



**“TALKING JUSTICE”**

Conversations  
about *talking*  
and *doing*  
justice.

loddon campaspe

2015/16

arc justice | [Annual Report](#)



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trading as **ARC Justice**

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incorporating:



# Chairperson's report

I am happy to report that ARC Justice is in good health and its mission remains on course at the conclusion of another year. Our services to clients have not only been maintained but improved via new funding initiatives and innovative approaches. Our Housing Justice program achieved Human Services Standards Accreditation during the 2015-16 financial year. And our Community Legal Centres will undergo accreditation over the 2016-17 financial year.

Overall, it has been an eventful year with many challenges and changes to contend with.

## PETER NOBLE'S RESIGNATION

Perhaps we should not have been surprised that Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) would want to recruit our highly regarded former Executive Officer, Peter Noble. Even so, it did come as a shock when Peter resigned in June 2016. Peter has taken up the role of Executive Director, Services and Innovation with VLA. This new role has been created to provide organisational leadership at VLA on strategic and systemic issues that affect access to justice and legal aid service delivery in regional Victoria.

Peter will be missed. His vision has been a guiding light for the agency for many years, and his energy and enthusiasm for the agency's mission have been inspirational.

At the end of the 2015-16 financial year, ARC Justice's Operations Manager, Chris Sedgman, stepped into the breach as the organisation's Acting EO and the Board began recruiting for Peter's replacement.

## BOARD MOVEMENTS

During the year I was pleased to welcome four new board members: Celia Adams (CEO, Rural Housing Network, Shepparton); Baydon Widdicombe (Human Resources Manager, Bendigo District Aboriginal Cooperative); Patrick Jennings (Public Practice Accountant, Stratagem); Tim Adams (Consultant, Lifeline). These appointments followed the resignation in November 2015 of long-term Board Director Mandy Stewart. You will recall at last year's Report to the Community that we presented Mandy with a gift in recognition of her 10 years of loyal, dedicated and sterling service on the Board.

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

In November 2015 Loddon Campaspe CLC celebrated its 10th birthday at our Report to Community. In the same month ARC Justice programs participated in White Ribbon Day activities in Bendigo and Shepparton. In May 2016 Loddon Campaspe CLC presented another successful, well-attended and well-regarded Talking Justice program, cementing its profile both locally and across the broader justice community.



## SUCCESSFUL FUNDING INITIATIVES

Over the last financial year we implemented important pilot initiatives on behalf of the State Government, funded through VLA and the Department of Justice and Regulation. These exciting projects broke new ground for Community Legal Centres in Victoria, ensuring that we remain at the forefront in the evolution of legal services in the Victorian community. We provided legal services to clients in Child Protection and Family Law matters and utilised Family Assistance funding in Bendigo and Shepparton.

In June 2016 we launched, in partnership with Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative's Health Service, a co-located legal service, appointing a new Lawyer to embed legal assistance within the Rumbalara community. The service will provide comprehensive, targeted and culturally safe legal services, and will increase access to other complementary legal assistance services available through the Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre. This is an exciting initiative, one of which we are justly proud, and we look forward to the development of the partnership with Rumbalara over time.

## STAFF MOVEMENTS

I will finish by mentioning that, as in every year, we welcomed new staff to the agency, and farewelled those who moved on.

Jessica McCartney was employed as our Health-Justice Partnership Lawyer, who is embedded within Bendigo Community Health Service's Kangaroo Flat site. Nickie King stepped up to the role of Senior Child Protection Lawyer, and Christie George was appointed Child Protection Lawyer. Anna Dorevitch was appointed Loddon Campaspe CLC's Senior Lawyer.

Julie O'Connor joined us as a Community Lawyer at Goulburn Valley CLC, filling in for Carmendy Cooper who is on Maternity Leave. Acacia Burns also joined us as Community Lawyer at Goulburn Valley CLC. And Brandy Skipper joined the Shepparton team as its Paralegal Receptionist.

Natasha Gray and Dawn Jackson joined us in April 2016 to form a completely new Finance team. They replaced Melinda Daunt who overhauled our finance systems.

Other departures included Lawyers Lisa Grealy and Chris Casey. Lisa left us to work for the Consumer Action Law Centre. Chris left us after eight years to work for La Trobe University. Shane Appel left Goulburn Valley CLC to work for VLA. I wish all of these staff well in their new endeavours and thank them for the time they spent with ARC Justice.

And to the new staff, I welcome them to ARC Justice and thank them for joining us on our journey.

**Niall Hensey, Chairperson**

# Acting Executive Officer's report

As the Chair has noted, Peter Noble left us at the end of June to work with Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) and I took on the role of Acting Executive Officer.

Housing Justice has again delivered on their core services as well as projects that reinforce the work provided to our clients. This was evident by the relationships built with the local real estate agents and community mental health services in the Partners in Recovery Program, funded by Murray Primary Health Network.

Housing Justice was once again successful in its accreditation process and I thank all those who were involved in its success. Our Housing Justice Manager, Mim Dineen, undertook a leadership program with Leadership Victoria to strengthen the leadership of the organisation.

Loddon Campaspe CLC also had a full year, providing core services and complementing that work with additional projects coming on board, such as the Child Protection Legal Service pilot, funded by Victoria Legal Aid. This project, which commenced in October 2015, has created a holistic service for vulnerable families dealing with matters that can be very challenging. Our staff has shown great compassion and support to the families through these difficult times.

The Health-Justice Partnership, funded by Clayton Utz, saw a change of staff as Nickie King went on to become the Child Protection pilot's Senior Lawyer. We then welcomed Jessica McCartney into the role of Health-Justice Partnership Lawyer. Jessica built on the strong relationships formed by Nickie with the staff at Bendigo Community Health Services, which conserves and strengthens the services provided for our clients. Dr Liz Curran from the Australian National University and her Loddon Campaspe CLC assistant, Dr Rob Southgate, are on the home stretch with their evaluation of the Health-Justice Partnership. This has been a three-year project and we are keen to see the results and recommendations coming from the final report. Loddon Campaspe CLC also received funding from the Department of Justice and Regulation to continue our family violence services and build on the work done for the 'Why Didn't You Ask?' project.

Talking Justice was a great success again in 2016 and continues to grow with enhanced ticket sales. A unique and inspiring performance by singer/songwriter Shane Howard and journalist Martin Flanagan was held on the Saturday evening. The audience was enthralled by the pair sharing their creative responses to injustice and the artist's role in making a just and fair society. The weekend ended with Tim Costello AO, one of Australia's most recognised voices on social justice, leadership and ethics, joining Sukhjit Kaur Khalsa, a spoken word artist who challenged the audience to consider notions of racism.

Goulburn Valley CLC has continued to grow with its Therapeutic Justice Program, funded by the Legal Services Board and Commissioner, receiving accolades from the courts who take full advantage of this valuable service. An evaluation of the Program is underway, informed by our learnings from the Bendigo Health-Justice Partnership evaluation. Goulburn Valley CLC also received funding from the Department of Justice and Regulation for their family violence services, and from VLA (Innovations and Transformation Scheme) for their exciting Health-Justice Partnership with Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative.

ARC Justice successfully applied to join the Federation of Community Legal Centres' Measurement and Evaluation project. This initiative will embed a Measurement and Evaluation philosophy within the organisation. The project's steering group has been formed and we look forward to developing broader staff involvement in these activities over the next six months.

The 2015-16 year saw ARC Justice's total income reach \$2,242,432 and expenditure reach

\$2,344,318, which shows a net deficit of \$101,886. However, we received income in June 2015 that was for expenditure for the following years and resulted in 2015 having a large surplus. The 2016 unexpended grants (see Note 16 in the Financial Statements) carried forward for 2017 are \$900,786. Our employee benefits continue to remain steady with a 6.4% increase with long service leave set aside in a separate term deposit. Total employee expenses were \$1,678,926 with a staff complement of 29. ARC Justice's net equity as at 30 June 2016 was \$1,455,051 after provisions, with a net cash decrease of \$64,405. I am pleased to once again deliver a healthy financial outcome for the organisation with an issue free audit.

During the year a number of staff left our organisation to take up new ventures. Peter Noble left the organisation after more than 10 years to take up a new position with VLA. Peter and I worked closely over the last three years and I enjoyed our collegiate relationship. Peter has left an indelible mark on the organisation and his hard work and passion for the sector will be remembered long after his departure.

We farewelled Chris Casey and Joanne Baker, both long time employees of eight and nine years respectively, and we thank them for all their work. Their legacy will not be forgotten. Lisa Grealy also left during the year to take up a position with Consumer Action Law Centre. We thank Lisa, who was a quiet but formidable Lawyer. Melinda Daunt left us to spend more time with her family and we thank Melinda for the work she did to improve the procedures in the finance department.

Shane Appel left Goulburn Valley CLC to work with VLA and we thank him and wish him well in his new position. We welcomed Jessica McCartney, who took on the Lawyer's role in our Bendigo Health-Justice Partnership, Anna Dorevitch, who became Loddon Campaspe CLC's Senior Lawyer, and Christie George, who became our Child Protection Lawyer.

Acacia Burns and Julie O'Connor joined Goulburn Valley CLC as Generalist Lawyers (the latter in a maternity leave position). Brandy Skipper also joined the Shepparton team as Paralegal/Receptionist.

In Bendigo we welcomed Natasha Gray and Dawn Jackson, who took on the mantle of managing the finance department, including payroll responsibilities, and Greg Johnston, who became our Community Development Lawyer.

Nicole Smith, who had been a volunteer at our Bendigo office since 2011, was employed as a Generalist Lawyer and Talking Justice's Program Manager. Dr Rob Southgate, who had been employed part-time to work on the Health-Justice Partnership evaluation, took on the additional workload of the Consumer Advice and Advocacy Program and later moved into the Generalist Lawyer position, which has a family violence focus.

Nickie King moved from the Health-Justice Partnership into the role of Senior Lawyer with the Child Protection pilot. Hannah Fiddelaers, who was Goulburn Valley CLC's Paralegal/Receptionist, became a Generalist Lawyer with that service after being admitted to practice in 2015, working in family violence and family assistance.

It has been rewarding to be in a position to promote so many staff into new positions throughout the year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff, volunteers and Board members who contributed to our organisational successes in 2015-16, and I look forward to addressing the challenges that the New Year will bring to the organisation.

I hope our journey into the future continues to embrace change and endorses an attitude that is not embarrassed by failures but embraces the learnings they bring. Being informed by our learnings will enable us to change the way we approach our work in the future in order to succeed. As Albert Einstein said, 'Failure is success in progress.'

**Chris Sedgman**, Acting Executive Officer

# About us

## VISION

An inclusive community built on a foundation of human rights and equality before the law.

## MISSION

We are a leading and innovative advocacy and rights organisation delivering client-focused services that empower disadvantaged and vulnerable people in rural and regional Victoria. We elevate justice as an issue in public discourse and advocate for systemic change that upholds human rights. We are a leader that strengthens the sector, pursuing best practice and innovation through collaboration.

## VALUES

ARC Justice works within a community development framework. Empowerment, participation and human rights are hallmarks of this framework. Our mission is to promote and support services that protect and enhance the rights and interests of those who are disadvantaged due to structural, social, economic or cultural inequalities.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Our staff acknowledge that they travel across and work within the traditional lands of many Aboriginal communities. We acknowledge the Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of the land and we pay our respects to their elders, past and present.

# Our programs

ARC Justice has three programs:

- Housing Justice
- Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre
- Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre

## HOUSING SERVICES

Housing Justice delivers housing support and advocacy services across the Loddon Mallee region. Our Social Housing Advocacy and Support Program (SHASP) assists tenants living in public housing to address barriers to their tenancy and to avoid homelessness. It is funded by the Victorian Government (Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Housing).

