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LAW & ADVOCACY  
CENTRE FOR WOMEN

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018**



# Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR.....             | 3  |
| WHO ARE WE?.....                          | 4  |
| Our Vision .....                          | 4  |
| Our Mission .....                         | 4  |
| Our Goals.....                            | 4  |
| Why is LACW Needed? .....                 | 4  |
| ABOUT US.....                             | 5  |
| Criminal Defence Advocacy .....           | 5  |
| Victims of Crime .....                    | 5  |
| Infringements .....                       | 5  |
| Intervention Orders.....                  | 6  |
| Holistic Case Management.....             | 6  |
| STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT .....              | 8  |
| OUR PEOPLE .....                          | 8  |
| Patron .....                              | 8  |
| Board and Management.....                 | 8  |
| Steering Committee.....                   | 10 |
| Other Employees .....                     | 10 |
| PRINCIPAL LEGAL OFFICER’S REPORT .....    | 11 |
| PRACTICE MANAGER/TREASURER’S REPORT ..... | 12 |
| FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.....                 | 14 |
| AUDITOR’S REPORT .....                    | 16 |
| OUR SUPPORTERS.....                       | 17 |
| ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANK YOU .....         | 19 |
| CONTACT US.....                           | 20 |

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Welcome to the Law and Advocacy Centre for Women's (LACW) annual report for the 2017-2018 financial year.

This year has been one of immense growth for our organisation in a number of different ways. We have greatly increased our revenue owing to generous support from philanthropic organisations, the Victorian Government, our corporate partners and individual donors. We have grown in size from an organisation with just one paid employee to now five, with this growth in staff continuing to increase in the next financial year. And our client numbers have continued to soar, with over 250 individual women assisted in relation to 709 separate legal matters in the 12 months to 30 June 2018.

This growth has not been accidental, but aligns with our strategy for expanding our reach to provide exceptional legal and support services to women throughout Victoria, regardless of their means. In executing this strategy, we have continued to develop our connections with referral partners, stakeholders and client groups, and extended our reputation as a highly-regarded provider of legal and support services to our vulnerable cohort of clients. This strategy was developed by our Board with the generous assistance of Right Lane Consulting, who donated their services for free over the course of our strategic planning day.

Also central to our strategy is the importance of continuing to build our partnerships with other organisations that align with our goals and values. Most notably in this regard has been our new partnership with the Centre for Innovative Justice at RMIT University. This multi-disciplinary partnership, which also includes the Mental Health Legal Centre (MHLC), aims to improve service delivery, contribute to research and advocacy and provide educational opportunities for students with the goals of improving access to justice and providing better results for clients.

This saw us move from our original premises in Abbotsford within Djirra (formerly the Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service) in September 2017, so that we are now co-located with CIJ and MHLC in Carlton. Personally I have enjoyed participating in the Partnership Reference Group meetings with Rob Hulls and other members of the CIJ and MHLC teams. We all share a passion for providing holistic legal services that go beyond simply providing advice and representation in legal matters, and look to address the root causes of disadvantage and entanglement in the justice system, creating meaningful change both on an individual and systemic basis.

Looking ahead, we will continue to build our capacity to deliver exceptional legal and support services to women throughout Victoria, building on the partnerships and funding relationships that have been developed over the past 12 months. We look forward to a further period of growth and expansion in the coming year.

***Diane McDonald***  
***Chair***

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## WHO ARE WE?

The Law and Advocacy Centre for Women (LACW) is a not-for-profit Community Legal Centre that provides advice and representation to women across Victoria in the following areas:

- Criminal defence advocacy;
- Infringements and fines;
- Victims of crime assistance;
- Intervention orders (if the client has other matters with us).

LACW combines excellence in legal advice and representation with a commitment to holistic and preventative case management and engagement with therapeutic services.

LACW is a registered charity with deductible gift recipient status. We are committed to providing excellent legal and therapeutic services for all women – the vast majority for free – in accordance with their means.

## Our Vision

LACW's vision is that any woman in Victoria, regardless of their means, can access exceptional legal and support services that will create the opportunity for change in their lives.

## Our Mission

LACW's mission is to provide a holistic service that diverts women from further contact with the justice system and enables them to become productively engaged in society.

## Our Goals

- To interrupt the trajectory that sees disadvantaged women enter and remain in the criminal justice system;
- To provide greater access to justice, and access to services that will break the cycle of disadvantage and offending for women in need; and
- To combat the increasing incarceration and offending rates for women in Victoria.

