

# YOUTH LAW

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

**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.

# Contents

<b>Report from the Chair</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Report from the Director</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Who we assisted this year</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Our Legal Services</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Legal education and resources</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Youthlaw Financial Report</b>	<b>21</b>

## Report from the Chair

It has been a tremendous year of growth and opportunity at Youthlaw as our staff, volunteers and board members have continued to make a significant contribution to the rights of young people across the state.

Our outreach program has expanded with the support of the Phyllis Connor Memorial Trust and through a new partnership with Headspace, the National Youth Mental Health Foundation, which has enabled us to provide further outreach legal services through five Headspace centres. Youthlaw has also established a family violence program to improve the responsiveness of Frontyard youth services to young people experiencing violence. Through this program, and with funding support from the Department of Justice & Regulation Youthlaw has also provided a duty lawyer service to the Children's Court.

In our policy and advocacy work, Youthlaw has embarked on a 3 year justice re-investment project funded by the Legal Services Board. Youthlaw has also established a new legal training partnership with the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVic) to develop a sustainable training enterprise. Youthlaw has intervened in a number of test cases where we expect key findings to be made about young people and their interactions with the legal system, and systemic advocacy to challenge court practice in relation to toll fines and court fines.

On the technological front Youthlaw has increased its reach to young people through online and social media platforms. Paper Giants provided amazing assistance in the redevelopment of the Youthlaw website and journalist and media expert Marie Macinerny helped us to review Youthlaw communications and train Youthlaw staff. Together with Melbourne Law School, Youthlaw developed a new "Your Rights" mobile phone application. Youthlaw has also been greatly assisted by trained law student volunteers who, under supervision, have been managing case work and providing advice to clients in a dedicated fines clinic.

Youthlaw has received strong support from within the private legal sector and we have formed a number of new partnerships over the course of the last year. Ashurst have continued to be a long term key supporter of Youthlaw, and this year we have seen the launch of a new pro bono court program to represent clients at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court each Thursday. New partnerships have been formed with law firms K&L Gates and Collins Biggers & Paisley to review Youthlaw legal education resources and to take on crime compensation cases and provide a range of other support to our legal team.

Youthlaw has also worked collaboratively within the sector by supporting other community legal centres to increase their assistance to young people. In particular Youthlaw has provided assistance to the youth family violence project at the Hume Riverina Legal Service in Wodonga, and the youth legal outreach service at Murray Mallee Legal Centre in Mildura. Youthlaw also provided resources to, and supported a number of youth focused lawyers including Vincent Shin a school lawyer in Werribee and Caleb Leitmanis a youth lawyer embedded in the Ballarat Community Health service.

All of the above could not have been achieved without the hard work, perseverance, enthusiasm and passion of Youthlaw staff, board and volunteers. In particular thanks to Ariel Couchman who has done such a terrific job in guiding the organisation over a number of years.

On a personal note, my term on the Youthlaw board will end at our AGM in November 2016. It has been a privilege and pleasure to be involved with Youthlaw as a volunteer and board member over the past 8 years. It is an organisation full of passionate staff, volunteers and supporters who truly believe in young people and want the best for their future. I look forward to continuing my involvement in a new capacity and wish everyone in the Youthlaw community the very best for the bright future ahead.

**Monica Lillas**  
Chairperson

## Report from the Director

This year we welcomed significant state government programs, funding & legislative initiatives to address the needs of vulnerable young people:

This included:

- \$5.6 million to state-wide youth diversion (over two years)
- \$19.4 million for community crime prevention
- Funded initiatives to keep or re-engage children in school such as the Navigator program (\$8.6 million over 2 years) and Lookout education Centres (\$13.2 million over 4 years)
- Reforms to strengthen the child protection system, funding of Children & Youth area partnerships, & funding packages to move young people out of residential care to family based care
- \$572 million to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Family Violence (including specific funding for children and youth)
- Repeal of a breach of bail offence for under 18's.

We continued to advocate for:

- Fines reform to early exit vulnerable young people and those without capacity to pay
- Legislated and state wide youth diversion
- Independent investigation of police complaints
- Police & PSO accountability and professionalism with regard to young people
- Reducing imprisonment of young people under 25 & effective and tailored rehabilitation in detention and prison
- Reversal of Victoria Legal Aid restrictive guidelines for 15 to 18 year olds
- Reversal of proposed Federal Government funding cuts & increased funding to legal assistance providers (Victoria Legal Aid & community legal centres) that assist the most vulnerable to protect and assert their legal rights

This year we raised awareness of the reality for many young Victorians including:

- 10,000 children and young people who dropped out from Victorian high schools, training and apprenticeships
- Over 7,000 young Victorians removed from their families due to abuse and neglect
- Over 6,000 young Victorians without a home
- 12.5% to 17 % of young people under 25 unemployed.

This year we engaged in the public & media debate on youth crime. This was greatly assisted by the new Victorian Crimes Statistics Agency and their regular releases of crime data and research.

Despite these releases some media outlets and organisations continued to portray Victoria youth offending as a crime wave and on the increase. The reality is that the number of young people offending has significantly declined and has been trending down for the past 5 to 10 years. This is consistent with an international trend in high income countries such as Canada, the USA and New Zealand.

It appears we have a generation characterised by less risky behavior and offending. They are more secure, using fewer drugs and more engaged in education than previous generations. Most significant is the steady decline in the number of 10 to 14 year olds offending given that early offending is a strong predictor of future and repeat offending and imprisonment.

This year we have seen a spike in repeat and often very serious offending (car jacking, car stealing, thefts and home burglaries). These are being committed by a relatively small number of young people and their offending is characterised by very high repeat offending and in many cases very serious and risky behavior. This has received a lot of media attention and has understandably alarmed the community.

Victoria Police have responded with intelligent and effective policing. They have targeted resources and are consulting with experts and with young people. The government, Victoria Police & agencies have been working closely to better understand this offending and effective ways to intervene with current offenders and in the longer term intervene early to prevent future offending. We participated in many highly productive government and police round tables with leaders from across the community. There is strong agreement that early intervention is the key. There is recognition that many of these young people feel marginalised and without hope for the future and that contributing factors are unemployment and marginalisation.

The state Government has resisted pressure to respond with punitive law & order solutions such as harsher bail & sentencing laws, housing young offenders in a separate high security facility and name and shame laws. They know that these responses are ineffective and very costly.

We agree with Rob Hulls (Director, Centre for Innovative Justice at RMIT University and former state attorney-general) that "Our system should be putting young offenders on a different and constructive path – not one towards a darker and ultimately ineffective place" and that "This does not mean that we should excuse their offence or condone any destructive or

violent behaviour. It does not mean that any violence that they use is less terrifying or distressing to those who experience it."