Our Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Program (TAAP) provides information, advice and assistance to vulnerable and disadvantaged private tenants, including assistance with appearances before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. It is funded by Consumer Affairs Victoria.



## LEGAL SERVICES

Loddon Campaspe and Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centres are generalist CLCs that undertake a range of activities, including:

- legal assistance (information, referral, advice and casework)
- community development and legal education
- law reform and special projects

# Housing Justice

‘Thank you for all your hard work and encouragement whilst assisting us. Your experience was very much appreciated.’ - *Housing Justice client*

‘The stress was gone.’ - *Housing Justice client*

‘Issue was resolved peacefully.’ - *Housing Justice client*

‘It’s lovely having a nice warm house and the real estate agent is now being super nice.’ - *Housing Justice client*

Housing Justice is an accredited advocacy and support service for public and private residential tenants living in the Loddon Mallee region. We provide direct services and work with local and state housing networks to advocate for systemic improvements to Victoria’s residential tenancies landscape, especially with regards to housing access and sustainability for our region’s most vulnerable and disadvantaged tenants.



2015-16 ACHIEVEMENTS



**133**

**LODDON MALLEE PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS** provided with critical housing support

**13%** OF MALLEE SHASP CLIENTS  
**2.4%** OF LODDON SHASP CLIENTS  
identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

**13%** OF MALLEE SHASP CLIENTS are male and  
**87%** are female

**34%**

**OF LODDON SHASP CLIENTS** are male and  
**66%** are female



**71%**  
**OF TAAP CLIENTS** rely on Centrelink support

**100%**  
**OF SURVEYED HOUSING JUSTICE CLIENTS** felt they were treated respectfully and were listened to

**93%**

**OF SURVEYED HOUSING JUSTICE CLIENTS** understood their rights better after engaging with the service

**TOP TAAP TENANCY PROBLEMS:**

Eviction 23%  
Compensation 15%  
Rent arrears 14%  
Bonds 12%  
Lease breaks 11%  
Other 25%

**86%**  
**OF HOARDING PROJECT PARTICIPANTS** valued tenancy skills training

## TENANT SERVICES

Housing Justice delivers two key programs: the Social Housing Advocacy and Support Program (SHASP) and the Tenant Advice and Advocacy Program (TAAP).

Our SHASP service supports public housing tenants whose tenancies are at risk or who need additional supports to establish a new tenancy. The majority of our SHASP clients are women. They may be dealing with hoarding issues, household stress or family violence. The majority are facing financial difficulties or struggling to maintain the condition of their property.

Our TAAP service works with vulnerable private residential tenants. We may negotiate on behalf of these tenants with their landlords or agents, or we may assist or represent them at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

## PROJECTS

In addition to these programs, we undertake or contribute to short-term projects. In 2015-16 the City of Greater Bendigo awarded Housing Justice a Community Development Grant. This enabled us to educate and help vulnerable and disadvantaged tenants around home maintenance and rubbish removal and to advocate for support for tenants with these issues.

Murray Primary Health Network's Partners in Recovery program funded Housing Justice to strengthen the relationships between local real estate agents and acute and community mental health services. As part of this project we developed online fact sheets for property managers and tenants, available on our website.

## SECTOR STRENGTHENING AND SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY

As well as providing direct services, Housing Justice contributes to relevant housing sector networks. We belong to the two regional homelessness service networks, the state-wide TAAP network, the Victorian Federation of Community Legal Centres' Tenancy Working Group, and the Partners In Recovery Housing Working Group, which improves housing options for people with severe and persistent mental health issues. Housing Justice's Manager chairs the state-wide SHASP Managers' Network and Housing Justice co-facilitates the Loddon Campaspe region's Hoarding Working Group, which is working to improve service coordination for people dealing with hoarding issues, including animal hoarding and squalor.

## THE YEAR AHEAD

Housing Justice constantly strives for quality improvement. To ensure we plan well and provide the best service possible to our clients, we need to understand their needs. To this end, Housing Justice and Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre are undertaking a joint Legal Needs Analysis. This research, which involves surveys and consultations with key stakeholders, will be completed in December 2016.

In 2015-16 we contributed to SHASP and TAAP reviews and will continue to monitor developments in the homelessness and housing sectors. We will also remain alert to the potential to support tenants with a disability as the National Disability Insurance Scheme continues to roll out.

# Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre

“[Loddon Campaspe CLC] ensured my existence and provided a sense of hope for the future. The Lawyer helped me find the courage I thought I had lost. I truly believe it can change the lives of many others too – providing paths to greater justice, much-needed support and understanding.” - *Loddon Campaspe CLC client*

Loddon Campaspe CLC is a generalist CLC that undertakes a range of activities, including:

- legal assistance (information, referral, advice and casework)
- community development and legal education
- law reform and special projects

Loddon Campaspe CLC operates across the Loddon Campaspe region (Greater Bendigo, Loddon, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander shires).



## 2015-16 ACHIEVEMENTS



### CORE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

2015-16 was defined by consolidation, collaboration, culmination and challenges. With a full staffing contingent, legal practice areas and relationships were consolidated and expanded. We continue to evaluate our impact and focus of areas of greatest legal need.

#### Bendigo-based generalist services

Loddon Campaspe CLC Lawyers delivered telephone and face-to-face advice services (with the help of volunteers) and outreach to Echuca, Maryborough and Kyneton. Advice and casework services were delivered, including family law, family violence, credit and debt, fines, crime and government complaint matters. Where we were unable to assist, we provided information and relevant referrals.

## Family Violence Prevention Legal Service

Loddon Campaspe CLC provided advice, casework and Duty Lawyer services at Bendigo, Kyneton, Maryborough, Echuca and Castlemaine courts. We provided nuanced, respectful and quality family violence legal services, despite a changing environment, high client volumes and funding gaps.

We have renewed our collaborative work with many other services and are active members of family violence prevention networks. Following the completion of our family violence research and service project 'Why Didn't You Ask?', the Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation funded us to continue providing frontline services, for which we are very grateful.

Loddon Campaspe CLC gave evidence to the Royal Commission into Family Violence and continues to work on implementing its recommendations. We have also worked to build and improve collaborations in this space, with a particular focus on financial abuse.

## Child Protection Legal Service

Our Child Protection pilot began in October 2015, extending the child protection services initiated through our Health-Justice Partnership with Bendigo Community Health Services (BCHS). This pilot is funded by Victoria Legal Aid. It has allowed us to increase our impact in this space.

Loddon Campaspe CLC delivered advice, casework, Duty Lawyer and emergency application assistance at Bendigo, Kyneton, Maryborough, Echuca, Swan Hill, Kerang and Castlemaine courts. The pilot provided parents and children with a Lawyer at a time of incredible vulnerability.

## Health-Justice Partnership

Health-Justice Partnerships recognise that legal problems are often connected to long-term illness and disability. Our Health-Justice Partnership with BCHS embeds a Loddon Campaspe CLC Lawyer within its Kangaroo Flat site. The result is direct referrals and secondary consultations by health service staff. Now in its third and final year, the program is focused on evaluating its impact. Loddon Campaspe CLC is also engaged in the creation of a Victorian and national Health

Justice Network. In 2015 staff presented on our partnership at the National Association of Community Legal Centres conference in Melbourne.

## Consumer Advocacy Assistance Program

Our partnership with Consumer Affairs Victoria has grown, with increased assistance and representation of vulnerable people with consumer complaints. We have focused on networking and built our relationships with various community services, which increased the number and quality of referrals. Common trends in 2015-16 included irresponsible lending, solar panels, motor vehicles and junk insurance.

## La Trobe University (Bendigo) Student Legal Service

This service, funded by the Bendigo Student Association and delivered by Loddon Campaspe CLC Lawyers, has provided students with free legal advice and referrals, a Justice of the Peace service, community legal education and online content since 2012.

## Community Legal Education Program

Community legal education is a core component of our work. We frequently respond to ad-hoc requests from schools and community organisations to deliver plain-language legal education to students, staff and members. In May 2016 we ran Talking Justice for the third year. A distinguished line-up of speakers addressed the place of the law and justice in a free society. More than 500 people attended the two-day event.

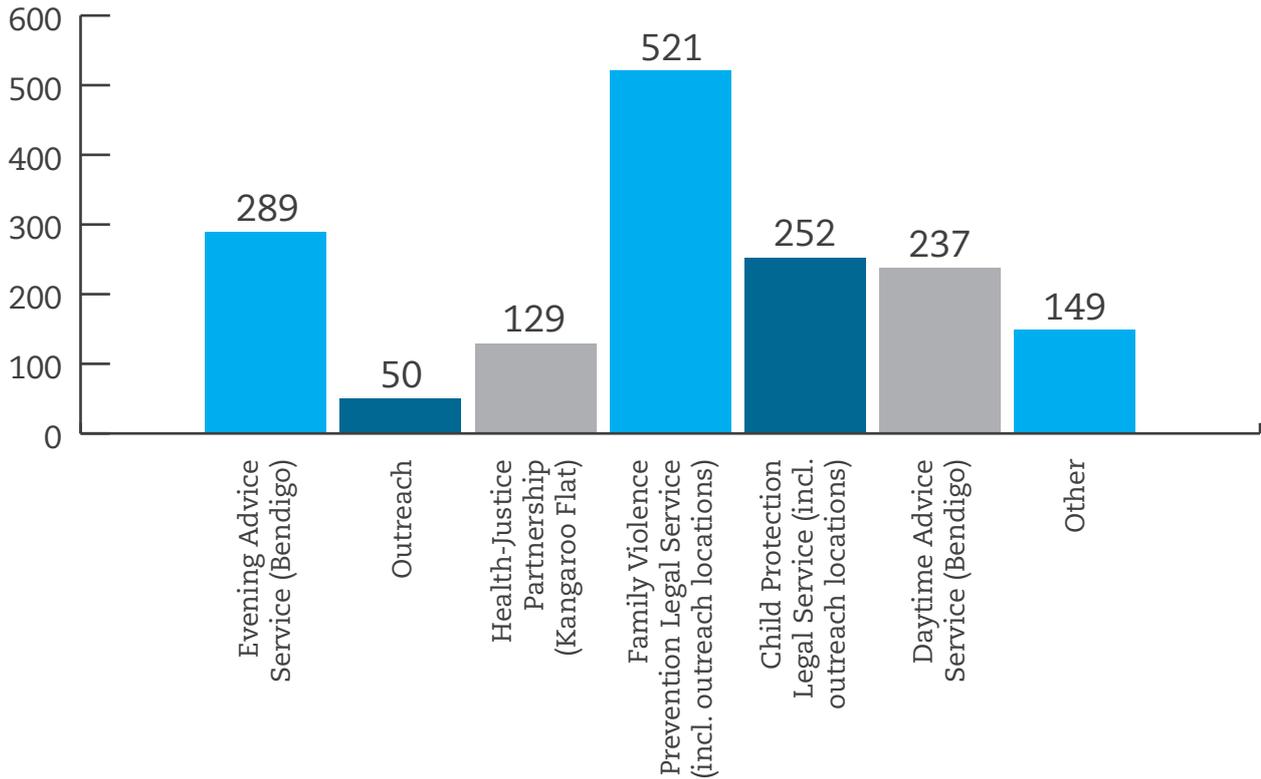
## Palliative Care Legal Program

We continued to work with local volunteer solicitors and Bendigo Health social workers to provide free and confidential legal advice to people in palliative care.

