



ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

Making a difference to young lives



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<https://www.everydaylaw.org.au/blog/youthlaw-making-a-difference-to-young-lives>

OUR HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017-18



3,000+
young people
supported



1,006+
young people provided
with legal with information,
advice and representation



1,500+
legal questions
answered



600
RMIT students
assisted



162
young people
assisted by our family
violence team



15
pods of lawyers provided
by 5 law firms to our newly
established Legal Pod
program



We joined the **Central Highlands Health Justice** partnership in the Ballarat region and our youth lawyer started at **Ballarat Community Health** from March 2018



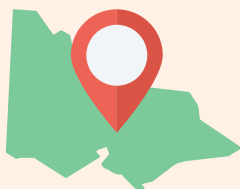
Continued to lead **Smart Justice for Young People Coalition**



37
people
volunteered
with us



74
new members
joined Youthlaw



13
outreach
partnerships and
locations



9
partnerships with
corporate law firms



\$11,293
fundraised at
Run Melbourne



\$5,643
fundraised at the **Ashurst**
annual trivia night

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

It has been another busy year for Youthlaw. We now have more programs across Victoria than ever before and continue to identify and respond to unmet needs of vulnerable young people through our integrated services.

We now assist and continue to assist:

- **young people transitioning out of state care** – with the support of the Legal Services Board, we this year launched the Legal Pod Program partnering with private law firms to provide a ‘pod’ of lawyers to answer day to day legal questions;
- **young people affected or involved in family violence** – Youthlaw’s multi-disciplinary family violence program which now provides both legal and non-legal assistance will soon reach its second anniversary and has had much success in the last year, with increased demand and opportunity for further growth;
- **young people in regional Victoria** – through our Outreach Program, Youthlaw continues to provide advice, Court advocacy and training at 12 community sites across Victoria in Bendigo, Warrnambool, Frankston, Glenroy, Dandenong/ Narre Warren, Wodonga, Shepparton, Seymour, Hastings and Rosebud as well as at YSAS Youth Detox Residential Unit in Melbourne;
- **young people in Ballarat** – in December last year we partnered with Ballarat Community Health, Federation University and Central Highlands Community Legal Centre to employ a lawyer to be co-located with the health centre;
- **young people in metropolitan Melbourne** – Youthlaw continues to provide legal assistance through its information service, its drop-in clinic and Friday fines clinic;
- **young people at university and those working with them** – our RMIT Program which combines direct legal assistance, legal training of support service staff and policy, continues to grow with the development of a service model for referrals and in advocacy in relation to housing and fines issues;
- **in advocating for their interests** – earlier this year, Youthlaw launched its policy platform ahead of this year’s state election which calls for a justice reinvestment approach, a focus on keeping young people in the community and ensuring respectful interactions with police.

None of this work would have been possible without the tireless efforts of Ariel, our Director, Anna and Tiffany our Principal Lawyer and Policy and Advocacy Officer, our staff, and the generosity of our funders, donors and volunteers.

As I will be stepping down as Chair, I would like to especially thank Ariel, Anna and Tiffany for their leadership and passion and say, how far Youthlaw has come in the last decade with our expanded service offering, our army of volunteers and ever willing, enthusiastic and capable staff. Congratulations, well done and may we continue the valuable work.

Nicole Jee
Chairperson

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

Youthlaw continued to develop & provide innovative and highly responsive legal services for vulnerable young people in Victoria.

- We welcomed a grant of \$300,000 from the Victorian Legal Services Board to establish & pilot a new service for young people leaving out of home care and transitioning to independence. This program will provide long-term legal assistance provided by pods of lawyers in private legal firms. As of 30 June 2018 we have 5 firms offering 15 pods and clients being allocated to them.
- Informed by our consultations with youth services, findings of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence & with a small grant from the Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation we set up a small family violence program staffed by 1 part-time lawyer in 2016. In 2017-18 this grew with a further grant from DOJR to include a specialist family violence worker. Key to the program is a quick response with a focus on safety, providing both legal & non-legal support & supporting until they are safe and linked with what they need. This year we developed the multi disciplinary practice, youth specific risk & intake assessment tools & strong relationships with a range of youth services. We also contributed to research being conducted by the RMIT Centre for Innovative Justice on adolescent violence in the home. Feedback about the program from clients & stakeholders has been extremely positive & we are very proud with what we have achieved.
- Our outreach legal service via 6 headspace centres and 3 regional youth centres continued to grow in reputation and client numbers. The service provides legal assistance to young people via these youth centres. In addition we train up staff at the host services, have visiting clinics & undertake local court representation. All this from Warrnambool to Wodonga by one lawyer!
- This year our RMIT legal service adapted along with major innovation in student service delivery at RMIT. For the legal service this resulted in greater integration with the student services through training the frontline student hub staff, smooth & responsive referral to our lawyer as required & an online service. In addition James our RMIT lawyer contributed to systemic changes including housing standards for external student accommodation to reduce exploitative & poor practices impacting on students.
- As always we stayed firmly embedded with our youth service partners at Frontyard Youth services providing a very flexible and responsive service to young people facing homelessness & in crisis.

