

youthlaw

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015



When our justice system fails to hear vulnerable youth it contributes to their marginalisation

We give young people a voice and teach them how to speak for themselves

We promote change through education, legal representation and policy reform

We address vulnerability in an integrated way with other front line services

Young people are empowered to realise their full potential and contribute positively to society

Youthlaw Strategic Plan 2015–19

Youthlaw is a not for profit community legal centre for young people under the age of 25.

We are a small but dynamic team of staff (mostly lawyers) volunteers and Board members who are committed to making a difference to the lives of young people throughout Victoria.

- Youthlaw is a fearless advocate for young people.
- We believe in social justice and human rights for all.
- Youthlaw works with others to bring about change for the benefit of young people.

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2014/15 Report Card

On balance 2014/15 was a tough year for vulnerable young People. The Napthine Liberal Government introduced a raft of laws and policies that had a detrimental impact on young people, drawing them into the criminal justice system. This included introduction of a new offence for breach of bail conditions that resulted in a huge increase in the numbers of young people on remand. The government also introduced state wide 'move on' powers and significantly increased the number of Protective Service Officers (PSOs) at train

stations by 900 personnel. The government flagged introduction of 'naming and shaming' laws that would allow publication of the youth offending past of an adult offender. Police investigation powers and tightened security in residential child protection facilities were also increased.

On a more positive note the former government introduced fines reform designed to better address the needs of vulnerable people and allow them to exit earlier from the system. A number of youth diversion pilots were funded with the added promise of continued and legislated youth diversion pending successful evaluation. We also welcomed the establishment of a statutory Crimes Statistics Agency to produce independent data on offending.

Despite our continued lobbying there was no action by this government to introduce an independent body or expand IBAC to investigate serious police misconduct. This was despite the significant work of Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre and Youthlaw to bring attention to this issue, and a number of well publicised test cases illustrating the problem.

At a Federal level we continued to lobby with the youth service sector for a reversal of the May Federal budget cuts that would negatively impact young people including leaving them with substantial periods without Centrelink support and cuts to a range of programs and services for the most vulnerable.

We warned that outcomes in Victoria for young people would be:

- Increased youth homelessness
- Increased school disengagement.
- Increased unemployment particularly in rural and regional Victoria.
- Increased mental ill health and self harm
- Young people staying in violent homes.
- More young people resorting to crime
- Overwhelming demand on existing services
- Significant drop in taking up education and training

The substantial lobbying by the community sector (including by Community Legal Centres) resulted in reversal of many of the proposed service cuts and the blocking of most of the contentious decisions by the Senate.

The state election provided the opportunity for Youthlaw to engage with potential decision-makers. We took our election platform to all major party candidates. We had a great response across the political spectrum and we have forged many enduring relationships. Post election we met with all relevant Ministers.

The new Andrews State Government has maintained its pre -election commitment to statewide youth diversion, although we wait funding of this program. The Andrews Government has indicated their intention to address the changes to the Bail Act that has resulted in a high number of young people on remand. They have publicly stated that they see no future in the continued escalation of prison numbers and building of prisons. In February 2015 they repealed the 'move on' powers from state law.

We continue to lobby for a review of the Protective Service Officers scheme. We note the Auditor- General is currently conducting an inquiry into Public Safety on Victoria's Train system.

We also continue to lobby for independent investigation of police complaints. This remains a very serious issue. The current system dissuades most young people from even making a complaint.

We welcomed cross party support for the Royal Commission into Family Violence. Data available now from services such as Frontyard Youth Services are showing that a significant driver of youth homelessness and vulnerability is exposure to family violence in the home.

The challenges of this year have only strengthened our resolve and clarity about what is needed to ensure justice for all young people.

As an organisation, Youthlaw has continued to make a substantial contribution to the rights of young people across the state.

Youthlaw has received broad support from within the legal community and the youth sector and has developed new partnerships and affiliations, increasing our resources and funding opportunities. With the assistance of a number of private law firms and barristers Youthlaw has been able to represent more vulnerable young people in court and to run significant test cases to promote the human rights of young people.

Youthlaw has continued to innovate in the way it operates, piloting new clinic models, exploring new opportunities for service delivery partnerships, presenting delivering at national conferences, campaigning and increasing our outreach.

As always, sincere thanks to all that have been involved in Youthlaw, including the tireless work of all volunteers, lawyers, staff.

Ariel Couchman
Director

Monica Lillas
Chairperson

Youthlaw – Achievements and highlights

Key highlights for Youthlaw include:

- Both major parties committing to youth diversion as a result of a statewide campaign lead by Youthlaw and other Smart Justice for Young People Coalition members...
- A win in the Victorian Supreme Court of Appeal in relation to the right to independent investigation of serious police misconduct.
- Substantial contributions to the Royal Commission into Family Violence, to the Review of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and the Victorian Ombudsman's Investigation into Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Prisoners.
- Exploration of new service delivery partnerships with youth services on the frontline including YODAA, Headspace and YSAS.
- A successful pilot of a Fines Clinic model staffed by trained volunteers and supervised by our lawyers
- Sign off of a new community legal partnership with K&L Gates and an Ashurst pro bono court assistance
- Successful funding applications securing \$447,000 of grants for future years.
- Fundraising that raised \$26,000
- A proposal to Victoria Legal Aid to establish an innovative child protection practice
- Reversal of December 2013 funding grant cuts to CLCs including funding to Youthlaw.

STATS

In the 2014/2015 year we assisted 2,018 young people (under 25) and adults supporting them. Adults included youth workers, teachers, parents, family and friends

THE BREAKDOWN

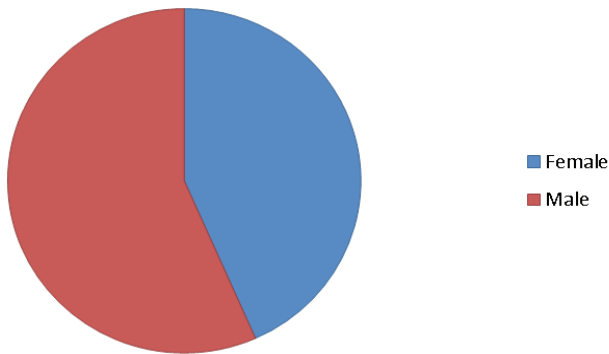
- 533 young people seen at our Frontyard drop in clinic
- 103 young people assisted through our Skype service (9 locations throughout Victoria)
- 24 young people seen at a youth detox centre in the Melbourne CBD (from February 2014).
- 600 young people provided advice by email and phone
- 600 adults assisted by email and phone; and
- 138 young people represented at court.