## Evaluation and Legal Needs Analysis

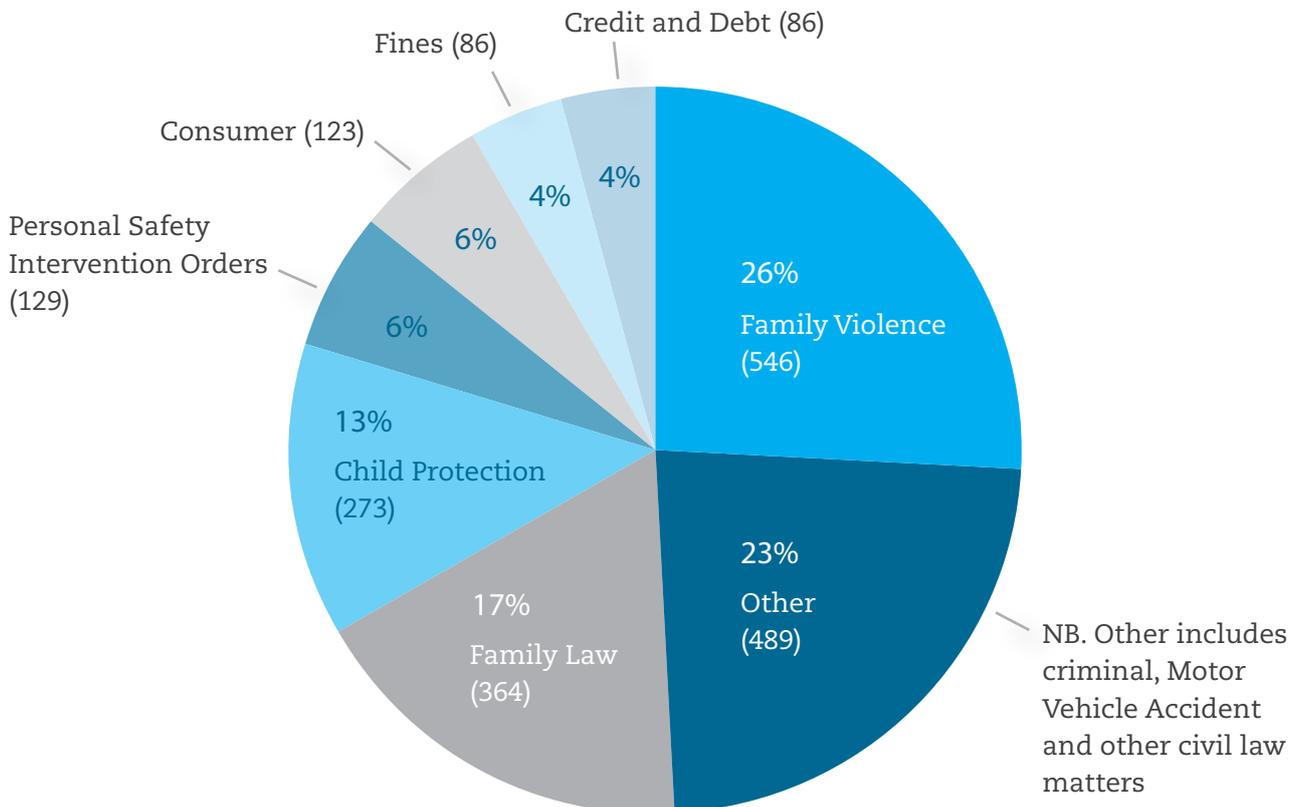
In 2015 we joined the Federation of Community Legal Centres' Outcomes Measurement Framework project. This project will allow us a greater focus on evaluation, which in turn will demonstrate the impact of the work we do. Our Legal Needs Analysis continues and will help ensure our services target priority clients, communities of interest, stakeholders and partners.

## LODDON CAMPASPE CLC CLIENT ACTIVITIES BY LOCATION



NB. Outreach locations include Castlemaine, Echuca, Kerang, Kyneton, Maryborough and Swan Hill

## LODDON CAMPASPE CLC CASEWORK AND ADVICE



# Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre

Goulburn Valley CLC is a generalist CLC that undertakes a range of activities, including:

- legal assistance (information, referral, advice and casework)
- community development and legal education
- law reform and special projects

Goulburn Valley CLC operates across the Goulburn Valley (Greater Shepparton, Mitchell, Strathbogrie, Benalla and Moira shires). It is a division of Loddon Campaspe CCLC.

We continued to develop and strengthen our relationships with other service providers in our community and participated in a number of joint activities, including the White Ribbon campaign, the Koori Court Reference Group, the Shepparton Law Courts Redevelopment Steering Committee, the Goulburn Valley Family Law Pathways Network, the Therapeutic Justice Project Reference Group, the CALD Community Committee and the Goulburn Valley Family Violence Prevention Network.

Goulburn Valley CLC staff attended the 2015 National Association of Community Legal Centres Conference in Melbourne and undertook numerous Continuing Professional Development and other training opportunities, especially those provided through our partnership with the Women's Legal Service. Our Managing Lawyer, Kaz Gurney, also attended the Therapeutic Justice Conference in Auckland.

Goulburn Valley CLC made oral submissions to the Victorian Law Reform Commission inquiries into funerals and burials and the role of victims in the criminal trial process. We also made oral submissions to the Department of Justice and Regulation's Access to Justice Review.

The centre engaged in several funding rounds and was awarded grants for family violence and other legal education activities from the Victorian Government and the ANZ Seeds project. These grants enhanced our capacity to provide community legal education in outreach locations. An application for a major grant from Victoria Legal Aid's Innovations & Transformation Scheme was also successful, which will allow us to develop a major Health-Justice Partnership with Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative.



## 2015–16 ACHIEVEMENTS



### CORE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

#### Shepparton-based generalist services

Goulburn Valley CLC Lawyers provided face-to-face advice and casework in Shepparton and at outreach clinics after court in Cobram and Seymour. Tuesday Evening Advice clinics were supported by local volunteer Lawyers and supervised by Goulburn Valley CLC Lawyers.

Goulburn Valley CLC provided information, advice and casework services in relation to family law, family violence, credit and debt, fines, crime, government complaints, consumer law and neighbourhood disputes. Where we were unable to assist, we provided information and relevant referrals.

## Family Violence Prevention Legal Service

Goulburn Valley CLC provided family violence prevention Duty Lawyer services at Shepparton, Bendigo, Seymour, Cobram and Benalla courts. We provided nuanced, respectful and quality family violence legal services, despite a changing environment, high client volumes and funding gaps. We have renewed our collaborative work with many other services and are active in family violence prevention networks.

## Benalla Health-Justice Partnership

In 2015-16 Goulburn Valley CLC entered into a partnership with Benalla Health Service. Our Lawyer attended the service one day per week to provide legal advice and casework to health service clients and other disadvantaged members of the local community dealing with legal issues.

Our Benalla Lawyer and Therapeutic Justice Lawyer delivered Legal Health Check education to health service staff, to help therapists understand the types of legal issues that might impact on their clients' health and to help them make appropriate referrals.

## Therapeutic Justice Program

Goulburn Valley CLC secured a three-year grant from the Legal Services Board and Commissioner to deliver a therapeutic justice model in the Goulburn Valley. The program is an innovative and collaborative service based on the principles of therapeutic jurisprudence. It targets people with complex health-care needs and related legal issues who are users of the Shepparton Magistrates' Court.

The program has its foundations in a Health-Justice Partnership between Goulburn Valley CLC and Primary Care Connect. The program lawyer provides legal information, advice and advocacy assistance to program participants and legal education to relevant health and social services. The program Case Manager is an allied health professional who connects participants in the program to appropriate support services in the areas of health, social and cultural support (of particular importance to Koori participants and new arrivals to the Shepparton community).

## Community Legal Education Program

Community legal education is a core component of Goulburn Valley CLC's work. We frequently respond to ad-hoc requests from schools and community organisations to deliver plain-language legal education to students, staff and members.

In 2015-16 Goulburn Valley CLC launched its Issues in Criminal Sentencing Community Legal Education Project and a series of Legal Health Check education sessions, both of which promoted therapeutic justice concepts to other agencies and the broader community.

## THE YEAR AHEAD

2016-17 presents many challenges. The impending loss of recurrent Commonwealth funding will be a major problem.

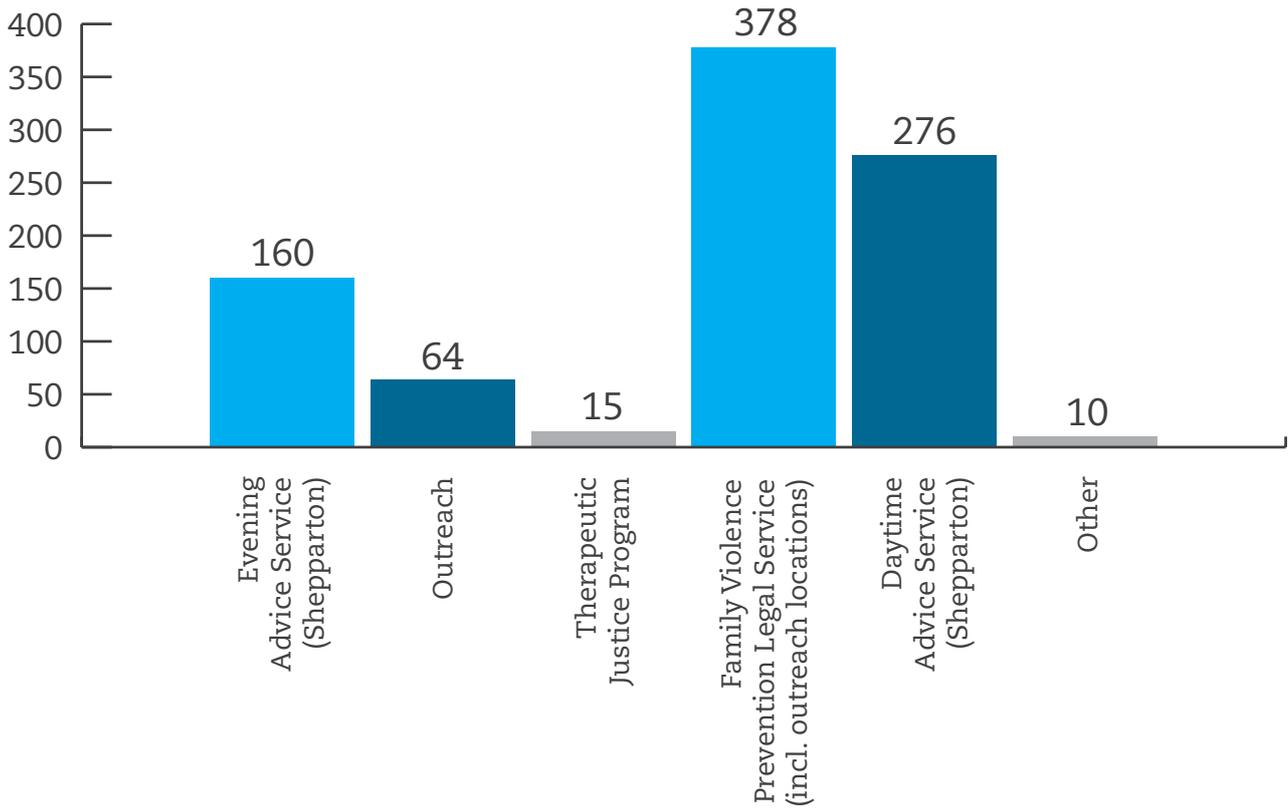
Bedding in the Rumbalara Health-Justice Partnership presents an exciting challenge, which will culminate in the appointment of a Lawyer and administrator and the commencement of an integrated legal service at the Mooroopna campus.