## Why is LACW Needed?

- LACW is the only legal service in Victoria that provides specialised advice and representation for women in criminal law.
  - Women are the fastest growing demographic in Victoria's prison system.
  - Women are the highest represented demographic in poverty indicators.
  - Many women share common pathways to offending. A service for women that understands and addresses those issues is better placed to interrupt the trajectory that sees these women enter and remain in the criminal justice system.
-

## ABOUT US

LACW is a not-for-profit community legal centre and a member of the Federation of Community Legal Centres. It is the only legal service in Victoria that provides a gender-specific approach to assisting women who are in or at risk of entering the criminal justice system. LACW was established by Jill Prior and Elena Pappas in February 2016, specifically in response to the rising rates of imprisonment and offending for women. Its mandate is to combat these trends by providing a holistic approach to women in the justice system, providing a wrap-around service that combines legal advice and representation with case-management and access to the services necessary to address the underlying causes of women's offending. In so doing, it seeks to reduce the cost borne by the community in funding prisons, instead investing resources in early intervention strategies and support services.

### Criminal Defence Advocacy

The majority of LACW's work is in the provision of criminal defence advocacy. Jill Prior, the Centre's Principal Legal Officer, is an accredited criminal law specialist.

In the 2017-18 financial year, we have assisted clients in relation to 618 separate criminal matters. This has included appearing at various courts throughout metropolitan and regional Victoria in mainstream and specialist courts. LACW is now a member of Victoria Legal Aid's indictable crime panel, expanding the reach of our service to assist women facing serious criminal charges in higher jurisdictions.

### Victims of Crime

In the past financial year, LACW's Victims of Crime practice has grown substantially. We have assisted 24 women in making applications to the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal and have been successful in obtaining awards of compensation on behalf of clients in a range of different circumstances.

This work would not have been possible without the assistance of law firm, Hall and Wilcox, who have placed a graduate solicitor with us on a pro-bono basis to assist with our VOCAT work for one day per week. We are extremely grateful for the very hard-working and dedicated graduates we have had so far.

A clear theme emerging from our work is the difficulty faced by criminalised women in accessing victims of crime compensation, as their offending history often acts as a barrier to accessing support. This is despite their criminal offending being often interlinked with their own experiences of violence. Another challenge has been accessing adequate support for women who are victims of sustained, long-term family violence which in many cases has not been reported to police.

We anticipate that these particular issues will continue to be the focus of our VOCAT work as we continue to build this area of our practice.

### Infringements

Our infringements work has continued to grow. We have assisted 38 women in making applications to have their fines waived on the basis of special circumstances including homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction and mental health issues. With the introduction of a family violence scheme that specifically assists women who have accrued fines as a result of family violence, we anticipate that this area of our practice will continue to grow.

We are indebted to the work of our volunteer paralegal, Ashlee McPhail, who has worked specifically on infringements matters throughout the year. Her knowledge of this particular area of law goes well beyond what would ordinarily be expected of a paralegal worker, and has enabled us to assist a much greater number of women that would otherwise have been possible.

## Intervention Orders

The main focus of our intervention order work has been to assist existing LACW clients who wish to apply for orders for their protection, and to assist women who are respondents to intervention order applications. Often these matters involve complex circumstances where cross-orders have been sought by police in relation to both parties, and there are real questions around who the actual perpetrator of the violence is. To this end, we have been working with the Centre for Innovative Justice, the Women's Legal Service and other members of the Federation of Community Legal Centres in relation to policy work around the mis-identification of women as perpetrators of family violence. This important work is particularly relevant for our cohort of clients, who due to their histories of both victimisation and criminalisation often have negative interactions with the police in the context of seeking help for family violence matters.

## Holistic Case Management

We offer holistic case management services to address the causes of clients' disadvantage and entanglement in the criminal justice system. Thanks to the generous support of our philanthropic donors, we have now been able to employ a dedicated case manager to provide one-on-one support to clients in this regard. Through this work, we are not only able to provide practical support and assistance to clients that will address the causes of their offending, help them achieve and succeed on bail and address the risk of further offending; we are also gaining a clearer understanding of the non-legal needs of women in the justice system so that we are better able to assist them going forward.

