

annual Youthlaw Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2009 report



About Youthlaw

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

Youthlaw is based at Frontyard Youth Services in central Melbourne. Frontyard consists of an integrated team of colocated services that work collaboratively to address the needs of young people at risk, including accommodation, financial, legal and health needs.

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

Drop-in clinic: Monday-Friday 2-5pm Frontyard, Melbourne CBD

Braybrook – Tuesday 2-5pm

By webcam online from rural and regional locations

Telephone and email: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

Questions

We can answer questions about:

- Public transport
- Police
- Security guards
- Alcohol and drugs
- Family issues
- Violence or abuse at home or in a relationship
- School issues
- Discrimination
- Financial support
- Employment
- Debts
- Relationships

Youthlaw, At Frontyard, 19 King Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Tel 9611 2412 Fax 9620 3622

Email info@youthlaw.asn.au

www.youthlaw.asn.au

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Chair's report

Chair's Report

Youthlaw's strong and fearless commitment to meeting the legal needs of young people from across Victoria has driven our focus into innovative new territory this year.

The launch of Youthlaw Online marked a new step in the provision of legal services and support to young people in Victoria. Youthlaw's lawyers are now able to directly provide legal advice to young people in six rural and outer regional areas of Victoria, through the use of real time web cameras and document sharing facilities.

In partnering with youth services in this initiative, Youthlaw has ensured that marginalised young people in particular, can take advantage of this new service. It also means that young people using the service are well supported at the time, and have a qualified youth worker who can assist them with any additional follow up tasks that may be required.

The establishment of our new legal outreach service to Braybrook has enabled Youthlaw to provide face to face legal services to the high numbers of young people in the Braybrook area, many of whom are newly arrived in Australia. A key focus here has been on improving relationships between young people and the police.

Our decision to be involved in the Coronial Inquest into the death of Tyler Cassidy this year, with the support of his family, was driven by a desire to test and improve the processes of law enforcement agencies when considering, or using, force against a young person. The outcomes of the Inquest will have important ramifications for all young people, and their families, across the state.

We have also continued to provide high levels of good quality casework and legal advice sessions to individual young people.

Legal education sessions about young people and the law continued to reach wide and varied audiences throughout the year. Legal education ensures that young people know their rights and where they can go for assistance. However it also plays a crucial role in dispelling myths amongst the general community about young people and the law.

A key strength of Youthlaw is our unique ability to directly connect with young people across the state on the legal issues that matter to them. A central highlight of our policy and law reform work this year has been our ability to survey large numbers of young people about their experiences of key issues and concerns. Over 90 young people contributed to Youthlaw's survey about move on powers in Frankston, and another 350 young people participated in the Campaign Respect survey. This has ensured that the voices and opinions of young people have genuinely driven our policy and advocacy work.

The participation of young people as volunteers supporting the day-to-day operation of Youthlaw, and providing input into the strategic direction of Youthlaw through participation in the Committee of Management continues to ensure that young people are strongly represented in everything we do.

However we could not possibly hope to achieve any of this, without the generous involvement of all our supporters, and the tireless dedication of our staff who work so hard to achieve better outcomes for young people. In 2010 we hope to improve the working environment for our staff, by improving the office environment. The lack of natural light and cramped working environment are problematic for our full time staff, and limit our ability to grow the organization into the future. Our goal is to satisfactorily resolve this problem by next year.

I know I speak on behalf of all of our Committee of Management when I say how proud and privileged we feel to be involved with Youthlaw, and we look forward to many more years of future success.



Michelle Marven,
Chairperson

Our vision & objectives

Our Vision and Objectives

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

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

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

Objectives

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

Legal advice & casework

Legal Advice and Casework

Objective: To respond to young people's unmet legal need and improve young people's access to the legal system.

Our Services:

Drop In

We provide a drop-in service for young people every week day from 2-5pm at 19 King St Melbourne. Our co-location with other youth services (health, housing, counselling, Centrelink, education and employment) is a definite plus as workers in these services support young people to access our service and we can easily connect our clients with other services they need. Our services prioritise vulnerable and disadvantaged young people who need a range of supports and services.

Outreach

This year we established an outreach legal service at a youth service called Braybrook Enterprise Hub in the main street of Braybrook in the western suburbs. Even though there are legal services in suburbs nearby Braybrook is quite isolated public transport wise. It

also has a high population of young people many newly arrived. There is concern about increasing and negative interactions with police and youth offending. The regular presence of Annie from Youthlaw has fostered strong relationships with the Braybrook community. Many of the young people accessing the service have traumatic pasts, have lost family members and have few in their lives they can rely on and seek help from. Annie also contributed to projects to develop better relationships with police and inform young people about the law.

Online Webcam

This year we set up a webcam legal service in 6 outer urban and rural areas.

Youthlaw Online launch

In March 2009 Youthlaw established Youthlaw Online a webcam legal service for young people in outer urban and rural Victoria. The service was officially launched by the Commonwealth Attorney-General Robert McClelland.

From March the online legal service was set up in Cutting Edge youth services in Seymour, Shepparton and Cobram with donated computers from the Commercial

law firm Blake Dawson. Yarra Junction, Rosebud and Hastings have also come online and interest has been expressed by other youth services in Wellington (Sale), Barwon, Cardinia (via their youth bus) and Box Hill.

It uses Webex a simple and easy IT application like the popular Skype but with additional document sharing capacity. Webex was made available to legal centres

nationally through pilot funding from the Federal Department of Attorney - General. Young people access the service at their local youth centre or youth hub and can see and hear their Youthlaw lawyer in real time.

Youthlaw Online will be expanded as funding becomes available for more lawyer time. We will also be considering other sites that young people connect with such as schools and shopping centres.



Emma, a young woman, who spoke at the Youthlaw Online launch, alongside Attorney-General, The Hon Robert McClelland.

Emma spoke at the launch

My name is Emma and I'm 19 years old. I grew up in the country and came to Melbourne because of family problems. I've been homeless or in temporary housing for long periods of time.

Here they take the time to really listen to what you have to say and they explain things really well.

They don't talk down to us and you don't have to make an appointment to see them either, you can just drop in when you need to. You can also see other people in the building at the same time and get help with other things.

I was able to get help from Youthlaw to deal with transport fines. You may not know this, but for young people who are homeless, one of the most common legal problems we have are transport fines.

When someone is homeless and has no money, sometimes they will take a risk and get on public transport anyway. Usually these fines can't be paid so they keep mounting up. Eventually if they aren't paid they will get to court which causes a huge amount of stress on top of what is already a stressful situation. Youthlaw were able to help me with this issue and other issues that came about because of not having money or housing.

For young people in the country – this service will be really great because there aren't many places to go for help, I know where I grew up most people I know don't have easy access to legal help and sometimes they can only get help if it's for a something serious. I certainly



The AG speaking with Ryan Fletcher in Shepparton

didn't know of places I could go to for help when I lived there and I'm sure there would be other young people like me out there.

