

Community
Legal Centres
NSW

Annual Report 2013/2014

COMMUNITY
COMPASSION
JUSTICE



Community Legal Centres (CLCs) are independent community organisations that provide 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. They 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.

CLCNSW acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and Elders of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, past and present, on whose land CLCNSW works. CLCNSW also acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and Elders of the lands on which CLCs work throughout NSW and gives respectful recognition for their custodianship of Country.

Community Legal Centres NSW

About this report

Editor: Alastair McEwin, Executive Director, CLCNSW

Design: ARMEDIA

Printer: Mutual Printing

Published by: Community Legal Centres NSW Inc.

Contact us

Suite 805
28 Foveaux Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010

T: (02) 9212 7333
F: (02) 9212 7332
E: clcsw@clc.net.au
W: www.clcsw.org.au
Twitter: twitter.com/clcsw
ABN 22 149 415 148



Contents

Chairperson's report	4
CLCNSW State office report	7
CLCNSW Reconciliation Action Plan	11
At a glance: The work CLCs did in 2013/14	12
CLCs and Legal Aid NSW working together	14
Community Legal Centres in the spotlight	14
CLC awards and commendations	16
Our supporters	17
CLCs advancing human rights and justice	18
Educating the community about its legal rights	20
Improving access to justice for Aboriginal people and communities	22
Ensuring access to justice for people in rural, regional and remote (RRR) areas	23
Networks and working groups reports	25
Publications	29
Membership, governance and operations	31
CLCNSW membership 2013/14	31
Organisational structure	32
CLCNSW Board 2013/14	33
Community legal centres in the spotlight	34
CLCNSW Sub-committees and Working Groups 2013/14	35
CLCNSW State Office staff	36
2013/14 CLCNSW financial reports	37

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 member 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

Access to justice for all in a fair and inclusive community.

Purpose

CLCNSW leads and supports Community Legal Centres to deliver access to quality legal services and champion social justice.

Chairperson's report

Nassim Arrage



Nassim Arrage, CLCNSW Chairperson, at the opening of the 2014 CLCNSW Symposium. Photo: Chloe Wyatt.

It is my pleasure to present my first report as Chairperson of Community Legal Centres NSW (CLCNSW). I became chairperson in November 2013, following a three-year term by Anna Cody of Kingsford Legal Centre. I thank Anna Cody for her guidance and leadership of CLCNSW during some very challenging times.

I would like to acknowledge and pay respects to the Traditional Owners and the Elders of the land where CLCNSW is located, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, and further acknowledge that all CLCs are located on the traditional lands of different Aboriginal nations in NSW.

As in previous years, 2013/14 has presented a range of challenges and opportunities, at local, state and federal levels. Once again, funding issues have featured prominently, along with more reviews of legal assistance programs, and restrictions on our law reform and systemic policy work. The challenges have kept all us busy and I am pleased to report that CLC staff, CLCNSW staff and the CLCNSW Board have worked well together. I believe it is important to present a united front when confronting adverse challenges. CLCs have a long history and tradition of collaboration on common issues. Our activities for 2013/14, as reported in this year's annual report, are testimony to this.

Funding increases, then funding cuts

The 2013/14 year began with a real sense of optimism for the national CLC sector when we received from the then Attorney-General, Mark Dreyfus QC MP, an additional \$33.5m over four

years. This funding represented a 25% increase in Commonwealth funding for CLCs – the largest ever in many years. For a number of NSW CLCs this money was much needed and meant that they could keep their doors open. For all CLCs that were recipients of this money, it allowed some real long-term planning and the ability to provide some security of employment for staff. CLCNSW itself was a beneficiary of some of this money through a small grant towards its Accreditation Program for 2013/14. CLCNSW, along with all across the CLC sector, was encouraged by the confidence the then government showed in the work of CLCs.

It was then with a real sense of dismay to learn, as the year progressed, that the above funding, along with other CLC funding, would not continue into future years. While we appreciate that these are fiscally constrained times, these cuts will mean a necessary reduction in services and have drastic long-term consequences for all members of the community whose access to justice will be significantly reduced as a result. CLCs had used the promised 4-year funding to maintain and expand their services. As an example, Aboriginal workers were employed to commence outreach services in rural and remote areas. With the withdrawal of this funding, such employment is now either at risk or will cease at the end of June 2015.

At State level, programs funded by the NSW Public Purpose Fund (PPF) took a particularly deep cut, including a 27% reduction in funding to the Aboriginal Legal Access Program. Many CLCs rely significantly on PPF funding to run a range of programs, including outreach to remote areas, and information and advice to targeted groups in the community, such as older persons, ATSI communities and LGBTI people. We understand the cuts to range between 10% and 50%. Programs and CLCs affected include the Children's Court Assistance Scheme, EDO NSW, PIAC, and TARS. We also note that our colleagues in the justice sector have also been affected by the PPF cuts. These include our colleagues at Legal Aid NSW, the Law & Justice Foundation, LIAC, LawAccess and the Law Society. Regrettably, the CLCNSW Sector Development Program has had its entire PPF funding discontinued effective 1 July 2014. This has impacted on CLCNSW's ability to provide a comprehensive suite of professional development opportunities to the sector.

We are working with our member CLCs to support them as they manage their own funding cuts. Further, we are working with government and justice sector colleagues to address issues of sustainability of CLC funding. Over many years, CLCNSW has taken the position that the NSW Government, not the PPF, should provide core recurrent funding for CLCs. In these uncertain times for the PPF, we believe it is past time that the NSW Government makes a firm commitment to providing secure funding for CLCs, as

they work towards providing equal access to justice to those most vulnerable in the community.

Reviews of CLCs and other public legal assistance providers

As in previous years, CLC programs and service delivery have been the focus of government attention. This year, we saw the release of the report of the review of the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Legal Assistance Services and a lot of activity with the Productivity Commission's inquiry into access to justice arrangements.

The review of the NPA commenced at the end of 2011/12. The NPA provides Commonwealth funding to public legal services, including CLCs, legal aid commissions and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal services. The Review was undertaken by the Allen Consulting Group (now ACIL Allen Consulting). CLCNSW provided a response to the draft Evaluation Framework and participated in discussions with Commonwealth representatives, such as at Jurisdictional forums at the NLA meetings. The draft report was provided to the Rudd Government shortly before it went into caretaker mode before the 2013 election. After a long delay, it was finally released in July 2014. The report, unsurprisingly in our view, concluded that legal assistance service providers are, in the main, providing appropriate quality services to disadvantaged Australians.

In June 2013 the Australian Government announced that the Productivity Commission would examine how to improve access to justice in Australia. Amongst its terms of reference, the Commission was asked to look into an assessment of the real costs of legal representation and trends over time; an assessment of the level of demand for legal services; and the impact of the costs of accessing justice services, and securing legal representation, on the effectiveness of these services. CLCNSW, along with many of its member CLCs, NACLCL, other CLC State/Territory CLC associations, and legal assistance provider colleagues played an active role in the inquiry, including providing submissions to the issues paper and draft report, and appearing at its Sydney public hearing. At the time of this annual report, the final report has been completed and sent to the Australian Government for its consideration. We await its release in the near future.

Rollover of funding agreements for CLCs

CLCs in NSW are mostly funded through the tripartite Commonwealth-NSW Community Legal Services Program (CLSP) agreement, administered by Legal Aid NSW. At literally the last minute, we were advised that our funding effective 1 July 2014 would be rolled over for a further 12-month period. The agreements provided to CLCs for this period had a range of variations, a

number of which were significant in nature. The variation of most concern was the removal by the Commonwealth Government of law reform from the list of funded activities, as well as the removal of a clause which provided that Commonwealth agreements did not contain provisions that could stifle 'legitimate debate' or 'advocacy activities', including limiting an organisation's 'right to enter into criticism of the Commonwealth'.

CLCNSW naturally viewed this action on the part of the Commonwealth with concern. We believe that CLCs should have reasonably unfettered freedom to advocate on behalf of their clients; undertaking law reform is certainly a reasonable action to do so. It was therefore very pleasing to see the NSW Attorney General, the Hon. Brad Hazzard, allow for law reform activities to be included in the definition of State funded activities. We applaud him for his position on this and thank him for his support of CLC work in this area.

Launch of the CLCNSW Reconciliation Action Plan

In July 2014, I was delighted to be part of the launch of CLCNSW's Reconciliation Action Plan 2014-2017 (the RAP). The RAP has been developed to provide our organisation and our member CLCs with a clear way to develop and implement strategies that will enable us to address significant barriers that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples face in access to justice. We are committed to ensuring that the perspectives, values and experiences of CLC staff, clients and stakeholders are valued, respected and acknowledged in all levels of service delivery for CLCs. More details of the RAP are provided elsewhere in the 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 the annual report.

I thank staff for their efforts supporting, coordinating and leading the sector through their work for CLCNSW.

In looking ahead to 2014/15, there is no doubt that there are going to be some significant challenges as we start to see the consequences of the recent and ongoing funding cuts. We will continue to monitor and respond to the interest that the Australian and NSW Governments have in CLC activities, with particular regard to funding for CLCs. We also look forward to working with our member CLCs on all relevant issues, including the development of our new strategic plan to replace the current one which ends in June 2015.

Next year, 2015, marks 40 years since the CLC movement began in NSW. A small and committed number of legal and non-legal professionals got together in a community hall in June 1975 to

Chairperson's report (cont.)

Nassim Arrage

discuss how they could regain community control of legal services. From these humble beginnings began the establishment of community legal centres, commencing with Redfern Legal Centre in 1977. In 40 years we have withstood many challenges to our work; I have no doubt that we will continue to withstand and meet further challenges as they arise in the future.

Funding and support

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

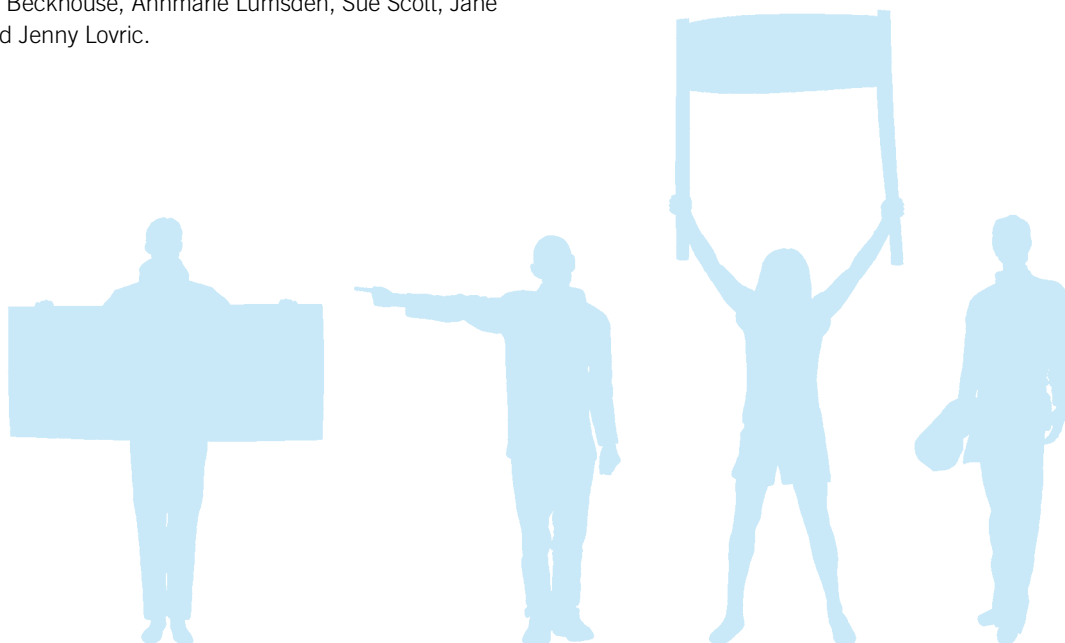
- The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, NSW Attorney General.
- Greg Smith SC MP, former NSW Attorney General.
- The Hon. Mark Dreyfus QC MP, former Federal Attorney-General, particularly through the allocation of new funding for CLCs in the 2013 Federal Budget.
- The Hon. Senator George Brandis QC, Federal Attorney-General.
- Mr Andrew Cappie-Wood, Secretary, NSW Department of Justice.
- Mr John McKenzie, Chief Legal Officer of the ALS NSW/ACT and Legal Aid Board member.
- Mr Bill Grant OAM, CEO of Legal Aid NSW.
- Ms Bronwyn McCutcheon, CLC Funding Program Manager, Legal Aid NSW, and her team of Mr Benjamin Dougall, Mr Alfred Swe, Ms Tanya Finneran and Ms Timika Williams.
- Ms Michelle Jones, Program Manager, Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Scheme.
- Staff at Legal Aid NSW; in particular Richard Funston, Monique Hitter, Kylie Beckhouse, Annmarie Lumsden, Sue Scott, Jane Cipants, and Jenny Lovric.

- The Trustees and Administrator of the NSW Public Purpose Fund.
- Mr Geoff Mulherin, Ms Jane Kenny, and the staff at the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW.
- Mr Michael Smith, National Convenor, Ms Julia Hall, Executive Director, and the staff of the National Association of CLCs.
- The staff at LawAccess NSW.

