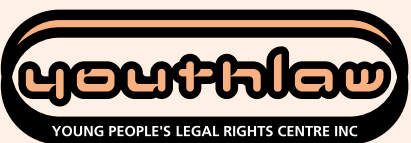




ANNUAL REPORT
2016/2017



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OUR HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016-17



3,000+

young people supported



1,300

young people provided with legal with information, advice and representation



1,500+

legal questions answered



600

RMIT students assisted



Continued to lead
Smart Justice for Young People Coalition



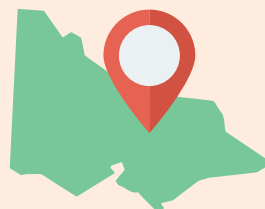
57

people volunteered with us



70+

new members



11

outreach partnerships and locations



6 partnerships with corporate law firms



\$11,000+

fundraised at **Run Melbourne**

\$6,800+

fundraised at the **Ashurst annual trivia night**



New family violence program launched



New My Rights app developed

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

It has been another very successful year at Youthlaw, with growth and expansion not only in the number of young people assisted (more than 3,000 this year), but also in our programs' focus on responding to both the legal and non-legal needs of young people.

This year marked the first anniversary of our Family Violence program, which, in association with Frontyard, focuses on providing an integrated response to young people who have experienced or committed family violence, now or in the past. We were able to extend the program's offering to include youth worker services, providing short-term crisis case management and risk management assessments to young people who we have assisted through the court process. Together with the RMIT Centre for Innovative Justice, we will now be able to measure the success and outcomes of the program to improve our services going forward.

A major area of work for Youthlaw has always been fines and infringements. The Friday Fines Clinic was an initiative of our lawyers and has now been operating for three years. Our Youthlaw team and invaluable volunteers continue to assist young people to navigate the infringements process, through fact sheets, client interviews, advice and representation in court. The program is also supported by Ashurst lawyers who attend Court to represent our clients in Special Circumstances hearings. We are also very lucky to have the great support of Colin Biggers & Paisley who assist with our VOCAT matters.

Despite funding concerns, our outreach program has continued to grow with the support of Phyllis Connor Memorial Trust, headspace, some serious lobbying to government, and now continued Commonwealth funding. Its reach now extends to 11 centres across rural, regional and remote Victoria, including six headspace centres, and two Bridge Youth Services in Shepparton and Seymour and another two on the Mornington Peninsula. Other outreach services include attending the Youth Support Advocacy Service (YSAS) detox unit.

On the policy and advocacy front, we continue to be a driving partner of the Smart Justice for Young People coalition (SJ4YP), which this year was very busy responding to the government and media interest in youth justice, youth crime and detention issues. A

key focus of SJ4YP and our involvement was to build the coalition's media and communications profile to provide a more visible and coordinated voice on these youth justice issues. In recent years, finding clarity around our advocacy and what we do has also been a focus of Youthlaw with the development of our strategic plan and redevelopment of our website.

In terms of fundraising activities this year, we had a brave entrant in the Moomba Birdman event, 45 participants in Run Melbourne, and the Ashurst annual trivia night. A focus of the Board this year has been increasing our member base and our communication with members. This year, we launched our newsletter to members, which covers the great work we do, youth issues, upcoming events, and an insight into who makes up our dedicated team.

And what can we expect in the next year? We have now received funding for our new Legal Pod program, which will start in late 2017. The program focuses on young people transitioning out of the child protection system. Small teams of pro bono lawyers will provide assistance to these young people during their transition from care (usually five years). The aim is to support them at this difficult time in an effort to reduce the chance of future engagement with the criminal justice system. This program is based on the Queensland model initiated in 2014, which now assists 50 young people through the help of 11 firms. We will be very excited to report on the progress of the program next year.

All of these achievements would not be possible without the dedication, vision and passion of our invaluable staff, volunteers and Board who contribute so much to our work in assisting young people across the state. We also thank our partner organisations, donors, law firms and members for their support throughout the year, and we look forward to continuing these initiatives together in the coming year. A special thank you to Ariel Couchman, our CEO for all her hard work and leadership.

Nicole Jee
Chairperson

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

This year we campaigned to demonstrate the impact of and the need for our centre and all community legal centres. This was in the context of impending cuts to community legal centres throughout Australia from 1 July 2017. It was compounded by reduced Federal Government funding of many frontline services and the pressure this places on sources of funding.

The campaign involved lobbying relevant Federal parliamentarians and communities about the impact of the impending funding cuts: closure of our outreach program. We achieved a fantastic result – the reversal of funding cuts to all CLCs. We also got a lot of local media coverage and many very positive responses from politicians. We thank our wonderful outreach partners for their assistance.

Despite such challenges, we also found time to introduce new services and improve existing services to better respond to the needs of young people. This included a new family violence program, the addition of court representation and onsite appointments for young people attending our outreach service and securing funding for legal pods of private lawyers to assist young people transitioning from child protection.

We continued to lead and resource the Smart Justice for Young People Coalition. Together we drew attention to the needs of young people engaging with the criminal justice system, including early intervention services, an improved child protection system, better assessment of the needs of young people coming before the courts, and diversionary programs that address the underlying drivers of offending.

With the emergence of a high offending cohort of young people, and serious incidences at Parkville and Malmsbury, we contributed to many police, government and ministerial roundtables. Together with other youth services, we brought perspective and balance, highlighting the overall trend of reduction in youth crime. We called for adequate funding of

approaches that work and drew attention to laws and practices that contravene human rights.

In the face of increasing adult and youth prison numbers, we collected evidence-based and community examples to argue for a justice reinvestment approach through the Smart Justice for Young People Coalition Project, 'The Case for Justice Reinvestment'.

We trained up and mentored our many volunteers, Deakin law students, secondees from Ashurst, new staff, and new Board members. We developed our community law partnership with Ashurst and K&L Gates, and forged new community law partnerships with Colin Biggers & Paisley, Aitken Partners and Holding Redlich.

We continued to advocate for:

- ▶ fines reform to early exit vulnerable young people and those without capacity to pay;
- ▶ independent investigation of police complaints;
- ▶ police and PSO accountability and professionalism with regard to young people;
- ▶ reducing imprisonment of young people under 25, and effective and tailored rehabilitation in detention and prison; and
- ▶ reversal of Victoria Legal Aid restrictive guidelines for 15 to 18 year olds.

Thank you to the wonderful team at Youthlaw. You are amazing, compassionate, skilful and dedicated. And fun.

Ariel Couchman
Director

OUR VISION AND VALUES

VISION

Our vision is a just and equitable society for and by young people.

VALUES

Youthlaw is a fearless advocate for young people. We work within a social justice and human rights framework, based on principles of community development. 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 systematic change in the community for the benefit of young people.

MISSION

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

WHO WE ASSISTED IN THE YEAR 2016-17

- ▶ We provided legal information, advice and representation to over **1,300** young people in Victoria.
- ▶ We continued to provide RMIT students with a legal service and assisted over **600** students.
- ▶ Our Ask a Lawyer information service assisted over **1,500** young people and adults (including family members and professionals).

OUR LEGAL SERVICES

At Youthlaw, we talk to young people everyday. We listen to their stories, help them deal with their legal issues and lobby for systematic change.

DROP IN LEGAL CLINIC AT FRONTYARD YOUTH SERVICES



Frontyard Youth Services is a place where homeless and vulnerable young people can seek help.

Frontyard provides services that address the physical, social and emotional needs of our young people. This means a young person can walk in to Frontyard and see a doctor or dentist, go to a yoga class, get a haircut and talk to someone who can help them make positive decisions for their future – all in the same building. It's a one-stop shop.

Youthlaw is one of the services co-located at Frontyard. We help homeless and vulnerable young people with their legal issues, including fines, debts and low-level criminal offending. Often these young people have

been victims of abuse themselves, are vulnerable on the streets and find it difficult to access support services. When a young person is unable to deal with their legal issue at an early stage, it can impact their mental health, leave them unprotected from abuse, and burden them with debt and a criminal record that prevents them moving forward in life.