We have consistently lobbied for responses that are effective, evidence based and in accordance with human rights.

This year we have also joined with many community leaders to raise alarm at spiralling prison numbers and to call for a justice reinvestment approach to tackle all crime. In October 2015 with our partners in the Smart Justice for Young People Coalition we launched into an exciting 3 year project Building the case for Justice Reinvestment.

Thank you to the wonderful team at Youthlaw including staff, volunteers and Board. You continually surprise and delight me with your skills, talents, insights, compassion, sense of fun and of course so much commitment to making a difference.

Despite under resourcing and the endless tiring chase for funding, Youthlaw continues to have impact way above its weight.

**Ariel Couchman**

Director

## Who we assisted this year

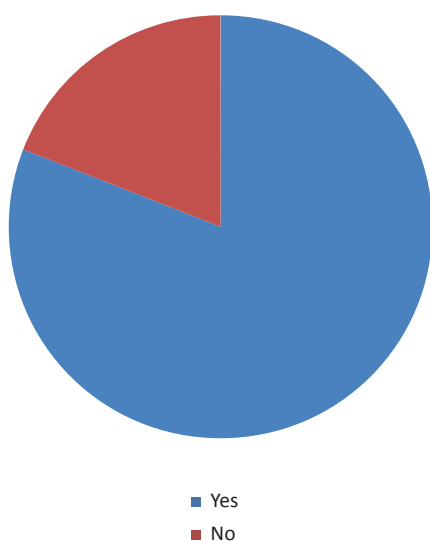
In 2015–16, **1315** young people were provided legal advice and **340** new cases were taken on.

The breakdown:

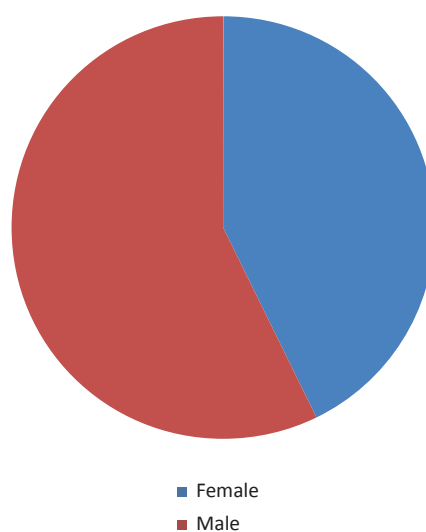
- **794** young people seen at our Frontyard drop in clinic
- **230** young people assisted with fines at the Friday Fines clinic
- **167** young people assisted through our outreach services
- **51** young people seen at a youth detox centre in Melbourne CBD
- **501** young people provided legal information by email and phone
- **754** adults provided legal information by email and phone
- **340** new cases taken on and **552** ongoing cases.
- **169** young people represented at court
- **25** legal sessions to **756** young people
- **50** legal training sessions to **1124** workers and adults

In addition, our RMIT service assisted **660** RMIT students (all ages) online and on-site at the RMIT CBD campus and by Skype to the Brunswick and Bundoora campuses.

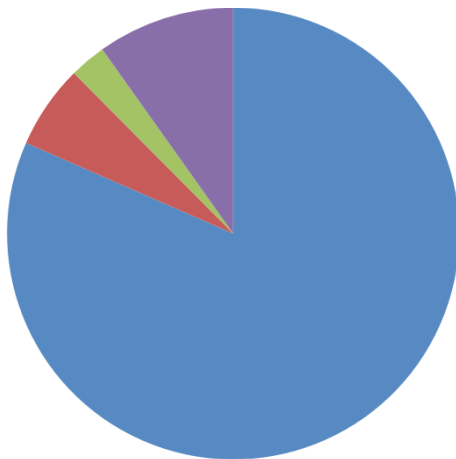
**Risk of Homelessness**



**Gender**



**Income Source**



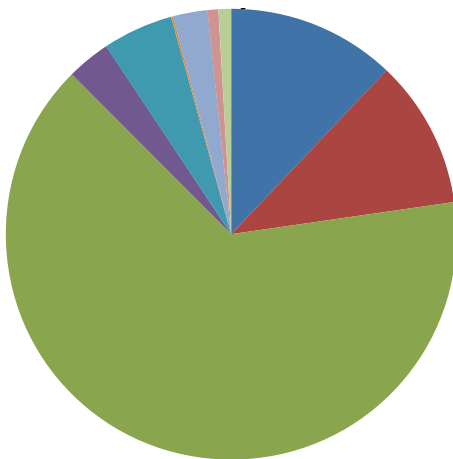
- Centrelink
- Employment
- Other Income
- No Income

**Age**



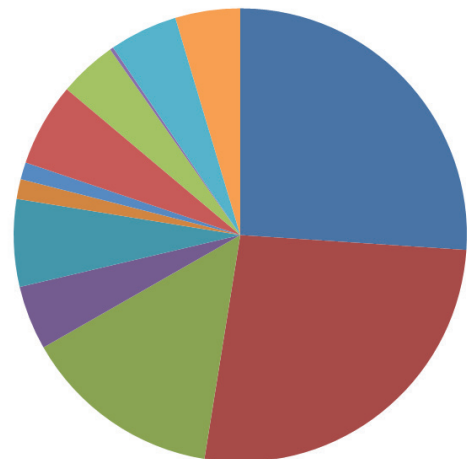
- Under 14
- 14-17
- 18-20
- 21-25
- Over 25

**Country of Origin**



- Africa
- Asia
- Australia
- Europe
- Middle East
- North America
- NZ
- Pacific
- South America

**Type of Problem**



- Infringements (e.g. ticketing and public space)
- Criminal
- Driving Offences
- Credit and Debt
- Other Civil (e.g. crimes comp, guardianship)
- Family Law (includes becoming independent)
- Car Accidents
- Family Violence and Sexual Assault
- Employment
- Immigration



# Our Legal Services

## DROP IN LEGAL CLINIC AT FRONTYARD YOUTH SERVICES

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. Their legal issues include 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 leave them unprotected from abuse, burden them with debt 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 in with supports and services

In turn:

- We are able to tell their story to the courts
- We are able to communicate their stories to decision-makers to achieve systemic changes and lobby for much needed services

This year we received two donations from the fundraising organisation Streetsmart to contribute to 'Legal help for homeless youth'.

Lee Carnie produced a great video on Youthlaw to be shown at Frontyard to explain our service. Thanks to our Frontyard clinic lawyers over this year, Anna, Maie, Kathryn, Annika, Ashleigh, Sally and Karen.

