

ANNUAL REPORT 11/12



**National Association of
Community Legal Centres**



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NACLC acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands across Australia and particularly the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, traditional owners of the land on which the NACLC office is situated. We pay deep respect to elders past and present.

PUBLICATION DETAILS

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About community legal centres and NACLC



The National Association of Community Legal Centres Inc (NACLC) is the peak national organisation representing Community Legal Centres (CLCs) in Australia. NACLC members are the state and territory associations of CLCs that represent approximately 200 centres in various metropolitan, regional, rural and remote locations across Australia. CLCs are not-for-profit, community-based organisations that provide free legal advice, casework, information and a range of community development services to their local or special interest communities. Generalist CLCs provide services on a range of legal issues to people within their geographic area. Specialist CLCs focus on particular areas of law such as: tenancy, youth or consumer law.

CLCs' work is targeted at disadvantaged members of society and those with special needs, and in undertaking matters in the public interest. CLCs have been advocating for a rights-based approach and equitable access to the justice system for over 30 years.

CLCs and their associations work collaboratively with their communities and with all levels of government, community and private service providers, business, professional bodies and a range of philanthropic organisations.

Funding for CLCs is obtained from a range of sources, which may include federal, state and local government funding, pro bono contributions, philanthropic foundations and donations.

NACLC's purpose is to assist disadvantaged and marginalised people in the Australian community obtain access to legal services by:

- supporting and assisting CLCs to provide these services
- providing a national forum for CLCs
- developing and coordinating national CLCs' policy and
- advancing the interests of CLCs within Australia.

NACLC provides a range of services directly to CLCs as well as actively supporting CLCs in their work.

NACLC undertakes social justice campaigns by advocating for the legal protection of human rights. NACLC provides practical and financial support to National Networks of CLCs that work in specialised areas and works in collaboration with these networks and individual CLCs on many of its law reform and other projects.

NACLC's governing body, the Management Committee (MC), comprises state and territory representatives and elected office holders and meets several times each year. The MC sets the priorities for NACLC in line with the fundamental principles set out in its strategic plan. Those principles include a commitment to being guided by the vision of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and working with them to achieve access to justice.

NACLC is funded through contributions from centres, generated income and project funding from the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department and other bodies.

Activity Profile 2011/12 for CLCs

These figures are for CLCs that are currently reporting in the Community Legal Service Information System (CLSIS) database.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| ■ total number of clients assisted: 195,000
<i>note – this is a count of all clients who had an active matter over the 2011–12 financial year.</i> | ■ total advices provided: 237,266 |
| ■ total number of matters: 230,695
<i>note – this is a count of all matters that had an active case or an advice during the 2011–12 financial year</i> | ■ total active cases: 74,406 |
| | ■ cases opened: 50,389 |
| | ■ cases closed: 50,849 |

To see a break down of the areas of law, refer to page 13.

NACLC people in 2011/12

In the NACLC office in Sydney:

Executive Director

Julia Hall

Policy and Projects Officer

Catherine Hastings (until April 2012)

Administrator

Anna Bruce

Finance Officer

Ana Rey (Angela Wu – November 2011
–s March 2012)

**National Conference Coordinator
and Administrative Assistant**

Jane Housley – part-time

Communications Manager

Te Raehira Wihapi – part-time (from March 2012)

National Accreditation Coordinator

Lis Maier – part-time

Consultant

Jill Anderson – part-time (PII & RMG revision,
National Profession reform)

Project workers

Chantel Cotterell – part-time (from April 2012)
(sector development)

Frieda Lee – casual (from May 2012)
(human rights, cultural security)

Administrative Assistants

Adelaide Kershaw – casual (until March 2012)

Honora Ryan – casual (from May 2012)

CLSiS, WebEx: Justin Finighan and

Kaeleene Owen, Finrea P/L

FirstClass (BBS) technical support

Damien Gardner, Rendrag P/L

External National CLCs Conference Organiser

Julie Jerbic, Conference Online

Contract project workers:

Law Graduates in RRR CLCs

Helen McGowan

**Recruitment and Retention in Regional, Rural
and Remote Areas: National Coordinator**

Helen McGowan

Regional Coordinators

Debi Bodden (NT), Sharon Tomas (NSW),
Victoria Laing-Short (Qld) (until February 2012),
Barbara Rowe (SA)

Improving Coordination of CLE & Law Reform

Steve Womersley



NACLC office based staff

FRONT L-R: Lis Maier, Ana Rey, Chantel Cotterell

BACK L-R: Te Raehira Wihapi, Anna Bruce, Frieda Lee, Jane Housley,
Julia Hall, Jill Anderson

NACLC Management Committee

National Convenor

Michael Smith

Treasurer

Alex Mactier (until 10 April 2012)

James Farrell (from 10 April 2012)

ACT representative

Deb Phippen

NSW representative

Kim Price

NT representative

Nicki Petrou

Qld representative

Rosslyn Monro

SA representative

Patsy Kellett

Tas representative

Jane Hutchison

Vic representative

Laura Vivarini

WA representative

Chris Gabelish and (until November 2011)

John Perrett

**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's
Legal Services National Network representative
by standing invitation**

Donna Hensen



Convenor's report

It was Mahatma Gandhi who said, "Be the change you want to see in the world."

As I write this, the sector has just concluded its 33rd National Conference in Adelaide. This year's theme – *Weather Makers: CLCs Creating a Climate of Change* – looked beyond seemingly inevitable constant change; to emphasise the need to lead the desired change to a preferred future. This concept not only permeated our conference but is strong in the CLC sector broadly and certainly in the recent work of NACLC.

Be the change you want to see.

A major risk for any organisation and particularly a national peak body is to be just reactive. NACLC can be proud of the manner in which it has led a series of sector-wide changes in anticipation of both its future needs and to pre-empt or mitigate risks.

Elsewhere in these pages, these key developments are detailed. NACLC has been very pleased with the manner in which the sector has embraced and engaged with the National Accreditation Scheme and the improvements to the Risk Management Guide. These separate but related schemes both place the need for high quality services, best practice governance and management and continuous quality improvement at the heart of CLC work and practice, in a more structured manner than ever before.

Other proactive initiatives, such as the communications and volunteer/pro bono research also take this approach and position the sector well.

One of the potentially controversial projects this year was the economic cost-benefit analysis of CLCs. NACLC holds firm that this is only one of many possible measures (and certainly not the most important), yet these research outcomes have been highly significant and are already making an impact both within government and in the broader public debate.

Be the change you want to see.

For some years, the CLC sector has been concerned about the lack of awareness in the community of CLCs generally and more significantly a lack of understanding regarding the crisis in accessing legal help.

CLCs know that overwhelming demand, waiting lists, having to prioritise who receives help and a general lack of resources is nearly always the reality. Somewhat ironically, the CLC sector has perhaps been in danger of accepting this reality.

Following a long development phase, the CLC sector has launched Community Law Australia, a major national campaign highlighting the true crisis

in access to quality legal help in the community. Already, this campaign is making an impact.

Be the change you want to see.

Within this context the government announced a National Review of the four Legal Assistance Services. While any such review provides both a major opportunity and a challenge, the CLC sector can be assured that the proactive work undertaken by their national peak over recent years has placed it in a strong position to respond.

NACLC and its legal assistance provider partners have been calling for years for government to take a broader look at the legal needs in the community and how well-placed but under-resourced CLCs are to respond. It is too early to envisage the outcomes from this Review but NACLC has been strongly engaged with it throughout, from a well-prepared position.

Be the change you want to see.

As well as major sector development initiatives, NACLC continues to be active in human rights advocacy. In major submissions, its NGO accreditation status at the United Nations, and through many less visible collaborations and its 20 National Networks, NACLC remains a strong voice for change wherever justice and human rights are under threat.

NACLC acknowledges our support from the Attorney-General and her Department, our other funders and numerous partners at many levels. NACLC works very closely with the state and territory associations and we thank them for their collaboration and support through a busy year. In particular, appreciation is extended to the NACLC Management Committee for their insights and commitment in their vital governance role – I also thank them for their support of me in my new role as Convenor.

Over the last year, Julia Hall's outstanding strategic and proactive leadership has been critical to the organisation's accomplishments. She is highly respected both within and well beyond the CLC sector and has led major change over recent years. She leads a highly capable and committed team and on behalf of the NACLC Management Committee and the whole CLC sector, I thank Julia and her team for their excellent, committed and creative efforts throughout the year – we extend our deep appreciation.

So, as we look to the year ahead, the message is clear to NACLC, our member associations and every CLC: Be the change you want to see.

Michael Smith



Executive Director's report

I am writing this report in our new, larger premises, where NACLCL workers no longer have to hot-desk, and where there is room to grow. All the hard work for that move occurred in the 2011–12 year.

This represents a theme of the past year: as we have continued to work hard to protect and build CLCs, we have also been working hard on building a stronger and more secure national CLC peak body.

Establishing a secure financial base for NACLCL included revising the NACLCL fees policy and submissions to the Australian Government that we hope will translate into a significant increase in funding for NACLCL's program liaison and sector support role.

This year we have also been successful with pro bono legal assistance and in obtaining both DGR and PBI status, the latter meaning we can provide more competitive remuneration to staff.

Improving our communications has also been a high priority for NACLCL this year, both within the sector and externally. For the first time NACLCL has a Communications Manager, Te Raehira Wihapi. Te Rae has already improved our website news and information, commenced a regular e-newsletter, and guided us into social media – yes, NACLCL NOW TWEETS.

We also continued work on developing improved policies and procedures for NACLCL itself. We drafted a Reconciliation Action Plan which will be finalised once final feedback has been received from some of our Aboriginal colleagues. Many of its actions are already underway.

The year has been a demanding one. Michael Smith, Convenor, and I have both been involved extensively in relation to the National Review, both formally as members of the Advisory Committee, and informally by commenting on various issues and draft documents; and in consultations with the other legal assistance providers. We have both also been busy in our respective roles as members of the National Data Consistency Working Group and the Civil Justice Evidence Working Group.

A focus of some extensive lobbying by NACLCL earlier in the year was for increases in Commonwealth funding to enable CLCs to meet increased costs for CLCs arising from the equal pay test case and the pay equity decision in Queensland.

NACLCL is providing significant financial and other support for the sector's national campaign, Community Law Australia, to raise awareness among the public and government about the amount of unmet

legal need in Australia and the need for major funding increases to all legal assistance providers, with an emphasis on CLCs. NACLCL escalated our complementary publications highlighting the work and value of CLCs.

In good time for the Review and the campaign, we published *Economic Cost Benefit Analysis of CLCs*, a report by independent consultants Judith Stubbs & Associates, that found, on a conservative approach, that the average cost benefit ratio for CLCs was 1:18. Great thanks are given to the four centres that participated in that project.

We conducted a survey about the benefits that volunteers and pro bono contributions bring to CLCs and their clients. This information is very useful for the Review and the campaign, and will shortly be published in brochures that can be used by centres for lobbying.

NACLCL has commenced work on a project to promote the importance of providing culturally secure services and ensuring culturally secure organisations. Two initiatives from this are a plenary session at the National Conference in August, and a flyer for every attendee.

The National Conference was held in Hobart with record attendance; and our first foray into online registration and call for papers was also a success. Thank you to our Tasmanian colleagues who made the time to work with us to produce this successful event. Thank you too to our in-house conference coordinator, Jane Housley, who worked well with our new external conference organisers.

The national quality assurance accreditation project, a joint initiative of NACLCL and the state and territory associations, progressed very significantly this year to a point where we can report towards the end of 2011–12 50% of CLCs as being advanced in their self-assessments, 28% are at a medium level and 22% are progressing slowly. Some centres have completed the process and will be accredited early in 2012–13.

Increasingly we are receiving positive feedback from centres about the process's utility and benefit to their organisation.

