

youthlaw

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010



ABOUT YOUTHLAW

Youthlaw is Victoria's state-wide community legal centre for young people. Youthlaw works to achieve systemic responses to the legal issues facing young people through legal services, advocacy, law reform and preventative education programs, within a human rights and social justice framework.

Youthlaw is co-located with Frontyard Youth Services in central Melbourne. Frontyard consists of an integrated group of youth services that work collaboratively to address the needs of young people most at risk. This includes housing services, a health clinic with doctors and nurses, job and education programs, family mediation and counselling services.

The reception of Frontyard is staffed by youth workers and they assist young people to identify the services they need and how to access them.

Youthlaw provides free and confidential legal advice for young people up to 25 years of age.

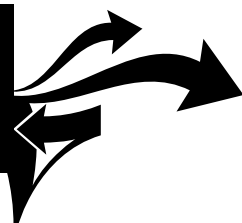
- » Drop-in clinic: Monday – Friday 2–5pm Frontyard, Melbourne CBD
- » At the Braybrook Youth Enterprise Hub – Tuesday 2-5pm
- » From the Salvation Army CBD bus – Wednesday 6.30-8.30pm
- » By webcam online in 6 rural and regional locations
- » Telephone and email advice: Monday – Friday 9am–5pm

QUESTIONS

We can answer questions about:

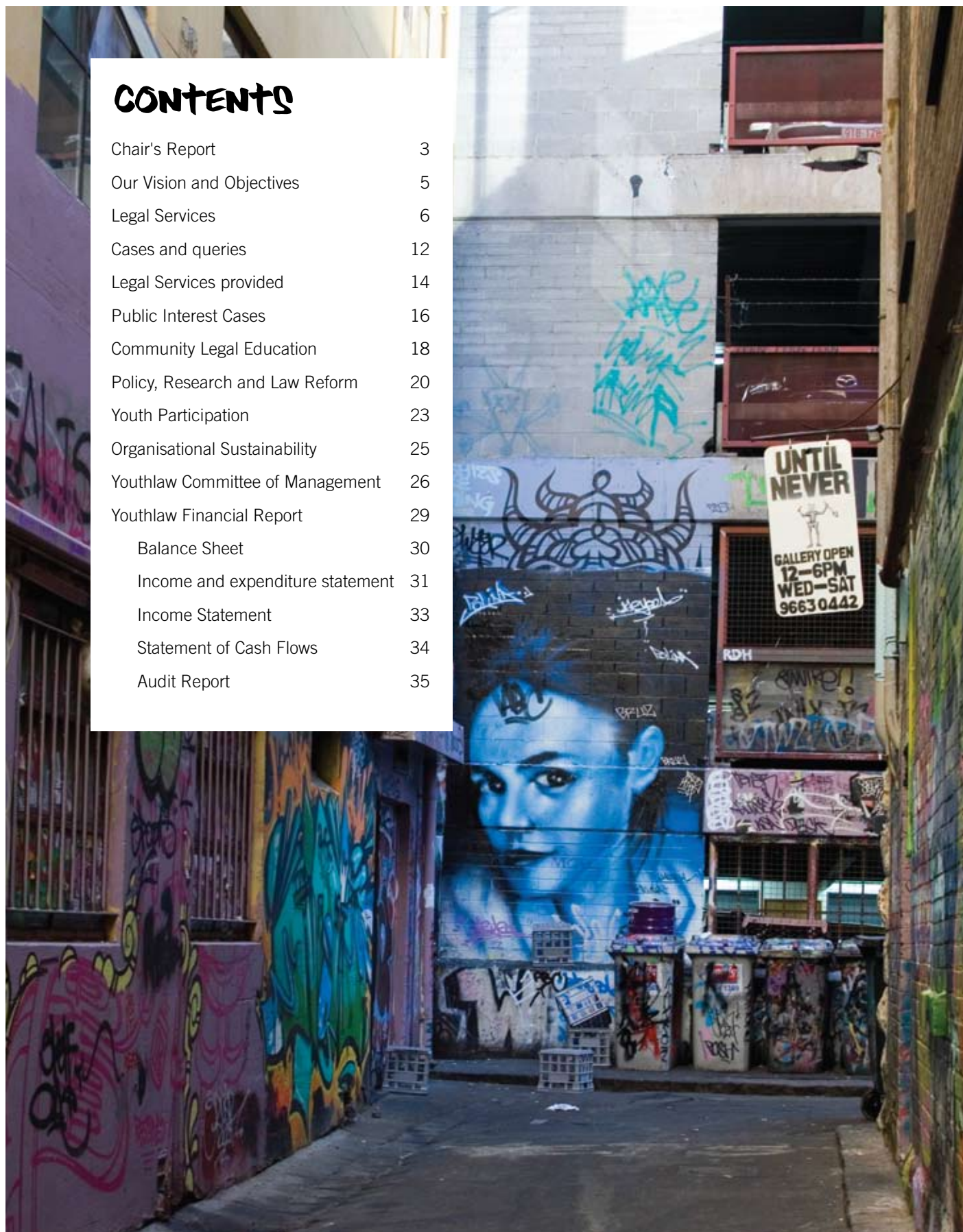
- » Public transport fines
- » Police
- » Security guards
- » Family
- » Violence and abuse
- » School
- » Discrimination
- » Employment
- » Debts and buying stuff
- » Relationships

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Baybrook Youth Hub

CHAIR'S REPORT

2010 has been another positive year for Youthlaw, and one in which we have, once again, taken an innovative and collaborative approach to our work, in an effort to meet the needs of young people on their terms, and in a manner that works for them.

Youthlaw's lawyers this year joined the Salvation Army Youth Bus, which parks in the evenings at key locations around the CBD. Our lawyers provided legal advice and assistance to young people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness.

Through our partnership with the Youth Enterprise Hub at Braybrook, and the young people using the service, we developed a DVD "3019 : On the Radar" to educate young people about the law and their rights. In the DVD young people and police act out realistic crime and police interview scenes.

Youthlaw partnered with a number of youth organisations to hold a forum on 10-14 year olds disengaging from school. We brought together school staff, researchers, government and youth services to look at the triggers and strategies to improve school engagement.

With support from the Victoria Law Foundation we were able to increase our presence in our online sites in the Upper Yarra and Mornington Peninsula areas, to build relationships with young people and to identify and act on the issues impacting on them. The project also assisted young people to advocate about these issues, to police, local councils and on radio.

We supported youth-led research, conducted by a group of young people involved in a Southport youth group, with support from the City of Melbourne. Through the research we identified where young people hang out, whether they feel safe, and what they need.

We also extended our focus this year, successfully tendering with another community legal centre to provide a new legal service specific to international students.

We maintained a strong focus on advocacy, responding to the increasing assertion in the tabloid media that youth crime is out of control, and subsequent demands for a tough on crime approach. We also responded to a raft of new street offences and increased police powers. Youthlaw discussed the issues with politicians and were interviewed by the media. We also joined with a range of partners to launch Smart Justice, a website providing information and strategies to cost effectively reduce crime, without violating fundamental human rights.

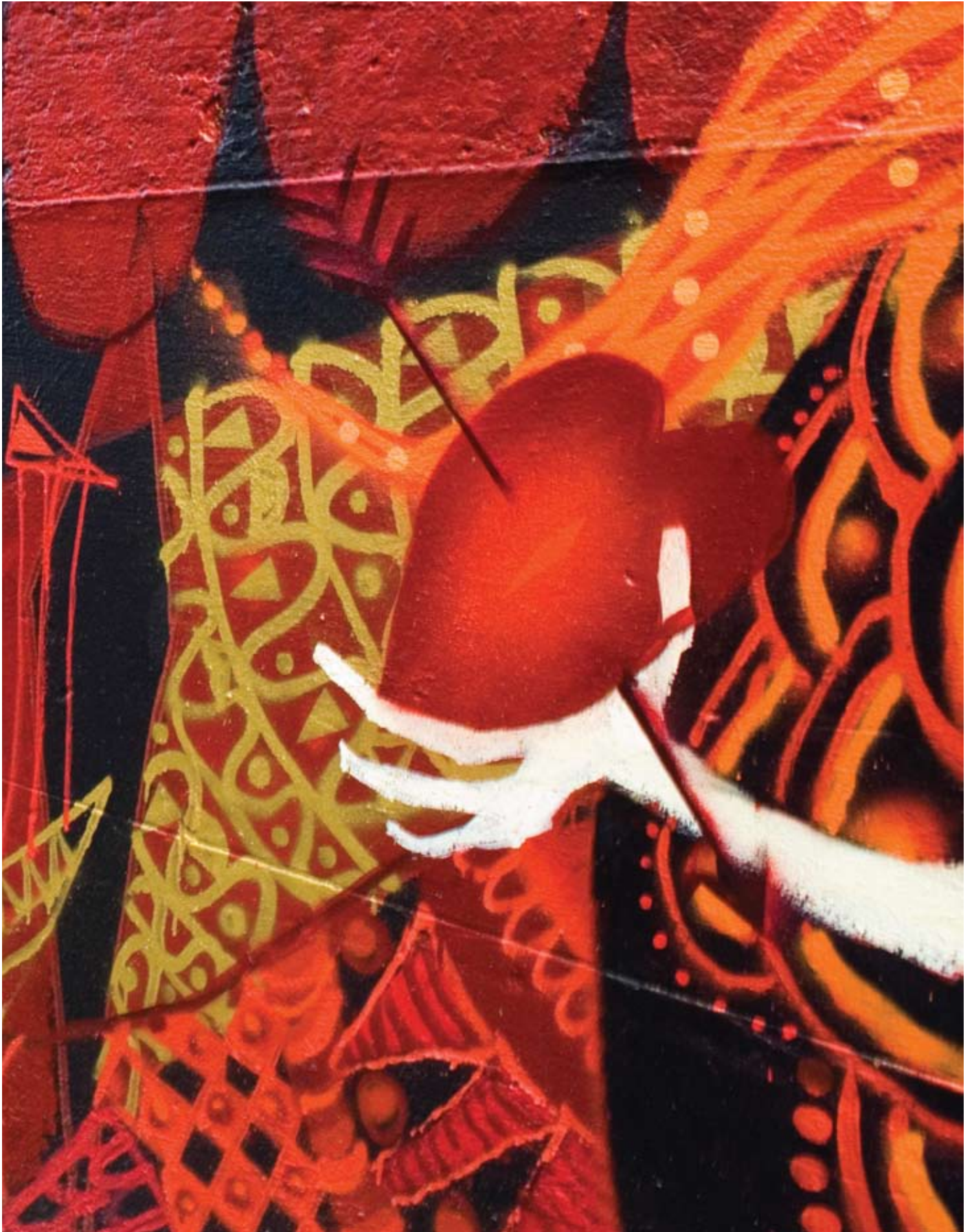
Last year Youthlaw's Board made a commitment to improve the working environment for our staff, through seeking new premises. We achieved this, while maintaining our important co-location with Frontyard Youth services.

