



Photograph by Huan-Tzin Goh

youthlaw

ANNUAL REPORT
2012/2013



CONTENTS

→ About Youthlaw	2
→ From the Board	4
→ Our Legal Services	5
→ Our Legal Education and Training	7
→ Our Policy and Advocacy	8
→ Acknowledgements, Funding and Support	9
→ Financials	11

Cover image by Huan-Tzin Goh

ABOUT YOUTHLAW

Youthlaw is a not for profit, independent, state-wide community legal centre for young people.

Youthlaw works to address the legal issues facing young people through legal services, advocacy, law reform and preventative education programs, within a human rights and social justice framework.

VISION

A just and equitable society for, and by, young people.

VALUES

Youthlaw is a fearless advocate for young people. Youthlaw works within a social justice and human rights framework. Our work is based on principles of community development and we work together with young people to realise our shared vision. We recognise and value the diversity of young people and we strive to reflect that diversity in our work. Youthlaw works collaboratively to stimulate and create systemic change in the community for the benefit of young people.

2011– 2013 OBJECTIVES

1. Young people with formerly unmet legal needs are accessing high quality, free and accessible legal services.
2. Young people, particularly those most vulnerable & marginalised, are better able to identify and assert their human rights.
3. To increase the profile of young people's human rights amongst key stakeholders and community organisations, in particular in relation to at least two and no more than five emerging issues per annum.
4. Victorian law, policy and public authorities will take steps to respond to the experiences of young people and actively protect their rights in three key focus areas:
 - a. Infringements;
 - b. Police and young people; and
 - c. Diversion from the criminal justice system.
5. Young people are involved and informing the work and direction of Youthlaw.
6. By 2013 Youthlaw secures on-going sustainable funding that enables Youthlaw to operate efficiently and effectively on a day-to-day basis.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2012-13 YEAR

Youthlaw landmark test case

On 2 August 2013 Youthlaw, our team of pro bono lawyers from Maddocks (Kate Oliver and Mark Hayes) and our pro bono barristers (Emrys Nekvapill, Jason Pizer and Fiona Spencer) had a major victory in the Victorian Court of Appeal.

Our client Nassir Bare was granted a protective costs order to continue his appeal. This is the first ever protective costs order made in Victoria and creates a legal precedent that paves the way for other public interest cases to proceed.

The decision was made by the highest court in Victoria and will be influential nationally. Currently Australia has no national laws regulating costs in public interest cases and few court decisions as precedents.

The Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) and the Victorian Attorney-General's Department opposed the protective costs order. The order restricts adverse costs against our client to a maximum of \$5,000. If the order had not been made, Nassir could have been ordered to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal costs.

This decision will enable the test case – about whether Victoria Police investigation of complaints against police officers meets basic human rights standards – to proceed.

Both the Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission and the Attorney-General's Department have intervened in the case as it calls into question whether IBAC complied with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities in handling Nassir's complaint against police.

This case is of significant public importance as currently the vast majority of complaints (including serious complaints) are investigated by Victoria Police.

We thank the Lance Reichstein Trust for funding research and advocacy that supported the protective costs aspect of this test case.

Frontyard development

Youthlaw is co-located with Frontyard Youth Services to ensure vulnerable and disadvantaged young people receive legal assistance in addition to other youth services available including:

- Short and long term housing support
- Health checks and treatment
- Intensive case management
- Youth Connections
- Family mediation
- Employment assistance
- VCAL classes
- Pregnancy and parenting support
- Centrelink assistance

Frontyard is financially assisted by Melbourne City Mission and the City of Melbourne. This year Melbourne City Mission embarked on a new vision for Frontyard by moving all adult service staff so Frontyard could expand and renovate to create a youth-friendly space, including a brand new gym for young people.

There is renewed excitement in the building to forge a new and improved identity, and increased cooperation between Frontyard services. It is an opportunity for all to look at how we can best meet the needs of young people attending our services and how we can have the greatest impact on long term change.