At Youthlaw, we talk to young people everyday and hear their stories. When a young person walks in our door, we aim to provide them with legal guidance, empower them to understand the law and link them in with the support services they need. We can also relay those stories to the courts and communicate experiences to decision-makers to lobby for systematic change.

CLIENT STORIES

Shalu's story

Shalu first presented to Youthlaw in 2017 for help with an assault and shop theft. At the time of the offence, Shalu was 18 and had a 2-year-old son. She had dropped out of school at the age of 14 and was not engaged in education. Youthlaw assisted Shalu with her charges and represented her at court. Shalu was sentenced to an adjourned undertaking, a very good result. Shalu is now living with her mother and has re-engaged with her education.

Anna's story

When we met Anna, she had an upcoming court date for assault and property theft charges. At the time of offending, Anna had a 2-year-old child, was not going to school, was living with friends, and had little support.

Youthlaw had the matter transferred to the Melbourne Magistrates' Court so that we could represent her. Anna received a 5-month good behaviour bond and was required to continue engaging with a youth support service. Anna is now making positive progress, living with her mother, completing Year 12, and has had no further charges.

Bob's story

Bob first sought legal advice from Youthlaw in 2015 after being referred by Frontyard. Bob suffers from an intellectual disability, Tourette's disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, severe behaviour disturbances and suicidal tendencies. As a result of family conflict, Bob has been homeless for the past three years.

Youthlaw helped Bob with two pending charges for property damage and impersonating a police officer. Bob received a diversion order as a first-time adult offender. Youthlaw has also been helping Bob with a number of public transport fines over the past few years because he has trouble understanding the consequences of touching on and off. On each occasion the fines have been withdrawn. Youthlaw has now helped Bob with an application for an Access Travel Pass, so that he does not need to remember to touch on and off his Myki anymore.

Youthlaw and Frontyard continue to support Bob to secure long-term, stable accommodation and mental health support.

FRIDAY FINES CLINIC

We meet many young people who are dealing with fines issues. With no means to pay, the fines can easily build up and escalate to the warrant stage. Particularly for young people experiencing homelessness, poor mental health, substance abuse and family violence, it can be extremely stressful.

In response, Youthlaw started the Friday Fines Clinic so that we could help vulnerable young people navigate the complicated fines system. It has been a highly successful program and we now manage over 100 files at any one time. We support clients each step of the way – from the initial fines check, to representing them at court – so that they can move on with their life, without the stress of fines hanging over their head. We also continue to advocate for systematic change through policy work, so that vulnerable young people are efficiently exited from the fines system.

We have trained up a special group of volunteers to be our fines experts, conduct interviews with clients, and manage multiple files. This is a fantastic opportunity for our volunteers to gain experience and we thank them for all their hard work throughout the year. A special thank you goes out to our lawyer Kathryn, who leads this team with energy and humour every Friday.



Members of our Friday Fines team: Kathryn, Annina, Monique and Deana.

VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIALS

"I commenced as a volunteer paralegal with Youthlaw in March 2015, and in June 2016, I joined the Friday Fines Clinic Team. As part of the Fines Clinic Team, I have assisted vulnerable clients deal with their fines. Young People often present to the Fines Clinic distressed, confused and in need of guidance. The experience of assisting the disadvantaged youth, who have endured homelessness, mental illness, family violence and substance addiction, to manage their fines is tremendously rewarding. I look forward to continuing to advocate on their behalf."

– Annina Tropea

"I have been volunteering in the Friday Fines clinic at Youthlaw since March. I have never felt more welcome, trusted or respected than I have working at Youthlaw. I have gained experience opening and closing files, drafting court documents, client interviewing and liaising with support workers. My time at Youthlaw, and working in the Friday Fines Clinic has been invaluable!"

– Nicole Shackleton

"I began volunteering at Youthlaw in March 2017 in the Friday Fines Clinic. What I love most about Friday Fines is the opportunity to interview clients and manage my own files. It is such a rewarding experience to know you have assisted a client with their legal matter every step of the way!" – Deana Palmisano

Sally's story

Sally first came to Youthlaw after receiving a public transport fine in 2017. She has a history of issues relating to ADD, learning difficulties and finds it challenging in social situations.

Sally had torn a ligament in her foot, and was advised to keep her foot elevated when sitting. While travelling on public transport, she was issued a fine for having her feet on a seat.

Youthlaw was able to assist Sally in writing a letter to the Department of Transport explaining her circumstances. We successfully had the fines withdrawn, which was a great outcome. Sally has had no further issues pending with Youthlaw.

Jack's story

Jack (21 years old) first presented at Youthlaw in 2017 after being referred by Frontyard. Jack had to leave his family home five years ago due to mental health concerns, and had been couch surfing with friends since. Jack was diagnosed with depression and suffered suicidal ideation, constant tearfulness and apathy.

Jack was homeless and had no income. Even though he couldn't afford train tickets, he needed to use public transport to travel to friends' houses to rest his head. He had no means to pay his public transport fines.

Youthlaw made a special circumstances application for Jack, gathered support material from his doctor and support workers and represented him in court. The application was successful and the court dismissed Jack's fines.

Sarah's story

Sarah first presented to Youthlaw in 2015 for help with driving offences and fines. Sarah had a difficult upbringing. During childhood her mother suffered from schizophrenia and borderline personality disorder, and attempted to commit suicide. When Sarah turned 18 she started using ice and marijuana. Her mental health worsened and she made two suicide attempts.

In 2017, a Youthlaw lawyer represented Sarah in court and explained that during the offending period Sarah was struggling with family conflict, her ongoing mental health issues and substance abuse. On this basis, the court dismissed all 40 toll fines.

Since then, Sarah's wellbeing has significantly improved. Sarah is linked in with support services and receiving treatment for her anxiety and depression. She has been working part time in the same job for two years and "loves it." Sarah is also studying her Diploma of Child Services, and is expected to complete this by the end of the year. Sarah lives with her father and has a stable long-term relationship with her partner. Both relationships are very supportive.

ASK A LAWYER SERVICE

Every day we answer legal questions from young people via email, on our website, or by phone 9am-5pm. We are often asked questions about urgent situations such as police interviews, prospective charges, court hearings and fines. We provide free answers with a quick turnaround. Young people can be anonymous if they choose.

We find that our Ask A Lawyer Service works well for young people who find it difficult to come in and see us. We also respond to legal queries from adults who are assisting a young person, including family members, youth workers, teachers and professionals.



Our lawyers, Megan and Michael.

FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAM

The Family Violence Program continued to break new ground this year. After setting the program off to a flying start, Annika Dimitrijevic left the team to take up an exciting new role in the Magistrates' Court. We were delighted to have Jo Ellis take up the family violence lawyer position at the start of 2017. In May 2017, we also warmly welcomed Meg Callander on board as our first Family Violence Youth Worker. Meg provides a specialist family violence response to young people experiencing and perpetrating violence. We thank the Department of Justice for funding this fantastic new role.

With Meg's arrival on the scene, Youthlaw's Family Violence Program integrates legal and non-legal support to assist young people experiencing or using family violence in the home. This makes us one of a handful of Victorian community legal centres using multi-disciplinary practice to respond to the complexities of family violence.

This year, our Family Violence team was pleased to accept referrals from courts, Frontyard and a handful of alternative education providers and services within the community. We continued to attend the Melbourne Children's Court each Wednesday to support and represent young people who are using, or who are victims of, family violence. Our integrated approach at court means that a lawyer provides legal advice and advocacy, while the youth worker completes a youth-specific family violence risk assessment. This assessment is important to determine whether the young person is a victim and/or perpetrator of family violence, and then to determine what response is required.

Following support at court, our youth worker can provide short-term crisis case management, which has been hugely successful. In a sector-first, Meg has also developed a youth-specific family violence risk assessment tool. This will allow Youthlaw to more effectively determine risk and prevent further violence, in comparison to more generic assessment tools.

To measure the outcomes of Youthlaw's new integrated approach, we have partnered with the Centre for Innovative Justice at RMIT University to develop an evaluation framework. We are pleased to have two RMIT social work students developing this framework as part of their Field Education placement. Meg and Jo look forward to implementing this evaluation framework in the near future.