### Anna, 14

*Anna told us that her mum would yell at her constantly, calling her names and making her feel worthless, and that her mum would threaten to kill herself when Anna didn't do what she said. Anna often stayed home from school to take care of her mum.*

*Anna didn't feel safe living with her mum and wanted to move in with her dad and little sister who lived a couple of hours away. Sometimes it got so bad that Anna thought about running away and hitch-hiking to her dad's house. She*

*was afraid to tell anyone because she didn't want anything bad to happen to her mum.*

*Youthlaw explained to Anna that she has the right to feel safe in her home, be able to go to school and not be frightened all the time. They spoke about her options including moving to her dad's house, when the police or child protection might get involved in her life and how to do this the safest way possible. They spoke about speaking to her school welfare worker.*

*Anna is now living with her dad and sees her mum every second weekend and her is receiving help. Anna had to move to a new school but feels much safer and happier.*

### Tom, 21

*Tom came to Youthlaw referred by his housing worker. Tom was homeless and staying in a youth refuge. He had criminal charges coming up for losing his temper and damaging other people's property. Tom had been seeing a counsellor to talk about his anger management issues, but he had run out of sessions.*

*Tom told his lawyer that his anger issues for a while. It got worse after he was beaten up. There was family violence when he was growing up. He found it particularly difficult to feel safe when he was homeless and moving around between different youth refuges with other young people who were often aggressive towards him.*

*Youthlaw represented Tom in court for his criminal charges and also assisted him to apply for Victims of Crime assistance. The Tribunal agreed that Tom needed counselling and money to help him move into more stable housing. Tom moved into a private rental and is seeing a psychologist.*

### Jacob, 19

*Jacob was referred to Youthlaw by a housing worker. He has an intellectual disability and came in with a pile of official-looking documents. He was terrified he'd be sent to jail and going to court. Just thinking about it would make Jacob feel sweaty, get his heart racing, affect his breathing and made him want to run as far away as he could.*

*Jacob's lawyer explained to him about court and his charges and supported him through the process. The police and the court agreed that Jacob should be referred to a diversion program to give him with a second chance before getting a criminal record.*

## FRIDAY FINES CLINIC

Our clinic is staffed by six trained volunteers supervised by a lawyer. The volunteers speak to clients and undertake all the work on their fines. For those who can help themselves we offer our fines self-help kit and advice.

Fines are a big problem for young people who have few means and particularly those struggling with homelessness, poor mental health and other issues. They may seem minor to many people but can be very stressful to the clients we assist.

The fines system is ridiculously complicated and is wasting public money to take these young people to court. We continue to advocate for system reform to enable vulnerable people to be exited from the fines system.

This year the fines clinic volunteers supervised by our lawyers Maie and Kathryn did a fantastic job. The number of cases more than doubled and we needed to train up more volunteers. Outcomes for clients were consistently good and feedback to an evaluation of the program in July 2015 indicated high satisfaction of clients and referral services. Diverting fines cases to the clinic has enabled our lawyers to take on more complex cases, including court representation.

We thank the Legal Service Board for the establishment and evaluation of a pilot of the fines clinic for 12 months.

Thanks to our Fines clinic volunteers. Thanks to our lawyers Maie, Kathryn and Anna.

### Olivia, 24

*Olivia left home when she was 15 due to family breakdown and has spent the last 10 years struggling to find stable accommodation. Olivia also suffered from depression, anxiety and schizophrenia throughout this time which went untreated because of her housing situation.*

*Olivia came to the Friday Fines Clinic for assistance with a number of fines she had accumulated over the years. As she was moving from place to place and because she was quite unwell, it was difficult for her to keep up with her fines.*

*Youthlaw applied to have Olivia's fines revoked, as her circumstances fall under one of the categories for special circumstances. The court granted special circumstances and all of Olivia's fines were revoked.*



Friday fines clinic and staff (L-R). Top row: Andrew Rankin, Georgia Mackenzie, Kathryn McGregor, Ali Towers, Georgie Lett, Anna Radonic, Ariel Couchman. Bottom row: Annina Tropea, Monique Joyce, Jess Ginberg, Ash Littlewood, Hannah Lunt

### Ellie, 20

*Ellie was the main carer for her mum who suffered from a neurological condition. When Ellie could not look after her mum anymore, and her mum was moved into a high care facility, Ellie became homeless. Ellie had no other family to turn to, and spent time couch-surfing and staying in refuges. Ellie was also aware that she too may inherit the condition, and was very stressed and anxious about this. Her stress and anxiety increased when she became pregnant with her first child.*

### Ellie, 19

*Ellie came into Youthlaw for help with her fines after hearing about our Friday Fines Clinic from her support worker. Youthlaw applied to the court to have her fines revoked based on her special circumstances. At court, all of her fines were dismissed.*

## FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAM

In January 2016 we established our Family Violence program with funding from the Department of Justice & Regulation. Lawyer Annika Dimitrijevic joined us with lots of experience in the adult family violence system. The aim of the program is to improve the responsiveness of all services at Frontyard and hopefully more broadly in the youth sector to young people experiencing violence in the home. Annika assists young people referred to her by Frontyard and by external youth services. She also provides a lawyer service to the Children's Court to assist victims of violence and those using violence in the home.

This year we submitted to the Royal Commission into Family Violence and attended consultations. We welcomed the Royal Commission report in March 2016 and in particular their recognition that young people are often forgotten in the service system and require a differentiated response from adults, including those who are using violence in the home.

### Tim's Story

*My name is Tim and I'm 16 years old. I left school a while ago to complete a VCAL course. I've never got along with my dad and since I turned 16, I've largely lived away from him with friends and at my girlfriend's place with her family.*

*Recently, I really needed to come home. I'd been out of the house and I just wanted to come back to the house and be around my own things. My dad was being really aggressive towards me. I tried to leave the house, but he grabbed me and pinned me to the ground. I fought back and screamed at him to get off of me. I was really aggressive back to him. I wanted to fight him. My sister called the police and they turned up. They told me that I had to leave the house and applied for an Intervention Order protecting my dad. This meant I wasn't allowed back to house. Because the police were called and my dad made a statement about me threatening him, I've also been charged with a criminal offence. I've never had any other issues with police before. I was cautioned once for being in possession of a small amount of cannabis. That's about it. When police turned up, I admitted everything. They told me they'd have to charge me. This means I could end up with a criminal record.*

---

### Sam's Story

*I've just turned 17 years old. Police applied for an Intervention Order protecting my dad because of something which happened between us. My parents separated years ago and my dad has moved on with another family. My mum has a disability now and can't work. My dad never pays for anything. I have to spend every second weekend with him.*

*My dad doesn't get me. My dad always gives me the 3rd degree about where I'm going and who I'm hanging out with. I lost it with him last weekend. He got in my way and I shoved him. His new wife called the cops on me. The cops applied for an Intervention Order against me and took me back to my mum's. My mum was really mad at my dad about the whole thing which stressed her out more. She doesn't need the stress. I don't think I'll ever speak to my dad again.*

