

NACLC

NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
OF COMMUNITY
LEGAL CENTRES



06

07

ANNUAL
REPORT



About the National Association of Community Legal Centres

The National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) is the peak organisation representing community legal centres in Australia. It is a federated structure. Its members are the state and territory associations. Together, these organisations represent around 185 community legal centres nationally. The objects of the National Association of Community Legal Centres are to assist disadvantaged and marginalised people in the Australian community obtain access to legal services by:

- supporting and assisting community legal centres to provide these services;
- providing a national forum for community legal centres;
- developing and coordinating national community legal centres policy;
- advancing the interests of community legal centres within Australia.

NACLC's governing body, the Management Committee, meets eight times each year as a group of state and territory representatives and elected national representatives. The work of NACLC is directed by the Management Committee, within the priorities set as part of the Association's strategic plan. NACLC is funded through contributions from centres, income which it generates and also receives some project funding from the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department.

Convenor's Report

NACLC's plans for the year were overtaken by the announcement on 30 October of an internal review of the Commonwealth Community Legal Services Program (CLSP).

The review was called in the shadow of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's withdrawal of financial support for RRR centres to attend the National CLC Conference on the grounds that CLCs should not "campaign against laws enacted by the Federal parliament". NACLC, individual CLCs, and supporters across the profession have taken up this issue, strongly putting the case for the effectiveness of the CLC service delivery model that contains community legal education, law reform and advocacy work along with casework.

We seized the opportunity the review provided to showcase the work of CLCs. The breadth, colour and amazing commitment of CLCs to innovatively attend to their client's needs and the variety of approaches to achieving justice for disadvantaged Australians enabled NACLC to highlight the extraordinary work of under-resourced, underpaid and over-committed CLCs in the communities they serve.

In August 2006, I attended the Access to Justice and National Pro Bono Conference in Melbourne, joining a panel on Legal Need. The work of CLCs in addressing this need was positively recognised and applauded.

We were shocked to learn of the detention and torture of Sekai Holland in Zimbabwe. Sekai was the keynote international speaker at the 2006 CLC conference in Wollongong and we had been inspired by her address. NACLC joined many other individuals and organisations in sending expressions of support to Sekai. A statement on our behalf condemning the Zimbabwe government's actions was presented at the 4th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on 29 March 2007.

This year we have worked closely with the Australian Legal Assistance Forum (ALAF) on a number of issues including the impact of Family Relationship Centres (FRCs) on CLCs and their clients.

NACLC joined in efforts to replace employment advice funding that had previously been provided to 8 CLCs by the Office of the Employment Advocate. Unfortunately it was decided that the Office of Workplace Services

could properly advise both the employee and the employer.

Through the year I attended, presented or convened panel discussions on the following conferences or events:

- CLC conference in Auckland in New Zealand in March.
- Panel discussion in Canberra on the detention of David Hicks
- Attend and presented at the ACOSS Conference in November 2006 on the Politics of Fear and the effect on our clients of the constant demonising of communities and disadvantaged people.
- National Legal Aid Best Practice conference in Fremantle 31 May, 1 June as part of a panel discussion on the Future of Legal Aid.

NACLC has worked with the National Network of Indigenous Women's Legal Services (NNIWLS) in what has been a very challenging year for them. The General Meeting decided in March that one day a week of my time should be set aside to assist NNIWLS. NNIWLS have been focused on reconfiguring their structure and workplans to relocate the national office to Sydney. NACLC will continue to support them in what has been a difficult year in which the aim of working collaboratively to achieve better access to justice for Indigenous clients has regrettably had to take a second place.

Finally, my thanks to Julie Bishop, Toni Luu, and Sarah Mitchell, the staff of NACLC. Thank you to Justin Finighan for his CLSIS training. Huge thanks and a fond farewell to our BBS administrator extraordinaire, Sam Schuman. I'd especially like to acknowledge the work of Jenny Lovric on the CLSP review. For another fabulous contribution from the state reps, the unsung heroes of a viable and robust national organisation – thankyou!



Liz O'Brien

Liz O'Brien
CONVENOR

Director's Annual Report 2006/07

NACLCL's focus for 2006/2007 has been to assist community legal centres to provide the best service that they can. NACLCL's focus has also been to assist Centres to ensure that each dollar of funding received is used to achieve the maximum benefit. All our activities throughout the year have been guided by this focus.

On 30 October 2006, the Attorney-General informed NACLCL that an internal review of the Commonwealth's Community Legal Services Program (CLSP) was to be conducted. NACLCL was invited to provide input to the Review.

The CLSP Review provided NACLCL with an opportunity to talk to centres about their work, about the problems they encounter and their ideas for the future of their centre. It was a chance to take stock, to reflect, to imagine and to look forward. I was reminded of the great service provided by CLCs around the country. This service is provided in often difficult circumstances, by hard-working and dedicated staff, and is a model of best practice service delivery to disadvantaged communities.

It should be unnecessary to have to justify the effectiveness and efficiency of the CLCs given centres' expertise at getting blood out of a stone, their creative responses to client need, the respectful and compassionate treatment of their clients, and their constant search for ways to do it better. Community legal centres are to be congratulated for this work.

In 2006/2007 NACLCL increased its efforts to lobby for new funds for Centres. As part of our lobbying activity, the document *Community Legal Centres Across Australia: An Investment Worth Protecting* was prepared and distributed widely.

NACLCL engaged Mercer Human Resource Consulting to undertake a review of the remuneration levels of a selection of staff positions within CLCs. It found that CLC wages are on an average 30% below the nearest comparative wages.

In 2006/2007 NACLCL revised its Rules and adopted the amended Constitution. The main difference is that NACLCL's governing body is now called its Management Committee. All other changes made reflect NACLCL's current practice.

NACLCL continued working on a number of new services for centres including: a bulk purchase scheme of online legal resources for Centres; a national IT support scheme; and a scheme to try to reduce the telephony costs at Centres through the use of Voice Over the Internet Protocol (VOIP) products.

The Commonwealth Attorney-General provided \$1m in one-off funding to CLCs in early 2007. This money was directed towards the purchase of IT equipment and other resources for centres. NACLCL also received some special project funds to develop new services to assist CLCs.

NACLCL would like to acknowledge the efforts of the staff in the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, as well as the state Community Legal Services Program managers and staff in the Legal Aid Commissions around the country in support of the work of CLCs. NACLCL can only achieve what it does through this collaborative effort.

At the end of the year we await the Attorney-General's response to the Review of the Community Legal Services Program. NACLCL is confident that one of the outcomes of the Review will be an acknowledgement of the achievements of CLCs and the important contribution they make to Australian society.

In the coming year, NACLCL will continue to work alongside Centres, their staff and volunteers. NACLCL will continue to feel privileged to have the opportunity to make a contribution to this work for community, with compassion and for justice.

(All documents referred to are available from the NACLCL office or www.naclcl.org.au)



Julie Bishop

Julie Bishop
DIRECTOR

Community Legal Centres

Community legal centres are independent, not-for-profit community-based organisations that provide free legal advice, information and education to their local client communities. CLCs provide “equitable access to legal assistance services for disadvantaged members of the Australian community and those with special needs” in accordance with their guidelines.

CLCs adopt unique and innovative ways of working with their communities to identify and address new, emerging and sometimes contentious areas of unmet legal needs. This strategic service delivery model includes an approach to identifying legal need, planning and developing services responses and delivering accessible services. Service delivery includes an integrated mix of information and advice provision, casework, court representation, outreach work, community development education and capacity building and law reform, policy work and systemic advocacy.

Communities and clients of CLCs benefit from Centres’ expertise in:

- areas of law that other providers have no interest in, nor facility to serve
- assisting people with complex needs and multiple disadvantages
- assessing and innovatively addressing client need by adopting a responsive, multi-dimensional approach
- compassionate and committed staff and volunteers who work long and hard to get the best outcomes for their clients

CLCs achieve maximum value for the small investment in them by their ability to:

- harness extraordinary volunteer support to provide services (to the value of around \$23 million each year)
- provide cost savings by sharing their expertise and resources between Centres and in their collaborations with other legal and non-legal service providers
- provide effective and efficient services that focus on early intervention and prevention – this means that for each dollar in funding they receive they are able to provide \$100 savings in benefits to the community and government.

Australian Legal Assistance Forum

NACLC actively pursues and participates in strategic alliances with organisations in the legal and community sector. Our most important alliance is that with our colleagues in Australian Legal Assistance Forum (ALAF).

ALAF is a body comprised of the major legal aid client service providers in Australia. These organisations are:

- National Legal Aid representing the Directors of all Legal Aid Commissions in Australia and through them those Commissions.
- The Law Council of Australia (LCA) representing Australian lawyers and their State and Territory representative bodies.
- Representatives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services.
- NACLC representing CLCs throughout Australia.

Launched in early 1999, ALAF was established to enable these organisations to consider and address Australian legal assistance issues in a co-operative way and to make recommendations on those issues in a co-ordinated fashion. The current Chair of ALAF is Mark Woods from the LCA.

The work of ALAF in 2006/2007 has included:

- Continued brokering of regular meetings between peak organisations of Family Relationship Centre providers and CLCs to identify common ground and try to assist and clarify legal information and referrals
- Working towards strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal services (ATSILS) around Australia including working towards establishing a peak organisation for ATSILS
- Development and release of the ALAF Civil Justice Strategy – which has been delivered to the Attorney-General and the shadow Attorney-General
- Campaigning on the prolonged detention, release and subsequent handling of the David Hicks case
- The establishment of State Legal Assistance Forums.

NACLC Priorities and Projects for 2007-2010

■ PRIORITY 1: IMPROVEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

Project 1.1: CLSP Review – Response & Negotiation

Outcome CLSP Review recommends changes that improve CLC capacity to provide services, that enhance service delivery, that improve the outcomes for CLC clients and their communities, and respects the independence of CLCs.

Project 1.2: Negotiate 2008-2011 CLSP Service Agreement

Outcome 2008-2011 CLSP Service Agreement reflects the requirements of all stakeholders, is easily understood, and the reporting requirements supply information that is useful to all stakeholders.

■ PRIORITY 2: BRANDING OF CLCS & IMPLEMENTATION OF THE QUALITY MARK

Project 2.1: Branding of CLCs & Implementation of the Quality Mark

Outcome Recognition of NACLC logo as a mark of quality and a system in place to ensure that CLC services are of a high standard.

Project 2.2: CLC Doing Justice DVD

Outcome Greater awareness of local CLC and its services.