My thanks also to my fellow Board members for their expertise and commitment to CLCNSW over the past 12 months. I thank in particular Rachel Burns, who resigned as Treasurer in July 2014. Her oversight of the CLCNSW accounts and financial management was very much appreciated. I also acknowledge the work of the convenors and co-convenors of the CLCNSW networks and thank them for their commitment and dedication. If not for them, 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 CLCs in NSW for their ongoing commitment in delivering access to justice and without whom, many disadvantaged people and communities would not get the legal help they need.

Nassim Arrage
Chairperson



CLCNSW State Office report

The State Office of CLCNSW has 4 key result areas under its current strategic plan. The following programs carry out activities under these areas, with support from the State Office Executive Director:

- Aboriginal Legal Access Program
- Accreditation
- Advocacy and Human Rights
- Sector Development

Key Result Area 1

Promoting Community Legal Centres

Increased awareness and recognition of Community Legal Centres as unique and valuable contributors to the justice system.

We will:

- Discuss, identify and promote common features and characteristics unique to Community Legal Centres.
- Promote Community Legal Centres to the broader community.
- Be a leading public commentator on the value of Community Legal Centres.
- Raise awareness of Community Legal Centres to communities of most need.

Promoting community legal centres in the nation's Parliament

In March 2014, Alastair McEwin, Executive Director of CLCNSW, travelled to Canberra to promote the work and value of community legal centres. Working with colleagues from the Community Law Australia campaign, Alastair met with Members of Parliament to discuss the work that CLCs do, the importance of access to justice and the funding that is required to ensure that CLCs can provide this access to justice. He also attended a briefing co-hosted by Senators Sue Boyce, Lisa Singh and Penny Wright. At that briefing, to which all MPs were invited to attend, Community Law Australia explained what CLCs do, the unmet need for legal services, and the valuable contributions our staff, volunteers and pro bono partners make to the community. The briefing also talked about ways that staff in MPs' electorate offices can refer clients with legal problems to CLCs in their State or Territory.

In addition to the trip to Canberra, the Community Law Australia campaign has also for 2013/14:

- Raised awareness of the impact on CLC work of funding cuts and the restrictions on law reform and policy.
- Updated the "meet your MP" toolkit for CLCs.
- Had a "Day of Action". This generated a significant amount of involvement from CLCs and their supporters. The Facebook page reached over 15,000 people and a conservative estimate of 1,500

tweets (including retweets). To see the activity generated on Twitter, look for #unlockthelaw.

www.communitylawaustralia.org.au

CLCNSW 2014 Symposium

The CLCNSW Symposium 2014 was held on Wednesday 21 May at the Novotel hotel in Darling Harbour, Sydney, with over 100 delegates attending. The theme of the Symposium was 'Community Legal Centres: Advocates for Justice'.

This biennial event, known as the CLCNSW State Conference in previous years, was an opportunity to celebrate and affirm the progress and achievements of CLCs within the legal justice sector and the broader community. It brought together staff and volunteers from CLCs, community workers, academics, students, government representatives, members of the judiciary and lawyers from private and public sectors. Taking a broader human rights perspective, the symposium explored the current issues in the justice system, their impacts on disadvantaged and marginalised communities in NSW and considered strategies for ensuring accessibility and equity in the justice system.

The night before the symposium, delegates came together for a dinner at Rubyos restaurant in Newtown. Professor Simon Rice OAM, a long-standing 'pioneer' of the CLC movement, delivered the after dinner speech.

The day's proceedings commenced with a Welcome to Country by Donna Ingram, who has attended previous CLCNSW events. The Hon Brad Hazzard, NSW Attorney General, then opened the proceedings. He reassured CLCs that he supported their work, stating his door was 'always open' to hearing our views. His welcome was followed by the inaugural CLCNSW oration, delivered by Eva Cox, a leading commentator on social justice issues. Eva's talk was entitled "Creating a good society – social justice and the role of CLCs". Eva spoke about the importance of an ongoing dialogue with the government of the day and using a variety of strategies to ensure social justice issues are raised and made known.

Delegates then had the opportunity to attend concurrent sessions in the morning and afternoon covering a wide range of topics. These included: the effectiveness of policy and law reform activities; AVO Information and Advice Clinics; marginal workers; assessing the effectiveness of self help legal materials; using video technology to improve access to justice in RRR areas; festivals in RRR areas; ethical lawyering for community lawyers; supporting asylum seekers living in the community; improving access to justice for people with disability in rural areas; and creative partnerships with the private sector for the public interest.

The day concluded with a plenary session on surviving funding cuts



Delegates at the 2014 symposium. Photo: Chloe Wyatt.

and advocacy restrictions. It commenced with a keynote presentation entitled “How Low Can You Go: Whither Funding for Community Legal Services?” delivered by Dr Jennifer Neilsen. Following this, there was a panel discussion with additional perspectives provided by Mary Waterford, Western Sydney Community Forum, and Rhiannon Cook, NCOSS.

We thank our sponsors and exhibitors for their support of the event:

Platinum Sponsors:

- NSW Law Society
- Herbert Smith Freehills
- Minter Ellison

Gold Sponsors:

- Law and Justice Foundation of NSW
- Thomson Reuters
- Turner Freeman

Bronze Sponsors:

- Federation Press
- Corrs Chambers Westgarth
- LawAccess NSW
- College of Law

Exhibitors

- LawAccess NSW
- Federation Press
- College of Law
- Thomson Reuters
- Turner Freeman

Key Result Area 2

Raising awareness of access to justice issues

CLCNSW increases awareness of, and provides strategic responses to, issues concerning access to justice.

We will:

- Collaborate with our partners to identify and work on issues of access to justice.
- Facilitate research into unmet legal needs.
- Promote and facilitate innovative projects to increase access to justice.
- Be a leading public commentator on access to justice issues.

In 2013/14, CLCNSW supported two research projects, which resulted in the publication of two reports.

Adding Public Value: The integration of frontline services & law reform in the NSW Community Legal Sector

This report was prepared for Community Legal Centres NSW and the Financial Rights Legal Centre by Judith Stubbs & Associates.

The report seeks to understand, document and quantify the impact of linking policy and law reform as part of an integrated service provided by CLCs in NSW. It also seeks to test the claims made by the sector and academics in relation to the value of policy and law reform.

The study finds that policy and law reform activities undertaken by Community Legal Centres provide good value to society, are generally of high merit, and meet the social and economic objectives of government and the sector when assessed against key outcome measures.

This study also finds that there is an important role for the CLC sector in continuing its work in policy and law reform, integrated with front line services, to maximise the efficient use of resources, further the objectives of government, and support access to justice for all people, particularly those most disadvantaged in Australian society.

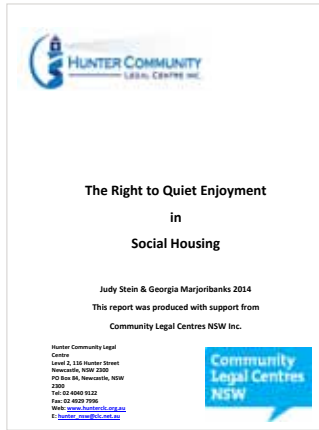
The report was launched in early November 2014 by the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG at Minter Ellison Lawyers in the Sydney CBD.

Available online at:

www.clcnsw.org.au/cb_pages/adding_public_value.php

The Right to Quiet Enjoyment in Social Housing

The Hunter Community Legal Centre (HCLC), with the support of Community Legal Centres NSW, recently researched the issue of neighbourhood disputes in social housing. The research involved surveying clients of the HCLC who lived in social housing who had identified as having had issues with a neighbour in the past, and reviewing the current Housing NSW policies that relate to



Reports: *Adding Public Value* and *The Right to Quiet Enjoyment in Social Housing*.

neighbourhood disputes.

The research suggests that the most common neighbourhood issue in social housing is verbal abuse, including threats and harassment, though survey participants also reported experiencing physical abuse, vandalism, theft, property damage, stalking, and noise complaints. The HCLC found that Housing NSW had a non-transparent complaints policy, was often reluctant to take action in response to tenant complaints, and participants felt that they “passed the buck” to police, often resulting in a cycle of referrals.

HCLC recommends that Housing NSW improve their complaints procedure and their communication with tenants, for example by way of a Housing Coordinator. Further recommendations include extra support for tenants with high needs, more attention paid to allocation of tenants and greater collaboration between tenants, landlords and the police.

Bronwyn Ambrogetti, HCLC Managing Solicitor, said: “The Hunter Community Legal Centre’s research into Social Housing and neighbourhood disputes arose out of our work with disadvantaged clients living in social housing in the Hunter. Our clients frequently find themselves involved in AVOs as applicants or defendants. Our research found that many of the disputes between neighbours could be avoided or reduced with better support for high needs tenants in social housing, and better communication between landlords and tenants. These findings and our recommendations were reflected in the report of the NSW Legislative Council’s Select Committee on Social, Public and Affordable Housing released in September this year.”

Available online at: www.clcnsw.org.au/cb_pages/the_right_to_quiet_enjoyment_in_social_housing.php

Key Result Area 3

Building the organisational capacity of Community Legal Centres in NSW

Community Legal Centres have increased capacity and growth to deliver services.

We will:

- Work with Community Legal Centres to continually improve the viability and quality of their services, including through the National Accreditation Scheme.
- Provide professional development opportunities based on sector-identified needs.
- Identify and deliver specific projects to increase capacity of staff and volunteers.
- Provide support, information and facilitate forums for Community Legal Centres in NSW.
- Maintain avenues for funding and develop strategies to diversify sources of funding.
- Maintain and grow the operations of the State Office of CLCNSW through best practice methods.

Accreditation

As of 30 June 2014, all active full members of CLCNSW were accredited under the National Accreditation Scheme. This means all CLCs in NSW have completed a self-assessment of their policies and procedures, had a site visit, and developed a workplan to, if applicable, address areas for improvement.

CLCNSW congratulates all members for their positive engagement and participation in the process. We appreciate that it can be an onerous and time-consuming one at times. We believe that ultimately all stakeholders, particularly our clients, will benefit as we all work towards best practice service delivery.

Inductions at State Office

CLCNSW runs induction sessions every three months at the State Office for staff and volunteers who are new to the CLC sector. Participants receive an orientation on the history and background of CLCs, funding, service delivery models, the wider justice sector, the State Office’s programs, and the work CLCs undertake.

These sessions are interactive, allow participants to learn from each other and are provided via Skype so that staff and volunteers from RRR CLCs can access the sessions on an equitable basis. Participants also have the option of attending a tour of LawAccess NSW’s premises and operations following the induction session.

Key Result Area 4

Leading and advocating for social justice

CLCNSW and Community Legal Centres actively participate in law reform and strongly advocate for social justice on issues affecting CLC clients.

We will:

- Undertake and collaborate on specific sector-identified campaigns on law reform and policy.
- Respond to law reform issues of significant injustice for communities of most need, especially Aboriginal communities.
- Position ourselves strategically to ensure the community legal sector's views are included in law reform and policy processes.
- Increase awareness amongst all Community Legal Centre staff and management, of the importance and value of systemic advocacy by Community Legal Centres.

CLC Aboriginal Family Law Day

Noting the importance of family law work in CLCs, CLCNSW hosted a 'CLC Aboriginal Family Law Day' in March 2014. The Honourable Judge Mathew Myers, Cheryl Orr (an Aboriginal solicitor), Ricky Welsh (manager of the Aboriginal Men's Shed), Tiffany McComsey and Uncle Manual Ebsworth (Kinchela Boys Home), Fran Doyle and Eloise Riches (Family Dispute Resolution, Legal Aid), and Alastair McEwin (CLCNSW Executive Director) addressed the participants in regards to what CLCs can do to assist in reducing the huge number of Aboriginal children going into care arrangements in NSW. At the end of the day, participants and speakers all agreed that the CLC Aboriginal Family Law Day should be an annual event.

Child protection legislation

In March 2014, the NSW Government passed the Child Protection Legislation Amendment Act. The Act focuses on parental obligations and for the first time imposes legislative timeframes for family restoration. It sets out the framework for Parental Responsibility Contracts, Parental Responsibility Orders and Parental Capacity Orders.

When the bill was first proposed in 2013, the CLCNSW Advocacy & Human Rights Officer and the CLCNSW ALAP Community Development Worker worked with the Care and Protection Working Group and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rights Working Group to raise concerns about the legislation and its impact on vulnerable families. Activities included:

- The development of an issues paper outlining concerns, which was sent to NSW MPs, asking for meetings.
- An open letter was sent to Minister Goward and media releases sent out.
- Meetings were held with MPs from Liberal, National, Labor, Greens, Christian Democrats and Shooters and Fishers Party. Meetings were attended by staff from Women's Legal Services NSW, Warringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre, Western NSW CLC, Far West CLC, Intellectual Disability Rights Service and CLCNSW (Executive Director, Advocacy and Human Rights Officer, and Aboriginal Legal Access Program Community Development Worker).
- Discussion occurred at meetings about amendments that could be made to the legislation to address concerns identified by NSW CLCs and CLCNSW.
- When the legislation was passed, CLCNSW expressed its concerns in a media release.

