Alternate Legal Aid Commissioner (ex officio)	3	4

Name	Member centre	Position	No. of board meetings attended	No. of board meetings eligible to attend
<b>Janet Loughman</b>	Women's Legal Services NSW	General member	4	4
<b>Jeffrey Smith</b>	Environmental Defender's Office NSW	General member (until November 2010)	2	2
<b>Prue Gregory</b>	Macarthur Legal Centre	General member (from November 2010)	2	2
<b>Daniel Stubbs</b>	Inner City Legal Centre	General member (from November 2010)	2	2
<b>Jacqui Swinburne</b>	Redern Legal Centre	General member (from November 2010)	2	2
<b>Alastair McEwin</b>		State Office Director (ex officio)	4	4



# CLCNSW Sub-committees and Working Groups 2010/11 (as at 30 June 2011)

Sub-committee or Working Group	Convenor/s	Member centre
Aboriginal Advisory Group	<b>Donna Hensen</b>	Women's Legal Services NSW
Administrators	<b>Linda Shepherd</b> <b>Graeme Chambers</b>	Marrickville Legal Centre Macarthur Legal Centre
Community Legal Education Workers Group	<b>Dianne Anagnos</b> <b>Natalie Neumann</b>	Kingsford Legal Centre Women's Legal Services NSW
Coordinators/Directors/Sector Development	<b>Anna Hartree</b>	Kingsford Legal Centre
Domestic Violence & Victims Compensation Subcommittee	<b>Rebecca Hitchcock</b> <b>Rachael Martin</b>	Women's Legal Services NSW Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
Law Reform & Policy	<b>Lizzie Simpson</b> <b>Emma Golledge</b>	Public Interest Advocacy Centre Kingsford Legal Centre
Practice and Insurance Committee	<b>Pip Davis</b> <b>Kat Lane</b>	Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre Consumer Credit LC
Rural, Regional & Remote	<b>Angela Pollard</b>	Northern Rivers CLC

Name	Position
<b>Alastair McEwin</b>	Director
<b>Norico Allen</b>	Finance Officer
<b>Zachary Armytage</b>	ALAP Community Development Worker (commenced April 2011)
<b>Lee Atkinson</b>	ALAP Community Development Worker (September 2010–February 2011)
<b>Ellen Davis</b>	Administrative Assistant (casual)
<b>Julian Laurens</b>	Administrator (resigned March 2011)
<b>Joanna Mantziaris</b>	Learning & Development Coordinator
<b>Ann Petrou</b>	Administrator (commenced March 2011)
<b>Roxana Zulfacar</b>	Advocacy and Human Rights Officer

## Volunteers:

Frosanna Kelso (PLT student)  
Kamani Thanakrishnan (PLT student)  
Lachlan Ball (Aurora intern)

# COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES NSW INC ABN: 22 149 415 148

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

### Committee's Report

The committee members present their report together with the financial report of Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2011 and auditor's report thereon.

### Committee Members' Names

The names of the committee members in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

Anna Cody	Elizabeth Simpson [Appointed February 2011]
Helen Campbell [Retired November 2010]	Amanda Smithers [Resigned June 2011]
Robyn Ayres	Angela Pollard
Hilary Chesworth	Janet Loughman
Kim Price [Appointed August 2010]	Jeffrey Smith [Retired November 2010]
Melissa Stubbings [Resigned August 2010]	Prue Gregory [Appointed November 2010]
Donna Hensen [Appointed November 2010]	Daniel Stubbs [Appointed November 2010]
Philippa Davis [Leave of absence April 2011 – June 2011]	Jacqui Swinburne [Appointed November 2010]
Katherine Lane [Term appointment April 2011 – June 2011]	Maria Girdler Patrick O'Callaghan Alastair McEwin

The committee members have been in office since the start of the year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

### Results

The surplus of the association for the year amounted to \$2,736.

### Review of operations

The association continued to engage in its principal activity, the results of which are disclosed in the attached financial statements.

### Significant changes in state of affairs

There were no significant changes in the association's state of affairs that occurred during the financial year, other than those referred to elsewhere in this report.

### Principal Activities

The principal activity of the association during the year was to assist disadvantaged and marginalised people in the NSW community obtain access to legal services by:

- supporting and assisting community legal centres in NSW to provide these services; and
- providing a forum for community legal centres.

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Signed on behalf of the members of the committee.