NACLCL presented on the scheme to the National Review consultants and believes that this is another sector initiative that has placed CLCs in a good position for external review.

We owe a great deal to Lis Maier, the National Accreditation Coordinator. Her years of experience and demonstrated expertise, combined with her invariably

patient and pleasant manner, has been a great asset. We thank Quality Management Services for agreeing to extend Lis's secondment with us.

Submission topics this year have ranged from the National Legal Profession Reform legislation and rules that may affect CLCs, through consolidation of Commonwealth anti-discrimination laws, to responding to the National Human Rights Action Plan Baseline Study consultation draft.

NACLC has continued to provide a range of free and subsidised services to CLCs, including securing a new Lexis Nexis online legal resources package of over 90 titles, by NACLC matching funding from AGD, and some adept negotiation by NACLC's Cath Hastings.

Hard work, particularly from Jill Anderson at NACLC and the National PII Network, supported by pro bono legal advice, has improved our PII and other insurances' cover, and seen the publication (at last) of the revised Risk Management Guide. Although not perfect, the revised Guide is clearer, more comprehensive and up-to-date.

We continued to offer free CLSIS and WebEx training and support. The CLEAR database of good practice examples of community legal education and law reform examples from CLCs has continued to grow, with support from Steve Womersley.

With one-off funding from the Attorney-General's Department, NACLC was able to offer a supported rollout to centres to undertake a legal needs assessment-based strategic planning process utilising a toolkit and resources developed in an earlier project. Take up by centres has been very high in the first round and we are already seeing add-on benefits, such as data quality improvements.

NACLC has continued its work on two major projects aimed at improving recruitment and retention in CLCs and other legal assistance services in RRR areas: a successful program (now in its fourth year) to place law graduates undertaking their Practical Legal Training course at CLCs in RRR areas; and a project that provided part-time regional coordinators in four RRR areas of Australia to identify and where possible implement, strategies to support, promote and improve recruitment and retention in legal assistance providers. Both projects are funded by one-off grants from AGD and managed by the energetic, committed and highly knowledgeable Helen McGowan.

Thank you to the many people who helped NACLC achieve so much this year: our staff and consultants, the Management Committee, our colleagues in the state and territory associations, convenors and members of the National Networks and all the other CLC workers who have worked with us this year. A special thank you to Anna Bruce for managing our office move so well.

I also extend my appreciation to our partners in the other legal assistance services, the ATSILS, FVPLS and Legal Aid Commissions, and to our colleagues in the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department. A special thank you to Joan Jardine and her team in the CCLSP.

Thank you all for your help in supporting CLCs and the communities they serve.

Julia Hall

Throughout the year NACLC has received pro bono assistance from a number of law firms and we are very grateful for this. Our sincere thanks to: Ashurst and Carroll & O'Dea for their generous legal advice and assistance. Thanks also to Gilbert + Tobin and DLA Piper for providing meeting rooms and catering for various NACLC meetings throughout the year.

Insurance and risk management

NACLCLC makes available to CLCs a number of highly discounted insurance schemes for the benefit of CLCs that choose to participate, including Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) and Association Liability Insurance (ALI), and the Public Liability insurance that covers all CLCs automatically. NACLCLC negotiates and coordinates these tailored policies nationally. Centres elect to take out PII and ALI but all CLCs are covered, at no cost to them, by the Public Liability Insurance.

Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII)

The NACLCLC bulk National Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) Scheme and its associated Risk Management regime continues to be a successful and cost-effective way for CLCs to ensure risk minimisation and meet their PII requirements. 166 centres participated in the NACLCLC National PII Scheme in 2011-2012. The premium remained low, significantly due to CLCs' low risk record and the Scheme's good risk guidance and management. Towards the end of the year NACLCLC negotiated with the insurer to improve further the coverage of the policy and these negotiations are ongoing.

The Risk Management Guide (RMG), annual cross-checks and compulsory state PII meetings help individual centres identify, understand and minimise risk in their legal practice. The Scheme also gives centres access to experienced PII state and territory representatives (and through them, the National PII Network) who generously give their time to supporting centre workers with risk and insurance issues.

Each state and territory PII representative sits on the National PII Network. This committee met 11 times during the year and members considered and commented on draft RMG material by email on numerous other occasions. The revised RMG came into effect on 14 November 2011 and in 2012 the Network worked on some clarifications to parts of the text as well as some matters remaining outstanding after the revision. NACLCLC thanks the members for their significant commitment and contribution they have shown this year.

NACLCLC thanks the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department for the grant towards the payment of the PII policy premium, and Victoria Legal Aid and the Queensland Law Society who contributed to paying the premium costs for CLCs in their respective states.

Public Liability Insurance

NACLCLC again arranged free public liability cover for all CLCs this year. The national policy was renewed on 1 January 2012 for six months, and NACLCLC worked with the insurer to further improve the coverage of the policy for the renewal from 1 July 2012. It provides all member centres and their branch offices in Australia with public liability cover to the limit of \$20 million. NACLCLC pays the premium for this insurance.

Association Liability (formerly Directors and Officers) Insurance

Renewal of the bulk Association Liability Insurance Policy was negotiated on 1 March 2012 at the same rate as last year, but for a longer period of 16 months (to make the ALI renewal align with the PII renewal in 2013). This year 155 centres chose to be covered.

The Association Liability Policy covers CLCs' Board Members (past, present and future) against any claims for 'wrongful acts' committed or alleged to have been committed by them in their capacity as 'Directors or Officers' of the CLC. It also provides cover for the legal centre, Centre Manager and Board Members against Employment Practice Claims, such as wrongful dismissal or discrimination claims. The policy also covers the entity (that is, the legal centre) itself. Claims for wrongful acts including defamation are also covered.

Office Pack Insurance

As part of the insurance arrangements organised by NACLCLC, CLCs are also able to take out, if they choose, a comprehensive Office Pack insurance at a reduced price.

Separate insurances for NACLCLC & State Associations

NACLCLC, QAILS, CLC NSW, Federation of CLCS (Victoria), SACCLS and CLCA (WA) again took out separate insurance to that for the CLCs, negotiated by NACLCLC, at the same rate as last year.

Our broker, AON

NACLCLC works closely with AON Risk Services Australia Limited in Adelaide to provide these insurances. We thank Simon Landrigan, Irmgard de Villiers and the other staff involved with our account at AON, for their advice, assistance and patience.

Services and projects

NACLCL provided a range of services to CLCs with the support of annual project grants, contributions from CLCs and self-generated income.

These included:

- development and support of the Community Law Australia campaign along with all state and territory CLC associations to achieve major improvements in access to legal help
- advocacy and negotiation with government and other funding bodies in the interests of the sector and its clients
- liaison between the sector and the CLSP
- representation and advocacy for the sector in the National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services Review
- representation of the sector at forums and collaboration with national bodies (e.g. Australian Legal Assistance Forum, ACOSS)
- development, implementation and coordination of a national quality assurance program, the National Accreditation Scheme
- information services and publications – newsletter, e-bulletin, brochures, email broadcasts, a directory of Australian and NZ CLCs, an email bulletin board service (BBS) and online resources and guides through NACLCL's Management Support Online
- discounted and subsidised insurance schemes (see the 'Insurance and risk management' section)
- a National Conference providing opportunities for professional development, information sharing, showcasing work, and networking
- training and support for the use of the CLC database CLSIS, the BBS and online training and collaboration technology WebEx
- media releases and interviews promoting the sector and its values
- law and policy reform submissions and representation at United Nations forums through our status as a UN-accredited NGO.

We also undertook projects to support sector advocacy and effectiveness such as:

Access to online legal resources

With funding obtained from the Australian Government, NACLCL provided CLCs with free access to online legal resources from publishers Thomson Reuters and CCH to early December 2011, and, from mid December, to an even wider range of products from Lexis Nexis. NACLCL shared the cost of the Lexis Nexis package with the AGD. NACLCL's subscription to these resources enabled CLCs to reallocate money towards service delivery or, in some cases, access important resources they would otherwise not be able to afford, improving the range and quality of their services.

Improving coordination of community legal education and law reform

NACLCL's project to redevelop its website and a new online resource, the Community Legal Education And [Law] Reform ('CLEAR') database was successfully launched at the National Conference in Tasmania.

CLEAR records and catalogues good examples of community legal education, law reform and policy activities. It is a powerful resource for the sector and the public. It has over 300 Community Legal Education, Community Development and Law Reform projects.

Recruitment and retention of lawyers in regional, rural and remote Australia

NACLCL has administered project funding from the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department to work on two projects designed to help with the recruitment and retention of lawyers in rural, regional and remote (RRR) Australia.

These two projects had three major components:

- working with the Law Council of Australia in their development of a unique website www.rrrlaw.com.au
- the placement of graduate lawyers undertaking their practical legal training within CLCs and other publicly funded legal assistance services (RRR PLT)
- the provision of four regional coordinators to help with recruitment and retention of lawyers in publicly funded legal assistance services in four areas of regional Australia (5R).

For several years, the sector has worked with the private legal profession to develop initiatives to provide lawyers in areas of need in regional, rural and remote Australia. Research showed that whilst some geographical areas are thriving, other regions



The RRR Regional Coordinators (L-R) Sharon Tomas, Debi Bodden, Barbara Rowe and Victoria Laing-Short with Peter Arnaudo Attorney-Generals Department.

struggle to recruit lawyers. The best approach is to develop solutions based on the specific needs in each region. The purpose of the project is to ensure that people living across Australia have access to justice regardless of location.

These programs promote regional legal practice as a career choice and develop a 'career pipeline' so that lawyers and graduates are encouraged to practise in regional, rural and remote areas and are assisted in making the transition to regional practice.



RRRLaw website (www.rrrlaw.com.au)

Working closely with NACLC and a dedicated working group, the Law Council of Australia designed and launched a website which is a gateway to regional legal practice. It provides information on research about the need for lawyers in RRR areas, links to programs and jobs within the regions and case studies across Australia of people who are practising in the private and public professions.

Using the 'jobs' area of the website is an excellent place to promote vacancies, so please consider using it to promote your vacancies.

The RRRLaw website provides a range of information about recruiting and retaining lawyers in rural, regional and remote Australia.



Practical Legal Training in Rural Regional and Remote Australia (RRR PLT) (www.lawgraduatesrrrlc.org/)

This project was developed through a pilot phase with Judy Harrison from ANU College of Law and Liz O'Brien, working with Rachna Muddagouni for NACLC. A website was developed which invited expressions of interest from PLT students seeking placement experience in RRR CLCs in Australia. The project has now been expanded to include all 12 PLT Providers, and our three partners providing Public Assistance Legal Services (PALS), Legal Aid Commissions, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services and Family Violence Prevention Legal Services.

The aim is to build a 'bush law career pipeline'. The 'pipeline' is a sustainable system that promotes RRR practice as a viable career path for newly admitted lawyers, builds capacity within PALS to attract and train new lawyers, redistributes resources from areas of high supply to high demand and provides supportive infrastructure.

The project provides three critical resources:

- it helps PLT students find placement experience and introduces them to social justice practices, and to practices within RRR communities
- it supplements the limited resources within RRR PALS by providing a semi-skilled (and often enthusiastic) professional
- it builds awareness of these legal services and their work, and of PLT placement and employment options with those services, not only among the students who attend but among the wider student body.

The NACLC project team is made up of: Project Coordinator Helen McGowan, National Placement Coordinators Alana Nesire and Alexandra McEwan and Paralegal Stefanie Schweiger.

RRR PLT placements are unpaid and self funded. The cost of the placement is shared between the PALS donating their time and resources to the student, hopefully offset to some degree by the student's work contribution, and the student organising and paying for their travel and accommodation (sometimes offset by grants).

