

**Community
Legal Centres
NSW**

Annual Report 2014/2015

justice

community

compassion



Community Legal Centres NSW

New South Wales has a network of Community Legal Centres (CLCs), independent community organisations providing access to legal services throughout the state, with a particular focus on services to disadvantaged and marginalised people and communities and matters in the public interest.

CLCs play a distinctive role in the NSW community and legal sector by:

- Providing general legal advice and assistance for socially and economically disadvantaged people. This includes taking on strategic casework on matters that may affect many in the community.
- Addressing special areas or specific population groups through dedicated Centres (e.g. tenancy, credit and debt, domestic and family violence).
- Encouraging capacity building for people to develop skills for self-advocacy.
- Advocating for improved access to justice and more equitable laws and legal systems.

Centres are committed to achieving systemic change through community legal education, and through law and policy reform.

Centres promote human rights, social justice and a better environment by advocating for access to justice and equitable laws and legal systems.

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.

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

Telephone: (02) 9212 7333
Fax: (02) 9212 7332
Email: clcnsw@clc.net.au
Website: www.clcnsw.org.au
Twitter: twitter.com/clcnsw
ABN 22 149 415 148

Contents

Chairperson's report	2
Executive Director's report	4
CLCNSW State Office report	6
At a glance: the work CLCs did in 2014/15	10
A new direction: CLCNSW's 2015–2018 strategic plan	12
CLCs and Legal Aid NSW working together	14
Community legal centres in the spotlight	15
CLC awards and commendations	16
Our supporters	18
CLCs advancing human rights and justice	19
Educating the community about its legal rights	21
Improving access to justice for Aboriginal people and communities	22
Ensuring access to justice for people in rural, regional and remote (RRR) areas	24
Networks and working groups reports	26
Publications	31
Membership, governance and operations	32
CLCNSW Member Centres 2014/15	32
CLCNSW Board 2014/15	33
Organisational structure of CLCNSW	34
CLCNSW Sub-committees and Working Groups 2014/15	35
CLCNSW State Office staff and volunteers	36
2014/15 CLCNSW financial reports	37



Who we are

Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. (CLCNSW) is the peak body for all Community Legal Centres (CLCs) in NSW. Our State Office is a small team providing support to, and representation for, our member Centres, in government and community fora.

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



Launch of *Adding Public Value* report, November 2014 at Minter Ellison. L-R: Alastair McEwin (CLCNSW Executive Director), Ed Santow (PIAC CEO), the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG, Nassim Arrage (CLCNSW Chairperson), Karen Cox (Coordinator, Financial Rights Legal Centre), Judith Stubbs (consultant for report), and Julia Davis (Policy & Communications Officer, Financial Rights Legal Centre). Photo: CLCNSW

IT is my pleasure to present my second report as Chairperson of Community Legal Centres NSW (CLCNSW). It is hard to believe that yet another year has already gone. And it has certainly been a very challenging one, with the community legal centre (CLC) sector experiencing some highs and lows.

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 across NSW.

The last 12 months have been a period of great funding uncertainty for CLCs in NSW and across Australia. Firstly, the Commonwealth Government announced significant cuts to the funding of CLCs and then these cuts were partially reversed. However the new five-year National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services (NPA) between State/Territory governments and the Commonwealth government that commenced on 1 July 2015 now enshrines a \$2.889M cut to CLCs in NSW in 2017/18. This is addition to the cuts already experienced by the Environmental Defenders Office in NSW. The NPA also heralds a new method for the funding of CLCs across Australia, by delegating funding decisions to the State and Territory governments and signals a diminishing role for the Commonwealth in the delivery of legal assistance in NSW.

Sadly, the cuts enshrined in the NPA came in the wake of the Productivity Commission report on access to justice inquiry released in December 2014, which lauded the work of community legal centres and recommended additional funding for legal assistance services. Further, the Productivity Commission notes widespread concerns that Australia's civil justice system is "too slow, too expensive and too adversarial". It further notes that while there is much focus on the courts, much is done in their shadow, with parties resolving their disputes privately. Community legal education, legal information (including self-help kits) and minor advice help ensure that parties are better equipped to resolve their disputes. Among a wide range of recommendations, the Productivity Commission recommended an injection of \$200 million to legal assistance services including community legal centres, Aboriginal legal services and legal aid. We note, with some disappointment, that the Commonwealth Government is yet to respond to the report and the NPA funding allocations do not address the key funding issues the report raised.

As in previous years, 2014/15 has presented a range of challenges and opportunities for our member CLCs. The importance of a strong peak organisation to support the member CLCs cannot

be stated enough and I thank staff for their efforts supporting, coordinating and leading the sector through their work for CLCNSW. Detailed reports and highlights for the State Office and its committees and networks are found elsewhere in the annual report.

In looking ahead to 2015/16, there is, once again, no doubt that there are going to be many significant challenges, the largest of which is the expected funding 'cliff' in 2017/18, where Commonwealth funding for NSW CLCs is scheduled to drop by 25%. In order to best meet this and other challenges, we have spent some time this year at the State Office reviewing our staffing structure to ensure we are in a very strong position to support our member CLCs in the changing funding and policy environment.

With the 2012–2015 CLCNSW Strategic Plan drawing to a close, I want to recognise the work that has been done by the sector to promote Community Legal Centres, raise awareness of access to justice issues, build the organisational capacity of Community Legal Centres in NSW and lead and advocate for social justice. The Board has developed a new strategic plan that sets a clear direction for CLCNSW for the next three years. In particular, it incorporates ideas and suggestions from our member CLCs on what they want to see CLCNSW working on in the coming three years. There is no doubt in our minds that the next few years will present significant challenges for the CLC sector. We are facing diminishing funding from government along with policy changes. We are also seeing marked differences in the way people access and use information and services, such as through technology, including social media. These, and other challenges, represent a call to action for our sector to respond and change to ensure that we continue to deliver what our communities need if they are to have true access to justice.

These challenges aside, we intend to pause for a moment in November 2015 and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the beginnings of the CLC movement in NSW. It is important to reflect on the time when a small and committed group of legal and non-legal professionals got together in a hall in Redfern in June 1975 to discuss ways of ensuring that all in the community had access to justice. Our 40th anniversary celebrations will be an opportunity to not only thank those pioneers of our sector, but also to reflect on the vast array of achievements by CLCs since that time. I look forward to this important milestone.

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. Gabrielle Upton MP, NSW Attorney General
- The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, former NSW Attorney General.

- The Hon. Senator George Brandis QC, Federal Attorney-General.
- Mr Andrew Cappie-Wood, Secretary, NSW Department of Justice.
- Mr Paul McKnight and Mr Stephen Bray, NSW Department of Justice.
- Mr John McKenzie, NSW Legal Services Commissioner (formerly 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 Sean McCarthy and Ms Tanya Finneran.
- Staff at Legal Aid NSW; in particular Richard Funston, Monique Hitter, Kylie Beckhouse, Annmarie Lumsden, Scott Hawkins, Sue Scott, Jane Cipants, Jane Pritchard, Michelle Jones 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, CEO, Polly Porteous, acting CEO, and the staff of the National Association of CLCs.
- Ms Janet Wagstaff and all the staff at LawAccess NSW.

My thanks also to my fellow Board members for their support and dedication to the work of CLCNSW over the past 12 months. 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.

CLCNSW remains committed to working with government, our funding managers, other legal assistance providers and our member CLCs to ensure that our clients continue to receive access to high quality free legal services.

Nassim Arrage
Chairperson

Executive Director's report

Alastair McEwin

I am pleased to provide a report on CLCNSW's activities for 2014/15 to our member CLCs and colleagues in the justice sector. The year has certainly been one with many challenges, both in NSW and nationally. Our united and collaborative approach has ensured that we have risen to these challenges in a positive and constructive way.

I acknowledge that CLCNSW works on the traditional lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation and I pay my respects to their Elders past and present.

As detailed in the Chairperson's report, the last 12 months have been a period of great uncertainty for the national CLC sector with respect to funding and service delivery requirements.

CLCNSW worked with its member CLCs, NACLC, other State/Territory peak associations, and Legal Aid NSW to ensure that, where possible, the new National Partnership Agreement (NPA) was a fair and reasonable contract under which to deliver public legal services.

The NPA was negotiated under some very trying circumstances between the parties, including many last-minute changes to key components of the agreement. This includes a requirement that, for the first two years of the NPA, 85% of CLC representation services are to be provided to people experiencing financial disadvantage. The benchmark will then increase to 90% from 1 July 2017. We view this requirement to focus our services on people experiencing financial disadvantage as a real restriction on the true freedom of CLCs to operate flexible services that can respond quickly to the changing and emerging needs of the communities they serve. We also continue to hold other concerns about the NPA; these include a potential loss of national consistency in data collection and jurisdictional service planning. There is also ambiguity around the use of Commonwealth funds for systemic advocacy work. That all said, we remain committed to working with government and our funding managers to ensure that our clients receive the best possible service.

At a state level, we welcomed the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP as the new Attorney General in March 2015. Former Attorney General, Brad Hazzard, became the Minister for Family and Community Services and the Minister for Social Housing. We have met with Ms Upton to discuss CLC issues and look forward to continuing to work with her in the years ahead. In particular, we acknowledge and thank her for her public statements on the important role CLCs play in the justice sector, including our systemic advocacy work.

CLCNSW also thanks Mr Hazzard for his efforts whilst Attorney General. We appreciated our meetings with him and his visits to CLCs. We note in particular his leadership in the negotiations

between the Commonwealth and NSW Government for the legal assistance reforms.

Systemic advocacy work

Ever since their inception, CLCs have engaged in systemic law reform and policy work. We see value in dedicating some of our resources towards advocating for reform to unfair or discriminatory laws or policies that may adversely affect thousands of people in the community. CLCs may, for example, give the same advice to hundreds of clients on the same issue; it is, in our view, far more cost effective to rectify a piece of legislation that adversely affects many in the community. It was therefore with great disappointment that we saw the Commonwealth remove law reform as a funded activity from our funding agreement. The Commonwealth's view is that limited resources should go directly to frontline services.

In November we released the report *Adding Public Value: The integration of frontline services & law reform in the NSW Community Legal Sector*. The report, prepared for CLCNSW and the Financial Rights Legal Centre by Judith Stubbs & Associates, 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. The report found that policy and law reform activities undertaken by CLCs 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. The report also found 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.

CLCNSW Reconciliation Action Plan

At the beginning of the year, we were very pleased to launch CLCNSW's Reconciliation Action Plan 2014–2017 (the RAP). A RAP working group, which meets regularly to monitor progress, oversees implementation of the RAP. Elsewhere in this report is a detailed report of the RAP, however I am pleased to report the following significant achievements: a number of CLCs have completed, or are currently completing, their own RAPs; promotion of CLCNSW's Aboriginal Employment Strategy, 'Welcome to Country' and 'Acknowledgement of Country' brochures; a National Reconciliation Week event co-hosted by CLCNSW, NACLC and the Tenants' Union; the development of the Cultural Safety Standard for



Hume Riverina CLS and CLCNSW meeting with the (then) NSW Attorney General, October 2014. L-R: Sarah Rodgers (Hume Riverina CLS Principal Lawyer), Karen Bowley (Hume Riverina CLS lawyer), the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP (former NSW Attorney General) and Alastair McEwin (CLCNSW Executive Director). Photo: Hume Riverina CLS

NACLC and Legal Aid; and significant progress made towards the development of a 'Cultural Safety' workbook for CLCs, which will be released in 2015–16.

I look forward to seeing ongoing work under the RAP as part of our core commitment to addressing significant barriers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples face in access to justice.