In addition our RMIT service assisted 521 RMIT students (all ages) online, onsite at the RMIT CBD campus and by Skype to the Brunswick and Bundoora campuses.

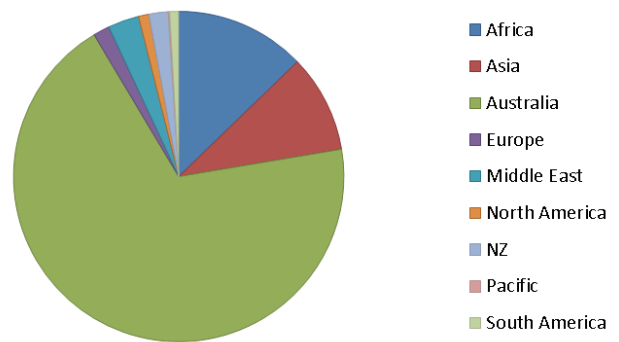
PROFILE OF CLIENTS ASSISTED THIS YEAR

(Note: this includes our RMIT service that assists students of all ages)

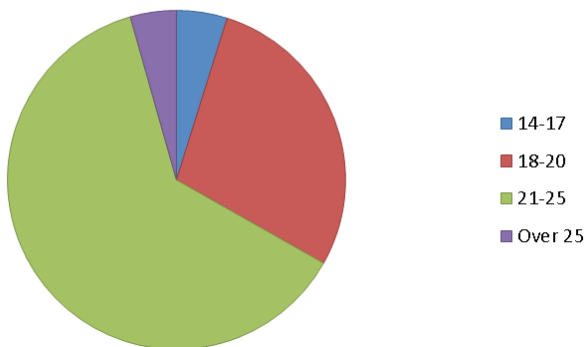
Gender



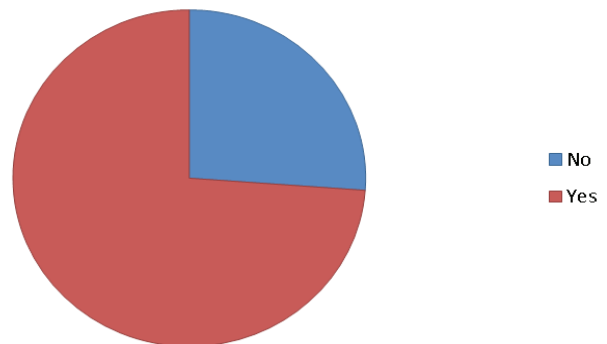
Country of Birth



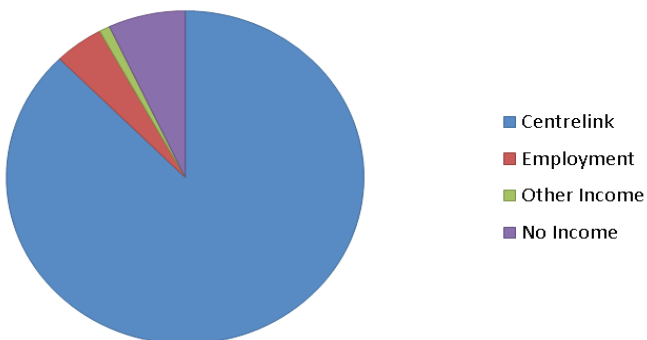
Age



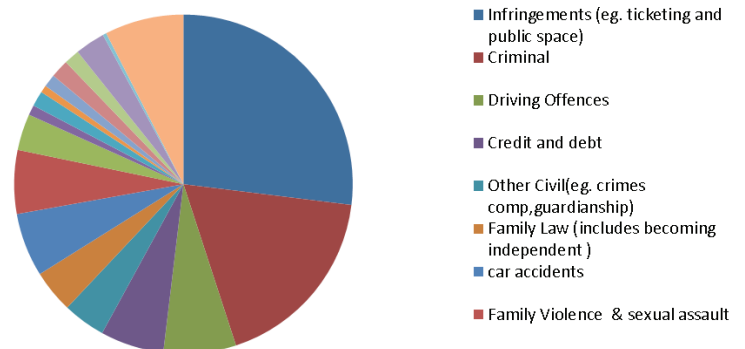
Risk of Homelessness



Income Source



Type of Problem



Our Legal services

With our limited resources we target those who need us the most.

AFTERNOON DROP IN LEGAL CLINIC AT FRONTYARD YOUTH SERVICES – 19 KING ST MELBOURNE

We are co-located with other youth services at Frontyard, a place where homeless and vulnerable young people seek help.

Homeless and vulnerable young people usually have multiple issues, including legal issues such as fines, debts and low level criminal offending. These young people have often been victims of abuse at home and are very vulnerable on the streets. They face many obstacles in accessing services. Not dealing with their legal issues impacts on their mental health and can burden them with lifelong debt issues and a criminal record that prevents them moving on and realising their full potential later in life.

Through the clinic Young people

- Are provided legal advice
- Are empowered to understand and use the law
- Are linked with supports and services
- Are assisted to tell their story and be understood by courts Are able to communicate their stories to decision-makers to achieve systemic changes and lobby for much needed services.

Daniel, 17

Daniel lived at home. He was the eldest of 5 siblings, most in DHHS care. When he was 16 he and a number of others got into a city building and stupidly threw a number of items off the roof. He was charged with burglary and associated charges. Youthlaw negotiated with police and the prosecutor for his background to be taken into account and that instead of facing court and getting a conviction he should be diverted to the police ROPES course. This was agreed to and Daniel avoided a conviction that would

come up in his criminal record in the future. Youthlaw regards the ROPES program as highly effective for many youth offenders. It involves pairing up with a police officer to climb ropes and discussing the impact of a criminal record on their future.

Yasmin, 20

Yasmin had recently separated from an ex partner and had made complaints to the police about his repeated assault of her. When she attended Frontyard, she was homeless and was ineligible for Centrelink as she was not an Australian citizen.

The police couldn't locate Yasmin's former partner to charge him. This meant that her compensation case had to be heard before a Magistrate. Youthlaw appeared in the Magistrates' Court on Yasmin's behalf and she was awarded funds to go toward a nursing course she wanted to enroll in as well as counselling sessions.