To date we have observed that:

- 100% of our case management clients have experienced family violence;
- 24% of case management clients are under 25 years old;
- 40% of our case management clients identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; and
- while a majority of case management clients have children, only a very small minority currently have them in their care.

These observations highlight the differing needs and priorities for women in the justice system as opposed to those of men, and provide further evidence of the need for a dedicated, holistic legal service that is committed to assisting women who are in or at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

# FY 2017-2018: A Snapshot

## 709

Total files worked on

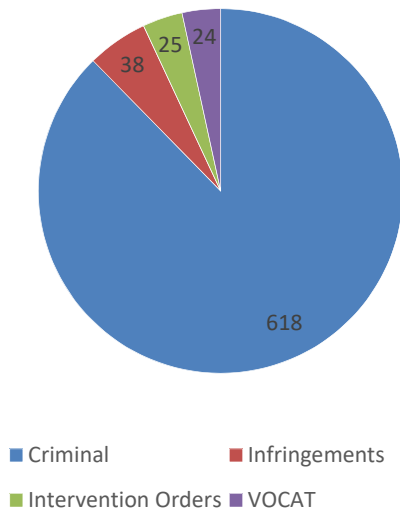
## 477

New matters opened

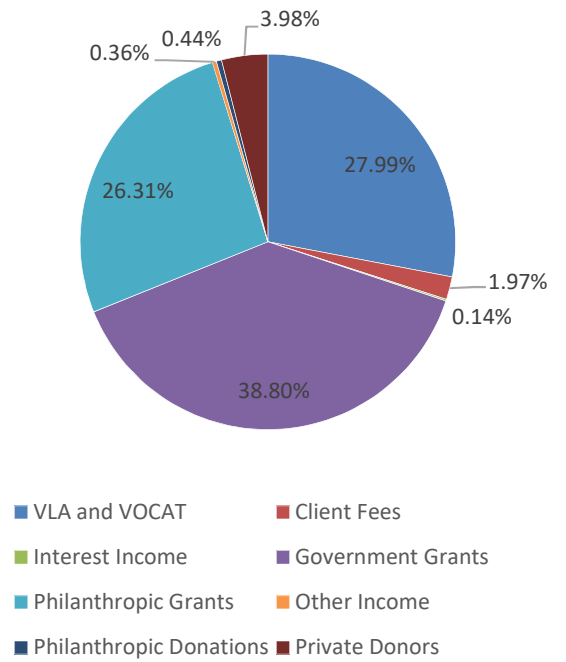
## 251

Clients assisted

Matters worked on by type

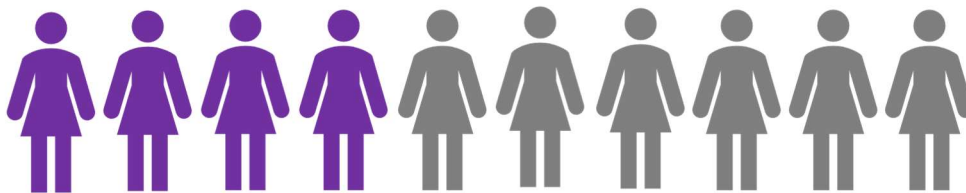


Income sources



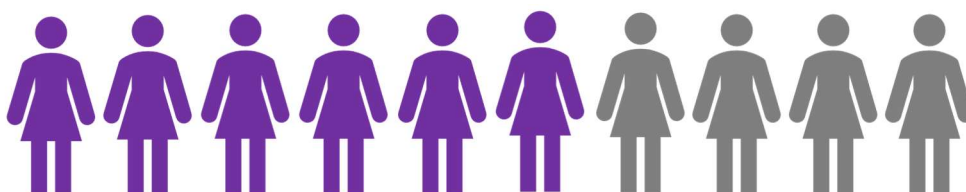
## Aboriginality

Clients identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in 40% of matters



## Family Violence

Family violence is an identified issue for clients in 60% of matters



## STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

LACW is a company limited by guarantee, governed by a board of directors. The board currently comprises Jill Prior, Elena Pappas and Chair Diane McDonald. In addition, LACW has a steering committee to act in an advisory capacity to the board. That committee is comprised of 6 leading women all with extensive knowledge, excellent reputations and expertise in the areas relevant to LACW's work.

LACW is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). It has Deductible Gift Recipient Status.