In the media release, CLCNSW Chairperson, Nassim Arrage said:

- 'The key to keeping children safe is helping parents understand how to keep their children safe. Community legal centres help families who don't understand what to do to keep their children safe. We are worried that this law will see more children removed, without families getting the support they need to keep children safe. This can make things worse for future children.'
- 'Vulnerable parents, with an intellectual disability or struggling with alcohol or drug addiction sometimes need substantial time and support to help protect their children. These laws do not recognise this.'
- 'People facing the prospect of losing their children have to be informed that free legal advice and support services are available.'
- 'Community Legal Centres wanted this law amended so that families facing children being removed were given contact details for free legal advice and support services. We also wanted the law amended so victims of violence were not prevented from keeping their family together due to the actions of perpetrators of violence.'

CLCNSW Reconciliation Action Plan 2014–2017

CLCNSW's Reconciliation Action Plan was launched in July 2014. Our vision for reconciliation is to address barriers in access to justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in NSW, thereby reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the justice system. Through the implementation of its Reconciliation Action Plan, CLCNSW reaffirms its commitment to growing and maintaining strong relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and to continuously developing partnerships that strengthen and empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

The Plan has four sections:

Relationships

CLCNSW acknowledges the importance of developing strong effective relationships based on mutual respect and trust. We recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander values, beliefs and cultures need to inform the services delivered by CLCs in order to maintain positive working relationships, and to fulfil the future goals and ambitions of CLCs, the community, and CLC stakeholders. The CLCNSW RAP will support our organisation's commitment for the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their cultures and a broader community understanding.

Respect

CLCNSW is committed to ensuring that the perspectives, values and experiences of CLC staff, clients and stakeholders are valued, respected and acknowledged in all levels of service delivery for NSW CLCs. We believe that respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures, lands, and histories, form an important basis to establish a safe and healthy environment that is sensitive towards the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As a legal sector, our written policies, and the practices that follow, enshrine our values and achievable goals. Our policies and procedures should ensure that respect is symbolic as well as practical.

Opportunities

CLCNSW is committed to providing real and meaningful employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at all levels of service delivery, and to progress and achieve individual and community goals, because we recognise and respect the wealth of knowledge and experience that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have as 'First Peoples' of Australia, and understand that their knowledge and experience contribute significantly to the goals and responsibilities of CLCNSW and CLCs throughout NSW. We are committed to creating a more inclusive and culturally appropriate environment that will ultimately create



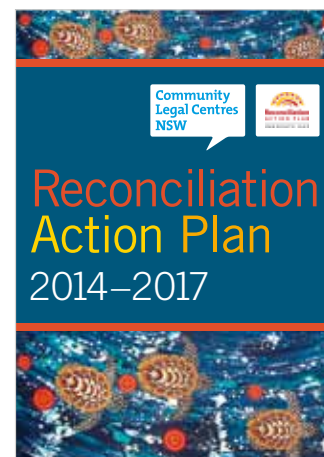
Launch of CLCNSW Reconciliation Action Plan 2014 – 2017, July 2014. Left to right: Judge Matthew Myers AM, Cheryl Orr, Shannon Williams, Zachary Armytage. Photo: CLCNSW.

increased quality and culturally appropriate legal services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Tracking Progress & Reporting

CLCNSW is accountable to its responsibilities. Tracking progress and reporting on successes and challenges assists us in evaluating and developing our strategies, work and outcomes.

Implementation of the Plan is being overseen by the RAP Working Group. The Working Group is made up of: CLCNSW Chairperson, Nassim Arrage; Executive Director, Alastair McEwin; the co-convenor of the CLCNSW Aboriginal Advisory Group, Shannon Williams, a Dharawal/ Woddi Woddi woman; the CLCNSW Aboriginal Legal Access Program Community Development Worker, Zachary Armytage, a Wiradjuri / Kuku-Thaypan man, raised on Bundjalung nation; and, representing interests from outside the CLC sector, Cheryl Orr. Ms Orr is a Gurang Gurang woman from Bundaberg, Queensland and a partner of Gonzalez and Co law firm. Ms Orr was awarded 'Indigenous Legal Professional of the Year 2014'. CLCNSW is delighted to have Ms Orr as a member of the RAP Working Group.



At a glance: The work CLCs did in 2013/14

In 2013/14, Community Legal Centres in NSW:

- Provided assistance to 54,746 clients.
- Provided a total of 69,623 advices.
- Opened 9,238 cases.
- Closed 8,723 cases.
- Of the cases closed, 1,161 involved court representation.
- Completed 1,384 community legal education ('CLE') projects.
- Completed 369 law reform and legal policy projects.

A comparison against the 2012/13 data reveals the following:

- The sector assisted approximately 1,647 more clients.
- Provided approximately 5,205 more advices.
- Opened approximately the same number of cases, however cases closed has dropped.
- Conducted approximately 120 more CLE projects.
- Law reform activities have declined by approximately 85. Our observation is that some of the singular law reform activities undertaken in recent years have been lengthy and taken up significant amounts of resources.

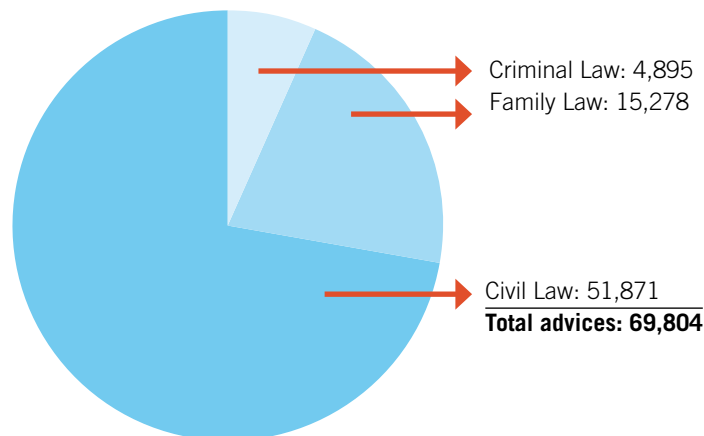
Of the clients that CLCs assisted:

- 10.3%** (5,833) were living in a sole parent family with dependent children living at home.
- 5.4%** (3,077) identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- 15.1%** (8,576) reported having a disability.
- 57.6%** (32,688) were female.
- 56%** (31,757) reported having either a low or no income (this means a weekly income under \$500 per week or annual income of less than \$26,000 per year).
- 24.9%** (14,107) reported as being 50 years of age or older.

Notes:

*Only CLCs that receive funding under the Community Legal Services Program ('CLSP') are required to collect data using the Community Legal Service Information System ('CLSIS') database, the program that generated the above data. That said, many CLCs in NSW report on activities to the CLSIS database funded through other sources (CLSIS allows for reporting of separate funded activities).

**These figures are an underrepresentation of the total number of work activities performed, and the total number of clients assisted, by all CLCs. Some CLCs are not funded under the CLSP and their services and client figures will not be represented here. Further, many CLCs that are funded through the CLSP, also receive funding from other funding programs or sources. That work does not have to be recorded in CLSIS – although it or some of it commonly is – and some of it is not. The client and services statistics of services provided with funding from sources other than the CLSP are in some cases recorded in other databases and are not included here.



Activities: number of advices by law type:

* Note: where an Advice has problem types across more than one Law Type, the Advice is counted once under 'Total Advices' and once under each of the applicable Law Types. Therefore the total number of advices across all law types may be greater than 'Total Advices', as it is in this case.

Top ten matters that CLCs did in 2013/14

No.	Matter type	Number of advices
1	Credit and debt*	13,521
2	Tenancy**	10,826
3	Contact and residency	8,068
4	Family/domestic violence	7,216
5	Consumer and complaints	5,865
6	Government pensions/benefits allowances	5,276
7	Motor vehicle	4,355
8	Employment	4,335
9	Offences against property and other offences	3,694
10	Immigration law	3,166

Notes:

* Approximately 57% of these advices were provided by the Financial Rights Legal Centre (previously known as the Consumer Credit Legal Centre (NSW)).

** The Tenants Union of NSW provided about 7.3% of these advices, including advices to tenancy advocates; the rest of these advices were provided primarily by Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Services located in CLCs.

What do CLCs in NSW look like?

In 2013, for the first time, NACLC undertook a national census of its member community legal centres. CLCs were asked to respond to questions on their organisation, ranging from topics such as governance, staffing, engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and use of technology. Based on responses, here is a 'snapshot' of what CLCs in NSW looked like for 2012/13:

44% of CLCs classified themselves as a generalist service (i.e. they serve a particular geographic community/area), with specialist programs.

35% of CLCs classified themselves as a specialist service.

21% classified themselves as a generalist service.

430 staff were employed in over 30 CLCs (an average of 14 per CLC).

45% (190) of these staff were employed full-time.

48% (210) of these staff were employed part-time.

7% (30) of these staff were employed on a casual basis.

82.6% The majority were female (82.6%), with 17.4% of staff being male.

44.7% The biggest group of CLC staff were lawyers (44.7% or 154 people).

Of the 32 NSW CLCs that responded to a question about having volunteers, 100.0% reported utilising the skills and expertise of volunteers. Across these CLCs, 1,370 volunteers contributed a total of 4,460 hours per week.

The 3 main categories of volunteers were:

- Lawyers (889 volunteers contributed 2,089 hours per week to CLCs)
- Law students (415 contributed 2,089 hours per week), and
- “Other” volunteers (42 contributed 349 hours per week).

The 3 main types of work undertaken by volunteers were:

- Direct legal service delivery (90.6% or 29 CLCs)
- Administrative support (65.6% or 21 CLCs)
- Law reform and policy (59.4% or 19 CLCs), and
- Community legal education (59.4% or 19 CLCs).

Of the 32 CLCs that responded to a question about working with pro bono partners, 78.1% (25 CLCs) reported having a pro bono partnership.

23,452 hours of pro bono assistance was provided to these 25 centres and their clients over the 2012/13 financial year including 21,820 hours from lawyers for direct service delivery to clients.

The 17 NSW CLCs that responded to a question about recording turnaways, reported that they had turned away a total of 6,934

people in the 2012/13 financial year because they could not assist them or provide them with a suitable referral.

The average proportion of NSW CLC clients identifying as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person was 11.7%, while the median was 6.0%.

42.0% (13 CLCs) have at least one Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identified position.

91.2% (31 CLCs) reported undertaking policy and law reform activities.

The main 3 forms of policy and law reform activities were:

- Preparing submissions to inquiries (93.5% or 29 CLCs)
- Writing letters to politicians (83.9% or 26 CLCs), and
- Promoting policy and law reform through face-to-face meetings with politicians and/or their staff (74.2% or 23 CLCs).

International students exploited in housing arrangements: CLC helps them navigate the rental market

Three international students from China, Yin, Zhen and Zi, moved into a central-city apartment together after seeing an advertisement for the property on a Chinese language website. They interacted primarily with a woman named Claire, who claimed she owned the property. Claire told the three girls that they could stay in the property until November 2013, and that rent was to be paid monthly into her bank account. The rental agreement did not mention the rental amount and Claire had signed the contract as both the landlord and the witness.

One day, Yin and Zhen both received text messages from Claire telling them to move out of the apartment within a fortnight. She claimed that because she was the owner she was entitled to evict them and she would call the police if they refused to leave. The girls felt very threatened.

The girls attended an appointment at Redfern Legal Centre (RLC) and were advised to seek information from Land and Property NSW about whether or not Claire was the real owner of the property. A title search revealed that she was not the registered owner. Yin and Zhen were advised by RLC that their eviction notice was not valid as it was in a text message, not written and signed as required by the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010*. Yin, Zhen and Zi were all advised about their right to move out of the property if they wished to.

Bearing this advice in mind, two girls decided to leave the apartment after receiving the text message. Claire initially tried to deduct \$100 from each of their bonds, though when Yin and Zhen showed her the certificate obtained from Land and Property NSW, Claire returned the full amount.

The experience of Yin, Zhen and Zi demonstrates the difficulties experienced by international students navigating the Australian rental market. Although the girls came into RLC distressed, their issues were able to be resolved and their full bonds were returned.

Source: **Redfern Legal Centre.**

CLCs and Legal Aid NSW working together



Closing plenary at the Symposium. Left to right: Dr Jennifer Nielsen, Rhiannon Cook and Mary Waterford. Photo: Chloe Wyatt.

Legal Health = Mental Health: Tackling the Unmet Civil Law Needs of People with Mental Illnesses

The Legal Aid NSW / CLC Partnership Program is a funding program for one-off projects which are undertaken in genuine partnership between at least one CLC and Legal Aid NSW for innovative and responsive projects which aim to provide access to justice for disadvantaged people in NSW. In recent years, due to funding constraints, Legal Aid NSW is now funding one major project per financial year.

For 2013/14, the project was a partnership between Central Coast CLC and the Gosford office of Legal Aid NSW. Entitled “Legal Health = Mental Health: Tackling the Unmet Civil Law Needs of People with Mental Illnesses”, the project aims to educate mental health caseworkers about the legal system and the nature of civil law issues in order that they may assist in triage and appropriate referral of legal issues faced by their clients. A Project Manager, working at Central Coast CLC, is co-ordinating the project for 18 months, via a three stage project approach.

