



ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014



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ABOUT YOUTHLAW

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.

PURPOSE:

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.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



"Over the past year we have been developing our vision and plans for the next 5 years. This includes developing our research and evidence collection capacity, strengthening our communications and profiling our innovative service delivery models."

This year the Board and staff of Youthlaw were all too aware that we would face a hard year to just maintain the funding level we have had in recent years. Contributing factors have been the Global financial crisis, diminished and high demand on philanthropic funds and significant reductions in government funding of basic human services including legal assistance.

Throughout 2013 Victoria Legal Aid campaigned publicly for increased funding to meet substantial increases in demand for their services. Factors contributing to the demand have included an increase in the police force and other authorities and substantial increases in reporting of domestic violence and child abuse. In December 2013, having been unsuccessful in securing additional funding, Victoria Legal Aid introduced a raft of restrictions to its eligibility criteria. The impact on young people is that they are now increasingly reliant on duty lawyer services or are not always eligible for assistance. As a result we are experiencing higher demand for our services and we know many young people are falling through the gaps.

Following the September 2013 Federal election community legal centres (CLCs) throughout Australia were notified by the Federal government that \$19.6 million would be cut from community legal centres. Following this announcement environment legal centres were defunded and many indigenous services were cut. Youthlaw was not directly impacted.

2013 saw the Federal government (Labor) commence a review of the legal assistance sector including legal Aid services, CLCs and indigenous legal services. Consultants began this process followed by a reference to the Productivity Commission from Attorney General Mark Dreyfus. Following change of government the Productivity Commission continued its inquiry. CLCs including Youthlaw provided written and oral submissions to the Commission. Our submission drew attention to the unique role we play in identifying the needs of our target group and delivering innovative services that engage with this hard to reach cohort.

On the eve of the Federal state budget in 2014 Youthlaw and other centres were notified by the Federal Attorney-General's Department that the government would not honor agreements signed by the previous government to provide 3 & 4 year funding for identified high need projects. The impact on Youthlaw was that we lost \$100,000 of funding to our Skype legal service to regional Victoria.

The Federal budget also indicated a further reduction in funding to CLCs by 2017.

The positive of this fast changing environment is that CLCs and Legal Aid have had to get better at articulating what it is we do and why it is important. Despite the demands on our services we have had to take the time out to get clear and solid about our vision for the future.

The Youthlaw Board, our staff and volunteers have all risen to this challenging task. We have worked closely and with dedication and skill that has been inspiring. Over the past year we have been developing our vision and plans for the next 5 years. This includes developing our research and evidence collection capacity, strengthening our communications and profiling our innovative service delivery models. We also expanded our Board and now have members from diverse backgrounds and with an array of great skills.

Highlights of 2013 –14 have been:

- Assisting 2018 young people and over 500 adults.
- A new Friday Fines clinic
- A visiting legal service to a youth substance abuse detox unit
- Production of 2 great legal resources; our Streetsmart website for smartphones and Street Law videos
- Resourcing and leading an advocacy coalition of over 30 legal and non legal organisations (SJ4YP)
- Working closely with government, the Children's Court and key stakeholders to put youth diversion on the priority list for the three major parties.
- A major win in the Supreme Court that paves the way for low cost public interest litigation.
- Working with the Flemington & Kensington Community legal centre and the Human Rights Legal Centre to raise public and government awareness of the need for an independent police complaints investigation body.
- Greater integration with Frontyard services resulting in a 30% increase in legal referrals
- Two fundraising events Team Youthlaw Run Melbourne and Lock Up a Lawyer which raised a total of \$ 29,554. In addition Ashurst matched its staff contributions to Lock Up a Lawyer providing Youthlaw with an additional \$5,000 cheque.
- Annual intake to our volunteer program that attracted 180 applications and resulted in over 40 fabulous volunteers committing to at least 12 months volunteering.
- National Accreditation, new Rules and an expanded Board

Ariel Couchman
Director



Lock up a Lawyer fundraiser October 2013

FROM THE BOARD



"At the heart of it, our shared vision is of a future in which young people are empowered to realise their full potential and contribute positively to society"

This year at Youthlaw has been as exciting and challenging as ever. At a board level we have focused on two key areas – mapping out the future direction of Youthlaw and building the Youthlaw community.

