

The logo for ARC Justice features a white stylized arc above the word "arc" in a lowercase sans-serif font, with "justice" in a larger lowercase sans-serif font below it. The background is a teal color with a white outline map of the United Kingdom.

arc  
justice



**Annual Report**  
2019-20

# Contents

Acknowledgement	3
Executive Officer's Report	4
Chairperson's Report	5
About Us	6
Our Strategy	7
COVID-19 impacts on legal and housing needs	8
Our Impact	9
<b>Priority 1: <i>Increasing access to justice and secure housing</i></b>	<b>10</b>
Family Violence Program	11
Child Protection Program	13
Tenancy Assistance	14
<b>Priority 2: <i>Working in partnership to provide holistic support</i></b>	<b>16</b>
Bendigo Family Violence Justice Partnership	16
Maryborough Therapeutic Justice Partnership	18
<b>Priority 3: <i>Learning from the community to understand needs</i></b>	<b>19</b>
Tipping the Scales Evaluation	19
Community Engagement	20
<b>Priority 4: <i>Advocating for changes to unfair systems and laws</i></b>	<b>21</b>
Talking Justice	23
Looking Forward to 2020-21	24
<b>Priority 5: <i>Strengthening our organisational capacity</i></b>	<b>25</b>
Cultural Safety and Awareness	25
New Shepparton Office	26
Corporate Services Update	27
<b>Our People</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Our Financials</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Our Supporters</b>	<b>35</b>

Cover image: Shepparton Courts Complex

# Acknowledgement

ARC Justice acknowledges Aboriginal Peoples as the traditional and current custodians of the land upon which we work. We respect that this land always was and always will be Aboriginal land. Aboriginal sovereignty has never been ceded.

We pay our respect to Elders past and present, as well as all Aboriginal people who have fought, and continue to fight, for equality, self-determination, culture, Country and community.

We recognise systemic injustices that have been caused by colonisation and remain ongoing today. It is our responsibility to educate ourselves about these issues.

We aim to always respect and work with Aboriginal communities to bring justice. We know that we have a lot to learn and we are committed to doing this. We won't always get it right, and we genuinely welcome feedback from community.

We celebrate the strength, culture, connection to Country, incredible resilience and contribution of Aboriginal Peoples to our whole community.

We are grateful for the knowledge and wisdom so many Aboriginal people have shared with us and we look forward to working together in the years ahead.



# Chief Executive Officer's Report

## Hayley Mansfield



Welcome to our 2019-20 Annual Report, outlining ARC Justice's work to increase access to justice and secure housing for rural and regional Victorians at time when this work could not be more critical.

The last 12 months have been hugely challenging for regional and rural Victorians. The summer bushfires caused devastating loss of property and livelihoods in the east of the state, and the ongoing COVID-19 health and economic crisis continue to cause significant hardship for all Victorians, particularly those already living in vulnerable circumstances.

To support community safety, ARC Justice suspended face-to-face services in mid-March this year and staff from our three programs began working from home, providing legal and tenancy support to clients via telephone and email, and appearing in court remotely.

Our team has worked hard to adapt to changing service conditions and public health guidelines, with a focus on ensuring that legal and tenancy support remains available to those who need it most. Strong local partnerships have been pivotal to reaching vulnerable groups within the community and continuing to provide legal and tenancy assistance during periods of 'lockdown'.

Our integrated service partnerships have been a key source of referrals and have helped to facilitate contact with clients who might otherwise have struggled to access our services due to public health restrictions. COVID-19 has highlighted the critical importance of investing in relationships to build resilience at the individual, community and sector level.

Over the past 12 months, ARC Justice has continued its focus on integrated service partnerships, including our Therapeutic Justice Partnership with Maryborough District Health Service in the Central Goldfields Shire, our Family Violence Justice Partnership with the Centre for Non-Violence in Bendigo.

These partnerships are increasing access to early legal assistance and wrap-around support for people with complex legal and social needs within the community.

As we move towards the recovery phase of the COVID-19 crisis, we will continue to work with local partners to monitor emerging legal and housing needs in the community, and to advocate for sustainable, long-term solutions to issues of social and economic inequality exacerbated by COVID-19. This includes the need for a permanent increase in the rate of JobSeeker (formerly Newstart) and further investment in public and affordable housing in regional areas.

I would like to thank our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, local partners, funders and supporters for their ongoing support and adaptability under challenging circumstances this year. I look forward to continuing our vital work together towards the vision of an inclusive community built on a foundation of human rights and equality.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "H. Mansfield".

**Hayley Mansfield**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Chairperson's Report

Andrew Chittenden



ARC Justice has long advocated for the importance of local access to justice through its work providing critical legal and housing support services to people living in rural and regional Victoria.