We continued to tackle systemic issues. In 2017-18 this included advocating for a justice reinvestment approach to youth crime while engaging in the public youth crime debate.

We presented to the state parliament's Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) Committee inquiry into the Victorian police complaints system advocating for an independent police complaints body. In December 2017 the committee handed down its recommendations that include a significant move toward independent investigation.

As always the work of Youthlaw would not be possible without the tireless, passionate & skilled contribution of staff, volunteers and our Board.

Ariel Couchman
Director

OUR LEGAL SERVICES

DROP IN LEGAL CLINIC AT FRONTYARD YOUTH SERVICES



Frontyard Youth Services is a co-location of youth services where homeless and vulnerable young people can obtain assistance. Services include short & long term housing, a health service, youth friendly Centrelink staff, a mental

health team, Youthlaw legal clinics, education & training programs & on-going casework support. It's a one stop shop and all services try to be as flexible and available as possible.

We have drop in legal clinics most afternoons. Common legal issues are fines, debts and criminal charges. We also have a family violence team of lawyer and youth worker who assist young people experiencing or using violence, addressing safety and providing legal options

& assistance. Our lawyers this year were Anna Radonic, Kathryn McGregor, Amala Ramarathinam & secondee Tammy Kamil.

Dealing with legal issues is important. They can cause stress and ill-health, stop young people moving on in their lives, deepen their engagement with the criminal justice system & leave them exposed to abuse.

In 2018 we moved out of the 19 King St building we were all in & relocated to 244 Flinders St. This is a temporary move until April 2019 while 19 King St is gutted to make way for inclusion of a specialist youth refuge. Youthlaw will not be going back to 19 King St as we can't fit in but we and Frontyard services remain committed to Youthlaw being integrated into the Frontyard service. Our staff will be visiting & embedded on a daily basis at Frontyard.

CLIENT STORIES

Sarah

Sarah came to Youthlaw for help with driving offences and fines. During childhood her mother suffered from schizophrenia and borderline personality disorder and attempted to commit suicide. When Sarah turned 18 she started using ice and marijuana and was experiencing a lot of mental health issues. She had attempted suicide twice.

Youthlaw represented Sarah in court. The court heard that during the offending period she was struggling with family conflict and her ongoing mental health and substance abuse issues. On this basis, the court dismissed all 40 of the toll road fines and fined her \$300 for the Traffic camera offences.

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

Wei

Wei was born and grew up in China, and arrived in Australia in 2012 at the age of 16. She had been supporting himself without family and at times was struggling financially & emotionally. She came to Youthlaw for help with a driving offence.

Wei had significant difficulties understanding and speaking English. We arranged an interpreter at her hearing and requested letters from services that explained her situation & background. Wei received a diversion order to attend counselling and other support services.

ASK A LAWYER SERVICE

We have a daily phone advice service and an online service. Both have a quick response rate as we know it is important to receive information quickly to work out what to do and where else to get help. We receive calls & emails from young people, adults assisting them(eg. family members & friends) and also workers.

The online service works well for young people who are very young. Often they are experiencing abuse in the home. We also respond to legal queries from adults who are assisting a young person, including family members, youth workers, teachers and professionals.

CLIENT STORIES

Holy

I was just wondering, I'm 18 years old and my parents won't allow me to leave home. They say I am not allowed. I asked them what would happen if I leave anyway and they would go to the police and make me come back. Do you have any advice for me?

Andrew

My school is trying to expel me, although they haven't taken my living situation into consideration. Currently, it is not good. I'm looking for a place to live but they say I'm using it as an excuse. I want to stay at my school and they have given me until the end of the term to attend all classes which I will try my best to but I feel like it's unfair and no matter what I'll get suspended. Is there any help I can get or go to someone for help?

Tanika

I'm enquiring because someone posted my snapchat name on sextingforum.net. I'm getting 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 something of this nature or even someone from school.

Tom

What rights do bouncers have? Can they search you?

FRIDAY FINES CLINIC

We have a drop in Fines clinic every Friday. Most of the work on fines is undertaken by our fantastic team of trained up law student volunteers. Every Friday they come in for the full day and there's a real buzz as they get to work on those fines. They learn to interview clients and once trained up are skilled interviewers. They also direct those able to assist themselves to our self-help kit online.