Planning for the future is an important role of the board of any organization and the staff and board of Youthlaw have spent considerable time this year developing a 5 year strategic plan. At the heart of it, our shared vision is of a future in which young people are empowered to realise their full potential and contribute positively to society. We believe that we have a unique opportunity to assist young people at a time when the consequences of their interaction with the legal system can be significant and have a serious impact on their future lives. The strategic planning process has provided us with an opportunity to fully appreciate our strengths and acknowledge areas that we want to focus on developing in future years. We hope that our plan will provide a strong foundation for the future of Youthlaw and guidance in the years to come.

Just as important as having a clear plan for the future is having the support to be able to realise that vision. It has been my privilege to be involved with Youthlaw for nearly 7 years now and it never ceases to amaze me that there are so many who enthusiastically and tirelessly donate their time, money and resources to assist the organization. I can honestly say that Youthlaw would not exist without the support of the Youth-law community, and I've noted a few highlights below.

Firstly there are our volunteers, who not only give their time each week to provide essential casework assistance and administrative support to our lawyers, but this year also organised a fantastic screening of critically acclaimed movie "The Interruptors", as a fundraising film night at the Nova Cinema in Carlton.

Secondly, there are the law firms and barristers who provide direct legal assistance to Youthlaw. In particular, Ashurst, as always, has provided key support through their secondees program, and through trivia night organized by graduates at the firm as a fundraiser for Youthlaw. Maddocks lawyers and Victorian Bar members Jason Pizer QC, Emrys Nekvapil and Fiona Spencer provided vital assistance in our Supreme Court test case of *Bare v Small*. Our barristers were duly recognized for their efforts and received the Victorian Bar Pro Bono Award for Public Interest and Justice Innovation.

Thirdly, there are the broader members of the legal community from a diverse range of backgrounds who came together to spend a night in Pentridge Prison in our unique "Lock up a Lawyer" event. Over 130 attendees from law firms, government, the Victorian bar and the judiciary spent an evening (with some staying the night in cells!) at Pentridge Prison to raise money for Youthlaw and Melbourne City Mission. Attendees heard tales of Melbourne's darker side from Victorian Police Deputy Commissioner Lucinda Nolan and The Age crime reporter John Silvester. Music for the night was kindly provided by the legal community's very own Melbourne Lawyers Orchestra (the "lorchestra") and inmates danced the night away to tunes by the "Lex Pistols" featuring the Supreme Court's Justice Lex Lasry.