There are many other highlights from this year's Family Violence Program. Youthlaw has:

- ▶ been accepted onto the Victoria Legal Aid's Family Violence Panel, which will add vital capacity to the program;
- ▶ contributed to research into Adolescent Violence in the Home (AVITH) by both Monash University and RMIT;
- ▶ sat on the steering committee for the Centre for Innovative Justice's 'PIPA project': Positive Interventions for Perpetrators of AVITH;
- ▶ been a member of the Melbourne Children's Court working group on Adolescent Family Violence; and
- ▶ continued to advocate for young people through the Federation of Community Legal Centre's working group on Family Violence.

The majority of young people who come through our program are striving to keep attending school, working part-time jobs or caring for other family members – despite experiencing the devastating effects of family violence. Every day we feel fortunate to work alongside young people – they are open, positive and resilient.

Thank you to our wonderful family violence team, Jo and Meg, for building on the strong and responsive Family Violence Program at Youthlaw this year.

This makes us one of a handful of Victorian community legal centres using multi-disciplinary practice to respond to the complexities of family violence.



Left: Our family violence lawyer, Jo and other Youthlaw staff thank the Department of Justice for providing funding for our exciting new family violence program. **Right:** Our family violence lawyer, Jo with our previous Ashurst secondee lawyer, Ash, after completing the ROPES course.

CLIENT STORIES

Loui's story

Loui (17 years old) was referred to Youthlaw after the police had applied for an intervention order to protect him from family violence. When we met Loui at court, he had been forced to leave the family home and was couch surfing while trying to do Year 11.

At court, our family violence lawyer was able to represent Loui, making sure his wishes were put to the court and tailoring an intervention order to make him feel safe. Meanwhile, our Family Violence Youth Worker supported Loui, who was distressed because the perpetrator was in the courtroom on the day.

After the hearing, our Youth Worker met with Loui and his new foster carer. We identified Loui's needs, helped him obtain funds to contribute to his new foster carer's household and to put towards his education pathway. We also linked him in with housing support, helped him claim Centrelink payments, advocated to his school that he should be considered a mature minor, and linked him in with group music therapy at Frontyard.

Katie's story

Katie (17 years old) was referred to the Youthlaw Family Violence program after presenting to Frontyard in search of housing support. After our family violence risk assessment identified that she was at an elevated risk, we developed a safety plan and helped her find an ongoing vacancy in a youth refuge.

We continued to meet with Katie to provide one-on-one support. We liaised with Katie's new school to ensure the safety plan was in place and assisted her to apply for an Intervention Order. We have also linked Katie in with mental health support and successfully applied to have the costs of a neuropsychological assessment covered. The results from the assessment will enable Katie to address her learning needs and the impact that violence-related trauma has had on her cognitive development, so she can begin to move on with her life.

The majority of young people who come through our program are striving to keep attending school, working part-time jobs or caring for other family members – despite experiencing the devastating effects of family violence.

OUTREACH PROGRAM

Youthlaw is based in Melbourne and provides a state-wide service. In order to ensure we reach young people across Victoria in rural, regional and remote ("RRR") areas, we partner with frontline youth services.

We provide legal help to young people via Skype and hold legal sessions at school and youth services. We support and consult workers by phone, in clinics and in training sessions. In our experience, many young people seek help through workers and staff, rather than going to a lawyer.



Thank you to our outreach lawyers Megan, Lee, Karen and Joanne. Also a big thank you to our wonderful outreach partners – we couldn't do it without you!

Picture: Karen on location at one of our outreach locations.

Youthlaw has partnerships with:

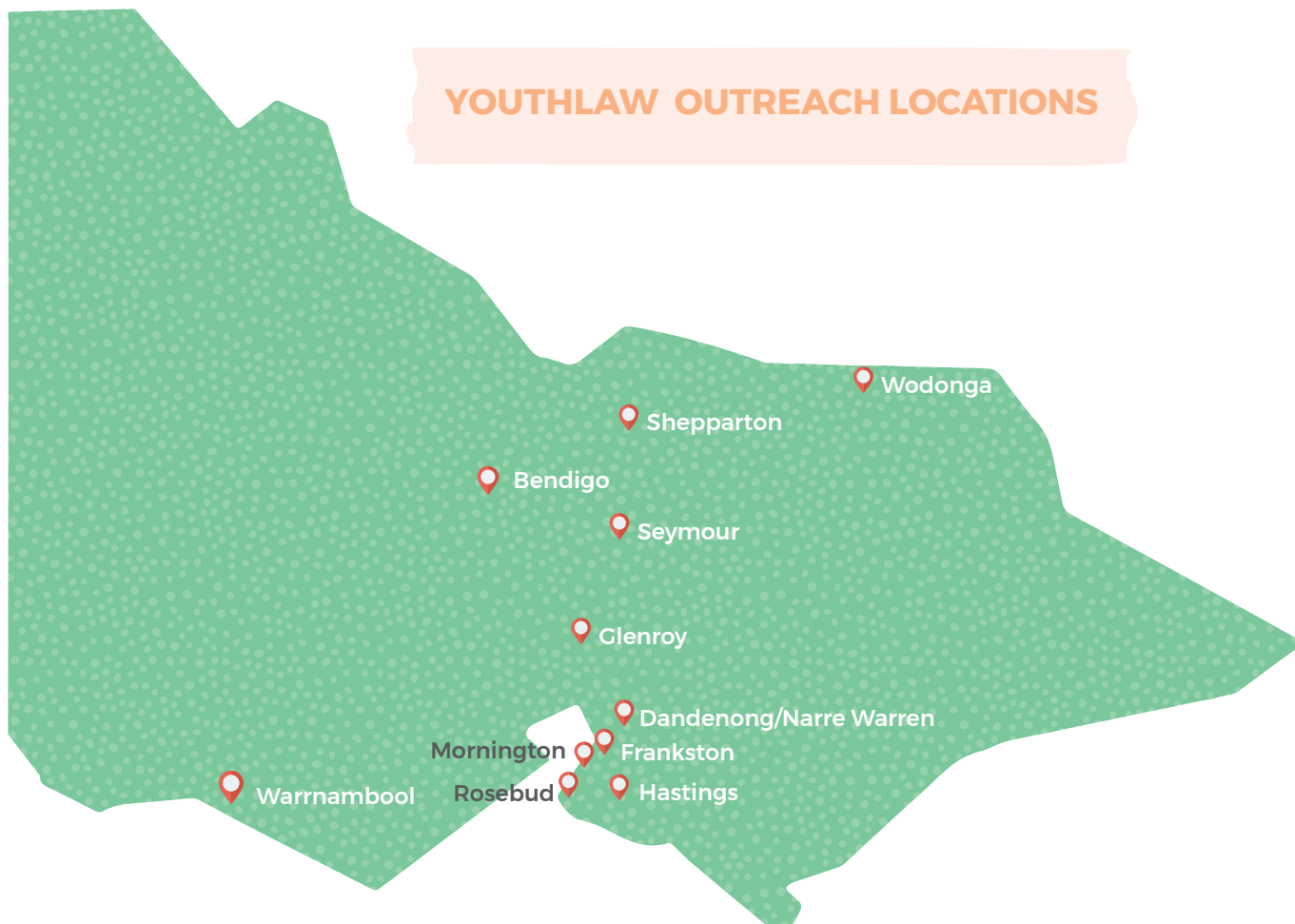
- ▶ headspace centres (Bendigo, Warrnambool, Frankston, Glenroy, Dandenong/Narre Warren and Wodonga)
- ▶ The Bridge Youth services (Shepparton and Seymour)
- ▶ Mornington Peninsula Shire youth centres (Shed 11 in Hastings, The Y Lounge in Rosebud & The Corner in Mornington)

OUTREACH TO A YOUTH DETOX UNIT

We visit a youth detox unit run by YSAS once per month to provide group information, individual client advice and casework, and train the youth workers on common legal problems.

Young people at the detox unit are overwhelmingly vulnerable. Many have had to deal with difficulties in their life such as family violence, neglect in their childhood home, and child protection intervention. They often have mental health and substance abuse issues. Most have more than one legal issue, with a quarter having multiple (three or more) complex legal issues to deal with.