As always, all of this work was made possible by a wonderful and dynamic team of staff, our ever enthusiastic secondees, our wonderful volunteers and our passionate Board members. It was also made possible by our continuing community law partnership with Blake Dawson, our strong relationship with the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, and wonderful relationships with legal and youth organizations, and individuals.

Surprisingly however, Youthlaw remains one of the lowest funded community legal centres in Victoria, despite the strong support from our partners. Next year we hope to strengthen the financial position of Youthlaw through securing ongoing core funding.

I am delighted to once again be involved with the wonderful work of Youthlaw, and I and the Board look forward to another fruitful year in 2011.

Michelle Marven
Chairperson



OUR VISION AND OBJECTIVES

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.

MISSION

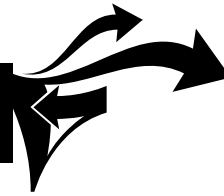
To provide an accessible legal service to young people under the age of 25, focusing on areas of unmet legal need. To address systemic legal and social justice issues in Victoria through community education, advocacy and law reform both for and with young people and their advocates.

OBJECTIVES

1. To respond to young people's unmet legal need and improve young people's access to the legal system.
2. To improve the level of understanding within the community about how the law affects young people.
3. To advocate for systemic changes in legal and social policy to promote the interests and rights of young people.
4. To meaningfully involve young people in Youthlaw.
5. To ensure Youthlaw's ongoing sustainability and ability to operate efficiently and effectively on a day-to-day basis.

LEGAL SERVICES

OBJECTIVE: TO RESPOND TO YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNMET LEGAL NEED AND IMPROVE YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACCESS TO THE LEGAL SYSTEM.



OUR SERVICES

Drop In Legal Clinic – CBD Melbourne

We have a legal clinic every week day from 2–5pm at 19 King Street, Melbourne.

The location of Youthlaw with other youth services responds to what we know about young people. We know they rarely seek out legal services directly. They want services that are easy to get to, friendly and flexible (such as no appointments). They have a no show rate when referred elsewhere. They often need assistance to identify they have legal issues and usually come to us referred from other services. They are often dealing with other problems such as finding a place to stay, needing money and health issues.

Frontyard is close to public transport and many young people travel in from the suburbs or country where there are few youth services. The youth workers at reception assist young people to work out which services they need and encourage them to use them. All the services are drop-in so if you wait long enough you can see as many services as you want in one visit. Each service works in a holistic way linking young people with the other services in the building.

At Frontyard we assist many vulnerable young people. Many are homeless or living in unstable or abusive homes. They sometimes need support and assistance for a number of years to get back on track.

By phone and email 9am–5pm, weekdays

This suits younger people who can't get in to see us. It's also anonymous. We receive a high number of sexual abuse and family violence related queries through this service.

We also respond to legal queries from adults including family members, youth workers, teachers and professionals.

Complimenting our service is LAWSTUFF a national email legal service run by the National Youth and Children's Law Centre (NYCLC) based in Sydney. Private lawyers at Mallesons, a large corporate firm volunteer their time to answer email queries from children and young people. NYCLC check all advice, coordinate the program and provide training. Youthlaw contributes to the training of the Lawstuff volunteer lawyers in Melbourne.

- *I was just wondering, when I turn 17 and decide to leave home, do I need to sign any legal documents?*
- *I'm 16 and my step dad has been violent towards me for a long time. If I was to live by myself could I get child support from either of my parents?*
- *Hi just trying to help a young friend of mine whose parents are recently divorced but he only wants to live with his mother. Just wondering what the legal age is when you can choose where you live.*
- *Dear Youthlaw, the reason I'm writing to you is to inquire about my legal options regarding guardianship and place of residence. I am 15 years old. I am living in a bad environment and I would like some information about what my options are about when or if I can change my guardians and where I live legally. Thank you*
- *Hey, my name is Josh. I'm having problems at home. My parents drink a lot, especially my father who is abusive towards my mother and me. I want to ask for advice on what I can do regarding this situation.*

'For young people in the country there aren't many places to go for help, I know where I grew up most people I know don't have easy access to legal help and sometimes they can only get help if it's for a something serious. I certainly didn't know of places I could go to for help when I lived there and I'm sure there would be other young people like me out there. ...'

Emma, 20, at the launch of Youthlaw Online in 2008

At the Braybrook Youth Enterprise Hub

In November 2008 we established an outreach legal service at the Youth Enterprise Hub in the main street of Braybrook in the western suburbs. There are legal services in suburbs nearby but Braybrook is quite isolated. It has a high population of young people many newly arrived. We began outreach in response to concerns held by local youth workers and council staff that young people were increasingly getting in trouble with the law and that the interactions between police and young people were deteriorating.

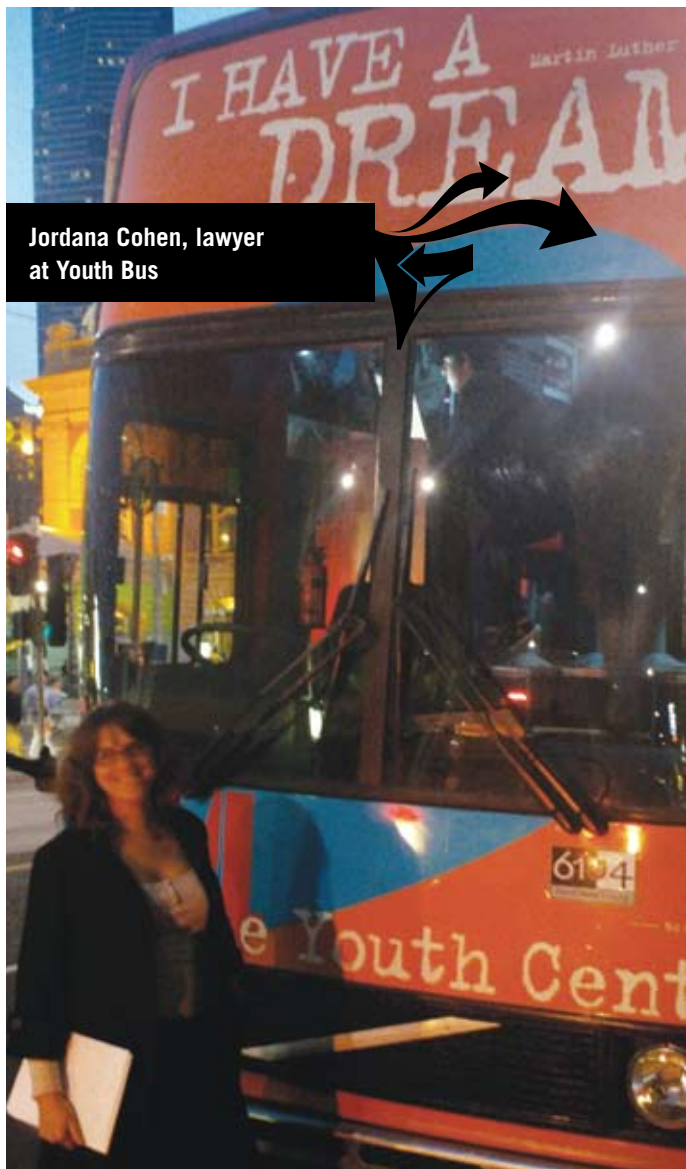
The weekly presence of outreach lawyer Annie Davis combined with the staff at the Youth Hub have fostered strong relationships with the young people there and we are observing that they are now much more positive and future focused. Many of the young people accessing the service have traumatic pasts, have lost family members and have few in their lives they can rely on and seek help from.

Annie and the YEH staff also encourage young people and their families to get involved in projects such as 'Project 3019' that aimed to improve interactions with police and inform young people about the law. Police were involved and the project involved lots of activities, outings and the production of a DVD '3019 on the Radar' that features local young people acting out police and arrest scenarios and Annie providing information on the law and your rights.