---

### Sarah's Story

*Police referred Sarah, 14 to Youthlaw. Sarah was supported by her older brother at court. She told us that life at home had become increasingly tense and that she didn't feel safe there with her mum and step-dad. They drink a lot and it made her anxious. When her mum drinks she walks on egg-shells. She can't do anything right. She doesn't know her step-dad very well.*

*She tries to spend as much time in her room but that this aggravates her mum. One night her mum came into her room and picked a fight with her about this. It got bad and she called the police.*

*Police came and applied for an Intervention Order protecting her from both her mum and step-dad. Police also told Sarah that they would be interviewing her step father about her bruises. The Police took her to her dad's place. She felt safe there.*

*Sarah told us she didn't want her mum punished and she still wanted to be able to see her but didn't want to be forced to go home to her mum's place yet because she wanted her mum and step-dad to get help.*

*At court her mother and step-father were opposing the order. The magistrate heard Sarah's views, took into account her age and the police involvement. Both matters resolved on the day with limited Intervention Orders being granted which meant that the client was still protected but also allowed for the parties to have contact and attend counselling together.*

---

## OUTREACH PROGRAM

Youthlaw is based in Melbourne but we are state wide service. To ensure we reach young people across Victoria we partner with Frontline youth services to provide legal services through them and through their staff. We provide legal help by Skype, secondary consultation to workers, by phone and clinics. We also train up staff in these services and within their region as we know that many young people seek their help rather than go to a lawyer. We also provide a lot of legal sessions including in schools.

Currently Youthlaw has partnerships with:

- 6 Headspace centres (Bendigo, Warrnambool, Frankston, Glenroy, Dandenong/Narre Warren and Wodonga)
- Barwon Child, Youth and Family Services
- The Bridge Youth services in Shepparton and Seymour
- Mornington Peninsula Shire youth centres (Shed 11 in Hastings, The Y lounge in Rosebud and The corner in Mornington)
- The state wide Youth Drug and Alcohol Advice service (YODAA).

This year we also provided services to an alternative school, a hub of youth services in Heidelberg and the Youth Support Service (YSS) covering the northwest suburbs.

We also supported community legal centres to establish youth legal services.

Thanks to our outreach lawyers this year, Megan, Lee, Karen and Joanne. Thanks to our outreach partners.

*My name is Emily – I have been a social worker for 10 years and recently met Lee through our partnership with Youthlaw.*

*I want to express to you how grateful I am for the work that she recently completed for my client who is experiencing severe disadvantage and trauma. Lee's response was super helpful and much appreciated. Her presentations to our team have also been informative and highly professional.*



Lee Carnie – Outreach lawyer – Legal training of workers in Warrnambool

### Salina, 20

*Salina came to us via a youth worker at one of our outreach services. Salina had an eviction hearing coming up and didn't know what to do.*

*Salina and her boyfriend moved into their flat when she became pregnant. Soon after their baby was born, he lost his job and became depressed about not being able to find other work. He stopped paying rent and she tried to support him and their new baby on her Centrelink income. Her family had been angry with her when they found out she was pregnant and she had little support from them.*

*Youthlaw negotiated with Salina's landlord and explained her circumstances. Salina's landlord was very understanding and willing to support Salina to stay in the property, and agreed to the arrears being paid on a payment plan. Soon after, Salina's boyfriend got a job and they are still living in the house. Salina also went to see a financial counsellor to help with budgeting.*

### Outreach to a Youth Detox unit

We visit a youth detox unit once per month, providing group information, individual client advice and casework, 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.





## RMIT STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE

We provide a legal service to RMIT students. The service is largely online which is convenient for students, who can access the legal service through the RMIT website. Where appropriate, students are provided with self-help options. For more serious legal matters 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 and employment, fines, charges and consumer disputes. International students are high users of the service. Many experience workplace exploitation, breaches of their tenancy rights and fee scams.

This year we have conducted sessions for students and staff, such as recently arrived international students, and on subjects such as tenancy and consumer rights.

Thanks to our RMIT legal service lawyers this year Annie, Karen Czarny, Kathryn (for a moment) and James.

*"Since the beginning of our tenancy we have had a leak in the living room and the place is now mouldy. The landlord has been notified but won't do anything. A few people have come round to look at it but they won't fix it. Is there any further actions we can take?"*

*"There has been an issue with where I work. I believe I am being underpaid. Recently I was 'told to quit' and now the owner isn't paying the rest of my wages. I am in desperate need of help as I've heard the owner has done this with a few other employees and gotten away with it".*

*"I had a car accident earlier this year. Yesterday I got a summons from the Magistrate Court requesting I attend. What do I do?"*

## ASK A LAWYER SERVICE

Our 9 to 5 phone advice service provides quick information to young people and adults assisting them. Common calls are about urgent situations like police interviews and prospective charges, fines and court hearings.

Our Ask a Lawyer email service works well for younger people who find it more difficult to come in and see us. Workers and professionals also use the service to get information to assist young people and to clarify their legal obligations

*"I was working for a company for roughly a year and a half. Over that time my boss was underpaying me a considerable amount. I have taken the route of going through the Fairwork ombudsman and it has reached the stage of taking my old employer to court. I am seeking advice on the stages and forms I have to fill out. I have as much of the evidence as I am aware of which includes pay slips and bank statements, for the period I was refused pay slips. Any information you could hand out would be greatly appreciated. Thanks."*

*"I work at Subway as a junior (I am 15 years old and have worked there for a year). We have a new boss and he is expecting juniors to work shifts on their own (I have 3 hours on my own in the afternoon tomorrow) and do the work that used to only be done by seniors, but he is not increasing our pay for those shifts. Is it legal for him to change our work conditions and not pay more? I asked him if we would get paid more and he said no. Kind regards."*

*"Hi, I was on the train last week and received a fine for not having a concession card, when I told the officer that I had my student ID he told me that they don't accept it and I would be receiving a fine in the mail within the next month. Although I haven't received the fine yet and it's only been 9 days I was wondering if there was any way I could avoid it (if I do end up getting the fine). As a 17 year old student it's hard enough earning money and so this fine would be really hard on me. Is there any advice you could give me."*

*"I am wondering if you can please answer a question for me, is there an age that a young person who is not living with a relative or family member, who is not under the care of child protection can become independent and sign their own camp forms etc and is there a document or form that they can sign to say that they are independent to cover organisations etc if they have signed their own consent forms for a camp etc. This is for the State of Victoria. Thanks for your assistance."*

## Legal education and resources

For 12 months up until July 2015 our education lawyer Annie Davis undertook a project 'Reach Out & Connect' to test our education resources (fact sheets, videos and apps) on young people. This doubled as legal education and she travelled far and wide, undertaking a total of 40 presentations. The findings of her report confirm the importance of person to person and tailored education, as well as online information.