Many young people without income or on low income have trouble with fines and they can easily build up. For young people experiencing homelessness, poor mental health, substance abuse and family violence they can be hard to deal with & stressful.

We support clients each step of the way - from an initial fines check to representing them at court. We also advocate for change to the fines system to exit vulnerable young people from the system, benefiting not only clients but saving public money on police, prosecutors and the courts.

CLIENT STORY

Lami

Lami arrived in Australia from Somalia nearly ten years ago. She came to Frontyard when she was 21 and homeless due to a breakdown in her relationship with her uncle. She had been couch surfing off & on and incurred a number of public transport fines during this time.

The Friday Fines team got letters from Lami's youth worker and a doctor she had seen so that they could request the fines be withdrawn on the basis of special circumstances. They were withdrawn and without these fines hanging over her head Lami is now able to focus on gaining her certificate in Aged Care.

FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAM

Our Family Violence program comprises a small team of lawyer Joanne Ellis and specialist family violence youth worker, Hilary Glaisher (and up to December 2018 Meg Callander). They assist young people under 25 experiencing or using violence in the home. They do so directly and by building up the knowledge of frontline youth and community workers.

There are no specific youth family violence services in Victoria. This is a big gap and young people just don't get the help they need. Frontline youth services (eg housing, mental health or substance abuse) often lack the knowledge and skill to address family violence.

We assist a relatively small number of young people (approx. 160 last year) but the aim is to properly respond to their non-legal and legal needs & follow -up until they are safe and linked with the services they need to support them. This is usually a number of months at the least. We also work closely with youth workers as they are seeing young people, providing them with secondary consultations and knowledge to assist their

clients. We attend Melbourne Children's Court each week. The court service is for young people under 18 both using and experiencing violence.

This year we continued to consult with others in the family violence sector to develop our service. This included Family Safety Victoria, court staff and services specialising in family violence and a range of practice experts including Adolescent violence in the home consultant Jo Howard and the steering committee & staff of the Centre for Innovative Justice adolescent violence PIPA project. This is important because of the complexity & multi-faceted nature of youth family violence and the care we need to take in how we respond to it. In consultation with these experts in the field we have developed risk assessment and intake tools specifically tailored to young people

This year we also contributed our data and practice experience to the RMIT PIPA project research into adolescent violence in the home.

CLIENT STORIES

Paul

Paul, 17 came into Frontyard Youth Services for housing assistance. The intake assessment identified Paul's homelessness was due to on-going violence and threats by his father. He was assisted by Youthlaw to apply for an interim intervention order against his father. The night before court Paul and his girlfriend slept rough and he was daunted by having to go to court. The Magistrate required Paul to swear to the truthfulness of his evidence. An interim order was made.

The FV youth worker assisted Paul with referrals for assistance including to deal with substance abuse issues. Paul had disclosed his cannabis use was largely related to his anxiety. He was also linked with FRMP (a youth specific family mediation and reconciliation program). They obtained 10 specialist family violence counselling sessions for him.

Paul had left school because of the situation. He now has stable housing and has plans to return to Year 12 in 2019. The intervention order application remains ongoing.

Aleah

Aleah, aged 18, presented to Frontyard for help with housing and was referred to Youthlaw. Aleah had recently relocated to Victoria with her boyfriend. Aleah's partner had become increasingly aggressive and violent and had pressured her to sign a 12 month lease with him on an apartment and made her pay the entirety of the bond and rent in advance. He took her to an electronics store and pressured her into entering a loan agreement for a laptop and some other electrical items for him, claiming that he had a bad credit rating.

Within one week of moving into their new apartment, Aleah's partner violently assaulted her.

Our FV youth worker completed a risk assessment with Aleah. The violence she reported was escalating and her self-reported risk of being seriously injured by her partner was high. She felt unsafe residing with him any longer due to his current use of violence and deteriorating mental health. She wanted to leave her partner but had no alternative accommodation, no income and no family support in Melbourne.

The program youth worker & lawyer provided a range of assistance including securing short-term crisis accommodation, assistance to obtain an intervention order and to deal with the tenancy issue. A waiver of the debt was negotiated. She was linked in with other services including therapeutic music sessions at Frontyard.

Hugo

Hugo, 16, was seen at Melbourne Children's Court. It was his first court date. Police had obtained an interim order excluding Hugo from his family home following abusive behavior towards his father.