Thank you

As always, it has been a privilege to work with so many dedicated, committed and passionate people in the CLC sector. First, I thank the staff of CLCNSW, all of whom have been an invaluable part of delivering support services to our members in such a challenging year. Our achievements are largely due to their efforts. Second, I thank the CLCNSW Board, led by Chairperson Nassim Arrage, for

their united and strategic support of the work of CLCNSW. I very much appreciate their collective wisdom as we strive to provide the best support possible to our members. Last, I thank all our members for their contributions to the work of the entire CLC sector. It is only through being united and supportive of each other that we will be able to meet future challenges. I look forward to continuing to work with everyone, particularly as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the CLC movement in NSW. Despite the looming financial 'cliff' of 2017/18, we must also pause for a while and think about all the significant achievements of the sector over the last 40 years. And then, after the celebrations are over, it will be time once again to rise up to all the challenges ahead.

Let's keep up the fight to ensure that all in the community can have access to justice in a fair and inclusive way.

Alastair McEwin
Executive Director

CLCNSW State Office report

For 2014/15, the State Office of CLCNSW had four key result areas under its 2012–2015 strategic plan. The following programs carry out activities under these areas, with support from the 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.

#FundCLCs: the uncertain future for Community Legal Centres

For the last 12 months, Community Legal Centres have been facing an uncertain future. At the beginning of the year, the Commonwealth Government announced that new funding arrangements would take effect from 1 July 2015 for CLCs. In March 2015, the Commonwealth had still not yet advised of funding allocations for CLCs. Funding was revealed in May on Budget Night. This left just six weeks for the NSW Government to finalise arrangements for a joint Commonwealth-State CLC funding agreement.

This environment of uncertainty resulted in an anxious time for our sector, with some CLCs seeing staff leave because of the uncertainty and many CLCs unable to do service delivery planning.

On 2 April 2015, 90 days before 1 July 2015, CLCNSW commenced 'tweeting' on a daily basis a specific message about the impact of funding uncertainty on an individual CLC or on the sector as a whole.

#FundCLCs

A sample of Tweets were:

- **Funding for CLCs uncertain on 1 July. What will happen to women escaping domestic violence who need legal help? #FundCLCs @womenslegalnsw**

- **Funding for CLCs uncertain. 40% of @MNCCLC legal help for ppl with a #disability. Funding cuts=solicitor loss & reduced legal help #FundCLCs**
- **Funding for CLCs on 1 July uncertain. @HunterCLC's outreach program to places like Muswellbrook, Cessnock, Port Stephens at risk #FundCLCs**
- **Funding for NSW CLCs on 1 July uncertain. What will happen to clients who need urgent unfair dismissal advice? #FundCLCs @kingsfordlegal**
- **Funding for CLCs on 1 July uncertain. Last financial year, CLCs in NSW completed almost 1,400 community legal education projects #FundCLCs**





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.

Supporting CLCs to promote access to justice issues

This year, CLCNSW spent considerable time working with individual CLCs and the sector as a whole to engage the broader community in access to justice issues. Amongst the many activities, CLCNSW:

- Assisted CLCs, including visits to centres, to inform local MPs and the media of CLC issues.
- Developed a resource on our website to assist CLCs to engage with media.
- Sent out numerous media releases, including one on the removal of the retrospective nature of the 2013 victims compensation changes. In that media release Nassim Arrage, CLCNSW Chairperson, said, amongst other things:

‘This is a win for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes. I congratulate Katrina Keshishan and other victims for calling for this change.’



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.

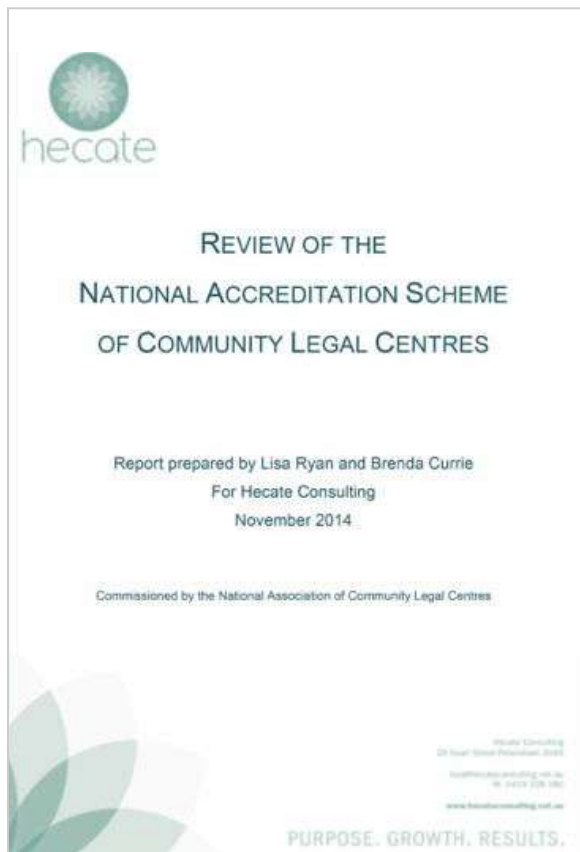
CLCNSW State Office report

Accreditation

This year, a review of the National Accreditation Scheme (NAS) was undertaken by NACLCL. CLCNSW played a proactive role in the review, including running a session with its member CLCs to obtain feedback.

The review found that the majority of survey participants stated that the NAS had benefited the CLC sector and their own CLC and had positive effects on organisational management and administration and on governance. The support and assistance of Regional Accreditation Coordinators (RACs), the exit interview, the recommendations, the reports and the online tools (Standards and Performance Pathway (SPP) and Management Support Online (MSO)) were identified as effective elements. The NAS was seen as recognising the good quality of the work that CLCs already undertake.

Overall the Report recommended continuation of the NAS, with suggestions to streamline its structure, processes and systems, and improve communication.



Sector Development

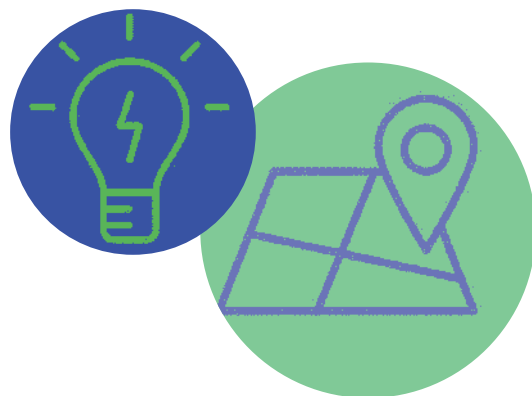
Despite the loss of funding from the Public Purpose Fund (PPF) on 30 June 2014, CLCNSW committed, with the financial support of its members and partner organisations, including ACON, to continue the Sector Development Program for 2014/15. This included hosting the quarterlies and providing professional development opportunities. Legal Training Days also continued, including a very successful one in February 2015. This was the most popular training day ever, with over 90 registrations for the four sessions that were presented during the day. Sessions covered topics such as legal research, ethics and file management.

We thank in particular those organisations that provide access to professional development opportunities relevant to CLC staff; these include Legal Aid NSW, Law Society, NSW Bar Association and Tranby Aboriginal College.

Practice Management Course

For five years, CLCNSW has collaborated with the NSW College of Law to run the CLC Practice Management Course. The course was developed in response to feedback over many years from CLC lawyers that existing legal practice management courses lacked community-based content that was relevant to CLCs, including the focus on working with communities in a not-for-profit context, often for disadvantaged clients.

Held over three days in October 2014, 26 people participated in modules delivered by a range of presenters including specialists who work in CLCs or have experience in community-based organisations. Participants had the benefit of learning directly from their peers and colleagues in the sector, and had an opportunity to reflect on best practice models for delivering legal services to those who may be facing injustice due to lack of information or services.



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.

Responding to law reform issues of significant injustice for our communities

As in past years, CLCNSW continued to be active across a wide range of law reform and policy issues. Following is a small sample of the work we undertook:

Sexting

Staff from Marrickville Legal Centre, Shoalcoast CLC, Women's Legal Service NSW, National Children's Youth and Law Centre and

CLCNSW developed a briefing paper on sexting that was sent to the NSW Attorney General.

Review of Victims Support Scheme

CLCNSW wrote to the NSW Attorney General about the first 12 months of the *Victims Rights and Support Act 2013*. The letter made 19 recommendations about changes needed to the Act to improve access to justice for victims. The Domestic Violence and Victims Compensation Committee prepared the letter with input from several centres.

Changes to Racial Discrimination Act

CLCNSW, like several CLCs in NSW, made a submission to the Australian Government regarding proposed changes to the Racial Discrimination Act opposing the Attorney General's Exposure Draft. CLCNSW believed the proposed changes sent a clear message to the Australian community that the federal Government is weakening its stance against racism. CLCNSW was pleased to see the Government's announcement that it would not proceed with plans to change the Act.

Productivity Commission Access to Justice Inquiry

CLCNSW played a proactive role in the Productivity Commission's inquiry into Access to Justice. This included a response to the Draft report. The CLCNSW Executive Director and Advocacy & Human Rights Officer appeared before the Commission's public hearing in Sydney.



At a glance: The work CLCs did in 2014/15

In 2014/15, Community Legal Centres in NSW:

- Provided assistance to 58,428 clients.
- Provided a total of 74,754 advices.
- Opened 10,628 cases.
- Closed 10,254 cases.
- Of the cases closed, 1,593 were major cases (complex/lengthy matters).
- Completed 1,512 community legal education ('CLE') projects.
- Completed 453 law reform and legal policy projects.

A comparison against the 2013/14 data reveals:

- The sector assisted 3,682 more clients (an increase of 7%).
- Provided 5,131 more advices (an increase of 7%).
- Opened 1,390 more cases (an increase of 15%).
- Closed 1,531 more cases (an increase of 18%).
- Conducted 128 more CLE projects (an increase of 8%).
- Completed 84 more law reform and legal policy projects (an increase of 23%).

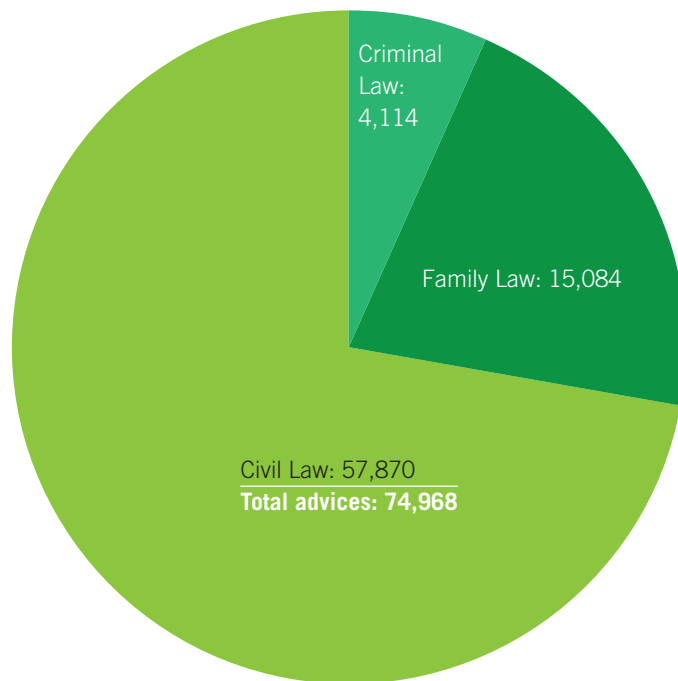
Of the clients CLCs assisted:

- 13% were living in a sole parent family with dependent children living at home.
- 6% identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- 17% reported having a disability.
- 57% were female (and 42% were male)
- 57% reported having either a low or no income (this means a weekly income under \$500 per week or annual incomes of less than \$26,000 per year).
- 25% 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 ('CLISIS') database, the program that generated the above data. That said, many CLCs in NSW report on activities to the CLISIS database funded through other sources (CLISIS 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 CLISIS – 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.

** The total number of advices is different from the figure for advices in the 'At a glance' section; this is due to this report being run at a later time than the report for the 'At a glance' section; the later report includes statistics recorded since 30 June 2015.

Top ten matters that CLCs did in 2013/14

No.	Matter type	Number of advices
1	Tenancy*	12,373
2	Credit and debt**	11,971
3	Contact and residency	7,920
4	Family / domestic violence	7,802
5	Consumer and complaints	7,354
6	Immigration law	7,104
7	Government pensions / benefits allowances	5,540
8	Employment	4,171
9	Motor vehicle	3,620
10	Offences against property and other offences	3,292

Notes:

* The Tenants' Union of NSW provided about 12% of these advices, including advices to tenancy advocates; the rest of these advices were provided primarily by the six Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Services located in CLCs.