This year we launched our new website, with much better access to our legal re-sources and embarked on a new partnership with law firm K&L Gates, who will contribute much of the pro bono assistance by way of updating our legal resources.

We continued our strong partnership with the Victoria Legal Aid Education unit. VLA is the main provider of legal education materials. We handed over our Streetlaw videos and education kit to be included in their new school education resource. This will be widely distributed to schools and other users, reaching a far greater audience than we could and they will maintain updating of the content.

VLA also consulted with Youthlaw in regard to their scoping lawyers in schools & advocacy to government to include legal rights as a component of the compulsory respectful relationships program in all public schools.

Youthlaw continued to receive praise for its online resources. In 2015 & 2016 we were invited to speak to a number of conferences and forums about our online resources including our mobile friendly app. In 2016 we utilised programs at both RMIT and Melbourne university to involve students and software companies to apply technological solutions to legal problems. In later 2016 our 'Your Rights' app will go public on our website.

We continued to provide legal education sessions including the following:

- Launch Housing – Police powers / powers of authorities
- Box Hill TAFE VCAL on street law using the resource 'Street Smart'
- Melbourne Academy Pickle Street

- WAVE School, Warrnambool – Sexting & Cyberbullying
- CLE, Emmanuel College, Warrnambool – Sex and the law & sexting
- Hastings, Street Law training – Shed 11 Hastings (150 yp)
- Arabic Welfare Inc Ilim College – common legal issues
- Melbourne Polytechnic – Cyberbullying – VCAL, Heidelberg Heights
- Mt Eliza High School – Sex & the law – Mt Eliza
- Y the ABC – event organised by Brimbank Council & Sunshine VISY Hub – sex & the law CLE, Sunshine
- Craigieburn Youth Services – Young people's rights & responsibilities & Info about Youthlaw
- Melbourne Polytechnic – Preston – Info on Youthlaw and young people's rights and authorities
- Corio Nelson Park School (YP with IDs) – Police powers for under 18s–20 YP
- Box Hill Institute – Police powers for young people – Box Hill – 20 young people
- Mornington Peninsula Council – credit & debt for young mum's playgroup – Hastings – 10 YP

## TRAINING FOR WORKERS

One of the best ways to get legal information to young people is through people they trust and seek help from, such as youth workers, teachers, and counsellors. These adults also refer young people to legal help. We provide legal training and secondary consultations to workers. We have produced videos, fact sheets and present many training workshops tailored to those supporting young people.



This year we established a training partnership with the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVIC). The aim is to develop an on-going sustainable training enterprise providing low cost legal training to those who work with young people. The training focus in 2015 has been rolling out practical & low cost training to youth workers about new laws to protect and respond to sexual abuse.

This year our legal training included:

- Headspace Warrnambool – parents group – sexting & cyberbullying
- TBYS Shepparton and Seymour – duty of care and privacy / confidentiality training
- Vincent Care Glenroy – Fines, IVO and debt training
- Dandenong Headspace – Identifying Legal Issues training
- Glenroy Headspace – Identifying Legal Issues training
- Wodonga Headspace – Identifying Legal Issues training
- Glenroy Headspace – Identifying Legal Issues training
- St Albans youth workers network – Identifying Legal Issues
- Frontyard Youth Services – duty of care / privacy and confidentiality – failure to disclose / protect
- The Bridge Youth Service Shepparton – Sex & YP for workers

- Hume Riverina Community Legal Service – CLE for young people on different topics – Wodonga
- Victoria University Youth work students – general legal issues for YP – Melbourne

This year we provided training to workers across Victoria on the new Fail to Disclose and Protect laws arising from the Commission into Institutional Sexual Abuse.

Training to workers included the following:

- Royal Children's Hospital ( doctors)
- Glen Iris Youth Support Advocacy Service (YSAS) Detox unit
- Shepparton The Bridge Youth Service
- Heidelberg North East Services Connect
- Seymour The Bridge Youth Service
- Headspace Frankston
- Barwon Youth, Geelong West
- Mitchell Shire Council, Broadford
- Upper Murray Family Care & Hume Riverina Community Legal Service Wodonga
- Wangaratta NESAY
- Shed 11 Hastings
- St Kilda Council
- Frontyard Youth Services
- Royal Children's Hospital (adolescent unit) (doctors / nurses)
- Warrnambool Headspace
- YSAS Detox (AOD workers)
- YSAS Managers, Fitzroy
- Carlton YMCA
- Craigieburn Headspace
- Glenroy Headspace
- Dandenong and Narre Warren Headspace
- Wodonga Gateway Health & Headspace

## POLICY AND ADVOCACY

We lobby, campaign and seek to influence change to policy and laws that impact on young people.

This year, Tiffany Overall, our Human Rights and Advocacy Officer, led our policy and advocacy program.

Much of this was through the Smart Justice for Young People (SJ4YP) coalition that we established in 2011 to strengthen our policy impact through collaboration with over 30 legal, youth, health, welfare and other non-legal organisations.

Otherwise Youthlaw has a Policy platform (on our website) that guides our other policy work. This year key issues were reversal of the breach of bail laws introduced in 2014, state wide youth diversion, fines reform, police accountability and independent investigation of police complaints and a differentiated response to young people experiencing family violence.

We also respond to emerging issues in the public domain. This year included commentary of youth crime trends, youth crime data, the release of the Royal Commission into Family Violence report and youth remand and detention issues.

## Building the case for youth justice reinvestment

Funded by the Victorian Legal Services Board and the Kimberley Foundation

From October 2015 Youthlaw and our SJ4YP coalition partners have embarked on an exciting 2.5 year project on justice reinvestment. This project will create debate and awareness, the options and will build the case for JR to be taken up by government.

## Victorian Legal Services BOARD + COMMISSIONER

Funded through the Grants Program

## The Kimberley Foundation



Tiffany Overall presenting at the 8th International Criminal Justice Conference ASCO on "Justice Reinvestment : Investing in young people's lives" together with Ben Schokman (Human Rights Law Centre, 21st October 2015)



## What is Justice Reinvestment?

Justice reinvestment has and is being implemented overseas (e.g. USA) and here in Australia (e.g. Bourke in NSW)

In the past year many Victorian leaders including Victorian Ombudsman Deborah Glass and Victoria's deputy chief magistrate Jelena Popovic have raised alarm about spiraling prison numbers and have called for Victoria to rethink its response to crime and to explore a justice reinvestment approach here in Victoria.

The facts:

- a 25% increase in prisoner numbers in last 3 years
- corrections expenditure of \$1 billion per year
- high % of prisoners with entrenched and overlapping disadvantage
- 85% of prisoners have very low education attainment
- 1/4 of prisoners are from 2% of the state's postcodes
- high % have been in the child protection system
- high % are Koori
- youth offender numbers are on the decline yet prison numbers are rising

Around 90% of these people will return to the community within ten years. But will they return to the community equipped with the skills, capabilities and motivation they need to avoid re-offending?