YOUTHLAW OUTREACH LOCATIONS



CLIENT STORIES

Alex's story

When we met Alex (20 years old), who is 40% deaf in each ear, he was experiencing drug and alcohol issues and unstable housing. Alex had a debt on his car loan, a workplace bullying issue, outstanding fines and drug driving charges. Youthlaw helped him get back on track. We referred him to a financial counsellor to sort out his car loan debt and youth workers who helped him with his workplace bullying issue. We completed a fines check and a warm referral to Victoria Legal Aid so he could apply to have his fines wiped on the basis of his special circumstances. We negotiated his charges with police so that he could participate in residential rehabilitation. We helped Alex to start seeing a drug and alcohol counsellor once a week, seek housing support and get on a waitlist for residential rehabilitation. Alex has had no further offences or fines, and is moving forward with his life.

Jennifer's story

Jennifer (19 years old) was a single mother living in rural Victoria and the victim of family violence. She had an outstanding debt that was causing her a great deal of stress because she did not know why she owed money. Youthlaw helped her to understand where her debt came from. It related to damage that had been caused by the ex-partner during a violent episode. Youthlaw successfully applied to VCAT so that Jennifer's ex-partner had to pay for the damage he caused, not Jennifer, the victim of family violence. Jennifer was able to move on with her life, unencumbered by debt. She now has her own home for her and her young child.

Harry's story

Harry (19 years old) lives in outer Melbourne. A few years ago, Harry was the victim of a violent crime and as a result, developed PTSD. Harry began self-medicating with ice, his relationship with his parents broke down and he moved in with friends. He could not cope with applying for Centrelink because of his mental health issues, so he had no income. He began stealing from shops for his friends in lieu of rent. We met Harry after being charged by police for shop thefts. We helped him seek drug and alcohol, and mental health support. We made a plea for Harry at court and obtained a good behaviour bond. We also made a successful application to Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal to secure a lump sum payment and money to pay for ongoing counselling.



A few members of Youthlaw legal team on our rooftop: (L-R) Ash, Tiffany, Karen, Monique and Kathryn.

OUTREACH FUNDING CAMPAIGN

Every young Victorian should be supported, no matter where they live. That's why we challenged federal funding cuts that would end our outreach service.

In April 2017, George Brandis announced plans to slash millions of dollars of funding from community legal centres. As a result, Youthlaw would no longer be able to operate its outreach service.

Our outreach service has worked with 1760 young people during the past two years, preventing crisis situations for young people in regional and remote areas.

In response to the proposed funding cuts, we wrote letters and met with Federal members. We lobbied and spoke to the media. We explained that the cuts would mean young people in regional areas may have to deal with legal problems alone. This could lead to serious consequences, such as court records because

of unpaid fines and debts, bad tenancy records, and young people being trapped in situations of family violence.

Our campaign made the news. After intense pressure from Youthlaw and the rest of the legal sector, the federal government abandoned the funding cuts.

This means that young people in regional areas can continue to talk to a lawyer at Youthlaw when they have a legal problem. We can help protect our young people and eliminate the barriers to finishing school, finding a job and feeling safe.

We thank our outreach partners and friends in the community who helped us campaign. We have no doubt that our lobbying and media coverage contributed to this decision.

We are proud to be able to continue to deliver these services to our young people, now and into the future.

YOUTHLAW IN THE NEWS

CAMPAIGNING FOR OUTREACH FUNDING

"Bendigo to lose access to legal outreach." *Bendigo Advertiser*, 3 April 2017.

"Youthlaw's outreach service assisting vulnerable young people in peninsular region facing axing due to funding cuts." *Mornington Peninsular Leader*, 13 April 2017.

"Glenroy legal service expects to lose \$72,000 in Federal Government funding and turn away 50 troubled youth." *Moreland Leader*, 18 April 2017.

"Government funding to local Youthlaw centre will hurt region." *Shepparton Advisor*, 19 April 2017.

CUTS TO LEGAL FUNDING REVERSED

"Federal Government to reverse community legal funding cuts in May budget." *ABC News*, 24 April 2017.

"Federal budget 2017: George Brandis to reverse community legal centre cut." *The Age*, 24 April 2017.

RMIT STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE

This year our contract to provide a legal service to RMIT students was renewed for a further three years and increased to three and a half days of service delivery.

Most students initially access the legal service online and receive legal information and self-help options. RMIT students can have face-to-face appointments for legal advice with our lawyer on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons (and Monday afternoons during peak times).

Tenancy remains the largest legal issue facing students. Many students find themselves in unregulated rooming houses and dealing with unscrupulous landlords who rarely have approved tenancy agreements or who fail to lodge the bond with the RTBA. Students, particularly international students, are still facing wide spread wage exploitation at work. They are often working for as little as \$8 per hour and, even then, not being paid for the hours they have worked.

Students also seek advice across a range of general issues such as fines, safety, crime, VOCAT, debts, charges & consumer disputes. The service attempts to provide legal information and appropriate referrals

to students seeking assistance in areas outside the expertise of our lawyers.

This year we have worked closely with RMIT Student Support to make sure our service is being targeted towards students who are most in need.

We have continued to enjoy a healthy working relationship with RMIT and have collaborated together on a student housing standards project and are working towards implementing aspects of the fines reform scheme into RMIT.



This year our RMIT legal service has been run by our wonderful lawyer, James Tresise.

Our RMIT Legal Service
Lawyer, James

CLIENT STORIES

Tobey's story

"I am being underpaid. I get \$10 an hour but I know I'm owed \$12."

This student was successfully assisted in recovering thousands of dollars in unpaid wages. Tobey's correct salary was \$23.51 per hour plus an entitlement to compulsory superannuation.

Joey's story

We helped this student have all his fines withdrawn on the basis of special circumstances. Joey was then supported in applying for an Access Travel Pass, which means Joey could travel freely on public transport without incurring further fines.

Kim's story

We supported this student to recover \$1,400 in compensation from their landlord. Kim appeared by phone from overseas and was helped at VCAT by a free translator.

LEGAL EDUCATION AND RESOURCES

Youthlaw regularly engages in community legal education to inform young people across Victoria about their legal rights and responsibilities. We have developed a wide range of legal resources tailored to meet the needs of young people.

We know that young people often go online as a first port of call when searching for information about the law. That's why we have a wealth of information and resources, on our recently revamped website and new My Rights app.

RESOURCES ON OUR WEBSITE

We have developed easy-to-read fact sheets covering common issues experienced by young people. Topics include becoming independent, dealing with bullying or discrimination, fines, going to court and many more.

THE MY RIGHTS APP

One of the highlights of 2017 was the launch of our new My Rights app!

Law apps are a growing part of the legal landscape and an important tool for improving access to justice. The My Rights app was designed especially for young people to help them find legal and practical information in an easy-to-use, private and safe way. The app provides guidance on issues that young people commonly face as they become independent such as relationships, renting, seeing a doctor and leaving home.

We are grateful to our partners at Melbourne Law School and Neota Logic for their partnership and commitment to this important initiative.

LEGAL EDUCATION SESSIONS

We have been all over Victoria delivering legal education sessions to young people this year. Some of our favourites include:

- ▶ Diamond Valley Learning Centre – Sexting and age of consent
- ▶ Frankston headspace – Sex, relationships and the law
- ▶ Inner Melbourne VET Cluster, South Melbourne – Cyberbullying
- ▶ 'Living It Up' (a program through City of Yarra Youth Services) – Police powers and young peoples' rights regarding public transport and driving infringements
- ▶ Melbourne Polytechnic Preston Campus – Police powers, the services at Youthlaw and other CLCs, 'Am I Old Enough Booklet?'
- ▶ Neami Noble Park – Our Streetlaw education package
- ▶ Peninsular Secondary College – Discrimination
- ▶ Skills Plus Dandenong – Police powers, arrest, bail and court
- ▶ Skills Plus Frankston – Cyberbullying
- ▶ The Corner Peninsula – Sexting and cyberbullying
- ▶ RMIT Students – Common legal issues
- ▶ Rosebud Secondary, Year 10s – Drug laws and police powers



TRAINING FOR WORKERS

We know that one of the best ways to communicate legal information to young people is through the people they trust and seek help from, such as youth workers, teachers and counsellors.