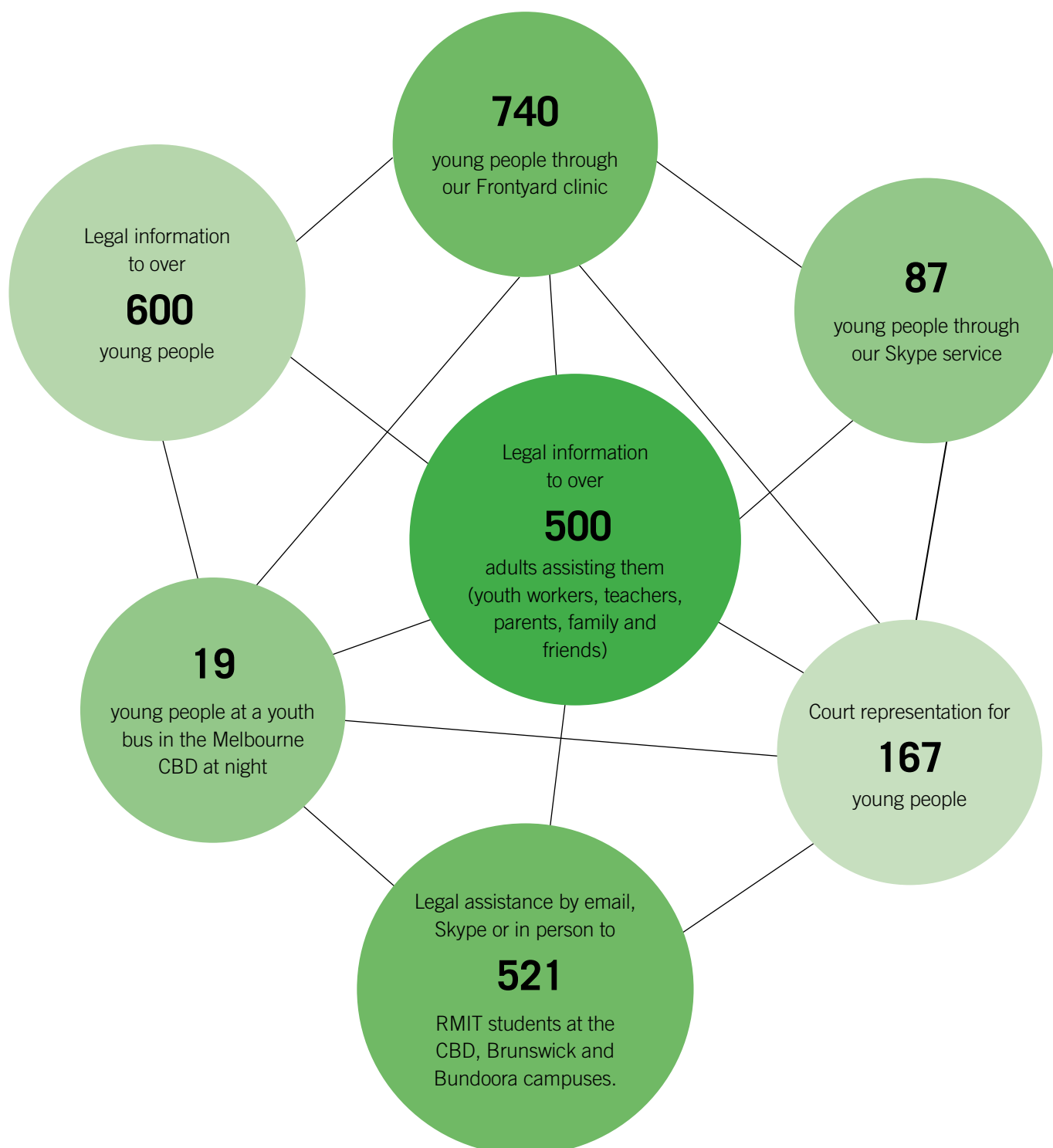
Finally, to our amazing staff and the board who are at the core of the Youthlaw community. Their efforts are outlined in the rest of this annual report and I won't seek to reiterate them here, except to say that their passion, skill and dedication makes all the difference to the lives of over 2000 young people each year.

I express my sincere thanks to everyone that has been involved in making Youthlaw the vibrant organization that it is today. With strong support from the community and a clear vision for the future, I can only see bright things on the horizon!

Monica Lillas
Chair

STATISTICS

In the 2013/2014 year we assisted 2,018 young people and adults including:



OUR LEGAL SERVICES

FRONTYARD

We have a drop-in legal clinic at Frontyard Youth Services. Trained youth workers welcome 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, mental health and substance abuse. They often need a place to stay and longer term housing. They usually have money problems and legal problems. We all work closely so these issues are identified and a coordinated response occurs.

This year we worked with other Frontyard services to develop a common intake questionnaire that includes questions to prompt referral to all the services. As a result there was a 30% increase in legal referrals to Youthlaw.

YOUTHLAW ONLINE

Youthlaw Online is our Skype legal service operating out of 9 youth friendly services in rural and regional Victoria.

Our online lawyer (Annie Davis, now Megan King) visits local 'host sites' to develop trust in our service, train up staff, run legal sessions in the area, and speak to other services and to key players in the legal system (police, juvenile justice workers, courts, Legal Aid, private lawyers). The host service promotes the service across the region. They also share their local knowledge of services and relationships with Youthlaw.