Key to a justice reinvestment approach is stopping crime and keeping people out of prison in the first place by redirecting money and resources from prisons to social measures tackling disadvantage and the causes of offending and giving community the resources and support they need to find local solutions to local problems.

Some of the most effective justice reinvestment initiatives to date have been community based and driven. All require data (from governments at all levels, police, courts and services) to inform their work.

Justice reinvestment aims to break the cycle of offending by focusing on and addressing underlying social causes of criminal offending such as family violence and breakdown, child abuse, trauma and

neglect and intervening where there is disengagement from school or work, alcohol and drug abuse and where there are barriers such as a mental health, race, unemployment and disability.

We recognize that governments, including the current state government, have under-taken significant work to invest in early intervention & prevention such as youth diversion, crime prevention grants, programs to address school disengagement and initiatives to move children in the child protection system to quality family based care.

Adopting a justice reinvestment approach however requires more. It involves adopting a long term whole of government framework. Ultimately justice reinvestment re-quires government to reduce numbers in the criminal justice system & and in prisons.

The project aims to generate awareness at a community level of the potential of taking this approach and spark interest and action in communities to demand that they be given the authority and resources to drive it .

There are many community initiatives in place now that are making a difference such as keeping at risk young people engaged in school, but they do not have justice re-form as a stated focus or outcome. We intend to build on this work and generate conversations about the gaps and what needs to change including a continuum of investment from early years to prisons and critical life points along the way.

*Building the case for justice reinvestment* aims to put it on the agenda!

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

We continue to develop and refine our volunteer program that has provided so much extra capacity to Youthlaw, has involved amazing and talented volunteers, and has provided mentoring and legal training for our future workforce.

In March we had our yearly intake and recruited over 30 new volunteers. During the year we also took on a number of Deakin Law students, interns from Melbourne University and Leo Cussen graduates.

This year we also employed 2 of our fantastic volunteers Kiri Crocker and Georgina Lett as volunteer co-ordination and administration workers. They did a great job with the intake, training, roster co-ordination and social event organisation for the program. We thank them dearly. They are enthusiastic, hard working, lovely and wonderful.

Here are some sentiments from this year's intake of volunteers:

### Amanda Ford

*I came to Youthlaw a few months after the January intake in 2016 and I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience so far. Being a volunteer at Youthlaw has allowed me to interact with a wide range of young people from different backgrounds and I have found it very rewarding helping them with their legal issues. Through Youthlaw I have become aware of the issues that young people face today.*

---

### Alexandra Vrdoljak

*I started working at Youthlaw in March 2016 and it has exceeded even my highest expectations. From the fantastic induction program that ensures we feel comfortable and confident from the get go to the lawyers efforts to give us new and interesting tasks to help us learn, I have thoroughly enjoyed coming in to Youthlaw every Thursday.*

---

### Andrew Rankin

*I started volunteering at Youthlaw in March 2016. I have loved my time here. Every-one has been very welcoming and I feel that I am learning a lot in addition to the sense of satisfaction that comes with assisting young people to manage their legal issues. I have just started as part of the Friday Fines team. The volunteers and lawyers have been so patient and generous with their time in training me in my new role. I want to thank everyone at Youthlaw for the opportunity I have been given.*

---

### Hannah Lunt

*Working at Youthlaw has given me great legal experience that I will be able to take with me into legal practice. Everyone at Youthlaw offers excellent support and it is wonderful to work in such a connected team. This experience has opened my eyes to many different aspects to working in the legal industry and I love the fact that I get to interact with young people and make a difference to their legal hardship.*

---

### Sharlene Kuruppuarachchi

*I have found volunteering at Youthlaw has opened my eyes to the legal challenges that are faced by young people. I feel inspired working under the supervision of the solicitors as they work tirelessly on behalf of their clients but they are humble and keen to impart their legal knowledge.*

---

### Kirsti Weisz

*Before volunteering at Youthlaw, I did not realise the huge array of legal issues young people can face. My casework and policy research at Youthlaw has equipped me with a better understanding of how the law operates in relation to children and young people who need legal assistance. Aside from the great experiences I have gained from this work, it has been terrific to be part of such an embracing and caring team at Youthlaw.*

---

### Nufar Gofman

*My time at Youthlaw has been extremely rewarding and an excellent practical learning experience. The lawyers and other staff are all lovely, supportive and genuinely interested in teaching volunteers the ropes of the legal industry. Gaining insight into the backgrounds of various marginalized youth has also opened my eyes and I feel lucky to be able to contribute to the broader community through this wonderful organisation.*

---



Ashurst Trivia night (fundraiser for Youthlaw)

## Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the following funders

- Community Legal Services Program –Victorian and Commonwealth Governments
- Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department – 3 year grant for our outreach legal service
- Victorian Legal Service Board – Fines Clinic and Justice Reinvestment projects
- Victoria Law Foundation – Reach Out and Connect education project & Fail to Disclose & Protect resources project
- Kimberly Foundation – Justice Reinvestment project
- Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation – Communications project and funding to maintain coordination of Smart Justice for Young People
- Phyllis Connor Memorial Trust – Outreach program
- Streetsmart/Cafesmart – for our Frontyard legal service
- Department of Justice & Regulation – Family violence program & development of Fines clinic
- Department of Health & Human Services – Contribution to legal training
- City of Melbourne – Child Safety training for workers

Thanks to our community legal pro bono partners:

- Ashurst
- K&L Gates
- Collins Biggers & Paisley lawyers

Many thanks to the many organisations, firms and individuals who provided support to Youthlaw:

Aitken lawyers, Maddocks (Kate Oliver and Mark Hayes), Barristers Natalie Blok, Jordana Cohen, Emrys Nekvapil, Jason Pizer and Fiona Spencer, Beth Carter (Ashurst) , Wayne Merritt, Deborah Fewster & Sherri Bruinhout & Melbourne City Mission and Frontyard Youth Services, Chis & Reuben at Paper Giants, Lucia Marin, Darren Lewin – Hill, Communications officer at the Federation of Community Legal Centres, Barwon Youth, Mornington Peninsula Shire Youth Services, The Bridge Youth Service in Seymour and Shepparton, YSAS, YSS and Headspace, Smart Justice for Young People Coalition members, Victoria Legal Aid & RMIT.