For this reason, we provide legal training and workshops tailored to workers and other professionals who deal with young people, on a range of important legal topics.

Our most popular topics that we deliver training for workers are:

- ▶ Identifying common legal issues affecting young people. This workshop includes quizzes, videos and information on how workers can play an essential part in ensuring that young people can exercise their legal rights.
- ▶ Being familiar with the powers of Police, Protective Services Officers (PSOs) and Public Transport Authorised Officers (AOs) when dealing with young people. Through discussions and group activities we cover young peoples' rights and practical skills in making complaints.
- ▶ Knowing how to support clients through the process of being charged with a criminal offence, including their rights on arrest, getting bail and appearing in court.
- ▶ Understanding a worker's duty of care, privacy and confidentiality, and the question of reporting child abuse.
- ▶ Helping guide clients through the infringement system, including the different avenues available to young people when dealing with unpaid fines.

FAILURE TO DISCLOSE AND PROTECT

This year we partnered with our friends at the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria to deliver dozens of training sessions across the state on the new Victorian 'failure to disclose and protect' laws, which put new obligations on adults to protect children and report sexual abuse.

We delivered this training to:

- ▶ Local councils, such as Bass Coast Shire Council, City of Greater Dandenong, City of Melbourne

Council, City of Port Philip Council, City of Stonnington, Echuca City Council, Mildura Rural City Council;

- ▶ Youth Networks in Ballarat, Boroondara, Cardinia, Maribyrnong, Sunbury, Wangaratta, Yarra Ranges, Port Fairy and the South Coast;
- ▶ Health Services, such as CoHealth, the Royal Children's Hospital, LaTrobe City Health, Shepparton Primary Care Connect; and
- ▶ Other services such as TAFEs, Headspace sights and Berry Street.

Through a grant of funding from the Victorian Law Foundation, we were able to produce some useful fact sheets and videos for workers on these new laws. These resources are now available from the Youthlaw website.

Other highlights from our training this year include:

- ▶ Arrest, bail and court at The Corner Wodonga, Headspace Glenroy
- ▶ Duty of care and confidentiality at Box Hill, Dandenong, Headspace Frankston, Headspace Glenroy and Red Frog Schoolies Volunteers
- ▶ Fines and how to deal with them at Narre Warren
- ▶ Giving legal knowledge, legal advice and guidance at Praxis College Youth Social Work Students
- ▶ Identification of legal issues at Headspace in Wodonga and the Junction in Wodonga Frankston Youth Network, The Bridge in Shepparton, the Bridge in Seymour
- ▶ Smart Justice for Young People at Mornington Peninsula Youth Network Meeting
- ▶ Sex and the law, sexting at Djerrirwarh VCAL in Melton and Mornington Peninsular Youth Service

In 2017, we also updated our well known 'What Do I Do When...?' booklet. This resource is widely used throughout the sector and provides information on common legal issues for young people and workers. This great resource can now be downloaded for free from our website.

Thank you to K&L Gates, who have provided pro bono assistance and helped us to regularly update our legal resources.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

The policy and law reform work of Youthlaw and Smart Justice for Young People (SJ4YP) took an unexpected change of direction in 2016-2017.

Previously, we had been progressing our justice reinvestment (JR) project and exploring the adoption of a JR approach to reduce the rate of contact young people have with the justice system in Victoria.

The project developed an informative video on JR principles and benefits, and other information and resources housed on the Justice Reinvestment Clearing House. A draft JR report was also underway, which would provide Government with a vision and a plan for adopting JR as new way forward for youth justice.

However, the proactive JR focus was curbed in a necessary response to the emerging and relentless law and order media campaign against young people, particularly young people of colour and their communities. Political decision-makers have been increasingly influenced by this populist agenda, despite its racialised tone and its obvious lack of an evidence base.

Specifically, the Victorian Government has moved to unravel critical elements of our youth justice system through a range of problematic reforms including:

- ▶ moving children and young people into Barwon adult prison;
- ▶ transferring statutory supervision of children in the criminal justice system and youth justice facilities from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Justice and Regulation (DOJR), which is responsible for adult prisons;
- ▶ introducing 40 Corrections staff with weapons (spray and batons) to supervise young offenders;
- ▶ announcing a new 'supermax' high security 224-bed youth justice facility in Cherry Creek in Wyndham; and
- ▶ introducing the Youth Justice Reform Bill, tabled in Parliament in May 2017, to roll back access to Victoria's unique 'dual track' system for people aged under 21, and potentially force people as young as 16 to face adult court.



SJ4YP and its members led and supported a number of lobbying, policy and media advocacy initiatives to challenge these inappropriate actions. These efforts were supported by a Media and Communications Officer, recruited in February 2017 to increase visibility of the sector's advocacy and improve the quality and coordination of its public messaging.

Key initiatives included:

- ▶ Releasing the #NoPlaceForKids video in support of the Human Rights Law Centre's successful Supreme Court case to get young people out of Barwon adult prison;
- ▶ Consulting the sector partnership with VCOSS and YACVic regarding the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Youth Justice Centres, which informed our respective submissions;
- ▶ Endorsing recommendations made by the Commission for Children and Young People in The Same Four Walls report, which uncovered mistreatment, abuse and excessive use of lockdowns and isolation in Victoria's youth justice centres;
- ▶ Releasing a joint public letter from 50+ youth advocates and adolescent mental health experts in response to the Victorian Government's problematic Youth Justice Reform Bill. SJ4YP also made submissions to the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee;

- ▶ Issuing public responses to other key events in the youth justice space, such as the review into Victoria's bail system, the Sentencing Advisory Council's report on factors associated with reoffending, the Victorian opposition's dangerous proposals to publicly name and shame young people, and the announcement of the Northern Territory's Royal Commission into the detention and protection of children and young people.

SJ4YP also expressed its support for the fewer positive aspects of the Victorian Government's proposed reforms, including statewide diversion, and their acceptance of recommendations made in a major Review of the youth justice system. The Review, by Professor James Ogloff and former DOJR Secretary Penny Armytage, urges the Government to enhance its focus on early intervention, assessment and advice, community supervision, and transition and support. Disturbingly, the report highlighted that the Government invests only 1% of its youth justice services budget in community-based early intervention – a problem that must be urgently addressed.

In addition to the work being done at SJ4YP, Youthlaw has advocated for smarter policies that support the wellbeing of young people and the broader community by making contributions and submissions to:

- ▶ the consultation paper on Victoria's Police oversight and complaint system;
- ▶ Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Settlement Outcomes;
- ▶ Transport for Victoria to create pathways for ticket compliance for young people in the draft Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) (Ticketing) Regulations 2017;

- ▶ various Infringement Working Group submissions including the Concessions Review; and
- ▶ the City of Melbourne, to oppose their camping ban proposal.

SJ4YP is currently developing a Strategic Youth Justice Advocacy Plan that will unify the youth justice sector in the lead up to the 2018 state election. In June 2017, SJ4YP engaged Anita Tang, Advocacy Advisor and Campaign Coach, to plan and facilitate a day-long workshop for the youth justice sector. Forty people attended from 30 diverse organisations.

The plan effectively aims to:

- ▶ present a coherent policy agenda for youth justice;
- ▶ protect against any further unravelling of youth justice provisions;
- ▶ counter the racialised and punitive political and media narrative concerning young people and the justice system;
- ▶ amplify the presence, voices and stories of young people themselves; and
- ▶ offer solutions that are credible and resonate with the community.

It has been an exciting year in the policy and advocacy space, and we will have our work cut out for us in the year ahead!



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

It is only through the hard work, talent and enthusiasm of our volunteers that Youthlaw is able to assist thousands of young people every year.

At Youthlaw we are proud to continue to develop our strong volunteer program. Our volunteers provide valuable support every day, in the office, clinic and courtrooms. In turn, we offer mentoring and legal training to many students who are the bright, upcoming lawyers of tomorrow.