## OUR PEOPLE

### Patron

The Honourable Justice Betty King, former Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria

### Board and Management

#### Jill Prior – Founder, Director and Principal Legal Officer



Jill Prior is LACW's Co-founder and Principal Legal Officer, in addition to her role on the Board. Jill is an accredited Criminal Law specialist with over 15 years' experience representing clients in criminal matters. Prior to founding LACW, Jill was the Principal Legal Officer with the Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service. This role provided a depth to Jill's Family Law and child protection practice and allowed her to have great input into the policy framework of the organisation. This was particularly rewarding in the context of the Royal Commission into Family Violence which concluded in March 2016. Jill was previously the Principal Legal Officer at the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS) where she worked for over 10 years. As well as advising and appearing on behalf of clients across multiple jurisdictions, she was responsible for the management of the legal practice, comprising 21 lawyers across the criminal, family law and civil law practice areas, in addition to support staff. Jill's unyielding commitment and dedication to her work has made her a well-known and respected public figure, in and outside legal circles.

#### Elena Pappas – Co-Founder, Director and Practice Manager/Senior Lawyer



Elena Pappas is LACW's Co-founder and works as its Practice Manager and Senior Lawyer, in addition to her role on the Board. Elena previously worked at the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service where she held the position of Senior Lawyer in the Criminal Law team. She advised and appeared on behalf of clients in complex criminal matters and shared responsibility for the mentoring and management of junior and support staff. Prior to this, Elena was an Associate in the Workplace Relations team of a highly regarded private law firm in Melbourne. She has experience in the areas of employment, anti-discrimination and occupational health and safety law. In 2015, Elena completed a Master of Public and International Law at the University of Melbourne, through which she undertook an internship with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Tanzania. She has worked as a volunteer with the Mental Health Legal Centre, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and Fitzroy Legal Service.



## Diane McDonald – Chair



Diane McDonald is LACW’s inaugural Chair. Diane has extensive experience and qualifications in business development and management in the healthcare and disability fields. She has a range of senior positions in health organisations, including CEO of the Jean Hailes Foundation for Women’s Health, CEO of Resolutions (an Occupational Health and Human Resources consultancy) and the Head of Organisational Development for PPC Worldwide, a global provider of organisational development and employee assistance programmes. Diane is currently Chair of the Board of Melbourne City Mission, and has previously served as the Chair of its Quality, Safety and Risk Committee. She is a Board member of the Hester Hornbrook Academy providing supportive, flexible education to reconnect young people with schooling. She also sits on the Advisory Board for Psychology Melbourne and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Diane’s qualifications include a Bachelor of Applied Science, Graduate Diplomas in Education and Rehabilitation Counselling, and a Masters of Management from Monash University.

## Steering Committee

Nola Karapanagiotidis, Crystal McKinnon, Terrie Stewart, Tammy Young, Anoushka Jeronimus. We extend our thanks to Jenny Samms who stepped down from the committee this year.

## Other Employees

### Asha Zomer – Paralegal and Volunteer Coordinator

Asha joined our team in October 2017 with the generous support of the Maddocks Foundation. Asha had previously worked as a volunteer with LACW, and her dedication and commitment made her a perfect candidate for this role.

In addition to assisting clients through her paralegal role, Asha has greatly increased the capacity and efficiency of LACW's volunteer program by providing our volunteers with training and guidance, and developing and refining the resources available to them.

### Rafaella Lawrie – Case Manager

Rafaella joined LACW in November 2017, thanks to the generous philanthropic support of the Funding Network. Her position has subsequently been funded by the RE Ross Trust and Phyllis Connor Memorial Trust (through Equity Trustees).

Rafaella brings with her a wealth of knowledge regarding the therapeutic needs of women who are in or at risk of entering the criminal justice system. Having previously worked with Jesuit Social Services providing assistance to people exiting prison, she has an in-depth knowledge of the support needs of vulnerable women, and the services that are available to them.

### Ingrid Giles – Lawyer

Ingrid joined LACW in May 2018, thanks to funding provided through the Attorney-General's Community Legal Centres' Assistance Fund and Family Violence Fund. Immediately prior to joining LACW Ingrid worked within the Trial Division and Appeals Chambers of the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

With previous experience working as a criminal lawyer for the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, in addition to policy roles within government including with the Office for Women's Policy and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Ingrid has both an in-depth knowledge of the workings of the criminal justice system, and a broader understanding of the particular issues impacting women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more generally.