Review of Youthlaw Online

This year Youthlaw Online (our outreach service to rural and regional Victoria using Skype) was evaluated by an external consultant to pave the way for new ways of providing legal services throughout Victoria. The evaluation highlighted the importance of finding unconventional and innovative ways to assist vulnerable young people. This will include using online communication technologies, flexible access to high-quality legal advice and collaboration with youth workers and other people that disengaged and marginalised young people living in rural, regional and remote areas trust.

Our Skype legal service was recognised in May this year when former Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus announced a boost of funding for this important service.

Social media

In September 2012 Youthlaw proudly launched our new website integrated with Facebook and Twitter. We set up a shared social media roster for staff and began daily posts. Most of our work now has a presence on social media, as we engage with a broader number of Victorians interested in our work and the difficulties facing disadvantaged young people.

Our revamped website has attracted over 16,000 unique visitors and over 60,000 page views.

We have also established a dynamic twitter account with over 900 followers to follow over 500 tweets for the year and continue to improve our online influence.

We are also growing our Facebook fan base, with over 300 fans, and 1 in 3 fans under the age of 25.

Run Melbourne

In July 2013, Youthlaw staff, volunteers, Board members and Ashurst lawyers participated in The Age Run Melbourne to raise money for Youthlaw. In total we had over 25 runners who raised over \$17,000. There were many personal achievements with Team Youthlaw runners completing the half marathon, 10km and 5km distances. In the lead-up to the big day, Youthlaw was rated in the top 10 of fundraising organisations. A highlight of the day was Youthlaw lawyer Guy Donovan being awarded a certificate for finishing 24th in the 10km run, beating now Prime Minister Tony Abbott to the finish line by nearly 20 minutes.

Volunteer program

With no paid administration we have had to be innovative to support our legal practice. In 2012, we poured a significant amount of energy into developing and rolling out a structured intake and training program for our dedicated team of law student volunteers. The volunteer program selects, trains, supervises and mentors later year law students to become effective and knowledgeable paralegals.

Our volunteers are an integral part of Youthlaw. Many volunteers become involved in our campaigns, attend events and join the Board. Feedback from volunteers and our lawyers has been very positive about the program, which we will continue to implement to empower passionate, highly skilled volunteers to use their legal skills to assist young people.

Ariel Couchman

Director



FROM THE BOARD

THE LAST YEAR HAS BEEN ONE OF EXCITING INNOVATION AND CHANGE FOR YOUTHLAW. At Youthlaw, we are constantly looking for new and accessible ways to deliver our legal services to young people. This is particularly important given the recent results of the Law Foundation's *Australia Wide Legal Needs Survey 2012*¹ that found that despite high legal need, young people were less likely to seek legal advice, and the most likely to handle legal problems on their own. The Survey found that young people often have little knowledge about the law, how it can assist them, or who to turn to for help.

In 2013 Youthlaw has continued to pioneer Skype legal service in Australia, reaching out to young people in rural and regional Victorian. Our online lawyer, Katrina Wong, worked tirelessly to re-source, skill up and collaborate with youth services on the ground. An external evaluation of the program provided positive results that pave the way for further innovation in this area, as we move away from traditional delivery of legal services. We were pleased to welcome Federal Attorney General Mark Dreyfus to the organisation in March, who announced the funding that will allow us to continue to develop Youthlaw Online in the coming years.



We have extended the boundaries of traditional legal service delivery and trialled an online entry and response service to legal questions of RMIT University students at campuses around Melbourne. Guy Donovan, our lawyer at RMIT, has seen a steady increase in queries and the feed-back from students has been very encouraging. Over 80% of legal problems are now dealt with by a combination of email and phone.

Our lawyers have otherwise worked collaboratively with private law firm Maddocks and pro bono barristers to obtain a landmark protective costs order in the Supreme Court on public interest grounds. We have continued the development of high quality and engaging legal training and education resources, which has been spearheaded by Annie Davis. Of particular note was the launch of "Street Law" in September, a series of videos produced in collaboration with students at Youthworx Media about young people and their rights when dealing with police and Protective Services Officers (PSOs).

Despite these innovations, a constant challenge for Youthlaw lawyers remains how best to use our limited capacity to assist all the young people who need our support. A review of the Youthlaw guidelines in 2012 has enabled us to better target and meet the needs of vulnerable and marginalised young people.