The local centres that host the Skype service are chosen on the basis of self assessment (needs of young people, engagement with them, willingness to partner) and we use data and information available about these areas to map high need areas. This service can be located anywhere there is a need and an internet connection whether this be a small or large town or a particular service such as a mental health service or a roaming outreach service.

In 2013–14 we have been consolidating and refining our skype service model following the external evaluation of the service in early 2013. We have been exploring new partnerships with state wide youth organisations that like us target vulnerable young people.

We are also exploring direct booking of skype legal appointments online and other technology options including real time chat capabilities. Stay tuned.



National Child Commissioner Megan Mitchell visits Youthlaw & Frontyard

RMIT STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE

From February 2012 we have been providing a legal service to RMIT university students. Our RMIT lawyer (Guy Donovan, now Annie Davis) have developed a service specifically designed for students. Most of the service is online via an entry from the RMIT student portal. There are also follow up phone calls and appointments (in person or skype) should this be needed. There are also loads of great fact sheets, resources, links and templates.

We also provide legal information sessions to students and train up the staff in student services so they can assist students to identify legal issues and refer to us. Students are alerted to legal issues by monthly social media alerts.

Common legal problems students have are car accidents, rental and housing, relationship issues, fines and criminal charges and work pay and conditions.

PILOT LEGAL OUTREACH TO YOUTH DETOX UNIT

In January 2014, Youthlaw and Youth Support + Advocacy Service (YSAS) started a pilot legal outreach program to assess the need for legal assistance to young people experiencing substance abuse.

As part of the outreach, Youthlaw lawyer Lee Carnie attended the YSAS Fitzroy Residential Withdrawal Unit (detox).

This pilot ran for almost 6 months between 5 February 2014 and 23 July 2014 and was conducted over 15 sessions.

We found that young people in detox who were experiencing legal issues were generally willing to talk to a lawyer for legal advice. We consider that providing legal assistance at YSAS Fitzroy Residential can be the perfect opportunity to engage with young people who are taking steps to manage their substance use. We found that they were generally willing to deal with their legal issues as they are already taking positive steps to turn their life around.

During the pilot, Youthlaw provided free legal advice to 30 young people in detox (10 young women and 20 young men). We assisted young people aged 16 to 21, and the average age of young people assisted was 19.

- 100% had experienced or were at risk of substance abuse;
- 83% had experienced or were at risk of homelessness; and
- 43% had experienced or were at risk of family violence.

The most common legal issue was unpaid fines and criminal charges being the second most common (eg. advice on rights in relation to police, police complaints, making a no comment police interview, going to court and dealing with parole or Youth Justice). Youthlaw also provided advice on victims of crime compensation, debts, tenancy issues and wills and estates.

About 70% of young people who talked to a Youthlaw lawyer had more than one legal issue, with about 25% of young people having multiple (3 or more) complex legal issues to deal with. There was a strong cor-relation between experiencing homelessness and mental illness and having multiple complex legal issues.

Youthlaw has provided ongoing legal assistance to 17 young people.

CASE STUDY

A 19 year old young woman initially sought legal assistance in relation to her unpaid fines. After talking with the lawyer, she also sought legal assistance about her outstanding criminal law warrants, dealing with unpaid debts and applying to the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal for financial assistance following a physical assault by her father.

Youthlaw provided advice on:

- how to get a full list of her fines, how to apply to have her fines withdrawn and potential Sheriff's enforcement actions;
- executing her warrants, the likelihood of being remanded and the likely sentence for her criminal charges;
- applying for a waiver of the debts, the effect of unpaid debts on a credit report and a referral to a financial counsellor;
- applying for financial assistance to VOCAT and a referral to trauma specific counselling services; and
- how Youthlaw can assist her to deal with each of these legal issues.

Youthlaw and YSAS have discussed the benefits of the legal outreach and decided to continue the pilot program on an ongoing basis.