### Chairperson

Anna Cody

Dated this 2nd day of November 2011



### Treasurer

Hilary Chesworth

### STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that 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.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 3 – 11:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. as at 30 June 2011 and performance for the year ended on that date.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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



### Chairperson

Anna Cody

Dated this 2nd day of November 2011



### Treasurer

Hilary Chesworth

# INCOME STATEMENT AND BALANCE SHEET

## INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

	Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Operating grants	2	603,244	757,043
Other revenue	2	22,114	56,594
Other income	2	108,372	73,901
	2	733,730	887,538
<b>Less: expenses</b>			
Depreciation and amortisation expense	3	(4,741)	(6,831)
Employee benefits expense		(349,766)	(313,586)
CLCNSW expense		(26,661)	(21,712)
Program and planning expenses		(153,917)	(291,943)
Conference expense		—	(50,843)
Office overhead expense		(77,837)	(82,930)
Rental expense premises		(31,500)	(31,500)
Other employees expense		(22,458)	(12,014)
Consultants and contractors expense		(59,593)	(73,269)
Other expenses		(4,521)	(3,516)
		(730,994)	(888,144)
<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>		<b>2,736</b>	<b>(606)</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>2,736</b>	<b>(606)</b>

## ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 2011

	Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	234,042	207,480
Receivables	5	16,038	17,354
Other assets	8	15,425	13,345
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>265,505</b>	<b>238,179</b>
<b>Non current assets</b>			
Other financial assets	6	60,377	57,405
Property, plant and equipment	7	9,160	11,312
Other assets	8	6,605	7,807
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>76,142</b>	<b>76,524</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>341,647</b>	<b>314,703</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables	9	14,222	14,261
Provisions	10	48,031	36,670
Other liabilities	11	35,000	22,114
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>97,253</b>	<b>73,045</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>97,253</b>	<b>73,045</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>244,394</b>	<b>241,658</b>
<b>Members funds</b>			
Reserves	12	—	138,408
Accumulated surplus/(losses)	13	244,394	103,250
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</b>		<b>244,394</b>	<b>241,658</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

**NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial report preparation requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW)*. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity. The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs, which do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets. The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this report:

**(a) Revenue**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Interest revenue is recognised when it becomes receivable on a proportional basis taking in to account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets. Grant income, is recognised as revenue in the year to which the associated expenditure and grant funding agreement relates. Accordingly, this income received in the current year for expenditure in future years are treated as grants in advance. Unexpended specific grant income at 30 June each year is disclosed as a liability. The amount brought to account as income is equivalent to that amount expensed by the Association during the financial year. Where surplus funds are required to be repaid, they will remain as a liability in the accounts until repayment. All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**(b) Income tax**

No provision for income tax has been raised as the association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

**(c) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and at banks, short term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less held at call with financial institutions, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

**(d) Financial instruments**

*Classification*

The association classifies its financial assets into the following

categories: financial assets at fair value through profit and loss, loans and receivables, held to maturity investments, and available for sale financial assets. The classification depends on the purpose for which the instruments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its financial instruments at initial recognition.

*Held-to-maturity investments*

Fixed term investments intended to be held to maturity are classified as held to maturity investments. They are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

*Loans and receivables*

Loans and receivables are measured at fair value at inception and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

**(e) Property, plant and equipment**

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

*Plant and equipment*

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis. The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by committee to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to present values in determining recoverable amounts.

*Depreciation*

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over their estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rates	Depreciation basis
Office equipment and computer equipment at cost	25%–33%	Diminishing value/ Straight line

**(f) Impairment**

Assets with an indefinite useful life are not amortised but are tested annually for impairment in accordance with AASB 136. Assets subject to annual depreciation or amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or circumstances arise that indicates that the carrying amount of the asset may be impaired. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount of the asset exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount of an asset is defined as the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

## (g) 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 out flow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

## (h) Leases

Leases are classified at their inception as either operating or finance leases based on the economic substance of the agreement so as to reflect the risks and benefits incidental to ownership.

### *Operating leases*

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are recognised as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Lease incentives received under operating leases are recognised as a liability and amortised on a straight line basis over the life of the lease term.

## (i) Employee benefits

Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and any other employee benefits expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at their nominal amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. All other employee benefit liabilities are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

## (j) 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 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 statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

## (k) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with current year disclosures.

## NOTE 2: REVENUE

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Operating grants		
LAC grant	268,244	295,795
PPF ALAP	110,000	261,758
PPF training	225,000	197,489
One off grants	—	2,000
	603,244	757,042
Other revenue		
Conference income	—	56,594
Other revenue	22,114	—
	22,114	56,594
	22,114	56,594
Other Income		
CLCNSW group levy	16,949	15,653
PII	42,588	39,600
Interest income	15,774	13,200
Sundry income	33,061	5,449
	108,372	73,902
	108,372	73,902
Total revenue	733,730	887,538