The result is that we now provide increased early intervention in relation to legal issues by way of one off advices, telephone and email consultations, which allows young people to understand their needs and the options available to them. This increased efficiency has enabled us to provide more substantial assistance to those who really need it. The trend has been for these cases to be more complex and we provide court representation for a large number of very vulnerable young people.

On the policy front, Tiffany Overall and Emma Breheny have worked as fearless advocates for young people, responding to a range of issues including concerns regarding the transfer of children to adult prison, the implementation of Coronial recommendations to improve police responses to critical incidents involving young people and making the case for legislated early diversion for youth offenders (similar to that already in place in the adult court system).

Youthlaw directly lobbied key decision makers and met with Victorian Parliamentary Members, the Honourable Mary Wooldridge and the Attorney-General Robert Clark to discuss current issues relevant to young people. We also collaborated with other organisations to develop a strong united voice on a range of youth justice issues including the Smart Justice for Young People Coalition and the Your Rights on Track Project, which monitored and commented on the introduction of Protective Service Officers at train stations throughout Victoria.

Behind the scenes, the Youthlaw Board has worked to increase its expertise to manage and guide the organisation, undertaking training in finance, governance and employment law. The Board has also undertaken a detailed review of the Youthlaw Rules and Youthlaw policy and procedures.

Youthlaw has stepped out into broader society and in June, a team of staff, Board members, volunteers and friends took to the streets in Youthlaw orange t-shirts to "Run Melbourne" and raise funds. The broader legal community also got behind us in our inaugural "Lock up a Lawyer" fundraiser, that saw 150 members of the legal community spend a night in Pentridge Prison to raise money for our organisation.

As always, a special thanks to the tireless enthusiasm and energy of the Youthlaw staff, volunteers and Board members. In particular thanks are due to Katrina Wong who ably stepped in and filled the position of Principal Lawyer at the same time as attaining a Child and Youth Law Accredited specialisation and Ariel Couchman for her ongoing stewardship of Youthlaw. We otherwise farewell and thank the efforts of outgoing staff members Jordana Cohen, Katrina Wong, Emma Breheny and Sarah Segal for their wonderful contributions to the organisation and welcome Lee Carnie and Anna Radonic back to the fold.

I take this opportunity to also thank the external supporters of Youthlaw, including Ashurst and Victoria Legal Aid who have provided the organisation with essential funding and assistance in kind throughout the year.

I hope that you enjoy reading more about what we've been up to in the past year in the rest of this report and I look forward to your continued support and involvement in our work for young people in 2014 and beyond.

Monica Lillas
Chairperson

1 Available at: [http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/ljf/site/templates/LAW_AUS/\\$file/LAW_Survey_Australia.pdf](http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/ljf/site/templates/LAW_AUS/$file/LAW_Survey_Australia.pdf)

OUR LEGAL SERVICES

YOUNG PEOPLE'S STORIES

- *James*, a 21 year old young man with a long-standing history of homelessness came to Youthlaw with multiple criminal charges from one incident of being drunk in a public place, resisting police and possession of cannabis. James was not supported by any services, re-refused to live in refuges as he was afraid he would become involved in heavy drug use and suffered from significant mental health/anger management issues. Youthlaw assisted James to be linked in with a case manager that he got along with, and represented him in court. James got a good result and was able to concentrate on dealing with his drug and alcohol issues.*

- *Tara*, a 23 year old young woman came to us about an agreement with a financial management company that she had signed without understanding the contract. The company had taken control of her Centrelink payments and charged exorbitant amounts for their services. Tara was also dealing with ongoing mental health issues, unstable employment and was at risk of homelessness.*

- *Boris* had taken out a \$15,000 loan with a bank when he was 17. He told us that he had received no financial or other support from his family since he was 15 years old. Boris came to Youthlaw for assistance as he has recently been made redundant from his casual employment and could not afford the loan repayments.*

- *Catherine*, a 23 year old, called about someone else posting compromising photos of her on a pornography website without her permission, and sought our assistance on what she could do about it.*