OUR LEGAL EDUCATION, RESOURCES AND TRAINING

Over the past 2 years we have been fortunate to have Annie Davis a lawyer at Youthlaw and now multi-skilled in law, social media and communications to lead and project manage development of legal resources. Last year we reported on development of a series of training videos for workers, uploaded to the Youthlaw YouTube channel. The popularity of these videos has continued beyond the completion of the project, attracting over 21,000 views in total. Staff continue to use the videos in direct professional development sessions for workers.

In 2013-14 we continued to expand our multi-media and online educational resources, shifting our focus to young people with two projects: Street Law and Streetsmart.

Funded by the Victoria Law Foundation, the Street Law project involved collaboration with Youthworx and filmmaker James Fleming to produce a series of educational videos for young people about police and protective service officer (PSO) powers and young people's rights.

Youthworx provides opportunities for at risk young people with certified training in multi-media production. Youthworx students were actively involved in developing the format and script for the videos, as well as narration, performance, filming and post production.

Five animated videos were produced and developed into a DVD as well as uploaded to YouTube and promoted through the Youthlaw social media channels. An Education Kit for lawyers, youth workers and teachers based on the video series was developed and published on the Youthlaw website.

Since being uploaded to YouTube, the Street Law videos have attracted over 2,500 views and Youthlaw has distributed all 200 copies of the Street Law DVD that were made. The Street Law videos continue to be used by lawyers during community legal education sessions and Victoria Legal Aid have given very positive feedback, indicating their lawyers have been using the videos during education sessions in schools and they have been well-received.

Moving into 2014, Youthlaw developed and designed Streetsmart – a smartphone-friendly website for young people that explains the powers of police, PSOs, ticket inspectors and security guards and young people's rights.

With funding from Telematics Trust, Youthlaw engaged user-experience researchers and developers Paper Giant to conduct a series of one-on-one interviews with young people, many of whom had experienced homelessness, mental illness or other forms of socio-economic disadvantage. The findings were summarised in a

report published on the Youthlaw website. It provides much insight into what information is most relevant to young people, the best way to deliver that information to young people and how we can help young people avoid legal problems by encouraging them to take preventative action and seek legal help, among other early intervention strategies.

Youthlaw then worked together with Paper Giant to develop and publish an online guide based on the research findings into Streetsmart, designed to be as user-friendly on a smartphone as on a tablet or PC. Since going live in mid July 2014, the site has attracted over 6,000 page views, over 2,300 visits/sessions and nearly 2,000 users, as well as media coverage in mX and radio.



Annie has also overseen development and promotion of other legal resources and of our communication platforms including:

- Monitoring and maintaining the Youthlaw website (total 62,000+ page views, 23,000+ visits/sessions and 16,500+ users over 2013-4 financial year) and social media channels on Facebook (516 page likes), Twitter (1,252 followers) and YouTube (18,000+ views) (as at 30 June 2014)
- Updating our easy to read fact sheets on topical issues such as school suspensions and expulsions, bullying at work and at school, sexting and cyberbullying and becoming independent

OUR POLICY AND ADVOCACY

We continue to lobby campaign and seek to influence policy, service development and law that will address the legal issues experienced by young people at a systemic level.

In 2013/14 we continued to roll out our policy and advocacy program with a focus on achieving real impacts in a number of key youth justice areas and responded to critical youth justice issues as they emerged.

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.
- Legislated and state wide resourced diversion programs for children and young people under 18.
- A fairer, more efficient and affordable fines system for children and young people.

Youthlaw continued to resource and coordinate Smart Justice for Young People (SJ4YP), a cross-sectorial youth justice advocacy coalition with over 30 member organisations. This coalition comprising legal and non-legal organisations work collaboratively to influence change and provides a strong collective voice on youth justice issues.

SJ4YP aims to challenge the public and decision makers to consider smarter and more effective youth justice solutions. The SJFYP makes public comment and produces news items, media releases and fact sheets. It has an active Twitter account with over 1000 followers.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2013-14:

Policing

- Liaising and working with Victoria Police on the implementation of their *Equality is Not the Same* re-port.
- Lobbying for an independent body to investigate police complaints including comment on the UN decision on the Corinne Horvath case. Our test case *Bare v Small* that raises this issue was heard in the Court of Appeal in May 2014 and is now on appeal to the Court of Appeal. On the way we secured a great win with the success of our application for a protective cost order. This decision created a legal precedent and will assist public interest cases to proceed by limiting costs against those who bring the action.