Yasmin commenced her counselling sessions, used the money she received to buy a second hand car and to start her nursing course.

FRIDAY FINES CLINIC

- Being a volunteer at Youthlaw has been a highly rewarding experience. As part of the Friday Fines Clinic, I have had the opportunity to interact with a wide range of young people from a variety of diverse backgrounds. Being able to hear their stories has been extremely valuable and has increased my awareness of the issues that face young people today. The lawyers and volunteers at Youthlaw are always supportive and have made my time here all the more enjoyable!
- During my year of volunteering at Youthlaw I had the chance to work on a range of different issues facing young people. I have particularly enjoyed being part of the Friday Fines Clinic, where volunteers have the chance to meet with clients and manage ongoing files. It is always fun coming into the Youth-law office on a Friday, it is a great team to work with and I look forward to continue to volunteer next year!

This year with funding from the Legal Service Board we piloted a Friday fines clinic staffed by trained volunteer law students supervised by a Youthlaw lawyer.

We are pleased to report that the fines clinic was a great success. The clinic now deals with the majority (close to 70%) of all fines matters referred into Youthlaw. This has increased our lawyer's availability to take on more complex cases and appear on behalf of more clients at court. Clients reported a high level of satisfaction with the work of our volunteers and we achieved consistently good outcomes for the clients.

The clinic also developed a fines self-help kit. Over 12 months there were over 4,369 views of the self help kit and 1218 views of the fines factsheets.

We thank the Legal Service Board for their support of this project. We also thank our Friday Fines volunteers for their enthusiasm and dedication to the project.

Katie, 22

Katie was living with her partner and 2 young children. She said her partner's violence was getting worse so she decided she had to get out of there.

She spent several months crashing at a friends' house. A crisis service found emergency housing near the city. Moving in she incurred 2 parking fines. She was on a single parent and there was no way she could pay.

Katie came to the fines clinic and found out that she might be able to have the fines reviewed because of her situation. The Fines Clinic asked her housing working for a letter.

A fortnight later we heard that the council had agreed to withdraw her fines and give her a warning instead. She was very relieved.

Jason, 21

Jason was 20 when he came to Frontyard for help with accommodation. They found a refuge. Jason knew he had heaps of tram fines but over the past year he had been living on the streets, couch surfing or in a psychiatric hospital so had not kept track of them.

The Fines Clinic did a search for all his fines. He had over \$2000 owing. Jason told us about his

homelessness and his intellectual disability and mental illness.

The refuge worker and psychologist wrote letters. The fines were revoked which means Jason didn't have to pay them or worry about the sheriff arresting him.

Jason hasn't had a fine in over 12 months. He's now in transitional housing and sees a psychologist. He says he doesn't think he'll be getting more fines but if I do he knows where to go for help!

Savannah, 20

Savannah had been getting heaps of ticketing fines and traffic fines and kept ignoring the reminder notices. The fines started piling up. When she came to Youthlaw she had \$1500 of outstanding fines. She was pregnant, and wanted to get everything sorted out.

She told us that she'd been homeless since she was 14 and was living in her car when she got the fines.

A housing worker confirmed that when she was fined she was homeless and struggling to cope with the pressures of schooling, transport, as well as financial difficulties.

Youthlaw applied for her fines to be revoked, which was successful. By the time the fines were heard in the Special Circumstances list at court, she and her toddler were living in rental accommodation and she was about to start part time hospitality work.

At court, half of the fines were withdrawn, and the Judicial Registrar dismissed the 3 remaining fines. Savannah was very relieved that she did not receive a financial penalty. Since this she is being supported by the housing worker and has not got any further fines.

LEGAL HELP TO OUTER URBAN & REGIONAL VICTORIA

In 2008 we set up a Skype legal service 'Youthlaw Online' in outer urban and regional Victoria. Young people are able to access the service at 9 youth friendly services.

Our experience is that this model - providing legal services through local youth and community services works. Together we can target those most in need, encourage young people to get help and local youth services and programs provide other supports and services needed.

In 2014-15 our outreach lawyers Megan King and Lee Carnie continued to work with our Skype service sites and to explore other services to partner with. This has been made possible with a grant from the Phyllis Connor Memorial Trust and the return of a federal funding grant for this service, provided by the previous Federal Government.

We now have a partnership with the Youth Drug and Alcohol Advice service (YODAA). This service assists young people and their families with up to date drug information and link them with local workers. When legal issues come up they refer to Youthlaw. In 2015 we are exploring partnerships with Headspace the Youth Support + Advocacy Service (YSAS) and the early intervention Youth Support Service (YSS).

Jacinta, 21

We met Jacinta through our Yarra Junction Youthlaw Online service. Jacinta has a diagnosed intellectual disability and a traumatic history as a victim of family violence. Jacinta ran away from home as a teenager to escape the abuse. After leaving home, Jacinta was homeless and struggling with depression. She turned to drinking alcohol and using drugs every day in an attempt to cope with her trauma and mental health issues.

Jacinta had criminal charges for assaulting a police officer and over \$2,000 in fines for drinking in public, catching public transport without a Myki and for using a Myki without a concession card. She couldn't afford to pay her fines as her only income was a Centrelink Disability Support Pension.

We represented Jacinta and explained her mental and physical state at the time of the alleged assault on the police officer when she was under the influence of drugs and alcohol and not fully understanding what was happening. The police officer agreed to withdraw the charges on public interest grounds.

Youthlaw also represented Jacinta in respect of her fines at court, outlining for the presiding 'special circumstances' that led to the fines. The court agreed to revoke the fines. After hearing her life story, Victoria Police and the Department of Transport also agreed to withdraw her fines.

Jacinta has turned 22 and is no longer homeless. She stopped drinking alcohol and using drugs with the support of her Drug and alcohol counsellor. She has been seeing a psychologist regularly and is now looking for work. She can now move on with her life without a criminal record stopping her from getting work or massive fines hanging over her head.

RMIT STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE

'I'm a student at RMIT I turn 18 late July, I have a number of fines but I am not sure about them, I didn't feel like I deserved them, but I have let them go and it's a bit of a mess, it would be great if I could get some help to sort this all out.'

'I'm having a problem with my landlord now, but they are not the real landlord, they actually took this apartment from an agent and then sublet it to me. They are now being unreasonable and trying to kick me out without returning my bond and the rest of my rent before I leave. I don't know which agent is managing this property and the landlord refused to tell me. They also refuse to provide copies of the bills which they ask me to pay every month. Is there any legal actions I can bring against them?'