## Volunteers

Anna McBean; Ashlee McPhail; Eliza Venville; Elisabeth Buchan; Sarah Abell; Alice Meredith; Rebecca Paul; Melis Rutherford; Mikaila Cass; Robyn Wall.

## Pro-bono Solicitors

Nareeda Lewers; Miles Guggenheim (Hall and Wilcox); Declan McAlasee (Hall and Wilcox).

## RMIT Student Placements

Lana Roccisano; Catherine Dawson.

## PRINCIPAL LEGAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Reflecting on the work we have done over the past financial year, I am struck by the incredible demand that continues to grow for our service. Our client numbers have continued to soar, and while we have increased our staff numbers to accommodate this thanks to a variety of funding sources, we are still struggling to meet the demand that exists out there. We have been challenged on many fronts – legislative and policy changes have seen the continued and increased criminalisation of vulnerable women, reflected in the ongoing growth in prisoner numbers and of women on remand in particular; political discourse has been dominated by a ‘tough on crime’ rhetoric that undermines a more nuanced discussion of how we address the underlying causes of criminalisation; and the increased demand placed on Magistrates’ Courts throughout the state has had very real consequences which are felt by our clients on a daily basis, often resulting in the failure to transport them to court which in turn can delay their ultimate release from custody.

And yet, I am also bolstered by the in-roads that we have made towards addressing these issues through the growth of our organisation. This year has seen the full realisation of our model of holistic service delivery. Our case manager, Rafaella Lawrie, has provided invaluable support to our clients in addressing the non-legal issues that have contributed to their entanglement in the justice system. In addition, we have launched an innovative Art Therapy program with thanks to Alisoun Neville, who is undertaking an Art Therapy student placement with us. We have increased our service delivery to include indictable (serious) crime and have a state-wide reach.

We have relocated to a premises within the Centre for Innovative Justice (CIJ) at RMIT University. This has not only given us additional space to accommodate our staff and clients, but has opened up a world of opportunity to collaborate with both the CIJ and the Mental Health Legal Centre on finding solutions to the issues faced by women in the criminal justice system, and provided us with the immense benefit of student placements through RMIT’s Juris Doctor program. We thank Djirra wholeheartedly for providing us with a launching place for our service and look forward to continuing to work and collaborate with them. We have had a fantastic team of volunteers who have given their time and energy to us. And with an increased presence and reach, we are now poised to have an impact at a systemic level as we begin to engage in policy discussions around addressing the criminalisation and increasing incarceration of women.

As part of this systemic change, we have been working closely with the Darebin Community Legal Centre (DCLC) and Flat Out Inc to develop and roll-out the Women Transforming Justice Project. Funded by the Victorian Legal Services Board and led by DCLC, this project aims to reduce the numbers of women on remand by providing holistic legal and case management support services that are specifically tailored to women remanded at the Melbourne Magistrates’ Court. Launching in December 2018, it will enable us to employ an additional full-time solicitor to focus on this particular cohort of women.

These positive developments aside, perhaps the most heartening advances this year have been those of our individual clients – women who have turned to face the issues that have knocked them down, and have fought to get their lives back on track. It is their strength and resilience that continue to inspire us, and will drive us to improve and grow our service to meet the ever-increasing demand that is out there.

*Jill Prior*  
*Principal Legal Officer*

## PRACTICE MANAGER/TREASURER'S REPORT

LACW has been extremely fortunate to have the support of a number of philanthropic organisations, individual donors and government organisations in the past financial year. This, along with increased revenue through VLA grants for eligible clients and our expansion into indictable criminal work, has enabled us to greatly increase the reach of our service. In addition, we have also increased our offering to clients in terms of becoming a truly holistic service that addresses the causes of offending and disadvantage for women through the provision of tailored, structured case management support.