## NOTE 3: OPERATING SURPLUS

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Surplus/(deficit) has been determined after:		
Depreciation		
— office equipment and computer equipment	4,741	6,831

## NOTE 4: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash on hand	159	159
Cash at bank	233,883	207,321
	234,042	207,480

## NOTE 5: RECEIVABLES

	2011 \$	2010 \$
CURRENT		
Trade debtors	6,758	—
Interest receivable	—	724
GST receivable	9,280	16,630
	16,038	17,354

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

<b>NOTE 6: OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>NON CURRENT</b>		
<i>Held to maturity financial assets</i>		
Term deposit	60,377	57,405
	<u>60,377</u>	<u>57,405</u>

<b>NOTE 7: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Plant and equipment		
Office equipment & computer equipment at cost	26,062	31,204
Accumulated depreciation	(16,902)	(19,892)
	9,160	11,312
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>9,160</u>	<u>11,312</u>

<b>NOTE 8: OTHER ASSETS</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Prepayments	4,040	2,218
Term deposits bank guarantees	11,385	11,127
	<u>15,425</u>	<u>13,345</u>

<b>NON CURRENT</b>		
Non-current accounts		
Lease incentive accrual	3,105	4,307
Bond premises	2,650	2,650
Bond electricity	350	350
Other deposits	500	500
	<u>6,605</u>	<u>7,807</u>

<b>NOTE 9: PAYABLES</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CURRENT</b>		
<i>Unsecured liabilities</i>		
Group tax payable	6,698	3,700
Superannuation payable	—	2,465
Other payables	1,257	715
Accrued expenses	6,267	7,381
	<u>14,222</u>	<u>14,261</u>

<b>NOTE 10: PROVISIONS</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Annual leave (a)	36,061	31,794
Long service leave (a)	11,970	4,876
	<u>48,031</u>	<u>36,670</u>
(a) Aggregate employee benefits liability	48,031	36,670

<b>NOTE 11: OTHER LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Grants received in advance	35,000	22,114
	<u>35,000</u>	<u>22,114</u>

<b>NOTE 12: RESERVES</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
PII Reserve	—	41,575
Website reserve	—	11,969
Other leave reserve	—	15,973
Access and equity reserve	—	15,000
CLEW training money reserve	—	2,197
CLC group funds reserve	—	12,808
Recruitment reserve	—	2,000
Publications reserve	—	3,004
Capital equipment reserve	—	3,985
Other expenses reserve	—	4,897
Conference reserve	—	25,000
	<u>—</u>	<u>138,408</u>

<b>NOTE 13: ACCUMULATED SURPLUS/(LOSSES)</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Accumulated surplus at beginning of year	103,250	103,856
Surplus/(deficit)	2,736	(606)
Transfers (to)/from reserves	138,408	—
	<u>244,394</u>	<u>103,250</u>

**NOTE 14: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION**  
Transactions between parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

## **NOTE 15: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>

### (a) Operating lease commitments

Non cancellable operating leases contracted for  
but not capitalised in the financial statements:

Payable		
not later than one year	2,959	2,959
later than one year and not later than five years	7,646	10,605
later than five years	—	—
	<u>10,605</u>	<u>13,564</u>

The photocopier is a non cancellable lease with a five year term, with  
payments made monthly in advance.

## **NOTE 16: ASSOCIATION DETAILS**

The registered office and principal place of business of the association is:  
c17, 99 Jones Street  
ULTIMO NSW 2007



**PITCHER PARTNERS**  
ACCOUNTANTS AUDITORS & ADVISORS

Level 22 MLC Centre  
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**Community Legal Centres NSW**  
**ABN 22 149 415 148**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES NSW INC**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Community Legal Centres NSW Inc., which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2011, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in members funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the governing committee's declaration.

**Responsibility of Those Charged With Governance**

The governing committee of the entity is responsible for the preparation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the financial reporting needs of the members. The governing committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the governing committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

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

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

**Community Legal Centres NSW**  
**ABN 22 149 415 148**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES NSW INC**

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

**Independence**

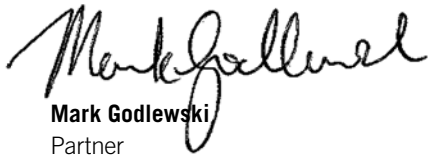
In conducting our audit, we have complied with APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. as at 30 June 2011 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report.

**Basis of Accounting**

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. to meet the financial reporting needs of the members as determined by the governing committee. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



**Mark Godlewski**  
Partner

3 November 2011



PITCHER PARTNERS  
SYDNEY

# Community Legal Centres NSW

## State Office

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