We provide a legal service to RMIT students. The service is largely online which is convenient for students, who can access the legal service online through the RMIT website. Where appropriate, students are provided with self-help options such as letter templates, fact sheets, links and other resources on legal issues. For more serious legal matters where students need advice from our lawyer, appointments are provided at the Melbourne CBD campus and by Skype to Bundoora and Brunswick campuses.

Some of the key issues facing students include tenancy, fines, consumer disputes (particularly gym and fitness memberships), car accidents, work pay and conditions, personal safety, family violence and criminal charges. International students, in particular, reported being particularly vulnerable to workplace exploitation, breaches of their tenancy rights and scams.

In response to repeated queries we have conducted sessions for students and staff such as recently arrived international students on tenancy and consumer rights.. In collaboration with Student Wellbeing and the Tenants Union we also developed a set of minimum standards for RMIT to use when listing accommodation-providers on their website to ensure providers were not listed if their contracts or “house rules” breached students’ rights under residential tenancy laws.

LEGAL OUTREACH TO A YOUTH DETOX UNIT

We visit a youth detox unit once a fortnight, providing group information, individual assistance and training up the youth workers about common legal problems. Young people at the detox unit are overwhelmingly vulnerable having had to deal with many life problems such as violence and neglect in their childhood home and child protection intervention. They often have mental health as well substance abuse issues.. Most have more than one legal issue, with a quarter having multiple (3 or more) complex legal issues to deal with.

PHONE SERVICE AND ASK A LAWYER

Our 9 to 5 phone advice service has been maintained because we know that young people and adults assisting them often need to get information quickly. We also get a lot of calls from parents and siblings with urgent situations like police interviews and requests.

Our Ask a lawyer email service works well for younger people not so able to get in to see us. Workers and professionals email to get information to assist young people and to clarify their legal obligations

Here are some examples:

Client privacy

‘I am a psychologist and have started work with a 17 year old girl who attempted suicide just prior to our meeting and she is refusing to allow me to let her parents know. Do I have a legal responsibility to tell them or must her confidentially and refusal of consent be the legal priority.’

Becoming independent

‘For many years I have suffered from neglect, psychological and physical abuse. I am scared of my parents, and I do not feel safe in the house I live in. I have made many attempts this year to communicate with my parents...I need to know my rights and what is legally possible.’

Cyberbullying

‘I’m enquiring because of cyberbullying I’ve experienced.

Basically, someone posted my snapchat name on: sextingforum.net.

The main issue I have with this is that, not only have I been victim to a lot of very disturbing messages and creepy people adding me on Snapchat and now Facebook...I don’t want a future employer searching my name and coming across some-thing of this nature or even someone from school.

Child protection

‘I am trying to clarify the issue whether or not any legislation requires Youth Workers to report in Victoria, as I cannot get a straight answer from any teacher. I have looked at the legislation for this and it says we are not mandated, yet some teachers say we are under other legislation but cannot provide the legislation it’s covered by.’

Civil debt

‘I have a friend who owes me close to \$1200, the original figure was \$1800 but over last 3 months she has paid me back some. She now states she won’t pay me back. Can I take legal action against her or can you service help me with this.’

Consumer law

‘Hi, I was wondering is it legally binding for a minor under the age of 18 to sign a contract, as I mistakenly signed a contract with a gym with no intent of it as I had a 14 day pass and wished to use that and I thought answering questions and all were all part of visiting the gym.’

Criminal law

My son was arrested for tagging a train - first offence - which he has admitted to - police estimated cost of damage at \$400. He has to go to court. We are looking for advice on what we need to do please. Will he need a lawyer to represent him and if so do you have a referral service? Any other advice welcome, Thanks so much

Criminal records

'2 weeks ago I went to the local supermarket and was caught shoplifting.

No cops where called to the store and the matter was dealt with by store security. They took all my details and photos. Will this appear on a police check?'

Driving offences

'I have just had my car impounded under the hoon laws act but have read up on these laws and believe I have been wronged and also the conduct of the officer involved was an absolute disgrace and I am still unsure of what has actually happened and what is to be done.'

Employment

'I was running late to work and was contacted by my work. A few minutes later, my mother called my workplace to say I would be in 30 minutes. The retail manager told my mother to tell me not to worry about coming in. My mum tasked if they were sacking me. He said yes. Can he tell my mum this and can he sack me like that?'

Family law

'My Dad is trying to get one week on, one week off for me however it isn't working. So I feel that the only way this can be fixed is that I make my own statement of what I want, as then my parents will have no say in this matter. I have tried to speak to mum about this; however, I am repeatedly shut down.'

'My granddaughters are afraid of physical violence and other family violence from their father who has part custody of them. They do not want to spend any time with him as they say they are scared of him. They are 11 and 13 yrs.

Fines

Just wanting to get some advice about getting fined for having a mobile phone in the car. Il wasn't using the phone but the police officer said I'm not allowed to have a mobile phone in the car at all. I explained I needed the GPS to get from one worksite to another. I was fined \$400 and lost 3 demerit points.'

Family violence/sexual assault

I'm 21 years old. Last year about 5 months ago, my ex boyfriend got very violent with me during a fight. He strangled me. At that time, I dialled 000 but hung up the phone because I was unsure what to say. He had put his hands on me the same way about 4 times before that. I'm not sure if this is something too late to report, and I'm not sure what my options are. I am struggling psychologically, I guess, to comprehend and accept everything that has happened.

Legal Guardianship

'I want to ask how to become my little brother's legal guardian?'

Basically, my parents are divorced, my mother passed away last year and my dad is always overseas

Car Accident

'Over 2 months ago I was involved in a car accident where I was side swiped by a truck, which then drove off, leaving me without any insurance info and rendered my car un-roadworthy.. I'm only 18 and can't afford the excess through my own insurance and I really need my car fixed. What are my rights?'

'I am writing on behalf of a young friend who is 19 years old, and currently a full time student living at her parents' home on low income from part-time work. She had a car accident in her mother's car and the insurance companies are pursuing her for damages. The mother's car insurance company refused the claim on the grounds that only the mother, and not the daughter, is insured'

Leaving home

'Hi there, I am working with a young person (16yo) who has recently left home and is living in a safe place. She and I want to make contact with her parents to discuss obtaining some of her possessions from home, but her parents are refusing to accept

contact by phone. Does the young person have any legal right to her possessions and to obtain these from her parents?’