In small towns it can also be difficult because you don't want everyone to know your own business but with Youthlaw you can always feel safe that everything is confidential.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my story.

Lack of state wide services

Young people in outer urban and rural locations face many barriers to accessing free legal information and advice including limited services, poor public transport, cost of travel and lack of knowledge about the law.

Meeting the needs of young people

Locating a legal service in a youth organisation makes sense because that's where young people are and they feel comfortable there. A key feature of our service is training up youth workers about common legal issues so they can prompt and assist young people getting the help they need or just finding out more about the law. Location in youth centres means that young people can easily access other information and services they need

Integration of services

For Youthlaw developing a relationship with youth services provides the Melbourne based service with local knowledge and there are opportunities for legal training and working together on advocacy issues.

Joining with others to bring about change

We visit the online sites regularly so that young people and youth workers get to know us. We also pick up on local issues. This year we have successfully obtained funding from the Victoria Law Foundation to conduct a small project whereby we will identify groups of young people at 2 of our online sites and work with them to advocate about issues of concern to them. Some of issues they have come up with are fair treatment at school and fair treatment by transport operators.

Email and phone

We provide legal information by email and phone not only to young people but also family, friends and workers who are assisting a young person.

Legal information by email and phone is an easy way to access legal services. It is a service that suits younger people who can't get in to see us. It is also attractive because it can be anonymous.

Complimenting our service is LAWSTUFF a national email legal service run by the National Youth and Children's Law Centre (NYCLC) based in Sydney. They train up private lawyers in most states of Australia to answer email queries from children and young people. Mallesons a large corporate firm provide the volunteer lawyers and allow them time to allocate to the service. NYCLC check all advice, co-ordinate the program and provide training. Youthlaw contributes to the training of the Lawstuff volunteer lawyers in Melbourne.

Here are some of the legal queries we responded to this year.

Family issues

- 17 year old about getting married to her boyfriend when parent objects.
- Worker about 17 year old wanting to know about applying for an intervention order against her father.
- 15 year old wanting to leave home because of abuse.
- Youth worker to get advice on child support and paternity for young person.
- 22 year old wanting to change her two year old's name.
- 15 year old query about leaving home.
- 24 year old wanting information about making a will and determining where her child would live in the future.
- Mother of 16 year old about her son leaving home and she does not want him to.
- Worker from organisation about 16 year girl seeking money to travel and her father called wanting details of where she was going.
- 17 year old about his father threatening to kick him out of home
- Young women in care seeking access to mother's birth certificate.
- Family friend about 14 year wanting to live with them because scared of father.
- Woman called about 13 year old young boy, a friend of her son's who has been kicked out/run away from home.
- Youth worker connected with a secondary college called about 18 year old being pressured by family to agree to overseas forced marriage.
- 13 year old about her Father wanting to change her name and can she have a say.
- Social worker about 20 year old who is in a forced marriage and wants information and assistance.
- 22 year old about an Intervention Order and concern about access to his baby.
- Mother of a 16 year old young girl about daughter leaving home to live with 16 year old boyfriend and his parents.
- Mother of a 17 year old regarding son agreeing via internet to provide sperm.
- 18 year old young about applying for guardianship of her 15 year old sister who has left home and is staying with her. School requires guardianship order.
- Youth worker called about 15 year old not living at home needing parent consent to join scouts but parent refuses.
- 22 year old about father of her child seeking contact with the child
- 24 year old young woman about her 15 year old sister who stays with her on weekends and parents objecting.
- Youth service worker about 16 year old in out of home care who wants to join army. Needs guardian to sign consent form.

Violence and abuse

- 16 year old called wanting to stop her 24 year old partner/ex from assaulting her again.
- 16 year old girl called about a boy her age sexually touching her and verbally abusing her.
- 14 year old about reporting a rape when she was in primary school.
- 17 year old called about physical abuse by mother some years ago and compensation.
- 17 year old victim of family violence for many years including serious assaults, threats to harm and psychological abuse.
- 22 year old about applying for an Intervention Order and availability of legal representation.
- 21 year old about how to access counselling ordered by the court two years previously.
- Housing worker about crimes compensation time limits.
- Family of an intellectually disabled 15 year about daughter being sexually abused at school by another student.
- Mother of 14 year about her being bullied and threats to assault by a 17 year old at school.
- Young person assisted by youth worker. He was assaulted by police over weekend when arrested.
- Grandmother about bullying of child who has ADD, aspergers syndrome and visual impairment.
- Case worker about 15 year old client with minor intellectual disability who disclosed abuse by mother.

Education issues

- 15 year old about his school confiscating and reading the content of his mobile phone.
- 19 year old about assistance with hearing at regional University.
- Mother of a 16 year old expelled about appealing expulsion.
- Teacher about whether a 17 year old can move out of home
- Lawyer for second opinion about 15 year old client suspended from private school.
- Mother about daughter was being assaulted and bullied and school not taking adequate action. .
- Mother of 9 year old girl called about her child being expelled from school.
- Mother of 16 year old son who has mild physical/mental disability. Victimisation by children at school. Inappropriate response by school.
- Teacher about a 15 year old student who has requested teacher to assist her in getting the morning-after pill.
- Mother of 14 year old suspended. Has tried to enrol him in another local school but they won't accept him.

Employment

- 21 year old wanting advice after he had been sacked from his job.
- 22 year about getting the sack from a casual labouring job and racist comments made earlier by supervisor.
- 16 year old not living at home being required by school to get parents permission for work experience program.
- Young woman about employer making deductions from her pay and scared she will get dismissed if queries this.
- Mother about daughter being sacked for theft and this information being given to her next employer.
- Student about traineeship at university where she had minimal supervision and did not receive a copy of her contract.
- 18 year old male about pay delay that caused problems with contract he entered into.
- 18 year old about being under paid and discrimination

Accommodation/tenancy

- 19 year called about a website to find accommodation requesting he send a cheque.
- 17 year old wanting info on whether landlord can evict on the basis of the tenant's sexuality.
- 22 year old about eviction notice and wanted advice.
- Young person about Interim order out against landlord and Landlord harassing, knocking on door.
- 16 year old about minimum age a young person can sign a lease and/or rent a property.
- Youth worker about a young woman who wanted to leave a share house.

Consumer contracts and debts

- 19 year old entered telephone contract but now unemployed and unable to pay.
- 17 year old about goods he ordered on internet and did not arrive.
- 22 year old about purchase of clothes from local shop and shop refusal to exchange.
- 21 year old about payment for hairdressing course and refusal to refund as she had to pull out temporarily due to pregnancy.
- 19 year old about an internet contract she cancelled because she had been kicked out of home and was homeless.
- 19 year old about video related debt not incurred by her.
- 21 year old about car accident, having no insurance and agreeing to pay for repairs.
- 20 year old about contract to take a fitness course. He left the course and debt collectors are requesting payment.
- Youth refuge worker about 22 year old with multiple debts relating to her mobile phone and fines.