→ Achol, 15, dropped in to the Braybrook youth hub for help with a Centrelink debt incurred while she was homeless. She had migrated to Australia after being orphaned in her country of origin. We assisted her to apply to waive a Centrelink debt because she did not realise she was eligible for Youth Allowance. Persuaded by her entitlement to Youth Allowance and her circumstances such as her limited English speaking ability and experience of homelessness, the Tribunal agreed to waive the debt.

→ Mohammed, 16, heard police were looking for him. He wanted to go the station to find out what they wanted but he was worried because he had no parent or guardian to help him. Annie called police to find out more and helped Mohammed sort out a time to go to the station with his youth worker. She gave Mohammed advice on the interview and she gave his youth worker information on how to support Mohammed through the process.





At the Salvation Army Youth Bus

This year we joined the Salvation Army youth bus in the Melbourne CBD. The youth bus provides food and support to young people on the streets in Melbourne. Our lawyers are at the bus each Wednesday night.

Lots of young people use the bus. Many are homeless and extremely vulnerable, living in out of home care or on the streets, in squats or in temporary accommodation.

→ *Daniel 16, came to the bus to get food. We got talking and found out that he had bail conditions that weren't working. We represented him and had his bail conditions changed so that he could more easily access services he needed. We also linked him in to the Court Integrated Services Program that assists people on charges to access various support services and obtain assessments related to mental health, drug and alcohol, housing and social support.*

Online by webcam

In 2008 we established a webcam based online legal service Youthlaw Online. This service is currently connected to six youth services in regional and rural Victoria, in Cobram, Shepparton, Seymour, Hastings, Rosebud and Yarra Junction. The location in youth services enables youth workers to assist young people to identify their legal issues, to provide other information and services and to assist Youthlaw to connect with local services. In 2010 we will explore offering online legal services directly to young people.

- *Sarah 17, left home as a teenager. She contacted us because she had outstanding fines. We assisted her to apply for a rehearing of the fines. Living in a remote part of the Yarra Ranges made getting to court difficult and she had fines at 2 different courts. We arranged to represent her, in her absence. Sarah then got involved in a local youth network to raise youth issues such as increasing public transport and having more local services.*
- *Simon, 17, living on the Mornington Peninsula contacted us about being threatened and harassed on Facebook. He had already taken out an intervention order himself but the abuser wasn't taking any notice. He brought in a printout from Facebook to show us. We assisted him to take it up again with the police and subsequently the police invited him to make a statement with a view to charges being laid.*
- *Mark, 18 contacted us about 2 criminal charges. He told us he's been through a bad period and he'd got into drinking and drugs and that prior to this he'd never been in trouble with the law. We prepared his case linking him in with the local youth and health services and programs. The court deferred sentencing and when he eventually went back the magistrate was so impressed by his progress that he got a great result. He also completed his first year of a full time mechanics apprenticeship.*

LEGAL NEEDS AND EMERGING ISSUES

A unique feature of community legal services such as Youthlaw is that it's part of our job to find out the legal needs of our community (in our case young people), gaps in legal assistance and emerging issues.

Some of the ways we do this are:

- Analysis of our client data
- Collecting information from those we assist – i.e. young people, youth workers, teachers, other professionals and family
- Consultations with other organisations and services
- Consultations, surveys and projects with young people
- Feedback from legal education sessions
- Legal needs research
- Keeping abreast of current research

Rural Remote Regional (Rural Remote and Regional) Legal Needs project

We undertook this project with funding from the Victorian Law Foundation (\$13,000). We met with young people in the Upper Yarra Region (Warburton, Yarra Junction, Healesville) and the Mornington Peninsula Region (Rosebud and Hastings) to provide legal information and legal services and at the same time document their legal needs and issues. Some of the needs and issues that came up in the Upper Yarra Region were:

Policing

- We are not always taken seriously as a young person
- Different treatment if from a 'bad family'
- Not enough police around and local stations should be open 24 hours – takes police too long to respond when urgent situations arise after hours

School

- Disciplinary processes at school are not always fair and consistent
- Schools often show little interest in finding out why we behave badly at school such as ongoing bullying or problems at home
- Not enough support /counselling early on

Personal relationships

- Abuse at home or by partners – an issue for many
- Some leave home before age 15 and main concern is where to stay

Public space and safety

- Limited public transport – can't get to services
- Mostly safe at night
- Older people go around drinking or on drugs and violence or threats of violence
- Railway stations unsafe – lots of drinking and fights going on with no security/police presence/safety cameras

Social inclusion

- boredom and lack of activities lead to excessive drinking, drug use and welfare dependency
- boredom leads to more violence and fights between 'metros' and 'skaters/lads', more graffiti/vandalism
- We want more to do – more local youth friendly activities
- We need more public transport to get to entertainment

Policing of Racialised Communities in Melbourne

Youthlaw assisted young people in Braybrook to contribute their experiences to a social research project run by Fitzroy, Springvale Monash and Western Suburbs legal services, on policing issues for African youth. Their experiences contributed to a community legal centre project report *Boys Wanna Give Me Some Action*. This report shed much needed light on policing issues for African youth and was given wide media coverage. Three young people from Braybrook were interviewed by the media following release of the report.

Youthlaw has run legal education sessions, met with Victoria Police to raise these concerns and pursued a number of formal complaints on behalf of young people about police treatment including use of force, misuse of capsicum spray and photographing young people without their consent. The young people now say that they feel heard and they are more positive about following through with complaints and generally engaging with the legal system.

International Students

The plight of international students in Melbourne has been well aired in the media including physical attacks and exploitation in employment and housing.

Over the past few years Youthlaw and other community legal centres have provided legal advice to international students. In 2009 we assisted students at our clinics and received many requests to provide legal education sessions at tertiary institutions with large international student populations.

Common legal needs and issues we have identified are:

- Vulnerability to being exploited, treated unfairly and abused in employment, tenancy, education provision and consumer contracts.
- Fines (e.g. public transport fines) – not knowing who to get help from.
- Tenancy and shared accommodation issues.
- Reporting assaults and intimidation.
- Employment laws including rights when going for jobs and wages.
- Knowing rights and processes in regard to officers of authority (police, ticket inspectors etc) and being reluctant or not knowing how to complain about inappropriate treatment.
- Concerns about having a criminal record and impact on employment, immigration and citizenship.
- Young women experiencing physical violence and harassment from male friends and also in employment and accommodation situations.
- Consumer law – not understanding loans, contracts, credit cards and what to do about debts.
- Knowing rights and the law when reporting to, or being interviewed by police.

In February 2010 Victoria University released research on international students titled *Community safety of international students in Melbourne*. The research findings were that many international students feel intimidated in Melbourne and experience threats that vary from physical attacks and verbal abuse to general rudeness and indifference.

The report indicated that international students often have a limited understanding of how the legal system works, the laws in Victoria and Australia and how to access legal services. Police interviewed felt international students did not understand Australia's legal process. Interviewed students reported reluctance to complain about unfair treatment or abuse or seek redress.

CBD violence and youth safety

Tabloid media would have us believe that all young people are perpetrators of violence, are in violent gangs, carry knives and are anti-police. However crime data, research and talking to young people often tells a different story.

Young people's safety in the community has been a re-occurring issue in our consultations with young people. Research also indicates that young people are more often victims rather than offenders and that vulnerable & marginalised young people experience particularly high levels of violence on the streets.

In 2009 we used funding from Melbourne City Council to support young people conduct their own research in South and Port Melbourne. Young people from the Southport Youth Engagement Project interviewed 65 young people about their experiences and issues including street violence. Their findings were that some young people don't feel safe on the streets and this is in particular settings. Many did feel safe. They found out a lot about where young people hang out.

'We sent out a quiz to find out what people wanted in their community and what should be changed, there was a great response from it, people were taking the quiz and the feedback was really helpful. Once we got as much feedback as possible, we gathered it all up and started working out what young people wanted in South and Port Melbourne'

(Youth researcher 2009)

In 2009 and 2010 Victoria University undertook research that surveyed and interviewed 550 young people in the western suburbs aged 15–19. They produced the report *Don't Go There: Young People's Perspectives on Community Safety*. The authors reported that 'One of the common assumptions these young people reject is that youth congregate in ethnically based 'gangs' with criminal intent. Young people overwhelmingly tell us they socialise in large groups for safety and for cultural and social reasons. 'Most of the groups are culturally diverse, and are not based on a single ethnic group. Although there are exceptions, they are generally homogenous and law-abiding.'

This year also saw concern expressed by government and the police about CBD alcohol fuelled violence. However police data indicates the vast bulk of CBD alcohol fuelled violence is in fact perpetrated by 25 to 35 year olds with significant income and visiting from the suburbs.

Knife carrying and knife usage by young people became a key concern of government and police this year. In this regard Youthlaw made use of research conducted by RMIT University criminologist Professor Julian Bondy in 2005. This research, based on interviewing young people highlighted that knife carriage and knife usage are carried out by quite different cohorts of young people, the former by teenagers peaking at 14, the latter by older people already engaged in criminal offending.

Bullying including cyber bullying

Bullying is widely experienced by young people in a range of contexts and at times has serious detrimental impacts on their wellbeing.

Each year we participate in a bullying panel involving three secondary schools in the west Geelong-Corio region. In 2009, 150 students attended. We also receive many other requests to speak on this issue. As a result of our community education we have developed fact sheets and have been interviewed by media.

This year we spoke to young people in Rosebud and Hastings about bullying.