■ PRIORITY 3: BE AN AUTHORITATIVE VOICE ON JUSTICE ISSUES

Project 3.1: Doing Justice – Indigenous Justice

Outcome: Improved non-indigenous understanding & support of indigenous issues.

Project 3.2: Doing Justice – Human Rights

Outcome: Shadow Reports on ICCPR & ICESCR assists with improved understanding of Human Rights and how to assert & protect them within Australia.

Project 3.3: Doing Justice – Civil Society Dialogue

Outcome: Improved engagement in Civil society dialogue.

■ PRIORITY 4: CENTRE SUPPORT

Project 4.1: Provision of Services to CLCs including Insurance, Communications, IT Support, and Legal Resources

Outcome: Through work of NACLC, Centres are better able to provide free and quality legal services to those in need, are assisted to provide the best service that they can, and each funding \$ received by centres is better able to be used to the maximum benefit.

■ PRIORITY 5: NETWORK SUPPORT

Project 5.1: Facilitate collaboration between CLCs by provision of support to the national networks

Outcome: Active and effective national networks that involve a large number of centres, that collaborate on projects of mutual interest; that share skills and resources.

■ PRIORITY 6: MEMBER / ASSOCIATION SUPPORT

Project 6.1: Assist State associations in their work

Outcome: Effective collaborative relationship with well-run State associations that provide services and support to CLCs so that CLCs can better provide services to their clients.

■ PRIORITY 7: NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Project 7.1: Run the national conference each year

Outcome: Well-attended, well-run and well-evaluated national conference that energises and inspires delegates; that facilitates collaboration; that strengthens partnerships between CLCs and other organizations; that strengthens relationships between staff, volunteers and management committee members of CLCs; that provides training, updates skills and assists with identifying future training needs; and is fun.

>> Major Projects for 2006/2007

1. CLSP Review

On 30 October 2006 the Attorney-General announced an internal Review of the Community Legal Services Program and invited NALC to provide input to the Review. Work on the response to the Review and subsequent follow-up has been the first priority of NALC's work since November. A copy of NALC's response to the Review was sent to each Centre. NALC will continue to work with the Attorney-General's Department on the Review and the implementation of recommendations of the Review in 2007/2008.

2. Funding

Each and every inquiry, review or report in relation to CLCs has recognised that CLCs are underfunded and that unmet legal needs are increasing. How to access new funds is a constant area of work for NALC. In 2006/2007, NALC developed and presented a detailed case for new funds. The summary was distributed widely. NALC submitted that CLCs need an additional \$39m in Federal Government funds based on what it costs Centres in real

terms to produce their planned outcomes. It was calculated that one worker at a CLC actually costs around \$100,000. Following from this, NALC calculated that each Centre should receive at least \$500,000 (depending on the program) to better achieve their outcomes. NALC also determined that the Specialist programs have received no increase in funds in real terms for over 10 years are now most in need.

3. CLC Wages and Conditions

As part of a project to develop a model national wages and conditions package for CLC staff, NALC retained Mercer Human Resource Consulting to undertake a

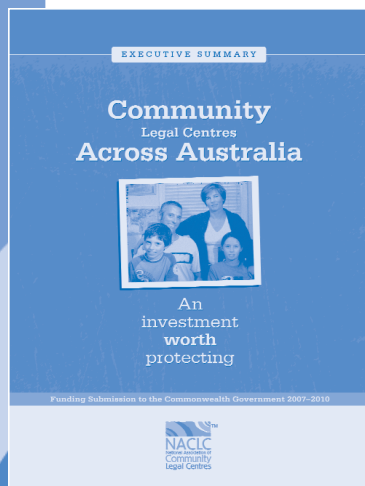
review of the remuneration levels of CLC workers. Mercer looked at wage scales in each state, considered the impact of wage packaging, and reviewed the wage scales of similar positions in comparable organisations. They concluded that on average CLC wages are 30% below comparable wages in like organisations. They advised that Centres should consider an immediate 17% increase in wages to avoid ongoing problems with staff recruitment and retention. The Report is available on the NALC website. NALC will circulate to all Centres the national CLC model wages and conditions package in 2007/2008.

4. Doing Justice

The *Doing Justice* campaign was launched at the national Conference in 2003. Each year NALC focuses on an area of national importance determined through consultations with Centres about emerging client and/or community need. The focus for 2006 – 2009 is Indigenous justice. In 2006/2007 NALC has consulted with the National Network of Indigenous Women's Legal Services and Aboriginal Legal Services on the most useful area for NALC to work in. During the consultation process, the 'emergency response' in the Northern Territory was declared. CLCs, Family Violence Units and other related organisations in the NT working with the communities affected by the 'emergency response' have been discussing how best to respond to this situation. NALC will work with this group, as requested, as part of its Doing Justice work. Indigenous justice will be a central theme of the 2008 NALC Conference to be held in Darwin.

5. Trademarking CLCs and Quality Mark

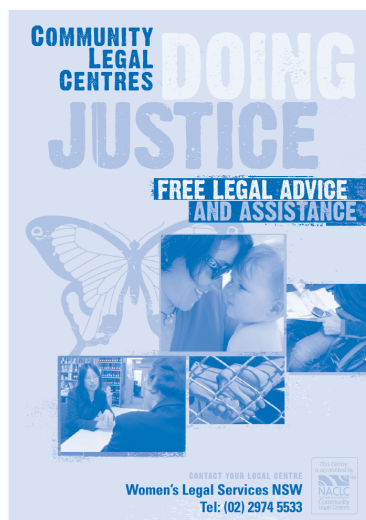
While NALC continued to pursue the intellectual property rights to the use of the terms 'Community Legal Centre' and 'Community Legal Service' in 2006/2007, more attention was focused on how to effectively implement the use of the NALC Trademark as a Quality Mark. Work will continue with the state CLC associations on this in the coming year.



6. New Services

NALCLC has been working on a number of schemes over the last 2 years to establish new services for Centres. As a result of once-off funding from the Commonwealth Attorney-General each of the following schemes will commence in 2007/2008.

- Bulk purchase of legal resources – National licences to a number of online services from Thomson, LexisNexis and CCH will be purchased for use by Centres which will include a discount on print titles and individual centre purchases. The Commonwealth Attorney-General has provided 90% of the funds for this scheme.
- A scheme to assist Centres nationally with IT support will commence in early 2008. Under the scheme, a list of preferred suppliers (IT technicians) will be circulated to Centres and each of the technicians will have agreed to service levels and a maximum hourly rate. A help desk will be established to direct Centres to the appropriate technician and to monitor the scheme.
- NALCLC has been exploring schemes to reduce Centres' telephony costs. During 2006/2007 NALCLC has developed a 3-stage project to assist Centres to get the best out of Voice Over the Internet Protocol (VOIP) without jumping ahead of the technology. Funds provided by the Commonwealth Attorney-General will be used to reduce call costs between Centres. We will also explore ways to reduce the costs of 1800 numbers to Centres. In 2008/2009 we will examine how best to use VOIP for all outgoing calls.
- CLC Management Committee support – In 2006/2007 NALCLC began researching how best to provide support to Management Committees and how to work in with similar schemes of the state associations.



In 2007/2008, with money provided by the Commonwealth Attorney-General, NALCLC will develop a strategy and some tools to assist CLC Management Committees.

7. Community Legal Services Program – CLSP

NALCLC receives project funding from the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department to work with the 143 centres that receive CLSP funds. This work encompasses CLSIS, CLSP reporting requirements, financial management requirements, liaison with state program managers and AG's Dept, etc. The focus of this year's work has been CLSIS training and reports, assistance with financial

management, final year compliance with the current Agreement, and the CLSP Review.

8. Human Rights & NGO in Special Consultative Status with the UN

During 2006/2007 NALCLC endorsed 11 people to attend UN meetings as its representatives. NALCLC representatives attended: the Annual Consultations with NGOs; the 57th Session of EXCOM; 1st Session of the Biwako Millenium Framework (BMF) Stakeholders' Coordination Meeting in Bangkok; 8th Session of the Ad-Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities in New York; UNESCAP Workshop on Regional Follow-up to the 7th Session and Preparation for the 8th Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on an International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities in Bangkok; and the 4th & 5th sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. NALCLC continues to be involved in the development of Shadow Reports in collaboration with other NGOs. NALCLC acknowledges the support of the Keir Foundation for its Human Rights work.

Keeping in Touch

Throughout the year, NACLC communicates with Centres to keep them updated on issues of national relevance. We do this in a variety of ways and use a number of formats.

NACLC fax

The NACLC fax is a one-page information sheet that is faxed to all Centres as important information needs to be distributed. It contains updates on issues of national relevance to Centres including alerts and reminders, submission deadlines, upcoming events, news about the BBS, the national conference, insurance and service agreement as well as profiles of the work of NACLC and the national Networks.

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES: The Australia and New Zealand Directory

The Directory is a listing of Australian and New Zealand CLC contact details. Also included are listings of Family Violence Prevention Units, Aboriginal Legal Services, pro bono schemes and government contacts around Australia relevant to Legal Centres. The Directory is produced around April of each year and distributed to all Centres and relevant agencies and is published on the NACLC website. The format of the 2007 Directory was re-vamped to include information such as hours of operation, outreach locations, areas of law and specialist services for each CLC to make referrals to legal centres easier and more relevant.

Bulletin Board System (BBS)

The BBS is a free messaging system and the national CLC's main communication tool. It provides online discussion groups and forums for Centres' private use, allows sharing of Centre resources and documents and facilitates enhanced Centre collaboration.

NACLC purchases the licenses for the BBS from the NSW Law and Justice Foundation and the server is

maintained in Victoria by our intrepid systems administrator, Damien Gardner. The system is run, funded and maintained by the NACLC. The BBS's capacity is for 1275 accounts – as of June 2007, 1229 accounts are being used.

This year, we have also set up separate and distinct areas of the BBS for NSW Legal Aid Commissions and Aboriginal Legal Services so they can develop a similar intranet for their members using the BBS. The NSW Tenancy Services continue to run a vibrant and successful separate part of the BBS as well.

The one sad note this year on the BBS was that after 7 years, Sam Schuman, our brilliant CLC Administrator, left to pursue a teaching career. Thanks to Sam for her many hours of hard work and her patience with the BBS. Thanks also to our network administrator, Damien, for his many hours of work looking after the BBS and its users.

Telephone Meetings

NACLC provides annual funding for the national Networks to meet via phone link-up. These meetings provide the opportunity for Networks to exchange information, share resources and ideas, and to work together.