Specifically, we are extremely grateful for the following support:

- In July 2017 we received a grant from the Maddocks Foundation for the provision of a part-time paralegal and volunteer coordinator. This has enabled us to develop policies, procedures and practices for the more efficient engagement of volunteers, which has in turn greatly increased our capacity to assist vulnerable clients, in particular those who are not eligible for VLA funding.
- In October 2017 using funds donated through The Funding Network we were able to employ our first case manager, enabling us to give full effect to our holistic model of service delivery through the delivery of gender-specific, tailored one-on-one case management services to address the causes of offending and disadvantage in our clients.
- Our case management work has been able to continue throughout the remainder of the financial year and beyond through the generous support of the RE Ross Trust and Phyllis Connor Memorial Trust (facilitated by Equity Trustees).
- We once again were successful in obtaining a grant through the Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation's Community Legal Centres' Family Violence Fund, to further our work in providing legal assistance in family violence related matters, where criminal charges are an acknowledged consequence. In addition, we received a further grant through the Community Legal Centres Assistance Fund. Together, this funding has enabled us to employ a full-time solicitor for a period of 24 months to advise, represent and support women who, because of their lack of offending history or the type of offending, are not eligible for a grant of legal assistance through Victoria Legal Aid, and to provide holistic legal assistance to victims / survivors of family violence in the areas of intervention orders, victims of crime assistance, criminal law and infringements.
- We have continued to receive funding for emergency relief support to clients through the Magistrates' Court of Victoria's Court Fund. This has enabled us to provide clients with material aid including emergency accommodation, food vouchers and mobile phones.

We are indebted to the pro bono partners who have assisted us throughout the year. Specifically, Arnold Bloch Leibler have continued to provide us with pro bono legal services, in particular in relation to the development of policies, procedures and contractual documents. We would like to thank Bridgid Cowling and Peter Seidel in particular for their ongoing support. In addition, we have developed a new pro bono partnership with law firm Hall and Wilcox, which has provided us with a graduate solicitor for one day per week to assist with our VOCAT matters, in addition to a range of other material supports. We thank Nathan Kennedy for facilitating this, and would like to acknowledge the support of the Funding Network in bringing this relationship to fruition. We have also continued to receive pro bono and other support from Colin, Biggers & Paisley lawyers who have been strong supporters of our service since its inception.

The Australian Communities Foundation have continued their support for our work. They have provided pro bono marketing materials for us which have greatly assisted us in getting our message out to the wider community. In addition, they have facilitated relationships with potential donors and supporters through their extensive networks, and we are extremely grateful for their assistance in this regard.

We would also like to extend our thanks to Right Lane Consulting for their assistance in developing our strategic plan, and to Michael Shulman of Stannards Accountants and Advisors for his assistance in relation to our accounting and finance needs.

I was lucky enough to participate in the Growth Project in 2017-2018, a personal and professional development program that brings together charity and business leaders to help them drive efficiency and effectiveness in their charities. I was extremely fortunate to be paired with Fiona Grinwald as my mentor, who has shared her wealth of knowledge and experience working in both government and private enterprise and will continue to contribute to the strategic governance of LACW going forward.

In May 2018 we were honoured to be chosen as the recipient of the Australian Lawyers' Alliance Victorian Civil Justice Award. It is truly humbling to be recognised in this way by an organisation of lawyers who are themselves so committed to the pursuit of human rights and justice for their clients. We would like to extend our particular thanks to Jeremy King of Robinson Gill lawyers and ALA Victoria acting President Geraldine Collins for this award.

Finally, we held our first major community fund raising event in June 2018. LACW's Justice Dinners provided the opportunity for our supporters to host their friends and family for a special dinner to raise awareness and funds for the work that we do. We were completely overwhelmed by the positive response we received, and would like to thank all those that participated in the dinners, in particular our dinner hosts who did an amazing job in bringing this idea to fruition.