- Most had experienced bullying, being victimised, being the bully or supported a bully.
- It occurs a lot at school and after school (e.g. on way home) and within broader loose friend-ships out of school and online.
- Schools in the area take quite different approaches – e.g. call police at an early stage, use suspensions and expulsions and mediation.
- If a school takes no action it only gets worse.
- There was concern about the impact on victims and bullies if it was treated as a criminal behaviour although there was some support for police coming out to talk about it.

At School

Disengagement from school has serious consequences and is strongly linked to homelessness and to criminal offending.

Youth services have been observing a significant number of very young people dropping out of school. In May 2009 youth services including Youthlaw organised a forum '*Mapping the Middle Ground: Supporting the educational engagement of young people aged 10 – 14 years*' to bring together school principals and staff, education academics, government and the youth sector to look at the issue of young people aged 10 to 14 disengaging from school. We discussed why and also how best to prevent it. The findings were presented to government.

Increasingly experts are raising concern about over reliance and content of school disciplinary and are advocating for a range of positive and preventative strategies be employed by schools to address student behaviour. (eg. The Parliament of Victoria Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee, *Inquiry into Strategies to Prevent High Volume Offending by Young People – 2009*)

Youthlaw receives many queries and complaints about school discipline including handling of suspensions and expulsions:

- Lack of fairness
- Lack of transparency, accountability and avenues for appeal
- Little follow-up of young people who have been expelled with some young people not attending school for a number of years.
- Limited opportunities for participation in education for many young people with behavioural issues
- Limited opportunity outside metropolitan areas for students to access education from alternative providers.

This year saw the Victorian state government tighten up suspension guidelines for schools reducing the number of days a student can be suspended. There was also a policy shift to increasing engagement and inclusion of all students and release of a homelessness strategy for schools.

CASES AND QUERIES

- A mother called about her son who had been caught spray painting.
- A mother called on behalf of her son cautioned by police and whether they could photograph him
- A father of a 13 year old called for information about young people's rights and police powers in police interviews.
- A mother of a 17 year old called for information about criminal records following her son being charged
- A welfare Coordinator called for information about possession of knives and weapons by young people.
- A teacher emailed wanting legal information about searching young people at school and a copy of the legislation that allows searching underage young people?
- A youth worker emailed wanting information about young people accessing their files.

Family issues

- The court made an order for me and my brother to live with mum. I was 12 when this happened I am 14 now. Can I leave home and go live with my dad? My school nurse told me I am old enough to make my own decisions now.

Violence and abuse

- Can you help me. I'm 17. Dad kicked me out when I was 14, but I'm worried about my little brother. Dad has been hitting him since he was 6. I went to school with bruises and told my school chaplain and welfare called dad and asked if he hurt me. Of course he said no and then I copped it.

At School

- Hey, I'm searching for advice about bullying at schools. My sister is in Year 8 and is constantly bullied by about 5 girls in her year. I have read that throwing things is classified as physical abuse and obviously she is being verbally abused as well. My parents have talked to the school but the girls seem to just keep being talked to and nothing changes.
- A father came to see us on behalf of his seven year old son. The boy's parents had elected for their son not to attend Special Religious Instruction at his public school and he was made to sit facing the back of the classroom with a teacher's aide and was feeling as if he was being 'punished' for not attending. His father came to us for help and received advice.

At work

- I have been on work cover after falling down some stairs at work. I went back to work as I was really scared I would lose my job. Now the store has sacked me. The only answer I received was that it was best for the business.
- I currently have a traineeship. They dropped my pay a couple of months back and did not inform me. I was wondering if this is legal. Also I used to work for a fast food place and didn't get my holiday hours paid out.
- Hi there. My question is in regards to employers giving reasons for not hiring.
- I am gay and I believe that was the reason for my not being employed. Is there anything I can do?

Accommodation/tenancy

- Hi I am 18 years of age with a 10 month old baby and in community housing. They will not renew my lease. On the paper it states no reason. Please I need help. Thank you
- I just want to know what legal rights I have. I am in a shared house and I have been told if I leave I won't get my share of the bond.
- I have broken up with my partner and we had unpaid rent at the house we were living in. She has told me that we need to go to court about the unpaid rent, but I have a small problem. I have a disability that leaves me unable to leave the house most days. What happens if I don't turn up.

Buying stuff, contracts and debts

- *I am 17 and just inquiring as to the minimum age to sign a phone contract. I'm now locked into a 12 month contract and have received a large bill that I can't afford to pay. Can it damage my credit history or make it hard for me to get a contract when I'm over 18. Kind regards*
- *I have a public transport fine of \$193 for being on a tram without a ticket. I had a ticket but lost it some-where amongst all the stuff I was carrying. I wrote a letter. There is absolutely no way I am able to pay this fine being an unemployed student who receives no government benefits. I also cannot go to my family due to personal reasons. Is there anything else I can do?*

Cars and Driving

- *A young woman came to see Youthlaw for help getting a condition removed from her Learner's Permit so she could take up a job. The 6 month condition was a result of being sentenced for an offence during a period of homelessness and financial difficulties. Without a licence she couldn't take up employment.*
- *I am an international student in Melbourne and I have some confusion regarding driving and licensing. Since I moved here I thought I was doing the right thing and applied for a learner's permit. Recently I went to register my car and I received bad news that I am totally illegal to drive regardless of the fact that I have my international licence because of the fact that I also hold the learner's permit.*

Administrative law

- *I am 18 years old. I was recently riding a bike without a helmet at midnight. A police car stopped me went through my phone. Do I actually have any basis to make a complaint and would it actually cause anything to change?*
- *Hi – For a school project I want to do vox pops on the streets. If we did interviews with children under 18yrs old do we need a written consent form from their parents?*
- *Hi, I am hoping you can help me. I am wondering what is involved in viewing security footage from a pub.*
- *I was wondering whether you had any or if you can direct me to where I can find information on the powers that security guards have.*

Fines

- *I've gotten a fine of \$172 due to not having a valid ticket on the tram. I'd like to appeal because I think the fine is a bit too costly for the first offence and I did have a met card on me at that time but didn't validate it because the tram was too crowded. Can you help me?*
- *David, 17 encouraged by his VCAL teacher contacted us about outstanding fines. His fines were incurred when he was very unwell and under psychiatric treatment for a mental illness. We represented him at court and the fines were waived.*
- *A young woman came to see us with over \$15,000 worth of infringements. She had a history of complex mental health issues and hadn't dealt with the fines. Youthlaw assisted and the court placed her on a good behaviour bond with an undertaking to make a donation to a charity. She made a donation to a charity that assists other people with their mental health issues. She expressed great relief at having finally dealt with the fines.*

Criminal offences

- *I am 20 years old and have been charged with two counts of shoplifting. I attended court. This is my first ever offence and the police said they will recommend a diversion to the magistrate. I want to be a teacher and understand that I may have destroyed any chance at that. I was hoping you might be able to advise me as to what is likely going to happen while in court and whether it is likely I will end up with a criminal record?*
- *If I committed a crime under the age of 18 do those records get wiped when I turn 18, Gemma.*
- *I am 16 and am wondering if I can have sex with my 19 year old boyfriend? I'm 17 soon, will that help? Thanks*
- *Hi, am just wondering how we (parents) can visit our son, who was arrested and is now locked up at the police station. I do not know the reason but just want to know are we able to go and see him while he is there.*
- *Hi, I'm a 18 year old girl and yesterday I was caught shoplifting. I am worried that I now have a criminal re-cord and will be unable to study at university, be employed or travel. If I can make an appointment to see a lawyer concerning this matter, that would be great.*
- *Hi, I'm a 17 year old boy and I was caught with 1 spray can, nozzles and a texta. I've never been in trouble with the law before and I was wondering if you could help me out in regards to what may happen in the near future. Will I get a record? Will I get a lesser sentence because it is my first time ever in trouble?*

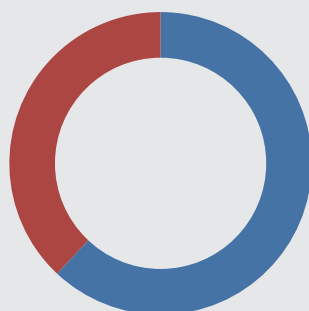
LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED

In 2009/2010 Youthlaw provided legal services to 1,432 people.

- Ongoing casework including court work for 716 young people (720 cases)
- Face to face one off advice to 156 young people
- Email and telephone legal information to 506 young people and adults (family, friends, workers, teachers and professionals).