## A big thanks to all of our volunteers !!!!!

Special thanks to:

- Yasmin Geneva – For major fundraising assistance
- Natasha Gomez – For legal needs literature review
- James Tresise – For policy assistance
- Kiri Crocker – Volunteer co-ordination & admin
- Georgina Lett – Volunteer co-ordination & admin

And thanks to:

- Adiam Tsegay
- Alberta Gray
- Alex Croft
- Alexandra Vrdoljak
- Ali Towers
- Amanda Ford
- Andrew Rankin
- Annabelle Chai
- Annina Tropea
- Beryl Yan
- Cameron Bloye
- Cherie Fung
- Chloe Thomas
- Claire McBride
- Codey Larkin
- Dilusha Praneedi Jayasekara
- Disha Kamal
- Ellie Freemantle
- Eoin Twomey
- Erin Byrt
- Fay Zou
- Georgia Koskinas
- Georgia MacKenzie
- Georgina Lett
- Grace Bowran-Burge
- Hanna Lee
- Hannah Lunt

- Henry Hamilton Lindsay
- Jack Peterson
- James Aridas
- Jessica Ginberg
- Josephine Mammone
- Kaye Ho
- Kiri Crocker
- Kurstyn Miller
- Lee Be
- Luke Chircop
- Kirsti Weisz
- Mark Johnson
- Monica Lee
- Monique Joyce
- Natasha Gomez
- Nick Bolt
- Nufar Gofman
- Patrick Smith
- Scott Coffey
- Sharlene Kuruppuarachchi
- Steph Morley
- Tarika Seneviratne
- Teresa Gray
- Teresa Sun
- Thomas Greaves
- Yasmin Geneva

## **YOUTHLAW BOARD 2015–16**

- Monica Lillas, Chair
- Matthew Gregg, Secretary
- Daniel McQuilken, Treasurer (until 14 June 2016)
- Jan Farrell
- Nicole Jee
- Jon Goh
- Siobhan Mansfield

- Dana Harding
- Helen Thomas
- Megan Trethowan (Ashurst) until 21st April
- Adele Llewellyn (Ashurst)
- Dan Fawcett (Ashurst)

## **YOUTHLAW STAFF 2015–16**

- Ariel Couchman, Director
- Tiffany Overall, Human Rights & Advocacy Officer
- Anna Radonic, Principal Lawyer
- Lee Carnie, Lawyer (until May 2016)
- Maie Gibney, Lawyer (until April 2016)
- Megan King, Lawyer (until July 2015)
- Annie Davis, Lawyer/ Legal education / Communications (until Oct 2015)
- Kathryn McGregor – Lawyer (from March 2016)
- Karen Chibert – Lawyer (from June 2016)
- Joanne Ellis – Lawyer (from March 2016)
- Annika Dimitrijevic – Lawyer (from March 2016)
- James Tresise – Lawyer (from March 2016)
- David Mejia-Canales – Policy project officer (April to July 2016)
- Karen Czarny, secondee lawyer from Ashurst & lawyer at Youthlaw
- Sally Oliver, secondee lawyer from Ashurst
- Ashleigh Littlewood, secondee lawyer from Ashurst
- Kiri Crocker – Volunteer co-ordination and admin (from March 2016)
- Georgina Lett – Volunteer co-ordination and admin (from March 2016)

And Community West Finance staff :

- Melissa McShane-Murphy
- Noha Ghobrial

# Youthlaw Financial Report

2015 / 2016



127 Paisley Street  
Footscray VIC 3011  
Australia

Phone (03) 9680 1000  
Fax (03) 9689 6605

[www.collinsco.com.au](http://www.collinsco.com.au)

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

**Report on the Financial Report**

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Young People's Legal Rights Centre, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2016, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the statement by the members of the Committee.

**Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The Committee of the Association are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Victoria 2012). This responsibility includes establishing 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**

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I 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 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 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.

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

**Independence**

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

**Auditor's Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial report of Young People's Legal Rights Centre (the Association) is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Victoria 2012), including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance for the year ended; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards as per Note 1 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Victoria 2012).

**Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution**

Without modifying my 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 to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Victoria 2012). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Name of Auditor: Frederik R. L. Eksteen

Address: Collins & Co  
127 Paisley Street  
Footscray VIC 3011

Date: 20 October 2016



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

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Community Legal Centre - Recurrent Grants	318,056	307,344
Grants - Non-Recurrent	294,351	205,552
Grants - Non-Recurrent Brought Forward	-	34,006
Victoria Legal Aid Surplus Brought Forward	-	7,234
State Government ERO Provisioning	(723)	(15,324)
Donations	20,368	26,212
Interest Received	11,910	10,624
Other Income	26,588	65,180
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>670,551</b>	<b>640,828</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Employee Expenses	487,567	443,348
Depreciation and Amortisation Expense	3,226	3,946
Other Expenses	131,080	112,083
	<b>621,873</b>	<b>559,378</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>621,873</b>	<b>559,378</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION</b>	<b>48,678</b>	<b>81,450</b>

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Cash at Bank	492,910	577,818
Term Deposit	250,000	-
Petty Cash	263	283
	<u>743,173</u>	<u>578,101</u>
<b>Trade and Other Receivables</b>		
Accounts Receivable	19,213	16,158
Prepayments	5,838	-
	<u>25,051</u>	<u>16,158</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>768,224</u>	<u>594,259</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
<b>Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
Office Equipment - at Cost	56,466	46,325
Less: Provision for Depreciation	(46,391)	(43,165)
	<u>10,075</u>	<u>3,160</u>
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>10,075</u>	<u>3,160</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>778,299</u>	<u>597,420</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Trade and Other Payable</b>		
Accounts Payable	2,746	2,421
Accrued Expenses	42,802	6,462
Credit Cards	(732)	610
GST Payable	7,286	9,607
PAYG Withholding Tax Payable	14,973	3,548
Superannuation Payable	3,557	3,191
	<u>70,632</u>	<u>25,839</u>
<b>Deferred Income</b>		
CLSP Funds Received in Advance	24,788	15,324
Non-CLSP Funds Received in Advance	202,685	116,082
	<u>227,473</u>	<u>131,406</u>
<b>Employment Entitlement Provisions</b>		
Provision for Annual Leave	21,886	18,799
Provision for Long Service Leave	-	-
	<u>21,886</u>	<u>18,799</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>319,990</u>	<u>176,044</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Employment Entitlement Provisions</b>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	36,517	48,262
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>36,517</u>	<u>48,262</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>356,507</u>	<u>224,306</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>421,792</u>	<u>373,114</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Accumulated Members Funds	421,792	373,114
	<u>421,792</u>	<u>373,114</u>

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



YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE  
A.B.N. 12 794 935 230  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Accumulated Members Funds \$	Total \$
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2014</b>	291,664	291,664
Surplus attributable to the Association	81,450	81,450
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2015</b>	<u>373,114</u>	<u>373,114</u>
Surplus attributable to the Association	48,678	48,678
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2016</b>	<u><u>421,792</u></u>	<u><u>421,792</u></u>