NACLC website

The NACLC website is located at www.naccl.org.au. It was re-designed and updated in 2007. The website is the public face for NACLC and CLCs. It includes information about NACLC, CLCs, the various state associations as well as information on NACLC's current work, the Community Legal Centre Directory

in electronic format, NACLC publications, conference papers and the latest NACLC news.



National Association of
Community
Legal Centres



06 NATIONAL COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE CONFERENCE

The 2006 National Conference was held in Wollongong, NSW from 3-6 September and was attended by 330 delegates including our CLC colleagues from New Zealand, and other organisations including Family Violence Prevention Units, Legal Aid Commissions, Commonwealth Attorney General's Department and the NSW Law and Justice Foundation.

The Conference is an important opportunity for CLC workers to learn about new and emerging issues facing CLCs and their constituents, to discuss areas of commonality and formulate creative and positive ways in which they might address these issues. It is a great opportunity for professional development for many CLC workers.

The welcome reception saw delegates welcomed to Wollongong by Uncle Ruben Brown, a traditional owner of the Illawarra, Cr Alex Darling, the Lord Mayor and Sharon Bird, the Federal Member for Cunningham. The Conference was opened with a traditional welcome by Uncle Ruben Brown and Auntie Gwen Brown of Korewal Elouera Jerrungarugh and was followed by the keynote speakers, Sekai Holland from the Movement for Democratic Change in Zimbabwe and Cleonie Quayle from the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

Other keynote addresses were delivered by John North from the Law Council of Australia, Sharan Burrow ACTU President, Linda Tucker from Kingsford Legal Centre, the Hon Alastair Nicholson, Andrew Johnson Director of ACOSS and Rosemary Kayess from the UNSW Law School.

In between the opening and closing plenaries, 46 workshops were offered to delegates and covered topics as diverse as consumer credit and debt, family law changes, producing community legal education materials and IT support. Forty-five conference resolutions were passed – these resolutions help to guide the work of the NACLC over the year.

Thanks to the conference organising committees and Marilyn Hall, the conference organiser. Thanks also to the University of Wollongong for generously donating its facilities for the Network meetings.

Insurance and Risk Management

**PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY, DIRECTORS & OFFICERS,
PUBLIC LIABILITY AND OFFICE PACK INSURANCE**

The NACLC bulk Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) scheme continues to be a successful and cost-effective way for CLCs to manage both their risk and their PII premiums. There are now 167 Centres participating in the NACLC PII scheme.

Due to our low risk record over previous years the premium decreased this year. The *Risk Management Guide*, annual cross-checks and compulsory state PI meetings help individual Centres understand risk in their legal practice and to prevent claims being made against them.

The Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department again granted CLCs a significant amount towards the payment of the premium for the 2006/07 Policy for all Centres. Thanks also to Victorian Legal Aid, the Queensland Law Society, the Attorney-General's Departments in Tasmania and South Australia who contributed to Centre premium costs in their respective states.

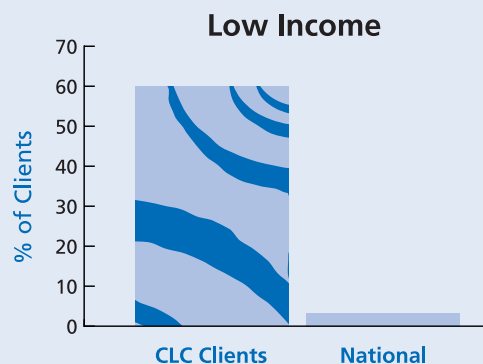
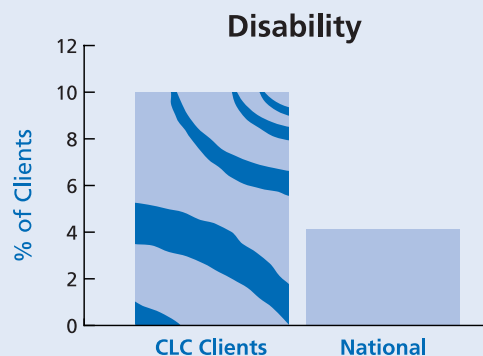
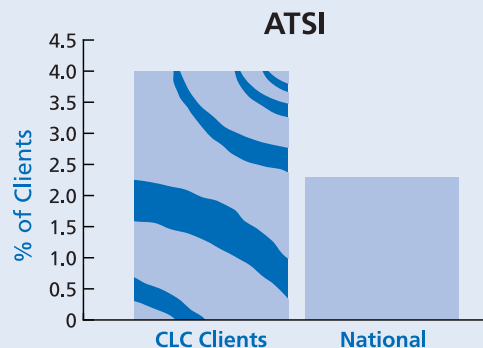
During the year, the PII National Committee met 11 times. They continue to guide the PII scheme with a steady hand. NACLC thanks the individual members for their continued participation, their thoughtfulness and skill in considering and answering the big insurance questions.

NACLC would also like to thank our broker, David Berry, at Aon Risk Services Australia Limited in Adelaide, who is always willing to help.

NACLC continues to offer free public liability cover to all member Centres. The national policy was renewed on 1 January 2007 and it means that all member Centres in Australia have public liability cover, to the limit of \$20 million, at no cost.

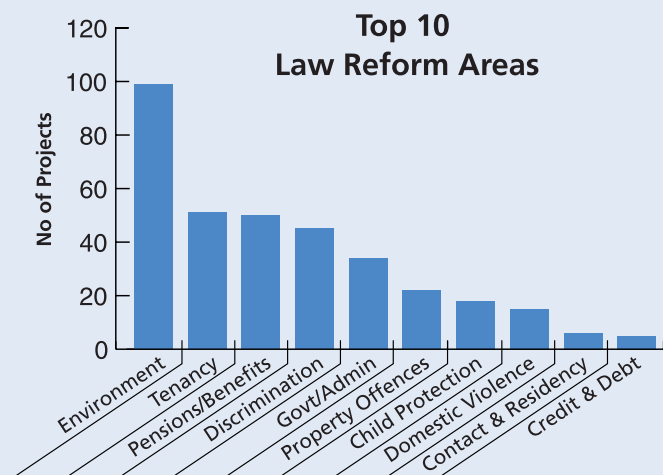
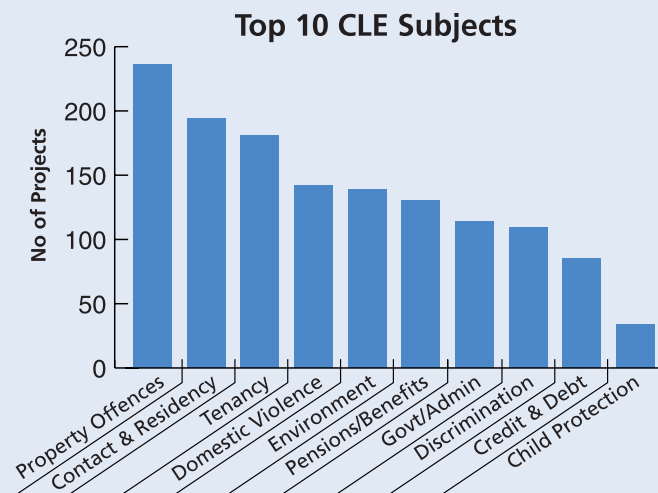
The bulk Directors' and Officers' insurance policy was renewed on 1 March 2007 and the scheme now covers 131 Centres. This year the cover was issued under an Association Liability Insurance policy that provides a much broader cover than the previous policy – at no rise in costs to individual Centres. Also available to CLCs is a reduced price but comprehensive Office Pack insurance.

Client Profile CLC Clients in 2006/2007*



* CLC Client data comes from the CLSIS System. 143 of the 185 CLCs contribute data to this system. Data is therefore indicative of CLC client profile for all centres. National data is from the ABS 2006 census data.

Community Law – Our Systemic and Preventative work in 2006/2007



PRO BONO SUPPORT

A major contribution to NACLC's work each year comes from the major law firms through their pro bono schemes. NACLC accesses this assistance through the Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH) in QLD, NSW and Victoria. NACLC thanks each PILCH for their willingness to assist, their speedy response and their appropriate selection of firms.

NACLC would also like to thank each of the Pro Bono Coordinators at the firms for their patience and their attempts to meet our many requests ranging from money to office fit-outs!

In particular this year, we thank

- Tracey Vitnell at Gilbert + Tobin for her patience and expert assistance with the bulk purchase of legal resources for CLCs
- Jessica Leitch at Mercer Human Resource Consulting for the research and advice in relation to remuneration levels for staff at CLCs
- Anne Cregan at Blake Dawson Waldron for the provision of meeting rooms and catering for NACLC's meetings throughout the year
- Annette Bain at Freehills in Sydney for assistance and ongoing creative solutions throughout the year
- Lucienne Mumme and Cameron Goodwin at Clayton Utz for their advice on the WorkChoices legislation in relation to CLCs
- Lisa Lennon and Veg Tran at Gilbert + Tobin for assistance with our Trademark application
- Alice McDougall, Wendy Wu, Minas Frangoulis, and Ivy Loh at Freehills in Melbourne for their ongoing assistance with NACLC's Constitution
- Nicolas Patrick at DLA Phillips Fox for his assistance, particularly in relation to the CLSP Review

Most importantly, NACLC thanks the 3500 people who volunteer each year at CLCs throughout the country making a contribution valued at least \$23 million in monetary terms, but which is invaluable in terms of its impact.

National Network of Indigenous Women's Legal Services (NNIWLS)

The NNIWLS is a national peak body for Indigenous women's legal services across Australia, promoting social justice for Indigenous women. NNIWLS undertakes advocacy, promotes high quality service delivery and service coordination. The current Coordinator of NNIWLS is Debra Rose.

NACLC and NNIWLS are committed to working together to promote Indigenous justice: a NNIWLS member attends NACLC Management Committee, and NNIWLS is represented on the NACLC Conference Organising Committee. NACLC is represented on NNIWLS' Strengthening Committee. NACLC and NNIWLS have continued to work on a Memorandum of Intent to facilitate enhanced understanding and cooperation.

It has been a challenging year for NNIWLS: it accepted the requirement of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department to relocate the National Office from Perth to the Eastern seaboard by 1 July 2007 – but it is as yet to find premises. In the meantime, NNIWLS has been forced to operate temporarily under restricted guidelines and decreased staffing and has put virtually all of its operational activities and projects on hold.