In March 2017, we held our annual recruitment intake. We were overwhelmed at the number of people who applied to volunteer with us and generously give their time to help vulnerable young people navigate legal problems. We recruited a vibrant group of new volunteers to join the Youthlaw team, and now have more than 30 volunteers who come in each week. During the year we also took on a number of Deakin University law students and Leo Cussen placement students.



We continue to employ Volunteer and Administration Co-ordinators, Jessica Ginberg and Hanna Lee, who co-ordinate the annual intake, volunteer induction and training, roster co-ordination, members newsletters and social event organisation for our volunteers. Thank you to Kiri Crocker and Georgina Lett for all your hard work and enthusiasm in this role throughout 2016.

To every volunteer who generously gave their time at Youthlaw, we thank you!

WHAT OUR VOLUNTEERS SAY ABOUT THEIR TIME AT YOUTHLAW

"I began working at Youthlaw in November 2016, and so far I have had varied and instructive exposure to the law. A standout experience for me is having face-to-face time with clients. It's an incredibly rewarding experience, not only in the discerning legal issues in novel situations, but more importantly, in connecting with the young person through understanding and respect. It's a wonderful privilege to work for Youthlaw and contribute in empowering young people." – Julia Walker

"Volunteering at Youthlaw is a fantastic opportunity to get some practical legal experience. I enjoy working with a dedicated and supportive group of lawyers to give back to the community." – Lily Xiao

"I started volunteering at Youthlaw in March, 2017. Volunteering is always an exciting part of my week. All the staff have been very helpful and encouraging and I have learnt many practical skills. The work can be quite challenging at times, and there is always something new to learn!" – Michael Evans

"I started volunteering at Youthlaw in July this year. The diversity of legal disputes you encounter whilst volunteering at a CLC is an insightful and challenging experience. The satisfaction of helping clients with legal issues that they could not otherwise resolve on their own is what I look forward to every week." – Georgia Wiadrowski

FUNDRAISING

We are a proudly independent voice for young people, and we rely on support from the community to keep our doors open and our programs running.

From everyone at Youthlaw, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our community of donors who give generously to us.

Highlights from this years fundraising efforts are...

RUN MELBOURNE



On Sunday 30 July 2017, our team of 44 runners and walkers joined 20,000 other Melbournians to take the back streets, celebrate the city and raise money for disadvantaged young people. We proudly raised a grand total of \$11,293.36. We had so much fun and are so grateful to everyone who supported us by running, walking or donating.

We look forward to building on our fundraising efforts next year, with fun and exciting initiatives already taking shape!

ASHURST TRIVIA NIGHT



We continued the tradition of our annual trivia night, hosted by Ashurst. The event featured an action packed night of trivia, food and drink and plenty of opportunities to mingle with colleagues and staff at Ashurst. Over 100 people attended and \$6,800 was raised!

BIRDMAN EVENT



This year our brave lawyer, James Tresise, entered the Birdman event at Moomba to help raise funds for Youthlaw. James flew into the Yarra River in his home-built flying machine while thousands lined the banks of the river to watch. This event has been running for over forty years and remains a crowd favourite at the Moomba festival. The contestants are judged on the creativity of their costumes, “pre-flight performance” and how far they fly – or call. We are so proud of James, well done!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Youthlaw only achieves all that it does through the generosity and commitment of each and every one of our donors, partners and volunteers. To everyone that has supported us this year, thank you!

We would like to acknowledge the following organisations for their generous financial support:

- ▶ Commonwealth and State Attorney-General's Departments for Community Legal Services Program funding
- ▶ Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department for the one-off grant for Outreach Program
- ▶ Victorian Legal Service Board for the Justice Reinvestment Project funding
- ▶ Victorian Law Foundation for the Legal Training Resources Projects funding
- ▶ Kimberly Foundation for the Smart Justice for Young People Coalition funding
- ▶ Phyllis Connor Memorial Trust for the Outreach Program funding
- ▶ Streetsmart for the donation to 'Legal Help for Homeless Youth'
- ▶ Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation (DOJR) for the Community Legal Centre Assistance Grant
- ▶ Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation (DOJR) for the one-year grants contributing to Family Violence Lawyer, Duty Lawyer Service to Children's Court, and Family Violence Youth Worker position
- ▶ RMIT University for the RMIT Legal Service Contract
- ▶ City of Melbourne for the grant for Child Safety Training for Youth Workers
- ▶ Berry Street, Catholic Social Services, Centre for Excellence for the contributions towards the Media and Communication officer role for Smart Justice for Young People
- ▶ The Myer Foundation and Victoria Law Foundation for the grants towards the development of SJ4YP campaign advocacy plan
- ▶ YACVic, Berry Street, Catholic Care and Whitelion for the contributions to the development of the SJ4YP advocacy plan
- ▶ Colin Biggers & Paisley for arranging the donation of the printer

We thank the following firms for their generous pro bono support:

- ▶ Ashurst
- ▶ K & L Gates
- ▶ Colin Biggers & Paisley
- ▶ Maddocks
- ▶ Aitken Partners
- ▶ Holding & Redlich
- ▶ Many thanks to the following organisations and individuals for their time and support:
- ▶ Members of the Victorian Bar who have provided free advice and legal representation to clients of Youthlaw
- ▶ Wayne Merritt, Deborah Fewster, Sherri Bruinhout and the teams at the Melbourne City Mission and Frontyard
- ▶ Marie McInerney, editor and journalist, for her help with website content and the Justice Reinvestment report
- ▶ The team at the Federation of Community Legal Centres
- ▶ Andrew Bruun, Peter Wearne and the team at YSAS
- ▶ headspace
- ▶ The Bridge Youth services
- ▶ Mornington Peninsula Shire youth centres
- ▶ Anthony Kelly, Sophie Ellis and the team at Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre for the Police Accountability Project
- ▶ Glenn Jessop, Andrew Yule, Kathryn Kernohan and the team at Jesuit Social Services
- ▶ Ryan Sheales and Carly Nowell at VCOSS
- ▶ Jessie Mitchell and Georgie Ferrari at YACVic
- ▶ Julian Pocock and Jen Ellis at Berry Street
- ▶ Sarah Nicholson and the team at CMY
- ▶ Matt Incerti at Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare
- ▶ Smart Justice for Young People Coalition Members

- ▶ Victoria Legal Aid
- ▶ RMIT
- ▶ Anita Tang, advocacy adviser and campaign coach
- ▶ Lucia Marin at Lucia Marin Designs
- ▶ Jane Ginberg at Imprint Editing
- ▶ Konica Minolta for providing our new printer
- ▶ Chris and Reuben at Paper Giants for help with our website

Volunteers

- ▶ James Aridas
- ▶ Lee Be
- ▶ Cameron Bloye
- ▶ Nick Bolt
- ▶ Grace Borg
- ▶ Luisa Borg
- ▶ Annabelle Chai
- ▶ Scott Coffey
- ▶ Georgia Di Salle
- ▶ Sophie Donaghey
- ▶ Madeleine Doull
- ▶ Michael Evans
- ▶ Charlotte Ferguson
- ▶ Amanda Ford
- ▶ Cherie Fung
- ▶ Cassandra Generoso
- ▶ Kaila Glare
- ▶ Nufar Gofman
- ▶ Henry Hamilton-Lindsay
- ▶ Ryan Higgins
- ▶ Kaye Ho
- ▶ Monique Joyce
- ▶ Disha Kamal
- ▶ Olivia King
- ▶ Sharlene Kuruppuarachchi
- ▶ Codey Larkin
- ▶ Hannah Lunt
- ▶ Georgia MacKenzie
- ▶ Hailey Maloney
- ▶ Jordana Maycock

- ▶ Claire McBride
- ▶ Jacob McCahon
- ▶ Corina-Tess McIntyre
- ▶ Andrew Millhouse
- ▶ Corey Mizzi
- ▶ Steph Morley
- ▶ Fraser Oakley
- ▶ Deana Palmisano
- ▶ Jack Peterson
- ▶ Roxanne Richards-Rigby
- ▶ Tarika Seneviratne
- ▶ Bradley Serry
- ▶ Nicole Shackleton
- ▶ Patrick Smith
- ▶ Caitlyn Taylor
- ▶ Luke Thomas
- ▶ Lachlan Tom
- ▶ Cristiana Tomasino
- ▶ Ali Towers
- ▶ Alexandra Vrdoljak
- ▶ Julia Walker
- ▶ Kirsti Weisz
- ▶ Georgia Wiadrowski
- ▶ Lily Xiao
- ▶ Fay Zou