5R – recruitment and retention of lawyers from publicly funded legal assistance services in RRR areas

Federal funds were provided to employ four regional coordinators with the specific task of working with their regional legal community to assist with the recruitment and retention of lawyers. The regional coordinators were: Debi Bodden based at the Darwin CLC covering all of the Northern Territory legal services; Victoria Laing-Short based at Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service in Townsville and covering North West Queensland; Barbara Rowe based at the Women's Legal Service of South Australia and covering South Australia; and Sharon Tomas, based at the Dubbo office of the NSW Legal Aid Commission and covering Western NSW. The team is coordinated by Helen McGowan.

Focusing on responding to local needs, the coordinators were guided by local reference groups and conducted surveys to learn what worked and what the needs were. Some responses included coordinating Continuing Professional Development days and facilitating the different legal services (public and private) to share resources and discuss issues especially in relation to attraction, recruitment and retention.



Organisers of the South Australian RRR forum (L-R) Jack Hetzel-Bone, Helen McGowan (National RRR Coordinator), Barbara Rowe, Heather Mack



Legal needs assessment toolkit

Based on a successful pilot project previously undertaken with a number of NSW CLCs, NACLC engaged Judith Stubbs and Associates to develop a legal needs assessment toolkit for CLCs throughout Australia. The toolkit enables CLCs to:

- better assess met and unmet legal need in their areas (geographic or legal)
- identify and target services at groups with special needs
- assess current, and plan future, service delivery.

The toolkit uses a model based on 13 indicators – shown through research as associated with legal need – and ABS, Centrelink and crime statistics to predict “calculated legal need” in each local government area around Australia, combined with the CLC’s own data on “met legal need” to give CLCs a strong indication of areas, geographic and legal, which may need further attention.

The toolkit also provides useful data for reporting and as evidence for funding submissions. The toolkit can be used both by CLSIS and non-CLSIS centres. In the later part of 2012 NACLC obtained one-off funding to provide training and other support to CLCs to enable them to take full advantage of this resource.



PHOTO: CENTRE FOR REFUGEE RESEARCH

Representatives of the Regional Dialogues with the UNHCR and CRR teams at the UNHCR headquarters, Geneva.

NACLCLC has accredited NGO status at the United Nations. Sometimes NACLCLC will send a representative to appear at UN Committees following up written submissions or to undertake other advocacy. In other instances NACLCLC endorses people to ‘use’ our accreditation status to attend in order to ensure that other voices are heard. Particularly, the voices and perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Following are two instances within this financial year where NACLCLC has accredited people to attend UN forums.

In July 2011 NACLCLC accredited representatives from the Centre for Refugee Research (CRR) to allow them to attend the UNHCR meetings in Geneva. At this meeting the CRR supported 10 refugee women from an international refugee women’s dialogues project to make presentations and attend meetings to advocate for the human rights of displaced women around the world. Although a team from the CRR attends UNHCR meetings every year, in 2011 it was the largest team they had ever assembled. The CRR team also made up part of the Australian Refugee Rights Alliance at the UNHCR meeting.

These meetings are important because they are a major international meeting point for community

based refugee organisations, UNHCR’s operational partners, human rights and humanitarian agencies and other NGOs. The meetings provide a forum to network, gather and share information, hear about new policies and best practice, discuss protection gaps and identify joint solutions.

NACLCLC also accredited Dixie Link-Gordon and Ashlee Donohue from the Mudgin-Gal Aboriginal Corporation in Redfern to attend the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW) in 2012.

The purpose of the trip was to support the continued work of Mudgin-Gal women to engage and participate at the United Nations and beyond in regards to their work with Aboriginal women and advocacy, rights and socio-economic reform.

Dixie and Ashlee also presented in a side event at the UN Status of Women’s NGO session. The Mudgin-Gal representatives presented the *Urban Aboriginal Women’s Experience in Education and Domestic Violence*. This session highlighted the impact of domestic violence, access to education of inner-city Aboriginal women and their journey to raise the voice of Australian Aboriginal women in the community against violence and for socio-economic development opportunities. Sitting in on this presentation was Liz Broderick, Australia’s Sex Discrimination Commissioner.

After the presentation Liz asked Dixie if she would be on an International Panel at the launch of the Catherine Smith Story and Ashlee was asked to speak at the forum.

The trip provided the Mudgin-Gal Aboriginal Corporation delegation with the opportunity to continue their development and learning within the roles of leadership, mentoring, community development and to further communicate their work being done within Aboriginal communities locally, regionally, and nationally.

Here are some of the quotes taken from Dixie's and Ashlee's report back to NACLC.

"A highlight of our trip was the opportunity to meet and talk to Kathy E. Ryan Assistant Chief, Commanding Officer of the New York City Domestic Violence Unit! Who would ever have thought two Aboriginal Women who work in Redfern rubbing shoulders with the NYC Assistant Chief of Police ... Too Deadly."

"Through our abundance of life experiences we have attained valuable insights pertaining to Women's issues in particular Aboriginal Women's. Whilst we are always hopeful that attitudes and conditions will continue to improve, and that the full potential of Aboriginal people is realised, we also are aware of our responsibilities as strong Aboriginal women to continue to work with strength and courage so that the hopes, dreams and aspirations of our people are fulfilled, and it is these strengths that we will bring to the UN CSW."

'Big Apple' visit for Mudgin-gal

MUDGIN-GAL Aboriginal Corporation Women's Centre recently sent two of its workers, CEO Dixie Link-Gordon and education manager Ashlee Donohue, to New York City – the 'Big Apple' – where they were part of the Australian Delegation for the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2011.

Mudgin-Gal has been an incorporated organisation for the past 18 years and is governed by Aboriginal women. It services the Redfern and Waterloo area of Sydney, doing community outreach, including domestic violence and sexual support work.

"It goes to show that a little organisation based in Redfern can be a part of a worldwide event," Ms Link-Gordon said. "We have learnt so much by attending this conference and are confident that Mudgin-gal is on par with the world when it comes to education on the effects of domestic and community violence."

Ms Donohue said this was evident when they attended the launch of the National Plan To Reduce Violence.



Mudgin-Gal Aboriginal Corporation Women's Centre education officer Ashlee Donohue and CEO Dixie Link-Gordon with assistant chief commanding officer of the New York City Domestic Violence Unit Kathy E Ryan.

Linda Burney, but the concept is that of Mudgin-gal's CEO Dixie Link-Gordon, who is also

"Who would ever have thought two Aboriginal women who work in Redfern (would be) rubbing shoulders with the NYC assistant chief of police ... Too deadly!"

Tackling Violence' is a NSW Government-funded activity endorsed by former Community Services Minister

the project educator. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a functional commission of the

United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated to gender equality and advancement of women.

Every year representatives of member states gather at the United Nations headquarters in New York to evaluate progress gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide.

Ms Donohue said one thing they did notice was a lack of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women participants, and Mudgin-gal urged all Indigenous non-government organisations which work with women to become involved in the Status of Women forums.

"A highlight of our trip was the opportunity to meet and talk to Kathy E Ryan, assistant chief commanding officer of the New York City Domestic Violence Unit," she said.

"Who would ever have thought two Aboriginal women who work in Redfern (would be) rubbing shoulders with the NYC assistant chief of police ... Too deadly!"

"The sharing of best practice knowledge is extremely important for any organisation. The developments in the field of Women's Work changes yearly and by participating in this event, Mudgin-Gal will be able to both share our knowledge in this field and also learn from others. As not everyone is invited to attend a UN Workshops, it is also important for Mudgin-Gal to attend, on behalf of other Aboriginal Women's organisations, and share this knowledge."

Submission to the UN Human Rights Committee

Together with Kingsford Legal Centre, NACLC coordinated a Joint NGO Submission to the UN Human Rights Committee regarding Australia's compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The submission has been received by the Committee and will feed into their preparation of the List of Issues Prior to Reporting (LoIPR) for the Australian Government's upcoming sixth periodic report. The Australian Government will be asked to provide a report to the Committee responding to the issues raised in the LoIPR.

The submission was endorsed by 96 NGOs across Australia and highlights pressing human rights issues identified by over 44 contributing NGOs. These issues include Australia's continuing violation of the rights of asylum seekers, the Stronger Futures legislation scheme and the need for a federal charter of human rights.

The UN Human Rights Committee is scheduled to adopt the LoIPR for Australia in November 2012. The Australian Government will then have one year to respond to the list of issues. NACLC's National Human Rights Network intends to monitor the process and contribute when NGO submissions are requested.



National Accreditation Scheme

– *quality assurance in action*

Overall

The National Accreditation Scheme launched in October 2010 is a major ongoing project for the CLC sector, the state and territory associations and NACLC. It has strengthened the sector's commitment to quality service delivery for CLC clients and actively supports organisational development. Once fully rolled out and implemented, it will ensure a nationally consistent approach amongst CLCs across Australia.

Complementary tools and resources provided by NACLC for the implementation of the Scheme at CLC level include the Standards and Performance Pathway (SPP), an electronic assessment tool as well as access to an electronic resource site, Management Support Online (MSO) offering a variety of best practice templates, tools, information sheets and learning modules relevant for the sector.

Accreditation cycle

The National Accreditation Scheme is a three-year cycle and is being brought into line with the CLSP Service Agreement cycle.

This first cycle involves a self-assessment against services standards part of the Accreditation Criteria via the SPP with the result analysed by an external assessor, in most cases the state specific accreditation coordinator. This process is followed by a site visit, where interviews take place and systems described through the self-assessment are verified and further explored. The accreditation coordinator provides a report on the findings to the centre and makes suitable recommendations where gaps, partial compliance or areas for improvements against the Accreditation Criteria have been identified.

The next stage leads to the development of a workplan where the centre reflects on the recommendations made and translates them into strategies for ongoing improvements. Progress on the workplan is reported to the accreditation coordinator on a six monthly basis.

Certification of accreditation occurs following a centre's self-assessment, the site visit and agreement on an improvement workplan.

The first cycle in the National Accreditation Scheme:

Administration of Scheme and Certification

NACLC ensures the Scheme is coordinated, administered and implemented consistently across Australia in accordance with the ACCC-endorsed Certification

QUICK FACTS:

21 site visits have been conducted at the end of June 2012.

Rules, primarily through the National Accreditation Coordinator.

NACLC, as the Certifier specified by the Certification Rules, has authorised the four funded state associations to implement and administer the Scheme at a local level. The state associations authorised as Certifiers are those in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. Regional Accreditation Coordinators recruited during the year have been undertaking visits and providing support and assistance to individual centres as they go through the self-assessment process.

The accreditation coordinators as a team meet on a regular basis to monitor the Scheme's implementation, ensure national consistency, discuss specific issues, modify resources and develop Scheme support tools.

Trial of one process of accreditation assessment and CLSP Service Standards audit

NACLC has negotiated an agreement with Commonwealth and State Program Managers (SPMs) for ACT, NT, NSW, QLD and SA, as a trial (for the remainder of the current Service Agreement period) to use certain information produced for the accreditation process to satisfy the requirements of the CLSP Service Standard audit without the SPMs conducting a separate review process for audit purposes. The SPMs reserve the right to seek clarification or have further discussion with the coordinator/principal solicitor of a centre, or conduct an audit if necessary for some extraordinary reason. This reduces the burden for centres to undergo a similar audit process twice in one funding cycle.

The Scheme in progress

Accreditation is a requirement for all full members of state or territory associations.

Initially activities were dominated by promoting the Scheme at state based conferences, members meetings, directors and coordinator meetings, through individual and group based training sessions either face-to-face or via WebEx and communication with individual centres or via the NACLC newsletter and National Accreditation Scheme specific updates.

Regional Accreditation Coordinators were inducted and orientated to the Scheme in NSW, QLD and WA and together with the National Accreditation Coordinator have been working with centres to progress with the self-assessment. Nationally 21 site visits have been completed and many more accreditation site visits have been scheduled for the next financial year.