Our Therapeutic Justice Practice enters its second year and evaluation snapshots will place additional demands on our limited resources and hard-working staff.

Our Family Violence responsibilities will continue to be a focus while we ensure that vulnerable people in our region receive court representation.

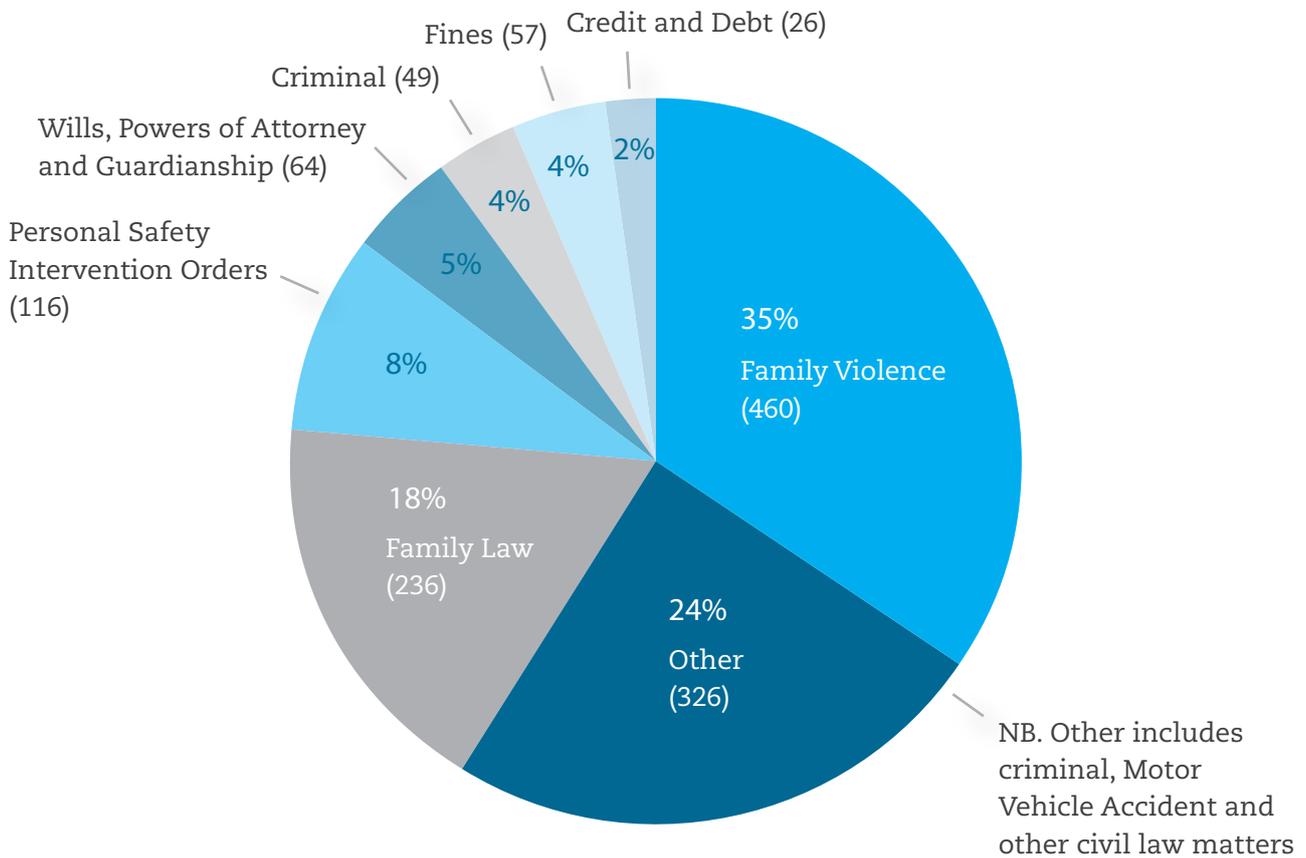
The next step will be to try to draw together the strings that hold our court services together with a continuity of service model that closes the current gap between our Family Violence and Therapeutic Justice practices.

## GOULBURN VALLEY CLC CLIENT ACTIVITIES BY LOCATION



NB. Outreach locations include Benalla, Cobram and Seymour

## GOULBURN VALLEY CLC CASEWORK AND ADVICE



# Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre Family Violence Program

Loddon Campaspe CLC's Family Violence Prevention and Child Protection services helped steer 520 people towards safety via court applications for Intervention Orders (IVOs).

Loddon Campaspe CLC continues to offer free legal advice and support to people experiencing family violence when they appear at Bendigo, Maryborough, Echuca, Castlemaine and Kyneton magistrates' courts. We provide high-quality, respectful and specialist information, referrals, advice and casework for some of the region's most vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

The continuation of these services is especially important in the aftermath of the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Following the completion of the 'Why Didn't You Ask?' Family Violence project in 2014, the Victorian Government provided additional and much-needed funding to ensure that we were able to continue to assist clients at the Castlemaine and Kyneton courts.

It has been nearly 10 years since we began family violence outreach to Maryborough, one of the most disadvantaged communities in the state. In 2016 we successfully sought funding from the Legal Services Board and Commissioner to develop a collaborative project with Go Goldfields to address family

violence in that community.

We work holistically and in partnership with other services to ensure that clients experiencing family violence are supported. In 2015-16 we started to collaborate with Bendigo Family & Financial Services (BFFS) who now attend our Family Violence Prevention Legal Service outreach to Bendigo Magistrates' Court to provide advice and referrals for vulnerable clients whose family violence includes financial abuse. We thank BFFS for their support and for helping us to better appreciate the impact of financial abuse.

We continue to engage with family violence networks in our region, including the Bendigo White Ribbon initiative and the Loddon Campaspe Family Violence Advisory Committee.

While the Royal Commission into Family Violence has shone a light on the issue, a great deal of work needs to be done to ensure that its recommendations are implemented. Our role will be to ensure that vulnerable and disadvantaged clients experiencing family violence continue to get the help they need when they need it. We will continue to work with local MPs and other community organisations to ensure that we continue to provide a robust voice in this space.

**FAMILY  
VIOLENCE**  
was indicated in  
**67%**  
of Loddon  
Campaspe CLC  
cases

  
Loddon Campaspe  
CLC helped with  
**435**  
IVO CASES

**FAMILY  
VIOLENCE**  
was identified and  
addressed in  
**169**  
other cases

# Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre Health-Justice Partnership

Health-Justice Partnerships recognise that many legal conflicts manifest as health issues and that by working together, health and legal service providers stand a better chance of helping clients address their health, social and legal issues.

The partnership between Loddon Campaspe CLC and Bendigo Community Health Services (BCHS) embeds a Lawyer at the health service's Kangaroo Flat site three days a week to provide legal advice and casework to vulnerable and disadvantaged clients. The relationship between the lawyer and the health workers continues to prosper.

In addition, the lawyer provides professional development to health service and gives and

receives secondary consultations from health workers that result in direct client referrals.

Through our collaborative work with clients, health workers have built trust and confidence in the lawyer.

There has been a range of client legal issues identified through the Health-Justice Partnership, which include family law child contact matters, infringements, criminal, family violence, child protection and consumer issues.

We have been evaluating the project since it began in 2013 and the results thus far indicate positive impacts for clients.

'I was heading to a very dark place ... without that help I may have been dead by now ... I've been in services for a long time and this one is remarkable ... Stress has been reduced 100%. My life was out of control ... Now I feel more in control ... I feel as if I have hope ... I feel as though I have been empowered.' -  
*Health-Justice Partnership client*

'... the HJP Lawyer, in using their legal lens, builds upon the BCHS worker's practice, which results in a more wholesome practice.' - *Bendigo Community Health Services Professional*

82

clients provided with casework across  
**37 DIFFERENT**  
legal problem types

BCHS staff sought legal advice for clients from HJP Lawyer

165  
TIMES

HJP LAWYER sought medical advice on behalf of clients from BCHS staff

82  
TIMES

# Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre Child Protection Legal Service

Loddon Campaspe CLC's Child Protection Legal Service helps people with child protection matters at courts in Bendigo, Echuca, Kerang, Swan Hill, Kyneton, Castlemaine and Maryborough, and at VCAT in Melbourne.

The service addresses priority clients' complex and interrelated family and children's law issues by providing targeted, timely and continuous services through a mixed model of service delivery. As a holistic service, our Lawyers encourage and support clients with referrals to other local services (legal and non-legal) that can help them address underlying issues.

The service is a pilot program funded by Victoria Legal Aid (VLA), who were keen to explore the potential for greater community legal centre involvement in child protection matters. Loddon Campaspe CLC and Women's Legal Services Victoria were the

two community legal centres selected to participate in the program, which runs from October 2015 until June 2017.

The service employs two Lawyers who assist with emergency applications and Duty Lawyer appearances, as well as providing advice and ongoing casework for clients who have interrelated family and children's law issues. The Lawyers also deliver legal education around child protection matters to services and other community stakeholders.

Most referrals to the service are from VLA. However, some flow from existing relationships Loddon Campaspe CLC has with other local service providers. Sometimes these referrals allow our service to assist before there is intervention by Child Protection Services.

**157**  
**PARENTS**  
**OR CHILDREN**  
helped to navigate  
the child protection  
system

**124**   
**PEOPLE ASSISTED**  
with child protection  
matters at children's  
courts across the  
Bendigo region

**15%**   
**OF OUR CLIENTS**  
identified as  
Aboriginal or Torres  
Strait Islander

  
**37%**  
**OF OUR CLIENTS**  
identified as having  
a disability

**46%**  
of Loddon Campaspe  
CLC Child Protection  
clients are  
**18-34**  
years of age

  
**76%**  
of Loddon Campaspe  
CLC Child Protection  
Clients are  
**FEMALE**

# Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre Family Violence Program

Goulburn Valley CLC's Family Violence Prevention Legal Service helped steer 336 people towards safety via court applications for Intervention Orders (IVOs).

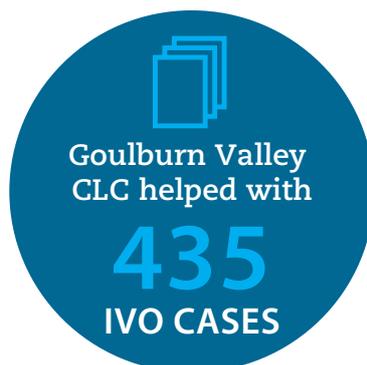
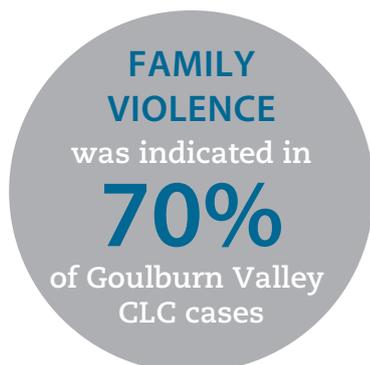
In 2015-16 we continued to deliver our Family Violence service to the Shepparton, Cobram and Seymour magistrates' courts. We also extended this service to the Benalla Magistrates' Court. This new service has been well received, with support from the local Victoria Police Family Violence Unit, Court Registry staff and local service providers. The Cobram Magistrates' Court service was briefly suspended due to a fire that rendered the building unusable. Matters were diverted to the Shepparton courts.

Our Lawyers take a holistic approach and frequently refer matters from court to the appropriate counselling, family law, criminal law, child protection and housing services,

which helps address the ongoing impact of family violence on clients' lives.