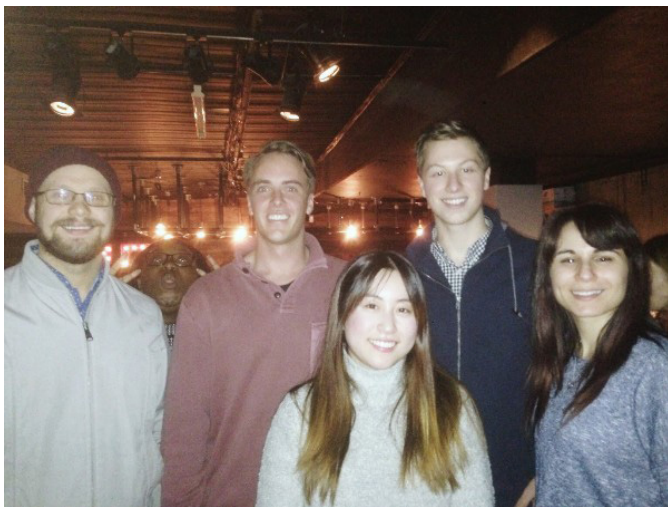
Youthlaw Board 2016-17

- ▶ Monica Lillas (Chair to 13-11-16)
- ▶ Nicole Jee (Chair from 14-11-16)
- ▶ Andrew Lynch (Treasurer from 14-11-16 to 9-6-17)
- ▶ Charlie Bell (Treasurer from 10-6-17)
- ▶ Matthew Gregg (Secretary to 13-11-16)
- ▶ Christopher Brydon (Secretary from 14-11-16)
- ▶ Jan Farrell (Board member)
- ▶ Jon Goh (Board member)
- ▶ Helen Thomas (Board member)
- ▶ Siobhan Mansfield (Board member to 13-11-16)
- ▶ Dana Harding (Board member to 13-11-16)
- ▶ Erica Contini (Board member from 14-11-16)

- ▶ Nizam Nijamudeen (Board member from 14-11-16)
- ▶ Adele Llewellyn (Ashurst board member to 13-11-16)
- ▶ Dan Fawcett (Ashurst board member)
- ▶ Joanna Lawrence (Ashurst board member)
- ▶ Bethany Stewart (Youth member from 14-11-16)

Youthlaw Staff

- ▶ Ariel Couchman – Director
- ▶ Tiffany Overall – Human Rights & Advocacy Officer
- ▶ Anna Radonic – Principal Lawyer
- ▶ Megan King – Lawyer
- ▶ Kathryn McGregor – Lawyer
- ▶ Karen Chibert – Outreach Lawyer
- ▶ Joanne Ellis – Family Violence Lawyer
- ▶ Annika Dimitrijevic – Lawyer
- ▶ James Tresise – RMIT Lawyer
- ▶ Karen Czarny – Lawyer
- ▶ Monique Joyce – Lawyer
- ▶ Ashleigh Littlewood and Michael Fletcher – Lawyers on secondment to Youthlaw from Ashurst
- ▶ Sandeep Varma – Lawyer on secondment from Maddocks
- ▶ David Mejia-Canales – Policy Project officer
- ▶ Cassy Harvey – Policy Project Officer
- ▶ Meg Callander – Family Violence Youth Worker
- ▶ Abby McCarthy – Media and Communications Officer
- ▶ Kiri Crocker, Georgina Lett, Jessica Ginberg and Hanna Lee – Volunteer and Administration Co-ordinators
- ▶ Noha Ghobrial (Community West Finance) – Finance Officer
- ▶ Andrew Rankin and Annina Tropea – Paralegals



Left: A few of our volunteers at our bowling evening. **Right:** Staff from Youthlaw before Run Melbourne.

YOUTHLAW FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2017

| | |
|---|---------|
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**YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE
A.B.N. 12 794 935 230
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS**

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Young People's Legal Rights Centre (the Association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2017, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the statement by the members of the Board.

In my opinion, the financial report of the Association is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Victoria 2012), including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its performance for the year ended; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards as per Note 1 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Victoria 2012).

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. I am independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

I 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 to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Victoria 2012). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.



Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 registered entity's internal control.

Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible entities.

Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal controls that I identify during my audit.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'FRE', followed by a horizontal line.

Frederik R. L. Eksteen

Collins & Co
127 Paisley Street
Footscray VIC 3011

Dated: 17 October 2017

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE
A.B.N. 12 794 935 230

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| INCOME | | |
| Community Legal Centre - Recurrent Grants | 338,672 | 318,056 |
| Grants - Non-Recurrent | 360,503 | 294,351 |
| Donations | 6,104 | 20,368 |
| Interest Received | 12,650 | 11,910 |
| Other Income | 41,865 | 26,588 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 759,794 | 671,273 |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Employee Expenses | 601,884 | 487,567 |
| Depreciation and Amortisation Expense | 4,251 | 3,226 |
| Other Expenses | 106,757 | 131,803 |
| | 712,892 | 622,596 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 712,892 | 622,596 |
| NET SURPLUS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION | 46,902 | 48,678 |

The Income and Expenditure Statement is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE
A.B.N. 12 794 935 230**

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| INCOME | | |
| <u>CLC Recurrent Grant Funding</u> | | |
| Community Legal Centre (CLC) Recurrent - Commonwealth | 163,640 | 152,664 |
| Community Legal Centre (CLC) Recurrent - State | 175,032 | 165,392 |
| | 338,672 | 318,056 |
| <u>Grants - Non-Recurrent</u> | | |
| Kimberley Foundation | 15,000 | 18,333 |
| RE Ross | - | - |
| Department of Justice - Family Violence | 56,182 | 21,739 |
| Department of Justice - CLC Assist | 46,391 | 18,750 |
| Department of Health & Human Services | - | 9,082 |
| Victoria Legal Services Board | 81,000 | 69,000 |
| Phyllis Connor | 70,000 | 70,000 |
| Fines LSB | - | 3,582 |
| RMIT | 68,536 | 67,098 |
| Victoria Law Foundation | 8,400 | 5,100 |
| HMST | - | - |
| Other Grants | 14,994 | 11,667 |
| Grants - Non-Recurrent Brought Forward | - | (7,234) |
| | 360,503 | 287,117 |
| Victoria Legal Aid Surplus Brought Forward | | 7,234 |
| State Government ERO Provisioning | - | - |
| Donations | 6,104 | 20,368 |
| Interest Received | 12,650 | 11,910 |
| <u>Other Income</u> | | |
| Community Legal Education | 1,450 | 2,643 |
| Costs Recovery & Retained | 8,257 | 10,155 |
| Deakin placements | - | 1,200 |
| Fundraising | 20,567 | 10,016 |
| Management Fees | 8,655 | - |
| Miscellaneous Income | 2,936 | 2,574 |
| Reimbursed Expenses | - | - |
| | 41,865 | 26,588 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 759,794 | 671,273 |