- *Many young people call or come in for help with fines they receive while homeless, suffering from mental illness or substance addiction. They often have many and include fines for begging, being drunk on the street and not having enough money to pay for public transport.*

- *Many teenagers (usually 15 or 16 years old) call or email Youthlaw for legal advice about whether they can live with another parent or sibling or become independent and live on their own. Usually they are experiencing family conflict and breakdown.*

- *Youthlaw receives calls from teachers, youth workers, social workers and counsellors who ask about their legal obligations where they had knowledge about young people (including young people as young as 13 years old). An example is where they suspect there is physical violence at home.*

- *Youthlaw lawyers provided advice to young people and their family about to being asked to give a statement or being interviewed by police.*

In the 2012/2013 year Youthlaw provided legal assistance to **1,883** young people, including:

- Face-to-face legal advice to **472** young people at our Frontyard drop in clinic.
- Court representation for **130** young people.
- Free legal information to **785** young people, adults and workers over the phone and by email.
- Outreach legal advice to **151** young people through Youthlaw Online, a youth hub in Braybrook and from a youth bus in the Melbourne CBD at night.
- Legal assistance by email, Skype or in person to **475** RMIT students attending CBD, Brunswick and Bundoora campuses.

AT FRONTYARD

We have a frequent drop-in legal clinic at Frontyard Youth Services. Young people who have experienced difficulty in their lives and often present in need of a refuge, crisis accommodation or somewhere to stay for the night, are greeted by trained youth workers who are welcoming and assist young people to work out which services they need.

Most young people who present at Frontyard have multiple concerns such as family breakdown, violence and neglect, mental health problems, needing a place to stay and longer term housing, money problems and legal problems. We work closely with the other services so these issues are identified and a coordinated response is put in place to guide young people to manage these problems.

YOUTH BUS

In early 2010, we teamed up with the Salvation Army to talk to young people at a youth bus in the Melbourne CBD. The bus is a fully-equipped youth centre with wireless internet, Xboxes, a plasma TV, hang-out areas, a mini kitchen and a private counselling room. While the kitchen serves up food, the Salvation Army volunteers and our Youthlaw lawyer use the opportunity to engage with the young people who attend. This year, lawyers Jordana Cohen and Guy Donovan provided legal advice from the Youth Bus on Monday nights.

Young people who come to the Youth Bus are all homeless or living in unstable environments. They have multiple legal and non-legal problems. The purpose of this outreach is to build trust and provide legal assistance to young people who are not engaged with support services, and who might otherwise fall through the cracks of our system. The friendly and relaxed environment enables us to build trust and confidence and many come back for further advice.

YOUTHLAW ONLINE

Youthlaw Online is our Skype legal service. Young people access Youthlaw Online through seven services throughout rural and regional Victoria.

Outreach Lawyer Katrina Wong visited our 'host sites' to develop trust in our service, train up staff, conduct education with young people in the area, and speak to key stakeholders (schools, community services, police, local legal services). In addition to the young person speaking to the lawyer the host service provides warm referrals to local services.

Our partnerships with local youth services are an invaluable aspect of the service. Young people are provided the support and assistance from the service to identify their legal problems and are also linked up to other services they need. The local youth service connects us to the local community where we build relationships, conduct legal education and pick up on local issues of concern.

From July 2012 we provided a Skype legal service in Geelong in partnership with Barwon Youth and Barwon Community Legal Service.

RMIT

Since February 2012 Youthlaw has been providing a legal service to RMIT University students. Youthlaw lawyer Guy Donovan is at RMIT at the city campus each Tuesday and Wednesday. Students access the service initially online via the RMIT website. 80% of problems can be dealt with online, providing a quick and easy resolution for many students. Appointments are also offered and Skype services at the campuses at Bundoora and Brunswick.

Guy also updates fact sheets and online resources available on the RMIT website, sends legal information messages via social media and provides legal training to RMIT staff.

OUR LEGAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION

In the 2012-13 year Youthlaw secured two project grants to employ Annie Davis, a previous lawyer at Youthlaw and now multi-skilled in law, social media and communications to lead development of legal training resources. With Annie and external experts we have produced a number of exciting legal resources for workers, young people and the general community.