Diversion

- The production and launch of a video *Youth Diversion Works* aimed at media and politicians with compelling stories from young people
- A factsheet for politicians outlining the case for diversion sent to all members of parliament.
- Briefing of members of the state Parliament (all parties) in November 2013

- Extensive campaigning and forging of support by SJ4YP members working with relevant stakeholders (Victoria Police, Children's Court, juvenile justice) and bringing pressure on the State government to commit to policies to strengthen youth diversion in Victoria.



MP Jenny Mikakos at SJ4YP Parliamentary briefing on diversion

Fines

- Submissions in response to the Sentencing Advisory Council report 'The Imposition and Enforcement of Court Fines and Infringement Penalties in Victoria'
- Contributing to the Federation of Community Legal Centre's Infringements Working Group's to raise concerns about the limitations of proposed reforms and wherever possible work with Government to implement the reforms.

Emerging Issues

- Children transferred to adult prison – We were involved in lobbying meetings with key stakeholders, media coverage of the issue and called on the government to implement the recommendations made by the Victorian Ombudsman in December 2013 including amending the *Children Youth Families Act* to remove the option to transfer children to the adult prison system.
- School suspension & expulsion – We responded to a ministerial order announced in early January 2014 introducing changes to school suspension and expulsion. We provided media comment and meet with the Department of education to raise our concerns.
- Coronial Inquest – Youthlaw sought and obtained leave to appear in an Inquest into the death of a young woman who died within 4 days of being released from juvenile detention. Youthlaw was able to cross examine juvenile justice, child protection and post release services about their actions and the systems in place.

Media

Youthlaw continued to build its media profile, be a go to for journalists and influence media reporting.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Youthlaw continued to involve young people in the development of our services and resources, our direction, and our campaigning.

In 2013–14

- Street Law – We collaborated with students at Youthworx media to develop concepts and scripts for the educational video series and utilised their skills in multi-media production and performance to produce the series
- Streetsmart – with Paper Giant, conducted a series of in-depth one-on-one interviews with young people on their use of technology and their legal information needs, as well as rigorous user-testing of the online guide
- Client feedback phone survey. We contacted our clients for feedback on our services.

Over the next years we plan to document the stories of young people we assist and have more online engagement with young people seeking our assistance.



OUR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

"Youthlaw has been a wonderful place to volunteer one day per week while studying. I have gained practical legal skills and insight into how the law affects young people in Victoria. I have also been inspired by the hardworking, compassionate and competent Youthlaw lawyers."

Pip

From March 2013 we introduced a new improved volunteer program. After a selection process we provide comprehensive training for all volunteers. Our volunteers have been fantastic and have developed into highly skilled paralegals assisting our lawyers with their legal work and assisting other staff on a range of tasks. We have no administrative support and they are the first point of contact for the many calls we receive every day. Rosie Storey provided assistance in the Policy and Advocacy program in early 2014 while Tiffany Overall was on extended leave. Bree and Yasmin came on Board to assist us plan and conduct fundraising events. We also welcomed Deakin law students each trimester.

A number of our volunteers were selected and trained in early 2014 to become paralegals in our new Friday fines clinic. Their role includes managing cases under the supervision of a lawyer and taking instructions.