Despite these constraints, NNIWLS held a successful planning day and AGM at the 2006 NACLC Conference, attended the National Indigenous Women's gathering in Adelaide under the Family Violence Program in October 2006 and participated in a joint presentation with NACLC at a Conference in April 2007.

NNIWLS is currently working towards its next planning day and AGM in September 2007. Looking to the future, NNIWLS is hopeful that the next year will be a fruitful one – and once relocated will be able to avail itself of better resources to assist its activities. NACLC will continue to work with NNIWLS to achieve its aims of promoting better access to justice for Indigenous women across Australia.

With a little help from our friends...

NACLCL employs a small number of staff. In order to broaden the capacity and scope of its activities, NACLCL calls on the assistance and draws upon the considerable expertise of many people in the sector across Australia. The contributions of these people “add value” to the work and activities of NACLCL – giving NACLCL a truly national profile.

The following profiles are of some remarkable people who have contributed to NACLCL and the CLC sector with dedication and energy. Sadly for NACLCL, some of these people have left the sector – and to them NACLCL sends a special thanks and pays tribute to their legacy.



Jane Cipants

Jane started working at Illawarra Legal Centre (ILC) as its first Co-ordinator in 1996, and stayed in this role until 2007. Jane comes from a social work background – working in the health sector, at Lifeline and the (then) Department

of Social Security. Through these networks, Jane had met many CLC people and had often referred clients to ILC. She was particularly attracted to the work of CLCs while doing her Masters in Social Policy. At the time, Jane felt ILC was the only organisation in the Illawarra region actually engaging in the big policy issues.

Jane worked with NACLCL over her years at ILC. She was the NSW State Representative to NACLCL for a number of years, and played an instrumental role in negotiating the most recent CLSP Service Agreement. Jane’s work on the CLSP Service Agreement has assisted NACLCL to negotiate a better agreement for CLCs – however Jane in turn noted the positive impact of this work on ILC, giving her and the Centre a detailed and intimate understanding of the Agreement. Jane also played a critical role in the recent joint Commonwealth/State Review of Community Legal Centres in NSW.

Reflecting on her time in the sector, Jane admires the freedom and independence of CLCs to respond to issues facing their clients as and when they arise. The work, while often stressful, is always interesting (“I can honestly say that I was never once bored in the 11 years at ILC”) Centres’ flexibility to quickly find innovative service delivery strategies is very rewarding. It is also extremely motivating to work in an organisation with values in line with your own personal values.

Highlights included working on a successful multi-facted campaign challenging the discriminatory effect of local government anti-loitering laws. Jane also cites ILC’s “Start Out Right” consumer education program. The award winning interactive workshops reached thousands of young school leavers, and involved working with partners from government and the community.

Jane has recently commenced in the role as project manager for the New South Wales Legal Assistance Forum which works closely with access to justice legal service providers including CLCs.



Lea Anderson

Lea started her time at CLCs in 1997 at Sussex Street Community Law Service (SSCLS) in Perth as a Community Legal Education Worker in the Service’s Disability Discrimination Unit. Prior to SSCLS Lea had worked as a

trainer and industrial research officer for a number of trade unions. Lea became the Manager of Women’s Law Centre of WA (WLC) in 2002.

Committed to working in equal opportunity and human rights, Lea has been attracted to the ability of CLCs to work with a range of communities to pursue social justice outcomes in a practical way – using a mix of casework, law reform and community legal education (“it certainly wasn’t the money!”). Lea says that her work at WLC has been the most fulfilling and satisfying work she has ever done.

Lea contributed to the work of NACLCL as one of the two joint WA State Representatives to NACLCL for over 6 years (with Naomi Brown and Gai Walker). Lea

participated in the negotiations on the most recent funding agreement – one that ensured improved terms for CLCs. Some of Lea's contributions to national policy issues include the 2004 Senate Inquiry into Legal Aid and Access to Justice, and into the Commonwealth Government Inquiry into Joint Custody for children.

At a State level, Lea was on the WA CLC State Association's Executive for 4–5 years, and was also closely involved in the Joint State/Commonwealth CLC Review in WA. Positively, this review lead to a consolidated funding program, which in turn lead to the funding of a Domestic Violence Legal Worker's Network which placed solicitors at CLCs close to local courts. WLC auspices the Coordinator of that Network.

Lea was a NACLCL liaison officer for a number of NACLCL's Networks. These networks provide a mechanism for improved relationship-building and communication between CLCs across Australia. Lea reflects that it was a privilege to work with NACLCL in this regard – however, for NACLCL, Lea's enthusiasm, energy and dedication in this area and to CLCs in general have been invaluable.

Lea has recently left the CLC sector to take up a position with the United Firefighters Union of WA – an industry with a 100% union participation. NACLCL thanks Lea for her committed assistance while working with CLCs. We wish her well and hope to see her back in the sector in the future!

Susan Dodd

Susan Dodd is the Coordinator of the Warndu Wathilli-Carri Ngura Aboriginal Family Violence Legal Service (WWCN) in Port Augusta, South Australia, and has been with the service since 2000. The Service began in 2000 under the auspices of Women's Legal Services in South Australia. As a standalone service it now employs five staff and is another fine example of how a small group of energetic and dedicated workers can provide innovative services to help their communities in need.

The Service works closely with their client communities, assisting them with changes to the Family Law Act and rights and responsibilities in relation to family violence. It uses Community Legal Education, often in conjunction with other community organisations, through radio broadcasts, visits to other communities, presentations and the like.

Susan is involved in a local Roundtable of service providers who get together around 4–5 times a year to discuss issues in service delivery to their client base – including identifying needs, duplications and gaps in services.

Susan includes the young women's camps as one of the highlights of her Service's work. The camps involve going out to communities with young women to talk about family violence and sexual assault, and to encourage them to use of the services available to help them.

They have also provided legal assistance to "Males in Black" – an organisation that educates young men and fathers about family violence. In this more indirect way,

Staff and Volunteers

Number of staff & volunteers who worked at CLCs around Australia during 2006/2007:

State	Full-time staff	Part-time staff	Volunteers
ACT	10	17	63
NSW	156	155	770
NT	7	61	64
QLD	84	100	785
SA	30	44	106
TAS	13	9	108
VIC	210	265	1686
WA	92	124	413
Total	602	775	3995

With a little help from our friends...

Susan says they are providing their services to help stem family violence.

More recently, the Service has been attending “hot spots” in Port Augusta after concerns about kids on the street at night. The Service may put on a soup kitchen, and be available for a chat with the local kids about issues concerning them – providing the kids with a professionally trained worker to talk to, or refer them onto other services they may need but did not know about.

Susan has worked closely with NACLCL over the years. A few years ago Susan was nominated by NACLCL to attend the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Rights – an opportunity she says she was honoured to attend. Susan has also been on the NACLCL Conference Organising Committee, and has provided input to NACLCL, in particular into its law reform work.

Susan has found working with CLCs inspiring and has found the assistance and support NACLCL has given to her people to advocate for their rights invaluable. NACLCL in turn has benefited from the input of people like Susan into how to work more effectively with Aboriginal communities.



Rosemary Budavari

Rosemary's first association with CLCs was as a student volunteer and Board member at Macquarie Legal Centre in Sydney in the late 70s. After working at Legal Aid in the Northern Territory and

a stint in private practice, Rosemary moved to Canberra to do a Masters and joined the ACT Environmental Defenders' Office in 1997. From 2000–2007 Rosemary worked at ACT Women's Legal Centre as Principal Solicitor and Coordinator.

Rosemary was the ACT State representative on the NACLCL GM from 2000–2006, a role she says was incredibly stimulating. Rosemary recalls the satisfaction of working together with an inspiring group of lawyers and non-lawyers on trying to address the issues that are of importance to CLC clients nationally.

Beyond her contributions to NACLCL as a State rep, Rosemary provided direct assistance to NACLCL on its “Seeing Families Right” campaign and publication, and she was also on NACLCL's Professional Indemnity Insurance Committee.

Highlights have included running a sex discrimination case, which they successfully settled on their client's behalf, on family friendly shifts for bus drivers; as well as working on the recent reforms to the Family Law Act with Women's Legal Services Australia (WLSA) – the national Network of Women's legal services. Rosemary was closely involved in WLSA and was on its Coordinating Committee for a number of years.

Rosemary was attracted to CLCs because of the way they make the law accessible – by educating people about their legal rights, and by changing the law to make it work more effectively. Reflecting on CLCs' work Rosemary says: “it is a fantastic sector full of dedicated people – short on resources and pay – but with bucket loads of talent, skill, commitment and passion for making things better for the clients and communities they work with”.

Rosemary has recently left the sector to take up a position at the Law Council of Australia. She says she'll miss the work at the coalface and working directly with clients. We'll miss her too and we wish her well.

And after 30 years of service...

“It was quite a gift being given the opportunity to work in CLCs, and later, to be paid for it. Our work is stimulating and demanding, just what you want in your work. These workplaces house good people, who are kind and thoughtful not just about those they work for, but those around them. Our CLC people try to live their own private lives fairly, and generally avoid deliberately harming others. You don't find too many frauds around CLCs. (I exclude my casework from that i.e. those Centrelink fraud cases.) Plastic people don't last in CLCs. Bullshit artists, yes, we bullshit artists thrive on this. I find it incredibly heartwarming to think that very different people share common goals, and are based all over Australia. I think about these people. To be thought of in the same sentence ... is quite an honour. None of us truly knows how long he or she will be around, and it feels good to have got the hands dirty, stuffed up a few things, but given it a go.”

— GARY SULLIVAN, WEST HEIDELBERG LEGAL SERVICE

State Reports



ACT

Deb Pippen

ACT NACLC State rep

- ACT CLCs have been working on developing a consultation protocol with JACS relating to amendments and development of legislation. They have also agreed in principle to the establishment of a homeless persons legal clinic, and participated in an Anti-Poverty week forum on Human Rights and Poverty eradication.
- Tenancy Week 2006 was a success in highlighting tenancy issues and services. A Domestic Violence and Tenancy workshop was offered again as part of the week's activities, run jointly by the Tenant's Union (TU ACT), Women's Legal Centre (WLC) and Welfare Rights & Legal Centre (WRLC).
- WRLC celebrated its 20th birthday at the end of November and provided training to Centrelink social on "How they can change things" and
- WLC secured funding for an Indigenous Liaison Officer for 3 years, did submissions on restorative justice and family law and ran law support courses. WLC's Women and Justice Forum for 2007 was on compulsory family dispute resolution. It also successfully represented two women in a significant breastfeeding discrimination matter.
- Consumer Law Centre (CLC) released "They want to take our house – An Investigation into House Repossessions in the ACT Supreme Court". CLC made submissions to the Productivity Commission's Review of Consumer Protection Framework, the House of Representatives Inquiry on Health Care Funding and on the Review of the Electronic Funds Transfer Code. CLC also initiated the first predatory lending case in the ACT Supreme Court for two consumers who lost their home under an unjust loan which was settled on favourable terms.
- TU ACT launched a project involving CLE and community development on amendments to the ACT Residential Tenancies Act 1997 that have extended coverage of act to new classes of tenants. It also made submissions on amendments to the Housing Assistance Act, compulsory smoke alarms, Unit Titles Act; hosted the IUT Secretary General as part of his Australian visit; and did a presentation to NSW Tenants Advice and Advocacy network conference.