The project includes consultation workshops with a range of mental health service providers in the Central Coast region; Community Legal Education (CLE) sessions delivered to mental health service providers; and advice clinics to clients referred from mental health service providers. The project arose due to the strong evidence base in support of the identified need to provide targeted legal assistance for those people experiencing mental health illnesses within the Gosford Region. It is expected that the project will improve the capacity of mental health caseworkers to identify legal needs and determine appropriate referral options for clients.

Community Legal Centres in the spotlight

Legal Help for Refugees Law Clinics

Run by Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS)

RACS is a specialist community legal centre that provides legal information and advice to asylum seekers and refugees. This unique and vital service works closely with a broad network of legal and inter-agency support services, including the client-based services of many other organisations such as the Red Cross, Amnesty International, the Asylum Seekers Centre, the House of Welcome, the Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS), the Immigration Advice and Rights Centre (IARC), Legal Aid NSW, the National Council of Churches and the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA).

The Legal Help for Refugees Law Clinic, an initiative of RACS, aims to provide free immigration legal assistance and advice to asylum seekers who arrived by boat after 13 August 2012. Over 27,000 asylum seekers have arrived by boat since this date. Many of these will not be able to access legal services because of the cessation of funding under the Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS) to those who did not arrive in Australia with a valid visa. RACS holds significant concern about the way in which prolonged delays and uncertainty are very likely going to negatively affect the ability of these asylum seekers to articulate their claims. The clinic provides the clients with the opportunity to receive expert assistance (from someone they can trust) in documenting their claims, assistance they would not otherwise receive due to the Federal government’s funding cuts. www.racs.org.au



Consumer Credit Legal Centre (NSW) changes its name



The Consumer Credit Legal Centre (NSW) (CCLC) is now known as the **Financial Rights Legal Centre**. The change is in name and logo only – its services remain the same.

The name Consumer Credit Legal Centre had served the organisation well, however it no longer captured the breadth of its services or areas of expertise. The organisation decided that there was a need for a name that had a better fit with what it does, and was easier to understand for consumers. Its clients and stakeholders also told it that the name CCLC did not clearly explain what it did as a legal centre and what consumers can expect from it when they call one of its advice hotlines.

www.financialrights.org.au

Festival of Respect

Coordinated by Far West Community Legal Centre

The Festival of Respect is a community strategy coordinated by the Far West CLC, based in Broken Hill. The events and activities included in the Festival are designed to inspire and empower the community and promote and record positive stories and messages about respect and kindness. Events have included Reclaim the Night March and Rally, Pink Breakfast, and Paws in the Park. The Festival of Respect was shortlisted for the Community Organisation Award in the 2014 ACON Honour Awards.

www.festivalofrespect.org.au



Broken Hill Christmas Pageant “ Diversity Float”. FWCLC staff, family, Warra Warra Legal Service and FWCLC Inc. Board Member Traci Lee Powles. Photo: Far West CLC.



CLC awards and commendations

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

2013 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 2013 CLCNSW award recognised an individual or a group of individuals who, in a voluntary capacity in a NSW Community Legal Centre, have demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving access to justice in NSW, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged people. This may have been demonstrated in a range of activities over an extended period, or in a single significant activity.

The 2013 winner was David McMillan. Mr McMillan has volunteered for Community Legal Centres since 1977, beginning this commitment at Redfern and Marrickville Legal Centres. He has been with Kingsford Legal Centre for 26 years, volunteering at the Centre every fortnight on a Tuesday night. In this time, he has provided over 1,550 quality advices to KLC's most socially and economically disadvantaged clients. He is seen as the heart of the KLC volunteer program and essential to its high quality community lawyering.



Longtime Kingsford Legal Centre Volunteer Dave McMillan (on right) receiving CLCNSW Justice award from then CLCNSW Chairperson Anna Cody, October 2013. Photo: Kingsford Legal Centre.



2014 CLCNSW Symposium. Left: Eva Cox AO delivering the inaugural CLCNSW Oration. Right: The Hon Brad Hazzard, NSW Attorney General opening proceedings. Photos: Chloe Wyatt.

HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (HALC) Volunteers

HALC volunteers were highly commended at the Justice Awards. Being one of the smaller Community Legal Centres with 4.5 staff in 2013, HALC is heavily reliant on its volunteers. HALC volunteers are a dedicated and committed team of law students, law graduates and solicitors who work tirelessly at the Centre to increase access to justice for people living with HIV.

Other nominees for the CLCNSW award were:

- Corrs Chambers Westgarth Pro Bono Secondee Program, Marrickville Legal Centre
- Illawarra Legal Centre's Volunteer Law Students (Thursday evening roster)
- Ms Suzie Leask and Ms Andrea Stolarchuk, Hunter CLC.

RLC Tenant Advocate wins People's Choice Award

RLC's Tenant Advocate Tom McDonald won the People's Choice Award at the 2013 TAAP (Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Program) Awards. The awards are part of the Regional Tenancy Network Meeting and celebrate excellence in casework and Tribunal advocacy. Tom's colleagues from across the state recognised his outstanding work in advocating for tenants, selecting him for the award for the second year running.

Our supporters

CLCNSW acknowledges and thanks the following organisations for their support, including pro bono, of our work.

Organisation/individual	Support
Aboriginal Legal Services NSW/ACT	Ongoing collaboration and discussions on issues of mutual interest
ACON	Venue for the Quarterlies
Ashurst	Assistance with office lease arrangements; review of constitution; other pro bono assistance
College of Law	Ongoing collaboration with the CLC Practice Management Course
Clayton Utz	Information and advice on sector issues; various other pro bono assistance
Gilbert + Tobin	Venue and catering for the Aboriginal Legal Access Program (ALAP) Yarn Up days; other pro bono assistance
Henry Davis York	Venue and catering for legal training days
Herbert Smith Freehills	Printing of CLCNSW induction kit; other pro bono assistance
LawAccess NSW	Access to orientation sessions for CLC staff; access to LawPrompt
Law & Justice Foundation	Access to, and analysis of, legal data and information through the Data Digest Online; other collaboration and partnerships
Law Society of NSW	Ongoing collaboration and discussions on issues of mutual interest
Legal Aid NSW	Access to the Learning Management System and professional development opportunities for CLC staff; Legal Aid / CLC partnerships program; numerous other support and assistance
Thomson Reuters	Royalty payments from sales of the Law Handbook to support activities of CLCNSW; Law Handbook Editorial Board

We also acknowledge and thank, with much appreciation, those CLC staff and volunteers who provided assistance and support for the quarterlies, such as convening the networks / working groups and providing training sessions.



The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG and a volunteer student at an Inner City Legal Centre student event. Photo: Inner City Legal Centre.



CLCs advancing human rights and justice

Law Reform and Policy Committee report

Fia Norton, Martin Barker, Cass Wong, co-convenors

The Law Reform and Policy Committee has continued to be very active in the previous 12 months.

Nassim Arrage (Mid-North Coast) stepped down from convening the Committee to take up his new role as Chair of CLCNSW. Cass Wong (Tenants' Union) has joined Martin Barker (Marrickville) and Fia Norton (Northern Rivers) as co-convenors of the Committee. The Committee met at the CLCNSW Quarterlies on four occasions in the previous financial year: in August 2013, November 2013, February 2014 and May 2014.

The Committee has continued to provide training on law reform at the Quarterlies, with the sessions proving popular. Training sessions held this year were Strategic Litigation, Parliamentary Committees & Submissions, and Government Information (Public Access) Act. Guest speakers have given presentations at each Committee meeting on current CLC law reform activities. These presentations have included Using CLSIS to Record Law Reform Activities, Reforming Sexting Laws and discussion about current law reform priorities.

The meetings continued to be used to share information about law reform and policy projects and issues that CLCs and/or the state office were working on. The discussions about law reform priorities provided guidance to the CLCNSW Advocacy & Human Rights Officer. The Committee's working groups on Discrimination, Review of Housing Decisions, Domestic Violence Framework, Child Protection, AVOs and Intellectual Disability and Sexting continued to report their work throughout the year. Other issues considered by the Committee included:

- Law Reform Economic Efficiency Research Project
- Foetal Personhood Law
- Mandatory sentencing
- Royal Commission in Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse
- Using CLSIS to record Law Reform Activities
- Creating a case study bank at your CLC
- Funding Principles
- Fair Work Act
- Victims Support Act
- National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Universal Periodic Review of Australia by UN Human Rights Council

The Convenors would like to give special thanks to Kerry Nettle, the CLCNSW Advocacy and Human Rights Officer for providing

practical support to the work of the Committee and its working groups, as well as her generosity in bringing her skills, knowledge and experience to law reform training.



PIAC Senior Solicitor Michelle Cohen and Gisele Mesnage, who has launched a claim of unlawful discrimination against the Coles supermarket website. Ms Mesnage, who is blind, is seeking changes to the website to make it accessible for people who are blind or vision impaired. Photo: PIAC.

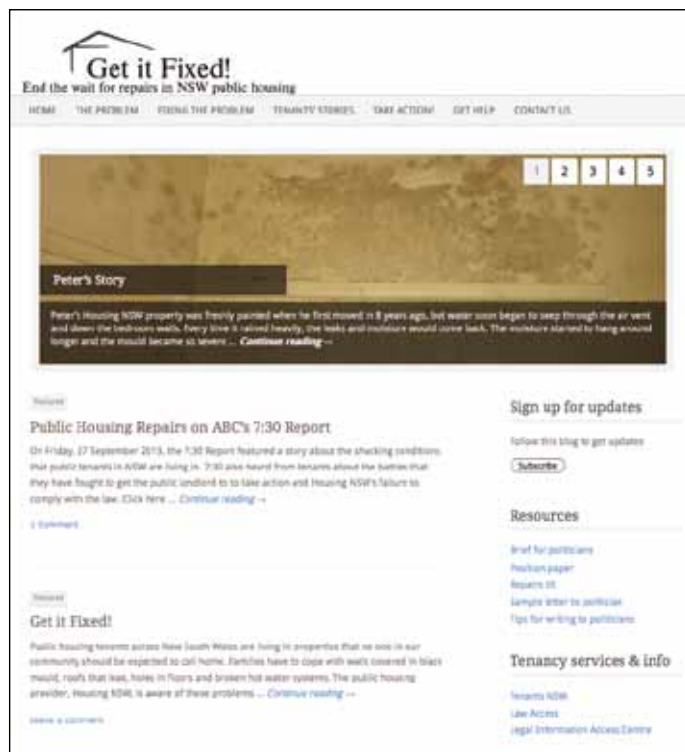
“Get it Fixed” website launches

Redfern Legal Centre is proud to be part of **Get it Fixed!** – a group of community organisations which has launched a website featuring tenants’ stories about their attempts to get Housing NSW to do repairs and useful information for tenants to get in contact with local services. Tenants can have their own stories heard by contributing material to the website:

www.getitfixednsw.com

RLC’s tenancy service has been approached by a large number of tenants with very serious maintenance and repair problems in their public housing properties. We are also seeing cases where Housing NSW has failed to carry out repairs, even when a tribunal has ordered that repairs be done. **Get it Fixed!** will help these tenants’ voices be heard.

Source: www.getitfixednsw.com



Getting his cash back: CLC helps asylum seeker in regional NSW

In 2013 Justice Connect established a new outreach legal service, MOSAIC (Migrant Outreach Services; Advice, Information and Community Education) that uses lawyers to provide pro bono legal advice and assistance to asylum seekers, refugees and recently arrived migrants on civil law issues including fines, debts, tenancy, insurance and employment issues. The service operates every Tuesday morning at Metro Migrant Resource Centre’s Ashfield office. Refugee Advice and Casework Service has also collaborated on the project and provides advice on protection, humanitarian and family reunion visas every fortnight.

MOSAIC has already provided advice to over eighty clients including Ali, an asylum seeker living in regional NSW who called MOSAIC in November 2013 in relation to the problems he was having at work with his foreman. Ali was working as a trolley collector at a local supermarket. However, when he started working at the supermarket he had been told by the foreman that he had to pay \$300 of his weekly wage back to the foreman. After a few weeks, Ali queried the arrangement with the foreman but was told he would be sacked if he did not pay the money. With the support of his caseworker, Ali contacted a lawyer at MOSAIC and explained his situation. While Ali was concerned about these payments, he ultimately just wanted to keep his job and was reluctant to say anything more to the foreman.

The lawyer wrote a confidential letter to Ali’s employer about these irregular payments but the employer ignored the confidentiality and the foreman saw the letter. Ali was sacked by the foreman just before Christmas.

The MOSAIC lawyer then lodged a claim with Fair Work Australia. At the hearing Ali’s employer agreed to reimburse Ali the money he had paid the foreman and an additional \$5,000 in compensation. Ali was also reinstated and the employer apologised to Ali.