* Approximately 61% of these advices were provided by the Financial Rights Legal Centre.

What do CLCs in NSW look like?

In 2014 NACLC undertook a national census of its member community legal centres for the second year in a row. 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 2013/14:

- 18% of CLCs classified themselves as a generalist service (i.e. they serve a particular geographic community/area), with specialist programs.
- 40% of CLCs classified themselves as a specialist service.
- 42% classified themselves as a generalist service.
- 72% said they provided services to clients and communities in regional, rural and remote ('RRR') areas.
- 52% were state-wide or national services, or offered state-wide or national programs.
- 466 staff were employed in 32 CLCs (averaging 15 per CLC).
- 46% of staff were employed full-time, 44% part-time, and 10% casual.
- 82.6% The majority were female (82.6%), with 17.4% of staff being male.
- 45% 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, 97% reported utilising the skills and expertise of volunteers. Across these CLCs, 1,990 volunteers contributed a total of 4,791 hours per week.

The three main categories of volunteers were:

- Law students (undergraduates) (685 contributed 2,097 hours per week).
- Law graduates (167 contributed 1,456 hours per week).
- Lawyers (873 volunteers contributed 783 hours per week to CLCs).

The 3 main types of work undertaken by volunteers were:

- Direct legal service delivery (94% or 29 CLCs)
- Law reform and policy (84% or 26 CLCs).

- Administrative support (70% or 88 CLCs).
- Of the 32 CLCs that responded to a question about working with pro bono partners, 66% (21 CLCs) reported having a pro bono partnership.
- 27,077 hours of pro bono assistance were provided to these 21 centres and their clients over the 2013/14 financial year including 22,329 hours from lawyers for direct service delivery to clients.

Turnaways:

22 NSW CLCs reported that they had turned away a total of 6,934 people in 2013/14 because they could not assist them or provide them with a suitable referral.

The mean proportion of NSW CLC clients identifying as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person was 11%, while the median was 6%.

46% (15 CLCs) have at least one Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identified position.

The mean proportion of NSW CLC clients identifying as persons with disability was 26%, while the median was 20%.

Policy advocacy and law reform:

97% (31 CLCs) reported undertaking policy and law reform activities. The main 3 forms of policy and law reform activities were:

- Preparing submissions to inquiries (100% or 31 CLCs)
- Writing letters to politicians (77% or 24 CLCs), and
- Meeting with politicians and/or their staff (74% or 23 CLCs).

Income protection insurance and fair operation of the law

Bill* developed a hernia working as a labourer. He was put on the public hospital waiting list for surgery and in the meantime was able to continue to work so did not claim on his income protection insurance. He had to wait around 18 months for his surgery, and was off work for almost seven weeks with recovery time. Once he did claim, his insurer declined the claim because the policy only covered temporary total disablement that arises within 12 months of the illness or injury arising. Financial Rights assisted Bill to lodge a dispute in the Financial Ombudsman Service ("FOS") and to present his arguments and evidence.

FOS made a determination in Bill's favour under section 54 of the *Insurance Contracts Act*. In short, the provision says an insurer cannot refuse to pay a claim because of an act or omission of the insured (or another person) occurring after the contract was entered into, except to the extent the insurer's interests have been prejudiced by that act or omission. FOS found that Bill was covered because the diagnosis was within the period of cover and the client's failure to have surgery within the 12-month period was an act or omission covered by section 54 – either being an omission of either the client or the public hospital system in not performing the surgery earlier. Medical evidence showed the insurer suffered no prejudice from the delay. Bill received a payout of over \$5,000 for the weeks off work.

* Not his real name.

Source: Financial Rights Legal Centre

A new direction: CLCNSW's 2015–2018 strategic plan

With the 2012–2015 CLCNSW Strategic Plan ending in June 2015, it was time to create a new framework to enable CLCNSW to support its member CLCs for the next three years. Following consultation with member CLCs and justice stakeholders, a new plan has been developed that sets a clear direction for CLCNSW into the future.

Our Vision

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

Our Purpose

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

Our Values

- Collaboration
- Cultural safety
- Diversity
- Equality
- Excellence
- Fairness
- Integrity
- Respect

Our Priority Areas

Priority Area 1:

Highlight access to justice

Increase awareness of, and strategic responses to, access to justice.

We will:

- Collaborate with CLCs and our community and legal assistance sector partners to identify and work on issues of access to justice, including research into unmet legal needs and emerging trends.
- Promote the outcomes of research into unmet legal needs.

To achieve this we will:

- Develop collaborations with key legal and community stakeholders.
- Create partnerships between CLCs and universities and research centres to identify and understand unmet legal need.
- Communicate the benefits of Justice Reinvestment and its relationship with CLC activities.
- Apply research knowledge for projects that contribute to law reform and policy discussion.

Priority Area 2:

Advocate for social justice

Advocate for law reform that delivers social justice for Community Legal Centre 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 local communities of need, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Position ourselves strategically to ensure the community legal sector's views are included in law reform and policy processes.
- Increase awareness amongst all CLC staff and management of the importance and value of systemic advocacy by CLCs to their clients.

To achieve this we will:

- Prioritise sector-wide law reform areas, especially in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Coordinate consultation by, and with, CLCs and their clients, for timely contribution to policy discussions.
- Assist individual CLCs to develop law reform projects.
- Advocate for social justice through participation in key legal and other law reform forums.
- Ensure all CLCs access up to date information and training on law reform in NSW.

Priority Area 3:

Promote the value of Community Legal Centres

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

We will:

- Promote and strengthen awareness of CLCs to stakeholders, funding bodies and the broader community through events, publications, media and online activities.
- Be a leading public commentator on the value and contribution of CLCs to the justice system in the media and to decision-makers.

To achieve this we will:

- Use our online and social media presence to highlight how CLCs assist clients to access justice.
- Sponsor the Community Legal Centres NSW award at the annual NSW Justice Awards.
- Engage directly with law students (under- and post-graduate) at

careers events and expos.

- Promote CLCNSW resources including publications and member directory.
- Develop proactive media relations for greater awareness of the role of CLCs in access to justice issues.
- Assist CLCs to promote their local projects and activities.

Priority Area 4:

Strengthen the organisational capacity of Community Legal Centres in NSW

Increase capacity for Community Legal Centres to grow and deliver services.

We will:

- Advocate for additional funding for CLCs to address unmet legal needs.
- Assist CLCs to diversify funding sources and identify cost savings.
- Investigate alternative organisational models for CLCs.
- Work with CLCs to continually improve the viability and quality of their services to clients and the community, including through the National Accreditation Scheme.
- Provide professional development opportunities based on sector-identified needs for CLCs.

To achieve this we will:

- Outline the value of CLCs in addressing unmet legal needs.
- Assist CLCs to identify and access diverse funding sources.
- Provide information to CLCs on alternative organisational models to improve their financial sustainability.
- Support CLCs to maintain certification under the National Accreditation Scheme.
- Assist CLCs to improve the way they work with Aboriginal communities.
- Maintain regular contact and communications with all CLCs.
- Deliver professional development opportunities, including remote access.
- Deliver a mentoring program specific to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander CLC staff.
- Provide induction for all new staff and volunteers in CLCs.
- Seek pro bono assistance with CLCNSW's professional development program.

Priority Area 5:

Strengthen Community Legal Centres NSW Inc.

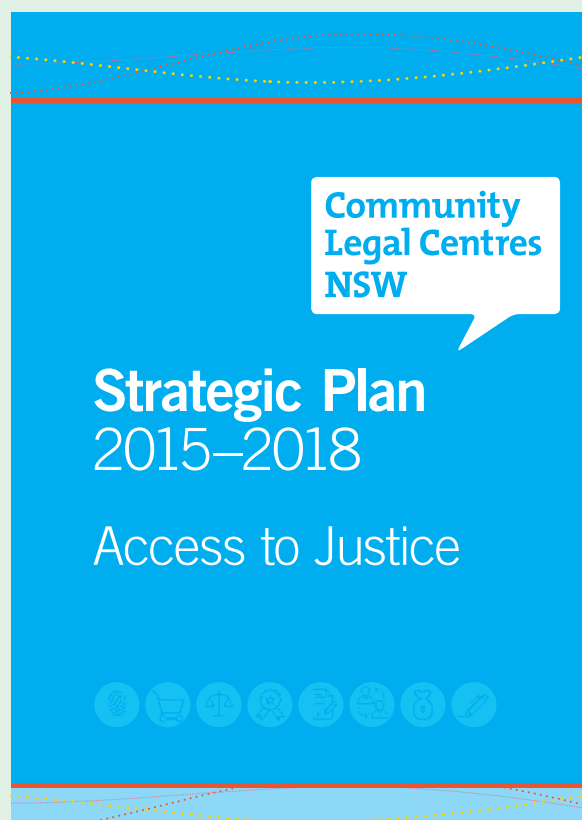
A strong peak body assisting Community Legal Centres to deliver access to justice.

We will:

- Review governance and operations to ensure effective delivery of the strategic plan.
- Strengthen our membership and supporter base.
- Ensure the State Office of CLCNSW can efficiently and effectively deliver services to members to improve their operations and sustainability.

To achieve this we will:

- Improve service delivery by the State Office.
- Initiate ways for organisations and individuals to become supporters of CLCNSW.
- Diversify CLCNSW's funding sources.
- Create more volunteer opportunities at the CLCNSW State Office.



CLCs and Legal Aid NSW working together

Borrowers Beware

A partnership between The Aged-Care Rights Service (TARS) and Legal Aid NSW

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 2014/15, the project was a partnership between The Aged-Care Rights Service (TARS) and Legal Aid NSW Head Office Civil Law Solicitors. The “Borrowers Beware” project developed community radio broadcasts to educate elderly speaking Arabic

and South Eastern European (specifically Croatian, Macedonian and Serbian) people across NSW concerning the risks of entering into financial products secured against a person’s home; such as credit contracts, mortgages and guarantees.

There is a strong evidence base in support of the identified need to provide education and targeted legal assistance to elderly Arabic speaking and South Eastern European people about the risks of entering into financial products secured against their homes and where to go for legal help.

The Borrowers Beware project commenced in November 2014 and involved:

- More than 15 radio broadcasts over the project period;
- The delivery of CLE in the form of webinars to community workers working within target communities; and
- A qualitative and quantitative evaluative framework.



Community legal centres in the spotlight

Tenants' Union staff with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members at a Close the Gap Day event. Photo: Tenants' Union



Tenancy advice services celebrate twenty years

In December 2014, Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Services (TAAS) celebrated 20 years of continuous funding under the Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Program, from Fair Trading NSW. This funding means they can provide their services to tenants for free. Across New South Wales, there are local services that help tenants understand their rights and responsibilities. Speaking to an average 30,000 tenants annually, these services help tenants resolve tricky differences with landlords and understand how renting laws work.

Tenants advice services have a strong record of saving tenancies and preventing homelessness. In about 85% of cases where a tenant is at risk of homelessness, a TAAS has been able to prevent eviction and help get their tenancy back on track. This preventative work ensures the tenant is housed, the landlord is getting the rent paid again, and there are less calls on charities and homelessness services.

In the last 20 years, TAAS have spoken to about 500,000 tenants, providing advice, assistance and representation.

Arts Law Centre of Australia celebrates 30 years of empowering artists

In September 2014 Arts Law celebrated its 30th birthday, with a gala fundraiser dinner at NSW Parliament House. The dinner, featuring art, performances, and tributes from staff, presidents,

clients and supporters, was a celebration of the achievements of Arts Law in its 30 years of assisting Australia's artists.

Since its incorporation in 1984, Arts Law has given well over 70,000 advices to artists, has run 2,000 educational workshops and currently publishes more than 250 different resources to help artist get a better deal. Over the last 20 years Arts Law has also advocated for better rights for artists in the areas of copyright, moral rights, freedom of expression, privacy, resale royalties and Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property. Over the last 10 years the Artists in the Black service has assisted and educated 9,122 Indigenous artists.