NEW SOUTH WALES

*Jackie Finlay and
Janet Loughman*

NSW NACLC State reps

- The NSW Combined Community Legal Centre Group (CCLCG) has received funding from the NSW Public Purpose Trust Fund to run two state-wide programs for NSW community legal centres: a Training Program and an Aboriginal Access Program. The CCLCG recently employed separate coordinators to run each program.
- The Joint NSW/Commonwealth Review of NSW Community Legal Centres was completed and the report was published.
- The NSW CCLCG is an active member of the NSW Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF). NSW CCLCG members have been involved in NLAF's working parties on Conflict of Interest, Interpreter Services, and Aboriginal Clients.
- The key law reform and policy issues for the CCLCG were: Family Law and Family Relationship Centre issues; Employment Law issues; the NSW Charter of Rights; law reform issues relating to the NSW election and the new NSW State Plan.
- The NSW CCLCG organised an Employment Law Workshop for the NSW CLC section and an Employment Law Evening Seminar for NSW CLC sector, LAC, LawAccess and private practice. The NSW CCLCG and TU held a Community Education training workshop for the NSW CLC sector.
- NSW CLCs meet quarterly in Sydney with funding provided to assist representatives from RRR centres to attend the meetings.



NORTHERN TERRITORY

Caitlin Perry
NT NACLCL State rep

- The newly incorporated NT Association of Community Legal Centres (NTACLCL) Inc held its inaugural AGM at the national Conference in September.
- NTACLCL members met with the NT's new Attorney-General to introduce our members and raise issues including funding and law reform.
- NTACLCL participated in consultations leading up to the introduction of a new Legal Profession Act in the NT and continues to discuss implementation of the LPA with the NT Law Society.
- NT Centres organised and participated in community legal education activities including LSNT Law Week, presentation of mock domestic violence courts and human rights training, producing booklets, brochures, radio program and organising events like the Human Rights Art Show.
- North Australian Aboriginal Family Violence Legal Service independently incorporated and became NTLAC's 6th member.
- NT Centres continued to provide legal services to urban and remote communities despite challenges faced including isolation, under funding and recruitment difficulties.
- NT Centres participated in policy development and law reform activities in relation to both Commonwealth and NT laws, including domestic violence and sexual assault.
- NT Centres attended a legal service providers' forum with NT Legal Aid, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander legal service providers, Family Violence Legal Services and pro bono providers in Darwin which focused on working together to enhance our work. The Katherine Legal Interagency grew out of this meeting.
- Funding for a Tenants' Advice Service was finally announced after years of lobbying – Darwin Community Legal Service received funding to provide a 3 year pilot service.
- At end of June, NT legal services are grappling with the implications of the recent Commonwealth intervention into Indigenous communities.



QUEENSLAND

Susan Bothmann
Queensland NACLCL State rep

- The Legal Practitioner Interest on Trust Account Fund (LPITAF) underwent a substantial review this year resulting in an infusion of an extra \$1.1 million earmarked for Queensland CLCs and CLC initiatives. \$695,000 was allocated for additional staffing at 12 Centres and a further \$419,000 allocated for specific programs at 6 other Centres. These funds are expected to be recurrent. LPITAF project funding is still available but the results of applications for 2007/08 are still awaited.
- Caxton Legal Centre, Queensland's oldest community legal service celebrated its 30th anniversary this year with great fanfare. A function held at the Brisbane Town Hall was well attended by CLC workers and dignitaries.
- QAILS has finalised and passed its new Constitution. The new document better reflects the nature of the organisation and should assist the QAILS committees in relation to membership applications.
- The annual QAILS conference was again held at Bribie Island this year and was one of the best attended with CLC workers coming from right around the state. The program was deliberately low-key and in-house this year because of the effort that is being directed towards the national Conference which will be held in Brisbane in September.
- A good cross section of Queensland CLCs participated in the consultations conducted by NACLCL in relation to the Commonwealth Attorney-General's review of the CLSP.
- The Professional Practice legislation is again being amended in Queensland to bring it further in line with the national model rules. This has resulted in provisions to allow for free practicing certificates for some legal volunteers who do not otherwise hold certificates and consultation with the Law Society Queensland about CLC employee contributions to the Fidelity Fund.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Matthew Atkinson
SA NACLC State rep

The highlights and activities for SA CLCs in 2006/7 include:

- All Centres continue to do their very best to meet the demand for legal assistance in matters ranging from family law, consumer credit, employment, bankruptcy, disability discrimination, domestic violence, criminal law, and a myriad of civil disputes. Centres note the increasing complexity of client needs and their associated legal problems.
- Regional and rural centres continue to assist people and communities in areas across SA including but not limited to Victor Harbor, Berri, Naracoorte, Murray Bridge, Port Augusta, Kadina, Whyalla and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Lands.
- The Aboriginal Family Violence Centre (Ceduna) became a member of the South Australian Council of CLCs.
- Centres participated in Cross-Cultural Awareness Training to improve our knowledge and understanding of Indigenous peoples in Australia.
- Centres continue to build upon and create new relationships with government and non-government organisations to enhance community development. Some of the activities that Centres have undertaken include: assistance with legal education through local educational institutions; support with mediation training at the Office of Sport and Recreation; and, liaising with the Legal Service Commission to create a duty solicitor scheme in regional areas of SA.
- Centres have produced information booklets, which have been distributed throughout SA, including "Men and Separation" and the "Minor Civil Claims Kit."
- Centres have lobbied and provided submissions on various areas of legal reform including: the proposed Legal Practitioners Act, Natural Resources Management Act, consumer credit issues, and the inquiry into the impact of Work Choices in SA. Also, the EDO held a seminar on the laws relating to public protest for environmental activists in the Strathalbyn area in April 2007.
- Centres have liaised with and assisted NACLC in relation to the review of the CLSP.



TASMANIA

Jane Hutchison
Tasmanian NACLC State rep

- Tasmanian Community Legal Centres continue to call for funding from the Tasmanian Government and the establishment of a Tasmanian Community Legal Services Program to provide stability and an adequate level of funding for Community Legal Centres in the state.
- Community Legal Education continues to be a very important activity for all centres, with centres providing information sessions to a variety of community groups and producing numerous brochures, cards, a handbook called "Things You Should Know – Legal Information for women over 50", a guide for unrepresented litigants in planning appeals called "Going It Alone", and the production of a DVD for schools on Disability Discrimination called "Thingums".
- Law reform continues to be an important part of centres' activities, including continuing to lobby for the establishment of a rental bond board; release of the discussion paper 'Through the Roof – unreasonable rent increases in Tas.'; submissions re a bill of rights for Tasmanians; unfair contracts; review of Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Act.
- All centres continue to concentrate on delivering quality legal services to the Tasmanian population. However, these services could be jeopardised without the assistance of the Tasmanian Government.



VICTORIA

Robin Inglis
Victorian NACLC State rep

It has generally been a positive year for CLCs in Victoria.

- Funds for an Older Persons legal service have been made available and a tender will be released shortly. Some Victorian centres have been researching this area of need and more recently there has been discussion with Caxton Street Legal Centre Queensland who have several years experience providing legal services to older people.
- The Federation has been working on family violence issues for many years so it was positive to hear the State Government make a commitment to improve legislative and non-legislative measures to better deal with family violence following a Law Reform Commission Report.
- The year was also notable for a State Government commitment to fund salary increases through a multi business agreement. Negotiations between employers, the union, Victoria Legal Aid and Department of Justice officers are continuing.
- The State Attorney-General has again demonstrated recognition of the important work that CLCs do in the latest budget. The State Government provided funds for seven family violence workers at CLCs and five solicitors for rural CLCs.
- A Federation working group on anti-terrorism laws has continued to advocate for changes and reflect issues of concern to targeted communities.
- A sector development position has been funded by Victoria Legal Aid to enable improved services to be developed and better transfer of expertise between Centres. A workshop about compliance with funding body requirements has been held and promises to bring a more systemic approach to this issue.
- The Federation's Human Rights Observers Group made a report about the conduct of police and demonstrators at the G20 meeting which included recommendations about how to better manage future events.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Lea Anderson to late 2006, Chris Gabelish from late 2006 and Gai Walker

WA NACLC State reps

The CLC Association of WA's (CLCAWA) activities, meetings and highlights have included:

- Participation in WA Council of Social Services (WACOSS) activities including pre budget submissions and the Law Society's Law Week events.
- Meeting with the State Attorney-General and Law Society of WA, WACOSS committee members.
- Working with Legal Aid WA, Aboriginal Legal Services WA and the Law Society WA on the Country Lawyers Project.
- Continued negotiations towards implementing outstanding CLC Review recommendations.
- State network meetings and the launch of a new CLCAWA website.
- Discussions with funders about other organisations presenting as CLCs.

Other activities within WA Centres include:

- Northern Suburbs CLC and Advocare Inc were successful in a tender for the State Government's new advisory service for older people offering legal services.
- WA CLCs in the Tenancy network led by the Tenants Advice Service (TAS) successfully lobbied for preferred service provider status for tenant advocate funding and an expansion of the funding. TAS also launched a campaign called 'No Room in the Boom' aimed at easing the rental crisis.

In development:

- Three new Family Relationship Centres for WA will all have WA CLC partners.
- A Homeless Persons Legal Clinic with mentoring assistance of TAS staff will hopefully collocate with a CLC in the future.

THE CUTTING EDGE

CRAFTING INNOVATIVE RESPONSES TO NEED

CLC service delivery comprises a multi-dimensional approach based on a Centre's analysis of, and strategic response to the kinds of matters that "walk through the door." Centres not only provide legal advice and assistance, undertake community development projects or community legal education initiatives but they also encourage people to develop skills to be their own advocates. Responses are tailored to the need – for example, in response to an increase in client inquiries, a law reform project may be developed that responds to a systemic issue identified by clients' experiences.