- Father about 16 year old son and receiving bill from lawyer. Told would be covered by legal aid.
- Mother of 19 year old cognitively impaired young person who wants to cancel a 24 month mobile phone contract.
- A teacher about a 24 year old student about a car accident and a demand for payment

Administrative law

- 19 year old about eligibility for independent youth allowance.
- 24 year old regarding complaint about police who attended her house after she called them to a domestic violence incident.
- 20 year old overseas born uni student called about 'P' plate test. She attended for her test with a family friend and both felt they were treated badly because of their race.
- 20 year old about treatment by security guard.
- Young man in a band wanting information on who is liable for damage to a venue during a performance Youth worker about youth survey and if parental consent required?
- Youth worker called asking when it is ok to breach privacy of a client.
- Youth worker seeking information about a young person in child protection care and being denied religious practice.
- Mother of 12 year old girl called about the suspension of her daughter from a youth club.
- Youth services worker wanting to know if she must give details of a young person to police.
- Mother of 20 year old young woman about her daughter's frustration in applying to Centre-link for benefits.
- Young woman about accessing medical information from her doctor.
- Family of 17 year old about inadequate response by mental health service to suicide risk.
- Father about 15 year old named in newspaper as witness and fear for his safety
- Worker from residential unit about 16 year old who needs his birth certificate for tax purposes and mother refuses to hand over.

Fines

- 16 year old young female international student called regarding fine she got for not having evidence of concession.
- 13 year old young man got a fine for no tram ticket and wanted information on what to do.
- 21 year old about public transport fines being heard in court next week.
- 19 year old about fine he had received for driving an unregistered car. He paid fine but later turned out car was registered.
- 19 year old young male about interstate driving fine.

- Youth worker about a client with a history of homelessness and over \$1000 in public transport fines.
- Young woman about finding out from a youth worker that she had a court date regarding fines but she was not sure why. She had numerous outstanding fines and was not sure of their status. She had a history of substance abuse and homelessness.
- Mother about her 20 year old son who is homeless and drug addicted and has a number of fines.
- Youth service worker about 19 year old who has multiple fines including he was not responsible for as he sold his car.

Criminal offences

- 14 year old seeking information on age one can get the contraceptive pill.
- 17 year about a fine he had received for "jaywalking" and whether he has to pay it.
- 17 year old. He and friends charged with offences. He wasn't involved. Wanted advice about the police interview.
- 22 year old called about a charge. He has no paperwork and doesn't know court date.
- 22 year old query about 'hoon' charges.
- Young person about witnessing assault on friend by friend's ex-partner. Gave statement at the time. Now summonsed to appear as a witness but does not want to appear.
- 20 year old about whether he can have a relationship with 16 year old.
- 23 year old about charge of driving while suspended.
- Youth worker about young person who failed to appear at court today.
- Rural secondary college welfare coordinator about 16 year old having a sexual relationship with a 23 year old.
- Mother of 22 year old charged about getting a lawyer.
- Youth worker about a 13 year old girl arrested and being interviewed about theft.
- Parent called about her 17 year old son who was to be interviewed by police that night.
- Case worker called about a 15 year old who had been arrested for shop theft. Concern about how police treated him.
- Family friend about 17 year nephew of his partner who's now staying with them and has several pending criminal cases. Wanted info and support for young person.
- Mother of 14 year old called about police interview and queried police taking a photo of daughter.
- Young woman about disclosing to employer theft/s that she has committed from the employer.
- Young person about hacking of internet site and posting of explicit material.
- Email query about age for purchasing cigarette lighter.
- Youth worker emailed requesting information on age that a young person can obtain a tattoo.

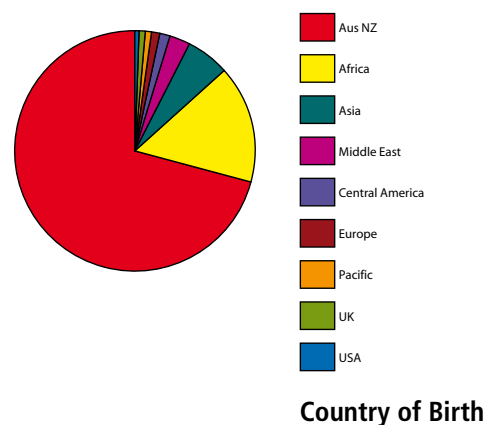
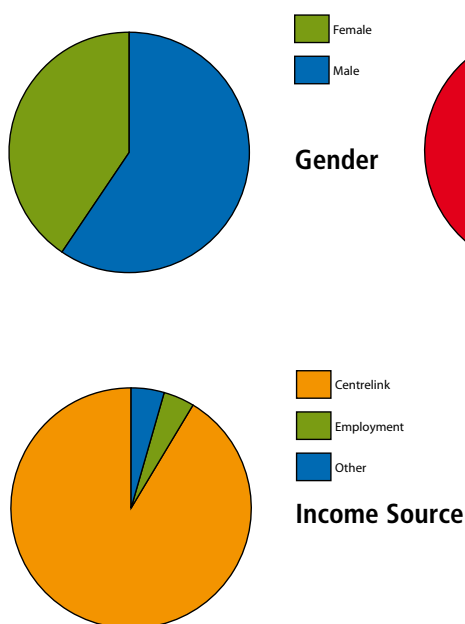
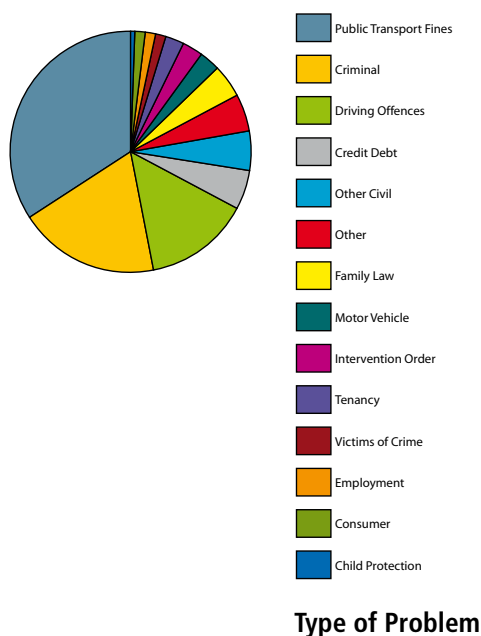
Legal services this year

Legal Services this Year

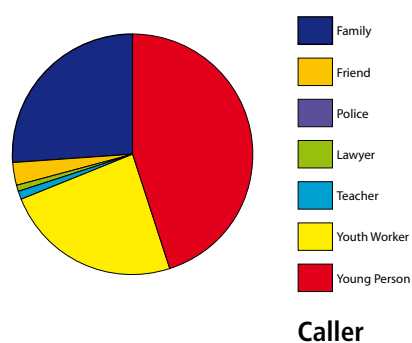
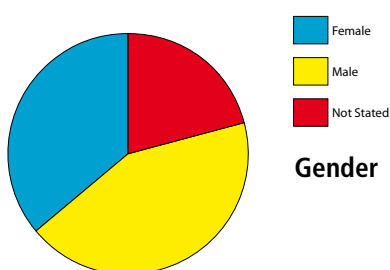
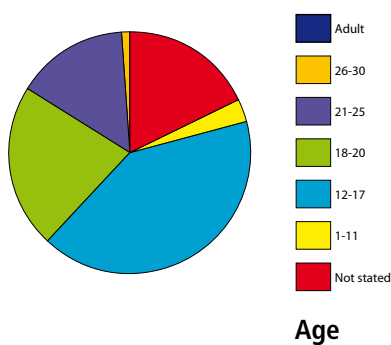
In 2008/2009 Youthlaw provided legal services to 1,186 people.