Source: **Justice Connect**

Educating the community about its legal rights

Marrickville Legal Centre attends the Goodlife Music Festival

Marrickville Legal Centre operates a Youth Legal Service. This is a statewide service aimed at assisting young people between the ages of 12 and 24 with civil and criminal law matters.

The two Youth Legal Service solicitors, Kate Duffy and Liam McAuliffe, worked closely with Victoria Legal Aid to organise a stall in March 2014 at the Goodlife Festival, an under-18 music festival. The stall was staffed with the extraordinary help of Marrickville Legal Centre staff and volunteers. The weather was perfect on the day, and the crowd numbered over 15,000 young people. The stall was filled with information regarding online bullying and “sexting”, as well as more general information regarding fines, debt, traffic, and criminal law matters.

Additionally, the Youth Legal Service organised a photo booth with life-size cut-outs of celebrities Ryan Gosling and Jennifer Lawrence. The service also managed to procure a traditional “Polaroid camera” much to the amusement of the festival-goers who were not used to waiting so long for film to develop! Overall, the photo booth was well attended, and it was a fantastic opportunity for the Youth Law Service to have direct contact with over 800 young people from across New South Wales. The service did not provide legal advice to young people on the day, but instead focused on promoting general awareness of the service and also of young people’s rights and obligations in the community.

Community Legal Education Workers (CLEW) Group Report

Nalika Padmasena, Melanie Kallmier and Bronwyn Ambrogetti, co-convenors

One of the key elements of the work done by Community Legal Centres is in offering education to our communities. Education on all matters from specific legal topics to skills for non-lawyers is offered by most CLCs individually or in partnership with others. Features of the strength CLCs have in this field is our ability to be responsive to community need, to learn from each other about what works best, and to develop new ways of presenting education material to engage our communities effectively.

The CLEW network group is open to all community legal sector workers with an interest in community legal education, and is regularly attended by solicitors, CLE workers and Centre co-ordinators. We meet at the CLC Quarterlies to share ideas, inspiration and gain training to strengthen our capacity to deliver good education.



Solicitor Chris Owens from South West Sydney Legal Centre provides a seminar on “Driving and Traffic Offences” with an Arabic interpreter and translated material to members of the Mandaean community in Liverpool.

Photo: South West Sydney Legal Centre.

The CLEW group has been convened in true cooperative fashion by Nalika Padmasena (TARS), Melanie Kallmier (MNCCLC), and Bronwyn Ambrogetti (Central Coast CLC). Nalika has attended NLAf meetings on behalf of the group, and acted as chair for the Quarterly meetings, with Melanie providing secretarial and administrative backup and Bronwyn being a source of wisdom and inspiration. Average attendance at meetings has been between 10 and 20 people, with representatives from the Law and Justice Foundation and Legal Aid joining tenancy services, generalist and specialist CLCs from across the state to discuss CLE matters.

The meetings have hosted guest speakers such as:

- Georgia Marjoribanks – Hunter CLC (Interactive Theatre project for young people: Sexting and DV)
- Kirsty Harrison – Legal Aid (Animation under development for Sexting/Cyberbullying)
- Maria Nawaz – Kingsford (CLE to Marginal Workers + evaluation)
- Nick Scully – Central Coast (Evaluation of CLE/Advice project at the local court).

We also shared ideas of what activities work at community outreach events such as NAIDOC, Harmony Day or Anti-Poverty Week.

Some specific CLE projects that were highlighted during the year included:

- TARS legal outreach project to CALD communities in Western Sydney and Griffith
- Far West CLC – developing their own community workers advocacy program
- Illawarra Legal Centre – project on burials and end of life called “Community Undertakings”
- RACS – CLE (using interpreters) on changes to immigration law
- Inner City Legal Centre – LGBTIQ “Safe Relationships” project in regional areas.

The CLEW Group is also considering ways that metropolitan and regional, generalist and specialist CLCs can work together to promote the work that CLCs do. This is an idea still being kicked around, as we all grapple with budgets and deadlines – but we’ve considered ideas from travelling roadshows to youtube. Stay posted for the outcomes of our discussions!

Training

One of the consistent themes that all CLE workers report is dealing with the need for evaluation. We’ve discussed methods and approaches, and learned from each other about the best formats to use for different groups of people. We are all working to implement the new ideas shared by group members.

Other meetings

CLEW Co-convenor Nalika Padmasena represents the CLEW network at a number of other meetings, including:

- The Legal Information and Referral Forum (LIRF), a statewide network which aims to improve legal referral pathways and access, and reports to the NSW Legal Assistance Forum
- NLAFF training and development group
- National CLEW network at the Annual National Association of CLC’s conference.

The CLEW group values involvement in these networks to maintain our connection with legal education delivered by other professionals in the field. We continue to look for ways to learn and develop our practices, and also see that connection as an opportunity to provide information to peak organisations about the kinds of issues we see on the ground.

Through its involvement with people at the forefront of CLE at many levels, the CLEW network acts as a link for workers in the public legal sector to gain skills and ideas, and to be inspired to continue working to promote access to justice for our communities. The Convenors this year remain committed to broadening opportunities for all CLE staff, and welcome feedback and support from the sector.



Improving access to justice for Aboriginal people and communities

Redfern Legal Centre video: “Tidda’s Marumal: A time to heal, take my hand”

In a video, funded by the City of Sydney, “Tidda’s Marumal: A time to heal, take my hand”, Redfern Legal Centre’s Sydney WDVAS Aboriginal Specialist Worker, Charmaine Weldon, talks about help that is available for women and children dealing with family and domestic violence.

Looking back, she says: “I wish I knew all those services were available when I was experiencing domestic violence. I did it solely. It was hard. I had nobody to talk to.”

Her message is: “Access those services, don’t fear them. You’re not alone. Never think you’re alone.”



Aboriginal Advisory Group report

Gemma McKinnon and Shannon Williams, co-convenors

The members of the Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG) of CLCNSW are the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff of the CLC sector in NSW.

The 2013/14 key actions of the AAG have been:

Yarn Up

The quarterly CLCNSW Yarn-up and Training Day, supported by Gilbert + Tobin, is the primary mechanism utilised by the AAG to support its members and develop strategic actions in the areas of appropriate referral pathways, law reform and achieving cultural change in the CLC sector.

Each Yarn Up starts with every member discussing the achievements and challenges of their responsibilities. Such discussion invites a ‘trouble-shooting’ style conversation that serves to provide solutions to identified issues. The discussion also serves as the AAG’s mentoring program, as the experience of the participants is effectively shared and demonstrated where it is needed.

A selection of training and consultations Yarn Up participants have been involved in this year include, Medical-Legal Partnerships, Constitutional Recognition submission consultation, Aboriginal Family Law, Tenants Union update and feedback.

One of the key successes of the Yarn-up has been its stabilising influence on the retention rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff in the CLC sector. It is regularly commented by participants that the support and training provided at the Yarn-Up is much needed.

Policy review

The AAG was the primary consultative group for the CLCNSW Reconciliation Action Plan. The AAG also undertook a review of the Aboriginal Employment Strategy, and provided an important voice to discussions regarding legal assistance funding.

Contribution to law reform submissions

The AAG contributed to CLCNSW law reform submissions by developing positions on issues, submitting case studies, and acting in a consulting role. The efforts in law reform concerned areas such as child protection, consorting laws, constitutional recognition, Australia’s UPR recommendations, and victims compensation.



2013 Koori Touch Football Day. Under the Shoalcoast CLC shelter (left to right): Caryn Carpenter (ALAP worker), Zachary Armytage (CLCNSW) and Barry Penfold (Shoalcoast CLC Principal Solicitor). Photo: Shoalcoast CLC.

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

Expanding regional legal assistance: from Armidale to Coffs Harbour

In partnership with the Coffs Harbour Neighbourhood Centre, Redfern Legal Centre expanded its Regional Legal Assistance Program to deliver free legal advice via webcam to people living in Coffs Harbour.

Coffs Harbour is an area that, until now, has not been serviced by any community legal centre. RLC solicitors held appointments via webcam on Wednesday evenings, connecting with clients using computers at the Coffs Harbour Neighbourhood Centre and with clients using their home computers. Residents of Coffs were able to receive advice on police and government complaints; credit, debt and consumer complaints; employment matters and discrimination.

The expanded service was launched in December 2013 in Coffs Harbour by Jenni Eakins, Director of Community Development at Coffs Harbour City Council. The service is part of the Federal Government's push to promote greater access to legal services in regional Australia.

RLC solicitor and coordinator of the Regional Legal Assistance Program Kate Gauld said, "As the oldest community legal centre in New South Wales, our top priority has always been assisting people to assert their rights and access justice. We're thrilled to be working with the Neighbourhood Centre and the people of Coffs to do just that."

Coffs Harbour Neighbourhood Centre Manager Anna Gleeson commented, "From what we see in the community, there is a real need for free and accessible legal advice here in Coffs. While



Farmer, and member of the Maules Creek Community Council (MCCC), Rick Laird talks to EDO NSW solicitor Belinda Rayment on his property near Narrabri. The group took legal action against the proposed Whitehaven coal mine to stop forest clearing during hibernating and breeding seasons for wildlife. Photo: Dean Sewell.

the local services provide invaluable assistance, there's always a constant demand for more. We're very excited to be using this technology to help reach more people and address their needs."

Legal Education for Sex Workers in Newcastle

Solicitors from Hunter CLC developed a workshop for sex workers in Newcastle. The workshop included a presentation on the rights and obligations of sex workers, time for question and answer, and the option for workers to complete a "Legal Health Check".

The workshop took place at the ACON's Newcastle office, and covered topics such as employment rights and duties, council planning policies and police powers as they relate to sex workers. Prior to the workshop, an outreach worker from ACON had collected questions and current concerns from sex workers in Newcastle, and the presentation was largely structured to address those concerns.

The workshop was well received, with a high level of participation from the workers and ACON staff who attended. The Hunter CLC would like to acknowledge the assistance of ACON, the Inner City Legal Centre and solicitors from local law firm McCullough Robertson in developing the workshop.

Rural, regional and remote CLCs network report

Kim Richardson, Convenor

The Rural, Regional and Remote (RRR) Network gives a voice for RRR issues within the CLC sector. RRR Network meetings at the Quarterlies have been well attended during the last 12 months, with lots of active discussion on the issues and difficulties facing RRR CLCs.

Discussion of funding has become a standing agenda item at the RRR Network meetings which goes to highlight the importance of this issue for RRR Centres and the struggles that are faced by RRR CLCs in securing sufficient funding to ensure effective service delivery.

In addition the RRR Network Meetings have focused on knowledge sharing and providing a platform to members to promote their centres and activities. The RRR Network Meetings provide a great opportunity to learn about all the fantastic work that RRR Centres are embarking upon or have achieved throughout the year.

April 2014 saw Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre hosting the second annual RRR Roadshow. The fantastic work of Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre was showcased and the Roadshow included a road trip to see the Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre's Murwillumbah office.

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



RRR CLC staff at the RRR Roadshow hosted by Northern Rivers CLC, April 2014. Photo: Shoalcoast CLC.

The Roadshow is a fantastic opportunity for RRR CLC workers to see firsthand how another CLC copes with the tyranny of distance in service provision and generally to see how another CLC does their stuff. Representatives of each RRR CLC were in attendance along with representatives from a number of state-wide CLCs. This year's RRR Roadshow also showcased the great work of Far West Community Legal Centre in organising the Festival of Respect (www.festivalofrespect.org.au) which was incredibly inspiring. I am sure that I am not alone in thinking that the Festival was an inspiring success and a great community builder for the Far West.

For me, one of the highlights of this year's RRR Roadshow was learning about how the Northern Rivers community has mobilised to protest against CSG mining in the Northern Rivers including the development of the Lock the Gate Alliance and the blockade at Bentley. The trip to visit the blockade at Bentley was truly inspiring (www.lockthegate.org.au).

The RRR Network Facebook group is chugging along and is a place for RRR CLC workers to post and share their thoughts, information and resources.

Network and working groups reports

Domestic Violence and Victims Compensation Subcommittee report

Kate Duffy and Rachael Martin, co-convenors

The Domestic Violence and Victims Compensation Sub-Committee 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.

Victims Compensation

The *Victims Support and Rights Act 2013* (the Act) introduced a new victims support scheme to the state in June 2013. Much of the sub-committee's work focused on raising our many concerns with the new scheme. During this year we did the following:

- Wrote to the Attorney General about Clause 16 of the *Victims Rights and Support Amendment (Transitional Provisions) Regulation 2013*, which sought to remedy the uncertainty of the application of the new Act when determining appeals of assessments made under the repealed legislation. We were concerned that people did not seek an appeal of their decision thinking that it would be assessed under the new Act, with poorer outcomes. There was no notice given about the regulation and there was only short window to lodge an appeal to be considered under the more beneficial repealed legislation. CLCNSW recommended that a supplementary regulation be introduced to enable any relevant applicants the opportunity to appeal their decisions under the repealed legislation, and that this regulation be well publicised by Victims Services.
- Met with the Acting Commissioner of Victims Rights, Mahashini Krishna, to raise a number of concerns about the operation of the new scheme.
- Provided information about our concerns about the new scheme to politicians for Budget Estimates.
- Met with the NSW Law Society to discuss our concerns about the new scheme.
- Wrote to the Attorney General and the Acting Commissioner at the 12 month anniversary of the Act about a number of concerns we have about the legislation, and its' impact on victims. In this letter we made a number of recommendations about how to improve the scheme including legislative amendments.