This section highlights a few recent examples of the innovative way Centres work to respond to their client communities. All these initiatives aim to provide access to information and the legal system, increase their communities' understanding of the structures that impact on their lives, and contribute to preventing legal problems people may face rather than fixing the chaos and mess after the problems arise.

Creating strong families in Katherine, NT (KWILS)

Like many RRR CLCs, Katherine Women's Information and Legal Service (KWILS) services a staggering large region. KWILS catchment covers approximately 380,000km² between Central Australia and the 'Top End'.

Kristen Wallwork, KWILS' Principal Solicitor and Coordinator says her work with her communities allows her the opportunity to develop skills and practice outside the mainstream law and to understand the real problems that effect people on a day to day basis. Working with Indigenous Australians gives her the opportunity to consider what "justice" means outside the usual western construct, and through the eyes of different cultures.

With the current "state of emergency" in the Territory the work of KWILS and the Aboriginal Legal Service in Katherine is expected to grow exponentially.

The region faces a chronic under-resourcing of social services for communities in need. As a result child welfare investigations are often inadequate and can lead to unnecessary removal of children from their families – or orders declaring the Minister the sole custodian of the child – following which children are placed with other family mem-

bers. However this under-resourcing means that the situations are often not monitored, nor are families assisted to become healthier and stronger. With little assistance available from other sources and the growing disparity between what clients claim and the removing agency says, KWILS is now increasingly taking on welfare matters.

In the Katherine region, many young women are caught in the cycle of violence. KWILS has been trying to find ways of reaching these women without confronting them. KWILS has recently secured a number of grants – one being to develop the Katherine women's AFL team as part of educating young women about being stronger within themselves and choosing healthier lifestyle choices. "We have such a laugh as the Katherine Galahs footy team" says Kristen.

Another grant has allowed KWILS to print 4 versions of a booklet detailing the process of restraining orders within the court context. There are 2 booklets in English for the Applicant and Defendant and 2 booklets in Kriol (a local language) for the Applicant and Defendant. A community development approach was used to develop the booklets. The translation was done by local traditional speakers and the artwork was commissioned by the local Aboriginal Art Centre.

The Centre has also secured funds from the Indigenous Women's Program that will allow them to develop outreach services in communities and towns in the Katherine region. They are working closely with FACS, health organisations, the family violence unit and other bodies to help provide the most useful presence.

For many people, the work of KWILS may not be a "win" in a court-room but it is doing justice.

Fair go on unfair penalty fees

Financial institutions in Australia are charging millions of dollars in unfair penalty fees each year. In June 2007, Consumer Action Law Centre in Victoria (CALC) teamed up with CHOICE on a campaign aimed at giving consumers a fair go at challenging these fees. Some of these fees – for example, exceeding a credit card limit, overdrawing an account and having a direct debit dishonoured – are excessive and therefore unfair, and are probably legally unenforceable.

This innovative consumer protection campaign consists of, amongst other things:

- a toolkit on how to challenge unfair fees and reclaim the money which includes a downloadable template letter, and tips on how to make complaints to financial institutions and dispute resolution services
- information on how to avoid the fees by managing accounts
- an email/letter-writing campaign to MPs to alert them to the unfair practices and lobbying them to have these unfair lending practices reformed

In a short period of time, the outcomes of this campaign have been impressive. By July 2007, 10,807 letter templates had been downloaded and 827 letters of complaint had been emailed to MPs. Furthermore, since the campaign commenced, a number of larger lending institutions have

scrapped the incoming cheque dishonour fee and a former CEO of a major bank has publicly acknowledged that these penalty fees are unsustainable and that they disproportionately affect disadvantaged Australians.

The Youth Law Diary

Shoalcoast CLC has produced the '2007 Youth Law Diary'. The diary is for high-school aged young people and school-leavers, and contains legal information and tips on twelve monthly topics covering issues such as Renting, Mobile Phone Contracts, Fines, Police Powers, Centrelink Payments, Victim's Compensation and Human Rights.

The free diary is being distributed in high schools and youth services throughout the Shoalhaven. To encourage recipients to access and think about the legal information they contain, the diaries have an entry form to a quiz competition included. The quiz, which was devised by the Centre's Project and Policy Solicitor, has 12 multiple-choice questions on diary topics. All correct answers will go into a draw for a prize. The quiz and publicity about the diary will also be in the local paper.

The Rural Landholders Guide To Environmental Law

One of NSW Environmental Defender's Office (EDO) target groups is rural landholders – in part out of recognition of the fact that most of Australia's biological diversity is located on privately owned land. A CLE resource has been produced that addresses legal issues, rights and obligations that may face landholders on includes topics such as vegetation, bushfire and water management, protected plants and animals, pollution and agricultural chemicals, heritage protection and voluntary conservation.

The resource also forms the basis of a series of free workshops in rural areas, some of which coincide with outreach legal advice clinics. This suite of resources are not only an important part of the preventative work that CLCs do, but assist to protect endangered species and encourage private conservation initiatives.

Working together to reform tenancy laws

The Tenant's Union ACT, along with other CLCs including the Welfare Rights Legal Centre participated in the review of the ACT *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* (RTA) as part of the formal stakeholders' committee over a 3-year period which included consultation and providing submissions on law reform. The CLCs also provided additional direct input and feedback to the Department of Justice and Community Safety (JACS). One particular area of concern for CLCs was the lack of protection for people not defined as tenants. JACS worked closely

with CLCs. As a result. The RTA has been recently amended to extend protection to boarders and lodgers, and people in student, crisis and supported accommodation. No other jurisdiction in Australia has such broad coverage for these tenants. The law reform project was accompanied by a campaign including posters, postcards and media work to publicise the changes to the law.

Using legal theatre to inform people of their rights

Illawarra Legal Centre (ILC) uses theatre as a community legal education tool. Legal theatre is a proactive and preventative community legal education approach to informing people of their rights. Legal theatre often involves using local professional actors who perform short theatre pieces and then use 'forum theatre' applications to initiate a discussion on the issues presented in the performance. Students, community members and workers attending the interactive performances are then invited to participate in the performances and offer solutions to the problems identified in the theatre pieces. Not only do audiences and participants learn about their rights and obligations in particular areas of law – but they learn about the services available from the CLC.

ILC has used forum theatre in a number of areas – recently arrived African migrants have learnt to understand their rights as tenants in NSW. ILC has noticed that the legal theatre has lead to an increase in the use of their legal services of the target groups to help people pursue their rights. In the case of the African communities targeted by legal theatre, word about the Centre has spread throughout the African community in the Illawarra. This has made their settlement process easier and will hopefully prevent some problems from arising.



NATIONAL COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE NETWORKS

National CLC Networks are the key policy advisory and consultative bodies for CLCs and NACLC. The Networks also function to enhance collaboration between centres, to share expertise and resources, to identify emerging needs and to develop joint projects to address those needs.

The Networks are organised around specific areas of community legal concerns and practice. Each Network varies in their genesis, structure, aims, longevity and activities.

NACLC provides assistance to Networks including funding for regular phone link-ups between Centres across Australia, venues and catering for National Conference meetings and other support as necessary. This year there are 14 reports from the national Networks.

Australian Network of Environmental Defender's Offices

ANEDO comprises EDO offices in each State and Territory dedicated to public interest environmental law and public participation in environmental decision-making. EDOs provide services to the community through casework and advice, community legal education and law reform and policy work. An area in which several EDO offices have made a particular contribution is in pursuing public interest litigation with respect to climate change issues.

ANEDO has contributed several important submissions about national policy issues ranging from the amendment of biodiversity and heritage legislation, the development of emissions trading schemes, and green product claims in the context of a national review of consumer policy. Examples of the policy work of ANEDO are available at <http://www.edo.org.au/>.

Brendan Sydes

Environmental Defender's Office, VIC

Child Support Network

Teleconferences held every quarter provide an opportunity for child support solicitors to discuss changes to the legislation, and policies of the Child Support Agency (CSA). We discuss difficult or unusual cases, and the new Social Security Appeals procedures. We share information and clarify issues. To avoid duplication of community education resources, a list of resources is being compiled and made available via the BBS. We have set up a "Precedents" file on the BBS. We have also applied to

be included in the Child Support National Stakeholder Engagement Group, set up by CSA, which meets in Canberra.

Katrina Haller

Peninsula Community Legal Centre, VIC

Clinical Legal Education Network

The clinical legal education network continued its work throughout 2006. It discusses issues via an email listserve as well as meeting at NACLC annual conference. Issues such as increased demand on clinical supervisors to produce research and the changing university environment were discussed throughout the year. A clinical legal education conference will be held in Brisbane in 2007.

Anna Cody,

Kingsford Legal Centre, NSW

Consumer Credit/Financial Services

There are a number of specialist CLCs around Australia that undertake work for disadvantaged Australians in the areas of financial services, consumer credit and more broadly consumer protection.

Some of the activities undertaken by these CLCs in the last financial year include:

- Providing submissions to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Australia's Consumer Protection Framework.
- Consumer Credit Legal Centre in NSW (CCLC) and Consumer Action Law Centre in Victoria (CALC) have put in submissions to the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) Inquiry into Credit Reporting.

CCLC also obtained funding to produce a report on the consumer experience of credit reporting which formed the substantial part of CCLC's submission. Staff from both CCLC and CALC are on the Credit Reporting Advisory Sub-Committee which is providing guidance and input into the ALRC's Inquiry.

- CLCs, Legal Aid and the Australian Privacy Foundation participated in an Industry-organised conference on privacy issues called 'Formulating A New Approach in the Information Age.'
- CLCs continue to lobby for the introduction of national Finance Brokers' legislation, and CCLC has been consulted by the National Working Party on National Finance Brokers' legislation reform.
- In NSW, work continues on the Predatory Lending Project (PLP) – a joint initiative of CCLC, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, the Public Interest Law Clearing House (and participating law firms), and the Legal Aid Commission of NSW. Other interstate CLCs are also involved in the project. PLP is a project aimed at addressing problems in the home loan market, and reflects CLCs' work across Australia lobbying for more responsible lending practices in this area.
- CALC are also working with CHOICE (formerly Consumers' Association of Australia) on a campaign to address unfair bank penalty fees.