- Ongoing casework including court work for 616 young people (645 cases)
- Face to face one off advice to 168 young people
- Email and telephone legal information to 402 young people and adults (family, friends, workers, teachers and professionals).

Profile of young people we assisted this year.



Profile of legal information by email and phone



Youthlaw volunteers

Youthlaw Volunteers

Youthlaw has a large number of student volunteers and placement and work experience students who spend time at Youthlaw assisting with legal case work, administration and policy and law reform projects. We are pleased to supervise these students because we can see that they learn so much and gain knowledge and perspective that they may otherwise miss out on. Many provide feedback that this experience at Youthlaw was highly influential in their decisions about their future studies and careers.

Youthlaw like many community legal centres are reliant on volunteers because we have no paid administration or secretarial staff. At Youthlaw our limited funding pays for key positions such as our lawyers, part-time IT and finance support, one policy officer and a Director.

Nicole a 3rd year law student has been volunteering at Youthlaw since 2007 and gives an insight to volunteering at Youthlaw

Prior to volunteering at Youthlaw, I didn't have much idea about working in the legal profession or what lawyers were really about. I thought the environment I would come into at Youthlaw would be one of suits, maybe a bit solitary and involve much time spent filing.

Instead I was pleasantly surprised that Youthlaw right down to the way they dressed is so much about being approachable and accessible to young people. Studying law at University I've seen a lot of students lose motivation in their law degree because we don't see the people who the law affects and the practical application behind our mountain of case readings.

As a volunteer at Youthlaw you are able to work closely with cases, phone clients, sit in on interviews, write or contact workers and courts and learn practical skills like legal writing and research techniques. And often you get to see matters through to resolution. There's a sense of ownership in the work we do, even as volunteers.

Volunteering at Youthlaw can also be confronting. As a young person, it can be hard seeing other young people suffering from homelessness, financial hardship, dependency or illness as many of our clients are. But I suppose what it does, is encourage us as volunteers to get involved and active, makes us a bit angry, rallying us to help young people in need of legal support.

Volunteering at Youthlaw opens up opportunities to be involved in mobilizing young people to be interested in their rights, finding out about it and having their say. One recent opportunity I was involved in was a privacy laws forum organized to inform the Law Reform Commission. At the forum for young people we were given an overview of the issues and what laws there are and are proposed. Young people attending had lots of ideas and experiences that were really important to hear about.

Youthlaw also encouraged volunteers to become involved campaigns to assist young people to stand up for their rights in response to identified problems being heard about daily in the legal clinics. I have been involved in Campaign Respect a grass roots campaign working for more positive interactions between Public Transport Authorised Officers and young people. So far we have met with the Department of Transport, been on radio programs, Channel 31 and are planning to go out on the streets and railway stations to ask young people their views.

The staff at Youthlaw, although overworked and underpaid work tirelessly, are always positive and upbeat and so focused on the best interests of the young person. I have enjoyed volunteering at Youthlaw so much and encourage everyone to get involved and

interested in their rights and in particular supporting young people who are the adults and leaders of the future.

Dave a 3rd year student studying Policy and Research for a Bachelor of Social Science offers an insight to his internship at Youthlaw this year.

I have found working at Youthlaw really interesting and exciting. Youthlaw has been a good fit for my professional development. It provided the opportunity to directly relate the fundamentals of my university degree to a relevant working context.

I have been involved with three very important projects, a submission to the National Human Rights Consultation, an evaluation of a MET Ticket pilot program and developing a campaign about treatment of young people by public transport Authorised officers.

In my work I have helped to develop project plans. I've had to explore ways to implement strategies with little or no money such as finding people to do free work. I've attended meetings with various government departments. I learnt about utilising online networks, news media and participated in a number of radio interviews. I have definitely developed my research skills.

I have gained a huge amount of work-experience in a relatively short space of time, and I have also been able to see how to influence policy through action. All this has given me a flavour of the settings I hope to work in the future in the fields of advocacy, policy and research. I have seen my role develop at Youthlaw, from mainly being given support and assistance to being trusted with a lot more autonomy and independence in my work.

I feel very confident that my internship will allow me to make a smooth transition from university to paid work, especially because I now possess a much greater appreciation of the expectations of employment in my particular field and have an advantage in securing career-oriented employment at the time of my graduation.

I'm really grateful for the opportunity to intern with Youthlaw and really want to be involved with volunteer work for a long time to come.

Public Interest Case

This year Youthlaw made the decision to seek leave to participate in the Coronial inquest into the death of Tyler Cassidy. Tyler Cassidy a 15 year old teenager died on December 11, 2008 as a result of a fatal police shooting.

Tyler Cassidy is the youngest person to be fatally shot in Victoria and Australia and the inquest presents a unique and important opportunity to conduct a public interest case to test the use of force by law enforcement agencies and the procedures and standards of care required when contemplating use of force against a young person.

Our legal submissions and arguments will rely heavily on human rights law including the Victorian Charter of Rights and Responsibilities (Vic Charter) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (UN CROC).

The Lance Reichstein Trust has contributed \$3,000 towards legal research for the case and Blake Dawson are providing substantial free legal assistance to prepare submissions and will assist with the preliminary hearing.

Youthlaw has met with the family of Tyler Cassidy on a number of occasions and we have the support of the family to intervene in the coronial inquest.

Community Legal Education

Objective

To improve the level of understanding within the community about how the law affects young people.