Highlights this year were:

- Launch of our new website combined with Facebook and Twitter.
- Completion of a three-part series of training videos for workers assisting young people (funded by the Victoria Law Foundation).
- Professional development workshops for youth workers and other professionals who work with young people in multiple locations across Victoria.
- Providing consultancy services such as to Global Vision to produce legal content for young people to be uploaded onto the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) website as part of its MoneySmart multi-media educational resources for young people.
- Shooting and producing 'Street Law': a series of five short films to educate young people about their rights when dealing with police and Protective Services Officers in collaboration with youth media organisation Youthworx and filmmaker James Fleming.
- Development of an education kit and legal info webpages to accompany the Street Law series.



OUR POLICY AND ADVOCACY

With funding from the Victorian Legal Services Board we continued to roll out our three year policy and advocacy program with a focus on achieving real impacts on a number of key youth justice issues and responding to critical youth justice issues as they emerge.

Youthlaw continued to actively campaign for:

- Police and other law enforcement authorities to use their powers age-appropriately, respectfully and professionally in relation to children and young people.
- Police powers, authorities and their impacts on young people.
- Legislated and resourced diversion programs for children and young people under 18.
- A fairer, more efficient and affordable fines system for children and young people.

In October 2012 Youthlaw was alerted by members of the community that young people under 18 were increasingly being transferred into adult prison system and were being placed in solitary confinement. Youthlaw and others spoke to media to bring this issue to public attention. We joined with organisations to lobby for improved and transparent processes to reduce transfers to the absolute minimum. We also lobbied for the adult system to better manage and work with young people in adult prisons.

Youthlaw continued to resource and coordinate Smart Justice for Young People (SJFYP), a cross-sectorial youth justice advocacy coalition. The SJFYP aims to challenge the public and decision makers to consider smarter and more effective justice solutions. The SJFYP makes public comment and produces news items, media releases and fact sheets via its website. It has an active Twitter account with over 700 followers.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Contributing to, and maintaining the Smart Justice for Young People webpages and Twitter account.
- Producing fact sheets including Myths of youth offending.
- Evaluating the Coalition to develop campaign strategies for 2013.
- Members actively involved in policing and diversion campaigns.

Policing

- Dialogues with Victoria Police about strengthening their youth specific training.
- Responding to the Victoria Police public inquiry into field contact and cross-cultural training
- Members actively involved in 'Your Rights on Track', a community legal education & monitoring project about Protective Services Officers.

Diversion

- Presentation at the Diversion Roundtable attended by Attorney-General Robert Clark, Minister Wooldridge and Minister McIntosh
- Responding to the state government review on youth diversion in Victoria
- Members have maintained pressure on the State government to progress on the diversion discussion paper.

Fines

- Supporting and coordinating the Federation of Community Legal Centre's Infringements Working Group's development and finalisation of the law reform position paper: A simple, fair and effective infringements system for all Victorians.
- Development of a position paper: A fairer fines system for children: Key issues and recommendations.
- Youthlaw was an active involved in the development of a model policy for enforcement agencies and their internal review of special circumstances infringements.

On a positive note, the Victorian Government is now giving serious consideration to major fines reforms.

Children transferred to adult prison

- Meetings with key youth justice stakeholders
- Lobbying of the new Commissioner for Children and Young People to play an active monitoring and oversight role for young people transferred to adult prison.

MEDIA

This year saw Youthlaw continue to build its media profile, be a go to for journalists and influence media reporting. This was assisted by numerous stories about policing and diversion issues in the media over the past year.

Media this year – **8** media releases, **35** media hits, **12** print media comments, **2** published online opinion pieces, **1** published article in *The Alternative Law Journal*, **7** radio interviews, **2** TV interviews.