Youthlaw provided Hugo with legal advice about family violence, his options and the consequences of breaching the interim order. Hugo met with the Youthlaw youth worker who did an initial intake and assessment. They discussed accountability for his behavior and practical strategies to prevent further use of violence.

The interim IVO was varied to allow Hugo to return home with his father. Following this Hugo described the IVO as a reminder that he needed to behave. He talked about how he had become more aware of how anger felt in his own body and how it could build up.

Withdrawal from cannabis was a priority for him and the FV youth worker assisted Hugo with a referral to a youth substance abuse service and arranged for him to see the visiting Centrelink worker at Frontyard.

The Magistrate indicated that due to Hugo's good work over the adjournment period an undertaking would be appropriate in the case. Hugo made a promise not to commit family violence or damage property. The IVO application was withdrawn and he returned home.

Our youth worker continues to be engaged with Hugo, primarily to assist him to consolidate his plans and to be a continuing point of support and contact for him to be referred to other services.

OUTREACH PROGRAM

In 2008 we began an outreach service partnering with 3 youth services in northern regional Victoria. Today this outreach has grown to 13 partner sites/locations across Victoria. Our lawyer is Lisa Nguyen

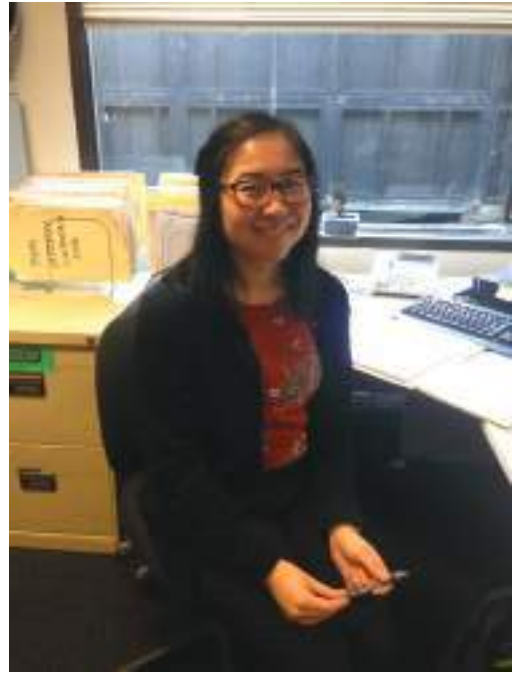
We partner with organisations & services who are already engaged with young people who are vulnerable and with a high likelihood of having legal problems.

We provide training and secondary consultations to staff of these organisations so they are able to provide basic legal information to young people, identify legal issues & refer young people to our service.

We provide legal assistance during site visits, by phone and by email. We also provide court representation.

Our current outreach partners /locations are:

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



Lisa Nguyen - Outreach lawyer

CLIENT STORIES

Matt

Matt was charged with drink driving, driving carelessly and other driving offences. He suffered from anxiety and depression. At the time of the offence, he was not linked in with any support services and had left his family home due to family violence. Matt then met his partner who supported him to make an appointment with headspace. Through the clinician at headspace he was referred to our outreach lawyer. He was on Youth Allowance and was looking for a job to support his partner and their 2 year old child. We negotiated the charges and represented him in the local court. Matt now has a full time job, has attended and continues to attend AA meetings as well as attending a Safe Driving Program. Matt continues to see his worker at headspace.

Jo

Jo lives in regional Victoria. When she turned 18 years old, she was forced by her controlling ex partner to buy a mobile phone. Her partner left her and their 2 year old daughter. He also took the phone with him. The telephone company kept sending her bills. Jo could not afford to pay. The telephone company then referred the matter to a debt collector. Youthlaw was able to negotiate an outcome with the telephone company and they waived the debt. Jo spoke to a financial counsellor and was able to get assistance with her finances and budgeting.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS HEALTH JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP - YOUTH LAWYER

In November 2017 we were approached to join a Health Justice Partnership (HJP) comprising Ballarat Community Health (BCH), Federation University Australia & Central Highlands CLC in Ballarat.

HJPs have come about due to research that indicates a strong connection between poor health and unresolved legal issues. Evaluation of HJPs overseas (mainly in the USA) and in Australia is that embedding legal services in a health setting results in not only addressing legal issues but doing so early with more positive outcomes. Lawyers and health professionals working in a more integrated way also has great benefits improving knowledge both ways, addressing multiple legal & non-legal needs together & referral both

ways. When it comes young people & legal issues it's a no brainer. Few young people seek direct legal help & more readily disclose their problems with youth & health workers

In early 2018 Youthlaw took over the management of the youth lawyer based at Ballarat Community Health. In March 2018 we welcomed Melanie Senior to the role.