Key achievements 2008/2009

This year Youthlaw provided a total of 95 legal education sessions and presentations to young people, workers and the general community involving a total of 2,400 attendees

Presentations and training included:

- Legal training to over 230 volunteers joining the Youth Referral and Independent Person Program (YRIPP). This program provides assistance to young people who are being interviewed by police. Training took place in Mildura, Leongatha, Morwell, Shepparton, Warnambool, Geelong, Melton, Frankston and Melbourne.
- Training for 450 Public Transport Authorised officers – Presenting a youth perspective on public transport fines and offences to officers from Connex, Yarra Trams and private bus operators.
- Legal education for 100 Muslim students from a number of north and western suburb secondary schools
- Legal education to 150 students attending a Geelong region secondary schools forum on bullying including cyber bullying .
- Oral presentation to the Victorian Drugs and Crime Prevention Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Strategies to prevent High Volume Youth Offending.
- Presentation to the Adolescent Health Conference, November 2008, Melbourne. Youthlaw and Frontyard Youth Services on 'Young people as victims of crime'. We also assisted 3 young people to provide a youth perspective.
- Presentation to 100 victim support workers at the Justice For Young People forum (Melbourne, 2009) on young people as victims of crime. The Department of Justice, Youthlaw and the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria collaborated to organise this forum. Youthlaw and Frontyard assisted a group of young people to conduct a workshop on a youth perspective.
- Human Rights and Policing Conference December 2008. Youthlaw and Frontyard assisted a group of young people to provide a youth perspective on 'police interactions with young people'
- Legal and Justice Issues Youth course, Bachelor of Social Science, RMIT. Youthlaw assisted development of the course and provided guest lectures.
- Victim Assistance and Counselling Program (VACPS) staff legal training on court processes / relevant offences
- Legal training for volunteers in the Independent Third Person Program
- Wodonga forum on graffiti (Law week 2009)
- Victoria Police Youth Resource Officer training
- Adult Multicultural Education Services (AMES)forum on legal and justice issues faced by young refugees, June 2009

Some of the organisations and places we conducted legal education at were:

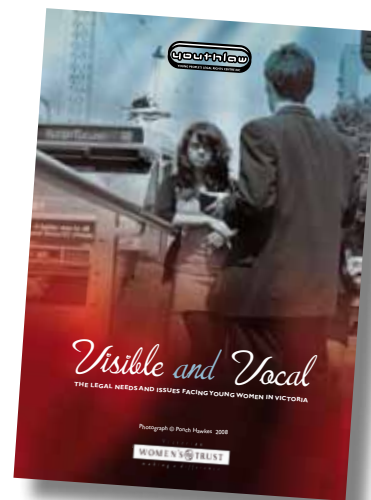
- Youth Enterprise Hub, Braybrook
- Noble Park Secondary College
- Cranbourne Secondary College
- Doveton VCAL:
- Westall Secondary College - Mordialloc Campus VCAL class
- Victoria University -Newport VCAL
- Hume Central Secondary
- Buckley Park Secondary
- Bendigo East Secondary
- Swinburne TAFE -17 year olds with mild intellectual disability
- Stencil Festival - Fitzroy
- Australian Catholic University
- Open Family bus (Melbourne CBD).
- Artful Dodgers studio
- RRR radio
- Centre for Multicultural Youth
- 15 Foundation
- Ethnic Youth Council – Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre – Melbourne
- RMIT Advanced Diploma of Justice
- Syn/FM Guilty Radio (6 programs)
- Rainbow network
- Step Ahead Wheels Program:
- Channel 31



Katie, young woman who participated, spoke and performed at the launch



Bridie Hudson, Project Worker and Penny Scanlan, Gateway Reconnect



Visible and Vocal: Exploring Young Women's Legal Needs Project

In 2008 we obtained funding from the Victorian Womens Trust to undertake a project to consult with young women about their legal needs and the obstacles they face in accessing legal services.

During the project we spoke to 8 groups of young women (42 young women) and surveyed 71). We produced a booklet that we have distributed to a range of youth and legal services to improve their service delivery and to increase their knowledge of legal needs of young women. The booklet was launched in November 2008 and a number of young women contributed performances to the occasion.

'The lowdown '

Youthlaw's produces a bi-monthly e-newsletter, the lowdown. We target organisations and individuals who wish to keep informed about our work, youth law issues, the latest research and policy and law developments.

Human Rights DVD

This year we produced a DVD featuring young people involved in our Real Rights project speaking about their human rights. This was presented at the bi-annual Victorian Equal Opportunity And Human Rights Commission Human Rights conference held in Melbourne on the 17th March 2009. The DVD is now available on our website.

What's the Deal

What's The Deal is a curriculum resource for secondary school teachers. It was produced by Youthlaw and Victoria Legal Aid in 2005. This year it was updated and a new section added covering the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

Graffiti law

With funding from the Victoria Law Foundation Youthlaw produced a small pocket size card with the essential facts on the new Graffiti Laws introduced in Victoria in 2008

In partnership with the Victorian Local Governance Association cards were sent to local council youth services throughout Victoria. Cards were also sent out by VicSRC to secondary school student representative councils, to youth services, to all community legal centres and 61 local youth networks throughout Victoria.

Policy, research & law

Policy, Research and Law Reform

Objective

To advocate for systemic changes in legal and social policy to promote the interests and rights of young people

Youthlaw achievements in 2008/2009

In the last year we have lobbied and developed submissions on a range of issues impacting on young people and have responded to a number of government inquiries. We have also been involved in several law reform and legal policy projects and campaigns.

Law reform submissions

Key submissions and consultations this year included:

- Federal Green paper on homelessness
- National Child Protection Framework
- Victorian Department of Human Services Mental Health Strategy
- Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee Inquiry into Strategies to Prevent High Volume Offending by Young People
- Victorian Criminal Procedure Bill
- Draft Model Spent Convictions Bill consultation Paper
- Review of the non-family violence intervention order system
- President's Review of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal
- National Human Rights Consultation
- Criminal Procedure Amendment (Consequential and Transitional Provisions Bill) 2009
- Victorian Law Reform Commission Review of Surveillance in Public Places
- Submission to the Department of Transport that fines against young people should be proportionate and/or means tested.
- Submission to Frankston City on proposal to introduce move on local laws.

Projects

Real Rights Project

With a grant from the Victorian Legal Service Board Youthlaw undertook a 9 month project this year to work with groups of young people to assist them to monitor their rights and get involved in advocacy about them.

This project contributed to our submission to the Federal Consultation on Human Rights and provides very practical examples of everyday human rights.

Police and young people

We worked with a group of homeless and at risk young people using CBD youth services. This group of young people focused on their experiences and views about interactions with police.

Issues they raised were:

- *Common negative stereotyping of young people*
- *Being moved out of public places*
- *Police misusing their powers*
- *First time contact often really negative-whether on the street or in the station.*

A number of the young people were invited to speak at the Inaugural Human Rights & Policing Conference held in December 2008:

At the conference the young people presented their views to the audience (mainly police officers):

- *Police should not speak down to us*
- *Need for police to keep everything we tell them confidential*
- *Listen to both sides of stories*
- *Don't stereotype young people*
- *(Police)should help us to feel safe and secure*
- *Sometimes a female officer is needed*

The audience responded positively:

- *We want to create opportunities for police to listen to young people*
- *We need to try different mechanisms to try and get you to talk to us*
- *It's also about how we talk to young people on a daily basis on the street*

Move on powers in Frankston

We worked with 3 groups of young people and surveyed 97 young people in Frankston about the local council's proposal to introduce move on powers.