The Nassir Bare test case provided significant media and public awareness-raising on the issue of independent investigation of police complaints, and the importance of protective costs orders to enable greater access to justice.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Youthlaw encourages young people to participate in and contribute to Youthlaw's advocacy and law reform work. Sarah Segal continued with us until December 2012 working on various youth engagement initiatives, including:

- Partnering up with the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria to resource other organisations to undertake peer research and advocacy.
- Building Youthlaw's presence on social media, especially Facebook, to engage and mobilise young people and facilitate the representation of young people's issues and views to government or media.
- Developing a proposal for youth bloggers
- An online survey about young people's experiences of fines. Nearly 300 responses were collected over November and December 2012. The results were used to inform Youthlaw's fines campaign in 2013.

We have also used social media, cases from our lawyers surveying of young people at the Frontyard legal clinic and focus groups to capture the voice and experience of young people, to be used in our advocacy work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, FUNDING AND SUPPORT

We would like to acknowledge support for Youthlaw from the following:

- Ashurst
- Frontyard Youth Services
- Melbourne City Mission
- Victoria Legal Aid Community Legal Service Program
- Jeremy Cass and the youth lawyers at Victoria Legal Aid
- Federation of Community Legal Centres (Hugh de Kretser, Claudia Fatone and Darren Lewin - Hill)
- Salvation Army Youth Bus team
- Braybrook Youth Hub staff
- RMIT legal service management including Kitty Vivekananda, Kathryn Marriot and the student well-being staff
- Youthlaw Online host organisations, including Barwon Youth, Mornington Peninsula Shire Youth Services, The Bridge Seymour and Shepparton, Uniting Care Cutting Edge and Upper Yarra Community House
- Our pro bono test case team, Kate Oliver and Mark Hayes at Maddocks and counsel Emrys Nekvapil, Jason Pizer and Fiona Spencer
- Holding Redlich for pro bono test case advice
- Smart Justice for Young People coalition members: especially Jesuit Social Services, YSAS, CMY, YACVic, VCOSS, Federation of CLCs, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, Barwon Youth, Whitelion & Open Family, the Bridge Project YMCA, Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre, North Melbourne Legal Service, Peninsula Community Legal Centre, Law Institute of Victoria and Headspace
- Fellow members of the Infringements Working Group: especially Garry Rothman at Odyssey House, Lucy Adam and Chris Holt at Homeless Person's Legal Clinic
- Youthlaw Board
- Youthworx staff and students
- James Fleming of Camera Electrica
- Our volunteers and Deakin placement students
- Belinda Nisbet for her enormous contribution to Lock up a Lawyer

FUNDING

In the 2012-13 funding year we received recurrent funding of \$286,000. In May 2013 the Federal Attorney-General announced three one-off grants to community legal centres in Victoria of which one was to Youthlaw in recognition of our innovative Skype legal service. In the budget we also received good news of Commonwealth extra funding of \$50,000 each year for the Skype service over three years, from the financial year 2014-15.

In addition, we generated income from legal costs, legal training, consultancies and sale of our youth worker booklet. We generated over \$20,000 through fundraising activities such as Run Melbourne and the Ashurst Trivia Night. We also received a number of personal donations from Ashurst staff and from the national pro bono committee.

The Youthlaw Board approached a number of corporations to take the good work of Youthlaw to private business to secure their financial and in-kind support.

In addition we secured a number of grants and wish to acknowledge the following funders:

- Victoria Law Foundation – two grants
- Legal Services Board of Victoria
- Helen McPherson Smith Trust
- Lance Reichstein Trust

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Each year professionals and firms donate their time and expertise for free or at a highly subsidised rate.

This year we received the following in kind or subsidised support:

- Ashurst – pro bono legal advice, stationery, hosting Youthlaw legal training sessions, Board meetings and our AGM.
- Lucia Marin – subsidised design of the 2011 – 12 annual report.
- Melbourne City Mission – continued to support Youthlaw with telephone equipment and other office contributions, and hosted the Braybrook outreach service at the Youth Enterprise Hub.
- Youth services across Victoria have continued to support Youthlaw by hosting Youthlaw Online.