Community legal centres in the spotlight

Helping asylum seekers to appeal Bridging Visa cancellations

If an asylum seeker is subject to a criminal charge, generally their Bridging Visa is cancelled. If this happens, the asylum seeker will be returned to Immigration Detention; they will not be eligible to apply for a new Bridging Visa; and in some cases they may be transferred to an offshore processing centre (Nauru or PNG). Generally a person is notified in writing in person and immediately detained, which means they have only two working days to apply for review. Because the person is detained, the Migration and Refugee Division of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal prioritises their matters, which means they are set down for hearing quickly.

Refugee Advice & Casework Service (RACS) has had a number of successful outcomes before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in representing asylum seekers and ensuring that these secondary considerations receive due attention and helping asylum seekers avoid long periods of detention while they wait for their refugee case to be considered.

There are many challenges in dealing with these matters. One significant challenge is that this hearing usually takes place before a person's criminal matter has had its first return date, and has no information about what view the criminal court will ultimately take in relation to the charge; these Bridging Visa cancellation hearings commonly happen before consideration of whether charges should be dismissed, and before a person enters a plea in relation to the charge.



Obtaining fair pay: CLC assists employee to enforce his rights

Harry* came to Australia on a working holiday visa, planning to work and travel around the country for six months. Not long after his arrival in Sydney, he found work as a salesperson with a company which, he noticed, employed a large number of people on student visas and working holiday visas.

Harry had been working for the company for only a few weeks when he realised that their hourly rate of pay was approximately half the national minimum wage. The other workers did not appear to be aware of this. Harry asked his employer why he and the other workers appeared to be receiving less than the minimum wage. His employment was terminated not long after.

Redfern Legal Centre (RLC) assisted Harry to make a general protections claim to the Fair Work Commission. The claim settled at conciliation, with Harry receiving a settlement sum incorporating the amount that he should have been paid while working for the company. Both RLC and Harry hoped that, through this process, the company became more aware of its obligations under the *Commonwealth Fair Work Act 2009* to its other employees.

*Not his real name.

Source: Redfern Legal Centre

CLC awards and commendations

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

LGBTIQ Safe Relationships Project wins CLCNSW Justice award

At the 2014 Justice awards, Inner City Legal Centre's Safe Relationships Project won the CLCNSW award. This project is a court support and legal advice service for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people experiencing domestic violence in NSW.

It also provides community legal education and training to individuals and organisations. The project has seen the establishment of the first LGBTIQ Safe Room in NSW (and Australia) for victims of domestic violence. The project has empowered LGBTIQ clients to become more involved in the court processes impacting on their lives, resulting in safer outcomes

in court proceedings, including assisting in their recovery from trauma and re-entering LGBTIQ communities.

Highly commended for the CLCNSW award was the Aboriginal Family Law Project, developed by the Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre. The project was developed to promote among Aboriginal communities the importance of being proactive in using family law to make arrangements for children post-separation. With the participation of other legal assistance providers, the project produced a DVD 'Looking after family'.

The project has substantially benefitted the Aboriginal community in the Northern Rivers region by providing a resource that arms them with knowledge and contacts to assist them in starting family law proceedings where possible before child protection intervention.

Other nominees for the award were:

- Central Coast CLC: Information and advice clinic for unrepresented litigants in Apprehended Violence order (AVO) matters at Wyong Local Court
- HIV/AIDS Legal Centre: Dignity in Death – strategic litigation to change government policy
- Hume Riverina CLS: Subsidised wills, powers of attorney and enduring guardianship scheme
- Hunter CLC: Apprehended Violence order (AVO) duty service at Newcastle Local Court
- Macquarie LC: Volunteer solicitor roster
- Refugee Advice and Casework Service: Legal Help for Refugees Law Clinic
- Women's Legal Services NSW: Speak Up
- Women's Legal Services NSW and North and North West CLS: Ask LOIS – Armidale Project.

The CLCNSW award is given to a project in a community legal centre that demonstrates outstanding commitment to improving access to justice in NSW, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged people.

CLCNSW congratulates Inner City Legal Centre for its win and Northern Rivers CLC for its high commendation. We also congratulate and acknowledge all nominees for the award.

Redfern Legal Centre wins International Student Community Engagement Award 2014

Redfern Legal Centre, along with the City Of Sydney, won the 2014 NSW International Student Community Engagement Award for its International Students Legal Advice Service.

CLC lawyer wins Harmony award

Nalika Padmasena, solicitor at The Aged-Care Rights Service, won



Nalika Padmasena
(The Aged-Care Rights Service)
winner of 2014 Harmony Award with
Mike Baird, NSW Premier.
Photo: Nalika Padmasena.

this year's Stepan Kerkyasharian AO Harmony Award. This award recognises the contribution and achievement of an individual or organisation in facilitating and promoting social cohesion, understanding and acceptance between members of the differing cultural or faith communities in NSW.

Nalika won the award for her work helping women from culturally diverse backgrounds to speak about domestic and family violence. Premier Mike Baird presented her with her award in front of more than 1,300 people at the annual Harmony Dinner. Mr Baird said the award recognised the work she has done "to empower female migrants of their legal rights while providing safe environments for them to speak out about domestic violence".

Dianne Anagnos wins UNSW Australia Community Engagement Award

Kingsford Legal Centre's Acting Principal Solicitor, Dianne Anagnos, was the very worthy winner of the UNSW Australia Staff Award in the category of Excellence in Community Engagement. Dianne's work running KLC's community legal education program as well as her leadership with local organisations was recognised as furthering the university's commitment to the local community. Dianne is an outstanding lawyer whose compassion, kindness and professionalism make her a real asset to KLC and the CLC sector.

Our supporters

CLCNSW acknowledges and thanks the following organisations for their generous support of our work.

Organisation	Support
Aboriginal Legal Services NSW/ACT	Ongoing collaboration and discussions on issues of mutual interest
ACON	Venue for the CLCNSW Quarterlies
Ashurst	Assistance with office lease arrangements; review of constitution; various other pro bono assistance
NSW 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; extensive other pro bono assistance
Herbert Smith Freehills	Various pro bono assistance, including venue and catering for CLC events
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; extensive other support and assistance
Thomson Reuters	Royalty payments from sales of the Law Handbook to support activities of CLCNSW; Law Handbook Editorial Board
Tranby Aboriginal College	Ongoing collaboration through our Statement of Cooperation; includes places for CLC staff in the Diploma of National Indigenous Legal Advocacy

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.



Bishoy Elias (PLT student, Mid North Coast CLC) at Seniors Expo in Port Macquarie, March 2015. Photo: Mid North Coast CLC.

Law Reform and Policy Committee report

Martin Barker and Cass Wong, co-convenors

Ruby Taylor (Hunter CLC) stepped down from co-convening the Law and Policy Committee upon securing employment at Legal Aid. The Committee met at the CLCNSW Quarterlies on four occasions during 2014/15: July 2014, November 2014, February 2015 and May 2015.

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; Media lessons learned from the reversal of the Dreyfus funding cuts; How engaging with the media can help your clients; Disability Support Pensions and recent welfare law reform; and Effective State Election Campaigning.

Guest speakers have given presentations at each Committee meeting on current CLC law reform activities. These presentations have included the International Convention on Economic, Social

and Cultural Rights; How pro bono firms can assist CLCs with law reform work; National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLCL) current law reform work; the Law Society of NSW and Law Reform; 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 reported their work throughout the year.

In May 2015 the Committee made a decision to cease the working groups models in favour of a meeting-by-meeting focus on current law reform issues. This will give the Committee the flexibility to collaborate on topical matters that involves multiple areas of the law, such as tenancy, domestic violence and criminal justice.

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.

Newcastle University Legal Centre's Justice Project

This year, the University of Newcastle Legal Centre established its 'Justice Project.' The project functions as an independent post-conviction review scheme that advocates for 'eligible persons' who have exhausted their standard appeal rights but nonetheless continue to profess their innocence to a serious crime for which they have been convicted and remain incarcerated.

The Justice Project considers cases of alleged wrongful convictions based on police corruption, false identification, 'unsafe confessions, poor representation, improper forensic science and/or convictions predominantly based on the testimony of informants.

The work is conducted by lawyers at the Legal Centre with the assistance of law students whose involvement provides participating students an opportunity to contribute to the maintenance and integrity of our criminal justice system and reflect on the concept of 'social justice' while providing valuable legal assistance to those members of our society who are not in a position to advance their cases.

The Justice Project is currently assisting a number of incarcerated persons who continue to profess their innocence in circumstances where there remains some doubt over their conviction.



Settlement reached in the class action PIAC ran jointly with Maurice Blackburn on behalf of young people wrongfully arrested by the NSW police. L-R: Oscar McClaren (Associate, Maurice Blackburn) Camilla Pandolfini (PIAC Senior Solicitor), Ben Slade (NSW Managing Principal, Maurice Blackburn) and Rachel Francois (Counsel). Photo: PIAC

CLCs advancing human rights and justice

More bang for your bond

The “More Bang for your Bond” is a campaign being run by the Tenants’ Union (TU) to raise awareness of where tenants’ bond money is being spent by the NSW Government.

The TU has found that with over \$1 billion of tenants’ money lodged as bonds at the NSW Rental Bond Board, very little of the interest generated by this money is paid as interest to individual tenants when they claim their bonds at the end of their tenancies. Instead, most of the money, about two-thirds of the total, is paid to NSW State Government agencies, primarily the NSW Department of Finance and Services, and the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

A small portion is used to fund the Tenants’ Advice and Advocacy Services (TAASs). Other smaller amounts go to other community services (such as financial counselling services, and the No-Interest Loans Scheme) and affordable housing programs. After these payments, the Rental Bond Interest Account retains a surplus. Accumulated surpluses now amount to about \$60 million.

The TU has developed a website to promote awareness of this issue. The website allows users to:

- Sign a petition
- Share the campaign with others online
- Subscribe to a mailing list
- Download leaflets to hand out
- Contact their local Member of the NSW Parliament.

CLCNSW supports this campaign.



Educating the community about its legal rights

Informing older LGBTI people about their rights

The Sydney based Aged-care Rights Service (TARS) provides a range of services including education, advocacy and legal advice on the rights of seniors within NSW. In 2013 TARS sought funding to improve access and equity for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and intersex LGBTI people.

The Reaching Out project held sessions on legal and advocacy issues in a range of formats including representation on panels with partner agencies (ACON), 'key speaker' sessions, and larger community forums with a panel and ensuing discussion. Where possible TARS partnered with local CLCs (Northern Rivers, Far West) for the legal component and in other regions utilised TARS's legal expertise. The aims of the project included:

- Linking marginalised LGBTI communities with information on rights regarding ageing
- Empowering people to act on their rights and seek support where applicable
- Addressing real and perceived barriers to services
- Providing basic legal information and its relevancy to LGBTI individuals
- Creating dialogue with the LGBTI community on ageing and rights
- Providing a template for education to LGBTI for implementation in any location in Australia

A number of resources were developed that targeted LGBTI people, as a result of recommendations from the consultations that current resources were lacking/too heterogeneous. These included a TARS LGBTI specific service brochure, the '10 most frequently asked legal questions for LGBTI', and a poster on discrimination and where to gain assistance.



Significant numbers of LGBTI people in diverse locations (urban, rural and regional) now have a better understanding of their rights as they age and where to turn for information and assistance and are aware of the importance of setting up 'Planning Ahead' documentation in line with the NSW Ageing Strategy.

www.tars.com.au

Community Legal Education Workers (CLEW) group report Bronwyn Ambrogetti, Pat Joyce and Nalika Padmasena, co-convenors

Community Legal Education Workers meetings have been well attended over the past year, competently facilitated by CLEW co-convenors Bronwyn Ambrogetti (Hunter CLC), Melanie Kallimier (Mid North Coast CLC) and Nalika Padmasena (The Aged-care Rights Service including Older Persons Legal Service (TARS)). Pat Joyce from TARS joined the team in March 2015 to fill the shoes of Melanie to share the role of facilitating, taking minutes and inviting guest speakers. Our thanks to Melanie for all she contributed. The CLEW co-convenors also share the representation role at the Law and Justice Foundation Legal Information Referral Forum (LIRF) quarterly meetings in Sydney.