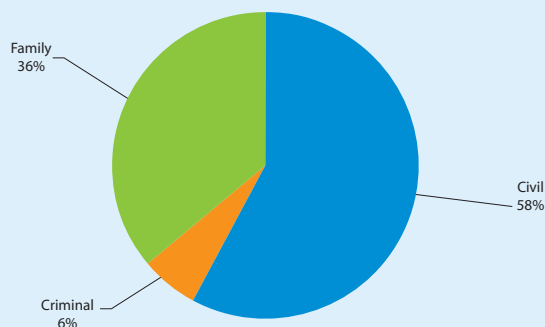
Whilst the National Accreditation Scheme is a sector led initiative, it has been a new experience for many involved as only a few had had involvement with a structured quality improvement framework in the past. As with any new project of this size, engagement by state and territory associations and centres initially raised many questions and concerns on how it would be implemented at local and state levels. Centres and individuals needed time to become familiar with the Scheme and the supporting tools, but during this year they have overcome the initial hurdle and are showing their commitment to the Scheme through the increased results via the SPP, site visits scheduled and workplans developed.



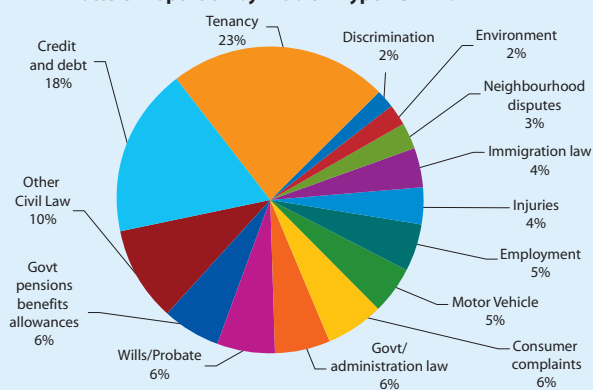
The Accreditation team L-R: Jude Clarkin, Regional Accreditation Co-Ordinator (QAILS), Meg Houston, Regional Accreditation Coordinator (CLCNSW), Kerry Marshall, Accreditation Coordinator (CLCAWA), Lis Maier, National Accreditation Coordinator (NACLC).

Profile of legal services delivered by CLCs that currently report through CLSIS, the database used by the Community Legal Services Program*

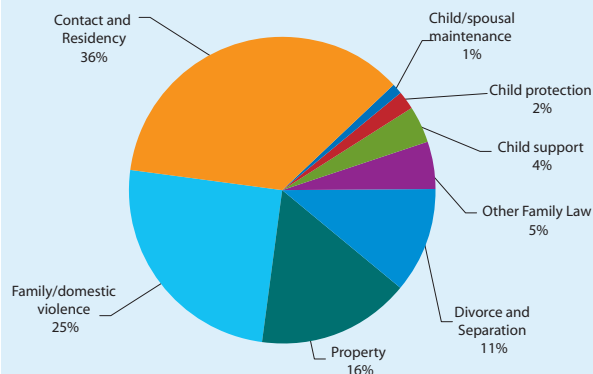
Matters Proportion by Law Type



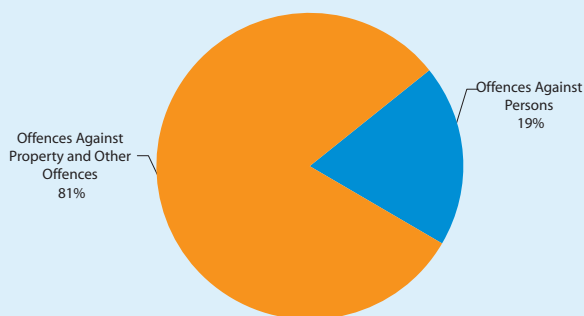
Matters Proportion by Problem Type - Civil Law



Matters Proportion by Problem Type - Family Law



Matters Proportion by Problem Type - Criminal Law



* Note that not all CLCs are funded under the CLSP

2011 National CLCs Conference



NACLCLC and the Tasmanian Association of Community Legal Centres Inc hosted the 2011 National CLCs Conference in Hobart. The Conference opened with a Welcome to Country from Ms Cheryl Mundy, an elder from the Mouheneenner people.

The theme for the 2011 Conference was *Rights, Representation and Reform*, tying this in with our commitment to ensuring support and services for RRR areas.

We had 473 delegates registered. They included community, public and private lawyers, other workers and management from CLCs, ATSILS, FVPLS and the legal aid agencies, social workers, counselors, academics, researchers, policy workers and law students. Several staff from the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department and from state Legal Aid offices attended, as well as representatives from Ombudsman services and representatives from the peak body of community legal centres in New Zealand. We were very pleased to see an increased number of attendees from the FVPLS.

A number of attendees attended meetings of specialist National Networks on the day/s preceding the Conference. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services Network met for 1.5 days, the RRR Network for one day, and others for varying durations.

The Conference program covered a range of major areas of law and practice, and different types of workers' professional interests and development.

CLC workers were keen to hear from their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues and from other people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds of the issues that affect them and learn from them how they would have those issues addressed, informing the discussion and development of culturally appropriate service delivery.

There was good uptake of training opportunities, such as for CLSIS, BBS, WebEX, the SPP and MSO,



Top: Plenary session at the National Conference.
Above: Launch of the Community Legal Education and [Law] Reform website.

and legal online research services, and significant utilisation of the opportunity to have one-on-one consultations with NACLCLC retained experts at 'help' desks, about IT plans and solutions for CLCs, CLSIS and other data recording

issues, and accreditation requirements and processes.

Keynote speakers included Rodney Croome, gay and lesbian human rights advocate; Jim Ife, academic and author; and Greg Barnes, barrister and (then) President of the Australian Lawyers Alliance.

Special thanks go to the Conference Organising Committee, Tasmanian Association of CLCs and Conference Online, our external organisers.



CLCs' awards

"Small places doing big things."

– David Manne, RILC

CLC people are passionate and committed and many are experts and leaders in their fields, so it should come as no surprise that some of these people have had their contributions to the community recognised externally. The following are some CLC people who received awards for the 11/12 year:

Emma Golledge, principal solicitor, Kingsford Legal Centre won the Woman Lawyer of the Year in a Community Organisation Award, at the NSW Women Lawyers Association Achievement Awards (2011).

The legal team behind the successful High Court challenges to the legality of the Government asylum seeker processing was recognised with both a special Law Institute President's Honorary Award and the 2011 Tim McCoy Award. Law Institute President Caroline Counsel said "this team of lawyers devoted countless hours to fighting for the legal rights of asylum seekers and have possibly changed the course of Australian history as a result."

The team were the **Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre (RILC)**, **Allens Arthur Robinson** and the barrister team (**Debbie Mortimer, Richard Niall** and others). In accepting the Tim McCoy Award, RILC's **David Manne** noted the importance of CLCs, describing them as "small places doing big things."

Peninsula CLC won the Law Institute's Legal Organisation of the Year Award. The significance of this achievement is highlighted by the standard of the other finalists, Blake Dawson and Slater & Gordon. Peninsula CLC has grown from humble beginnings to be one of the largest and most successful CLCs in Australia, providing services to almost 10,000 Victorians each year.



Senator Nick Xenophon and Wilma McCoy, Tim McCoy's mother, with Matthew Albert and David Manne who accepted the 2011 Tim McCoy Award.



Helen Constas (above), CEO of Peninsula CLC, received an Hellenic Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HACCI) Award for Community Service 2011 for her work with Peninsula CLC.

Helen has worked at Peninsula CLC for over 25 years and has built the service from a small volunteer-run CLC (with one part-time staff member) to one of the largest in Australia.

Kairsty Wilson of the Association of Employees with a Disability Legal Centre won the Law Institute Community Lawyer Award and was also shortlisted for the Tim McCoy Award. Kairsty established the Association of Employees with a Disability Legal Centre and has worked for more than a decade improving the employment opportunities, working conditions, education and support provided to people with a disability.

Lyn Barratt of the Moreland Community Legal Centre won the Law Institute's Mentor Award for her work mentoring countless young lawyers, clerks and trainees in her current role and formerly as a Victoria Legal Aid deputy regional office manager and principal of Seniors Rights Victoria and the Fitzroy Legal Service.

Other CLC finalists for these awards included: Human Rights Law Centre, Mental Health Legal Centre, CLC for Goulburn Valley Campaign, James Farrell (PILCH/Deakin Uni), Anna Radonic (Youthlaw), Payal Saraf (ASRC), Nathan Macdonald (PILCH connect).

State and territory reports



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Deb Pippen
territory representative

The unfunded ACT CLC network consists of five centres. Centres meet regularly to share information and organise joint work. Highlights and issues for the year include:

- a major issue for all CLCs continues to be seriously insufficient office space. A significant amount of work has gone into this issue. While there has been across government support there is yet to be anything more concrete in terms of available suitable space. There was an announcement in the ACT Budget of funding for 2012/13 of \$600,000. This however is not for a new CLC Hub but to move the Women's Legal Centre out of the current space they share with Welfare Rights and Legal Centre and the Tenants' Union
- joint CLE activities including information stalls at major community events - ACT Multicultural Festival, Uni Campus Orientation events as well as a joint training day run by TU, WRLC and WLC
- regular liaison with ACT providers of legal services through quarterly ACT Legal Aid Forum meetings. Work has included establishing working groups on a range of issues. Work has almost been completed on the ACT emergency legal assistance response plan
- *Street Law* (an outreach project for homeless people that is a joint initiative of the ACT Legal Assistance forum and ACT CLCs and managed by WRLC) was successful in gaining ongoing funding from the ACT Government. Street Law's outreach service delivery model has been very successful in connecting with people who would otherwise not access legal services
- Production of an ACT CLC brochure
- accreditation – early in 2011 the ACT was identified as the jurisdiction to pilot the NACLC Scheme. The accreditation experience has already shown the importance of realising the amount of time the process will take. In the ACT although we only have five centres there is a range of sizes from 15 staff to two staff. We also have two CLCs that do not receive CLSP funds.



NEW SOUTH WALES

Kim Price
state representative

Biennial State conference

CLCNSW hosted its biennial state conference in May.

The conference commenced with a RRR Day. Sessions focused on training and information-sharing for issues that are specific to RRR needs. Highlights included a panel of speakers who discussed the challenges of working in a rural practice and a closing plenary with Helen McGowan, who explored models of justice dialogues for RRR access to justice.

Days two and three had sessions that examined a range of current policy, reform and general legal issues. Day two speakers included Ron Merkel QC, the Attorney General, the Hon. Greg Smith SC MP and the Hon Michael Kirby AC was the speaker at the conference dinner.

Day three commenced with a panel of speakers who discussed current issues in systemic discrimination, including women in the defence force, people with disability and Aboriginal people. The closing plenary saw a panel of speakers who spoke on the changing nature of activism.

There was a wide range of topics covered throughout the conference. CLCNSW thanks all attendees, conference organisers and sponsors for their support.

Living Without Violence toolkit

CLCNSW was involved in producing a 'Living Without Violence' toolkit, with copies distributed to CLCs in NSW, as well as the WDVCS network, and women's refugees. The toolkit is a series of information sheets, designed for people in NSW who have experienced domestic violence and are in the process of separating, or have recently separated from their partner.

CLCNSW and NACLC coordinated the project. The project also received assistance from the Australian Government, Sista Girl Yarnz Group and Ashurst.

Police Accountability Project

With two police involved in deaths in NSW in recent months, police accountability has been a hot topic.

CLCNSW, in conjunction with Charles Sturt University, undertook a survey on experiences of police complaints, which included an analysis of the findings of the survey. Outcomes from this project included a technical (internal) report and an executive summary to be published and sent to key decision-makers. CLCNSW's recommendations for reform in this area have been endorsed by a number of organisations.