Our volunteers and placement students

We thank:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| → Alexandra Einfeld | → Melissa Molloy |
| → Anna Whittaker | → Mia Abrahams |
| → Bronwyn Montgomery | → Miriana Smoljko |
| → Caitlin Edwards | → Monica Lee |
| → Elizabeth Margaronis | → Nick Kelly |
| → Eylul Top | → Nicole Jee |
| → Gary Chau | → Nikita Harrison |
| → Jade Gregory | → Olivia Coburn |
| → Jake Harris | → Rachel Fitzpatrick |
| → Jessica Aoun | → Rose Storey |
| → Laura Wilson | → Sasha Lytas |
| → Lauren Scott | → Sophie Cox |
| → Lindell Hoskins | → Stephanie Freeman |
| → Lisa Thien Huong Nguyen | → Tom Henneman |
| → Louise McNeil | → Tom Hickey |
| → Mark Ross | → Trung Ly |
| → Mary-Anne Philip | → Zalman Bassin |

Youthlaw Staff 2012–13

- Ariel Couchman, Director
- Tiffany Overall, Human Rights & Advocacy Officer
- Katrina Wong, Principal Lawyer & Youthlaw Online Lawyer
- Anna Radonic, Principal Lawyer
- Jordana Cohen, Lawyer
- Guy Donovan, Lawyer
- Annie Davis, Education and Training Co-ordinator & Youthlaw Online Lawyer
- Emma Breheny, Policy Officer
- Sarah Segal, Youth Engagement Project Officer
- Sally Goldner, Finance Officer
- Galit Aflalo, Secondee Lawyer from Ashurst
- Michael Rice, Secondee Lawyer from Ashurst
- Elisa Dickenson, Secondee Lawyer from the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service
- Lee Carnie, Secondee Lawyer from the Federation of Community Legal Centres

Youthlaw Board 2012–13

- Monica Lillas, Chair
- Matthew Gregg, Secretary
- Jan Farrell, Treasurer
- Anoushka Jeronimus
- Mari Cuzilla
- Meribah Rose
- Nicole Jee
- Megan Trethowan (Ashurst)
- Chian Kee (Ashurst)

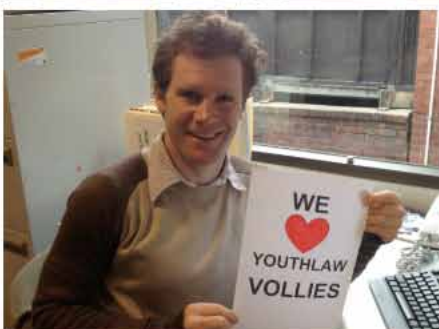
External Services

- Lucia Marin
- Meghan McBain (Design Bus)
- FINREA Computing Services
- JL Collyer & Partners
- Helen Rosenbaum, Consultant
- Dialogue Consulting



You're invited to
Youthlaw's

**VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION
NIGHT 2013**



YOUTHLAW FINANCIAL REPORT 2012/2013

CONTENTS

BALANCE SHEET

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

INCOME STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AUDIT REPORT

Balance Sheet**as at 30 June 2013**

	Note	2013	2012
		\$	\$
<i>Current Assets</i>			
Cash	7	396,424	461,335
Receivables		160,749	7,703
Prepayments		4,276	2,249
Total Current Assets		561,449	471,287
<i>Non Current Assets</i>			
Property, plant and equipment	5	6,325	3,449
Total Assets		567,774	474,736
<i>Current Liabilities</i>			
Payables		28,848	13,599
Provisions		58,075	57,255
Grants in advance	6	197,313	126,164
Total Current Liabilities		284,235	197,017
Net Assets		283,538	277,718
<i>Equity</i>			
Committed Fund		283,538	277,718
		283,538	277,718

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

**Notes to and forming part of the accounts
for the year ended 30 June 2013**

Note 2: Revenue	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Operating activities		
Legal Aid - recurrent funding	301,356	286,288
Legal Services Board	97,518	95,178
Barwon CLC	15,000	-
Marybyrnong City Council - Speak Out	-	(3,000)
Victoria Law Foundation	56,309	28,089
RMIT	61,151	30,124
Ashurst (formerly Blakes)	70,000	85,000
Adjustments re grants carried forward	(21,592)	(46,637)
Donations other	12,321	3,421
Donations in kind	63,760	61,903
Interest received	4,734	11,720
Management fees	22,230	16,026
Cost recoveries	13,743	10,051
Community Legal Education	3,473	1,403
Other income	9,751	16,241
Total revenue	709,753	595,806