The meetings held during the CLCNSW Quarterlies have been well attended each quarter. This has been a great opportunity to hear of the creative ways of presenting important legal and advocacy information, in every area of law, to people across the state through different mediums including websites, webinars, radio, and specific publications.

These meetings are a great way to be inspired to attend conferences, forums, apply for funding, nominate centres for awards, and to network. Other topics covered include:

- Pilot projects
- Access to the CLEW database itself, CLEAR database
- Elder Abuse Helpline NSW and regional collaborations
- Ask Lois webinars
- Law Assist
- Law and Justice Foundation's toolkit for managing projects and video production.

Some interesting speakers have shared their knowledge and expertise with us, with thanks to Sarah Nielson from LawAccess NSW, Danny Chifley from Community Broadcasting Association of Australia, Vissa Chandrasekaram, former convenor of the National CLEW Network, and Pat Joyce from The Aged-care Rights Service.

CLEW meetings are open to any CLC worker. So do join us in the coming year at any of the meetings. You may wish to sit in on a National CLEW teleconference or join a working group if you have an interest you wish to pursue.

Improving access to justice for Aboriginal people and communities

Aboriginal Advisory Group report

Zachary Armytage, on behalf of the AAG

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 AAG are consulted on various issues from the CLC sector and beyond. In the reporting period, the AAG continued to engage in, and deliver, the CLC Yarn Up and Training Day, which is a primary support, learning and development, and law reform mechanism for participants. Achievements in the past year include:

Cultural Safety Criteria

The AAG played a central role in developing the Cultural Safety criteria and evidence indicators that led to the draft NALCL and Legal NSW Cultural Safety frameworks.

Access to Justice Advocacy

The AAG promotes to the CLC sector to increase accessibility through increased connections with Aboriginal communities. To this end, the AAG has called on all CLCs to establish connections with their local Aboriginal communities through appropriate Aboriginal advisory committees and the implementation of Aboriginal employment strategies.

Reconciliation Action Plan

The AAG continues to guide CLCNSW in the implementation of the CLCNSW RAP. CLCNSW, with support from the AAG, continues to practice and communicate best-practice 'cultural safety' and 'access to justice' policies and procedures, leading the sector's cultural changes through supportive relationships.

Advancing Change

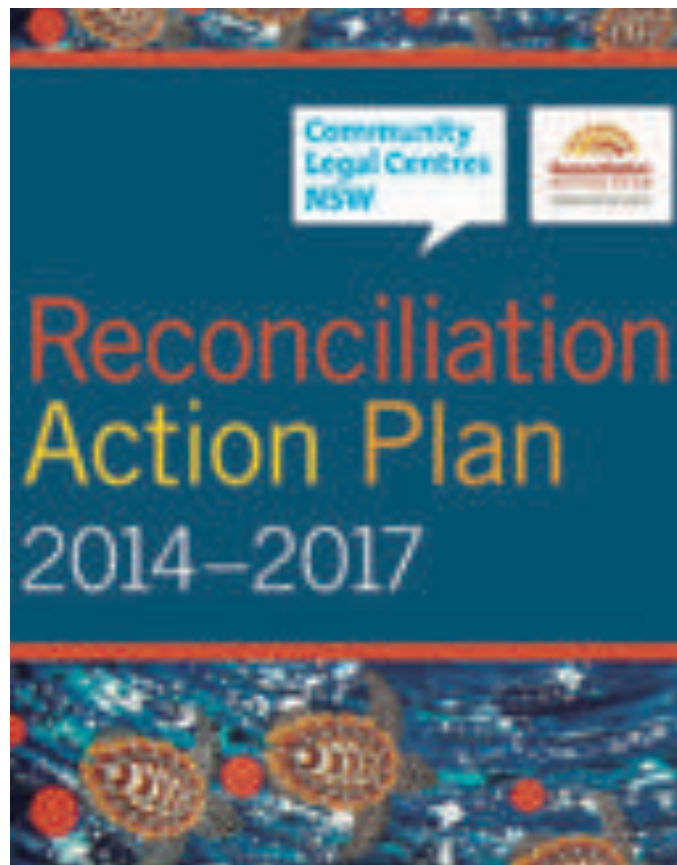
The AAG commends the CLC sector for developing the formal and informal changes to cultural safety with a sense of responsible commitment. The AAG looks forward to completing the many further cultural safety changes required to increase access to justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Aunty Nancy Walke

The AAG expresses deep thanks to Aunty Nancy Walke for her 15 years of work with the Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre, and working in the ALAP and the Mirrung Ngu Wanjarri programs.

Supporting CLCs to enhance services to Aboriginal people and communities: 2014/15 report of CLCNSW's Reconciliation Action Plan

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.

Implementation of the Plan is overseen by the RAP Working Group. The Working Group at the end of June 2015 was 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 Coordinator, 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.

Gemma McKinnon (Tenants' Union) resigned as AAG convenor in February 2015. We thank her for her extensive contributions to the RAP working group and to the CLC sector.

Relationships

CLCNSW acknowledges the importance of developing strong effective relationships based on mutual respect and trust. This year we:

- Ensured close collaboration between ATSI CLC staff through regular meetings such as Yarn Up.
- Developed a CLCNSW RAP page on the CLCNSW website, which includes other relevant information.
- Supported a number of CLCs to develop their own RAPs.
- Hosted, with the Tenants' Union of NSW and NACLCL, a National Reconciliation Week event.

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. This year we:

- Supported CLCs to undertake Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training (ACAT).
- Established 'Welcome to Country' at the beginning of each CLCNSW Quarterlies.
- Made significant progress in developing a cultural safety workbook for CLCs. This will be released in 2015/16.
- Provided a draft Cultural Safety Standard for both NACLCL and Legal Aid NSW.



Gathering of group of local traditional owners, Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council, and government departments to discuss Cultural Fishing Rights. The gathering was organised by Illawarra Legal Centre, June 2015. Photo: Illawarra Legal Centre.

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 increased quality and culturally appropriate legal services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year we:

- Supported ATSI CLC staff to undertake the Tranby Diploma in National Indigenous Legal Advocacy.
- Promoted the CLCNSW Aboriginal Employment Strategy.
- Ensured that we maintain at least one ATSI-identified position at CLCNSW.
- Delivered a leadership program through Yarn Up.

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. This year we:

- Sent our RAP to Reconciliation Australia for formal endorsement
- Provided quarterly progress reports to the Board and sector.

Indigenous Cultural and Gathering Rights Workshop

This year, Illawarra Legal Centre (ILC) presented the second of its series of cultural fishing rights workshops in conjunction with Indigenous Community Links. This is part of ILC's work with the local Aboriginal community in response to the regulation of fishing in NSW whereby ambiguity and uncertainty over recognition of cultural fishing rights have resulted in hundreds of prosecutions, leading to fines and imprisonment for alleged breaches.

The problems arising from implementation and enforcement of the Fisheries legislation are also aggravated by the poor relationship between the Aboriginal community and NSW Fisheries. A major outcome from the workshop was the decision to invite NSW Fisheries to attend in-depth cultural awareness training on country. With the active involvement of a number of elders and the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council, ILC is planning a three-day cultural gathering in the Illawarra for the community to come together to celebrate and share fishing knowledge and experience and to which the Centre has invited NSW Fisheries.

The workshop also formed part of a recent report on cultural fishing rights on Radio National's PM program.

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

#RUOKNewie14

The Hunter Community Legal Centre hosted a free community event in September 2014 as part of the national R U OK? Day. The event ran from 7am to noon at Newcastle Beach, and aimed to raise awareness about mental health issues and suicide prevention. Hunter CLC and eight other participating local community service providers provided information and advice to those that attended, and the event also included a graffiti workshop, beach games and a 'One Wave is All It Takes' fluoro paddle out.

The R U OK? event was the first of its kind in Newcastle and has sparked interest among services to hold one annually. Hunter CLC, along with the eight local services, reached out to over 70 locals that morning, engaging in some meaningful conversations about depression, suicide prevention and mental well-being.



Animal Defenders Office stall at the Million Paws Walk, May 2015.
Photo: ADO

Far West CLC staff and interns at RRR Roadshow, April 2015. Photo: CLCNSW



Rural, regional and remote CLCs network report

Helen Pigram and Tina Napier, co-convenors

The Rural Regional and Remote (RRR) Network provides an opportunity for issues and ideas concerning RRR Centres to be discussed at the Quarterly Meetings held in Sydney.

Due to the proposed funding cuts and the National Partnership Agreement (NPA), much of the discussion at the RRR Network meetings focussed on these two important issues, particularly on how these would impact on the delivery of services provided by RRR Centres. One of the RRR meetings was opened up to those Centres who were not in a RRR area, to attend and follow the discussion on funding cuts and the NPA.

Another of the topics discussed was the possibility of CLCNSW to provide for "Virtual Attendance" at the Quarterly Meetings for those RRR staff who are unable to attend the face-to-face meetings in Sydney.

The RRR meetings were well attended during this past year, as there was so much uncertainty around funding and the new NPA. However, we managed to have some light-hearted and lively discussions after the meetings at 'happy hour drinks' and the RRR dinners.

2015 RRR Roadshow

This was the third RRR Roadshow to be hosted by a RRR CLC. The Roadshow is designed to bring together RRR CLCs and specialists to discuss issues on delivering services to people and communities in regional, rural and remote NSW. This year, Far West CLC hosted the



Staff from NSW CLCs on the tour to Mundi Mundi Plains, RRR Roadshow, Broken Hill, April 2015. Photo: Far West CLC

RRR roadshow. From all accounts, it was a huge success.

Highlights of the Roadshow included a technology panel involving WLSNSW with the *Ask Lois* program; two journalists from the local ABC; and marketing experts. There was also a 'Champagne at sunset' trip to Mundi Mundi Plains and an astronomy night, incorporating sharing stories about the cultural landscape and significance of local elders.

CLCNSW thanks Tracey Willow, CEO of FWCLC, Mariette Curcuruto, Principal Solicitor, and the FWCLC team, for their tremendous efforts to put on a very well run Roadshow.

Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre and Illawarra Community Legal Centre are scheduled to host next year's RRR Roadshow; this sounds like another exciting Roadshow in the making.

Network and working group reports



Senate Inquiry into Domestic Violence, November 2014. L-R: Liz Snell (Women's Legal Services NSW), Jacqui Swinburne (Redfern Legal Centre), Elizabeth Morley (Redfern Legal Centre), Amanda Alford (INACLC). Photo: Redfern Legal Centre

Domestic Violence and Victims Compensation Subcommittee report

Teresa Rubio and Alicia Jillard, co-convenors

With the support of CLCNSW, our subcommittee gathers together members from various community legal centres across NSW including solicitors, community legal education and support workers. The subcommittee considers key issues relating to domestic violence and victims' support to promote the sharing of knowledge from our diverse practice areas and networking across the sector. We meet every three months at CLCNSW's Quarterlies meetings.

It has been a busy year with many legal and policy developments relating to domestic violence and victims support. This year have actively engaged in the issues outlined below.

In relation to domestic violence we:

- Provided feedback on the draft information sharing protocols
- Shared knowledge and practical experience on the implementation of the new "It Stops Here" domestic and family violence framework, including new concepts of the safety assessment tool, central referral point, local co-ordination

- points, safety action meetings, and information-sharing reforms
- Discussed *The Criminal Procedure Amendment (Domestic Violence Complainants) Act 2015 (NSW)*
- Discussed and provided feedback to CLC members participating in the Family and Community Services-led Child Protection and Domestic and Family Violence Integration Working Group
- Discussed the Department of Justice Review of Police-issued ADVO reforms
- Coordinated ongoing professional development training for our members including:
 - Senior Ethics Solicitor of the Law Society of NSW, Paul Monaghan, presenting on "Solicitors' duties of confidentiality in a domestic violence context"
 - The Domestic Violence Legal Training Day with prosecutors, defence lawyers, police, government representatives, Crown Solicitors Office WDVCA, private counsel and WLS and others presenting on the diverse areas of legal practice engaging with victims of domestic violence.