Issues raised by young people in Frankston included:

- *Often do not feel safe in the Frankston CBD at night.*
- *Young people are often victims of CBD violence*
- *Young people in groups are regarded negatively (eg. seen as gangs)*
- *Get moved on already*
- *Lack of youth friendly public spaces & activities*
- *Many police lack respect for young people*
- *Need for a greater police presence.*
- *The power is not likely to be effective and could easily be abused*
- *Teenagers will be targeted more than anyone else*
- *Police stop us (teenagers) for no reason anyway*

The young people we consulted came up with their ideas on how to address anti-social behaviour. These were conveyed to the Frankston Council in a submission:

- *Increase police presence: need more police on the streets to make sure people feel safe*
- *Get rid of the drugs or create safe spaces for drug users off the street*

- *Improve the attitude and understanding of police*
- *Better lighting, especially in alleyways,*
- *Smoke and alcohol free areas*
- *More managed public spaces such as the skate park.*
- *Places where young people can hang out with out being harassed and get free food and drink*
- *Supervised dance parties, graffiti walls and boxing gyms*
- *Have different things directed at different ages – eg. An old person 'hot spot' where they can hang out with old people or no alcohol or drugs etc. in certain places where elderly people go*
- *Supervised beach days*
- *More things to do*
- *Recreation centres in every suburb*

Young people in rural Victoria

A group of young people attending VCAL identified the following as human rights issues for them:

- *Lack of youth friendly spaces*
- *Lack of diverse youth activities & resources*
- *Limitations on transport*
- *Relationship with the police*
- *Police inaction*
- *No jobs – no opportunities to gain experience*
- *Lack of money*
- *Homelessness*
- *Creating healthy relationships*

The group decided to create a poster calendar with accessible and relevant information on many of these issues, available where young people are likely to go.

Access for young people with disabilities

A group of tertiary students identified a number of human rights issues affecting them:

- *Accessible transport*
- *Access to services*
- *Accessing the built environment (ie. toilets)*
- *Access to education and employment*
- *Stereotypes of young disabled people*

The group identified barriers to tertiary education as an issue of key interest and in particular lack of funding and irregularity in the provision of attendant care services in Universities & TAFE. An online survey was completed to collect the views and experiences of those affected and to provide evidence of how many students are affected.



Campaign Respect team

Campaign Respect

Youthlaw has been aware for some time of young people experiencing disrespect and abuse in their inter-actions with Public Transport Authorised officers ('ticket inspectors').

In May 2009 we initiated Campaign Respect to improve treatment of young people by authorised officers.

The Campaign is youth led and a core group meets regularly. The campaign began with a meeting with the Department of Transport followed by a number of community radio and television interviews. The Campaign is developing a website page, Facebook and Twitter and most recently surveyed 350 young people at rail-way stations and other public places in Melbourne CBD.

Inner City Needs and Use Assessment project

This year Youthlaw obtained \$5,000 from the Melbourne City Council to conduct a needs assessment to provide evidence of the usage of inner city services by young people and the reasons why young people enter and use the CBD. This project was conducted in collaboration with the Inner City Regional Youth Affairs Network, a network of youth service providers (including Victoria Police youth resource officers).

The Needs Assessment collected data from 12 inner city services providing assistance to young people. In 2007/8 these services assisted approximately 9,700 young people aged 12 to 24. The needs assessment also collected anecdotal stories about young people using these services. The research was provided to the Melbourne City Council and was presented to the Victorian Government Youth IDC (Inter Departmental Committee) on 8 April 2009.

The 2nd stage of the project will involve youth led research. Young people will interview other young people in the southern inner city about their inner city experiences and issues including street violence. They will be supported by youth workers at First Stop Youth Support in Prahran and the Southport Youth Engagement Project group. Both these youth services target disadvantaged inner city young people.

Public Transport for homeless young people campaign

Public Transport fines continue to take up a lot of our lawyer's time (and our clients). These cases also involve considerable people time and resources through the prosecution and court processes. The most infuriating aspect of this is that most of the young people we represent are eligible to argue 'special circumstances' and have their fines waived in the first instance. However most do not have the capacity or opportunity to approach a lawyer about this issue and apply for special circumstances. As a result they end up with huge fines chasing them - a lengthy and costly process. They are deterred from using public transport which is so important to them getting connected again to the community through support services, school and training.

A further related issue is that young people have to pay the same fine amount as adults when in reality their income is usually substantially less.

We continued to lobby the Minister for Transport to introduce a temporary (eg. 6 months) full concession for young people who are homeless and more broadly to consider reducing fine amounts for all young people.

Monitoring Victoria's new graffiti laws

Youthlaw has monitored the impact of Victoria's new graffiti laws on young people. In April we held a forum to hear from young people, local council youth services, artists, legal services, youth workers and police, how the laws are playing out on the street one year after their introduction. In the lead up to the forum Youthlaw also held a few informal focus

groups sessions with young people engaged in street art/graffiti programs in City of Yarra, Banyule City Council and Artful Dodger Studios, Jesuit Social Services. A report on the forum was produced and is available on our website. We will continue to monitor these laws and lobby the government and police to make changes where they are required.

Regular meetings and networking

- Youth Justice Ministerial Roundtable
- Youth Referral and Independent Person Program (YRIPP) Reference group
- Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS) management group
- Victoria Police Ethical Standards Community Consultative Committee
- Public Transport Enforcement Forum – Department of Transport
- Volatile Substance Abuse Protocols Advisory Committee – Department of Human Services
- National Youth Advocates Network – National Children's and Youth Law Centre
- Human Rights Committee of the Law Institute of Victoria
- Inner City Regional Youth Affairs Network
- Federation of Community Legal Centres - Children and Youth Issues Working Group, Child Protection working group, Infringements and Human Rights and Justice Initiatives Standing Group.
- National Convention on the Rights of the Child Taskforce
- YACVic Policy Advisory Group
- Melbourne Youth Services Forum

Youth participation

Youth Participation

Objective

To meaningfully involve young people in Youthlaw

Youthlaw achievements 2008/2009

- **Committee of Management** – Two positions on the Committee of Management are dedicated to young people and this year three young people participated as members of the Committee.
- **Membership** – Youthlaw continues to promote membership of Youthlaw to young people and we are exploring ways to encourage young people who have used youth services including ours, or volunteers of Youthlaw to become members and get involved. We are aiming for meaningful membership.
- **Policy and Advocacy** – Youthlaw youth participation in policy and advocacy got a big boost this year with a significant grant from the Victorian Legal Service Board for 2 years. This has enabled us to be proactive rather than largely reactive and to go further state wide and strengthen youth participation.

Key features have been working with young people to identify and pro actively respond to issues, working with our Youthlaw Online communities in outer urban and rural Victoria, development of a 2 year advocacy and policy plan and setting up resources to support youth participation such as a youth Action group and a policy and advocacy mentoring group.