Note 3: Surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities has been determined after		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	2,944	2,767
Remuneration of auditor		
- audit services	1,343	1,133
- other services	-	-
Total remuneration	1,343	1,133

Note 4: Income tax

The Association is specifically exempt from tax under s(50)10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act, and in accordance with the restrictions imposed by exempt status, no asset or income of the Association may be transferred to any member of the Association.

Note 5: Property, plant and equipment	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Furniture and fittings - at cost	41,595	35,775
Less Accumulated depreciation	(35,270)	(32,326)
	6,325	3,449

Note 6: Grants received in advance	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Ashurst (formerly Blakes)	79,708	85,000
Barwon CLC	630	-
Department of Justice	3,281	3,611
Helen Mcpherson Smith Trust	-	5,004
Legal Services Board	4,592	1,311
Reichstein Foundation	-	8,370
RMIT	12,222	8,894

Notes to and forming part of the accounts
for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 6: Grants received in advance (Continued)	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Victorian Law Foundation	597	12,639
Victoria Legal Aid	96,284	1,335
	197,313	126,164

Note 7: Cash flow information	2013	2012
	\$	\$

A) Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the period's end as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:

Cash	396,424	461,335
	396,424	461,335

B) Reconciliation of net cash provided by operating activities to operating surplus

Operating surplus	5,820	24,876
non cash flows in operating surplus		
depreciation	2,944	2,767
Provisions	820	7,049

Changes in assets & liabilities

Increase/(decrease) in creditors	15,249	4,960
Increase/(decrease) in grants received in advance	71,149	(23,461)
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(153,046)	(3,402)
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(2,028)	(297)
	-59,092	12,492

Note 8: Statement of Changes in Equity	2013	2012
	5,820	24,876
Surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities		
Net increase/ (decrease) in Equity	5,820	24,876
Equity at the beginning of the year	277,718	252,842
Equity at the end of the year	283,538	277,718

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2013

	Note	2013	2012
		\$	\$
Revenue from ordinary activities	2	709,753	595,806
Employee expenses		(485,564)	(400,395)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		(2,944)	(2,767)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(215,425)	(167,768)
Surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities	3,4,8	5,820	24,876
<i>Increase/(decrease) in reserves from prior year adjustments</i>			
		5,820	24,876

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2013

	Note	2013	2012
		\$	\$
<i>Cash Flow from Operating Activities</i>	7		
<i>Receipts</i>			
Operating grants		445,469	207,110
Donations		12,321	3,421
Interest Earned		4,734	11,720
Other receipts		101,572	284,789
<i>Payments</i>			
Payments to suppliers and employees		(623,188)	(494,549)
<i>Cash Flow from Operating Activities</i>		(59,092)	12,492
<i>Cash Flow from Investing Activities</i>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(5,820)	(823)
<i>Cash Flow from Investing Activities</i>		(5,820)	(823)
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash held		(64,912)	11,669
Cash at the beginning of the year		461,335	449,666
Cash at the end of the year		396,424	461,335

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report



J L COLLYER & PARTNERS
ACCOUNTANTS & AUDITORS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE INC

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of **YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE INC** which comprises the balance sheet as at 30th June 2013, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The management of **YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE INC** are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The management's responsibility also includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report on 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 directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

DIRECTORS
JANET L. COLLYER FCPA
LIONEL R. ARNOLD CA B.BUS
RAELENE LAI CPA B.COM



Chartered Accountants

LIABILITY LIMITED BY A SCHEME APPROVED
UNDER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS LEGISLATION

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Management's financial reporting requirement. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

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 the relevant independence requirements.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of **YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE INC**

- (a) gives a true and fair view of **YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE INC's** financial position as at 30th June 2013 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.


.....
Janet Collyer
J L COLLYER & PARTNERS

12th August 2013

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