In relation to victims support we:

- Met with the Acting Commissioner of Victims Rights, Mahashni Krishna, to raise ongoing concerns about the operation of the new victims support scheme
- Attended quarterly Victims of Crime Interagency meetings
- Provided information about ongoing concerns about the new victims support scheme to politicians for Budget Estimates
- Developed a working group for ongoing coordination of work on key victims support issues including preparation for the 2016 three-year legislative review of the *Victims' Rights and Support Act 2013* (NSW); and ongoing liaison with Victims' Services.

Practice and Indemnity Insurance (PII) Committee report

Ken Beilby, convener

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 crosschecks of CLC legal practice systems.

We continue to have the sub-committee that was formed in 2013, consisting of the PII convenors, Grant Arbuthnot (Tenants' Union of NSW), Elizabeth Morley (Redfern Legal Centre), Rachael Martin (Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre), Phillip Dicalfas (Illawarra Legal Centre), Bronwyn Ambrogetti (Hunter Community Legal Centre) and Mariette Curcuruto (Far West Community 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 resigned as the board co-convenor in June 2015, and we thank her specifically for her work in assisting the sector and wish her all the best. The CLCNSW Board appointed me to the Board PII convenor role in July 2015.

Work carried out this year has included:

- Working with the CLCs who are part of a multi-agency program to commence compliance processes to meet the Information Barriers Guidelines;
- Initial discussion on new information barrier to separate the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service, a program

- auspiced by the CLC, from the remainder of the legal practice;
- 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, 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

Kerry Wright, convener

This year saw some changes in the leadership of these Committees. Dan Stubbs, Coordinator of Inner City Legal Centre, left his job at ICLC to take up a similar role with a Victorian CLC early in 2015, so passed on the role of Coordinators/Directors convenor at quarterly meetings to Kerry Wright. Ken Beilby, Principal Solicitor of Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre, handed over the chair of the Sector Development Sub-Committee of the Board to Kerry Wright at the Annual General Meeting. My thanks to both Dan and Ken for their work in these roles over a number of years. Also farewell to Dan from the CLC sector and thanks for all his work at both State and National levels.

The Sector Development Sub-Committee was made up of Kerry Wright (Shoalcoast CLC & Chair), Truda Gray (Illawarra Legal Centre), Julie Foreman (Tenants' Union), Kate Duffy (Marrickville Legal Centre) and Alastair McEwin (CLCNSW).

The Committee meets approximately six weeks before each Quarterly meeting to discuss the proposed agenda and training topics to be included based on requests from the Sector. So it was mostly business as usual except that we started the year with the news that our annual grant from the Public Purpose Fund had not been approved. This created a big hole in the CLCNSW budget and the Board decided the best way forward for this year was to approach all CLC members to seek a voluntary one-off payment

Network and working group reports

towards maintaining the Sector Development program to enable the quarterly meetings, legal and management training days and the RRR Roadshow to go ahead. We thank our members for their generosity in agreeing to this arrangement for the 2014/15 year. Unfortunately it did mean that the SD role within the CLCNSW team could not be sustained and we farewelled Greg Dwyer. This then required the CLCNSW Director and staff to put a lot more of their time into the organisation that goes on behind the scenes and on the day with our quarterly meetings in particular. Our sincere thanks to Al and his team members for taking on these additional tasks.

The Coordinators/Directors network meetings this year focused primarily around the proposed Legal Assistance Reforms by the Commonwealth Government for the 5-year period commencing 1 July 2015. This included the National Strategic Framework, Service Priorities, Jurisdictional Service Planning and the Funding model as well as the funding cuts announced by the Commonwealth government in December 2013 due to take effect on 1 July 2015. This uncertainty meant that discussions centred around: how the State Government was responding to proposals by the Commonwealth, particularly the short timeframe between the Federal and State budgets and new funding contracts having to be in place by 1 July 2015; how Centres were responding to the proposed changes in their budgeting for the 2015/16 year, including finding alternative sources of funding; and lobbying strategies to bring to the attention of Federal and State members of parliament the impacts of these proposed changes on their local communities. We also invited the Australian Services Union to attend to discuss the compounding financial impacts of the Equal Remuneration Order on our budgets. We were all relieved to hear the news that the Federal Attorney-General reversed his decision regarding funding cuts to some areas of the sector in March, which delays some of the proposed funding cuts by two years.

Administrators and Finance Officers working group report

Leanne Hosking & Julie Vitnell, co-convenors

During the past 12 months the Administrators and Finance Officers have strongly supported the quarterly meetings with attendance of around 15 members each meeting. This has provided us with an excellent forum in which to share experiences, gain knowledge and support each other during a somewhat turbulent time.

Topics discussed during these meetings included:

The effect of funding cuts, financial provisions, taxation changes to salary sacrificing and meal and entertainment allowances, cost saving measures, accreditation, sharing resources and life without CLSIS.

The major discussion for the year was how and where cost savings could be made, as well as producing administration efficiencies in Centres and across the sector. At the July quarterlies the group asked if CLCNSW could work on benchmarking administration services or could we obtain funds to work out how efficient our Centres are with administration.

Thank you to all those who contributed during the year and to CLCNSW for their support.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rights working group report

Zachary Armytage, convenor

In the last year the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Group continued to provide attendees with opportunities to develop capacity, share information, utilise expertise and support, and to increase effectiveness in the advancement of rights.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rights Working Group participants engaged in workshops presented by the Law Society of New South Wales, National Association of Community Legal Centres, and Just Reinvest NSW. These presentations, as well as the group's own experience, were, amongst other outcomes, utilised to: influence the Universal Periodic Review Shadow Report; increase the profile of 'justice reinvestment' in the CLC sector; coordinate National Reconciliation Week events within the CLC sector; and inform and promote the 2nd Annual CLC Aboriginal Family Law Day with Judge Myers.

In between the Quarterly meetings the group disseminated information on topics including, though not limited to: FASD and the Aboriginal Disability Justice Campaign; changes to Care and Protection legislation and consequent issues arising from the implementation of the changes: and Aboriginal family law pathways.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rights Working Group is warmly open to participation by all CLC staff.

Employment lawyers forum report

Maria Nawaz and Annette van Gent, 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.

Susan Su moved on from the role of Co-Convenor of the network after the February Quarterlies, and Annette van Gent, Principal Solicitor of Marrickville Legal Centre, took over the position in May.

This year, we continued our work on building the capacity of CLCs without specialist employment lawyers to provide employment law advice and undertake employment law casework. We provided



Eric Leglise, Evelyn Carriage, Dennis Carriage, Janet Hunt, Allan-Max Carriage with EDO NSW staff at the Whale cave near Wollongong which contains ancient Aboriginal paintings. Through its Indigenous Engagement Program, EDO NSW delivers legal services to Aboriginal people and communities, strengthens relationships with existing Indigenous clients, and helps establish new relationships by promoting its services to Indigenous communities throughout NSW. Photo: EDO NSW

training on deeds of release (delivered by Maria Nawaz of Kingsford Legal Centre) and the role and functions of the Fair Work Ombudsman (delivered by James Robertson, Senior Lawyer, Fair Work Ombudsman).

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. The meetings also provide an opportunity for practitioners

to discuss their employment law matters and seek guidance on how to proceed.

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.

Care and Protection Network

Marissa Sandler, convenor

The Care and Protection Network is made up of CLCs who provide care and protection legal assistance. The network is made up of a mixture of metro and RRR centres and meets every three months. The meetings provide an opportunity for the network to engage with key stakeholders, discuss relevant practice and law reform issues and further our knowledge of the jurisdiction by inviting guest speakers. Outside of these meetings, members of the network

Network and working group reports

continue to engage with key stakeholders, including the NSW Children's Court and FACS.

The last twelve months have been particularly busy for the network. In October 2014 the amendments to the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* NSW were introduced. Since then, the network has continued to engage in work related to the reforms, including participating in the FACS contact framework consultations.

The focus on early intervention in the reforms has seen a number of CLCs, many of whom are members of the network, receive Legal Aid funding to become care partners. Care partners are funded to provide early intervention legal advice and advice on contact disputes.

The network has grown as CLCs who received care partner funding, and were not part of the network, have joined the group.

In 2014/2015, the following stakeholders attended our network meetings:

- Carmela Tassone and Kathryn Freeman, policy officers, FACS, to discuss the legislative reforms including early intervention tools and permanency principles.
- Simone Walker, Executive Officer, FACS Safe Home for Life reforms, to discuss the co-design.
- Deb Garvan, FACS Safe Home For Life reforms, for input into the new contact framework.

Prisoners' Rights Working Group Report

Carolyn Jones and Patrick O'Callaghan, co-convenors

The Prisoners' Rights Working Group (PRWG) has active participation from metro, RRR and specialist legal centres and advocates for the rights of people in contact with the criminal justice system.

This year the issues considered by the PRWG included: post release housing options for women, especially for Aboriginal women; the links between a victim's history of child abuse and family violence and criminal offending; greater access to telephone/AVL facilities, particularly for legal visits; access to diversionary programmes; the impact of the High Court's Bugmy decision on the sentencing of Aboriginal offenders; delay in or refusal to provide medical treatment to prisoners; the ban on smoking; and concerns about prisoners spending more time on remand than the total length of their sentence.

The PRWG also continues to be very concerned about the increasing prison population and particularly the over representation of Aboriginal people in custody, for example, Aboriginal women between 25–34 years old represent approximately 47% of the total female prisoner population. Additionally, NSW prisons have the

worst records in Australia for overcrowding and time out of cells.

Members of the PRWG are also active members of related interagency and consultative groups, including the NLA Prisoner's Forum, the Corrective Services Women's Advisory Council and the Corrective Services Legal Practitioners Consultative Group. These networks continue to provide excellent opportunities for PRWG members to raise concerns directly with Corrective Services, Justice Health, Legal Aid and others.

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.

Communications and Technology network report

Julia Davis, convenor

This is a new Network at the CLCNSW Quarterlies. The first meeting was held at the November 2014 Quarterlies, and Julia was elected as the first convenor at the February 2015 Quarterlies. This Network is still evolving into what will become its ongoing identity and purpose for CLCs in NSW. For now it has been used as a place to share communication ideas and strategies (including social media), troubleshoot problems through more experienced communications staff, and learn new skills from presenters.

In the long run we hope the Network will be useful to IT and communications staff among CLCs to learn about new technologies, share skills and debate some of the big technology and communications issues facing the sector like the future of the BBS, the decommissioning of CLSIS and development of a new national client database, and the use of cloud computing.

This year we had the following presentations:

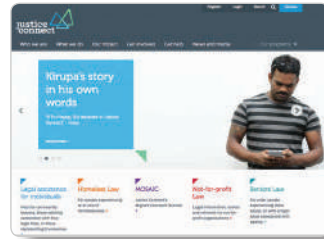
- Andrew Kelly, Fundraising Manager at RACS, to present on RACS's social media strategy
- Polly Porteous (Acting CEO NACLIC) and Angeline Veeneman (IT Consultant) on the development of a CLSIS replacement
- Brian McLaughlin (Partnerships and Business Development Manager) at Infobox on the ICT services they offer to Not For Profits
- Erin Turner (CHOICE) – Advanced Q&A about social media platforms
- Erin Turner (CHOICE) – 'To Tweet or Not to Tweet' – Training on basic social media use for CLCs.