The youth lawyer works closely with staff of youth and community agencies in the region to build their skills to identify legal problems & refer young people to the service. The youth lawyer provides advice to young people over the phone, at outreach locations (eg. headspace Ballarat) and at Ballarat Community Health . She also represents at court.

RMIT STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE

We are contracted by RMIT University to provide a student legal service at RMIT.

Tenancy & employment are common legal issue facing students. Many students find themselves in unregulated rooming houses and dealing with unscrupulous landlords. Students, particularly international students often face exploitation at work. Students also seek advice about a range of other issues such as fines, safety, crime, VOCAT, debts, charges & consumer disputes.

This year our RMIT legal service was delivered primarily by James Tresise supported by the Youthlaw lawyer team.

Not only has James provided legal services but he also trained up many of the student service staff so they can provide information & know when to refer to him. He was also involved in assisting RMIT developing standards for external accommodation provides & has advocated for tenancy and fines reform.



James Tresise - RMIT lawyer

LEGAL EDUCATION

Over the past year we responded to requests for legal education to groups of young people. We also developed & maintained our online resources including easy-to-read fact sheets, apps and a booklet for youth workers.

We have been all over Victoria delivering education sessions. Some of our favourites include:

- **Rosebud Secondary College** – Sexting and cyberbullying
- **Mornington Peninsula Junior Football League, Hastings** – Sexting and cyberbullying
- **Mildura Senior College**, Year 11s and 12s, part of Mildura Law Talks for Victorian Law Foundation – Youthlaw and young people’s rights
- **Western Port Secondary College**, Year 9s – Police powers
- **Living Skills program at Hope Street, Melton** – Credit and debit
- **Skills Plus Frankston** – Sex, relationships, sexting and the law
- **Yarra Youth Services** – Rights in dealing police, racial profiling and police accountability

WORKER TRAINING

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

We continued to provide legal training and workshops tailored to workers and other professionals who assist young people.

Examples of training this year:

- **‘Failure to disclose and protect laws’** training for youth workers at Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health and the Youth Affairs Council
- **‘Sex, young people and the law’** training for staff members at Glenroy Headspace
- **‘Common legal problems’** for staff at The Bridge Youth Service, Shepparton

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

In 2017-18 we continued to advocate for justice reinvestment.

This approach has been increasingly adopted world wide and requires governments to reduce investment in prisons and reinvest it earlier to support communities & families and more effectively address the drivers of offending. It requires governments to commit to reforming the prison system in both the juvenile & adult systems to reduce high recidivism/return rates.

In 2017-18 we documented the evidence for and examples of justice reinvestment. We advocated to peak bodies and decision-makers at all levels of government. We advocated for a greater say and involvement by local communities. We advocated for a pilot that would specifically address youth imprisonment and offending and aim to reduce the rate of contact young people have with the justice system.

2017-18 saw us drawn into the public debate & gov't action about increased youth crime.

Together with other youth and legal services we brought perspective and balance, highlighting the overall trend of reduction in youth crime. We called for adequate funding of approaches that work and drew attention to laws and practices that contravene human rights.

We also presented to the Victorian parliament's Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) Committee inquiry into the Victorian police complaints system advocating for an independent police complaints body. The committee has recently handed down its recommendations that include a significant move toward independent investigation through greater powers to and investigation by IBAC.

In 2017-18 we led and resourced the Smart Justice for Young People Coalition (SJ4YP) comprising about 30 organisations in Victoria.

SJ4YP responded to the public youth crime debate by co-ordinating & sharing media & communication strategies & content to shift the negative depiction of young people, particularly those of colour and the growing appetite for punitive youth justice laws & policies.

The SJ4YP also maintained a proactive component assisting the sector to not lose focus of longer term goals of early intervention and justice reinvestment. We resourced our members via our website based JR clearing house, JR video and report. The assessment of coalition members is that there is growing interest in Victoria for justice reinvestment given expanding prison numbers and more prisons being built. There has been commentary from both sides of the political spectrum that this is not sustainable.



Tiffany Overall our Human Rights & Advocacy officer (along with other legal centre representatives) with Opposition AG Hon Mark Dreyfus - after meeting about youth justice.

VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteer program was again a great achievement this year. Our March annual intake selected 37 new volunteers to be trained and mentored. They in return became highly skilled paralegals. An on-going team of 5 were also trained to be our Friday Fines clinic paralegals, seeing clients and managing fines cases. In addition we hosted a number of Deakin law students and a number of Leo Cussen graduates.

We thank Jessica, Hanna & Kaila for their amazing work on volunteer intake, induction & co-ordination. Thanks go to every volunteer who has generously given their time at Youthlaw.