Damage to property

‘My phone was recently thrown into a wall and smashed by another person and I had to pay \$250 to get it replaced. This person is refusing to pay even though they’ve admitted they should. Do I have any rights to make them reimburse me?’

Personal Safety / IVOs

‘I am in the process of trying to help a young 16 year old boy leave an abusive family situation. The father is the perpetrator of the verbal/physical and emotional abuse. What legal rights does the boy have in relation to separating from his father who currently is his carer? In addition the mother is not in a stable environment to care for this young boy as she is drug dependent.’

Police Powers

Last night, a friend and I went to get on the midnight train back to Geelong, however a bunch of PSOs blocked us from getting on the escalator and asked us where we were going, what we have been doing, and whether we had anything to do with law enforcement before, or had we run away from home or were in trouble with the law. We weren’t drunk or being loud. The PSOs then said stated that they needed to search our bags, and spent the next 10 minutes pulling them apart... Afterwards, they asked for our names and addresses. Are PSOs allowed to do this?’

Privacy (release of information)

‘I am a TAFE teacher and I had a parent of a 16 year contact me about her daughter’s education & raising some complaints. I advised the parent that I was unable to disclose any information to the parent without their daughter’s written or verbal consent. My manager now wants me to find out the law that supports my action.’

School

‘Hello, I was curious as to whether I have grounds to sue my old school or not. I believe that the secondary school I attended failed to keep me safe as I underwent severe bullying. It not only affected me physically. I was attacked on two occasions. Both of

which the school knew about... Do I have any grounds here?’

Security Guards / Bouncers

‘Last night my friend was ejected from a nightclub. He didn’t resist, yet they threw him to the ground, smashed his phone and it is now broken. I exited the venue to make sure he was okay and my friend was asking a security guard if he could speak to the manager. I got out my phone to try and film the bouncer but was pushed and grabbed by another bouncer. He yelled abuse at me and told me not to film. What can I do about this?’

Tenancy

‘In July a friend and I moved in together. He was already on the lease and I was added on. Our tenancy agreement states a Periodic Tenancy of 21 days. Due to issues between us, I feel that I can no longer live with him. Is there any possible way I can get my name off the agreement. Does it mean I have to pay out my lease after I move out?’

‘I recently moved into my first place on my own. When I moved in I found cock-roaches, no smoke detector, and the carpets were definitely not steam cleaned. What are my rights regarding breaking the tenancy agreement?’

Victims of Crime

‘I am a victim of an assault on the sporting field. I did push him (not injuring him) and he punched me in the face which broke some bones and resulted in complications with my eye. I didn’t report it to the police. I don’t want to report it so I can apply for compensation because I’m scared I might get charged with assault and get a criminal record.

Worker duty of Care

‘I’m a youth worker. I received a text message from a parent about her son not coming home. I then heard that the youth was with a girl who gave him a serious drug. Should I call the mother and tell her what I heard or should I ring the Police? I’m not exactly sure what to do.’

CHALLENGING LAW THROUGH THE COURTS

On July 26, 2015 the Court of Appeal handed down its decision in our test case *Bare V Small*. A majority of the Court of Appeal judges found for our client, Nassir Bare, finding that the Office of Police Integrity (OPI) had not properly considered his human rights when they referred his complaint of police mistreatment and racial abuse back to Victoria Police to investigate.

The court decision directed that the complaint be returned to IBAC (the successor to OPI)

This test case was brought by Youthlaw to establish whether human rights law, requires that police treatment that breaches human rights must be independently investigated.

This decision sends a strong message to IBAC and the state government that the impact on a persons human rights must be a central consideration when deciding how to proceed with a complaint of police mistreatment. .

We will continue to lobby the government to put in place the mechanisms and resources required to ensure all complaints of police misconduct are independently investigated. We have the support of many in senior ranks in Victoria Police and politicians from all major parties. The only thing is missing is political will.

We would like to thank our client Nassir for sticking with this test case for the last 6 years. Nassir was clear that he did so to make it easier for other people in the future to have their complaints about police heard and dealt with fairly.

We also thank Kate Oliver and Mark Hayes of Maddocks and counsel Jason Pizer, Emrys Nekvapil and Fiona Spencer for their pro bono legal assistance and representation.

Legal education and resources for young people

Our Reach out and Connect project, funded by the Victoria Law Foundation, enabled Youthlaw to ramp up our delivery of community legal education to young people and seek invaluable feedback on how we can deliver legal information to them more effectively.

Youthlaw presented over 40 legal education sessions to more than 1,000 young people across Victoria over a 12 month period. Approximately 75% of sessions were delivered in outer-suburban, regional and rural locations. Sessions covered a range of legal issues relevant to young people, including becoming independent, sexting, cyberbullying and young people's rights when dealing with police and other authorities. All sessions were highly interactive and incorporated multi-media resources produced by Youthlaw (such as StreetSmart and our Street Law series) or resources produced by other organisations, where appropriate.

Feedback on the sessions was overwhelmingly positive, with most young people surveyed indicating they found our sessions and multi-media resources interesting, informative and useful. When asked if they preferred finding legal information online over more 'traditional' in-person community legal education sessions, young people indicated a strong preference for being able to meet lawyers in person, affirming the value of sending lawyers to speak at schools and other community-based youth programs.

Youthlaw also sought feedback from teachers and other support workers who viewed the sessions and we gained important insights into areas where Youthlaw could improve our education and information delivery, particularly for young people with intellectual disabilities or from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Youthlaw continued to receive praise for its online resources, more broadly, with our StreetSmart guide nominated for the Victorian Premier's Design Awards 2014 and our invitation to speak on the development of the resource at the 2015 NACLC Conference.

Training for workers

We know that one of the best ways to get legal info to young people is through people they trust and go to for help such as youth workers, teachers, and counsellors. We have produced videos, fact sheets and present training workshops

Our video series include

- Working with young people and your duty of care
- Young people's rights & the powers of police and other authorities
- Helping young people with fines

These resources and our fact sheets have continued to be in demand, attracting thousands of website hits and Youtube views over the past 12 months.

In addition to these resources, Youthlaw identified a gap in training about new laws introduced by the state government in October 2014 and July 2015. These "fail to disclose and protect laws" came about from the Betrayal of Trust inquiry into sexual abuse in institutions.