Most family violence services are undertaken on a Duty Lawyer basis. However, clients identified as being particularly vulnerable receive follow-up and ongoing casework support across a number of court dates. Frequently, staff from other services flag particularly vulnerable clients with our staff prior to court to ensure they get the level of care they require.

'I have no hesitation in saying that your professionalism, legal knowledge, compassion and understanding of a frail 85-year-old lady's apprehension... gave her the confidence to pursue the Intervention Order.' - Goulburn Valley CLC client's support person



# Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre Therapeutic Justice Program

Goulburn Valley GLC's Therapeutic Justice Program is delivered at the Shepparton Magistrates' Court three days a week, in partnership with Primary Care Connect. The program employs one Lawyer and one Therapeutic Case Manager. Both work at Primary Care Connect and the courts, breaking down traditional workplace barriers. The resulting relationships are leading to a cross-pollination of referrals and secondary consultations and an increase in client trust.

The program provides a holistic health and legal case management service that helps offenders to address underlying health and personal issues that prevent them dealing with their offending behaviour.

The three-year pilot program was launched in November 2015. By December 2015 it had already helped 58 clients, 33 more than targeted for the period.

The service is particularly beneficial for offenders who are not already engaged with services mandated by the courts. By working collaboratively with other agencies, the program has been able to identify and respond to systemic issues faced by clients.

The program has generated considerable media interest, including coverage by WIN News, ABC News and Shepparton News, which profiled the program after its first year of operation.

Now in its second year, the program is focused on delivering community legal education around Legal Health Checks to local agencies. Legal Health Checks help non-legal services to detect legal issues affecting their clients before they escalate to crisis.

To date, the program has delivered six Legal Health Check sessions. Following a request by a local agency, it has also delivered two sessions on another area of law. The program's community legal education target is eight sessions per project year.

Therapeutic Justice Program clients have been asked to assess their wellbeing across 10 indicators at intake, at the beginning of their court proceedings, upon completion of their court matters, and three months after court. Clients claimed marked improvements across all indicators.

'She "nailed it in Court." The lawyer is a force to be reckoned with. If it wasn't for the lawyer, I wouldn't have had the confidence to stand up in Court. She is my voice when I can't speak, calming and soothing... She comes across as very experienced and doesn't lose heart.' - Therapeutic Justice Program client



The Therapeutic  
Justice Program  
has assisted  
**140 CLIENTS**  
since March 2015



**84%**  
of Therapeutic Justice  
clients successfully  
engaged with  
the program

THERAPEUTIC  
JUSTICE LAWYER  
provided Primary Care  
Connect staff with  
**236**  
secondary  
consults

# Client stories

## DANIEL AND SAMANTHA'S STORY\*

Daniel and Samantha rented a property directly through their landlord for seven years. In that time the landlord insisted they were responsible for sewerage and water connection fees.

Daniel and Samantha were unaware that under the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 tenants are only responsible for water usage, and landlords are responsible for service and supply charges.

Housing Justice assisted Daniel and Samantha in claiming for all costs incurred throughout the length of their tenancy, which resulted in a successful compensation claim for more than \$5000.

*\* Not their real names*

---

## GEORGE'S STORY\*

George (not his real name) was in his 70s and living alone when he was referred to Housing Justice because his unit was not being maintained and was in poor condition.

Housing Justice met with George, who disclosed he had a back injury and was physically unable to maintain the unit. It was clear that the property was squalid and required industrial cleaning.

Housing Justice sourced funding for the initial clean-up and referred George to ongoing home support. George is active in his community and with ongoing cleaning support through the local council he has been able to continue to live independently.

*\* Not his real name*

---

## JOAN'S STORY\*

Joan lives with her husband in a small town in central Victoria. She has three children, including a daughter battling multiple drug addictions. This daughter has four children. Joan has been their primary carer for most of their lives.

When Joan's troubled daughter neglected the care of her own children, Joan stepped in. She wanted them to live in a stable, settled and safe environment however she couldn't afford a private solicitor and her matter was unlikely to receive a grant of legal aid. While she had the care of the children, neither she nor they had any legal certainty. This placed a great strain on all concerned.

'I didn't have any rights to the children. I was a grandparent, but that's all I was. It was very frightening at first because we had no idea what to do.'

The Department of Human Services had concerns for the children while they were in the care of their mother. In particular, they were concerned about the mother's drug use, her transient lifestyle, inadequate housing, family violence and medical neglect.

Loddon Campaspe CLC helped Joan to commence proceedings in the Federal Circuit Court of Australia and to submit a Notice of Risk to the Federal Circuit Court that outlined how the children had been abused or were at risk of abuse.

Loddon Campaspe CLC found a barrister prepared to offer Joan a reduced rate. In September 2015

Joan successfully gained final orders from the court that stipulated that she be given sole parental responsibility for the children and that they live with her, and that the children spend time with and communicate with their mother and father as agreed by all parties.

Now the children are living with Joan and her husband, they have stability again. ‘The children are wonderful. They’re happy. They’ve got life in their eyes. My sister-in-law used to say about the little boy, “His eyes look so dead”. Now they’re clothed, they’re fed, they go camping. They do a lot of sports. There’s life in the children now.’

\* Not her real name

---

## FRANCES’ STORY\*

Frances (not her real name) is a 42-year-old asylum seeker from Malaysia. She and her husband fled to Australia in 2008 seeking freedom from persecution, yet their claim for asylum is yet to be determined. They are separated from two of their children, who are resident with Frances’ parents in Malaysia, and their bridging visas mean they continue to live in this country in a legal limbo.

Without permanent Australian residency, Frances and her husband cannot work and rely on the Red Cross to support them and their third child, who was born after they arrived in Australia.

Since Frances and her husband arrived in Australia, the family has been intermittently homeless. To make matters worse, Frances has had a number of health concerns, having to undergo major surgery as well as counselling for depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Frances was active in her community in Malaysia. She helped out at her local temple and assisted with running women’s groups. When she came to Australia she naturally sought to involve herself again in the Malaysian community. Unfortunately, her trust was abused when she helped another Malaysian friend with a motor vehicle registration.

Frances had two cars registered in her name. Her husband drove one of the two cars and they loaned the other car to friends from Malaysia. Although both cars were registered in her name, Frances only had a learner’s permit and was too afraid to drive.

When Frances’ friends left the country she sold the second car. Soon after the Sheriff came to her door with 15 warrants for unpaid fines totalling \$3500.

Frances tried to organise a payment plan to deal with the fines racked up in her name by her friends. But her payment plan application form was misplaced and she was arrested. Frances was facing up to 23 days’ imprisonment. And with only \$1029 for her family to survive on per fortnight, her ability to pay off the fines anytime soon was slim.

Frances’ Refugee Torture Trauma Counsellor referred her to our service for assistance. We made representations to the Magistrate on her behalf and argued that imprisonment would have a devastating impact upon her already fragile health. The Magistrate accepted this argument and discharged the fines without penalty.

\* Not her real name

# Supporters

Loddon Campaspe and Goulburn Valley CLCs rely upon volunteer Lawyers, administrators and law students to deliver our services to the community. These volunteers make our Evening Advice services in Bendigo and Shepparton possible and extend our ability to service the unmet legal needs in our communities. We are indebted to them for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Loddon Campaspe CLC volunteer Lawyers,  
administrators and students contributed

1 5 8 4

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Goulburn Valley CLC volunteer Lawyers,  
administrators and students contributed

9 6 0

VOLUNTEER HOURS

## VOLUNTEERS

### Administrative volunteers

Bev Garlic  
Libby Glen  
Irene Lia-Oster  
Heather Osland  
Freya Peel  
Amanda Sharp  
Pam Turner  
Emma Wright

### Legal volunteers

#### BENDIGO

Peter Baker  
Matt Barkla  
Mark Bolton  
Annette Brewer  
Zoe Broadbent  
Melissa Buchanan  
Chris Casey  
Carolyn Davey  
Aaron Day  
Mark Donaldson  
Peter Goffin  
Caroline Granger  
Amy Hando  
Michael Hennessy

Anna Howard  
Kirsten Hughes  
Trevor Kuhle  
Alastair Lyall  
Kirstie Lyons  
Aimee Maud  
Sam McGee  
John McPherson  
Clare Molan  
Jenny Orchard  
Kimberly Parker  
Russell Robertson  
Annalise Romer  
Lachlan Singe  
Shea Stewart  
Alithea Thompson  
Catherine Wardrup  
Greg Westbrook  
Hannah Wilson  
Tom Wolff

#### ECHUCA

Skye Engwerda  
Jack Hobbs  
Ashlyn McCurdy

#### SHEPPARTON

Jade Finn

Cameron Hook  
Tom Kilmartin  
Owen Lai  
James Maxwell  
Andrew McCowan  
Erica Molyneaux  
Amanda Neilson  
Felicity Dalle Nogare  
James Oldfield  
Stephen Tuck  
Andrew Westman

### Student placements and volunteers

#### BENDIGO

Benjamin Caddaye  
Cheynne Cadence  
Candice Draper  
Molly Driscoll  
Justin Eales  
Georgia Edwards  
Alex Fitzgerald  
Tristana Freeman  
Sarah Gordon-Nilsson  
Kristen Harris  
Thomas Hatcher  
Gabrielle Jack  
Jess James-Murphy

Rose Lauder  
Rae Logan (Housing Justice)  
Keely McDonald  
Indi McGonigal  
Stephanie Mein  
Kimberly Parker  
George Puckering  
Shannon Robinson-Hore  
Talan Sinclair  
Cole Sloan  
Nicole Smith  
Shaun Stephenson

Emily Telfer  
Khayshie Tilak-Ramesh  
Hannah Wynd  
**SHEPPARTON**  
Angelina Bell  
Rachael Clifford  
James Corrigan  
Ramadan Hamidon  
Lauren King  
Georgia Klaver  
Nathaniel Loorham

Mae Mactier  
Christine Mellino  
Annabelle Mendoza  
Christopher Mingah  
Kristen Nicholls  
Carla Sellwood  
Bill Tennant  
Rumeysa Topal  
Meagan Van Der Schoor  
Briana Zito

## FUNDERS

### Housing Justice

Department of Justice, Consumer Affairs  
Victoria

Department of Health and Human Services  
(DHHS)

Murray Health Partnership and Partners in  
Recovery (PIR)

City of Greater Bendigo

### Loddon Campaspe and Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centres

Loddon Campaspe and Goulburn Valley CLCs gratefully acknowledge funding from the Victorian Government (Department of Justice and Regulation) and the Commonwealth Government (Attorney-General's Department, largely administered by Victoria Legal Aid). We also acknowledge the funding received from Victoria Legal Aid, the Legal Services Board and Commissioner, Consumer Affairs Victoria, the Clayton Utz Foundation, the Council on the Ageing and the Bendigo Student Association.

- Victorian Government funding was applied to all core generalist CLC services, family violence services, the Seniors Rights Victoria initiative, and consumer advocacy for disadvantaged and vulnerable consumers.
- Commonwealth Government funding supported services in the Goulburn Valley,

the NBN regional justice project, operation of a clinical legal education program with La Trobe University, and family law legal assistance services.

- Clayton Utz Foundation funding enabled a pilot Health-Justice Partnership with Bendigo Community Health Services.
- The Legal Services Board and Commissioner funded the Health-Justice Partnership with Primary Care Connect to deliver a therapeutic justice program.
- Victoria Legal Aid directly funded the Child Protection Pilot
- Council on the Ageing, through its Seniors Rights Victoria program, funded LCCLC to host a Lawyer to deliver regional services.
- The Victoria Law Foundation funded a legal curriculum development project to complement the Health-Justice Partnership pilot, delivering legal education to health staff at Bendigo Community Health Services and beyond, and the Talking Justice seminar series.
- The RE Ross Trust supported the evaluation of the Health-Justice Partnership in Bendigo.
- The City of Greater Bendigo and Victoria Law Foundation were key supporters of the Talking Justice lecture series.