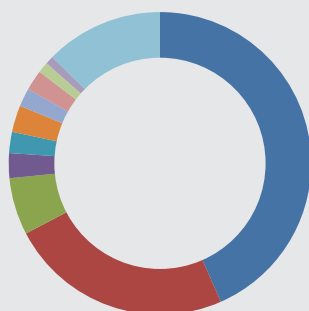
PROFILE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WE ASSISTED THIS YEAR

GENDER



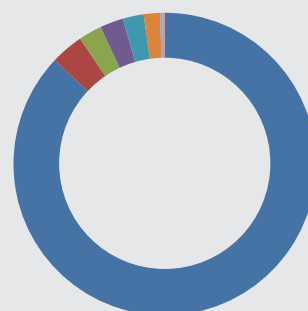
- Male
- Female

PROBLEM TYPE



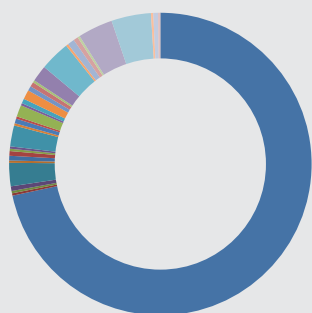
- Fines
- Crime
- Driving offences
- Crimes compensation
- Complaints against Police
- Debt
- Family violence
- Consumer
- Car accident
- Restraining orders
- Other civil

INCOME SOURCE



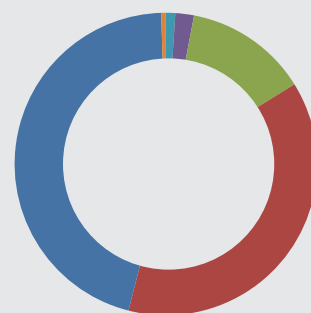
- Centrelink Benefit – not specified
- Youth Allowance
- Earned (eg. wages and salary, commissions and bonuses)
- Not stated
- Other
- Newstart
- Disability Benefit
- Parent Payment (partnered)

COUNTRY OF BIRTH



- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| ■ Australia | ■ Lebanon |
| ■ Sudan | ■ Russian Federation |
| ■ Somalia | ■ Thailand |
| ■ Not stated | ■ Austria |
| ■ China (excludes SARs and Taiwan Province) | ■ Burma (Myanmar) |
| ■ Ethiopia | ■ Colombia |
| ■ New Zealand | ■ El Salvador |
| ■ India | ■ England |
| ■ Iraq | ■ Fiji |
| ■ Philippines | ■ Hong Kong (SAR of China) |
| ■ Chile | ■ Indonesia |
| ■ Congo, Democratic Republic of | ■ Liberia |
| ■ Egypt | ■ Pakistan |
| ■ Germany | ■ Scotland |
| ■ Iran | ■ Taiwan |
| ■ Kenya | ■ Vietnam |

AGE



- | |
|-----------------------------------|
| ■ Not stated |
| ■ Under 12 |
| ■ 12 – 17 |
| ■ 18 – 20 |
| ■ 21 – 25 |
| ■ Adult on behalf of young person |

PUBLIC INTEREST CASES

WAYOUT DISCRIMINATION CASE

In 2008 Youthlaw provided initial legal support to a rural gay youth group WAYOUT to challenge a decision by the Christian Brethren to refuse the group accommodation for a conference at Phillip Island. This year WAYOUT, with pro bono assistance from Mallesons law firm, two junior counsel and a Queen's Counsel succeeded at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). WAYOUT

OFFICE OF POLICE INTEGRITY – OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This year we initiated a test case arising from a decision of the OPI not to investigate a serious complaint against police. This case is proceeding with the assistance of pro bono advice from Counsel and pro bono solicitor assistance from Maddocks.

A number of young people who approached the Braybrook outreach service, particularly from Horn of Africa backgrounds, reported incidents of police abuse of powers, assaults by police and harassment. Many young people expressed a reluctance to approach the local station or Victoria Police Ethical Standards to make complaints directly because of a perceived lack of independence and direct experiences of dissatisfaction with the police internal complaint process.

The case will test whether decisions by the Office of Police Integrity can be appealed to the Supreme Court under the Human Rights Charter for failing to give consideration to human rights under the Charter and whether there is an obligation inherent within the Charter for the OPI and the State of Victoria to conduct an independent and effective investigation of serious police complaints.

YOUNG HOMELESS FRUSTRATED WITH CENTRELINK

Michael Turtle reported this story on Tuesday, June 30, 2009 18:42:00

MARK COLVIN: Young people at a national consultation of young homeless and disadvantaged people have painted a picture of overwhelming frustration in their dealings with Centrelink. They've also expressed their worries about the Government's plan to cut off income support for people who aren't studying, training or working.

VIC POLICE GRANTED EXTRA SEARCH POWERS

16:57 AEST Sun Aug 9 2009

An extra 120 police will hit the streets in Victoria armed with tougher search powers as booze-fuelled violence continues to spiral out of control.

MEDIA RELEASE

NEW CRIME STATS UNDERMINE KNIFE CRIME PERCEPTION

6 September 2010

NEW WEAPONS SEARCH POWERS FOR VIC POLICE

Posted Sun Aug 9, 2009 11:42pm AEST

16 November 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

Youth advocates oppose new street laws

MACEDON RANGES GUARDIAN – OCT 15, 2010

A win for equality

Macedon Ranges support group for gay youth, WayOut has won its discrimination case against a Christian Brethren run youth camp. The incident dates back three years ago when the Cobaw Community Health-managed group sought to hire a campground at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort, operated by Christian Youth Camps...

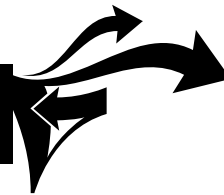
Draconian new police powers a shocking breach of human rights

MEDIA RELEASE 13 November 2009

The PILCH Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic (HPLC) has slammed the introduction of legislation that will give police the power to conduct random strip searches in the street and may be used to prevent people from spending time with friends and family in public spaces.

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

OBJECTIVE TO IMPROVE THE LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING WITHIN THE COMMUNITY ABOUT HOW THE LAW AFFECTS YOUNG PEOPLE.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2009/2010

This year Youthlaw provided over 80 legal education sessions and presentations to young people, workers and the general community involving over 2,000 attendees. In addition we offer our publications and resources on our website

Presentations and training included:

- Legal training to over 270 volunteers state wide joining the Youth Referral and Independent Person Program (YRIPP). This program provides assistance to young people who are being interviewed by police. Training took place in Melbourne, Shepparton, Morwell, Sunshine, Horsham and Wangaratta
- 150 international students at Chisholm Institute, Dandenong
- 100 secondary school legal studies teachers at VCTA Conference, County Court Melbourne
- Coburg Secondary College students
- Belmont College students
- Presentation to Victoria Police Youth Resource Officer training
- 300 students at Roxburgh College
- Young Carers Victoria (targeting youth workers who assist young carers) 15 youth workers – legal duties and common legal issues for young people
- Centre for Multicultural Youth forum 'Violence through the eyes of young people'
- Braybrook Youth Enterprise Hub – Kitchen Culture youth group
- Whittlesea High School Students
- Bendigo Secondary College – Legal workshop as part of WOW mentoring program funded by Foundation for Young Australians (15/16 year olds and teacher)
- Youth workers at Stonnington and Melton youth services
- Youth forum – Lilydale and indigenous youth forum – Dandenong
- Preston TAFE students – A group of young people with intellectual disability

- Cranbourne Secondary College students
- Moonee Valley Youth Services Network (youth workers)
- 50 international students at RMIT
- Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre, Preston-Congolese elders
- Melbourne City Mission WHEELS program, Northern suburbs
- RMIT Criminal Justice course – 60 students
- 25 young people at the Yarra Valley youth services in Warburton
- Barwon youth network – 30 youth workers and professionals
- Young people at the Youth Hub at the public housing estate in Stonnington
- Hume Council youth group – Craigeburn

→ *Thanks Youthlaw for a brilliant resource! I thought I would have to research the question of parental consent myself, but you have saved me the effort. Thanks again, Pam, family law mediator, NSW*

→ *'Hi there, I recently discovered your website and firstly I must say thank you for providing such a service so readily accessible and suited for the youth'. Rajah, Melbourne*

→ *'Dear Youthlaw, we would just like to thank you and say we have great respect for you looking after youth in trouble. You have a strong fairness, equity and justice skills. It seems like you have a very good team and enjoy your job. Keep up your involvement in helping youth in trouble. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to improve our knowledge' Erica and Ethan, Bendigo South East Secondary College.*

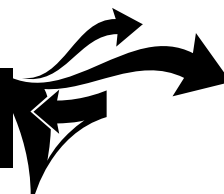
OTHER LEGAL EDUCATION PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- Production of a youth consumer credit and debt Z Card – a joint project with St Kilda Community Legal Service (funded by Consumer Affairs Victoria)
- Production of the Youthlaw e-newsletter '*The lowdown*'.
- 3019 – On the Radar DVD – a joint project with The Youth Enterprise Hub
- Contributing to updating of Victoria Legal Aid publications *Am I old Enough* and *What's the Deal*
- Fact sheets on cyber bullying, street laws and updates
- Contributing content to Law4community a Fitzroy Legal service website
- Participating on the Phunktional Reference group for a theatre piece 'Love Drunk' – a school education theatre project
- In June 2010 we received funding (\$5,000) from the Victorian Department of Justice to update and print our publication for youth workers '*What do I do when..*'



POLICY, RESEARCH AND LAW REFORM

OBJECTIVE: TO ADVOCATE FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGES IN LEGAL AND SOCIAL POLICY TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS AND RIGHTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE



YOUTHLAW ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2009/2010

Our policy and law reform was significantly assisted over the 2008-10 period by a major grant from the Victorian Legal Services Board (LSB) of \$100,000. With this grant we were able to extend our reach state wide, engage more young people in the program, and be more proactive and influential.