This area of law is challenging for youth workers and others assisting young people because they must balance supporting and empowering young people with a duty to protect them and report abuse. Related legal issues are mandatory reporting, confidentiality and duty of care.

Annie Davis produced the training and Megan King, Annie and Lee Carnie delivered over 14 workshops on the new laws. Demand for these sessions is high and we are currently seeking funding from government and philanthropic trusts as well as developing a fee paying model to meet this need.

Workers attending those sessions gave positive feedback, including comments such as:

'Loads of valuable information'

'The session was well above my expectations and made me feel very informed'

'Clear & concise information'

'Loved the plain language explanations of complex issues'

'The case studies – How well informed and exceptional the presenter was'

'Great scenarios plus presenter's ability to get the group involved'

'The information was presented in an easy to understand way'

'The different case studies were great so we know how to act'

'Everything was amazing'

'Was presented in an articulate manner'

'Was concise and the case studies very relevant'

The presenter was engaging and informative. She was mindful of different roles & made it relevant to everyone'

Our Policy and Advocacy

We lobby campaign and seek to influence policy, service development and law that will bring about changes for all young people.

This year Tiffany Overall our Human Rights and Advocacy Officer led our policy and advocacy program with a focus on achieving real impacts in a number of key youth justice areas and responding to critical issues as they emerged.

In the lead up to the state election we distributed our policy platform and our analysis of the key justice issues for vulnerable young people in Victoria. We corresponded with and met with many. Post election we welcomed new members of Parliament and met with all ministers with justice and youth related portfolios.

Youthlaw continued to resource and coordinate Smart Justice for Young People (SJ4YP), a cross-sectoral youth justice advocacy coalition with over 30 legal, youth, health, welfare and other non-legal organisations.

The coalition works collaboratively to provide a strong collective voice on a number of youth justice issues. SJ4YP aims to challenge the public and influence change by getting decision makers to consider smarter and more effective youth justice solutions.

Youthlaw as part of the SJ4YP coalition continued to actively campaign for:

- Police and other law enforcement authorities to use their powers age-appropriately, respectfully and professionally in relation to children and young people.
- Reversal of amendments to the Bail Act that have doubled the number of 10 to 14 year olds and 15 to 17 year olds on remand
- Legislated and state wide resourced diversion programs for children and young people under 18.
- A fairer, more efficient and affordable fines system for children and young people.

SJ4YP advocated about other emerging youth justice issues including an increase in the number of children in detention unsentenced on remand, and conditions of young people under 25 years in the adult prison system.

In 2015 SJ4YP agreed to broaden its campaign on youth diversion to an exploration of a justice reinvestment. Such an approach will focus on lobbying for greater early intervention investment and funding in tailored, community based early intervention responses that address risk factors contributing to young people's potential involvement in the criminal justice system, rather than investing mostly at the tertiary end of the justice system.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014-15:

Diversion

- As part of 2014 state election strategy for the Youth Diversion Works campaign, SJ4YP wrote to CEOs of over 40 NGOs and directly approached a number of rural NGOs in Ballarat and Wimmera
- A significant package of advocacy resources was developed throughout the project to support SJ4YP members in their advocacy including the "Youth Di-version Works" package, media messaging and video and factsheet, new website content, four E updates, and blogs on justice reinvestment, diversion and high remand numbers.
- In October 2014 bipartisan support was secured for youth diversion to be legislated and the development of a state-wide youth diversion program, and Government announced a In Youth Diversion Pilot for the Children's Court which commenced in June 2015

Policing

SJ4YP had representatives on both the Young People's Reference Group and the Chief Commissioners Strategic Human Rights Group formed in August 2014 to support Victoria Police's Priority Communities Division with the implementation of their Equality is Not the Same report. Meetings are useful, strengthening relations and informing Victoria Police internal reviews, policy development and training development processes. Ultimately a reduction in the number of interactions between members and young people and an improvement in the quality of any interactions will be the ultimate measure of success.

Fines

- Together with the Federation of Community Legal Centre's Infringement Working Group we completed extensive work with and submissions to the Department of Justice and Regulation (DOJR) and the Attorney General on the development of the Fines Reform Act to enhance the system's capacity to exit people with no capacity to pay fines as early as possible, in particular via the proposed Work Development Permit Scheme (client's without capacity to pay fines and pay off via engagement with services, mentoring and training).
- The new Victorian Government is looking to further enhance the changes in the Fines Reform Act before it is rolled out in 2016, including extending the new Work and Development permit scheme to people with enforcement orders (this will impact most of our clients)

Justice Reinvestment

- The SJ4YP coalition had a number of meetings focusing on Justice Reinvestment and has registered keen interest from a diverse range of organisations to help progress the justice reinvestment campaign in 2015 and beyond. These included the Youth Justice Reinvestment forum in June 2015, arranged by SJ4YP and hosted by the Centre for Rural Regional Law and Justice (Deakin University) attracted 69 registrations with 12 sites linked to the forum across Victoria including Melbourne, Ballarat, Mildura, Morwell, Warrnambool & Geelong.
- Youthlaw was successful in securing funding from Legal Service Board for SJ4YP to 'Build the case for Justice Reinvestment'

Bail and remand

Having raised the issue of high numbers in remand directly with the Attorney General and Minister for Families, Children and Youth Affairs, Minister Jenny Mikakos held a Youth Justice Ministerial Roundtable in June 2015 with a strong focus on this issue. Tiffany Overall presented at the Roundtable on behalf of SJ4YP.

Conditions of young adults in the adult prisoner system

SJFYP made a submission to the Victorian Ombudsman's Investigation into the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners in Victoria. Many of the issues raised in the submission were picked up in the Ombudsman's report.

Youth Engagement

In 2014-15

- We continued to involve young people in the development of our services and resources, our direction, and our campaigning.
- We began a review of our communications including how to improve our communication channels and website to better showcase the stories of young people we assist and to involve young people in commentary such through blogging on our website.

Volunteer Program

- We recruited over 30 youth volunteers to Youthlaw to assist with our work. We trained up 10 of our committed volunteers to be Fines Clinic paralegals. Two of our volunteers Yasmin and Bree undertook organisation of our movie night fundraiser and development of a fundraising database.
- We hosted Deakin law students on 15 weeks placement one day a week each trimester.
- Eva Lillas a Melbourne University student undertook a 15 week placement with us assisting Tiffany with preparing a Justice Reinvestment briefing paper.