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

We undertook a number of activities and projects this year to further this objective:

- Real Rights Project (6 groups of young people engaged in identifying areas of human rights concern and advocacy actions)
- Assisting young people to presenting at conferences and forums such as the Human Rights & Policing Conference held in December 2008, Youth Justice forum, Melbourne Town Hall September 2008 and Adolescent Health Conference, November 2008, Melbourne)
- A workshop with young people at Frontyard Youth Services on public surveillance and privacy to inform a review by the Victorian Law Reform Commission.
- Workshops for young people at Frontyard Youth services and at Braybrook on the role of an Independent person at police interviews. This informed a law reform project of the Victorian Law Reform Commission.
- We worked with 3 groups of young people and surveyed 97 young people in Frankston about the local council's proposal to introduce move on powers.
- The Federal government initiated a National Human Rights Consultation in December 2008. The Consultation was limited in its reach to young people so Youthlaw organised our own consultations with over 100 young people between the ages of 12 and 25 years (half female) at 11 separate sessions.
 - 13 homeless young people accessing Frontyard Youth Services (2 sessions),
 - 7 members of the State Council representatives of WayOut, a support

group for rural same sex attracted young people

- 9 members of Young Lions of Whitelion an agency that works with young people in the youth justice system,
 - 5 members of a youth leadership program being run by City of Whittlesea Youth Services,
 - 7 young people (predominately of Horn of African descent) living in and around Braybrook at the Youth Enterprise Hub
 - 11 Year 12 students from the rural and remote town ship of Tallangatta (far north east rural Victoria),
 - 15 young people attending classes at the Adult Community Education school in Shepparton
 - Year 7 students from McGuire College, Shepparton
 - 5 members of a human rights project auspiced by Inner South Community Health Service.
 - 9 young people attended a workshop arranged by Gateway (a program of Jesuit Social Services). This program provides pathways to education, training and employment for disadvantaged young people with complex problems.
- Established the Youthlaw consultants group. Youthlaw initially recruited seven young people. Their initial task was to advise Youthlaw on the best ways of engaging young people to get involved in policy and law reform processes. In particular we sought their ideas on new media techniques and web-based applications that could be utilised to engage young people in these processes.
- Consultants came up with great ideas about how to improve out public communication including our website and e-newsletter so that they are better tools to get young people interested and involved. Their ideas informed the 2 year Policy and Advocacy Action Plan.
- We established a Youthlaw policy and advocacy reference group we now call the Youthlaw Network. It is comprised of professionals with an interest in youth legal policy and advocacy to share information and ideas and support advocacy conducted by young people
 - Campaign Respect – YAG members and other young people associated with Youthlaw initiated and have started up a campaign in improve interactions between young people and Victorian Public Transport Authorised officers (ticket inspectors). They in turn have recruited others to the campaign and the core group meets regularly assisted by Youthlaw staff.

Sustainability

Organisational Sustainability

Objective

To ensure Youthlaw's ongoing sustainability and ability to operate efficiently and effectively on a day-to-day basis

Youthlaw achievements 2008/2009



Victoria Law Foundation Awards – Blake Dawson secondee Cecilia Reibl and the Honourable Marilyn Warren Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria.

- **Blake Dawson** – We have maintained our strong community law partnership with Blake Dawson. They provide a secondee lawyer on a 6 month rotation, administrative assistance including transcribing tapes and use of meeting rooms. They provide a significant financial donation each year and pay for our Annual Report and AGM. They provide IT assistance to the secondee and we often call on the pro bono partners to attend our events. In addition they readily provide pro bono legal assistance and this has included individual client cases, legal research for policy projects and legal advice on administrative issues. This year they are assisting with a public interest case providing substantial legal assistance with our submissions and legal counsel for the preliminary hearing.

Since 2003, the Victoria Law Foundation has made awards to recognize distinguished pro bono service in the legal community. In November 2008 Blake Dawson received an award in recognition of its partnership to Youthlaw and pro bono service this has contributed to the community. Cecilia Reibl our Blake Dawson secondee at the time accepted this award from Honourable Marilyn Warren Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria. Partner Steven Amendola and Youthlaw staff were present at the Awards.

- **Other Pro bono assistance** – This year we received pro bono assistance from Oliver Lardner a website designer. He designed an online human rights survey instrument. We received technology and event assistance from David Carlos and Danielle Clark of Melbourne City Mission and media communications assistance (greatly subsidised) was provided by Elisha Johnson, Elizabeth Lukin and Essential Media Communications.
- **Funding Agreements** – We have fulfilled our obligations under the service agreement with Victoria Legal Aid for state and commonwealth funding. In 2008 and 2009, in recognition of our work with homeless young people we received significant one-off grants of \$150,000 and \$70,000 from the Commonwealth government.
- **Grants** – This year we added to our core funding by obtaining grants from the Victorian Law Foundation (\$3,000), the Legal Service Board of Victoria (Two separate grants of \$50,000 and \$100,200), Department of Justice Human Rights Unit (\$10,000) and Melbourne City Council (\$3,000).
- **Volunteers** – Youthlaw values the assistance of volunteers. In the last year over 180 people (mainly students) have contacted us interested in volunteering with Youthlaw. On any one day we have at least 2 volunteers in the office. This is invaluable as we have no paid administrative support. We have also had a number of volunteers on policy placements and internships. We have established a strong relationship with a number of tertiary institutions and regularly take placement students often from youth and justice courses and also social policy and research courses. Many of these students will go on to be youth related policy officers, youth workers, justice workers and police. We have established a strong relationship with Deakin University law school and provide law student legal clinic supervision to two students each semester.

Youthlaw welcomes volunteers. Many keep in touch long after they finish. A number have become members of Youthlaw and nominated for the management committee.

Committee

Youthlaw Committee of Management 2008-2009

- Michelle Marven, Chairperson
- Ari Nagar, Treasurer (to December 2008)
- Daniel McQuilken, Treasurer
- Jenny Lawton (to February 2009)
- Brett McDonell
- Anoushka Jeronimus
- Noelle de Clifford
- Will Crawford (to September 2008)
- Simon Gauci
- Marina Lou
- Natalie Mendelsohn (to December 2008) (Blake Dawson)
- Sophie Osborn (Blake Dawson)
- Meribah Rose (Blake Dawson)

Staff

Youthlaw Staff

- Ariel Couchman, Director
- Anna Radonic, Principal Lawyer
- Tiffany Overall, Advocacy & Human Rights Officer
- Hala Atwa, Lawyer
- Annie Davis, Online Lawyer
- Sally Goldner, Finance Officer
- Tamar Spatz, Project Officer
- Paige Madden, Seconded Lawyer (to August 08)
- Cecilia Reibl, Seconded Lawyer (to January 09)
- Jordana Cohen Seconded Lawyer (to July 09)



The Youthlaw team

External Support

External Support

- Blake Dawson
- Meghan McBain (The Design Bus)
- Nicole Jones
- Justin Hoogenraad (Hoogs Multimedia)
- FINREA Computing Services
- Essential Media Communications

Volunteers

Volunteers

- Anushka Dantanarayana, Jagrup Pangly, Nadeem Molla, Sandru Santhana Anandaraj, Lisa Morstyn, Madeleine Forster, Monica Lillas, Frankie Barbour, Nicole Jee, Patrick Donovan, Laura Flanagan, Sharika Jeyakumar, Longzhen Han, Adela Woliansky