NORTHERN TERRITORY

Nicki Petrou
territory representative

The Northern Territory (NT) has seen the end of five years of the NT Intervention and the introduction of the Stronger Futures Legislation in its place. This commenced in parts from 1 July 2012 and is in place for 10 years. So far there have been mixed reviews about its impact on Indigenous communities. For some CLCs, this has meant that funding under Stronger Futures is assured for several more years to enable their work with women experiencing domestic violence to continue.

Some of the highlights from the last 12 months are:

- NT Women's Services Network established
- NT Legal Assistance Forum established
- regular consultations (NT Jurisdictional Forum) between the NT & Federal Governments and legal services required under the National Partnership Agreement, reviewing legal service provision.

Some specific CLC highlights:

- the pilot credit & debt legal service provided by the Darwin Community Legal Service and the Australian Government Solicitor's pro bono program, has been confirmed as an ongoing project and now offers some casework
- for the Central Australia Aboriginal Family Violence Unit (CAAFVU), a significant highlight was delivering the *Rekindling the Spirit* program to Indigenous men, in tandem with the *Healing* program for Indigenous women. Both programs engage, support and secure change to empower participants to act at personal and community levels to reduce family violence
- the Environmental Defenders Office published over 30 fact sheets on environmental law in the NT. The project makes a significant contribution to the legal education of the public about how environmental laws work in the NT. The fact sheets assist to build the capacity of the NT community to engage in government decision-making and law reform regarding the environment
- the Top End Women's Legal Service (TEWLS) was successful in receiving some funding from the Darwin City Council towards its Youth Project. The project is part of TEWLS' preventative focus to address negative social behaviour, and foster better interaction and alternative resolutions for conflict.



QUEENSLAND

Rosslyn Monro
state representative

The end of 2011 saw the Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services (QAILS) becoming an autonomous organisation, now located in separate premises at Woolongabba. New staff were welcomed on board. Cristy Dieckmann was appointed Director; Jude Clarkin was appointed as the Regional Accreditation Coordinator; and Bill Kyle is the part-time finance worker.

With the appointment of a Regional Accreditation Coordinator (RAC), funded through Commonwealth funds, Queensland centres have been working towards accreditation with three site visits completed in the last year. Queensland has been a trial state where the State Program Manager has used the accreditation process as a way of verifying centres' compliance with Service Standards under the Services Agreement. This potentially reduces centres' administrative burdens.

In March 2012 a new government was elected in Queensland and Jarrod Bleijie MP was appointed as the Attorney-General. QAILS welcomes him to the role and looks forward to a positive working relationship with him.

This year Queensland centres have continued to be challenged by the financial pressures of the Pay Equity hearing at now the state and federal levels. A Commonwealth Regulation requires some centres to comply with the state pay equity levels but disappointingly makes those centres not eligible for back pay under the Commonwealth's \$30 million to supplement Queensland organisations.

QAILS held another successful conference, hosted by The Advocacy and Advice Centre (TASC). The theme of the conference was "Jigsaw Law". At the conference first steps were taken to develop a sector Human Rights and Social Justice policy. In the past QAILS has had limited capacity to comment on policy areas, so this is an emerging area of work.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Patsy Kellett
state representative

The South Australian Council of Community Legal Services Inc (SACCLS) has a membership of: 11 CLCs (funded and unfunded); the Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (comprising three FV-PLSs); JusticeNet SA (a pro bono legal referral service); University of South Australia Legal Advice Clinic; and a homeless legal clinic operating under the auspices of the Welfare Rights Centre.

SACCLS is itself still an unfunded entity that relies on the goodwill and hard work of its members to function. During the year we have continued to explore funding options, including having discussions with our Attorney-General.

South Australian CLCs – in common with CLCs around the country – continue to be underfunded and struggle to keep up with demand. SACCLS Chair, Alan Merritt, addressed this problem at a local forum, that was given media coverage.

Our CLCs continue to provide free legal services to low income and disadvantaged South Australians as well as community legal education services. We also undertake law reform and policy work. Issues of concern to CLCs in South Australia include:

- the need for a more accessible forum for determining consumer credit disputes in South Australia (currently these are determined by the District Court)
- corruption in the public sector and the need for an anti-corruption Commission
- the need for a Bill of Rights in South Australia
- the lack of legal services for people in RRR areas
- the inadequacy of social security pensions/allowances/benefits.

SACCLS, through its Chair, has continued to be involved in the Consumer Law Consultative Forum in SA.

Our Environmental Defenders Office has had a busy year that has included:

- launch of a major report considering the role of certain South Australian and Commonwealth legislation in conserving and enhancing biodiversity in South Australia
- litigation on behalf of Mr Buzzacott (an Aboriginal Elder of the Arabunna Nation) seeking judicial review of the federal Minister's decision with respect to the expansion of the Olympic Dam mine in the north of South Australia.



TASMANIA

Jane Hutchison
state representative

The Tasmanian Association of Community Legal Centres (TACLC) has had a busy year.

In October 2011 Tasmania hosted the National Conference in Hobart. As TACLC doesn't have a secretariat, centres in Hobart were kept busy helping with conference preparations. We very much enjoyed welcoming delegates from around Australia and showing off our beautiful state.

TACLC held its first AGM with representatives of all centres present either in person or by phone. Chris Young from the North West Community Legal Service was re-elected chair.

TACLC was also successful in receiving money from the Solicitors Trust Fund for a part-time policy officer and to conduct a training workshop.

Susan Fahey from Womens Legal Service Tas. organised an excellent two-day training workshop that was attended by CLC workers from around Tasmania. It was very successful and all participants expressed how useful the training had been as well as giving workers the opportunity to share ideas and of course to mix socially.

TACLC has engaged a part-time policy officer. This is the first time TACLC has had the opportunity to have such a position and Jess Feehely is to be thanked for writing the successful submission.

TACLC welcomed a new member during the year bringing membership to eight centres.

**VICTORIA**

Laura Vivarini
state representative

The Victorian community legal sector had another strong year, delivering around 150,000 services to Victorians. Highlights for the year included the High Court victory for the clients of the Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre, who successfully argued that the “Malaysia Solution” was unlawful, and the awarding of the Law Institute’s Legal Organisation of the Year Award to Peninsula Community Legal Centre.

Funding uncertainty around the specialist employment law centre, Jobwatch, was resolved somewhat with a welcome injection of funds from the Federal Government, restoring part of the funding cut by the Victorian Government in 2011. Employment law however continues to be one of the highest areas of unmet demand.

The Federation of CLCs’ policy work focused on:

- continuing the successful *Smart Justice* project, which promotes evidence-based, humane and effective criminal justice policies
- working with Footscray CLC to improve working conditions and legal protection for taxi drivers
- working with Footscray CLC to reduce the high numbers of small debt matters pursued by local councils for unpaid rates
- launching our *Making Rights Reality* project – a multidisciplinary service to improve access to justice for victims of sexual assault with a cognitive impairment
- advocating for changes to reduce risks around the introduction of armed Protective Services Officers on Melbourne train stations
- improving national coronial systems to prevent deaths and serious injuries and improve family participation in coronial investigations and inquests
- advocating for the retention and strengthening of the Victorian Human Rights Charter.

The new CLC Adaptive Leadership Program had a strong uptake with the first group of participants providing very positive evaluations of the program and its ability to equip CLC leaders with the skills, confidence and motivation to transform Victorian CLCs.

The CLC Law Graduate Scheme secured major grant funding from the Legal Services Board allowing the Federation to offer at least one position each year from 2013-15. Our first graduates have gone onto CLC positions. The Federation is recruiting two more graduates for 2013.

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**John Perrett and
Chris Gabelish**
state representatives

The Association has continued its activities and embarked on new initiatives as follows:

- *Governance and Management* project – this project has now extended into providing support through the employment of a sector development officer. eLearning modules for staff and Board induction have been compiled for centres to use
- accreditation – WA has employed a state coordinator for the program. Take-up of the program was initially slow but is gaining momentum as contact and support is provided by the coordinator
- PII and Legal Subcommittee – the subcommittee has continued to provide support and assistance to legal practitioners working within the CLC sector to meet their CPD criteria
- strategic and risk planning – a preliminary review of the Association’s business plans was undertaken and it identified a number of issues. Consequently, the Association has applied for Lotterywest funding to undertake a major organisation development review to map out realistic goals
- in December 2011 the Association launched a Human Rights Report Card. This project is to become an annual event
- sustainability of CLCs – this is an ongoing issue and most CLCs are likely to benefit from a WA Government injection of additional funding in the 2011–12 budget. It is expected that the bulk of additional funding will be directed to improving salaries in the sector. Potential solutions to making better use of limited resources in CLE is being pursued
- the Association is afforded representation on the State Legal Aid Commission’s Stakeholders Committee and the Legal Assistance Forum
- the Association is the convenor of a steering group of key stakeholders interested in establishing a PILCH in WA
- Myles Kunzli resigned as Executive Officer in 2012 and John Perrett was appointed in April 2012.

Appreciation is extended to the major funding providers for their ongoing support of the Association and the sector, with special recognition to Lotterywest.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services Network

Donna Hensen, Convenor

The network met in Hobart last year for two days. From this meeting the network identified specific areas that were a priority for the coming year.

The network felt it was important to be involved in the National Partnership Review as we still see that specified legal services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island women is a priority.

The network discussed Cultural Competency being an issue and the possibility of it being incorporated in the accreditation process for CLCs. A booklet is being developed through CLCNSW and the network to provide a guide for CLCs around Community engagement. This will be both a guide and a practical resource.

It is important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander CLC staff to work in a supportive environment. Having the opportunity to talk and/or meet with their peers on a national level is encouraging, informative and supportive. The network will be contacting all CLCs to gather details of their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff so they can be included in our network activities. As part of the induction for new staff we encourage you to give the network contact details.

Administrators Network

Graeme Chambers, Convenor

The National Administrators Network met prior to the National Conference in Hobart in October 2011. Graeme Chambers (from Macarthur CLC) the new Convener of the National Administrators Network noted a special thanks to Linda Shepherd who had organised most of the face-to-face network meetings, as Co-convener and had recently left the sector for personal reasons.

The meeting covered the following broad topics:

- discussion of the national CLC Administration survey results
- governance in CLCs
- the Mercer CLC salaries benchmarking report
- developing training using tools such as webex in training on modern awards, how to get the best from MYOB and Quickbooks, CLSIS reporting, governance and its place in CLCs.

The meeting discussed at some length responses to the survey questions (copies of which can be obtained on request) about topics covering CLC finance, administration, IT policies and procedures. It was agreed

the survey provides useful information for everyone so that we can target future training and information sessions and create support systems based on the needs of CLCs. There was lengthy discussion on governance approaches for CLCs and particularly problems that can arise with management committee structures. In addition, a few CLCs shared their experiences with VOIP telephone technology which is a useful technology to help reduce telephone costs which are increasing significantly for most CLCs.

Finally we are encouraging our network to be for non-legal workers, administration, finance, IT, front desk and coordinators.

Animal Law Network

Angela Pollard, Convenor

This year saw the establishment of the Animal Law Network (ALN). This brand new national network was the outcome of the "Animal Law and the Social Justice Framework" workshop held at the National Conference in Hobart in 2011. Workshop participants were keen to add animal protection law to CLCs' social justice framework. The network was then approved by the NACLC Management Committee and a BBS folder was set up for the sharing of information and resources between members of the network.

A survey was undertaken to determine areas of priority with animal cruelty, agricultural and intensive farming as well as consumer actions topping the list.

ALN obtained NACLC funding and design assistance for a promotional banner, which had its first outing at the CLCNSW Conference in May 2012, with all conference delegates receiving a promotional flyer in their conference bags.

ALN ran a promotional stall at the CLCNSW Conference which resulted in lively discussions about the place of animal law in CLCs. There were two animal law sessions delivered by ALN members; "Animal Law & Farming Practices" and "Animals as clients? Challenging Speciesism, State-Sanctioned Cruelty and Corporate Greed".