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE
A.B.N. 12 794 935 230

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| <u>Staff Salaries, Wages & Oncost</u> | | |
| Salaries & Wages | 541,266 | 451,742 |
| Superannuation Contributions | 51,303 | 42,836 |
| Employee Leave Entitlements - Annual Leave | 6,417 | 3,165 |
| Employee Leave Entitlements - Long Service Leave | 1,752 | (11,745) |
| WorkCover | 1,146 | 1,568 |
| | 601,884 | 487,567 |
| <u>Premises Expenses</u> | | |
| Rent | 40,914 | 26,753 |
| Amenities | 1,673 | 1,730 |
| Cleaning | - | - |
| Electricity, Gas and Fuel | - | - |
| Meetings | 61 | 446 |
| Security | - | - |
| | 42,648 | 28,929 |
| <u>Staff Related Expenses</u> | | |
| Conference Fees | 246 | 1,680 |
| Police Checks | 108 | 121 |
| Staff Training | 2,300 | 1,966 |
| Staff Recruitment | 300 | 440 |
| | 2,954 | 4,207 |
| <u>Communications Expenses</u> | | |
| Internet (ISP & Web Site) | 1,942 | 2,189 |
| Mobile Phones | 1,478 | 1,000 |
| Landline Telephones | 2,140 | 1,980 |
| Communications Project | - | 1,389 |
| Website | 1,469 | 25,000 |
| | 7,029 | 31,558 |
| <u>Office Overhead Expenses</u> | | |
| AGM Expenses | 400 | 400 |
| Donations | 250 | - |
| Office Equipment Maintenance | 3,966 | 749 |
| Office Equipment Maintenance: IT support | 11,065 | 7,441 |
| Postage | 1,520 | 1,186 |
| Stationery & Photocopying | 356 | 510 |
| | 17,557 | 10,285 |
| Insurance | 2,147 | 2,375 |

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE
A.B.N. 12 794 935 230

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| <u>Finance, Audit & Accounting Fees</u> | | |
| Accounting Fees | 13,298 | 9,603 |
| Audit Fees | 1,584 | 3,000 |
| Bank Charges | 195 | 159 |
| Lodgement Fees | - | - |
| | <u>15,077</u> | <u>12,761</u> |
| <u>Library, Resources & Subscriptions</u> | | |
| Library | 392 | 13 |
| Memberships & Subscriptions | 7,009 | 5,768 |
| Practising Certificates | 2,004 | - |
| | <u>9,405</u> | <u>5,780</u> |
| <u>Programming and Planning</u> | | |
| Travel | 9,731 | 4,748 |
| Printing | 412 | 2,434 |
| Publicity | - | 334 |
| Strategic Planning | 1,620 | - |
| Client Disbursements | 98 | 6,632 |
| Project Management Fees | - | - |
| Consultants | (6,836) | 15,000 |
| Evaluation | 3,938 | 3,173 |
| Fundraising Expenses | 190 | 723 |
| Other Expenses | 787 | 2,864 |
| | <u>9,940</u> | <u>35,907</u> |
| Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses | 4,251 | 3,226 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | <u>712,892</u> | <u>622,596</u> |
| NET SURPLUS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION | <u>46,902</u> | <u>48,678</u> |

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE
A.B.N. 12 794 935 230

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | | |
| Cash at Bank | 554,899 | 492,910 |
| Term Deposit | 257,486 | 250,000 |
| Petty Cash | 250 | 263 |
| | <u>812,635</u> | <u>743,173</u> |
| Trade and Other Receivables | | |
| Accounts Receivable | 10,678 | 19,213 |
| Prepayments | 7,376 | 5,838 |
| | <u>18,054</u> | <u>25,051</u> |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | <u><u>830,689</u></u> | <u><u>768,224</u></u> |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | | |
| Office Equipment - at Cost | 58,374 | 56,466 |
| Less: Provision for Depreciation | (50,642) | (46,391) |
| | <u>7,732</u> | <u>10,075</u> |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS | <u><u>7,732</u></u> | <u><u>10,075</u></u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u><u>838,421</u></u> | <u><u>778,299</u></u> |

The Statement of Financial Position is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE
A.B.N. 12 794 935 230

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Trade and Other Payable | | |
| Accounts Payable | 251 | 2,746 |
| Accrued Expenses | 15,335 | 42,802 |
| Credit Cards | 1,181 | (732) |
| GST Payable | 15,742 | 7,286 |
| PAYG Withholding Tax Payable | 5,496 | 14,973 |
| Superannuation Payable | 4,878 | 3,557 |
| | 42,883 | 70,632 |
| Deferred Income | | |
| CLSP Funds Received in Advance | 24,788 | 15,324 |
| Non-CLSP Funds Received in Advance | 235,484 | 212,149 |
| | 260,272 | 227,473 |
| Employment Entitlement Provisions | | |
| Provision for Annual Leave | 28,303 | 21,886 |
| Provision for Long Service Leave | 36,571 | 36,443 |
| | 64,874 | 58,329 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | 368,029 | 356,433 |
| NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Employment Entitlement Provisions | | |
| Provision for Long Service Leave | 1,698 | 74 |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | 1,698 | 74 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 369,727 | 356,507 |
| NET ASSETS | 468,694 | 421,792 |
| EQUITY | | |
| Accumulated Funds | 468,694 | 421,792 |
| | 468,694 | 421,792 |

The Statement of Financial Position is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE
A.B.N. 12 794 935 230
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

| | Accumulated Funds \$ | Total \$ |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Balance as at 1 July 2015 | 373,114 | 373,114 |
| Surplus attributable to the Association | 48,678 | 48,678 |
| Balance as at 30 June 2016 | <u>421,792</u> | <u>421,792</u> |
| Surplus attributable to the Association | 46,902 | 46,902 |
| Balance as at 30 June 2017 | <u>468,694</u> | <u>468,694</u> |

The Statement of Changes in Equity is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE
A.B.N. 12 794 935 230
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

| | Note | 2017 \$ | 2016 \$ |
|--|------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Receipts from Grants | | 731,974 | 708,474 |
| Receipts from Other Sources | | 54,966 | 38,064 |
| Payments to Suppliers and Employees | | (728,220) | (583,236) |
| Interest Received | | 12,650 | 11,910 |
| Net Cash Generated From/ (Used in) Operating Activities | 1 | <u>71,370</u> | <u>175,212</u> |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Payments for Property, Plant and Equipment | | (1,907) | (10,140) |
| Net Cash (Used in)/ Provided by Investing Activities | | <u>(1,907)</u> | <u>(10,140)</u> |
| Net Increase/ (Decrease) in Cash Held | | 69,462 | 165,072 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Financial Year | | 743,173 | 578,101 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Financial Year | 2 | <u>812,635</u> | <u>743,173</u> |

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE
A.B.N. 12 794 935 230
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

| | 2017 \$ | 2016 \$ |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Note 1 - Net cash generated from/ (used in) operating activities | | |
| Net Deficit for the Year | 46,902 | 48,678 |
| Non-Cash Flow Item: Depreciation | 4,251 | 3,226 |
| (Increase)/ Decrease in Accounts & Other Receivables | 6,997 | (8,893) |
| Increase/ (Decrease) in Trade and Other Payables | (27,749) | 44,793 |
| Increase/ (Decrease) in Grants Received in Advance | 32,799 | 96,067 |
| Increase/ (Decrease) in Provisions | 8,169 | (8,659) |
| | <u>71,370</u> | <u>175,212</u> |
| Note 2 - Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year | | |
| Cash at Bank | 554,899 | 492,910 |
| Term Deposit | 257,486 | 250,000 |
| Petty Cash | 250 | 263 |
| | <u>812,635</u> | <u>743,173</u> |

The Statement of Cash Flows is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report
and the notes to the financial statements.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE
A.B.N. 12 794 935 230
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Note 1 - Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report includes the financial statements and notes of Young People's Legal Rights Centre., a incorporated association, which is incorporated in Victoria under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Policies Basis of preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Victoria 2012). The board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the company in the preparation of the general purpose financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Accounting Policies

a. Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Plant and Equipment

Plant and Equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the company and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Depreciation

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

The asset's residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at each balance date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the income statement.

b. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE
A.B.N. 12 794 935 230
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Note 1 - Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

c. Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

Grants are recognised at fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all grant conditions will be met. Grants relating to expense items are recognised as income over the periods necessary to match the grant to the costs they are compensating.

Grants received for specific programs are recognised as income only to the extent of work completed on those projects when the terms of the grants stipulate that any unexpended funds are to be returned to the sponsor if the program is not completed. In those circumstances the funds attributable to work still to be completed are carried forward as grants income deferred.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point of delivery as this corresponds to the transfer of significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods and the cessation of all involvement in those goods.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

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

d. Income Tax

By virtue of its aims as set out in the constitution, the Association qualifies as an organisation specifically exempt from income tax under Section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act, 1997.

e. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the Balance Sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

f. Employment Entitlements

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amount expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Contributions are made by the association to employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

g. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

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