“It has been a truly rewarding experience and has left a lasting impression” – Dona

“Volunteering in the Fines Clinic has been a wonderful experience. I have had the opportunity to manage client files and work in a team with really committed volunteers whose enthusiasm and hard work inspires me everyday” – Ety

FUNDRAISING

We are a proudly independent voice and service for young people and we rely on support from the community to keep our doors open and our programs running. A significant proportion of our income is from fundraising, self generated income & philanthropic grants.

RUN MELBOURNE

On Sunday 30 July 2017 our team of 44 runners joined 20,000 other Melbournians to take the back streets, celebrate the city and raise money for Youthlaw. A number of law firms including Ashurst and K & L Gates ran their own teams to raise \$ for Youthlaw.

The donated money makes a big difference and supported continuation of our services to Victoria's most vulnerable young people. This includes our outreach service across Victoria, our clinics, court appearances & connecting young people to housing, mental health and other support services they need. See below the Ashurst team and the Youthlaw team.



ASHURST TRIVIA NIGHT

Each year law firm Ashurst hosts a trivia night to raise funds for Youthlaw. Last year it was held at the Metropolitan Hotel on 26 October. More than 80 people attended from Ashurst raising over \$6,000!

Despite a tough competition, a combination team of Disputes + IP/TMT took out the trophy, with Corporate Projects and the Youthlaw staff team tied for second and the Youthlaw board tied for third.

Youthlaw would like to thank the Trivia Committee for organising such a fantastic evening and everyone at Ashurst for their ongoing support.



CAFÉ SMART DONATION TO LEGAL POD PROGRAM

Streetsmart are a great organisation, fundraising specifically for small services and organisations that assist homeless people. We have received a number of donations over the years. This year we received a donation of \$5,141 from the Café Smart fundraiser to support the work of our Legal Pod Program.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

We would like to thank our funders:

- Commonwealth and State Attorney-General's Departments for Community Legal Services Program funding
- Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation (DOJR) for grants for our general lawyer, family violence lawyer and specialist family violence youth worker
- Victorian Legal Services Board for funding our Justice Reinvestment Project & our Legal Pod program.
- Kimberley Foundation for their grant for our Smart Justice policy work
- Streetsmart for their donation to support our clinics for homeless youth.
- RMIT University
- The Bridge Youth services
- Mornington Peninsula Shire youth centres
- Our health justice partners in the Central Highlands region
- Anthony Kelly, Sophie Ellis and the team at Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre and the Police Accountability Project
- Julie Edwards, Catherine Neville, Glenn Jessop, Andrew Yule, Kathryn Kernohan at Jesuit Social Services
- Emma King, Andrea Foreman, Ryan Sheales and Carly Nowell at VCOSS
- Jessie Mitchell and Leo Fieldgrass at YACVic
- Julian Pocock and Jen Ellis at Berry Street
- Carmel Guerra, Sarah Nicholson and the team at CMY

We thank the following firms for their pro bono support:

- Ashurst
- K & L Gates
- Colin Biggers & Paisley
- Maddocks
- Aitken Partners
- Holding & Redlich
- DLA Piper
- Matt Incerti and staff at the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare
- Smart Justice for Young People Coalition Members
- Victoria Legal Aid
- Elena Campbell & Jessica Richter at the RMIT Centre for Innovative Justice
- RMIT student service staff
- Lucia Marin at Lucia Marin Designs
- Konica Minolta
- Paper Giants

Many thanks to the following organisations and individuals for their time and support:

- Members of the Victorian Bar and private legal profession who have provided free advice and legal representation to clients of Youthlaw
- Wayne Merritt, Deborah Fewster & so many staff at Melbourne City Mission and Frontyard
- The team at the Federation of Community Legal Centres
- Andrew Bruun, Peter Wearne and the team at YSAS
- Our Headspace partners

Volunteers

- Maisie Adams
- Ryan Arulrajah
- Grace Borg
- Luisa Borg
- Annabelle Chai
- Jessie Chibber
- Madeleine Doull

- Michael Evans
- Charlotte Ferguson
- Akeer Garang
- Dona Hansani
- Emina Hidic
- Ryan Higgins
- Ashleigh Hudson
- Constance Iliadis
- Justine Jaramillo
- Olivia King
- Sharlene Kuruppuarachchi
- Codey Larkin
- Andrew Millhouse
- Olivia Moll
- Kobra Moradi
- Kelsey McGowan
- Nimaashaa Nimalachandran
- Fraser Oakley
- Adele Palfreeman
- Danilee Pallister
- Deana Palmisano
- Ashira Paraskevas
- Rashini Perera
- Etty Philosof
- Bradley Serry
- Chloe Stapleton
- Zoe Tapp
- Luke Thomas
- Kirsti Weisz
- Lily Xiao
- Juanlin Yip