Students

Student Placements

- Costas Karatzas (RMIT), Meriana Kora (Pascoe Vale Girls), Fernanda Dahlstrom (College of Law), Joe Donovan (Deakin), Emma Jane Chala (RMIT), Dave King (RMIT), Dave Bourbon (RMIT), Joshua Marroquin (Caroline Springs SC), Alexandra Wilson (Deakin), Alexa Segerius (Deakin)

Thanks

Particular thanks to:

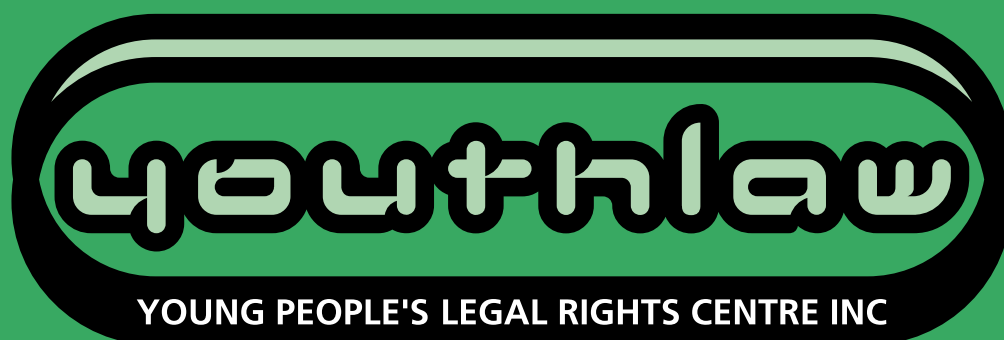
- Rowena Allen and Uniting Care Cutting Edge
- Blake Dawson
- Department of Justice Human Rights Unit
- Department for Victorian Communities – Office for Youth
- Victoria Legal Aid
- Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department
- Victoria Law Foundation
- Lance Reichstein Foundation
- Victorian Women's Trust
- Donkey Wheel Trust
- Melbourne University Law School
- Legal Services Board of Victoria
- YACVic
- National Youth and Childrens Law Centre
- Human Rights Law Resource Centre
- Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission
- Elisha Johnson and Essential Media Services
- Jason King and Infoxchange
- Oliver Lardner
- Marlene Ebejer (Deakin University)

Youthlaw Financial Report

for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

Contents:

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



Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
Current Assets			
Cash	7	346,209	219,498
Receivables		3,381	4,140
Prepayments		2,459	1,865
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		352,050	225,503
Non Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	9,963	9,383
TOTAL ASSETS		362,013	234,886
Current Liabilities			
Payables		12,334	17,867
Provisions		44,399	36,381
Grants in advance	6	139,682	81,771
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		196,415	136,019
NET ASSETS		165,598	98,867
Equity			
Committed Fund		165,598	98,867
		165,598	98,867

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year ended 30 June 2009

	2008-2009	2007-2008
	\$	\$
NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT FROM PREVIOUS YEAR		
Surplus/Deficit from previous year	1,935	(1,438)
Approved Expenditure from Surplus	0	0
Net surplus/Deficit from Previous Year	1,935	(1,438)
CLSP INCOME		
Commonwealth	227,874	76,176
State	112,512	105,728
Service Generated Income:	6,426	2,507
Total CLSP Income	346,812	184,411
CLSP General Purpose Income (Total CLSP Income & net)	348,747	182,973
CLSP EXPENSES		
Salaries	199,698	120,681
Superannuation	17,942	10,864
On Costs	9,192	7,249
Rent	8,361	8,117
Repairs and Maintenance	5	70
Other Premises Costs	544	852
Staff Training	1,686	2,205
Staff Recruitment	316	0
Communications	11,096	7,377
Office Overheads	7,349	2,926
Insurance	2,319	1,873
Finance, Audit & Accounting Fees	4,221	4,478
Library, Resources & Subscriptions	3,200	3,059
Travel	3,241	2,127
Programming and Planning	1,235	1,486
Client Disbursements	36	84
Leases	0	0
Minor equipment	1,462	203
Depreciation	5,010	3,534
Other	2,048	81
Salary & Related Expenses	226,832	138,793
Total Operating Expenses	52,129	38,472
Total CLSP Expenses	278,960	177,265
Surplus/Deficit for Current Year	67,852	7,146



Annual Report

2008 - 2009

	2008-2009	2007-2008
	\$	\$

OTHER INCOME (not to be added to CLSP Funds Surplus/Deficit)

Total Funds Received from Other bodies	56,000	50,000
Total funds Received from Other bodies for non-CLSP CLSIS Activities	56,000	50,000
Less Actual Capital expenditure in Current Year	(5,584)	(3,774)
Surplus/Deficit for Next Year	64,203	1,935

ASSETS ACQUIRED WITH CLSP FUNDS DURING FINANCIAL YEAR

Computer equipment	0
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FUTURE CONTINGENCY RESERVE

Item Description

NIL

Income Statement for the Year ended 30 June 2009

		2009	2008
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue from ordinary activities	2	525,329	414,661
Employee expenses		(313,059)	(251,287)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		(5,010)	(3,534)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(140,529)	(123,806)
Surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities	3,4,8	66,731	36,034
Increase/(decrease) in reserves from prior year adjustments		66,731	36,034

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year ended 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
Cash Flow from Operating Activities	7		
<i>Receipts</i>			
Operating grants		340,386	180,408
Donations		50,000	57,180
Interest Earned		8,963	3,340
Other receipts		182,974	266,114
<i>Payments</i>			
Payments to suppliers and employees		(450,023)	(381,154)
Cash Flow from Operating Activities		132,301	125,889
Cash Flow from Investing Activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(5,590)	(5,949)
Cash Flow from Investing Activities		(5,590)	(5,949)
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash held		126,711	119,940
Cash at the beginning of the year		219,498	99,558
Cash at the end of the year		346,209	219,498

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

Audit Report



J L COLLYER & PARTNERS
ACCOUNTANTS & AUDITORS

Suite 1
107-109 Coleman Parade
Glen Waverley Vic 3150
PO Box 340
Glen Waverley Vic 3150
Phone: 03 9500 0211
Fax: 03 9561 5497
Email: j.l.collyer@jlcpartners.com.au

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of **YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE INC** which comprises the balance sheet as at 30th June 2009, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Report

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

Auditor's Responsibility

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

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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



LIABILITY LIMITED BY A SCHEME APPROVED
UNDER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS LEGISLATION

-2-

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

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

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the relevant independence requirements.

Auditor's Opinion

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

- (a) gives a true and fair view of **YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE INC's** financial position as at 30th June 2009 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.


Janet Collyer
J L COLLYER & PARTNERS

13TH OCTOBER 2009



Notes

Notes

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Notes

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Young Peoples Legal Rights Centre
Inc No A0041616E
ABN 12 794 935 230

www.youthlaw.asn.au

At Frontyard, 19 King Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel 9611 2412 Fax 9620 3622
Email info@youthlaw.asn.au