It's really rewarding when you know that your clients have been through hard times and you can help them. Fines may seem a small issue for many people but for our clients can have a big impact on their lives. I remember one client, who had very difficult family circumstances and mental health issues, being overjoyed when I told her that her fines had been withdrawn. Olivia

It is great to not only be able to help them with their fines matters but hear how a young person is being supported by services and their future plans for school or work. I have clients who have re-engaged with education after finding that traditional schools did not suit them but have found that with alternative schooling providers they are motivated to learn. Monica

I have found it very rewarding to have the chance to interview clients at the Fines Clinic. Being able to interact with young people and hear their stories makes the process of assisting them with their fines all the more engaging. Though people sometimes assume young people to be certain stereotypical way, getting to know them personally, demonstrates that they are genuinely nice people with a voice to be heard. Dilusha

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

- Legal Service Board (funding of Fines Clinic)
- Victoria Law Foundation (funding of Streetlaw Project)
- Telematics Trust (funding of mobile website for Smartphones)
- Office works (free printing of Youthlaw brochure)
- Ashurst – Annual donation and Trivia night fundraiser for Youthlaw. Priority client status for client assistance, Pro bono legal for management of Youthlaw, stationary supplies, storage of archived files, venue for events and host of Board wiki .
- Melbourne City Mission and particularly Cameron Smith for initiating and co-ordinating the Lock Up a Lawyer fundraiser event in 2013 and 2014.
- Natalie Blok , pro bono counsel for a coronial inquest.
- Maddocks (Kate Oliver and Mark Hayes) and Counsel Emrys Nekvapil, Jason Pizer QC and Fiona Spencer, for providing a pro bono legal team for our Supreme Court test case.
- Lucia Marin (design of our annual report)
- Darren Lewin – Hill, Federation of Community Legal Centres (FCLC) for media assistance.
- Cameron Smith, Belinda Nisbet, Bronwyn Fraser and Eve Lillas for their assistance in organising Lock up a Lawyer
- Legal Service Board (for funding of Policy & Advocacy program until October 2013)

We thank our partners

- Frontyard Youth Services
- Melbourne City Mission
- Victoria Legal Aid community education team
- Federation of Community Legal Centres
- Salvation Army Youth Bus team
- RMIT legal service management including Kitty Vivekananda, Kathryn Marriot and the student well-being staff
- Youth Support Advocacy Service staff at the Youth detox unit
- Youthlaw Online host organisations, including Barwon Youth, Mornington Peninsula Shire Youth Services, The Bridge Youth service in Seymour and Shepparton, Uniting Care Cutting Edge in Shepparton and Cobram and Upper Yarra Community House
- Smart Justice for Young People coalition members:
- FCLC Infringements Working Group:
- Youthworx staff and students
- James Fleming of Camera Electrica
- Law in Order

We thank our external service supports

- Meghan McBain, Design Bus
- FINREA Computing Services
- Sean Denham and Associates
- Paper Giant
- Dialogue Consulting

We thank our volunteers and placement students

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| → Alexandra Einfeld | → Miriana Smoljko | → Ramona Thambiratnam | → Phoebe Williams |
| → Anna Whittaker | → Monica Lee | → Meghan Tait | → Natasha Richie |
| → Bronwyn Montgomery | → Nick Kelly | → Alice Mary Vincent Bewley | → Ella van der Schans |
| → Caitlin Edwards | → Nikita Harrison | → Hari Sundaresan | → Alison Conlon |
| → Elizabeth Margaronis | → Olivia Coburn | → Chris Krousoratis | → Alex Croft |
| → Eylul Top | → Rachel Fitzpatrick | → Josh Everson | → Maja Ristovska |
| → Gary Chau | → Rose Storey | → Lachlan Tom | → Cameron Bloye |
| → Jade Gregory | → Sasha Lytas | → Mark Johnson | → Bree O'Dwyer |
| → Jake Harris | → Sophie Cox | → Yasmin Geneva | → Cassandra Martin |
| → Jessica Aoun | → Stephanie Freeman | → Eoin Twomey | → Lynette Dong |
| → Laura Wilson | → Tom Henneman | → Adiam Tsegay | → Harry Croft |
| → Lauren Scott | → Tom Hickey | → Laura Arfi | → Kerewin Huck |
| → Lisa Thien Huong Nguyen | → Trung Ly | → Tamara Preuss | → Sophia Blackhirst |
| → Mark Ross | → Zalman Bassin | → Phillipa Daniel | → Dilusha Jayasekara |
| → Mary-Anne Philip | → Emily Nicol | → Jacqueline Hope | |
| → Melissa Molloy | → Adi Kedar | → Sophia Floudiotis | |
| → Mia Abrahams | → Jaden Sica | → Ali Towers | |