ALN held its first phone link up in May, with discussions regarding the agenda for the first ever Animal Law Network Day to be held at the National Conference in Adelaide.

Child Support Network

Alicia Moore, Convenor

The last meeting of the Child Support Network was at the most recent National Conference held in Hobart. That meeting had an excellent turnout of approximately 35 network members from around the country.

The meeting centred on a presentation given by guest speaker Brett Walker-Roberts, a Senior Policy Advisor for the Child Support Program, Department of Human Services. Brett's presentation covered a broad range of topics relevant to child support solicitors/workers in CLCs, some of which included;

- Child Support Agreements – both Binding and Limited, how they're registered, what traps may be involved for clients/solicitors, provisions for non periodic payments and the crediting of those to the assessments
- the impact of the Alignment of Care legislation of July 2010
- an update on the new Change of Assessment process and new form
- an update on the recent reforms to the Estimate legislation
- an update on the new legislation that provides for the Child Support Agency to outsource debt collection.

Our child support teleconferences are a valuable resource for CLCs as they facilitate discussion of a wide range of child support issues, including court applications, interaction with the Child Support Agency, possible reforms and legislative changes.

The meetings also offer support and experience sharing between centres dealing with the same child support issues and client type.

Unfortunately there has been an extended delay since our last meeting. However this issue is currently being addressed and regular meetings should resume shortly.

Clinical Legal Education Network

Anna Cody, Convenor

The network met at the 2011 National Conference to share current clinical practices and programs. There was no formal workshop on clinical legal education at the conference as there was a specific clinical conference at the University of New South Wales in September 2011. This was well attended by various CLC workers and how to work with students effectively in community legal centres was widely discussed. The potential of rural and regional CLCs and how to integrate with clinical programs was discussed. The research program into best practices in clinical legal education continued throughout the year with draft best practices developed and to be distributed in the future.

Community Legal Education Workers Network

Steve Womersley and Carol Benda, Co-convenors

Twenty members of the National Community Legal Education Workers (CLEWS) Network met prior to the 2011 National Conference. They shared projects and made connections with others in the sector. Amy Johnson from Eastern CLC delivered an excellent presentation to members on the application of community development principles to community legal education.

During the year, the network's e-newsletter morphed into Community Legal Education And Reform (CLEAR) News, which updates the sector on relevant news and community legal education and law reform activities across the country. The newsletter's mailing list has now grown to almost 400, including interested people from legal aid commissions and other relevant agencies. To assist CLE workers, a dedicated page on the NACLC website now hosts information and links to a range of CLE resources.

In May 2012, Steve Womersley met with National Legal Aid's Community Legal Education Worker's Network in Hobart to promote CLEAR and share news from the CLC sector. As a result, our National Legal Aid counterparts committed to attending the CLEWS Network Meeting prior to the 2012 National Conference. This meeting will provide all concerned with the opportunity to build and strengthen networks, which will hopefully open the way for future collaborations and sharing of information.

CLEAR captures and showcases community legal education, community development and law reform activities undertaken by CLCs and other non-profit legal organisations from across Australia. It now contains information on more than 300 projects.

CLEAR has become an essential resource for the non-profit legal sector. CLC staff use CLEAR to help them plan upcoming projects, to promote completed projects and to connect with others in the sector with relevant expertise, experience and interests. Funding bodies use CLEAR to help them research and assess grant applications.

Several funding bodies now stipulate that CLC grant recipients upload completed projects to CLEAR as part of their acquittal process. Uploaded projects are promoted via social media and established networks. An e-newsletter further promotes uploaded projects and relevant community legal education news and opportunities.

Employment Law Network

Gabrielle Marchetti, Convenor

Members of the Employment Law Network (ELN) specialise or have an interest in employment law and work-related matters. The ELN discusses trends in client matters, opportunities for law reform and other issues facing member CLCs.

This year, the major issues discussed by ELN members included the following:

- Federal Government's review of Community Based Employment Advice Services (CBEAS)
- the development of a telephone survey for CLC clients who have had a conciliation or hearing at Fair Work Australia
- the review of the Fair Work Act 2009
- the proposed consolidation of Commonwealth anti-discrimination laws
- the ACTU's Inquiry into Insecure Work in Australia
- the Inquiry into the Better Work Life Balance Bill 2012
- the harmonisation of Occupational Health and Safety laws
- enforceability of settlement agreements.

Australian Network of Environmental Defender's Offices

Felicity Millner, Convenor

The 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 undertaking litigation on behalf of clients, legal advice, community legal education and law reform and policy work.

Over the course of the year, ANEDO has contributed a number of important submissions about national law and policy issues. These include responses to the Draft Murray Darling Basin Plan, amendments to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) to regulate impacts on groundwater, and on the Federal Government's Clean Energy Future policy, which lead to the introduction of a carbon price on 1 July 2012. ANEDO's policy submissions are available at www.edo.org.au/

One issue that emerged this year and has the potential to hugely affect all of ANEDO's work is the proposal by the Council of Australian Governments to assign environmental approval decisions that currently rest with the Federal Government, to the states. This

proposal is part of a more general push by the business community and industries such as mining to reduce "green tape" (otherwise known as environmental law!)

It is feared that giving more powers to the states in environmental law will reduce protection of matters of national environmental significance. This, as well as the more general campaign to undermine environmental laws, is of huge concern. EDOs are working with each other and with other environmental non-government agencies to address this threat to environmental protection laws.

The last year has also seen some useful cooperation between EDOs in relation to litigation and advice work. Larger EDOs provided support to smaller EDOs to bring important matters to court or to advise clients. Examples of cases in which EDOs collaborated include the challenge to the expansion of Olympic Dam in South Australia brought by an Aboriginal Elder, and litigation in response to the proposal by Woodside Petroleum to develop James Price Point in the Kimberly as a natural gas plant.

ANEDO has bi-monthly phone link ups where offices update the network on their activities and opportunities for cooperation are discussed.

National Human Rights Network

Jacqui Bell, Convenor

It has been a busy year in the human rights space domestically with the Australian Government continuing its work on the consolidation of anti-discrimination laws, as well as releasing key documents underpinning Australia's Human Rights Framework, including the base-line study and National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP).

The National Human Rights Network added a third submission to the anti-discrimination law consolidation process, providing a detailed response to the Government's discussion paper, with contributions from a team of CLC lawyers from around the country. The three submissions were coordinated by NACLC, PIAC, Redfern Legal Centre and Kingsford Legal Centre. The network's submissions ensured that the lived experiences of anti-discrimination advocates and community members informed the Government's approach to the consolidation process from an early stage. The network provided comments on the baseline study and the NHRAP, coordinated by the Federation of Community Legal Centres (FCLC) and assisted other CLCs to contribute. On behalf of the network, the Human Rights Law Centre coordinated a submission to the review of the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*, contributing to the overwhelming voice of community support for the Charter in the face of a highly politicised review

process. The network finished up the financial year with Kingsford Legal Centre and the NACLC team co-ordinating a Joint NGO submission to the UN Human Rights Committee on the List of Issues Prior to Reporting for the Sixth Periodic Report of Australia. The submission received 96 endorsements which is a huge achievement. Rachel Ball and Bill Mitchell passed on the Convenor baton to Jacqui Bell at the FCLC after their three years of fabulous joint leadership. The network expresses its significant gratitude for Rachel and Bill's leadership and their ongoing contributions and welcomes Jacqui to the role.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) National Network

Amy McGowan, Convenor

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) National Network is a nationwide network of individuals working in the community legal sector. We meet every few months to update, inform and work together to achieve better outcomes for LGBTI communities across Australia.

This year the network wrote a submission to the Attorney-General about the consolidation of Commonwealth anti-discrimination laws. The submission was based on the work done at the 2011 meeting in Tasmania. The network advocated for robust equality law reform for our communities and submitted that all organisations in receipt of federal government funds should comply with all anti-discrimination laws, without exemption or exception.

As a network we have been shocked at the changes to the civil partnership laws and the move to ban same-sex couples from having a child through altruistic surrogacy in Queensland. The announcement of these changes came not long after the state government withdrew \$2.5 million in funding to Queensland's only LGBT health and wellbeing organisation, the Association of Healthy Communities. These regressive steps have served as a serious reminder that strong LGBTI networks are important to ensure that the legislative victories won over the past couple of years are not diluted by changes in government and policy.

The LGBTI network meets a couple of times a year over telephone link up and once a year at the National Conference. We warmly invite any allies in the CLC sector to join our network to assist us to continue to advocate for the rights of our LGBTI communities.

Older Persons Network

Sonya Mitchell and Vivienne Campion, Co-convenors

The network continued to link up by phone during the year, and email contact was maintained between members to follow developments in areas of particular interest for the network. A subcommittee with Sonya Mitchell (Seniors' Legal and Support Service, Townsville), Karen Merrin (Older Persons' Rights Service, Northern Suburbs CLC WA) and Tom Cowan (TARS NSW) was formed to address the issue of harmonisation of enduring powers of attorney and to follow up with a submission to the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General. Other issues of concern during the year have included guardianship matters, where family members have attempted to use guardianship processes to legitimise abuse of the older adult, and inconsistent banking practices particularly as regards the use of an enduring power of attorney document. The network has continued to share information and resources such as *Assets for care: A guide for lawyers to assist older clients to protect and control their assets*, produced by Seniors' Rights Victoria's Louise Kyle. This document has been circulated around the network and more widely to practitioners in private practice and provides a timely response to the growing recognition that elder law is a highly specialised field and a particular set of skills is required to deal with the issues often experienced by older clients. While written for Victorian practitioners, this publication has a great deal that is applicable across all jurisdictions.

The network benefits greatly from the collaborative sharing of experience across the fields of legal and social work practice – a combination of disciplines which is crucial to effective work with older clients.

National Police Accountability Network

Tamar Hopkins and David Porter, Co-convenors

Since the Hobart network meeting, the National Police Accountability Network has been co-convened by David Porter from Redfern Legal Centre and Tamar Hopkins from the Flemington & Kensington Community Legal Centre. The focus of the network over the past year has been to highlight the need for independent investigation of deaths in custody and complaints against police. The network has done this by writing to Attorneys-General and Police Ministers in relation to the need for an independent investigation of the death of Terrance Briscoe, an Indigenous man who died in a NT police cell in contested circumstances. Our work drew media attention to this issue.

The network has worked with the media in relation to the need for an independent investigation of the death of Brazilian man Roberto Lauderio Curti who was tasered to death in Sydney in March 2012. Our members also gave numerous interviews about the problematic use of tasers in this case and the need for strict guidelines on their use.

The network has also worked with the media on the case of Adam Salter and the biased nature of the internal investigation of his shooting death, footage of which was played on Four Corners.

The network has held two meetings since Hobart and it now has over 100 members including lawyers and activists in every state and territory. (We also have some ACT politicians!)

The network regularly get requests for media interviews about policing stories from around the country which we are able to field and pass on to our members. The network also get requests for legal assistance including in relation to assaults in custody, deaths in custody and upcoming protests which we are able to pass on to our members who work in the relevant state or territory.

The network is very grateful to NACLC for its assistance with telephone link ups and the network meeting at the National Conference.

We are currently discussing funding options to employ an administrator to set up a website and better resource the network's membership and advocate the network's policy positions. A very limited amount of information is available here: www.communitylaw.org.au/flemingtonkensington/cb_pages/aboutNPAN.php

Refugee and Immigration Network

Bill Mitchell, Convenor

Nationally there are six specialist centres that work in this area of law. Alongside these specialist centres are centres that employ Registered Migration Agents or workers who assist refugees or newly arrived migrants. 2012 saw NACLC begin work towards establishing a national Refugee and Immigration Network. Staff and volunteers from a range of CLCs expressed interest in joining the Network. The Network will meet to set the terms of reference and its planned activities at the 2012 National Network Conference.