## IN-KIND SUPPORT, SPONSORSHIP AND DONATIONS

### Housing Justice

Bendigo Law Courts and VCAT Registrar Kim Hudson

Bendigo TAFE

Client Residential Services (Loddon and Mallee) DHHS

Dungey Carter Ketterer

Green Clean Team

Haven; Home, Safe

La Trobe University Social Work

Loddon Campaspe Local Area Service Network (LASN)

Loddon Hoarding and Squalor Working Group

Loddon Mallee Homelessness Network (LOMA)

Mallee Local Area Service Network (LASN)

Partners in Recovery Housing Working Group

SHASP Managers' Network

Support for High Risk Tenancies DHHS

Tenancy Working Group (Federation of Community Legal Centres Vic.)

Tenant Advice and Advocacy Program (TAAP) Network

Victorian Public Tenants Association

Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre

In addition to funding support from the Victoria Law Foundation and the City of Greater Bendigo, Talking Justice would not have been possible without our sponsors:

Arnold Dallas McPherson

O'Farrell Robertson McMahon

Catholic Care Sandhurst

The Reichstein Foundation

Bress Winery

Women's Health Loddon Mallee

Haven; Home, Safe

Cobaw Community Health

Howard Nathan

### Pro-bono support

We strongly believe that all Lawyers can make a pro-bono contribution and we greatly value this work. While the contribution varies between individuals and firms, a strong ethic of structured pro bono is patently evident in the local private profession, with practitioners volunteering through a range of services provided or facilitated by ARC Justice. These included approximately:

**28** practitioners supporting the Bendigo Evening Advice service

**4** practitioners supporting the Echuca service

**12** practitioners supporting the Shepparton Evening Advice service

**8** practitioners supporting the Bendigo Health Palliative Care Legal Program

Practitioners also provided secondary consultations to Loddon Campaspe CLC Lawyers, access to libraries and community/professional legal education.

ARC Justice has also continued to benefit from a sustained pro bono commitment by top-tier firm Clayton Utz. Their assistance has included secondary consultation and receipt of pro bono case referrals, assistance with evaluation and expert legal advice, underpinning legal research and policy work by Loddon Campaspe CLC.

# People

## PATRON

Howard Nathan, Supreme Court Justice (ret.), Adjunct Professor La Trobe University Law School

## BOARD

Niall Hensey (Chair): Operations Manager, Haven; Home, Safe

Barry Keane: Certified Practising Accountant

Jennifer Wilson: Business Development, Interchange

Sally Smith: Manager, Right People for Country Program, Department of Premier & Cabinet

Trevor Kuhle: Lawyer, Robertson Hyetts

Debra Allan: Organisational Change Consultant

Baydon Widdicombe: Deputy CEO/HR Manager, Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative

Tim Adam: Centre Supervisor, Lifeline

Patrick Jennings: Certified Practising Accountant, Strategem

Celia Adams: CEO, Rural Housing Network

## ARC JUSTICE STAFF

Peter Noble, CEO (resigned June 2016)

Chris Sedgman, Operations Manager, Acting CEO (July 2016)

Melinda Daunt, Finance Officer (resigned April 2016)

Jo Baker, Finance Officer (resigned September 2015)

Natasha Gray, Assistant Accountant

Dawn Jackson, Assistant Accountant

Cheryl Urch, Finance, Administration Officer (casual)

Karen Stuart, Finance Officer (resigned February 2016)

Carolyn Staszkievicz, Reception/Administration

Steve Womersley, Communications Worker

## HOUSING JUSTICE STAFF

Mim Dineen, Manager

Kirsty Waller, Lead Advocate Support

Leah Berger, Advocate Support

Lyndall Blandthorn, Advocate Support

Caddie Russell, Hoarding and Squalor Project Worker (contract)

Denise Williams, Reception/Administration

## LODDON CAMPASPE COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE STAFF

Clare Sauro, Legal Practice Manager

Anna Dorevitch, Senior Lawyer

Nickie King, Senior Child Protection Lawyer

Jessica McCartney, Health-Justice Partnership Lawyer

Christie George, Child Protection Lawyer  
Robert Southgate, Community Lawyer/Health-Justice Partnership Research Assistant  
Nicole Smith, Community Lawyer  
Greg Johnston, Community Development Lawyer  
Isabelle Manning, Paralegal  
Elaine Harrington, Reception/Administration  
Chris Casey, Community Lawyer (resigned December 2015)  
Michael Hennessy, Community Lawyer (casual)  
Lisa Greal, Community Lawyer (resigned September 2015)

#### GOULBURN VALLEY COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE STAFF

Kaz Gurney, Managing Lawyer  
Acacia Burns, Community Lawyer  
Carmendy Cooper, Community Lawyer (maternity leave)  
Sejal Amin, Therapeutic Justice Lawyer  
Hannah Fiddelaers, Paralegal/Reception/Community Lawyer  
Julie O'Connor, Community Lawyer (maternity leave replacement)  
Shane Appel, Community Lawyer (resigned July 2015)  
Brandy Skipper, Paralegal Receptionist

# Financials Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED  
(A Company Limited By Guarantee)  
A.C.N. 082 541 240

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

Your directors present their financial report of Advocacy and Rights Centre Limited for the financial year ended 30 June 2016.

### DIRECTORS

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

Niall Hensey	Chairperson
Barry Keane	Secretary
Jennifer Wilson	Member
Deb Allan	Member
Sally Smith	Member
Trevor Kuhle	Member
Celia Adams	Appointed December 2015
Tim Adam	Appointed April 2016
Baydon Widdicombe	Appointed April 2016
Patrick Jennings	Appointed April 2016
Mandy Stewart	Resigned November 2015

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated.

### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The major activities during the year were the:

- Provision of support & referrals for current & potential public housing tenants.
- Provision of free legal assistance in the Loddon Campaspe area.
- Provision of consumer complaints to disadvantaged consumers.
- Provision of specific legal project work.

### SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN STATE OF AFFAIRS

There were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Company.

### OPERATING RESULTS

The net result of the Company for the financial year was a loss of \$101,886 (profit of \$510,514 in 2015).

Revenue has decreased by \$435,660 compared to the previous financial year.

Expenses have increased by \$180,701 compared to the previous financial year.

A decrease in cash of \$64,405 was achieved.

ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED  
(A Company Limited By Guarantee)  
A.C.N. 082 541 240

DIRECTORS' REPORT

DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS INDEMNIFICATION

The Company has not, during or since the financial year, in respect of any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the Company:

- indemnified or made any relevant agreement for indemnifying against a liability incurred as an officer, including costs and expenses in successfully defending legal proceedings; or
- paid or agreed to pay a premium in respect of a contract insuring against a liability incurred as an officer for the costs or expenses to defend legal proceedings.

DIRECTORS BENEFITS

Since the end of the previous financial year no director of the Company has received or 'become entitled to receive' a benefit other than:

- (i) A benefit included in the aggregate amount of emoluments received or due and receivable by directors shown in the accounts; or
- (ii) a fixed salary as a full-time employee of the Company or of a related corporation,

by reason of a contract made by the Company or a related entity corporation with the director or with a firm of which they are a member or with an entity in which they have a substantial financial interest.

Advocacy and Rights Centre Ltd is a company limited by guarantee. If it is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Company. At 30th June 2016, the number of members was 10.

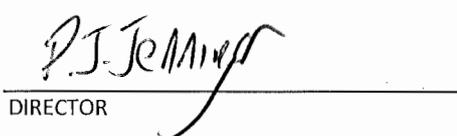
AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

The lead auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2016 has been received and can be found on the following page.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



DIRECTOR



DIRECTOR

Dated this 11 day of October 2016.

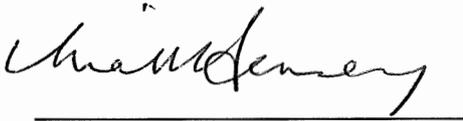
ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED  
(A Company Limited By Guarantee)  
A.C.N. 082 541 240

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The directors of the company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* ; and
  - (a) comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
  - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance for the year ended on that date of the company.
2. In the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



DIRECTOR



DIRECTOR

Dated this 11 day of Oct 2016.

**ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**(A Company Limited By Guarantee)**  
**A.C.N. 082 541 240**

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
Revenue	2	2,242,432	2,678,092
Employee Expenses	3a	(1,678,926)	(1,521,966)
Supplies & Consumables	3b	(611,616)	(587,875)
Audit Fees	11	(4,730)	(4,730)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net Result Before Capital and Specific Items</b>		<b>(52,840)</b>	<b>563,521</b>
Depreciation and Amortisation	4	(49,046)	(53,007)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net Result for the year</b>		<b>(101,886)</b>	<b>510,514</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The above Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**(A Company Limited By Guarantee)**  
**A.C.N. 082 541 240**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2016**

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5	1,440,144	1,491,838
Investments		54,112	66,823
Trade and Other Receivables		8,211	51,327
Accrued Income		1,650	929
Bond Paid		8,801	8,993
Prepayments		80,742	77,803
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,593,660</b>	<b>1,697,713</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, Plant & Equipment	6	173,394	188,378
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>173,394</b>	<b>188,378</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,767,054</b>	<b>1,886,091</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and Other Payables	7	123,298	150,382
Provisions	8	166,082	155,308
Interest Bearing Liabilities	9	2,334	2,081
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>291,714</b>	<b>307,771</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provisions	8	20,080	18,840
Interest Bearing Liabilities	9	209	2,543
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>20,289</b>	<b>21,383</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>312,003</b>	<b>329,154</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>1,455,051</b>	<b>1,556,937</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Earnings		1,455,051	1,556,937
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>1,455,051</b>	<b>1,556,937</b>
Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets	12		
Commitments for Expenditure	15		

The above Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**(A Company Limited By Guarantee)**  
**A.C.N. 082 541 240**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2014</b>	1,046,423	1,046,423
Surplus Attributable to the Entity	510,514	510,514
<b>Balance at 30 June 2015</b>	<u>1,556,937</u>	<u>1,556,937</u>
Deficit Attributable to the Entity	(101,886)	(101,886)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2016</b>	<u><u>1,455,051</u></u>	<u><u>1,455,051</u></u>

The above Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**(A Company Limited By Guarantee)**  
**A.C.N. 082 541 240**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Commonwealth, State and Local Government Grants		2,489,815	2,864,777
Receipts from Donations, Bequests and Raffles		2,159	2,322
Interest Received		22,809	13,267
<b>Payments</b>			
Employee Expenses		(1,666,912)	(1,525,542)
Supplies & Consumables		(707,609)	(660,892)
Net GST Paid to ATO		<u>(168,524)</u>	<u>(151,513)</u>
<b>CASH GENERATED FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	14b	<u><b>(28,262)</b></u>	<u><b>542,419</b></u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payment for Property, Plant and Equipment		<u>(34,062)</u>	<u>(50,393)</u>
<b>NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		<u><b>(34,062)</b></u>	<u><b>(50,393)</b></u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds/(Repayment) of Borrowings		<u>(2,081)</u>	<u>(2,494)</u>
<b>NET CASH FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		<u><b>(2,081)</b></u>	<u><b>(2,494)</b></u>
<b>NET INCREASE IN CASH HELD</b>		(64,405)	489,532
<b>CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>		<u>1,558,661</u>	<u>1,069,129</u>
<b>CASH AT END OF YEAR</b>	14a	<u><u><b>1,494,256</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>1,558,661</b></u></u>

The above Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

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**NOTE 1 : STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements cover Advocacy and Rights Centre Ltd as an individual entity, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Advocacy and Rights Centre Ltd is a company limited by guarantee.