NFP Law: information hub for charities and not-for-profits

Justice Connect has a comprehensive website to help charities and not-for-profits get much needed legal support and navigate the rapidly changing legal landscape at a critical time for the sector. The Information Hub, launched in July 2014, was created by the not-for-profit Law service at Justice Connect with the help of hundreds of volunteer lawyers. It features free, tailored legal information on over 80 topics from charity reporting and good governance to social media and privacy laws.

www.nfplaw.org.au

www.justiceconnect.org.au



Outasite Lite: e-publication for people living in residential parks

The Tenants Union has relaunched Outasite Lite, an e-publication for people living in residential parks in NSW. Outasite and Outasite Lite were previously published by the Park and Village Service. The publications ensure that park residents have access to good quality, independent information about issues affecting them.

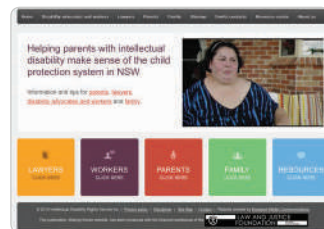
www.tenantsunion.org.au/publications/e-news



'Making Sense': website for lawyers and support workers assisting parents with intellectual disability in care proceedings

The Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS) has a website called 'Making Sense', which is an online resource providing valuable information to lawyers and disability support workers assisting parents with learning or intellectual disability involved in the NSW child protection system.

Families where at least one parent has an intellectual disability are over-represented in care proceedings in NSW Children's Courts. Lawyers assisting parents with intellectual disability require an understanding of intellectual disability and parenting capacity, effective communication skills and need to be able to assist parents to navigate care proceedings. Disability support workers, on the other hand, need an understanding of the Care and Protection



system to effectively support these parents. The 'Making Sense' website provides lawyers and disability support workers with this knowledge.

The 'Making Sense' website is an initiative of IDRS's Parent's Project. This statewide project supports parents with intellectual disability who are at risk of having their children placed in out of home care or who are involved in care and protection proceedings. The site was funded by the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW.

www.idrs.org.au/makingsense

Women at Work Factsheets

In March 2015 Kingsford Legal Centre launched its Women at Work factsheets. This project began as a Legal Aid Commission Partnership grant in 2011, with Legal Aid and Asian Women at Work (AWAW). KLC ran a series of community legal education sessions with clients of AWAW where participants discussed the problems they had at work and talked about their rights with the help of a KLC lawyer. From these workshops a series of factsheets were developed. These factsheets outline common employment law problems and where to go for assistance. There are five factsheets in English, Chinese, Bangla and Indonesian. KLC intends the factsheets to help people identify their rights at work and where to go for legal help.

www.klc.unsw.edu.au/services/employment-law



International Students' Service Film #IWishKnew

Redfern Legal Centre's International Students' Service has released a film to highlight the legal problems many international students face when studying in Australia. International students are away from their usual support networks and many have a lack of understanding of Australian laws.

The #IWishKnew Campaign aims to highlight these important issues and raise awareness of RLC's free legal service for international students across the state of NSW.

www.rlc.org.au/publication/iwishknew-international-students-service-releases-new-film



Membership, governance and operations

CLCNSW Member Centres 2014/15

FULL MEMBERS:

Generalist Centres	Specialist Centres
Central Coast Community Legal Centre	Animal Defenders Office
Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre	Arts Law Centre of Australia
Far West Community Legal Centre	Australian Centre for Disability Law
Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre	EDO NSW
Hume Riverina Community Legal Service	Financial Rights Legal Centre
Hunter Community Legal Centre	HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (NSW)
Illawarra Legal Centre	Immigration Advice and Rights Centre
Inner City Legal Centre	Intellectual Disability Rights Service
Kingsford Legal Centre	Justice Connect
Macarthur Legal Centre	National Children's and Youth Law Centre
Macquarie Legal Centre	Public Interest Advocacy Centre
Marrickville Legal Centre	Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia)
Mid North Coast Community Legal Centre	Tenants' Union of NSW
Mt Druitt & Area Community Legal Centre	The Aged-Care Rights Service (TARS)
North & North West Community Legal Service	Welfare Rights Centre (NSW)
Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre	Wiringa 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	

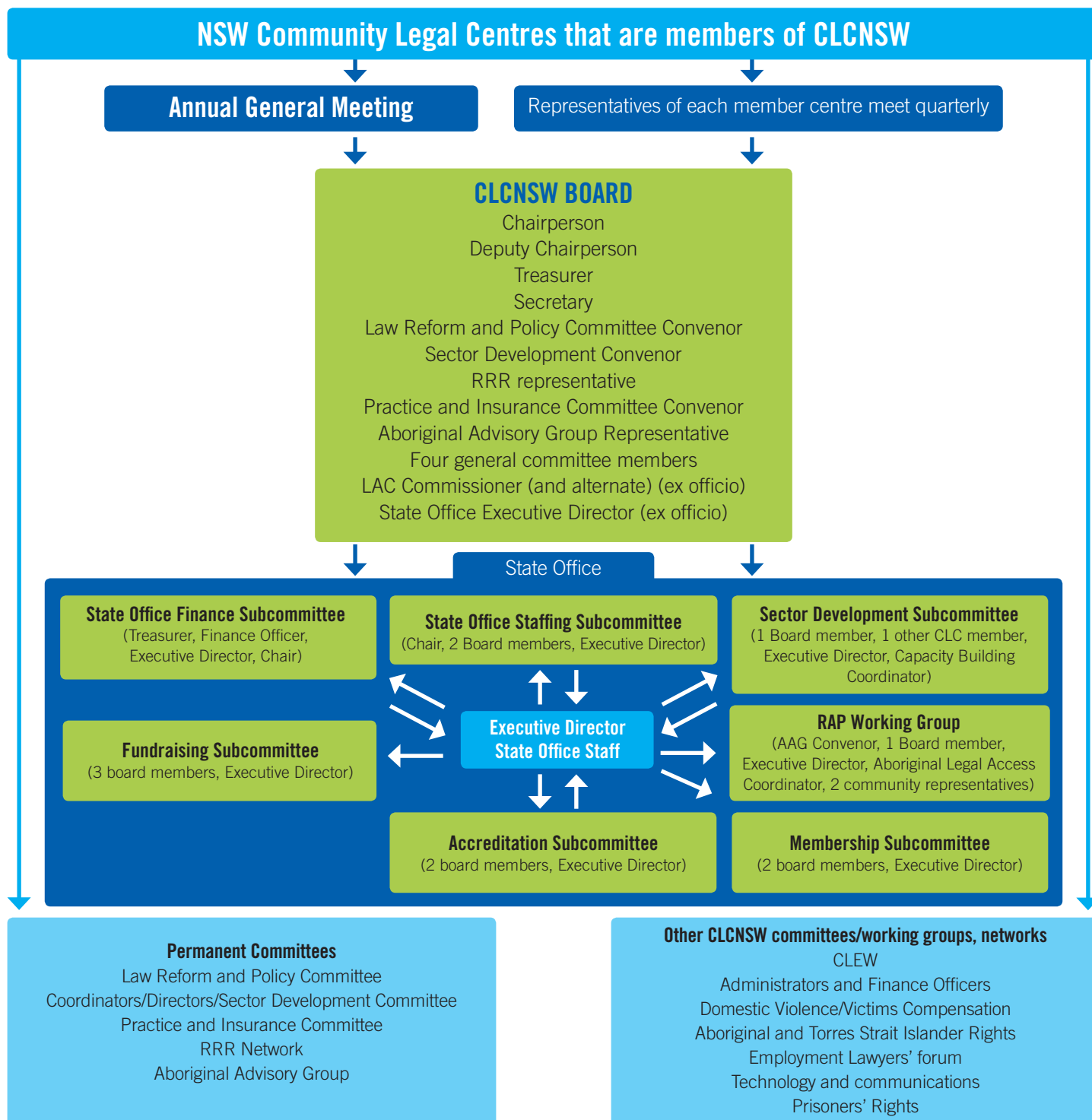
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Australian Pro Bono Centre
University of Newcastle Legal Centre

CLCNSW Board 2014/15

Name	Member centre	Position	Meetings attended/ Meetings eligible to attend
Nassim Arrage	Central Coast CLC	Chairperson	8 / 8
Robyn Ayres	Arts Law Centre	Deputy Chairperson	4 / 8
Rachel Burns	Tenants' Union of NSW	Treasurer (resigned July 2014)	1 / 1
Julie Robson	Marrickville Legal Centre	Treasurer (from November 2014)	4 / 4
Suzanne Derry	Arts Law Centre	Secretary	4 / 8
Janet Loughman	Women's Legal Services NSW	Practice & Insurance Committee Convenor (until November 2014)	3 / 4
Dianne Hamey	Elizabeth Evatt CLC	Practice & Insurance Committee (from November 2014 to June 2015)	3 / 4
Daniel Stubbs	Inner City Legal Centre	State representative to NACLC (until November 2014)	3 / 4
Gemma McKinnon	Tenants' Union of NSW	Aboriginal Advisory Group Convenor (until February 2015)	4 / 5
Shannon Williams	Women's Legal Services NSW	Aboriginal Advisory Group Convenor (from May 2015)	1 / 2
Ken Beilby	Northern Rivers CLC	Sector Development Convenor (until November 2014) General member (from November 2014)	8 / 8
Kerry Wright	Shoalcoast CLC	Sector Development Convenor (from November 2014)	4 / 4
Ruby Taylor	Hunter CLC	Law Reform network convenor (from November 2014)	3 / 4
Kim Richardson	Hunter CLC	Rural, Regional & Remote network Convenor (until November 2014)	3 / 4
Helen Pigram	Western NSW	Rural, Regional & Remote network Convenor (from November 2014)	4 / 4
Martin Barker	Marrickville Legal Centre	General member (until November 2014)	0 / 4
Tom Cowen	The Aged-Care Rights Service (TARS)	General member (until November 2014)	2 / 4
Emma Golledge	Kingsford Legal Centre	General member (from November 2014)	3 / 4
Fia Norton	Northern Rivers CLC	General member (from February 2015)	3 / 4
Liz Snell	Women's Legal Services NSW	General member	5 / 8
Alastair McEwin		State Office Executive Director (ex officio)	8 / 8

Organisational structure of Community Legal Centres NSW



CLCNSW Sub-committees and working groups 2014/15 (as at 30 June 2015)

Sub-committee or Working Group	Convenor/s	Member centre
Aboriginal Advisory Group	Shannon Williams	Women's Legal Services NSW
Administrators/Finance Officers	Leanne Hosking Julie Vitnell	Central Coast CLC Hunter CLC
Care & Protection	Marissa Sandler	IDRS
Community Legal Education Workers (CLEW) Group	Bronwyn Ambrogetti Pat Joyce Nalika Padmasena	Hunter CLC TARS TARS
Coordinators/Directors/Sector Development	Kerry Wright	Shoalcoast CLC
Domestic Violence & Victims Compensation Subcommittee	Alicia Jillard Teresa Rubio	Women's Legal Services NSW Hawkesbury Nepean CLC
Employment Lawyers network	Maria Nawaz Annette van Gent	Kingsford LC Marrickville LC
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rights Working Group	Zachary Armytage	CLCNSW
Law Reform & Policy	Martin Barker Ruby Taylor Cass Wong	Marrickville Legal Centre Hunter CLC Tenants' Union of NSW
Practice and Insurance Committee	Ken Beilby Dianne Hamey (resigned June 2015)	Northern Rivers CLC Elizabeth Evatt CLC
Prisoners Rights Working Group	Carolyn Jones Patrick O'Callaghan	Women's Legal Services NSW Western NSW CLC
Rural, Regional & Remote	Helen Pigram Tina Napier	Western NSW CLC Elizabeth Evatt CLC
Technology & Communications	Julia Davis	Financial Rights Legal Centre

CLCNSW State Office staff

Name	Position
Norico Allen	Finance Officer
Zachary Armytage	Aboriginal Legal Access Coordinator
Kendrea Fang	Administrator (commenced February 2015)
Meg Houston	Regional Accreditation Coordinator
Alastair McEwin	Executive Director
Kerry Nettle	Advocacy and Human Rights Officer
Sarah Norton	Administrator (resigned January 2015)

Casual staff:

Geena Kordek (ongoing IT support)

Volunteers:

Kyle Hawthorne, Aurora internship, June – July 2014

Frank Brinken, Aurora internship, February – March 2015



Zachary Armytage (left), CLCNSW Aboriginal Legal Access Coordinator, in the Law Society Journal with Jason Behrendt (right). Photo: CLCNSW

Community Legal Centres NSW Inc ABN: 22 149 415 148

Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2015

The committee members present their report together with the financial report of Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2015 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
- Martin Barker (resigned November 2014)
- Ken Beilby
- Rachel Burns (resigned July 2014)
- Thomas Cowen (resigned November 2014)
- Suzanne Derry
- Emma Golledge (appointed November 2014)
- Diane Hamey (appointed November 2014; resigned June 2015)
- Janet Loughman (resigned November 2014)
- Alastair McEwin
- Gemma McKinnon (resigned February 2015)
- Fia Norton (appointed February 2015)
- Helen Pigram (appointed November 2014)
- Kim Richardson (resigned November 2014)
- Elizabeth Snell
- Julie Robson (appointed November 2014)
- Daniel Stubbs (resigned November 2014)
- Ruby Taylor (appointed November 2014; resigned September 2015)
- Shannon Williams (appointed May 2015; resigned September 2015)
- Kerry Wright (appointed November 2014; resigned October 2015)

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

Results

The deficit of the association for the year amounted to \$8,425.