***Elena Pappas***

***Treasurer; Senior Lawyer and Practice Manager***

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Profit and loss

Cash mode 01 Jul 2017 – 30 June 2018

|                            |                           | <b>Total</b>      |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Income</b>              |                           |                   |
| 4-1200                     | Fee income VLA and VOCAT  | 95,110.33         |
| 4-1600                     | Fee Income Clients        | 6,695.00          |
| 4-4000                     | Interest Income           | 486.98            |
| 4-4005                     | Grants Government         | 131,838.85        |
| 4-4010                     | Grants - Philanthropic    | 89,400.00         |
| <b>Total Income</b>        |                           | <b>323,531.16</b> |
| <b>Less Cost of Sales</b>  |                           |                   |
| <b>Total Cost of Sales</b> |                           | <b>0.00</b>       |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>        |                           | <b>323,531.16</b> |
| <b>Less Expense</b>        |                           |                   |
| 6-1000                     | Accounting fees           | 395.36            |
| 6-2600                     | Insurance                 | 322.27            |
| 6-2800                     | Interest paid             | -3.40             |
| 6-3000                     | Internet                  | 981.50            |
| 6-3600                     | Office supplies           | 1,374.90          |
| 6-3800                     | IT expenses               | 1,761.68          |
| 6-3900                     | Memberships               | 2,101.09          |
| 6-4000                     | Postage & courier         | 1,342.11          |
| 6-4200                     | Printing & stationery     | 2,444.09          |
| 6-4600                     | Rent                      | 660.00            |
| 6-4800                     | Repairs & maintenance     | 243.94            |
| 6-5000                     | Sub contractors           | 9,754.72          |
| 6-5200                     | Sundry expenses           | 2,760.06          |
| 6-5400                     | Superannuation expense    | 14,923.33         |
| 6-5600                     | Telephone                 | 1,035.18          |
| 6-5800                     | Travel & accommodation    | 12,505.87         |
| 6-6200                     | Wages & salaries          | 169,486.84        |
| 6-6600                     | Work cover insurance      | 638.73            |
| <b>Total Expense</b>       |                           | <b>222,728.27</b> |
| <b>Operating Profit</b>    |                           | <b>100,802.89</b> |
| <b>Plus Other Income</b>   |                           |                   |
| 8-1000                     | Other Income              | 1,220.00          |
| 8-1200                     | Donations - Philanthropic | 1,500.00          |
| 8-1400                     | Donations - Private       | 13,513.72         |
| <b>Total Other Income</b>  |                           | <b>16,233.72</b>  |
| <b>Less Other Expense</b>  |                           |                   |
| <b>Total Other Expense</b> |                           | <b>0.00</b>       |
| <b>Net Profit</b>          |                           | <b>117,036.61</b> |

## Balance Sheet

# Law And Advocacy Centre For Women LTD

106-108 Victoria Street, Carlton VIC 3053, Australia

|                                    |                           | Total             |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Asset</b>                       |                           |                   |
| <b>Banking</b>                     |                           |                   |
| 1-1000                             | Cheque account            | 38,527.84         |
| 1-1400                             | Savings account           | 164,080.16        |
| <b>Total Banking</b>               |                           | <b>202,608.00</b> |
| <b>Current Assets</b>              |                           |                   |
| 1-1800                             | Accounts receivable       | 12,395.46         |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>        |                           | <b>12,395.46</b>  |
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>                |                           |                   |
| <b>Total Fixed Assets</b>          |                           | <b>0.00</b>       |
| <b>Total Asset</b>                 |                           | <b>215,003.46</b> |
| <b>Liability</b>                   |                           |                   |
| <b>Credit Card</b>                 |                           |                   |
| <b>Total Credit Card</b>           |                           | <b>0.00</b>       |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>         |                           |                   |
| 2-2200                             | GST collected             | 3,787.37          |
| 2-2400                             | GST paid                  | -2,130.71         |
| 2-2600                             | PAYG withholdings payable | 8,196.00          |
| 2-2800                             | Payroll deductions        | 10,806.57         |
| 2-3200                             | Superannuation payable    | 972.66            |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>   |                           | <b>21,631.89</b>  |
| <b>Long Term Liabilities</b>       |                           |                   |
| <b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b> |                           | <b>0.00</b>       |
| <b>Total Liability</b>             |                           | <b>21,631.89</b>  |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                  |                           | <b>193,371.57</b> |
| <b>Equity</b>                      |                           |                   |
| <b>Current Earnings</b>            |                           |                   |
| 3-1800                             | Current year earnings     | 119,405.69        |
| <b>Total Current Earnings</b>      |                           | <b>119,405.69</b> |
| <b>Retained Earnings</b>           |                           |                   |
| 3-1600                             | Retained earnings         | 73,965.88         |
| <b>Total Retained Earnings</b>     |                           | <b>73,965.88</b>  |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                |                           | <b>193,371.57</b> |



# AUDITOR'S REPORT



## Independent Review Report

### To the Members of Law and Advocacy Centre for Women Limited

We have reviewed the accompanying 30 June 2018 financial report of Law and Advocacy Centre for Women Limited, which comprises the balance sheet as at that date, and the profit or loss for the year then ended.

#### The Director's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the annual financial report in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the annual financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the June 2018 financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2410 Review of a Financial Report Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report is not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with *Corporations Act 2001*. As the auditor, ASRE 2410 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the audit of the annual financial report.