Domestic Violence

The Sub-Committee continues to be a productive space for members to be updated on legislative reforms occurring in NSW. Major reforms in Domestic and Family Violence and Child Protection were focused on in particular.

DVF Reforms

2013/2014 saw the launch of the Domestic and Family Violence Reforms which is the NSW jurisdictional response to the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children*. These major reforms are changing how NSW Police and other government services respond to domestic violence. The Sub-Committee had raised concerns during the consultation period about aspects of the reforms, specifically over information sharing without informed consent. The Sub-Committee continues to raise these concerns and is now monitoring the implementation and roll out of the reforms.

Child Protection Reforms

The Sub-Committee also discussed the Child Protection legislation reforms and raised concerns about the legislative timeframes for permanent adoptions: 6 months if child is under two and 12 months if child is over 2. The Sub-Committee supported the CLCNSW issues paper that was sent to MPs addressing concerns that CLCs have with the legislation. The legislation was passed without amendments and the Sub-Committee will monitor outcomes from the new legislation as it commences in October 2014.



NSW domestic violence reforms stakeholder meeting. Left to right: Robyn Auld, Jacqui Swinburne (acting CEO Redfern Legal Centre), Susan Smith, Michelle Jones, and Mahashini Krishna. Photo: Redfern Legal Centre.

Network and working group reports (cont.)

Practice and Indemnity Insurance (PII) Committee report

Janet Loughman and Dianne Hamey, co-convenors

The Practice and Insurance Committee is made up of representatives from all CLCs in NSW and meets at each of the quarterly meetings. Attendance at quarterly meetings by each CLC Principal Solicitor or their delegate is a condition of membership of CLCNSW. Thank you to everyone who attends and contributes to these meetings.

All CLCs agree to comply with practice management standards and the Committee performs an essential role in reviewing and discussing legal practice issues to improve risk management in NSW CLCs. The National Risk Management Guide provides the standards and commentary for compliance, as well as the system for annual cross-checks of CLC legal practice systems.

We continue to have the sub-committee that was formed in 2013, consisting of the Convenors, Grant Arbuthnot (Tenants Union), Nassim Arrage (Mid North Coast CLC), Ken Beilby (Northern Rivers CLC), Elizabeth Morley (Redfern Legal Centre) and Rachael Martin (Wirringa-Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre). We thank them for their assistance with meetings, preparing materials, following up agenda items and being a valuable sounding board for us.

Dianne Hamey (Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre) became a Co-convenor in July 2013, filling the vacancy arising from the resignation of Katrina Ironside.

Work carried out this year has included:

- Finalising the Information Barriers Paper and Guidelines for CLCs in multi-agency programs (approved by the Board of CLCNSW in August 2013);
- Working with the CLCs who are part of a multi-agency program to commence compliance processes to meet the Information Barriers Guidelines;
- Mentoring new principal solicitors in risk management systems for CLCs;
- Reporting to the Board of CLCNSW regarding PII issues;
- Working with the National PII Committee, in particular to oversee the national insurance arrangements, review a small number of provisions in the Risk Management Guide and streamline the cross check questionnaire, following consultation with members;
- Presenting a training session at the College of Law Practice Management Course on PII and risk management issues for CLCs;
- Convening the CLCNSW PII quarterly meetings for Principal Solicitors including organising relevant training at the meetings;

- Liaising with Legal Aid NSW and the Law Society about legal practice issues impacting on CLCs;
- Liaising with CLCNSW about relevant sector training for solicitors;
- Overseeing the annual cross check of all centres in NSW, and
- Supporting individual centres in practice management issues.

Coordinators / Directors / Sector Development Network

Daniel Stubbs and Kerry Wright, co-convenors Ken Beilby, Sector Development board position

As coordinators and directors of Community Legal Centres are increasingly called on to undertake an ever-widening array of tasks to keep our services running, good information sharing and collaboration is important to our success. Members of the Coordinators and Directors Network this year reported that their roles included things like: funding contract negotiation, staff counselling, office maintenance, disaster response, animal welfare, event management and fundraising. Then there's the every-day matters of human resources, finance, governance, volunteer coordination and so on.

Some of the bigger issues discussed and debated by the Network included:

- The NSW Attorney General's 'funding guidelines' and how/whether this will restrict the law reform work of CLCs;
- Changes and new areas of work in Legal Aid's Civil Law Division and how CLCs would work with Legal Aid in areas of law traditionally provided by CLCs;
- Whether certain CLC workers should get working-with-children checks;
- The 'Red Tape Review' by NSW Department of Justice;
- Changes to the Associations Incorporations Act NSW;
- New approaches to recruitment to ensure we bring in the right people; and
- Funding cuts, funding uncertainty and contract frustrations.

It was a lively, energetic and inspiring year to work with this wonderful, talented group of people. The convenors are grateful for all their contributions and look forward to an even better 2014/15.

Sector Development subcommittee (CLCNSW Board subcommittee)

The Sector Development (SD) Subcommittee in 2013/14 was made up of Ken Beilby (Chair), Truda Gray (Illawarra LC), Julie Foreman (Tenants' Union) and Kerry Wright (Shoalcoast LC), who worked alongside Greg Dwyer as the Sector Development Coordinator and Alastair McEwin, Executive Director, during this year to deliver a number of outcomes in accordance with our workplan. In particular we met regularly to discuss the upcoming quarterly agenda and training days. These were held at a new venue this year and continued to be well attended by workers and volunteers representing all CLCNSW member services.

Two key projects were the focus of SD subcommittee meetings in 2013/14. The first was the development of a Sector Development Definition and Internal Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of CLCNSW training activities. These were circulated to the sector and published on the website in September. The new guidelines note that the CLCNSW SD Program exists to support the sustainability and development of the CLC sector in NSW. Its aims are to:

- Strengthen the organisational capacity of and relationships within the sector,
- Support the systemic and strategic needs of the sector, and
- Facilitate the work and career development for all staff including volunteers by providing life-long learning opportunities to equip them with the skills and knowledge to address the needs of their clients.

The other project was the one-day Symposium held in May. The SD Committee assisted with designing the theme for the day and assessing abstracts submitted for sessions on the day. A report on the success of the Symposium is within this Annual Report.

Of course the devastating news received by CLCNSW this year was the decision by the Public Purpose Fund to cease our annual SD Program Grant. This then led to the resignation by Greg Dwyer from the SD Coordinator role. Greg was a valuable employee of CLCNSW, who contributed greatly to the development and outcomes of the SD Program due to his energy, commitment and connections within the legal sector. We thank him for his time at CLCNSW and he will be missed from this role.

Administrators and Finance Officers working group report

Rachel Burns and Leanne Hosking, co-convenors

In the last year the Administrators and Finance Officers meetings at the Quarterlies continue to provide an excellent forum for attendees gain knowledge, exchange ideas and support each other in their roles.

This year we have covered topics, either by discussion or speaker, including banking and EFT, superannuation clearing houses, fringe benefit expense options, Legal Aid Commission reporting requirements, asset maintenance, accreditation and taxation matters.

At the final meeting for the year a recommendation for professional development of administration and finance staff was adopted. This recommends that staff undertake 30 hours professional development per year (pro-rata for part-time staff) from a range of options including seminars, workshops, journal and newsletter reading and attendance at professional meetings.

Many thanks to all who attended the meetings. The support of CLCNSW is particularly acknowledged.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rights working group report

Zachary Armytage, convenor

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rights Working Group meetings at the Quarterlies provide an excellent opportunity for CLC sector members who work to create change in the concerned area to meet to develop ideas and strategies, influence and educate the CLC sector, and support each other in an area that is difficult to achieve small social justice wins. Zachary Armytage acts as Convenor but all attendees provide substantial contributions to the work of the group.

An example of the items undertaken this year were; child protection and use of family law courts, indefinite detention of persons with FASD, constitutional recognition, clients of suspect target management program, and law reform training.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rights working group is open to all CLC staff. If you join our group you will receive a warm welcome and find support in the shared areas of work.

Network and working group reports (cont.)

Employment lawyers forum report

Maria Nawaz and Susan Su, co-convenors

The Employment Law Network is a relatively new network for CLCNSW, but engagement with the network has grown steadily over the past year, with the meetings regularly attended by 10-15 CLC staff at each quarterlies.

This year, we focused on building the capacity of CLCs without specialist employment lawyers to provide employment law advice and undertake employment law casework. We provided training on unfair dismissal and general protections (delivered by Maria Nawaz of Kingsford Legal Centre) and the new anti-bullying provisions (delivered by Larissa Andelman, barrister). The meetings also provide an opportunity for practitioners to discuss their employment law matters and seek guidance on how to proceed.

Through the network, we have increased knowledge of employment law among CLC workers, and have also developed strong working relationships so that practitioners can call more experienced employment lawyers in the network for advice on their matters.

In the coming year, we intend to continue increasing the capacity of CLC lawyers to provide employment law advice and conduct casework through further training. The network also intends to collaborate on law reform work.

Prisoners' Rights Working Group Report

Carolyn Jones and Kellie McDonald, co-convenors

The Prisoners' Rights Working Group has a good balance of members from metro, RRR and specialist centres who are committed to advocating for the rights of prisoners and to meet their legal needs in the criminal, civil and family law jurisdictions.

Areas of interest throughout the year have been many and varied, including the consorting provisions in the Crimes Act, child protection legislative reforms, Royal Commission visits to correctional centres, and the prisoner intake process.

We also considered the very concerning increase in the overall prison population, and particularly the over representation of Aboriginal people in custody, for example, Aboriginal women represent approximately 37% of the total female prisoner population. In August 2013 we welcomed the Manager of the Corrective Services Library Services to lead us in an interactive tour of the Prisoners' Legal Portal.

Members of the PRWG are also active members of related interagency and consultative groups, including the NLAFF Prisoner's Forum, the Corrective Services Women's Advisory Council and



Liz Pinnock, former Hunter CLC Managing Solicitor (left), with Elizabeth Broderick, Sex Discrimination Commissioner, at a community consultation on sex discrimination held at Hunter CLC. Photo: Hunter CLC.

the Corrective Services Legal Practitioners Consultative Group. This allows issues raised by the PRWG to be advocated in these forums and with Corrective Services directly, which has resulted in proactive measures, such as earlier referrals for legal advice for pregnant women in custody.

The rights of prisoners have always been a focus of the CLC community and we thank attendees for their continued active interest in this area and are always happy to welcome new members.

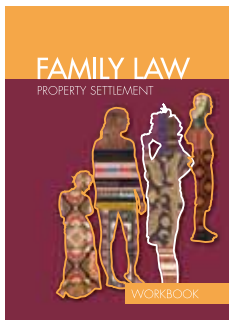
When she talks to you about the violence – a toolkit for GPs in NSW



It is estimated that GPs are seeing up to five women per week who have experienced physical, emotional or sexual abuse by an intimate partner and that over 1 in 5 women make their first disclosure of domestic violence to their GP. To help GPs identify potential family violence issues in their patients, Women's Legal Services NSW (WLSNSW) produced a Domestic and Family Violence Toolkit and poster for doctors to be distributed across NSW. The Toolkit gives information and practical guidance to GPs and healthcare professionals about identifying and responding to women and children who may be experiencing family violence. The Toolkit is accompanied by a poster to be displayed in doctors' waiting areas to encourage victims of family violence to feel comfortable disclosing to their doctor about any violence they may be experiencing at home.

www.itstimetotalk.net.au/gp-toolkit

Family Law Property Settlement Workbook



Produced by Shoalcoast CLC, the Workbook is a resource for clients dealing with Family Law Property Settlements. The publication, adapted from one produced by the North Queensland Women's Legal Service, is a practical workbook to assist clients with the four-step process involved in property settlements which they can use during mediations and or lawyer negotiations. It includes a glossary of

terms used in Family Law as well as information about Family Law Property Settlements and how these are made legally enforceable, when there is Family Violence as well as Immigration information for people with Temporary Partner Visas.

Shoalcoast CLC has also translated a summary sheet about the contents of the Workbook into six languages: Arabic, Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Persian and Thai.

www.shoalcoast.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/FLPWorkbook_web.pdf

DVD: Looking after Family



The Far North Coast of NSW has a comparatively high rate of removal of Aboriginal children from their parents by the Department of Family and Community Services (previously DOCS). As part of the Aboriginal family law project, Northern Rivers CLC produced a DVD 'Looking after family'. The DVD attempts to encourage Aboriginal families to use family law and to show the potentially vast difference in outcomes between the Children's Court and Federal Circuit Court.

www.lookingafterfamily.org.au

Speak Up To End Violence Against Women website



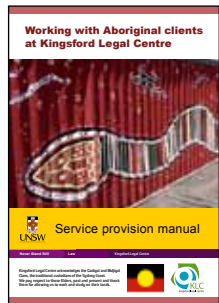
Women's Legal Services NSW (WLSNSW) has launched a mobile website, Speak Up To End Violence Against Women. The website, which has the functionality and feel of a phone App without needing to be downloaded onto a device, has dual functions. First, it is a comprehensive Australia-wide

service directory where individuals and organisations can find help for women escaping violence. The second function of Speak Up is to start a national conversation about violence against women to

put this issue on the forefront of the public agenda. Individuals or organisations are invited to finish the sentence “we could reduce violence against women if...” All responses are anonymously published on the website and are collated by WLSNSW. These comments will form a publically available annual report and will inform WLSNSW’s law reform and policy work.

www.speakup.org.au.