LAW REFORM SUBMISSIONS

Key submissions and consultations this year were:

- Submission to Victorian Law Reform Commission reference on Surveillance in public places – including consultation with young people
- Equal Opportunity Act – Exceptions and Exemptions: SARC Options Paper
- Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth Inquiry into homelessness – legislative focus
- Consultation with 30 young people and submission to *Supporting young people in police interviews*, Background Paper, Victoria Law Reform Commission
- Submission to the Inquiry into strategies to reduce crime against the person in Victoria – Victorian Parliamentary Drug and Crime Prevention Committee
- Submission to the Inquiry into the impact of violence on young Australians – Family, Community, Housing and Youth Committee, Commonwealth House of Representatives
- Criminal Procedure Amendment, (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2009 – DPP Criminal Appeals, Department of Justice
- Submission to Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee (SARC) re Summary Offences and Control of Weapons Acts Amendment Bill
- Development of a Youthlaw Infringements position paper on systemic issues
- Bail Reform Project Stage One, Discussion Paper, Department of Justice
- Homelessness Strategy for 2020 – Discussion Paper, Department of Human Services
- Comments on the Magistrates' Court Amendment (Mental Health List) Bill 2009

- Submission to SARC on the Severe Substance Dependence Treatment Bill
- Review: Victims of Crime Compensation: Sentencing Orders and State-funded Awards
- National standards for out of home care Consultation Paper
- Victorian Law Reform Commission Review of Victoria's Child Protection Legislative Arrangements
- Review of Identity Motivated Hate Crimes Consultation

POLICY PROJECTS

Conduct of ticket Inspectors – Campaign Respect

In May 2009 we initiated Campaign Respect to improve treatment of young people by authorised officers. The Campaign is youth led and a core group meets regularly. The campaign began with a meeting with the Department of Transport followed by a number of community radio and television interviews. The Campaign developed a website page, Facebook and Twitter. The group will continue to lobby Department of Transport and public transport operators for respectful treatment of young people.

We continued to lobby the Victorian Department of Transport and its Minister:

- To ensure authorised officers undergo sufficient training
- To ensure Authorised officers comply with the Departments' Code of Conduct
- That the Code of Conduct comply with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities
- That complaints against Authorised officers be handled independently of private operators

Expansion of police powers

Youthlaw, the Homeless Persons Legal Clinic, YACVIC, VEOHRC, YRIPP have been working together to oppose the introduction of move on powers and new stop and search powers for police.

Law reform activities included:

- Meetings with Victoria Police to lobby for youth specific police data and policy guidelines for police using these powers.

- Submissions to the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee
- Lobbying of upper and lower house members of parliament and media, in regard to amendments to increase searches and reduce accountability.

Problems and barriers with the infringements system

The state government is increasingly reliant on the infringement system to deal with low level offending and behaviour offences. To keep offences out of court a broader range of offences are now being dealt with by fines (e.g. disorderly conduct and over 18 shoplifting and careless driving).

Key issues are:

- Not dealing effectively with fines is resulting in enormous wastage of government, court, police, lawyer and young persons time
- Young people with special circumstances (homelessness/ mental health) end up in court rather than being dealt with at first instance (e.g. by councils and Victoria Police)
- Young people who can't afford fines and go to court to have them waived or reduced end up with a record
- Harsh sentencing by Registrars
- Lack of capacity in the Special circumstances list
- Excessive fines for young people

There are considerable problems with the infringement system. Youthlaw continues to actively lobby for changes to both the child and adult infringement systems.

Police interactions with young people

This year we have responded to the complaints from young people about treatment by police and we are closely observing the impact on young people of increased police powers.

In 2009 we received funding from City of Melbourne (\$5,000) to develop a training DVD for police and other workers about non confrontational communication with homeless young people. This is a joint project with Frontyard Youth Services.

Child Rights

Youthlaw, Centre for Excellence in Child & Family Welfare, VCOSS, and YACVic established a Victorian Community Sector Child Rights Network in August 2009 to raise awareness and support the sector to contribute to the NGO report on the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

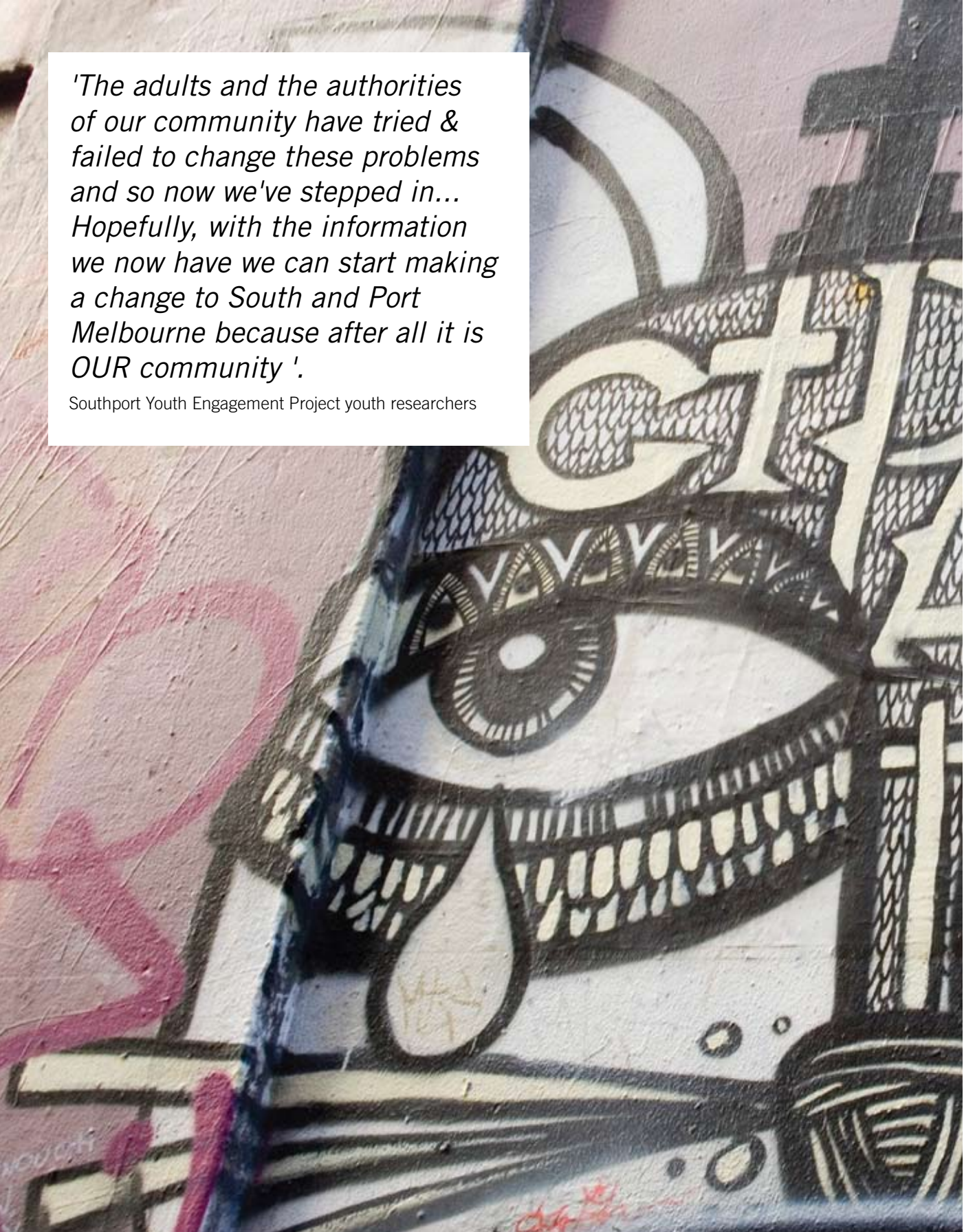
To get things started the network organised and hosted an event '*CROC in every day practice*' in November last year. This year has seen early stage preparation for the Victorian contribution to the non-government report to the Child Rights Committee at the United Nations.

REGULAR LAW REFORM AND POLICY MEETINGS

- Youth Justice Ministerial Roundtable
- Youth Referral and Independent Person Program (YRIPP) Reference group
- Department of Transport Public Transport Enforcement Forum
- National Youth Advocates Network
- Human Rights Committee of the Law Institute of Victoria
- Inner City Regional Youth Affairs Network
- Federation of Community Legal Centres – Children and Youth Issues Working Group, Child Protection working group, Infringements and Human Rights and Justice Initiatives Standing Group.
- National Child Rights Taskforce
- Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Policy Advisory Group
- Melbourne Youth Services Forum
- Infringements Standing Advisory Committee
- Office of the Child Safety Commissioner – Young People and Public transport

PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES

- National Human Rights Consultation Committee Public Hearings Canberra
- NACLC National Conference, Perth '*Moving in on young people*'
- Bendigo Child Friendly City Forum: '*Using a Human Rights Framework When Working With Children and Young People*'
- Making links Conference. Melbourne '*Youthlaw online and Campaign respect – Social action and technology*'
- Privacy Conference Melbourne '*Privacy: An elusive right for young people*'

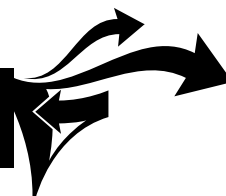


'The adults and the authorities of our community have tried & failed to change these problems and so now we've stepped in... Hopefully, with the information we now have we can start making a change to South and Port Melbourne because after all it is OUR community '.

Southport Youth Engagement Project youth researchers

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

OBJECTIVE TO MEANINGFULLY INVOLVE YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUTHLAW



YOUTHLAW ACHIEVEMENTS 2009/2010

Youthlaw Board – Two positions on the Committee of Management are dedicated to young people and this year three young people participated as members of the Committee.

Membership – Youthlaw continues to promote membership of Youthlaw to young people and we are exploring ways to encourage young people who have used youth services and volunteers to become members and get involved. We are aiming for meaningful membership.

Policy and Advocacy – Youthlaw youth participation in policy and advocacy got a big boost this year with a significant grant from the Victorian Legal Service Board for 2 years. This enabled us to strengthen youth participation.