A review of an annual financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

#### Independence

In conducting our review, we have complied with the independence requirements of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand.

#### Conclusion

Based on our review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the annual financial report of Law and Advocacy Centre for Women Limited does not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the entity as at 30 June 2018, and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date, in accordance with the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

#### Stannards Accountants and Advisors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Shulman", is written over a light grey background.

Michael Shulman

Partner

Date 29/10/18

Stannards Accountants and Advisors Pty Ltd  
A.C.N. 006 857 441  
Postal: PO Box 581, South Yarra, Vic 3141  
Level 1, 60 Toorak Road, South Yarra, Vic 3141  
Tel: (03) 9867 4433 Fax: (03) 9867 5118  
Email: advisors@stannards.com.au






[stannards.com.au](http://stannards.com.au)

#### Partners

Marino Angelini, CA  
Michael Shulman, CA  
Nello Trafficante, CPA  
Jason Wall, CA  
Peter Angelini, CA  
Nick Jones, CPA



## OUR SUPPORTERS

| Corporate  |  |
|--|--|
|  <p><b>Maddocks</b></p> | <p><b>Arnold Bloch Leibler</b><br/>Lawyers and Advisers</p>  |
| <p><b>The Maddocks Foundation</b><br/>Philanthropic grant for Paralegal/Volunteer Coordinator</p>        | <p><b>Arnold Bloch Leibler</b><br/>Pro-bono legal provider</p>   |
|                         |                     |
| <p><b>Hall and Wilcox</b><br/>Provider of pro bono legal placements</p>                                  | <p><b>Colin, Biggers &amp; Paisley</b><br/>Sponsorship, events and pro bono assistance for clients</p> |
| Philanthropic  |  |
|                       |                    |
| <p><b>The Growth Project</b><br/>Philanthropic Support for capacity building</p>                         | <p><b>Australian Communities Foundation</b><br/>Grant for strategic/marketing materials</p>            |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|    |    |
| <p align="center"><b>RE Ross Trust</b></p> <p>Philanthropic Grant for Case Management services</p>  | <p align="center"><b>Equity Trustees –<br/>The Phyllis Connor Memorial Trust</b></p> <p>Philanthropic Grant for Case Management services</p>  |
| <p align="center"><b>Community and Government</b></p>   |   |
|    |    |
| <p><b>RMIT University – Centre for Innovative Justice</b></p> <p>Coordinator of Multidisciplinary Partnership<br/>between CIJ, MHLC and LACW</p> <p>Provider of premises and student placements</p> | <p align="center"><b>State Government of Victoria</b></p> <p>Project funding through Community Legal Centres’<br/>Assistance Fund and Community Legal Centres’<br/>Family Violence Fund</p> |
|    |   |
| <p><b>Djirra (formerly the Aboriginal Family Violence<br/>Prevention and Legal Service Victoria)</b></p> <p>Provider of premises; Client referral partner</p>                                       |   |

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANK YOU

### Donors

We would like to thank all the donors who have contributed to our work, including those who have donated via our Give Now website. Thank you in particular to all those who participated in our inaugural Justice Dinners in June 2018, especially our wonderful dinner hosts who made the event such a huge success.

### Providers of in-kind support

We would like to acknowledge the following organisations and individuals who have provided us with free or discounted products and services: Scott Winning – Boca Productions; Michael Shulman – Stannards Accountants and Advisors; Native Technology; DF IT Solutions; Right Lane Consulting.

### Community

We would like to acknowledge the following community organisations who have worked closely with us to provide referrals and support to clients: Djirra (formerly the Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria); Safe Steps; Elizabeth Morgan House; Launch Housing; Uniting Care ReGen; Berry Street; the Mental Health Legal Centre; Women’s Legal Service; Victoria Legal Aid.

## CONTACT US

The Law and Advocacy Centre for Women Ltd

106-108 Victoria Street, Carlton, Vic 3053

PO Box 13315, Law Courts, Vic, 8010

Tel 03 9448 8930

Fax 03 9923 6669

[info@lacw.org.au](mailto:info@lacw.org.au)

[www.lacw.org.au](http://www.lacw.org.au)

ABN: 84 602 365 542

LACW acknowledges that it operates on Aboriginal country and that sovereignty over this land was never ceded. We pay our respect to the traditional owners, in particular, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nations, and their elders past, present and emerging,