**Basis of preparation**

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. The company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards. Material accounting policies adopted in preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements, except for cash flow information, have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs, modified where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

**(a) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of 3 months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position.

For the Statement of Cash Flows presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents includes bank overdrafts, which are included as current borrowings in the Statement of Financial Position.

**(b) Receivables**

Receivables and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as receivables from customers for goods sold in the ordinary course of business. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method, less any provision for impairment.

**(c) Financial Instruments**

**Initial recognition and measurement**

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument, For financial assets, this is the equivalent to the date that the Company commits itself to either purchase or sell the asset (i.e. trade date accounting is adopted).

Financial instrument are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs except where the instrument is classified 'At fair value through profit or loss', in which case transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss.

**Classification and subsequent measurement**

Financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, amortised cost using the effective interest method, or cost.

*Amortised cost* is calculated as the amount at which the financial asset or financial liability is measured at initial recognition less principal repayments and any reduction for impairment, and adjusted for any cumulative amortisation of the difference between the initial amount and the maturity amount calculated using the *effective interest method*.

The *effective interest* method is used to allocate interest income or interest expense over the relevant period and is equivalent to the rate that discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts over the expected life of the financial instrument to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability. Revisions to expected future cash flows will necessitate an adjustment to the carrying amount with a consequential recognition of income or expense in profit or loss.

**Loans and receivables**

Loans and receivables are financial instrument assets with fixed and determinable payments that are not quoted on an active market. These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement, loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Loans and receivables category includes cash and deposits, term deposits with maturity greater than three months, trade receivables, loans and other receivables, but not statutory receivables.

**ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

**NOTE 1 : STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**(c) Financial Instruments (Continued)**

**Held-to-maturity investments**

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets that have fixed maturities and fixed or determinable payments, and it is the Company's intention to hold these investments to maturity. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

**Available-for-sale financial assets**

Available-for-sale financial assets are those designated as available-for-sale or not classified in any other category of financial instrument asset. Such assets are initially recognised at fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are recognised directly in equity until the investment is disposed of or is determined to be impaired, at which time the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in equity is included in the net result for the period.

**(d) Property, Plant and Equipment**

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

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis and are therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. In the event the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than the estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down to the estimated recoverable amount and impairment losses are recognised either in profit or loss or as a revaluation decrease if the impairment losses relate to a revalued asset. A formal assessment of recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present.

The cost of fixed assets constructed by the Company includes the cost of materials, direct labour, borrowing costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

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

**(e) Depreciation**

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including buildings and capitalised lease assets, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life commencing from the time the asset is available for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the improvements.

The following table indicates the expected useful lives of non current assets on which the depreciation charges are based.

Asset Class	Rate - 2015/16	Rate - 2014/15
Leasehold Improvements	30% to 40%	30% to 40%
Plant & Equipment	36%	36%
Leased Assets	12.5% to 33%	33%

**(f) Impairment of Assets**

At the end of each reporting period, the Company assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. The assessment will consider both external and internal sources of information. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less cost of disposal and value-in-use, to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is immediately recognised in profit or loss.

ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

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**NOTE 1 : STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**(f) Impairment of Assets (continued)**

Where the future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and when the company would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use is determined as the depreciated replacement cost of an asset.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the Company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Where an impairment loss on a revalued asset is identified, this is recognised against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that class of asset.

**(g) Comparative Figures**

Where necessary, comparative figures have been reclassified to facilitate comparisons.

**(h) Payables**

Payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Company during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

**(i) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the Company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

**(j) Goods & Services Tax**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are represented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

**(k) Employee Benefits**

***Short-term employee benefits***

Provision is made for the Company's obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages and salaries. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

The Company's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages and salaries are recognised as a part of the current trade and other payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

***Other long-term employee benefits***

Provision is made for employees' annual leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Other long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments are measured at present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to end-of-reporting-period market yields or Government bonds that have maturity dates approximating the terms of the obligations. Any remeasurements of other long-term employee benefit obligations due to changes in assumptions are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the exchanges occur.

The Company's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current provision in the Statement of Financial Position, except where the Company does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date, in which case the obligations are present as current provisions.

ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

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**NOTE 1 : STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**(k) Employee Benefits (continued)**

**On-Costs**

Employee benefit on-costs, such as superannuation and workers compensation are recognised together with the provisions for employee benefits.

**Superannuation**

Contributions to contribution superannuation plans are expensed when incurred.

**(l) Leases**

Leases of fixed assets where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not the legal ownership, are transferred to the Company are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised by recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the amount equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period.

Leased assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives where it is likely that the Company will obtain ownership of the asset or ownership over the term of the lease.

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

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

**(m) Income Recognition**

Revenue is recognised in accordance with *AASB 118 Revenue*. Income is recognised as revenue to the extent it is earned. Unearned income at reporting date is reported as income in advance.

Amounts disclosed as revenue are, where applicable, net of returns, allowances and duties and taxes.

**Government Grants**

Non-reciprocal grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the entity obtains control of the grant and it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before it is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the Statement of Financial Position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

**Donations and Other Bequests**

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received. If donations are for a special purpose, they may be appropriated to a reserve, such as specific restricted purpose reserve.

**Interest Revenue**

Interest revenue is recognised on a time proportionate basis that takes in account the effective yield of the financial asset.

**Other Income**

Other income is recognised as revenue when the cash is received.

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

ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

**NOTE 1 : STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**(n) Economic Dependence**

Advocacy and Rights Centre Ltd is dependent on the Department of Social Services and the Department of Human Services for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. At the date of this report, the Board of Directors has no reason to believe these Departments will not continue to support Advocacy and Rights Centre Ltd.

**(o) New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods**

The AASB has issued a number of new and amended Accounting Standards that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods, some of which are relevant to the Company. The Company has decided not to early adopt any of the new and amended pronouncements. The Company's assessment of the new and amended pronouncements that are relevant to the Company but applicable in future reporting periods is set out below:

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for reporting periods beginning on	Impact on Company's Annual Statements
AASB 9 Financial Instruments	The key changes include the simplified requirements for the classification and measurement of financial assets, a new hedging accounting model and a revised impairment loss model to recognise impairment losses earlier, as opposed to the current approach that recognises impairment only when incurred.	1 Jan 2018	The assessment has identified that the financial impact of available for sale (AFS) assets will now be reported through other comprehensive income (OCI) and no longer recycled to the profit and loss.  While the preliminary assessment has not identified any material impact arising from AASB 9, it will continue to be monitored and assessed.
AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers	The core principle of AASB 15 requires an entity to recognise revenue when the entity satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service to a customer.	1 January 2017  (Exposure Draft 263 - potential deferral to 1 Jan 2018)	The changes in revenue recognition requirements in AASB 15 may result in changes to the timing and amount of revenue recorded in the financial statements. The Standard will also require additional disclosures on service revenue and contract modifications.  A potential impact will be the upfront recognition of revenue from licenses that cover multiple reporting periods. Revenue that was deferred and amortised over a period may now need to be recognised immediately as a transitional adjustment against the opening retained earnings if there are no former performance obligations outstanding.
AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [Part E Financial Instruments]	Amends various AASs to reflect the AASB's decision to defer the mandatory application date of AASB 9 to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018 as a consequence of Chapter 6 Hedge Accounting, and to amend reduced disclosure requirements.	1 Jan 2018	The standard was issued in June 2014. While preliminary assessment has not identified any material impact arising from AASB 1056, further work to assess the impact of this standard will be undertaken.

**ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**(A Company Limited By Guarantee)**  
**A.C.N. 082 541 240**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

<b>NOTE 2: REVENUE</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Operating Grants	2,141,546	2,497,841
Interest	23,530	10,328
Donations	163	2,322
External Payments Income	11,769	129,748
Other	65,424	37,853
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>2,242,432</u></b>	<b><u>2,678,092</u></b>

Refer to Note 16 for grants received and bought to account as revenue in the current financial year which are expected to be utilised in future periods.

<b>NOTE 3: EXPENSES</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Note (3a) Employee Expenses</b>		
Salaries and Wages	1,523,975	1,369,867
Superannuation	134,006	123,768
Work Cover	3,775	5,236
Other Employee Expenses	17,170	23,095
<b>Total Employee Expenses</b>	<b><u>1,678,926</u></b>	<b><u>1,521,966</u></b>

<b>Note (3b) Supplies &amp; Consumables</b>		
Advertising & Promotion	20,280	33,043
Consultants	158,345	143,439
Bank Charges	663	990
Cleaning	8,980	8,109
Computer Expenses	27,355	21,266
Electricity & Gas	11,275	13,756
Insurance	5,182	1,992
Resource & Subscriptions	29,141	15,757
Licenses and Permits	139	233
Minor Equipment	9,145	11,927
Other Expenses	28,005	37,261
Planning & Programming	-	2,130
Printing, Postage & Stationery	25,907	25,065
Projects	30,099	13,415
Rates and Taxes	5,376	4,834
Rent	98,911	90,086
External Evaluation	-	29,704
Repairs & Maintenance	3,781	5,660
Security	6,526	1,062
Telephone & Internet	46,159	40,641
Travel/Accommodation & Professional Development	35,595	44,356
Vehicle Expenses	60,752	43,149
<b>Total Supplies &amp; Consumables</b>	<b><u>611,616</u></b>	<b><u>587,875</u></b>

<b>NOTE 4: DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Plant & Equipment	25,175	29,236
Leasehold Improvements	21,197	21,025
Motor Vehicles	673	-
Leased Assets - Amortisation	2,001	2,746
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION</b>	<b><u>49,046</u></b>	<b><u>53,007</u></b>

**ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
(A Company Limited By Guarantee)  
A:C.N. 082 541 240

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

<b>NOTE 5: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Cash on Hand		600	600
Cash at Bank - Cheque Accounts		258,503	949,113
Cash at Bank - Term Deposits		<u>1,181,041</u>	<u>542,125</u>
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		<b><u>1,440,144</u></b>	<b><u>1,491,838</u></b>
<i>Cash and Cash Equivalents Represented by:</i>			
Operational Funds		539,358	457,156
Committed Funds - Unexpended Grants	16	900,786	1,034,682
<b>NOTE 6: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Leasehold Improvements - at Cost		188,191	188,191
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		<u>(111,182)</u>	<u>(89,985)</u>
		<b><u>77,009</u></b>	<b><u>98,206</u></b>
Plant & Equipment - at Cost		276,846	249,905
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		<u>(189,076)</u>	<u>(163,901)</u>
		<b><u>87,770</u></b>	<b><u>86,004</u></b>
Leased Assets		19,937	19,937
Less: Accumulated Amortisation		<u>(17,770)</u>	<u>(15,769)</u>
		<b><u>2,167</u></b>	<b><u>4,168</u></b>
Motor Vehicles		7,121	-
Less: Accumulated Amortisation		<u>(673)</u>	<u>-</u>
		<b><u>6,448</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		<b><u>173,394</u></b>	<b><u>188,378</u></b>

Reconciliation's of the carrying amount of each class of asset at the beginning and end of the previous year and current financial year is set out below.