We are connecting with young people in their own communities to support them to address issues of concern to them. We are also finding ways to involve a diverse range of young people including those who the law most impacts on to influence changes to laws and policies that affect their lives.

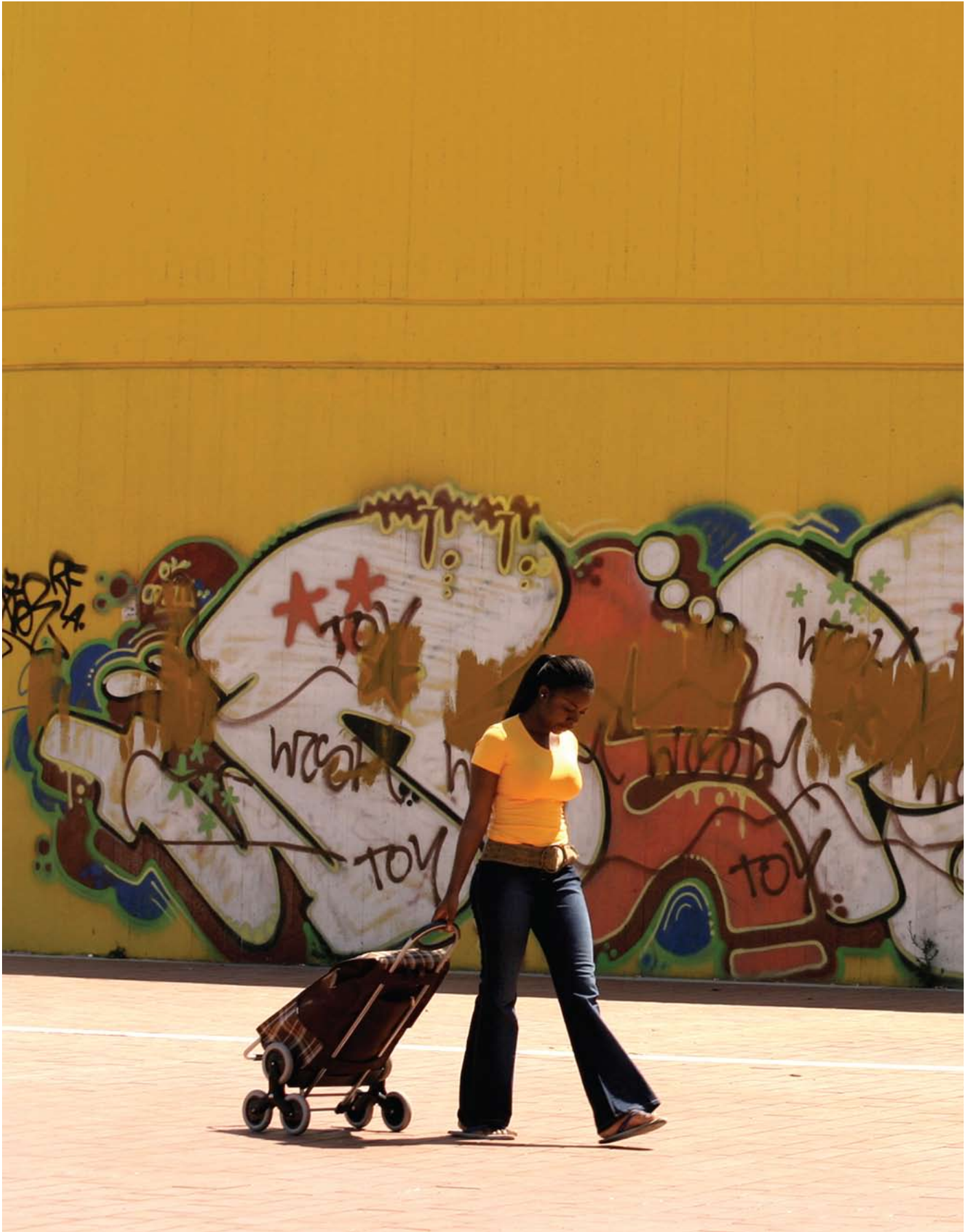
This year we established a Youthlaw Action Committee (YAC) to explore and test new ways to involve young people.

We undertook a number of activities and projects this year:

- A workshop with young people at Frontyard Youth Services on public surveillance and privacy to in-form a review by the Victorian Law Reform Commission.
- Workshops for young people at Frontyard Youth services and at Braybrook on the role of an Independent person at police interviews. This informed a law reform project of the Victorian Law Reform Commission.
- Further development of the Youthlaw Network comprised of 37 professionals with an interest in youth legal policy and advocacy to share information and ideas and support advocacy conducted by young people.
- **Campaign Respect** – 18 team members prepared a project plan, developed and administered surveys, set up face book account, created a campaign webpage, did media interviews, met with officers from Department of Transport, PTO and surveyed 352 young people face to face and 274 young people online.
- **RRR Project** – Young people in the Upper Yarra Region and Mornington Peninsula region were consulted and were involved in advocacy activities

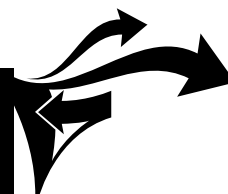


- **3019 – on the Radar** – Young people in Braybrook were involved in activities with Victoria Police officers and youth staff of the Braybrook Enterprise Hub and contributed to production of a DVD.
- **Boys, you wanna give me some action?** – Braybrook young people contributed their experiences to the report and spoke to media.
- **Southport Youth Engagement Project youth led research** – Young people interviewed and surveyed 63 young people between 13 and 19 years of age.



ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

OBJECTIVE: TO ENSURE YOUTHLAW'S ONGOING SUSTAINABILITY AND ABILITY TO OPERATE EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS



YOUTHLAW ACHIEVEMENTS 2009/2010

→ **Blake Dawson** – We have maintained our strong community law partnership with Blake Dawson. They provide a secondee lawyer on a six month rotation, administrative assistance including transcribing tapes and use of meeting rooms. They provide a significant financial donation each year and assistance with our Annual Report and AGM. They also attend functions with us. In addition they readily provide pro bono legal assistance and this has included individual client cases, legal research for policy projects and legal advice on administrative issues.

→ **Funding** – Youthlaw receives core recurrent funding of approximately \$182,000 per year through the Community legal Service Program (CLSP) funded by the Commonwealth AGs and State Department of Justice. To achieve a sustainable level of funding we continue to lobby government and we are currently developing a corporate strategy to encourage corporations to get behind Youthlaw. In the meantime we rely on one-off funding from government, a range of Philanthropic and foundations and our own income generation (legal education, costs, student placements).

In 2009–10 we secured funding from the following sources:

- Commonwealth Attorney-Generals Department – \$70,000
- City of Melbourne – \$5,000
- Blake Dawson – \$50,000
- Victoria Law Foundation – \$13,000
- Legal Service Board of Victoria – \$100,000 (over 2008–10)
- Department of Justice – \$5,000
- Reichstein Trust – \$3,000

As of June 2010, the Commonwealth Attorney-Generals Department announced additional one-off funding of \$150,000 to Youthlaw to maintain Youthlaw Online. The Attorney-General Robert McClelland expressed his appreciation of the valuable contribution that Youthlaw makes to the Australian community ensuring that the most disadvantaged in our community have access to appropriate legal information and assistance.

→ **Funding Agreements** – We have fulfilled our obligations under the service agreement with Victoria Legal Aid for state and commonwealth funding. We fulfilled our obligations to all other funders.

→ **Volunteers** – Youthlaw values the assistance of volunteers. We receive requests to volunteer everyday. Most volunteers stay for at least six months and come in half a day. This year we had three to four volunteers coming in every day. Our volunteers include many law students, and some youth work students.

We supervise two law students each semester from Deakin University Law School as part of their legal clinic program. We also accept policy interns through a number of universities. This year Dave Bourbon assisted Campaign Respect and other law reform work as a policy intern from RMIT. We also take on secondary students undertaking work experience.

YOUTHLAW COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2009-10

- Michelle Marven, Chairperson
- Daniel McQuilken, Treasurer
- Anoushka Jeronimus, Secretary
- Lauren Pattison
- Ryan Smith
- Simon Gauci
- Marina Lou
- Sophie Osborn (Blake Dawson)
- Meribah Rose (Blake Dawson)
- Noelle de Clifford (non-voting member)

YOUTHLAW STAFF 2009-10

- Ariel Couchman, Director
- Anna Radonic, Principal Lawyer
- Tiffany Overall, Advocacy & Human Rights Officer
- Mark Evenhuis, Lawyer
- Annie Davis, Online and outreach Lawyer
- Sally Goldner, Finance Officer
- Sarah Kemeney, Seconded Lawyer
- Chian Kee, Seconded Lawyer
- Jordana Cohen Seconded Lawyer I
- Charandev Singh – Policy consultant – Tyler Cassidy
Coronial

EXTERNAL SUPPORT

- Blake Dawson
- Meghan McBain (Design Bus)
- Justin Hoogenraad
- FINREA Computing Services
- JL Collyer and Partners
- Lucia Marin (Luma Creative)
- Belind Parton (grafitti street art photographs)

VOLUNTEERS

Anushka Dantanarayana, Jagrup Pangly, Lisa Morstyn, Madeleine Forster, Monica Lillas, Frankie Barbour, Nicole Jee, Patrick Donovan, Laura Flanagan, Sharika Jeyakumar, Longzhen Han, Adela Woliansky, Anita Das, Alexa Segerius, Joanna Liu-Huang, Lindel Hoskins, Daniella Sessarego, Stuart Butterworth, Kimberly Jagula, Alicia Simonds, Melissa Molloy, Adam Just.