Karen Cox

Consumer Credit Legal Centre, NSW

Community Legal Education Worker (CLEW) Network

The term "community legal education" encompasses a broad range of activities which are designed to both prevent legal problems and to empower people in their pursuit of justice. CLEW this year developed a 'snap shot' audit of CLE around the country.

This is the first time that this audit process has been done. Many Centres only have a part time CLE worker so the snap shot also helped identify the CLE specialists in each Centre.

The audit found:

- CLE is a widespread and growing part of CLC work.

85% of Centres that responded said that there was at least one staff member who had CLE in their job description.

- 59% of respondents said that they were doing more CLE now than three years ago.
- 50% of respondents who reported an increased amount of CLE were still only doing a day a week or less of CLE.

At a qualitative level, the breadth of different projects, ideas and partnerships reflected flexibility, imagination, diversity, and value for money.

Farewell and thanks to Jillian Chapman who left Illawarra CLC and the National CLEWS Network coordinator position during the year.

Ros Williams, Caxton Legal Centre, QLD

Michelle Burgermeister, Tenant's Advice Service WA

Disability Rights Network

The Disability Rights Network has been busy focusing on access to public transport and participation in the processes around the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The National Accessible Airlines Steering Committee continued its work to improve access to domestic air flights and services across Australia. The principle strategies used on this project have been: Initiating litigation tackling the Independent Travel Criteria imposed by Virgin Blue on consumers; and, the collection of airline case studies from across Australia to be used in a submission to the Federal Government's 5 year review of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 (Due later this year).

On 30 March 2007 the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

(CRPD) was signed by 82 nations including Australia. Members of the Disability Rights Network, disability person's organisations (DPOs), the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) and the Australian Government were instrumental in Australia's substantial involvement in the convention process and all should be proud of their contribution to the first major human rights treaty of the 21st Century. In June 2007 HREOC held a workshop on promoting

the ratification and implementation of the CRPD with DPOs and related human rights Organisations. The HREOC meeting was following by a well-attended seminar conducted in June by the NSW Disability Discrimination Legal Centre focusing on education and the CRPD.

Ben Fogerty

Disability Discrimination Legal Centre, NSW
to July 2007, Darwin Community Legal Service,
NT from July 2007

Employment Network

Over the past 12 months, members of the employment Network have been responding to the impact of the Work Choices legislation. There is a vastly changed legal landscape as a result for their clients. At least five specialist employment solicitor positions were made redundant following the termination of funding under the Community Partners Program. Two Working Women's Centres closed, also in part due to federal funding issues.

The extensive changes and ongoing amendments to workplace laws have also resulted in considerable uncertainty for Centres in their advice and representation of clients. The impact on clients and caseloads varied across Centres with some reporting a reduced caseload and others experiencing an increase in work, particularly for telephone advice. Casework has also changed with the loss of unfair dismissal remedies for many clients – these applications were a useful forum for negotiating a number of different workplace issues, such as unpaid entitlements. The loss of this remedy means clients have to take matters to several jurisdictions.

There has also been significant activity in law reform and policy work. For example, activities to maintain the services affected by the termination of the Community Partners Program and appearance before the NSW Legislative Council inquiry into the impact of Work Choices.

Linda Tucker

Kingsford Legal Centre, NSW

National Association of Tenant Organisations (NATO)

NATO has continued to meet over the year. A face-to-face meeting was held on the Network day prior to the last NALC conference and a number of phone link-ups kept us connected throughout the rest of the year.

NATO has continued to participate on the National Shelter Council and has been involved in the development of their recently released Housing Policy Platform.

Penny Carr

Tenants' Union of Queensland, Qld

Mental Health Network

Ever optimistic, the Network approached the Commonwealth seeking funds for mental health legal centres in the majority of Australian states and territories where none exist, in light of the Senate's mental health report and COAG injection of mental health funds.

The Network has shared resources and strategies in relation to: Discriminatory treatment by mental health services; Involuntary treatment and procedural fairness; Reviews of mental health legislation; Forensic patient rights; and Use of pro bono resources.

Thanks go to NALC and all Network members. There is some encouragement from the increasing calls for specialist mental health law services in Queensland and New South Wales. It is also hoped that awareness of what the Victorian and Western Australian CLCs have achieved in their respective 20 and almost 10 years can be persuasive.

Sophie Delaney

Mental Health Legal Centre, VIC

National Human Rights Network

Together with a coalition of other non-government organisations (NGOs) the National Human Rights Network has embarked on an exciting new project to document the state of human rights in Australia, and ultimately to contribute to the effective protection of human rights standards in Australia. The project's primary aim is to produce NGO shadow reports on Australia's implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and

the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Thus far, the Network has been involved in the response by NGOs to the government's draft reports under these covenants. We also met with Sir Nigel Rodley, who sits on the Human Rights Committee which monitors the ICCPR, to discuss the shadow reporting process. As we move forward the Network intends to work with other NGOs to produce the shadow reports, as well as engaging in lobbying and other measures to improve human rights in Australia.

Teena Balgi

Kingsford Legal Centre, NSW

National Youth Advocacy Network

The National Youth Advocacy Network has spent the last twelve months building its partnerships with the youth sector.

With the energetic contribution of the National Centre's volunteers Sherry Jong and Gabe Watts, the Network ran a series of events in conjunction with the National CLC Conference that showcased innovative practice in legal education for young people. These included a tour of Wollongong from a youth perspective, a radio broadcast from the local Wollongong Community radio station and a media training session on 'Smart Justice' run by Anthony Kelly from the Federation of Victorian CLCs.

Many Network members attended the successful National Youth Affairs Conference in May 2007. The Network continues to support the campaign for the re-funding of a National youth peak organisation.

Tiffany Overall (YouthLaw Vic) has represented the Network on the Child Rights Taskforce. Luke Bo'sher (ACT Youth Coalition) is on the Executive of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition and has contributed to stronger links between our Networks. Luke also played a key role in the campaign to highlight the impact of the Access Card proposal on young people.

We end the year committing to contribute child rights issues to the ICESCR and ICCPR Shadow Reports and to prepare for the next Shadow Reporting for Convention of the Rights of the Child.

James McDougall

National Children's & Youth Law Centre, NSW

National Welfare Rights Network (NWRN)

Throughout the year NWRN has been engaged in an active program of policy advocacy in the area of social security law and income support. The policy program was been undertaken through a wide range of activities including: meetings with Centrelink, relevant Government departments, politicians and other key stakeholders; working closely with ACOSS and its members; and media work to draw attention to problems and create public debate.

More specifically, NWRN has undertaken policy work in the following areas:

- "Welfare to Work" issues – financial case management, compliance issues, eight week non payment periods, job capacity assessments, participation requirements
- Social security debt prevention and recovery issues
- Marriage-like relationships – Centrelink's investigation and decision making practices
- Centrelink's communication processes – including quality of Centrelink letters, indigenous penalties strategy
- Social Security Appeal and Review processes
- Social Security prosecution matters
- Access Card

NWRN also made a submission to and appeared before the Senate Inquiry into the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (Vocational Rehabilitation and other Welfare to Work Measures) Bill 2006.

Recognising the significant threat that climate change poses to social security recipients (through additional energy, transport and housing costs), NWRN has been working to ensure that equity considerations are built into Australia's response. This has involved participation in the Equity in Response to Climate Change Round Table held in Melbourne in March and the preparation of a joint submission to the PM's Task Group on an Emissions Trading.

Internally, there is a process underway that will lead to the adoption of a three-year strategic plan for NWRN at this year's Annual Conference.

Genevieve Bolton

Welfare Rights and Legal Centre, ACT

Rural, Regional & Remote (RRR) Network

The RRR Network continues to meet periodically by phone link-up and face-to-face at the National Conference.

Continuing issues facing RRR CLCs include:

- Communication between RRR Centres to maintain a more cohesive network to work on solutions, including associated travel costs
- Better IT support including exploring Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP)
- Travel costs to do outreach for clients in areas where there is poor public transport infrastructure, and associated time/staff costs in doing this travel
- Getting specialist legal assistance to RRR areas and Centres, and
- Accessing pro bono support.

The Network is continuing its negotiations to implement the Memorandum of Intent with the National Network of Indigenous Women's Legal Services to facilitate greater co-operation and collaboration between RRR CLCs and Indigenous Women's Legal Services.

RRR Centres have been working with NALCLC to secure funding of secretariat support for the RRR Network to enable it to more strategically address some of the issues outlined above. The RRR Secretariat could also research the viability of developing a summer clerkship program to RRR CLCs, paralegal training and be involved in the country lawyer project that has as its objectives attracting and retaining lawyers in the bush.

Debbie Butler,
Launceston Community Legal Centre, TAS
(to June 2007)

Chris Gabelish,
Geraldton Resource Centre, WA

Women's Legal Services Australia Network (WLSA)

Work over the last year has continued to focus on responding to inquiries, initiatives and reports in the area of family law including submissions on:

- The Qualifications Framework for Family Counsellors, Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners and Children's Contact Service Workers.
- Accreditation Standards for Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners.
- The Family Court's Draft Guidelines for use in parenting disputes when family violence or abuse is alleged.

WLSA is also represented on a range of committees including:

- The Family Law Forum convened by the Chief Justice of the Family Court.
- The Separation Support Network.

WLSA is also represented on the Project Steering Committee for the national project to develop accreditation standards for Family Counsellors, Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners and workers in Children's Contact Services.

Joanna Fletcher from WLS Victoria has worked one day per week for the Network, and has made an outstanding contribution to this work at a time that has seen the most significant changes to family law in 30 years.

A successful Network day was held on 3 September 2006 with over 40 women from throughout Australia attending. The Network extends its thanks to WLS NSW for a well organised Network Day, which highlighted the services we collectively provide to women facing disadvantage around Australia. Many of our services are struggling to attract and retain staff which makes continuing to provide high quality services to disadvantaged women throughout Australia a greater challenge.

Lea Anderson
Women's Legal Centre, WA (to July 2007)

NACLC National Office Staff

The staff of the national office of NACLC during the 2006/2007 financial year were:

DIRECTOR

Julie Bishop

INFORMATION & SERVICES MANAGER

Sarah Mitchell (till May 2007)

Toni Luu (from May 2007)

ADMINISTRATOR

Toni Luu (till May 2007)

Sarah Challens (temp from May 2007)

DATA PROJECT CONSULTANT

Justin Finighan

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT – PART-TIME

Jane King

BBS ADMINISTRATOR – PART TIME

Sam Schuman (till February 2007)

Sarah Mitchell (from February 2007)

Phill Byrne (acting, from May 2007)

BBS ACCOUNTS – PART TIME

Sarah Mitchell

Toni Luu (acting, from May 2007)

In addition, the following people were employed as consultants during the year:

Marilyn Hall organised the 2006 and 2007 NACLC National Conferences.