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



Julie Robson
Treasurer

Dated this 27th day of October 2015

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenue and other income			
Operating grants	4	565,130	685,530
Other income	4	100,043	128,846
	4	<u>665,173</u>	<u>814,376</u>
Less: expenses			
Depreciation and amortisation expense	5	(1,015)	(11,053)
Employee benefits expense		(420,839)	(480,047)
CLCNSW expense		(25,098)	(26,123)
Program and planning expenses		(84,268)	(123,603)
Office overhead expense		(63,929)	(72,454)
Rental expense premises		(51,059)	(48,693)
Other employees expense		(16,569)	(21,004)
Consultants and contractors expense		(6,780)	(28,640)
Other expenses		(4,041)	(4,020)
		<u>(673,598)</u>	<u>(815,637)</u>
Surplus / (deficit)		(8,425)	(1,261)
Other comprehensive income for the year		–	–
Total comprehensive income		<u>(8,425)</u>	<u>(1,261)</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	41,410	100,069
Receivables	7	3,899	2,416
Other financial assets	8	247,925	240,987
Other assets	10	26,951	28,345
Total current assets		<u>320,185</u>	<u>371,817</u>
Non current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	9	1,440	2,455
Other assets	10	3,192	3,153
Total non current assets		<u>4,632</u>	<u>5,608</u>
Total assets		<u>324,817</u>	<u>377,425</u>
Current liabilities			
Payables	11	46,786	54,806
Provisions	12	68,136	55,882
Other liabilities	13	–	53,656
Total current liabilities		<u>114,922</u>	<u>164,344</u>
Non current liabilities			
Provisions	12	17,406	12,167
Total non-current liabilities		<u>17,406</u>	<u>12,167</u>
Total liabilities		<u>132,328</u>	<u>176,511</u>
Net assets		<u>192,489</u>	<u>200,914</u>
Member funds			
Reserves	14	109,271	110,939
Accumulated surplus	15	83,218	89,975
Total members funds		<u>192,489</u>	<u>200,914</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015**

	Reserves \$	Accumulated surplus \$	Total equity \$
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	<u>—</u>	<u>(1,261)</u>	<u>(1,261)</u>
Balance as at 1 July 2014	110,939	89,975	200,914
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	—	(8,425)	(8,425)
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>—</u>	<u>(8,425)</u>	<u>(8,425)</u>
Transfers	(1,668)	1,668	—
Balance as at 30 June 2015	<u>109,271</u>	<u>83,218</u>	<u>192,489</u>

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015**

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash flow from operating activities			
Receipts from customers		767,522	877,621
Payments to suppliers and employees		(829,653)	(893,690)
Interest received		10,411	12,922
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	16(b)	<u>(51,720)</u>	<u>(3,147)</u>
Cash flow from investing activities			
Payment for investments		(6,939)	(9,106)
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		<u>(6,939)</u>	<u>(9,106)</u>
Reconciliation of cash			
Cash at beginning of the financial year		100,069	112,322
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		(58,659)	(12,253)
Cash at end of financial year	16(a)	<u>41,410</u>	<u>100,069</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2015

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 committee's 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 expensed by the Association during the financial year. Where surplus funds are required to be repaid, they will remain as a liability in the accounts until repayment.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(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.

(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 property, plant and equipment is depreciated over their estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Land and the land component of any class of property, plant and equipment is not depreciated.

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

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 outflow 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 purchased 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.

(l) Comparatives

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2015 (cont.)

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

There are no new and amended accounting standards effective for the financial year beginning 1 July 2014 which affect any amounts recorded in the current or prior year.

NOTE 2: ACCOUNTING STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS ISSUED BUT NOT OPERATIVE AT 30 JUNE 2015

The key accounting standards changes that may affect the Association on initial application include the following:

AASB 9 Financial Instruments applicable after 1 January 2018

The Standard will be applicable retrospectively and includes revised requirements for the classification and measurement of financial instruments, revised recognition and derecognition requirements for financial instruments and simplified requirements for hedge accounting.

The key changes that may affect the Association on initial application include certain simplifications to the classification of financial assets and upfront accounting for expected credit loss. Although the directors anticipate that the adoption of AASB 9 may have an impact on the Association's financial instruments it is impracticable at this stage to provide a reasonable estimate of such impact.

AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers applicable after 1 January 2018

AASB 15 introduces a five step process for revenue recognition with the core principle being for entities to recognise revenue to depict the transfer of goods or services to customers in amounts that reflect the consideration (that is, payment) to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The five step approach is as follows:

- Step 1: Identify the contracts with the customer;
- Step 2: Identify the separate performance obligations;
- Step 3: Determine the transaction price;
- Step 4: Allocate the transaction price; and
- Step 5: Recognise revenue when a performance obligation is satisfied.

AASB 15 will also result in enhanced disclosures about revenue, provide guidance for transactions that were not previously addressed comprehensively (for example, service revenue and contract modifications) and improve guidance for multiple element arrangements. The changes in revenue recognition requirements in AASB 15 may cause

changes to the timing and amount of revenue recorded in the financial statements as well as additional disclosures. The impact of AASB 15 has not yet been quantified.

NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT 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.

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
NOTE 4: REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME		
Operating grants		
LAC grant	307,411	297,059
PPF ALAP	101,744	107,930
PPF training	–	205,816
RACS accreditation	99,135	74,725
Sector Development Contribution	56,840	–
	<u>565,130</u>	<u>685,530</u>
Other income		
Conference and symposium income	–	25,693
Royalty income	13,880	22,254
CLCNSW group levy	24,339	22,567
Professional Indemnity Insurance	41,676	37,891
Interest income	10,411	13,533
Sundry income	9,737	6,908
	<u>100,043</u>	<u>128,846</u>
	<u>665,173</u>	<u>814,376</u>

NOTE 5: OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)

Surplus / (deficit) has been determined after: Depreciation	1,015	2,254
Amortisation of non current assets leasehold improvements	–	8,799
	<u>1,015</u>	<u>11,053</u>
Remuneration of auditors for: Audit and assurance services		
Audit of the financial report	7,250	6,600

NOTE 6: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash on hand	200	200
Cash at bank	41,210	99,869
	<u>41,410</u>	<u>100,069</u>

NOTE 7: RECEIVABLES

CURRENT		
Trade debtors	1,102	–
Other receivables		
Interest receivable	2,797	2,416
	<u>3,899</u>	<u>2,416</u>

NOTE 8: OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS

CURRENT		
<i>Held to maturity financial assets</i>		
Term deposits	247,925	240,987
	<u>247,925</u>	<u>240,987</u>

NOTE 9: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

At cost	42,236	42,236
Less accumulated depreciation	(42,236)	(42,236)
	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>

Plant and equipment

Office equipment and computer equipment at cost less accumulated depreciation	24,272	24,272
	(22,832)	(21,817)
	<u>1,440</u>	<u>2,455</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>1,440</u>	<u>2,455</u>

NOTE 10: OTHER ASSETS

CURRENT		
Prepayments	26,951	28,345
	<u>26,951</u>	<u>28,345</u>

NON CURRENT

Term deposits – bank guarantees	3,192	3,153
	<u>3,192</u>	<u>3,153</u>

Term deposits totalling \$3,192 are held as bank guarantees in relation to the Association's credit card.

NOTE 11: PAYABLES

CURRENT		
<i>Unsecured liabilities</i>		
Group tax payable	4,206	5,856
Superannuation payable	2,656	3,290
GST credits	2,559	7,873
Other payables	29,100	26,757
Accrued expenses	8,265	11,030
	<u>46,786</u>	<u>54,806</u>

NOTE 12: PROVISIONS

CURRENT		
Annual leave	(a) 49,791	42,419
Long service leave	(a) 18,345	13,463
	<u>68,136</u>	<u>55,882</u>

NON CURRENT

Long service leave	(a) 12,406	7,167
Make good	5,000	5,000
	<u>17,406</u>	<u>12,167</u>
(a) Aggregate employee benefits liability	<u>80,542</u>	<u>63,049</u>

NOTE 13: OTHER LIABILITIES

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2015 (cont.)

NOTE 14: RESERVES

Parental leave reserve	14(a)	31,491	34,648
Redundancy reserve	14(b)	77,780	76,291
		<u>109,271</u>	<u>110,939</u>

(a) Parental leave reserve

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

Movements in reserve

Opening balance		34,648	34,648
Transfers		(3,157)	–
Closing balance		<u>31,491</u>	<u>34,648</u>

(b) Redundancy reserve

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

Movements in reserve

Opening balance		76,291	76,291
Transfers			1,489
Closing balance		<u>77,780</u>	<u>76,291</u>

NOTE 15: ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

Accumulated surplus at beginning of year		89,975	91,236
Surplus / (deficit)		(8,425)	(1,261)
Transfer (to) / from reserves		1,668	–
		<u>83,218</u>	<u>89,975</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		41,210	99,869
		<u>41,410</u>	<u>100,069</u>

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

Surplus / (deficit) from ordinary activities after income tax		(8,425)	(1,261)
Adjustments and non cash items			
Depreciation		1,015	11,053
Changes in assets and liabilities			
(Increase) / decrease in receivables		(1,483)	(611)
(Increase) / decrease in other assets		1,356	(28,384)
Increase / (decrease) in payables		(8,020)	10,823
Increase / (decrease) in other liabilities		(53,656)	6,110
Increase / (decrease) in provisions		17,493	(877)
		<u>(43,295)</u>	<u>(1,886)</u>
Cash flows from operating activities		<u>(51,720)</u>	<u>(3,147)</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.

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		3,730	17,018
– later than one year and not later than five years		4,662	4,410
– later than five years		–	–
		<u>8,392</u>	<u>21,428</u>

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 2015 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (a) the operations, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2015, of the association, or
- (b) the results of those operations, or
- (c) the state of affairs, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2015, 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

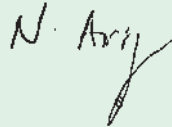
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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

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

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. as at 30 June 2015 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



Julie Robson
Treasurer

Dated this 27th day of October 2015



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 2015, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in members funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the governing committee's declaration.

Responsibility of Those Charged with Governance

The governing committee are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have 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 profit Commission Act 2012*, the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW)* and the financial reporting needs of the members.

The governing committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the governing committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the governing committee, 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 2015, 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 of Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. presents fairly, in all material respects, the association's financial position as at 30 June 2015 and its performance and its cash flows for the year ended on that date in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for profit Commission Act 2012* and *Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW)* and the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report.

Basis of Accounting

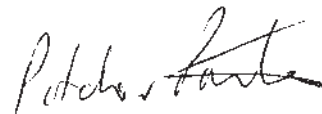
Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for profit Commission Act 2012* 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 28th October 2015



**Community
Legal Centres
NSW**

**Community
Legal Centres
NSW**