Student placements and internships

Lindel Hoskins, Laura McDonnell, Alex Segerius, Courtney Butterworth, Lindel Hoskins, Bernard Mackay, Raymond Ng, Dimtri Klonis (Deakin), Jon Baskin, Dave Bourbon (RMIT), Saheba Singh (Waverley College), Grace Dee and Dylan Claringbold (Princess Hill Secondary), Mayra Morales (Copperfield College), Celeste Calea (Caroline Springs Catholic College), Sinead (Braybrook), Hayley.

Particular thanks to:

- Blake Dawson
- Department of Justice Victoria
- Office for Youth -Department for Victorian Communities
- Department Of Transport
- Victoria Legal Aid
- Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department
- Victoria Law Foundation
- Lance Reichstein Foundation
- City of Melbourne
- Melbourne University Law School
- Legal Services Board of Victoria
- Youth affairs Council of Victoria
- Centre for Multicultural Youth
- National Youth and Children's Law Centre
- Human Rights Law Resource Centre
- Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission
- Frontyard Youth services
- Melbourne City Mission
- Youth Enterprise Hub



1

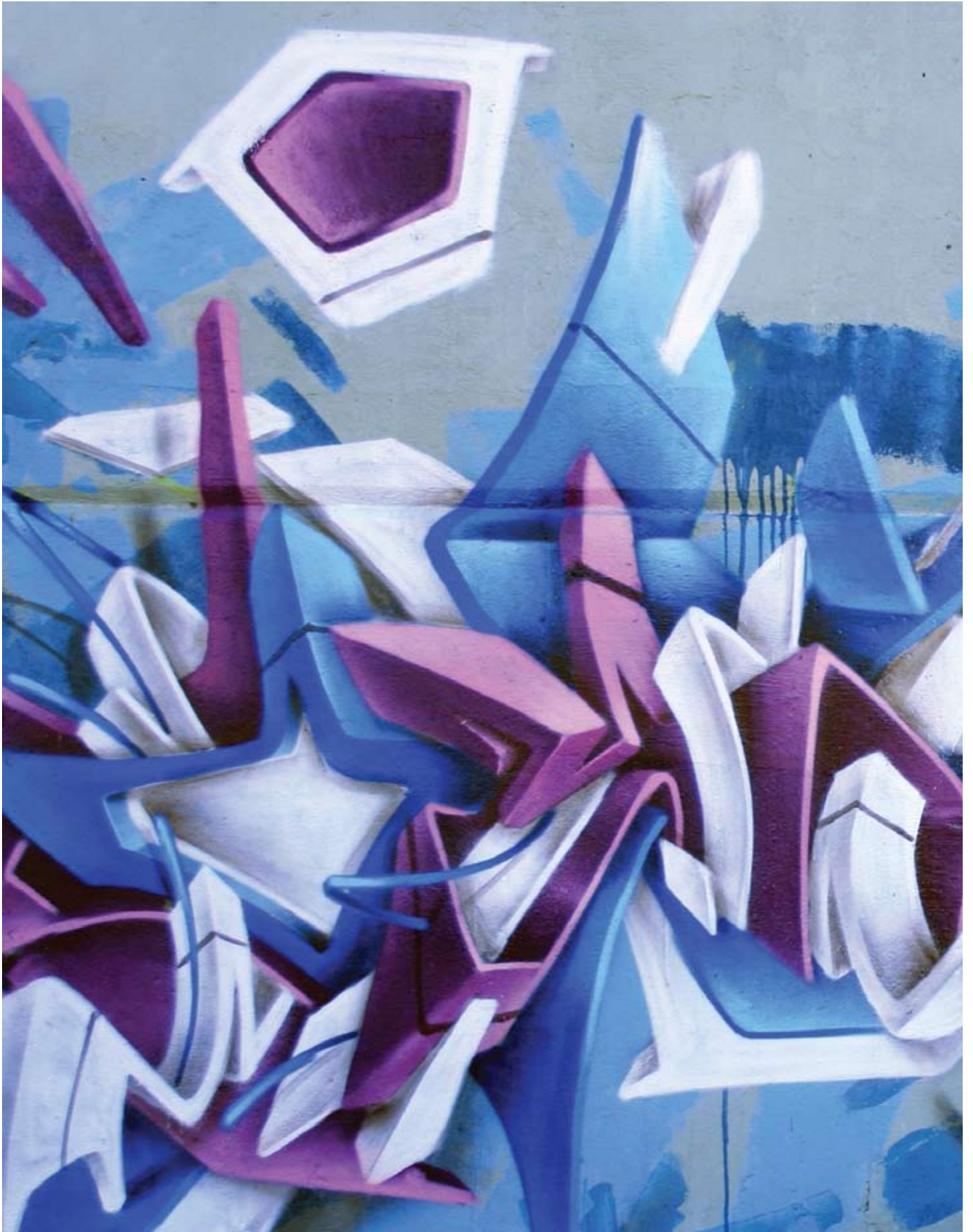


2



3

1. 20th Anniversary celebration of the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
2. This year we welcomed a number of Japanese dignitaries including Judge Toshiyuki Abe, Yokohama District Court and Judge Eiji Uesugi Nagoya High Court. Here Youthlaw lawyers Mark Evenhuis and Annie Davis welcome Judge Hiroki Morishita of the Intellectual Property High Court and Associate Professor Kota Fukui, Graduate School of Law and Politics, Osaka University.
3. Lawyers Chian Kee and Mark Evenhuis.





YOUTHLAW FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Year Ended 30 June 2010

CONTENTS

- Balance Sheet
- Income and Expenditure Statement
- Income Statement
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Audit Report

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash	7	360,919	346,209
Receivables		3,794	3,381
Prepayments		2,176	2,459
Total Current Assets		366,888	352,050
Non Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	6,657	9,963
Total Assets		373,545	362,013
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables		19,855	12,334
Provisions		53,476	44,399
Grants in advance	6	76,974	139,682
Total Current Liabilities		150,304	196,415
NET ASSETS			
EQUITY			
Committed Fund		223,241	165,598
		223,241	165,598

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

	2009-2010	2008-2009
NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT FROM PREVIOUS YEAR		
Surplus/Deficit from previous year	\$64,203	\$1,935
Approved Expenditure from Surplus	\$0	\$0
Net surplus/Deficit from Previous Year	\$64,203	\$1,935
CLSP INCOME		
Commonwealth	\$149,408	\$227,874
State	\$116,036	\$112,512
Service Generated Income:	\$18,386	\$6,426
Total CLSP Income	\$283,830	\$346,812
CLSP General Purpose Income (Total CLSP Income & net)	\$348,033	\$348,747
CLSP EXPENSES		
Salaries	\$224,153	\$199,698
Superannuation	\$20,012	\$17,942
On Costs	\$10,228	\$9,192
Rent	\$10,386	\$8,361
Repairs and Maintenance	\$1,212	\$5
Other Premises Costs	\$10,950	\$544
Staff Training	\$423	\$1,686
Staff Recruitment	\$75	\$316
Communications	\$7,774	\$11,096
Office Overheads	\$3,385	\$7,349
Insurance	\$2,493	\$2,319
Finance, Audit & Accounting Fees	\$4,864	\$4,221
Library, Resources & Subscriptions	\$2,949	\$3,200
Travel	\$4,249	\$3,241
Programming and Planning	\$2,726	\$1,235
Client Disbursements	\$198	\$36
Leases	\$0	\$0
Minor equipment	\$496	\$1,462
Depreciation	\$5,306	\$5,010
Other	\$245	\$2,048
Salary & Related Expenses	\$254,393	\$226,832
Total Operating Expenses	\$57,729	\$52,129
Total CLSP Expenses	\$312,122	\$278,960
Surplus/Deficit for Current Year	-\$28,292	\$67,852

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

	2009-2010	2008-2009
OTHER INCOME (not to be added to CLSP Funds Surplus/Deficit)		
Total Funds Received from Other bodies		\$56,000
Total funds Received from Other bodies for non-CLSP CLSIS Activities	\$56,000	\$50,000
Less Actual Capital expenditure in Current Year	-\$2,000	-\$5,584
Surplus/Deficit for Next Year	\$33,911	\$64,203

ASSETS ACQUIRED WITH CLSP FUNDS DURING FINANCIAL YEAR

Computer equipment

FUTURE CONTINGENCY RESERVE

Item Description

NIL

INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
Revenue from ordinary activities	2	514,614	525,329
Employee expenses		(332,948)	(313,059)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		(5,306)	(5,010)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(118,717)	(140,529)
Surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities	3,4,8	57,643	66,731
Increase/(decrease) in reserves from Prior year adjustments			
		57,643	66,731

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	7		
Receipts			
Operating grants		265,444	340,386
Donations		50,000	50,000
Interest Earned		6,355	8,963
Other receipts		71,344	182,974
Payments			
Payments to suppliers and employees		(376,434)	(450,023)
Cash Flow from Operating Activities		16,709	132,301
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(2,000)	(5,590)
Cash Flow from Investing Activities		(2,000)	(5,590)
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash held		14,709	126,711
Cash at the beginning of the year		346,209	219,498
Cash at the end of the year		360,919	346,209

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 2010, 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 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 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 2010 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.


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Janet Collyer
J L COLLYER & PARTNERS

25TH OCTOBER 2010



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