- Dan Fawcett
- Joanna Lawrence
- Bethany Stewart
- Shannon Jenkins
- Kathleen Sutton
- Karen Mak

Youthlaw Staff

- Ariel Couchman – Director
- Anna Radonic – Principal Lawyer
- Tiffany Overall – Human Rights & Advocacy Officer
- Lisa Nguyen – Outreach Lawyer
- Kathryn McGregor – General lawyer
- Amala Ramarathinam – General Lawyer
- Joanne Ellis – Family Violence Lawyer
- Hilary Glaisher – Specialist Family Violence Youth Worker
- Meg Callander – Specialist Family Violence Youth Worker
- James Tresise – RMIT Lawyer
- Tammy Kamil – secondee from Ashurst
- Takako Yoshizawa – secondee from Ashurst
- Sandeep Varma – Managing Lawyer Legal Pod Program
- Melanie Senior – Central Highlands HJP youth lawyer
- Kaila Glare, Hanna Lee & Jessica Ginberg – Volunteer and Administration Co-ordinators
- Noha Ghobrial – financial services
- Abby McCarthy – Media & Communications Officer (Smart Justice for Young People)
- Andrew Rankin – Paralegal
- Will Zhong – Locum Lawyer

Youthlaw Board 2017-18

- Nicole Jee (Chair)
- Charlie Bell (Treasurer)
- Christopher Brydon (Secretary)
- Helen Thomas
- Erica Contini
- Nizam Nijamudeen



Lee Carnie, a past Youthlaw lawyer at the Marriage Equality plebiscite celebration Nov. 2017

YOUTHLAW FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2017

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
INCOME		
Community Legal Centre - recurrent grants	379,496	338,672
Grants - non-recurrent	408,644	360,503
Donations	5,914	6,104
Interest received	11,916	12,650
Other income	20,725	41,865
TOTAL INCOME	826,695	759,794
EXPENDITURE		
Employee expenses	706,149	601,884
Depreciation and amortisation expense	3,826	4,251
Other expenses	126,160	106,757
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	836,135	712,892
NET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION	(9,440)	46,902

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

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at bank	451,544	554,899
Term deposit	263,866	257,486
Petty cash	250	250
	<u>715,460</u>	<u>812,635</u>
Trade and Other Receivables		
Accounts receivable	15,235	10,678
Prepayments	11,164	7,376
	<u>26,399</u>	<u>18,054</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>741,859</u>	<u>830,689</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Office equipment - at cost	59,534	58,374
Less: provision for depreciation	(54,468)	(50,642)
	<u>5,066</u>	<u>7,732</u>
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	<u>5,066</u>	<u>7,732</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>746,925</u>	<u>838,421</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 INC
A.B.N. 12 794 935 230

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and Other Payable		
Accounts payable	193	251
Accrued expenses	16,060	15,335
Credit cards	(2,495)	1,181
GST (refundable)/payable	128	15,742
PAYG Withholding Tax payable	8,969	5,496
Superannuation payable	6,495	4,878
	<u>29,350</u>	<u>42,883</u>
Deferred Income		
CLSP funds received in advance	-	24,788
Non-CLSP funds received in advance	192,119	235,484
	<u>192,119</u>	<u>260,272</u>
Employment Entitlement Provisions		
Provision for annual leave	30,168	28,303
Provision for long service leave		36,571
	<u>30,168</u>	<u>64,874</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>251,637</u>	<u>368,029</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Employment Entitlement Provisions		
Provision for long service leave	36,034	1,698
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>36,034</u>	<u>1,698</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>287,671</u>	<u>369,727</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>459,254</u>	<u>468,694</u>
EQUITY		
Accumulated funds	459,254	468,694
	<u>459,254</u>	<u>468,694</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 INC
A.B.N. 12 794 935 230
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Accumulated Funds \$	Total \$
Balance as at 1 July 2016	421,792	421,792
Surplus/ (Deficit) attributable to the Association	46,902	46,902
Balance as at 30 June 2017	<u>468,694</u>	<u>468,694</u>
Surplus/ (Deficit) attributable to the Association	(9,440)	(9,440)
Balance as at 30 June 2018	<u>459,254</u>	<u>459,254</u>