Youthlaw Board 2013-14

- Monica Lillas, Chair
- Matthew Gregg, Secretary
- Jan Farrell, Treasurer
- Anoushka Jeronimus
- Meribah Rose
- Nicole Jee
- Ben Hercus
- Jon Goh
- Louise McNeil
- Megan Trethowan (Ashurst)
- Quyen Le (Ashurst)

Youthlaw Staff 2013-14

- Ariel Couchman, Director
- Tiffany Overall, Human Rights & Advocacy Officer
- Anna Radonic, Principal Lawyer
- Katrina Wong, Lawyer
- Jordana Cohen, Lawyer
- Lee Carnie, Lawyer
- Guy Donovan, Lawyer
- Annie Davis, Education and Training Co-ordinator & Lawyer
- Sally Goldner, Finance Officer
- Ian Johnson, Finance officer
- Adele Llewellyn, secondee lawyer from Ashurst
- Ryan Kornhouser, secondee lawyer from Ashurst

YOUTHLAW FINANCIAL REPORT

2013 / 2014

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INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE

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 assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2014, statement of cash flows and the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification by members of the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of Young People's Legal Rights Centre Inc. is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) and the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those 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 amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Young People's Legal Rights Centre Inc. as at 30 June 2014 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic).

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Young People's Legal Rights Centre Inc. to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



Sean Denham

Dated: 16 October 2014

Suite 1, 707 Mt Alexander Road
Moonee Ponds VIC 3039

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE
ABN 12 794 935 230

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2014

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
INCOME			
Grants - recurrent		327,848	301,356
Grants - non-recurrent		220,475	278,386
Donations		35,131	12,321
Donations - in kind		68,864	63,760
Interest		6,378	4,734
Other income		20,090	49,196
		<u>678,786</u>	<u>709,753</u>
 EXPENDITURE			
Employee expenses		529,055	485,564
Depreciation and amortisation expense		3,949	2,944
Other expenses		137,656	215,425
		<u>670,660</u>	<u>703,933</u>
 Surplus (Loss) before income tax		8,126	5,820
 Income tax expense	2	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 Surplus (Loss) after income tax		8,126	5,820
 Retained Surplus (Losses) at the beginning of the financial year		<u>283,538</u>	<u>277,718</u>
 Retained Surplus (Losses) at the end of the financial year		<u><u>291,664</u></u>	<u><u>283,538</u></u>

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE
ABN 12 794 935 230

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT
AS AT 30 JUNE 2014

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	462,519	396,423
Trade and other receivables	4	44,994	165,025
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>507,513</u>	<u>561,448</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	5	7,106	6,325
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>7,106</u>	<u>6,325</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>514,619</u>	<u>567,773</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	6	13,524	28,848
Provisions	7	24,307	41,103
Deferred income	8	144,302	197,313
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>182,133</u>	<u>267,264</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	7	40,822	16,971
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>222,955</u>	<u>284,235</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>291,664</u>	<u>283,538</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained Surplus		291,664	283,538
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>291,664</u>	<u>283,538</u>

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE
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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2014

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from grants		612,251	445,469
Other receipts		55,221	113,893
Payments to suppliers and employees		(603,024)	(623,188)
Interest received		<u>6,378</u>	<u>4,734</u>
Net Cash provided by operating activities	8	<u>70,826</u>	<u>(59,092)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for purchase of property and equipment		<u>(4,730)</u>	<u>(5,820)</u>
Net Cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>(4,730)</u>	<u>(5,820)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		66,096	(64,912)
Cash at the beginning of the year		396,423	461,335
Cash at the end of the year		<u><u>462,519</u></u>	<u><u>396,423</u></u>



Young Peoples Legal Rights Centre

Inc No A0041616E

ABN 12 794 935 230

At Frontyard, 19 King Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

T 9611 2412

F 9620 3622

E info@youthlaw.asn.au

www.youthlaw.asn.au