Kingsford Legal Centre Aboriginal Service Provision Manual Launched



In November 2013 Kingsford Legal Centre (KLC) launched its Aboriginal Service Provision Manual. The manual, written by the Centre’s Aboriginal Access workers, gives vital guidance to staff, students and volunteers about how to work effectively with the local Aboriginal community.

Understanding the history of Aboriginal people in its local area is key to ensuring accessible services to the Centre for

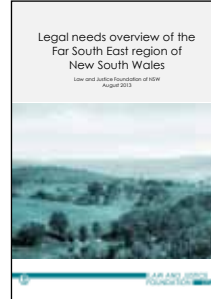
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This resource will help KLC’s volunteer solicitors, students and other service providers to provide services in a culturally appropriate way to the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

www.klc.unsw.edu.au/sites/klc.unsw.edu.au/files/klc_aboriginal_service_provision_web.pdf



Launch of Kingsford Legal Centre’s Aboriginal Service Provision Manual. Left to right: Aboriginal Access Worker Kaleesha Morris, ex KLC Aboriginal Access Worker Ron Timbery, KLC Director Anna Cody, UNSW Law Faculty Dean David Dixon. Photo: Kingsford Legal Centre.

Legal Needs of the Far South East region of NSW



This report provides an overview of the legal needs of socio-economically disadvantaged people living in the Far South East communities of Cooma-Monaro, Snowy Rivers, Bombala and Bega Valley local government areas. Data from various sources was used to prepare the analysis including the ABS Census and the Law and Justice Foundation’s Legal Australia-Wide Survey. The Foundation provided an in kind grant using their staff to produce the report.

The major findings will be used by Shoalcoast CLC and agencies located in the South East to raise awareness about the demographics of the area and how the legal needs of identified groups are currently not being addressed through a lack of funding for publicly funded legal services in the area.

www.lawfoundation.net.au/ljf/app/&id=9010E40A586C7714CA257BE90013DE70



Membership, governance and operations

CLCNSW Member Centres 2013/14

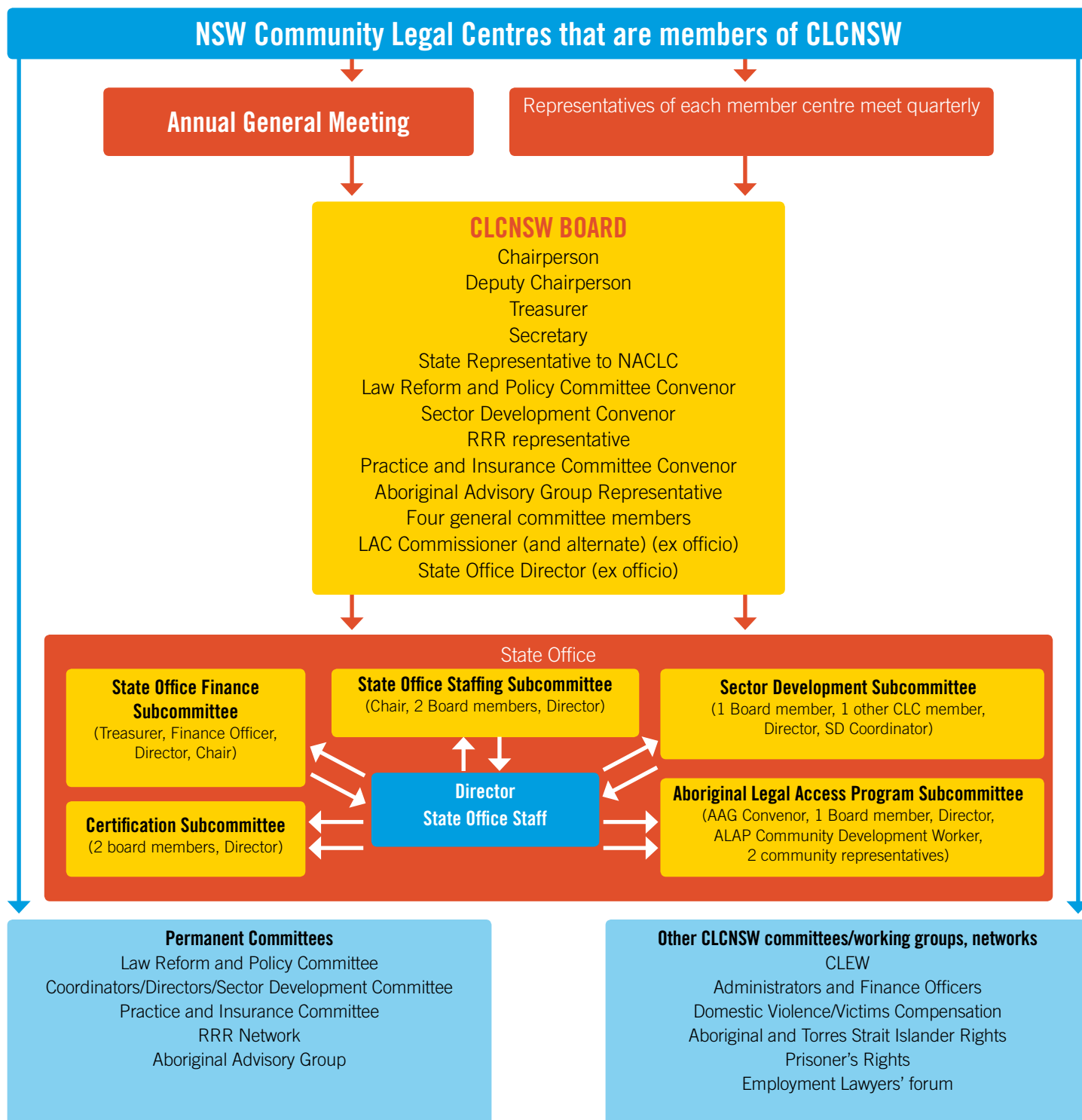
FULL MEMBERS:

Generalist Centres	Specialist Centres
Central Coast Community Legal Centre	Arts Law Centre of Australia
Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre	Australian Centre for Disability Law
Far West Community Legal Centre	Environmental Defender's Office (NSW)
Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre	Financial Rights Legal Centre (formerly Consumer Credit Legal Centre (NSW))
Hume Riverina Community Legal Service	HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (NSW)
Hunter Community Legal Centre	Immigration Advice and Rights Centre
Illawarra Legal Centre	Intellectual Disability Rights Service
Inner City Legal Centre	Justice Connect (formerly Public Interest Law Clearing House NSW)
Kingsford Legal Centre	National Children's and Youth Law Centre
Macarthur Legal Centre	Public Interest Advocacy Centre
Macquarie Legal Centre	Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia)
Marrickville Legal Centre	The Aged-Care Rights Service (TARS)
Mid North Coast Community Legal Centre	Tenants' Union of NSW
Mt Druiitt & Area Community Legal Centre	Thiyama-Li Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Unit
North & North West Community Legal Service	Welfare Rights Centre (NSW)
Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre	Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
Redfern Legal Centre	Women's Legal Services (NSW)
Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre	
South West Sydney Legal Centre	
Western NSW Community Legal Centre	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Court Support Scheme	
National Pro Bono Resource Centre	
University of Newcastle Legal Centre	

Organisational structure of Community Legal Centres NSW



CLCNSW Board 2013/14

Name	Member centre	Position	Meetings attended/ Meetings eligible to attend
Anna Cody	Kingsford Legal Centre	Chairperson (resigned November 2013)	3 / 3
Nassim Arrage	Central Coast CLC	Chairperson (from November 2013)	6 / 7
Robyn Ayres	Arts Law Centre	Deputy Chairperson (from November 2013)	3 / 4
Rachel Burns	Tenants' Union of NSW	Treasurer (resigned July 2014)	5 / 7
Suzanne Derry	Arts Law Centre	Secretary	5 / 7
Janet Loughman	Women's Legal Services NSW	Practice & Insurance Committee Convenor	6 / 7
Daniel Stubbs	Inner City Legal Centre	State representative to NACLC	6 / 7
Christine Robinson	Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre	Aboriginal Advisory Group Convenor (resigned November 2013)	1 / 3
Gemma McKinnon	Tenants' Union of NSW	Aboriginal Advisory Group Convenor (from November 2013)	2 / 4
Ken Beilby	Northern Rivers CLC	Sector Development Convenor	5 / 7
Kim Richardson	Hunter CLC	Rural, Regional & Remote network Convenor	5 / 7
Tom Cowen	The Aged-Care Rights Service (TARS)	General member	5 / 7
Jacqui Swinburne	Redfern Legal Centre	General member (resigned November 2013)	2 / 3
Martin Barker	Marrickville Legal Centre	General member (appointed February 2014)	3 / 4
Liz Snell	Women's Legal Services NSW	General member (appointed February 2014)	4 / 4
Alastair McEwin		State Office Executive Director (ex officio)	7 / 7

Community legal centres in the spotlight



Visit of NSW Members of Parliament to Macquarie Legal Centre following its win of a tender for an expanded Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Program. Centre staff with Geoff Lee MP, Member for Parramatta (far left), Stuart Ayres, then Minister for Fair Trading (fifth on left), Julie Foreman, Executive Officer of the Tenants' Union (fourth on left) and Maria Girdler, Manager of Macquarie Legal Centre (sixth on right). Photo: Macquarie Legal Centre.

CLCNSW Sub-committees and working groups 2013/14 (as at 30 June 2014)

Sub-committee or Working Group	Convenor/s	Member centre
Aboriginal Advisory Group	Gemma McKinnon Shannon Williams	Tenants' Union of NSW Women's Legal Services NSW
Administrators / Finance Officers	Rachel Burns Leanne Hosking	Tenants' Union of NSW Central Coast CLC
Community Legal Education Workers (CLEW) Group	Bronwyn Ambrogetti Melanie Kallmier Nalika Padmasena	Hunter CLC Mid North Coast CLC TARS
Coordinators/Directors/Sector Development	Dan Stubbs Kerry Wright	Inner City Legal Centre Shoalcoast CLC
Domestic Violence & Victims Compensation Subcommittee	Kate Duffy Rachael Martin	Marrickville Legal Centre Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
Employment Lawyers network	Maria Nawaz Susan Su	Kingsford LC Macarthur LC
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rights Working Group	Zachary Armytage	CLCNSW
Law Reform & Policy	Martin Barker Fia Norton Cass Wong	Marrickville Legal Centre Northern Rivers CLC Tenants' Union of NSW
Practice and Insurance Committee	Janet Loughman Dianne Hamey	Women's Legal Services NSW Elizabeth Evatt CLC
Prisoners Rights Working Group	Carolyn Jones Kellie McDonald	Women's Legal Services NSW Kingsford LC
Rural, Regional & Remote	Kim Richardson	Hunter CLC

CLCNSW State Office staff

Name	Position
Norico Allen	Finance Officer
Zachary Armytage	ALAP Community Development Worker
Greg Dwyer	Sector Development Coordinator (resigned June 2014)
Meg Houston	Regional Accreditation Coordinator
Alastair McEwin	Executive Director
Kerry Nettle	Advocacy and Human Rights Officer
Sarah Norton	Administrator (commenced January 2014)
Roxana Zulfacar	Advocacy and Human Rights Officer (resigned April 2014)

Casual staff:

Geena Kordek (Administration, December 2013–January 2014;
ongoing IT support)

Volunteers:

Aureen Bennett, legal volunteer, July 2013–February 2014

Kyle Hawthorne, Aurora internship, June–July 2014



Alastair McEwin, CLCNSW Executive Director, at CLCNSW Symposium dinner.

Community Legal Centres NSW Inc ABN: 22 149 415 148

Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2014

The committee members present their report together with the financial report of Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2014 and auditor's report thereon. This financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

Committee members' names

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

Nassim Arrage

Robyn Ayres (appointed November 2013)

Martin Barker (appointed February 2014)

Ken Beilby

Rachel Burns (resigned July 2014)

Anna Cody (resigned November 2013)

Thomas Cowen

Suzanne Derry

Janet Loughman

Alastair McEwin

Gemma McKinnon (appointed November 2013)

Kim Richardson

Christine Robinson (resigned November 2013)

Elizabeth Snell (appointed February 2014)

Daniel Stubbs

Jacqui Swinburne (resigned November 2013)

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

Results

The loss of the association for the year amounted to \$1,261.

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.



Nassim Arrage
Chairperson



Robyn Ayres
Deputy Chairperson

Dated this sixteenth day of October 2014.