I have developed an understanding and awareness of the many problems faced by young people, and I am particularly grateful to be part of a great team who help young people overcome such marginalization. I look forward to continue volunteering next year!

I am so thankful for the opportunities I have been afforded, including meeting young people, attending client hearings in the Melbourne Magistrates' Court and drafting correspondence. Volunteering at Youthlaw has shown me how important Youthlaw is to young people, and how they play such an important role in the community.

I have been able to develop so many new skills, meet so many new people, and have been able to help contribute to the amazing work Youthlaw does on a day to day basis. I am so thankful for all the knowledge and opportunities Youthlaw has given me!

Fundraising

- In July 2014 volunteers Yasmin and Bree organised a movie night fundraiser raising \$1,000 .
- In October 2014 Melbourne City Mission initiated a fundraiser 'Lock Up a Lawyer' for Youthlaw and a prison program 'Mates' . Held at the old Pentridge prison participants paid to be jailed and entertained by speakers such as John Sylvester and the band 'Lex Pistols' Youthlaw Board members Nicole Jee and Monica Lil-las contributed enormously to the event and \$10,000.06 was raised for Youthlaw. Ashurst staff involved raised \$3,675 and their Charity committee also donated a further \$10,000 to Youthlaw.
- In August 2014 Ashurst held a trivia night for Youthlaw raising \$3,989



Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the following funders

- Community Legal Services Program (Commonwealth/State A-G's Departments) – core recurrent funding
- Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department – 3 year grant for Skype legal service
- Victorian Legal Service Board -Fines Clinic and Justice Reinvestment project
- Victoria Law Foundation -Reach Out and Connect education project
- Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, RE Ross Trust and the Kimberly Foundation -Youthlaw coordination of Smart Justice for Young People
- Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation – Communications project and short-term funding to maintain coordination of Smart Justice for Young People
- Phyllis Connor Memorial -Skype legal service Youthlaw Online
- Streetsmart – for our Frontyard lawyer assisting homeless youth

In kind and pro bono support

- Ashurst for the Trivia night fundraiser for Youthlaw, charitable committee donation, legal assistance to Youthlaw and clients, stationary supplies, storage of archived files, venue for events and set up of the Board wiki.
- Melbourne City Mission and Frontyard Youth Services for the Lock up A lawyer fundraiser for Youthlaw, collaboration on projects & meeting with politicians, assistance with funding pursuits and working together to make Frontyard Youth services a great place for young people.
- Maddocks (Kate Oliver and Mark Hayes) and Counsel Emrys Nekvapil, Jason Pizer QC and Fiona Spencer; for providing a pro bono legal team for our Supreme Court test case.
- Jordana Cohen, Natalie Blok & Fiona Spencer (pro bono court work and advice)

- Michael Rice for volunteer locum assistance

Thanks to our specialist supports:

- Meghan McBain of Design Bus
- Raj, & Mona & the FINREA team
- Sean Denham and Associates
- Dialogue Consulting
- Chis & Reuben at Paper Giants
- Lucia Marin (design of our annual report)
- Darren Lewin – Hill, Communications officer at the Federation of Community Legal Centres (FCLC) for media assistance
- Sean Denham & Associates (audit)

We thank the following services and organisations for their support & collaboration:

- Frontyard Youth Services & Melbourne City Mission
- Youthlaw Online host organisations, including Barwon Youth, Mornington Peninsula Shire Youth Services, The Bridge Youth Service in Seymour and Shepparton, Uniting Care Cutting Edge in Shepparton and Cobram and Upper Yarra Community House
- YSAS, YSS and Headspace
- Smart Justice for Young People Coalition members:
- FCLC Infringements Working Group:
- The Federation of Community Legal Centres
- Victoria Legal Aid
- RMIT

And a big thanks to all our volunteers !!!!!

- Adiam Tsegay
- Alberta Gray
- Annina Tropea
- Beryl Yan
- Disha Kamal
- Ellie Freemantle
- Erin Byrt

- Georgia Koskinas
- Georgina Lett
- Grace Bowran-Burge
- Harry James Tinney Croft
- Jessica Ginberg
- Josephine Mammone
- Kiri Crocker
- Kurstyn Miller
- Luke Chircop
- Mark Johnson
- Natasha Gomez
- Natasha Ritchie
- Teresa Gray
- Teresa Sun
- Thomas Greaves
- Yasmin Geneva
- Alex Croft
- Ali Towers
- Dilusha Praneedi Jayasekara
- Monica Lee
- Jacqui Hope
- Jess Dixon
- Ryan Robertson
- Cassandra Martin
- Catherine Nadel
- Chloe Thomas
- Eoin Twomey
- Eve Lillas
- Georgia Mackenzie
- Laura Dreyfus
- Phoebe Williams
- Ella van der Schans
- Cameron Bloye
- Sophia Floudiotis

- Alison Conlon
- Stephanie Thirwall
- Lynette Dong
- Tamara Preuss
- Phillipa Daniel
- Lachlan Tom
- Hari Sundaresan
- Kerewin Huck
- Sophia Blackhirst
- Olivia Coburn
- Sophia Young
- Rose Storey
- Laura Arfi

YOUTHLAW BOARD 2014–15

- Monica Lillas, Chair
- Matthew Gregg, Secretary
- Jan Farrell, Treasurer
- Mathew Gordon
- Anoushka Jeronimus (until April 2014)
- Meribah Rose (until April 2014)
- Nicole Jee
- Ben Hercus
- Jon Goh
- Louise McNeil (until April 2015)
- Siobhan Mansfield
- Megan Trethowan (Ashurst)
- Quyen Le (Ashurst) (until August 2014)
- Adele Llewellyn (Ashurst)
- Youthlaw Staff 2014-15
- Ariel Couchman, Director
- Tiffany Overall, Human Rights & Advocacy Officer
- Anna Radonic, Principal Lawyer
- Lee Carnie, Lawyer

- Maie Gibney, Lawyer
- Megan King, Lawyer
- Annie Davis, RMIT lawyer & Education / Communications
- Ian Johnson, Finance Officer
- Ryan Kornhouser, secondee lawyer from Ashurst
- James McDonald, secondee lawyer from Ashurst
- Karen Czarny, secondee lawyer from Ashurst
- Jordana Cohen (locum)
- Michael Rice (locum)



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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2015