	Leasehold Improvements \$	Plant & Equipment \$	Leased Assets \$	Motor Vehicles \$	Total \$
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2014</b>	<u>116,196</u>	<u>67,882</u>	<u>6,914</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>190,992</u>
Additions	3,035	47,358	-	-	50,393
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and Amortisation (Note 4)	(21,025)	(29,236)	(2,746)	-	(53,007)
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2015</b>	<u>98,206</u>	<u>86,004</u>	<u>4,168</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>188,378</u>
Additions	-	26,941	-	7,121	34,062
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and Amortisation (Note 4)	(21,197)	(25,175)	(2,001)	(673)	(49,046)
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2016</b>	<b><u>77,009</u></b>	<b><u>87,770</u></b>	<b><u>2,167</u></b>	<b><u>6,448</u></b>	<b><u>173,394</u></b>

**ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

<b>NOTE 7: TRADE &amp; OTHER PAYABLES</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Trade Creditors	21,148	13,379
Net Amounts Payable to the ATO	48,955	78,244
Accrued Expenses	53,195	58,759
<b>TOTAL TRADE &amp; OTHER PAYABLES</b>	<b>123,298</b>	<b>150,382</b>

<b>NOTE 8: PROVISIONS</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Current</b>		
Employee Benefits (refer note 8a)	166,082	155,308
<b>Non-Current</b>		
Employee Benefits (refer note 8a)	20,080	18,840
<b>TOTAL PROVISIONS</b>	<b>186,162</b>	<b>174,148</b>

<b>NOTE 8a: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Current</b>		
Annual Leave	130,563	108,027
Long Service Leave - <i>nominal value</i>	35,519	47,281
	166,082	155,308
<b>Non-Current</b>		
Long Service Leave - <i>nominal present value</i>	20,080	18,840
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>	<b>186,162</b>	<b>174,148</b>

Employee provisions represent amounts accrued for annual leave and long service leave. The current portion for this provision includes the total amount accrued for annual leave entitlements and the amounts accrued for long service leave entitlements that have vested due to employees having completed the required period of service. Based on past experience, the Company does not expect the full amount of annual leave or long service leave balances classified as current liabilities to be settled within the next 12 months. However, these amounts must be classified as current liabilities since the Company does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of these amounts in the event employees wish to use their leave entitlement.

The non-current portion of the provision includes amounts accrued for long service leave entitlements that have not yet vested in relation to those employees who have not yet completed the required period of service.

<b>NOTE 9: INTEREST BEARING LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Current</b>		
- Finance Lease	2,334	2,081
<b>Non-Current</b>		
- Finance Lease	209	2,543
<b>TOTA INTEREST BEARING LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2,543</b>	<b>4,624</b>

Interest bearing liabilities represented by the lease of a Photocopier:  
 Copier 1: The lease repayments are \$209.10. The lease expires in July 2017.

**ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**(A Company Limited By Guarantee)**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

**NOTE 10: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION**

**(a) Directors' Remuneration**

Income received or due and receivable by all directors of the Company from the Company and any related party corporations

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Celia Adams	-	-
Mandy Stewart	-	-
Barry Keane	-	-
Jennifer Wilson	-	-
Pat Boyer	-	-
Niall Hensey	-	-
Trevor Kuhle	-	-
Deb Allan	-	-
Baydon Widdicombe	-	-
Patrick Jennings	-	-
Tim Adams	-	-
Sally Smith	-	-
	-	-
<b>Total Director's Remuneration</b>	-	-

**(b) Executive Officers Remuneration**

No Executive Officers received remuneration in excess of \$100,000.

**(c) Related Party Transactions**

There were no transactions with related parties during the year.

**NOTE 11: REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS**

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Amounts received or due and receivable by auditors for:		
- auditing the accounts	4,730	4,730
	4,730	4,730

**NOTE 12: CONTINGENT LIABILITIES & CONTINGENT ASSETS**

There are no known contingent liabilities or contingent assets for Advocacy and Rights Centre Ltd. as at the date of this report.

**NOTE 13: EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE**

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Company in subsequent financial years.

**ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**(A Company Limited By Guarantee)**  
**A.C.N. 082 541 240**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

**NOTE 14: CASH FLOW INFORMATION**

**a). Reconciliation of cash**

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, Cash and Cash Equivalents comprise the following at 30 June 2016:

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
Cash at Bank		1,440,144	1,491,838
Investments		54,112	66,823
<b>Total Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents - Operational Funds</b>	<b>5</b>	<b><u>1,494,256</u></b>	<b><u>1,558,661</u></b>

**b). Reconciliation of Cash flow from operations with net result**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Profit/Loss Attributable to the Company	(101,886)	510,514
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in operating profit:		
Depreciation and Amortisation	49,046	53,007
Changes in assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments	(2,939)	(1,520)
(Increase)/Decrease in Bonds Paid	192	(7,126)
(Increase)/Decrease in Trade & Other Receivables	43,116	(6,494)
(Increase)/Decrease in Accrued Income	(721)	2,939
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade & Other Payables	(27,084)	(5,325)
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	12,014	(3,576)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b><u>(28,262)</u></b>	<b><u>542,419</u></b>

**NOTE 15: COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE**

Apart from commitments disclosed at Note 9, there are no known capital commitments as at 30 June 2016.

<b>Operating Lease Commitments</b>	2016 \$	2015 \$
Payable		
- Not later than 1 year	43,813	111,994
- Later than 1 but not later than 5 years	-	43,813
<b>Total operating leases</b>	<b><u>43,813</u></b>	<b><u>155,807</u></b>

The operating leases are represented by:

Lease of property at 54 Mitchell St, Bendigo, expiring October 2016.

Lease of property at Suites 3 & 4/98 Nixon St, Shepparton, expiring June 2017.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

**NOTE 16: UNEXPENDED GRANTS**

The following funds were received during the financial year and have been brought to account as revenue. As at the end of each financial year, these amounts had not been expended. All unexpended funds are to be utilised in future financial periods.

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Ross Trust AHAKF	-	-
GV Grant	141,720	142,785
GV Grant (VLA-Rumbalara)	95,781	-
CLC	301,422	638,163
Clayton Utz AHAKF	71,885	210,485
Child Protection (VLA)	284,978	-
PIR Real Estate Liaison Program Grant	-	35,392
Other Small Projects	5,000	7,857
	<u>900,786</u>	<u>1,034,682</u>

**NOTE 17: MEMBERS' GUARANTEE**

Advocacy and Rights Centre Ltd. is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* and is a company limited by Guarantee. If it is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Company. At 30th June 2016, the number of members was 10.

**NOTE 18: COMPANY DETAILS**

The registered office of the Company is :

54 Mitchell Street  
Bendigo  
Victoria 3550

The principal place of business is:

54 Mitchell Street  
Bendigo  
Victoria 3550

**ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**NOTE 19. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

**Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies**

Advocacy and Rights Centre Ltd.'s principal financial instruments comprise of deposits with banks, accounts receivable, accounts payable and interest bearing liabilities.

The totals for each category of financial instruments, measured in accordance with AASB 139 as detailed in the accounting policies to these financial statements, are as follows:

	Note	Carrying Amount 2016 \$	Carrying Amount 2015 \$
<b>Financial Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	(5)	1,440,144	1,491,838
Trade and other receivables		8,211	51,327
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>		<b>1,448,355</b>	<b>1,543,165</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>			
At amortised cost			
Trade and Other Payables	(7)	74,343	72,138
Interest Bearing Liabilities	(9)	2,543	4,624
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>		<b>76,886</b>	<b>76,762</b>

**Specific Financial Risk Exposures and Management**

There have been no substantive changes in the types of risks the Company is exposed to, how these risks arise or the Committee's objectives, policies and processes for managing or measuring the risks from the previous period.

**(a) Credit risk**

Exposure to credit risk relating to financial assets arises from the potential non-performance by counterparties of contract obligations that could lead to a financial loss to Advocacy and Rights Centre Ltd.

The Company does not have any material credit risk exposures.

*Credit risk exposures*

The maximum exposure to credit risk, by class of recognised financial assets at the end of the reporting period is equivalent to the carrying value and classification of those financial assets (net of any provisions) as presented in the Statement of Financial Position.

Trade and other receivables that are neither past due or impaired are considered to be of high credit quality.

The Company has no significant concentration of credit risk exposure to any single counterparty or group of counterparties.

**ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

**NOTE 19. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Continued)**

**(b) Liquidity Risk**

Liquidity risk arises from the possibility that the Company might encounter difficulty in settling its debts or otherwise meeting its obligations related to financial liabilities. Advocacy and Rights Centre Ltd. manages this risk through the following mechanisms:

- preparing forward-looking cash flow analysis in relation to its operational, investing and financing activities; and
- only investing surplus cash with major financial institutions.

The table below discloses the contractual maturity analysis for the Company's financial liabilities.

**Financial liability and financial assets maturity analysis**

	Within 1 Year		1 to 5 Years		Over 5 Years		Total	
	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial Liabilities due for payment</b>								
Trade and Other Payables	74,343	72,138	-	-	-	-	74,343	72,138
Interest Bearing Liabilities	2,334	2,081	209	2,543	-	-	2,543	4,624
<b>Total contractual outflows</b>	<b>76,677</b>	<b>74,219</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>2,543</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>76,886</b>	<b>76,762</b>
<b>Total expected outflows</b>	<b>76,677</b>	<b>74,219</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>2,543</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>76,886</b>	<b>76,762</b>
<b>Financial assets - Cash flow realisable</b>								
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,440,144	1,491,838	-	-	-	-	1,440,144	1,491,838
Trade & Other Receivables	8,211	51,327	-	-	-	-	8,211	51,327
<b>Total anticipated inflows</b>	<b>1,448,355</b>	<b>1,543,165</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,448,355</b>	<b>1,543,165</b>
<b>Net (outflow)/inflow on financial instruments</b>	<b>1,371,678</b>	<b>1,468,946</b>	<b>(209)</b>	<b>(2,543)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,371,469</b>	<b>1,466,403</b>

**ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

**NOTE 19. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Continued)**

**Net Fair Values**

*Fair value estimation*

The fair values of financial assets and liabilities are presented in the following table and can be compared to their carrying values as presented in the Statement of Financial Position. Fair values are those amounts at which an asset be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

Differences between fair values and carrying values of financial instruments with fixed interest rates are due to the change in discount rates being applied by the market since their initial recognition by the Company. Most of these instruments which re carried at amortised cost (i.e. trade receivables, loan liabilities) are to be held until maturity and therefore the net fair value figures calculated bear little relevance to the Company.

**Net Fair Value**

	Net Carrying Amount 2016 \$	Net Fair Value 2016 \$	Net Carrying Amount 2015 \$	Net Fair Value 2015 \$
<b>Financial Assets</b>				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,440,144	1,440,144	1,491,838	1,491,838
Trade and Other Receivables	8,211	8,211	51,327	51,327
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>1,448,355</b>	<b>1,448,355</b>	<b>1,543,165</b>	<b>1,543,165</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>				
Trade & Other Payables	74,343	74,343	72,138	72,138
Interest Bearing Liabilities	2,543	2,543	4,624	4,624
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>76,886</b>	<b>76,886</b>	<b>76,762</b>	<b>76,762</b>



Advocacy and Rights Centre Ltd, trading as **ARC Justice**  
[www.arcjustice.org.au](http://www.arcjustice.org.au)

### BENDIGO OFFICE

(Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre,  
Housing Justice)  
54 Mitchell Street, Bendigo  
Monday–Friday 9am–5pm

### SHEPPARTON OFFICE

(Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre)  
Suite 3, 98 Nixon Street, Shepparton  
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### HOUSING JUSTICE

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