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

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE INC
A.B.N. 12 794 935 230
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from grants		719,987	731,974
Receipts from other sources		18,294	54,966
Payments to suppliers and employees		(846,212)	(728,220)
Interest received		11,916	12,650
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities	(i)	<u>(96,015)</u>	<u>71,370</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(1,160)	(1,907)
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		<u>(1,160)</u>	<u>(1,907)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(97,175)	69,462
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		812,635	743,173
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	(ii)	<u>715,460</u>	<u>812,635</u>

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEGAL RIGHTS CENTRE INC
A.B.N. 12 794 935 230
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Note (i). Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities		
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	(9,440)	46,902
Non-cash flow item: depreciation	3,826	4,251
(Increase)/decrease in accounts and other receivables	(8,345)	6,997
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(13,533)	(27,749)
Increase/(decrease) in grants received in advance	(68,153)	32,799
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(370)	8,169
	<u>(96,015)</u>	<u>71,370</u>
Note (ii). Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		
Cash at bank	451,544	554,899
Term deposit	263,666	257,486
Petty cash	250	250
	<u>715,460</u>	<u>812,635</u>

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

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

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
INCOME		
CLC Recurrent Grant Funding		
Community Legal Centre (CLC) Recurrent - Commonwealth	169,068	163,640
Community Legal Centre (CLC) Recurrent - State	185,640	175,032
Community Legal Centre (CLC) Recurrent - Other VLA	24,788	-
	<u>379,496</u>	<u>338,672</u>
Grants - Non-Recurrent		
Kimberley Foundation	15,000	15,000
Ballarat Project	13,350	-
Department of Justice - Duty Lawyer	45,844	-
Department of Justice - Family Violence	58,339	58,182
Department of Justice - CLC Assist	50,911	46,391
Legal Pod Project	25,000	-
Victoria Legal Services Board	80,000	81,000
Phyllis Connor	-	70,000
RMIT	81,200	68,536
Smart Justice	12,000	-
Street Smart	17,000	-
Victoria Law Foundation	-	8,400
The Myer Foundation	10,000	-
Other grants	-	14,994
Grants - non-recurrent brought forward	-	(7,234)
	<u>408,644</u>	<u>353,269</u>
Victoria Legal Aid Surplus Brought Forward		7,234
Donations	5,914	6,104
Interest Received	11,916	12,650
Other Income		
Community legal education	1,270	1,450
Costs recovery and retained	3,086	8,257
Deakin placements	3,000	-
Fundraising	13,369	20,567
Management fees	-	8,655
Miscellaneous income	-	2,938
	<u>20,725</u>	<u>41,865</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>826,695</u>	<u>759,794</u>

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

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
EXPENDITURE		
Staff Salaries, Wages and On-costs		
Salaries and wages	639,088	541,266
Superannuation contributions	60,775	51,303
Employee leave entitlements - annual leave	1,865	6,417
Employee leave entitlements - long service leave	3,946	1,752
WorkCover	475	1,146
	706,149	601,884
Premises Expenses		
Rent	39,037	40,914
Amenities	3,548	1,673
Meetings	270	61
	42,855	42,648
Staff Related Expenses		
Conference fees	1,677	246
Police checks	121	108
Staff training	663	2,300
Staff recruitment	600	300
	3,061	2,954
Communications Expenses		
Internet (ISP & website)	2,014	1,942
Mobile phones	2,773	1,478
Landline telephones	1,893	2,140
Communications Project	-	-
Website	920	1,469
	7,600	7,029
Office Overhead Expenses		
AGM expenses	-	400
Donations	-	250
Office equipment maintenance	2,839	3,966
Office equipment maintenance; IT support	7,570	11,065
Postage	660	1,520
Small equipment purchases	160	-
Stationery and photocopying	1,254	356
	12,483	17,557
Insurance	3,724	2,147

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

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Finance, Audit and Accounting Fees		
Accounting fees	19,231	13,298
Audit fees	2,500	1,584
Bank charges	209	195
Lodgement fees	103	-
	<u>22,043</u>	<u>15,077</u>
Library, Resources and Subscriptions		
Library	440	392
Memberships and subscriptions	6,012	7,009
Practising certificates	3,974	2,004
	<u>10,426</u>	<u>9,405</u>
Programming and Planning		
Travel	5,109	9,731
Printing	1,470	412
Publicity	383	-
Strategic planning	367	1,620
Client disbursements	-	98
Forum & Workshops	2,000	-
Consultants	1,839	(6,836)
Evaluation	12,800	3,938
Fundraising expenses	-	190
Other expenses	-	787
	<u>23,968</u>	<u>9,940</u>
Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	<u>3,826</u>	<u>4,251</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>836,135</u>	<u>712,892</u>
NET SURPLUS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION	<u>(9,440)</u>	<u>46,902</u>

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