Rural, Regional and Remote (RRR) Network

Lee Milcherdy, Convenor

Thirty five solicitors, and support workers from regional, rural and remote CLCs attended the National RRR Network meeting at the National Conference in Hobart in October 2011. Coming from all corners of Australia these solicitors, coordinators and administration workers ensured spirited discussions and a

stimulating interchange of information as well as a great networking opportunity. Helen McGowan led a discussion on recruitment and retention of staff in RRR centres.

The meeting also acted as an information exchange as attendees discussed their successes. Discussion also revolved around the challenges and frustrations of being a RRR worker with a particular emphasis on issues RRR centres face relating to casework and conflict of interest.

There was also some discussion about the way the Accreditation process had been rolled out. There was a perception that it was delivered without much consultation with the RRR centres.

Other issues RRR CLCs continue to face include:

- lack of time available for regular RRR CLCs teleconferences. These meetings provide the opportunity to focus on solutions associated with RRR outreach service delivery
- travel and other costs associated with the delivery of outreach services for rural clients, especially those in smaller remote communities
- getting specialist legal assistance to RRR areas and centres and accessing pro bono support
- securing funding for secretariat support for the RRR network to enable it to more strategically address some of the issues outlined above
- use of information/communication technology to meet legal needs of geographically isolated RRR clients and assist with communication and/or training needs of RRR CLCs.

National Association of Tenant Organisations (NATO)

Penny Carr, Convenor

Along with other telephone meetings during the year, NATO held its regular face-to-face meeting prior to the National Conference. NATO continued its representative role on National Shelter, the peak non-government organisation representing the interests of low-income housing consumers. This is a beneficial role in terms of ensuring NATO's ability as an unfunded network to participate in national housing policy forums. NATO meetings identified common issues for tenancy organisations across the country.

Other areas of work:

- national regulation of community housing
- some work around the NBN
- a NATO representative was involved with the Australians for Affordable Housing campaign www.housingstressed.org.au/

Areas of work identified for the coming year are the national regulation of community housing and the development of events for International Tenants Day held on the first Monday in October each year.

Additionally, there seem to be many changes occurring in a number of jurisdictions to the delivery of housing assistance, in particular public housing, to low income consumers. NATO will keep a watching brief and participate as required to protect the interests of these tenants.

Welfare Rights Network

Maree O'Halloran, Convenor

The National Welfare Rights Network (NWRN) is an incorporated association and a peak body for its members and associates. Its member centres are 14 CLCs which specialise in social security law and policy, Centrelink practice and employment participation issues. It also has two Associate Members, the Northern Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency and the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Service.

The 2011 National Welfare Rights Conference was held in Hobart in October 2011 for three days in the lead up to the 2011 National Conference. We were fortunate to have Professor Terry Carney from Sydney University as a keynote speaker who presented a paper about *Social Security: the law, policy and practice*. One of the important points of his speech was that a living wage and welfare had historically been delivered to Australian workers via the industrial relations system. Social security was the safety net, back-up system. As the industrial relations system, and the nature of work itself, has become more fragmented, the social security system had taken more weight. The gaps and inherent tensions in the system have become more exposed as a result. Thus, we are seeing more conditional welfare and penalties in a system that is supposed to be beneficial for people.

The network has written a number of times to relevant Australian Government Ministers seeking to ensure that the Government does not, even inadvertently, feed negative stereotyping of people receiving social security.

In 2011/2012, the network worked closely with ACOSS with respect to the campaign to increase the Newstart and other Allowances by \$50 per week. We attended media conferences on the issue and were participants in the October 2011 Tax Forum in Canberra and the subsequent Jobs Forum.

In addition, the network were participants in Minister Macklin's "Carbon Compensation Round Table" which met between May and August 2011. Our role was to help ensure that people living on social security payments were protected from price increases arising

from carbon pricing given that they are not always in a position to ameliorate their carbon footprint. For example, people living on low incomes do not always have, and cannot always afford, new, energy efficient whitegoods.

In 2011/2012 a national delegation of network members met with Centrelink in Canberra on two occasions to raise matters of concern to our client base as well as service delivery issues. The matters canvassed were broad ranging, and included legislative changes to the Disability Support Pension, social security fraud prosecutions, and the need for Centrelink to use its information-gathering powers in the interest of clients.

On the policy front, the network made a number of submissions to parliamentary inquiries, gave evidence to the Howe Independent Inquiry into Insecure Work and raised many issues directly with members of the Australian Parliament or through the media. The major areas of policy work for the network over the last year included:

- the spread of income management and "place-based welfare reform"
- family and domestic violence
- carbon pricing and assistance to households
- reforms to the Disability Support Pension
- the interaction of the tax and transfer system and the distribution of wealth and income
- social security issues for children and young people
- insecure work and social security
- the lack of access to social security in Australia for New Zealand citizens including those born in Australia
- Special Benefit
- the prevention and/or waiving of debts owed to Centrelink
- the unsustainably low rates of the Newstart Allowance and the Youth Allowance.

I would like to thank all the people involved in the network for their passion, commitment and contribution to the public debate over the last year. I would also like to thank the National Committee members for their commitment over the past year (Kate Beaumont, Mark Leahy, Dale Nelson, Georgina Warrington, Peter Horbury and Liz Turnbull).

Women's Legal Services Australia

Rhonda Payget, Convenor

Women's Legal Services Australia (WLSA) is a national network of CLCs specialising in women's legal issues. The network was established to be actively involved

in law reform activities to ensure that women and children are not disadvantaged by laws and to lobby for improved access to justice. The network has representatives from each state and territory and jointly fund a part-time law reform position to coordinate our law reform, lobbying and media activities. In 2011 the network reviewed its rules to allow dedicated women's services that are not in receipt of federal funding to become eligible for membership.

The network was excited to launch our website this year: www.wlsa.org.au. You can find information about our campaigns, submissions and media releases here. We thank Women's Legal Service Tasmania for their work on our website and for keeping the website maintained and updated.

We are fortunate to have Angela Lynch as the network's law reform coordinator. Thank you to Zita Ngor as outgoing law reform coordinator.

Some of the issues for this year have been:

- the family violence amendments to the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth) which go some way to improving court outcomes for women and children experiencing family violence. We continue to campaign for a review of the presumption of equal shared parental responsibility laws
- submissions in respect of the proposed extension of criminality in international child abduction
- monitoring the implementation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children
- consulting with a number of agencies about proposed reform, for example, in relation to the proposed common screening and risk assessment framework for the family law system
- consolidation of Commonwealth anti-discrimination laws.

The network prepares media releases on matters important to our clients and Angela Lynch has given a number of radio interviews this year.

The network has representatives on two of the six National Women's Alliances: Liz Snell is our representative on the Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) and Adrianne Walters has just been appointed as an ERA Steering Group member. Angela Lynch is our representative on the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA). We share information and expertise and have worked closely with AWAVA on the *Put Safety First* campaign.

National Youth Advocacy

Matthew Keeley, Convenor

The National Youth Advocacy Network (NYAN) met at the Hobart National Conference on 17 October 2011. The meeting was attended by members from NSW, WA, NT, ACT and VIC, and was convened by the National Children's and Youth Law Centre (NCYLC). Participants discussed systemic issues and the benefit of the network coordinating on strategic law reform issues. No formal resolution was put forward to NACLC.

Throughout the year NCYLC made efforts to connect with members of the network in their various states and territories and has met with representatives from Youth Advocacy Centre (Qld), YouthLaw (Vic), SCALES (WA), Launceston Community Legal Centre and the Hobart Community Legal Centre. Discussions have also taken place with NT representatives to look at improving RRR access to youth legal services. Specific collaboration occurred around a law reform process in Victoria focusing on the law applying to "sexting". NCYLC also convened the involvement of NYAN members from around the country in the Child Rights Taskforce and Steering Committee directed to national implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and follow up to the Taskforce's May 2011 Report, *Listen to Children*, substantial parts of which were drafted by NYAN members.

As a national centre and convenor of NYAN, NCYLC continues to refer clients to CLCs and NYAN members around the country.



Treasurer's report

In 2011/2012, NACLC has produced a net surplus of \$222,166. This is a 38% increase on last year's result.

As Alex Mactier noted in the 2010/2011 Treasurer's report, NACLC changed its fee structure this year to provide a simpler and more consistent and equitable system of calculation and increase transparency. Fees are capped at 0.5% of CLC revenue and the total amount paid by any centre is capped at \$6,000. As a result of the changes, members' contributions increased from 2010/2011 – it is terrific to have continuing support of CLCs across the country.

As part of the value proposition for CLCs, NACLC has been able to continue to fund the development and licensing of the Management Support Online resources tailored to CLCs. We have also established a National Accreditation Scheme, including the development and purchase of licences to use the online self-assessment tool, and employing a National Accreditation Coordinator. Other projects and achievements are discussed in other parts of this Annual Report.

Project funding was lower than in 2010/2011, reflecting a decrease in government investment (which many CLCs and other civil society organisations would have also experienced). This year, NACLC also incurred some one-off costs to move offices to more suitable accommodation.

In large part, the strong 2011/12 result has been built through containing costs, which could also be seen as under-investing in some of NACLC's advocacy and law reform activities. However, with a challenging and changing environment in the next few years, it is vital that NACLC is able to invest in activities that serve CLCs and their clients and communities.

Our 2011/2012 financial result is due to the commitment and discipline of NACLC's excellent staff. With accumulated members' contributions of over \$500,000, NACLC is well placed to continue its sector development activities, human rights and social justice advocacy and lobbying on behalf of our sector and its clients.

James Farrell

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The committee members present their report together with the financial report of National Association of Community Legal Centres Inc (the Association) for the year ended 30 June 2012 and auditors report thereon.

Committee members names

The names of the committee members in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

Michael Smith National Convenor

Alex Mactier Treasurer, until April 2012

James Farrell Treasurer, from April 2012

Deb Pippen ACT representative

Kim Price NSW representative

Nicki Petrou NT representative

Rosslyn Monro QLD representative

Laura Vivarini VIC representative

Chris Gabelish WA representative

John Perrett WA representative, until November 2011

Patsy Kellett SA representative

Jane Hutchison TAS representative

The committee members have been in office since the start of the year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Results

The net profit of the Association for the year amounted to \$222,166.

Review of operations

The Association continued to engage in its principal activity, the results of which are disclosed in the attached financial statements.

Significant changes in state of affairs

There were no significant changes in the Association's state of affairs that occurred during the financial year, other than those referred to elsewhere in this report.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Principal activities

The principal activity of the Association during the year was 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; and
- advancing the interests of community legal centres within Australia.

Further information on the principal activities performed during the financial year is set out in the Annual Report.

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Signed on behalf of the members of the committee.