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE**  
**A.B.N. 12 794 935 230**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from Grants		707,751	500,000
Receipts from Other Sources		38,064	91,392
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(582,512)	(486,434)
Interest Received		11,910	10,624
Net Cash Generated From/ (Used in) Operating Activities	1	<u>175,212</u>	<u>115,582</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payments for Property, Plant and Equipment		(10,140)	-
Net Cash (Used in)/ Provided by Investing Activities		<u>(10,140)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Increase/ (Decrease) in Cash Held		165,072	115,582
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Financial Year		578,101	462,519
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Financial Year	2	<u>743,173</u>	<u>578,101</u>

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE**  
**A.B.N. 12 794 935 230**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Note 1 - Net cash generated from/ (used in) operating activities</b>		
Net Deficit for the Year	48,678	81,450
Non-Cash Flow Item: Depreciation	3,226	3,946
(Increase)/ Decrease in Accounts & Other Receivables	(8,893)	28,833
Increase/ (decrease) in Trade and Other Payables	44,793	12,317
Increase/ (Decrease) in Grants Received in Advance	96,067	(12,896)
Increase/ (Decrease) in Provisions	(8,658)	1,932
	<u>175,212</u>	<u>115,582</u>
<b>Note 2 - Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>		
Cash at Bank	492,910	577,818
Term Deposit	250,000	-
Petty Cash	263	283
	<u>743,173</u>	<u>578,101</u>

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

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b><u>CLC Recurrent Grant Funding</u></b>		
Community Legal Centre (CLC) Recurrent - Commonwealth	152,664	143,208
Community Legal Centre (CLC) Recurrent - State	165,392	164,136
	<b>318,056</b>	<b>307,344</b>
<b><u>Grants - Non-Recurrent</u></b>		
Kimberley Foundation	18,333	20,000
RE Ross	-	15,000
Department of Justice - Family Violence	21,739	-
Department of Justice - CLC Assist	18,750	-
Department of Health & Human Services	9,082	-
Victoria Legal Services Board	69,000	-
Phyllis Connor	70,000	-
Fines LSB	3,582	42,979
RMIT	67,098	65,011
Victoria Law Foundation	5,100	32,562
HMST	-	30,000
Other Grants	11,667	-
Grants - Non-Recurrent Brought Forward	(7,234)	34,006
	<b>287,117</b>	<b>239,558</b>
<b>Victoria Legal Aid Surplus Brought Forward</b>	<b>7,234</b>	<b>7,234</b>
<b>State Government ERO Provisioning</b>	<b>(723)</b>	<b>(15,324)</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>20,368</b>	<b>26,212</b>
<b>Interest Received</b>	<b>11,910</b>	<b>10,624</b>
<b><u>Other Income</u></b>		
Community Legal Education	2,643	936
Costs Recovery & Retained	10,155	9,323
Deakin placements	1,200	1,200
Fundraising	10,016	6,107
Management Fees	-	43,361
Miscellaneous Income	2,574	4,184
Reimbursed Expenses	-	68
	<b>26,588</b>	<b>65,180</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>670,551</b>	<b>640,828</b>

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

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b><u>Staff Salaries, Wages &amp; Oncost</u></b>		
Salaries & Wages	451,742	394,177
Superannuation Contributions	42,836	39,828
Employee Leave Entitlements - Annual Leave	3,165	7,440
Employee Leave Entitlements - Long Service Leave	(11,745)	589
WorkCover	1,568	1,314
	<b>487,567</b>	<b>443,348</b>
<b><u>Premises Expenses</u></b>		
Rent	26,753	21,178
Amenities	1,730	578
Cleaning	-	525
Electricity, Gas and Fuel	-	3,575
Meetings	446	22
Security	-	325
	<b>28,929</b>	<b>26,203</b>
<b><u>Staff Related Expenses</u></b>		
Conference Fees	1,680	3,273
Police Checks	121	-
Staff Training	1,966	1,666
Staff Recruitment	440	100
	<b>4,207</b>	<b>5,038</b>
<b><u>Communications Expenses</u></b>		
Internet (ISP & Web Site)	2,189	2,020
Mobile Phones	1,000	899
Landline Telephones	1,980	6,004
Communications Project	1,389	-
Website	25,000	-
	<b>31,558</b>	<b>8,924</b>
<b><u>Office Overhead Expenses</u></b>		
AGM Expenses	400	415
Office Equipment Maintenance	749	20
Office Equipment Maintenance: IT support	7,441	5,828
Postage	1,186	786
Stationery & Photocopying	510	640
	<b>10,285</b>	<b>7,690</b>
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>2,375</b>	<b>2,284</b>

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

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b><u>Finance, Audit &amp; Accounting Fees</u></b>		
Accounting Fees	9,603	-
Audit Fees	3,000	3,000
Bank Charges	159	207
Lodgement Fees	-	106
	<b><u>12,761</u></b>	<b><u>3,313</u></b>
<b><u>Library, Resources &amp; Subscriptions</u></b>		
Library	13	332
Memberships & Subscriptions	5,768	6,103
Practising Certificates	-	1,308
	<b><u>5,780</u></b>	<b><u>7,743</u></b>
<b><u>Programming and Planning</u></b>		
Travel	4,748	3,823
Printing	2,434	2,142
Publicity	334	300
Strategic Planning	-	565
Client Disbursements	6,632	87
Project Management Fees	-	43,361
Consultants	15,000	-
Evaluation	3,173	-
Other Expenses	2,864	610
	<b><u>35,184</u></b>	<b><u>50,889</u></b>
<b>Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses</b>	<b>3,226</b>	<b>3,946</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b><u>621,873</u></b>	<b><u>559,378</u></b>
<b>NET SURPLUS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION</b>	<b><u>48,678</u></b>	<b><u>81,450</u></b>



**YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE**  
**A.B.N. 12 794 935 230**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

---

**Note 1 - Statement of Significant Accounting Policies**

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

**Policies Basis of preparation**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Victoria 2012). The 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, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

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

**Accounting Policies**

**a. Property, Plant and Equipment**

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

**Plant and Equipment**

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

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

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

**Depreciation**

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

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

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

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

**b. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

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

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE**  
**A.B.N. 12 794 935 230**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

---

**c. Revenue**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**d. Income Tax**

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

**e. Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

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

**f. Employment Entitlements**

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

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

**g. Provisions**

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



Young People's Legal Rights Centre

Inc No A0041616E

ABN 12 794 935 230

[www.youthlaw.asn.au](http://www.youthlaw.asn.au)

At Frontyard, 19 King Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Tel 9611 2412 | Fax 9620 3622

Email [info@youthlaw.asn.au](mailto:info@youthlaw.asn.au)