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2015

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
INCOME			
CLC - recurrent grants		307,344	327,848
Grants - non-recurrent		205,552	220,475
Grants - non-recurrent brought forward		34,006	-
VLA Surplus brought forward		7,234	-
State Government ERO Provisioning		(15,324)	-
Donations		26,212	35,131
Donations - in kind		-	68,864
Interest		10,624	6,378
Other income		65,180	20,090
		<u>640,828</u>	<u>678,786</u>
 EXPENDITURE			
Employee expenses		443,349	529,055
Depreciation and amortisation expense		3,949	3,949
Other expenses		112,080	137,656
		<u>559,378</u>	<u>670,660</u>
 Surplus (Loss) before income tax		81,450	8,126
 Income tax expense	2	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 Surplus (Loss) after income tax		81,450	8,126
 Retained Surplus (Losses) at the beginning of the financial year		<u>291,664</u>	<u>283,538</u>
 Retained Surplus (Losses) at the end of the financial year		<u><u>373,114</u></u>	<u><u>291,664</u></u>

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

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT
AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	574,911	462,519
Trade and other receivables	4	16,158	44,994
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>591,069</u>	<u>507,513</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	5	3,160	7,106
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>3,160</u>	<u>7,106</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>594,229</u>	<u>514,619</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	6	22,648	13,524
Provisions	7	18,799	24,307
Deferred income	8	131,406	144,302
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>172,853</u>	<u>182,133</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	7	48,262	40,822
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>221,115</u>	<u>222,955</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>373,114</u>	<u>291,664</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained Surplus		373,114	291,664
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>373,114</u>	<u>291,664</u>

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

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from grants		500,000	612,251
Other receipts		91,392	55,221
Payments to suppliers and employees		(489,624)	(603,024)
Interest received		<u>10,624</u>	<u>6,378</u>
Net Cash provided by operating activities	8	<u>112,392</u>	<u>70,826</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for purchase of property and equipment		<u>-</u>	<u>(4,730)</u>
Net Cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>(4,730)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		112,392	66,096
Cash at the beginning of the year		462,519	396,423
Cash at the end of the year		<u><u>574,911</u></u>	<u><u>462,519</u></u>

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2015

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic). The committee 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 and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuation of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in preparation of this financial report.

a. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

b. Income Tax

The Association is exempt from paying income tax by virtue of Section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act, 1997. Accordingly, tax effect accounting has not been adopted.

c. Property, Plant and Equipment

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold Improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

d. Employee Entitlements

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Provision is made for the Association's liability for long service leave from commencement of employment, not from the 5 year employment period normally accrued as industry practice.

e. 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. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2015

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (cont.)

f. Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the entity reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is an indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

g. Revenue

Revenue is brought to account when received and to the extent that it relates to the subsequent period it is disclosed as a liability.

Grant Income

Grant income received, other than for specific purposes, is brought to account over the period to which the grant relates.

Deferred Income

Unspent grant income received in relation to specific projects and events is not brought to account as revenue in the current year but deferred as a liability in the financial statements until spent for the purpose received.

Capital Grants

Grant Income received relating to the purchase of capital items is shown as Unamortised Capital Grant and brought to account over the expected life of the asset in proportion to the related depreciation charge.

Interest Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Donations

Donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds which is generally at the time of receipt.

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

h. 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 (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

i. Economic Dependence

The entity is dependent on Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. At the date of this report the Committee has no reason to believe VLA will not continue to support the entity.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Note 2: Income Tax Expense		
Prima facie tax payable on operating profit at 30% (2014: 30%)	24,435	2,438
Less tax effect of:		
- non-taxable member income arising from principle of mutuality	(24,435)	(2,438)
Income tax expense	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Note 3: Cash and cash equivalents		
Petty Cash	283	300
Cash at Bank	574,628	462,219
	<u>574,911</u>	<u>462,519</u>
Note 4: Trade and other receivables		
Accounts receivable	16,158	43,810
Prepayments	-	1,184
	<u>16,158</u>	<u>44,994</u>
Note 5: Property, plant and equipment		
Office Equipment - Original Cost	46,325	46,325
Less accumulated depreciation	(43,165)	(39,219)
	<u>3,160</u>	<u>7,106</u>
Note 6: Trade and other payables		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	22,038	12,356
Credit cards	610	1,168
	<u>22,648</u>	<u>13,524</u>
Note 7: Provisions		
Current		
Employee Entitlements	18,799	24,307
Non-Current		
Employee Entitlements	<u>48,262</u>	<u>40,822</u>

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Note 8: Deferred Income		
CLSP Funds received in advance	15,324	7,256
Non-CLSP Funds received in advance	116,082	137,046
Grants received in advance	<u>131,406</u>	<u>144,302</u>

CLSP Funds \$15,324 (Includes SACS ERO for future years - 2015: \$8,090, 2014: \$5,507, 2013: \$1,727)

The liability for deferred income is the unutilised amounts of grants received on the condition that specified services are delivered or conditions are fulfilled. The services are usually provided or the conditions usually fulfilled within 12 months of receipt of the grant. Where the amount received is in respect of services to be provided over a period that exceeds 12 months after the reporting date or the conditions will only be satisfied more than 12 months after the reporting date, the liability is discounted and presented as non-current.

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Note 9: Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Surplus from Ordinary Activities after Income Tax		
Profit after income tax	81,450	8,126
Cash flows excluded from operating profit attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in profit		
- Depreciation	3,949	3,949
Changes in assets and liabilities;		
- (Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	28,833	120,031
- Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	9,124	(15,324)
- Increase/(decrease) in grants in advance	(12,896)	(53,011)
- Increase/(decrease) in provisions	1,932	7,055
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	<u>112,392</u>	<u>70,826</u>

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

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2015


The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 7:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Young People's Legal Rights Centre Inc. as at 30 June 2015 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Young People's Legal Rights Centre Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:


Chairperson

Dated: 29 October 2015

Treasurer

Dated: 22 October 2015

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

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Young People's Legal Rights Centre Inc. , which comprises the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2015, statement of cash flows and the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification by members of the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

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

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

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

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Young People's Legal Rights Centre Inc. as at 30 June 2015 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic).

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

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



Sean Denham

Dated: 2ND NOVEMBER 2015

Suite 1, 707 Mt Alexander Road

Moonee Ponds VIC 3039



Young People's Legal Rights Centre

Inc No A0041616E

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