Jenny Lovric who ably assisted the NACLC office with national consultations and with preparing our response to the CLSP review.

Annie Pettitt is project managing the Shadow Reports for NACLC to the Human Rights Committee of the UN on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Sam Biondo who researched and completed an application on behalf of NACLC to AusAid for bringing delegates from the Pacific Islands to the 2006 and 2007 national conferences.

Young Luu assisted with the set-up and launch of the new NACLC website.



FROM TOP LEFT:
Sarah Mitchell,
Toni Luu, Jane King,
Justin Finighan.

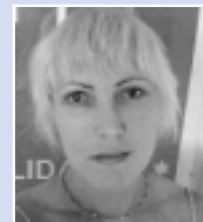
Sam Schuman

In February 2006, NACLC and all CLCs lost the services of NACLC's part-time BBS Administrator, Sam Schuman, who left us to become a teacher. Sam had been the BBS Administrator for 7 years.

Sam was a patient and vastly knowledgeable BBS Administrator who dealt with calls from CLC workers, tech support people and all BBS users with aplomb and panache.

During her time as CLC BBS Administrator, Sam saw the number of BBS users grow as well as overseeing many technical achievements of the BBS such as numerous server upgrades, version upgrades and a domain name change to list but a few major items.

NACLC would like to thank Sam for her commitment to community legal centres and wish her the best in her new career.



SANDRA D. GROLLMUS

Registered Company Auditor
Registered Tax Agent

7 BURRANEER CLOSE
ALLAWAH 2018
TELEPHONE 9546 7366
FAX 9546 2267

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

TO: The MEMBERS

SCOPE

I have audited the financial report of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES for the year ended 30 June, 2007. The Members of the governing body are responsible for the financial report. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the Members.

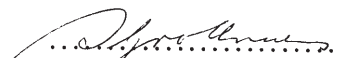
My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements and relevant statutory and other requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Association's financial position and the results of its operations.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

AUDIT OPINION

In my opinion, the financial report consisting of Balance Sheet, Income Statements and Notes to Financial Statements presents fairly, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and the Funding and Performance Agreements the financial position of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES as at 30 June, 2007 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Dated 14/8/07



SANDRA GROLLMUS

Registered Company Auditor

Registered No. 1254

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE, 2007

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
	\$	\$
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Cash on Hand		
Petty Cash	100.00	100
PII Cash Management Account	30,227.08	28,659
Cash Management Account	783,190.44	23,423
Cheque Account	(114,461.96)	(13,515)
Accounts Receivable	80,023.36	361,241
Accrued Income	1,169.99	417
	<u>780,248.91</u>	<u>400,325</u>
<u>NON CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Rental Bond	4,987.26	4,987
Office Furniture & Equipment		
- Cost	38,964.02	
Accumulated Depreciation	(29,713.44)	
	<u>9,250.58</u>	<u>3,496</u>
	<u>14,237.84</u>	<u>8,483</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>794,486.75</u>	<u>408,808</u>
Less		
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
GST Payable (Net)	52,241.84	22,508
National Conference Monies	49,182.66	42,393
Accrued Expenses	13,050.21	3,016
Provision - Staff Entitlements	21,569.71	14,759
Grants in Advance (Note 2)	534,779.33	127,120
PII Insurance Monies	13,131.51	95,489
PII Excess Fund	30,227.08	28,659
PII Legal Costs Fund	21,634.57	8,241
D & O Insurance Monies	2,078.58	2,600
	<u>737,895.49</u>	<u>344,785</u>
<u>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
Provision - Long Service Leave	19,475.47	19,533
- Redundancy	12,816.56	12,817
- Workers' Compensation		
'Top Up'	4,747.00	4,747
	<u>37,039.03</u>	<u>37,097</u>
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>	<u>774,934.52</u>	<u>381,882</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u>	<u>\$19,552.23</u>	<u>\$26,926</u>
<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>	<u>\$19,552.23</u>	<u>\$26,926</u>

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES

INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2007

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
	\$	\$
<u>SUMMARY</u>		
(Deficit)/Surplus for the Year	(7,373.72)	1,633
<u>Accumulated Funds</u> brought forward	26,925.95	25,293
<u>Accumulated Funds</u> carried forward	<u>\$19,552.23</u>	<u>\$26,926</u>

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2007

	2007 \$	2006 \$
INCOME		
Contributions from Centres	323,747.27	299,714
Professional Indemnity - Premium	81,000.00	85,222
Administration Income	18,000.00	26,473
BBS Income	9,400.00	2,750
Grant Received (New Projects)	-	10,000
Interest Received	14,137.40	13,267
Sundry Income	6,746.58	(100)
Reimbursements - Travel Expenses	-	2,367
Reimbursements - Other	-	7,790
	<u>453,031.25</u>	<u>447,483</u>
Less		
EXPENDITURE		
Staffing Expenses		
Salaries	94,338.16	115,601
Superannuation	8,910.77	13,980
Staff Recruitment	340.00	-
Staff Training/Conferences	3,259.91	1,492
Workers' Compensation Insurance	586.61	19
Consultants & Contractors	30,685.89	33,724
Temporary Staff	9,074.20	-
Provision - Staff Entitlements	6,753.21	11,662
General Operating Expenses		
Accountancy/Audit	3,917.50	370
Advertising/Media	1,802.25	1,469
Bad Debts	-	2,557
Bank Charges	474.40	469
BBS Expenses	14,485.91	10,500
Computer Expenses/Software	3,239.12	1,823
Depreciation	4,696.93	4,691
Electricity	1,392.82	1,256
Fee Waivers	7,184.55	5,934
Insurances	6,181.50	6,530
Library/Subscriptions	5,728.76	3,382
Meeting Expenses	1,413.64	842
National Representative Expenses	16,352.06	16,680
Network Phone Link Ups	3,675.41	-
Office Supplies	2,299.84	1,776
Photocopying	291.98	326
Postage/Couriers	6,504.52	6,736
Printing/Design	34,299.41	17,175
Rent	22,739.20	23,663
Repairs/Maintenance/Cleaning	2,342.19	4,879
Sundry	892.19	2,990
Telecommunications	5,598.37	13,677
Travel/Accommodation	77,271.67	49,863
Transfer - PLO Deficit	2,972.00	6,762
Professional Indemnity Insurance	81,000.00	85,222
	<u>460,404.97</u>	<u>445,850</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus for the Year	<u>\$(7,373.72)</u>	<u>\$ 1,633</u>

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES

INCOME STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2007

	2007 \$	2006 \$
PROGRAM LIAISON OFFICER		
INCOME		
Grant Received	93,900.00	93,900
Less		
EXPENDITURE		
Staffing Expenses		
Salaries	60,453.71	51,751
Staff Training/Conferences	-	523
Superannuation	5,440.83	926
Workers' Compensation Insurance	-	614
Consultants/Contractors	-	1,591
General Operating Expenses		
Accounting/Audit	-	180
Administration Costs	-	8,500
Functions & Catering	-	73
National Representative Expenses	10,901.37	11,120
Office Supplies	1,533.23	1,463
Photocopying	194.65	218
Postage/Couriers	1,000.00	1,604
Printing	-	4,168
Repairs/Maintenance/Cleaning	-	107
Telecommunications	3,732.24	3,046
Travel/Accommodation	13,615.97	14,778
	<u>96,872.00</u>	<u>100,662</u>
(Deficit) transferred to Core Funding	<u>\$(2,972.00)</u>	<u>\$(6,762)</u>
 CLISIS 06/07		
INCOME		
Grant Received	54,531.61	
Less		
EXPENDITURE		
Salaries	5,450.00	
Consultants	20,915.44	
Travel/Accommodation	20,914.84	
	<u>47,280.28</u>	
UNEXPENDED GRANT carried forward	<u>\$ 7,251.33</u>	

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2007

NSW CONFERENCE

INCOME

Registration Fees	112,288.36
Donations	15,000.00
Sponsorship	54,340.90
	<u>181,629.26</u>

Less

EXPENDITURE

Audio-Visual	26,219.28
Childcare	1,900.00
Meeting Expenses	9,090.91
Office Supplies	3,360.91
Organiser	39,199.09
Postage/Couriers	201.10
Printing/Design	6,381.00
Subsidies	22,400.00
Sundry	386.36
Telecommunications	687.26
Travel/Accommodation	7,923.88
Venue	50,168.88
Surplus transferred to Conference Float	13,710.59
	<u>181,629.26</u>

-

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2007

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT) and Funding Bodies. The Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT) and of the funding and performance agreements and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 112	Income Taxes
AASB 1031	Materiality
AASB 110	Events after the Balance Sheet date

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report:

Income Tax - the Association is exempt from Income Tax

2. Grants in Advance

Unspent Grant CLSIS	7,251.33
Commonwealth Attorney General	
Management Committee Guide	80,000.00
IT Support Scheme	50,000.00
VOIP Trial	50,000.00
PLO	95,778.00
Library	130,000.00
VOIP 2	20,000.00
Webex	40,000.00
CLSIS	61,750.00
	<u>\$534,779.33</u>

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NALCLC acknowledges the financial support of:

- Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department
 - Attorney-General's Department of New South Wales
 - Attorney-General's Department of South Australia
 - Attorney-General's Department of Tasmania
 - Attorney-General's Department of Victoria
 - Legal Aid Commissions in all States
 - National Legal Aid
-
- Allens Arthur Robinson
 - Aon Risk Services Australia
 - Blake Dawson Waldron
 - CGU Insurance
 - Child Support Agency
 - Clayton Utz
 - College of Law
 - Community Banking
 - DLA Phillips Fox
 - Federation Press
 - Freehills
 - Gilbert + Tobin
 - Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Law Council of Australia
 - The Keir Foundation
 - Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales
 - LegalSuper
 - LexisNexis Australia
 - Macquarie Bank
 - Mercer Human Resource Consulting
 - Slater & Gordon Lawyers
 - Thomson Legal and Regulatory Limited
 - Wollongong City Council

PUBLICATION DETAILS

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Designed by Justin Archer Design
Photography by C.Moore Hardy (Starfish Studio Photography),
Gillian Dallwitz & Kimberly Kitchener

Printed by Snap Printing Ultimo