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
Revenue and other income			
Operating grants	4	685,530	709,956
Other income	4	128,846	115,868
	4	<u>814,376</u>	<u>825,824</u>
Less: expenses			
Depreciation and amortisation expense	5	(11,053)	(23,872)
Employee benefits expense		(480,047)	(436,464)
CLCNSW expense		(26,123)	(36,295)
Program and planning expenses		(123,603)	(176,735)
Office overhead expense		(72,454)	(79,258)
Rental expense premises		(48,693)	(45,338)
Other employees expense		(21,004)	(28,328)
Consultants and contractors expense		(28,640)	(18,287)
Other expenses		(4,020)	(9,927)
		<u>(815,637)</u>	<u>(854,504)</u>
Surplus / (deficit)		(1,261)	(28,680)
Other comprehensive income for the year		—	—
Total comprehensive income		<u>(1,261)</u>	<u>(28,680)</u>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2014**

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	100,069	112,322
Receivables	7	2,416	1,805
Other financial assets	8	240,987	231,881
Other assets	10	28,345	—
Total current assets		<u>371,817</u>	<u>346,008</u>
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	9	2,455	13,508
Other assets	10	3,153	3,114
Total non-current assets		<u>5,608</u>	<u>16,622</u>
Total assets		<u>377,425</u>	<u>362,630</u>
Current liabilities			
Payables	11	54,806	43,983
Provisions	12	55,882	46,729
Other liabilities	13	53,656	47,546
Total current liabilities		<u>164,344</u>	<u>138,258</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	12	12,167	22,197
Total non-current liabilities		<u>12,167</u>	<u>22,197</u>
Total liabilities		<u>176,511</u>	<u>160,455</u>
Net assets		<u>200,914</u>	<u>202,175</u>
Members funds			
Reserves	14	110,939	110,939
Accumulated surplus	15	89,975	91,236
Total members funds		<u>200,914</u>	<u>202,175</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

	Reserves	Accumulated surplus	Total equity
	\$	\$	\$
Balance as at 1 July 2012	–	230,855	230,855
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	–	(28,680)	(28,680)
Total comprehensive income for the year	–	(28,680)	(28,680)
Transfers	110,939	(110,939)	–
Balance as at 1 July 2013	110,939	91,236	202,175
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	–	(1,261)	(1,261)
Total comprehensive income for the year	–	(1,261)	(1,261)
Balance as at 30 June 2014	110,939	89,975	200,914

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
Cash flow from operating activities			
Receipts from customers		877,621	841,477
Payments to suppliers and employees		(893,690)	(870,099)
Interest received		12,922	18,197
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	16(b)	(3,147)	(10,425)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Payment for investments		(9,106)	(22,280)
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		(9,106)	(22,280)
Reconciliation of cash			
Cash at beginning of the financial year		112,322	145,027
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		(12,253)	(32,705)
Cash at end of financial year	16(a)	100,069	112,322

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2014

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 *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and *Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW)*. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity. Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. is a not-for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The financial report was approved by the committee as at the date of the committees' report.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, *Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW)* and the following applicable Accounting Standards:

AASB 101:	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 107:	Cash Flow Statements
AASB 108:	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
AASB 1031:	Materiality
AASB 1048:	Interpretation and Application of Standards
AASB 1054:	Australian Additional Disclosures

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) Basis of preparation of the financial report

Historical Cost Convention

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by revaluations to fair value for certain classes of assets as described in the accounting policies.

(b) 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 expended 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).

(c) 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*.

(d) 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.

(e) 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.

Donated financial assets

Financial assets donated to the group are recognised at fair value at the date the group obtains the control of the assets.

(f) 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.

Depreciation

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

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rates	Depreciation basis
Leasehold improvements at cost	50%	Straight line
Office equipment at cost	25% – 33%	Diminishing value/ Straight line

(g) Impairment of non-financial assets

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. 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.

(h) 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.

(i) 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.

(j) Employee benefits

(i) Short-term employee benefit obligations

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. The expected cost of short-term employee benefits in the form of compensated absences such as annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

(ii) Long-term employee benefit obligations

Liabilities arising in respect of long service leave and annual leave which is not expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date 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.

Employee benefit obligations are presented as current liabilities if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

(k) 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.

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2014 (cont.)

(l) Comparatives

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

(m) Adoption of new and amended accounting standards that are first operative

In the current year, the association has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (the AASB) that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current annual reporting period.

NOTE 2: ACCOUNTING STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS ISSUED BUT NOT OPERATIVE AT 30 JUNE 2014

The following standards and interpretations have been issued at the reporting date but are not yet effective. The committee members' assessment of the impact of these standards and interpretations is set out below.

(a) AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*, AASB 2009-11 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9*, AASB 2010-7 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2010)*, AASB 2012-6 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Mandatory Effective Date of AASB 9 and Transition Disclosure* and AASB 2013-9 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Conceptual Framework, Materiality and Financial Instruments (effective from 1 January 2017)*

AASB 9 Financial Instruments improve and simplify the approach for classification and measurement of financial assets compared with the requirements of AASB 139. When adopted, the standard could change the classification and measurement of financial assets. AASB 9 only permits the recognition of fair value gains and losses in other comprehensive income for equity investments that are not held for trading. In the current reporting period, the association recognised \$0 in other comprehensive income in relation to the movements in the fair value of available for sale financial assets, which are not held for trading.

Most of the requirements for financial liabilities were carried forward unchanged. However, some changes were made to the fair value option for financial liabilities to address the issue of own credit risk. The association does not have any financial liabilities that are designated at fair value through profit or loss. The new requirements only affect the accounting for financial liabilities that are designated at fair value through profit or loss. Therefore, there will be no impact on the

association's accounting for financial liabilities.

Other standards and interpretations have been issued at the reporting date but are not yet effective. When adopted, these standards and interpretations are likely to impact on the financial information presented. However the assessment of impact has not yet been completed.

NOTE 3: CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In the application of the association's accounting policies, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
NOTE 4: REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME		
Operating grants		
LAC grant	297,059	281,438
PPF ALAP	107,930	118,545
PPF training	205,816	247,711
RACS accreditation	74,725	62,262
	<u>685,530</u>	<u>709,956</u>
Other income		
Training income	–	18,000
Conference and symposium income	25,693	450
Royalty income	22,254	–
CLCNSW group levy	22,567	22,073
Professional Indemnity Insurance	37,891	51,001
Interest income	13,533	17,729
Sundry income	6,908	6,615
	<u>128,846</u>	<u>115,868</u>
	<u>814,376</u>	<u>825,824</u>

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
NOTE 5: OPERATING SURPLUS		
Surplus / (deficit) has been determined after:		
Depreciation		
– office furniture and equipment	2,254	2,754
Amortisation of non-current assets		
– leasehold improvements	8,799	21,118
	<u>11,053</u>	<u>23,872</u>
Remuneration of auditors for:		
Audit and assurance services		
– Audit of the financial report	6,600	6,205

NOTE 6: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash on hand	200	200
Cash at bank	99,869	112,122
	<u>100,069</u>	<u>112,322</u>

NOTE 7: RECEIVABLES

CURRENT		
Other receivables		
Interest receivable	2,416	1,805
	<u>2,416</u>	<u>1,805</u>

NOTE 8: OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS

CURRENT		
<i>Held to maturity financial assets</i>		
Term deposits	240,987	231,881
	<u>240,987</u>	<u>231,881</u>

NOTE 9: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Leasehold improvements		
At cost	42,236	42,236
Less accumulated depreciation	(42,236)	(33,437)
	<u>–</u>	<u>8,799</u>
Plant and equipment		
Office equipment and computer equipment at cost	24,272	24,272
less accumulated depreciation	(21,817)	(19,563)
	<u>2,455</u>	<u>4,709</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>2,455</u>	<u>13,508</u>

NOTE 10: OTHER ASSETS

CURRENT		
Prepayments	28,345	–
	<u>28,345</u>	<u>–</u>
NON CURRENT		
Term deposits – bank guarantees	3,153	3,114
	<u>3,153</u>	<u>3,114</u>

Term deposits totalling \$3,153 are held as bank guarantees in relation to the Association's credit card.

NOTE 11: PAYABLES

CURRENT		
<i>Unsecured liabilities</i>		
Trade creditors	–	2,100
Group tax payable	5,856	3,564
Superannuation payable	3,290	3,110
GST credits	7,873	107
Other payables	26,757	25,355
Accrued expenses	11,030	9,747
	<u>54,806</u>	<u>43,983</u>

NOTE 12: PROVISIONS

CURRENT		
Annual leave	(a) 42,419	46,729
Long service leave	(a) 13,463	–
	<u>55,882</u>	<u>46,729</u>
NON CURRENT		
Employee benefits make good	(a) 7,167	17,197
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
	<u>12,167</u>	<u>22,197</u>
(a) Aggregate employee benefits liability	63,049	63,926

NOTE 13: OTHER LIABILITIES

CURRENT		
PI Insurance	13,878	–
Unexpended grants	39,778	47,546
	<u>53,656</u>	<u>47,546</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2014 (cont.)

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
NOTE 14: RESERVES		
Parental leave reserve	34,648	34,648
Redundancy reserve	76,291	76,291
	<u>110,939</u>	<u>110,939</u>

The parental leave reserve represents amounts set aside to cover future costs associated with employees taking parental leave.

The redundancy reserve represents amounts set aside to cover the costs of redundancies.

NOTE 15: ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

Accumulated surplus at beginning of year	91,236	230,855
Surplus / (deficit)	(1,261)	(28,680)
Transfers (to) / from reserves	–	(110,939)
	<u>89,975</u>	<u>91,236</u>

NOTE 16: CASH FLOW INFORMATION

(a) Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position is as follows:

Cash on hand	200	200
Cash at bank	99,869	112,122
	<u>100,069</u>	<u>112,322</u>

(b) Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with surplus / (deficit) after income tax

Surplus / (deficit) from ordinary activities after income tax	(1,261)	(28,680)
---------------------------------------------------------------	---------	----------

Adjustments and non-cash items

Depreciation	11,053	23,872
--------------	--------	--------

Changes in assets and liabilities

(Increase) / decrease in receivables	(611)	4,714
(Increase) / decrease in other assets	(28,384)	15,958
Increase / (decrease) in payables	10,823	7,735
Increase / (decrease) in other liabilities	6,110	(43,563)
Increase / (decrease) in provisions	(877)	9,539
	<u>(1,886)</u>	<u>18,255</u>
Cash flows from operating activities	<u>(3,147)</u>	<u>(10,425)</u>

NOTE 17: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Transactions between parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
NOTE 18: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS		
(a) Operating lease commitments		
Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements:		
Payable		
- not later than one year	17,018	16,321
- later than one year and not later than five years	4,410	–
- later than five years	–	–
	<u>21,428</u>	<u>16,321</u>

The property lease is a non-cancellable lease with a one-year term commencing 4 November 2013, with rent payable monthly in advance.

The photocopier is a non-cancellable lease with a five-year term commencing 28 March 2014, with payments made monthly in advance.

Balances exclude GST.

NOTE 19: EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

There has been no matter or circumstance, which has arisen since 30 June 2014 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (a) the operations, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2014, of the association, or
- (b) the results of those operations, or
- (c) the state of affairs, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2014, of the association.

NOTE 20: ASSOCIATION DETAILS

The principal place of business of the association is:

Suite 805, Level 8
28 Foveaux Street
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

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.

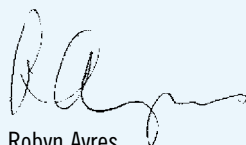
In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 3 – 18:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. as at 30 June 2014 and performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW)*.
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:



Nassim Arrage
Chairperson



Robyn Ayres
Deputy Chairperson

Dated this sixteenth day of October 2014.



PITCHER PARTNERS
ACCOUNTANTS AUDITORS & ADVISORS

Level 22 MLC Centre
19 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

Postal Address:
GPO Box 1615
Sydney NSW 2001
Australia

Tel: +61 2 9221 2099
Fax: +61 2 9223 1762

www.pitcher.com.au
partners@pitcher-nsw.com.au

Pitcher Partners, including Johnston Rorke,
is an association of independent firms
Melbourne | Sydney | Perth | Adelaide | Brisbane

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES NSW INC.
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 2014 and the statement of comprehensive income 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 is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW)* and 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 and fair presentation 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 association'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 association'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 INC.
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*.

Independence Declaration

As auditor for the audit of Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2014, we declare that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of the code of conduct relating to independence in *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* issued by the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board.

Opinion

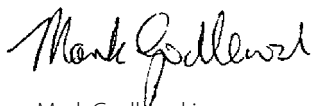
In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. as at 30 June 2014 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report and the financial reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW)*.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 in 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 requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW)* and 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.

Association's Financial Records

The Association has kept such financial records as are necessary to enable financial statements to be prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.



Mark Godlewski
Partner



PITCHER PARTNERS
SYDNEY

Registered Company Auditor No. 172348

Date: 23 October 2014

The logo consists of a blue speech bubble shape with a tail pointing downwards and to the left. Inside the bubble, the text "Community Legal Centres NSW" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font, stacked in three lines. The background of the entire page is yellow, with a red horizontal bar at the top and a blue horizontal bar at the bottom.

**Community
Legal Centres
NSW**