Committee member: _____


James Farrell

Committee member: _____


Rosslyn Monro

Dated this Twenty first day of September 2012

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES INC
ABN 67 757 001 303

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	Note	2012 \$	2011 \$
Revenue	2	<u>2,049,816</u>	<u>1,980,971</u>
Less: expenses			
Depreciation and amortisation expense	3	(10,436)	(13,366)
Employee benefits expense		(480,788)	(442,404)
Conference expense		(250,217)	(289,273)
Operating expense		(298,941)	(389,584)
Project expense		<u>(787,268)</u>	<u>(685,287)</u>
		<u>(1,827,650)</u>	<u>(1,819,914)</u>
Net Profit		<u>222,166</u>	<u>161,057</u>
Other comprehensive income for the year		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total comprehensive income		<u><u>222,166</u></u>	<u><u>161,057</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES INC
ABN 67 757 001 303

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2012

	Note	2012 \$	2011 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,005,045	954,446
Receivables	5	83,053	678,560
Other financial assets	6	1,505,000	1,319,056
Other assets	8	<u>61,145</u>	<u>25,674</u>
Total current assets		<u>2,654,243</u>	<u>2,977,736</u>
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	7	<u>51,024</u>	<u>14,926</u>
Total non-current assets		<u>51,024</u>	<u>14,926</u>
Total assets		<u>2,705,267</u>	<u>2,992,662</u>
Current liabilities			
Payables	9	119,754	337,732
Borrowings		-	51,866
Provisions	10	10,000	10,000
Other liabilities	11	<u>1,845,540</u>	<u>2,088,377</u>
Total current liabilities		<u>1,975,294</u>	<u>2,487,975</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	10	<u>9,945</u>	<u>6,825</u>
Total non-current liabilities		<u>9,945</u>	<u>6,825</u>
Total liabilities		<u>1,985,239</u>	<u>2,494,800</u>
Net assets		<u>720,028</u>	<u>497,862</u>
Members funds			
Reserves	12	211,744	155,149
Accumulated profits / (losses)	13	<u>508,284</u>	<u>342,713</u>
Total members funds		<u>720,028</u>	<u>497,862</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs, which do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

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

(a) Revenue

Grant income, conference and insurance is recognised as revenue in the year to which the associated expenditure and grant funding agreement relates. Accordingly, this income received in the current year for expenditure in future years are treated as grants or income in advance.

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

Unexpected specific grant income at 30 June each year is disclosed as a liability in the financial statements. The amount brought to account as income is equivalent to that amount expended by the Association during the financial year. Where surplus funds are required to be repaid, they will remain as a liability in the financial statements until repayment.

Interest revenue is recognised when it becomes receivable on a proportional basis taking in to account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

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

(b) Income tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(c) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and at banks, short-term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less held at call with financial institutions, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(d) Financial instruments

Classification

The Association classifies its financial assets into the following categories: financial assets at fair value through profit and loss, loans and receivables, held-to-maturity investments, and available-for-sale financial assets. The classification depends on the purpose for which the instruments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its financial instruments at initial recognition.

Held-to-maturity investments

Fixed term investments intended to be held to maturity are classified as held-to-maturity investments. They are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are measured at fair value at inception and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

(e) Property, plant and equipment

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

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis.

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

Leasehold Improvements

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

Depreciation

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

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rates	Depreciation basis
Leasehold improvements at cost	33.33%	Straight line
Office furniture and equipment at cost	10.00% - 33.33%	Straight line

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(f) Impairment

Assets with an indefinite useful life are not amortised but are tested annually for impairment in accordance with AASB 136. Assets subject to annual depreciation or amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or circumstances arise that indicates that the carrying amount of the asset may be impaired. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount of the asset exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount of an asset is defined as the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

(g) Provisions

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

(h) Leases

Leases are classified at their inception as either operating or finance leases based on the economic substance of the agreement so as to reflect the risks and benefits incidental to ownership.

Operating leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Lease incentives received under operating leases are recognised as a liability and amortised on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

(i) Employee benefits

(i) Short-term employee benefit obligations

Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and any other employee benefits expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at their nominal amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The expected cost of short-term employee benefits in the form of compensated absences such as annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

(ii) Long-term employee benefit obligations

Liabilities arising in respect of long service leave and annual leave which is not expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Employee benefit obligations are presented as current liabilities in the balance sheet if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES INC
ABN 67 757 001 303

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(j) Goods and services tax (GST)

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

(k) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with current year disclosures.

NOTE 2: REVENUE

Sales revenue		
Contributions from centres	592,891	422,155
Other revenue		
Conference income	327,808	291,045
Grants	997,172	1,114,975
	<u>1,324,980</u>	<u>1,406,020</u>
	<u>1,324,980</u>	<u>1,406,020</u>
BBS accounts income	4,400	4,900
Administration income	22,000	18,000
Bank interest received	105,545	129,896
	<u>131,945</u>	<u>152,796</u>
	<u>131,945</u>	<u>152,796</u>
Total revenue	<u>2,049,816</u>	<u>1,980,971</u>

NOTE 3: NET PROFIT

Profit / (losses) before income tax has been determined after:

Depreciation and amortisation		
- leasehold improvements	5,816	4,642
- office furniture and equipment	4,620	8,724
	<u>10,436</u>	<u>13,366</u>
Bad debts		
- trade debtors	<u>1,391</u>	<u>-</u>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES INC
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
NOTE 4: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash on hand	300	200
Cash at bank	<u>1,004,745</u>	<u>954,246</u>
	<u>1,005,045</u>	<u>954,446</u>

NOTE 5: RECEIVABLES

CURRENT		
Trade debtors	60,314	659,148
Interest receivable	22,739	17,708
Other debtors	<u>-</u>	<u>1,704</u>
	<u>83,053</u>	<u>678,560</u>

NOTE 6: OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS

CURRENT

Held to maturity financial assets

Term Deposits	<u>1,505,000</u>	<u>1,319,056</u>
	<u>1,505,000</u>	<u>1,319,056</u>

Two term deposits totalling \$25,000 are held as bank guarantees in relation to the office lease agreements for level 9 and level 10, 307 Pitt Street Sydney.

NOTE 7: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Leasehold improvements

At cost	26,171	26,171
Accumulated amortisation	<u>(26,171)</u>	<u>(20,355)</u>
	-	5,816
Work in progress - at cost	<u>43,495</u>	<u>-</u>
Total leasehold improvements	<u>43,495</u>	<u>5,816</u>

Plant and equipment

Office furniture and equipment at cost	32,650	29,611
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(25,121)</u>	<u>(20,501)</u>
	<u>7,529</u>	<u>9,110</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>51,024</u>	<u>14,926</u>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES INC
ABN 67 757 001 303

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
NOTE 8: OTHER ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Prepayments	56,745	25,674
Accrued income	<u>4,400</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>61,145</u>	<u>25,674</u>

NOTE 9: PAYABLES

CURRENT		
GST liabilities	64,830	72,930
Employee benefits	26,576	25,311
Accrued expenses	<u>28,348</u>	<u>239,491</u>
	<u>119,754</u>	<u>337,732</u>

NOTE 10: PROVISIONS

CURRENT		
Make good	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>

NON CURRENT

Employee benefits	(a) <u>9,945</u>	<u>6,825</u>
(a) Aggregate employee benefits liability	9,945	6,825

(b) Reconciliations

Make good (current)

Opening balance	10,000	4,500
Additional amounts recognised	<u>-</u>	<u>5,500</u>
Closing balance	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>

NOTE 11: OTHER LIABILITIES

CURRENT		
Grants received in advance	1,494,475	1,783,307
National conference deposits	87,278	54,027
PI insurance	<u>263,787</u>	<u>251,043</u>
	<u>1,845,540</u>	<u>2,088,377</u>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES INC
ABN 67 757 001 303

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
NOTE 12: RESERVES		
General reserve	87,500	87,500
Conference surplus reserve	<u>124,244</u>	<u>67,649</u>
	<u>211,744</u>	<u>155,149</u>

The general reserve is used to support the National Accreditation Scheme and the Management Support Online License.

The conference surplus reserve is kept separately to cover future years' conferences.

NOTE 13: ACCUMULATED PROFITS / (LOSSES)

Accumulated profits / (losses) at beginning of year	342,713	189,746
Net profit	222,166	161,057
Transfers (to) / from reserves	<u>(56,595)</u>	<u>(8,090)</u>
	<u>508,284</u>	<u>342,713</u>

NOTE 14: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Transactions between parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

NOTE 15: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS

(a) Operating lease commitments

Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements:

Payable

- not later than one year	39,494	16,407
- later than one year and not later than five years	224,406	-
- later than five years	<u>5,069</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>268,969</u>	<u>16,407</u>

The property lease is a non-cancellable lease with a three-year term, with rent payable monthly in advance. Contingent rental provisions within the lease agreement require that the minimum lease payments shall be increased by the higher of fixed percentage review or 4% per annum.

(b) Capital expenditure commitments contracted for:

- leasehold improvement purchases	14,498	-
Payable		
- not later than one year	<u>14,498</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>14,498</u>	<u>-</u>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES INC
ABN 67 757 001 303

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

NOTE 16: ASSOCIATION DETAILS

The registered office and principal place of business of the Association is:

Suite 3, Level 10

307 Pitt Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES INC
ABN 67 757 001 303

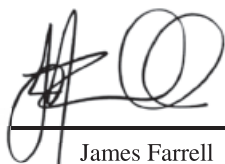
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 3 - 12:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of National Association of Community Legal Centres Inc as at 30 June 2012 and performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that National Association of Community Legal Centres Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Committee Member:



James Farrell

Committee Member:



Rosslyn Monro

Dated this Twenty first day of September 2012

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES INC
ABN 67 757 001 303

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES INC

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of National Association of Community Legal Centres Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2012, the statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

Responsibility of Those Charged With Governance

The governing committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT)* and financial reporting needs of the members.

The governing committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the governing committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

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

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

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of National Association of Community Legal Centres Inc as of 30 June 2012 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report and the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT)*.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES INC
ABN 67 757 001 303

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES INC

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 in the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist National Association of Community Legal Centres Inc to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT)* and the financial reporting needs of the members as determined by the governing committee. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



Mark Godlewski

Partner

Registered Company Auditor No. 172348

21 September 2012



PITCHER PARTNERS

SYDNEY

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES INC
ABN 67 757 001 303

DISCLAIMER
TO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES INC

We have compiled the accompanying additional financial data presented on page 17 in accordance with the books and records of the Association, which have been subjected to auditing procedures applied in our statutory audit of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2012.

Our statutory audit did not cover all details of the additional financial data. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on such financial data and we give no warranty or accuracy or reliability in respect of the data provided. Neither the firm nor any member or employee of the firm undertakes responsibility in any way whatsoever to any person (other than National Association of Community Legal Centres Inc) in respect of such data, including any errors omissions therein however caused.

The responsibility of the committee

The committee of National Association of Community Legal Centres Inc are solely responsible for the additional financial data and have determined that it is appropriate to meet their needs.

Our responsibility

Our procedures use accounting expertise to collect, classify and summarise the financial information provided to us, to compile the additional financial data in accordance with APES 315 *Compilation of Financial Information*. Our procedures do not include verification or validation procedures. No audit or review has been performed and accordingly no assurance is expressed.



Mark Godlewski

Partner

Registered Company Auditor No. 172348

21 September 2012



PITCHER PARTNERS

SYDNEY

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES INC
ABN 67 757 001 303

NATIONAL CONFERENCE TRADING STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Registration fees	253,867	239,999
Sponsorship	63,691	50,545
Conference grants	5,000	30,000
Donations	<u>5,250</u>	<u>500</u>
	<u>327,808</u>	<u>321,044</u>
EXPENSES		
Bank charges	(1,997)	-
Conference audio-visual	(26,156)	(2,810)
Conference organiser	(36,034)	(61,167)
Conference childcare	(1,763)	(1,350)
Conference interpreting services	(4,950)	(3,309)
Conference materials and equipment	(2,400)	(5,801)
Venue	(3,409)	(40,215)
Catering	(100,679)	(91,167)
Conference welcome and entertainment	(12,836)	(13,997)
Design and printing	(8,512)	(9,033)
Insurances	(2,682)	-
Network costs	(2,019)	(4,556)
Office supplies	(45)	(830)
Conference postage and courier	(205)	(532)
Subsidies	(26,240)	(27,419)
Speaker costs	(1,418)	-
Salaries	(14,814)	(15,010)
Superannuation	(1,330)	(1,351)
Telecommunications	(212)	(2,181)
Travel and accommodation	(21,654)	(30,719)
Sundry expense	<u>(1,858)</u>	<u>(1,507)</u>
	<u>(271,213)</u>	<u>(312,954)</u>
	<u>56,595</u>	<u>8,090</u>

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