This year, the devastating COVID-19 crisis has further highlighted many of the existing access to justice barriers experienced by communities in our region, and the need for place-based solutions.

Geographic and social isolation, safety concerns, poor telephone and internet coverage, limited public transport connections, and fewer economic opportunities are just some examples of the barriers experienced by people in smaller and more remote regional communities in their efforts to access legal, housing and other supports. This 'postcode injustice' has compounded the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on people already experiencing disadvantage throughout our region.

Place-based services and local partnerships are critical to reaching people in smaller and more remote regional communities.

I am proud of the strong and trusted place-based partnerships that ARC Justice and its programs have built in recent years, including the Rumbalara Health Justice Partnership in Shepparton, and the recently evaluated Tipping the Scales Project in Maryborough. These partnerships are achieving great outcomes for clients in some of the most marginalised communities in Victoria.

As we look towards the future and consider our role in the broader COVID-19 recovery, the Board remains committed to identifying and assessing new partnership opportunities to expand ARC Justice's place-based legal and housing services to towns throughout our region.

We will draw from our experience establishing the Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre as a thriving legal service in Shepparton, and our experience embedding a legal service in Maryborough through our Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre, as we continue to work towards increased access to justice and secure housing for all rural and regional Victorians.

**Andrew Chittenden**  
Chairperson

# About us

ARC Justice is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that provides legal assistance, tenancy advocacy and support services to people experiencing disadvantage in Central and Northern Victoria.

We also provide rights-based education and campaign for systemic change to protect and promote the rights of rural and regional Victorians.

We recognise that legal and housing issues do not occur in isolation. We work in partnership with the community and other services to address the underlying health and social needs of our clients.



# Our Strategy

*Our vision is an inclusive community built on a foundation of human rights and equality. We are working towards this vision with a focus on the five priority areas identified in our 2017-22 Strategic Plan:*

**Priority 1** Increase access to justice and secure housing for the most vulnerable individuals in regional and rural Victoria

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**Priority 2** Our services will recognise and address the interconnectedness between social and economic circumstances, physical and psychological health and our clients' interaction with the legal system and housing

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**Priority 3** The experience and expertise of our local communities will guide our work

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**Priority 4** Advocate for systemic change that enhances the rights of rural and regional Victorians

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**Priority 5** Build our organisation's capacity to achieve its purpose

# COVID-19 impacts on legal and housing needs

The social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis have created significant uncertainty about legal rights and obligations in the community, and increased demand for free legal and tenancy support services.

With more people experiencing unemployment, job insecurity, financial hardship, and bills, rental and mortgage stress, we have seen increased legal need in everyday areas of civil law, including credit and debt, social security rights, wills, consumer law and tenancy.

## Top five Civil Law problems we assisted with (%)

Credit and Debt	22%
Social Security/Government Admin/Complaints	20%
Wills/Power of Attorney	19%
Consumer Law	18%
Tenancy	10%

The ‘shadow pandemic’ of family violence (and associated family law and child protection issues) has also been of great concern. With vulnerable individuals and families isolated during periods of lockdown, under increased financial pressure, and unable to access community supports with schools and other local services closed, the risk of family violence has increased during COVID-19. This risk has been further exacerbated in regional areas where communication and public transport infrastructure can limit opportunities and capacity to seek help.

## Top five legal problems we assisted with (%)

Family Violence (inc. Elder Abuse) and PSIOs	55%
Civil Law	25%
Family Law - Parenting	19%
Family Law - Divorce, Separation, Property	16%
Child Protection	10%

As a community-based service, we focus on helping people who experience financial or other types of disadvantage, who are not eligible for Legal Aid, and who can't afford a private lawyer.

This group represents a growing number of people, with COVID-19 changing the demographics of legal need in our community. In Greater Shepparton and Greater Bendigo, the number of people relying on JobSeeker payments has grown by 60% and 73% respectively from June 2019 to June 2020.

In other local government areas within our catchment, such as Mitchell Shire and Macedon Ranges Shire, the number of people relying on JobSeeker payments has increase by more than 100%.

We expect that demand for free legal and tenancy support services will remain high as we move into the new financial year, with COVID-19 stimulus packages, support payments, and the moratorium on rental evictions coming to an end.

As recognised in the 2016 Access to Justice Review conducted by the Victorian Government, early access to legal advice is critical to resolve problems before they escalate into more serious legal issues down the track, with bigger health, social and economic impacts on clients, their families and our community.

We will continue working closely with local partners across our regions to ensure that people can access the legal and tenancy support they need as we move into the recovery phase of COVID-19.

# Our impact

We aim to reach people where they live. This year we helped **2,330** people in regional and rural Victoria with legal and tenancy assistance.



loddon campaspe  
community legal centre

**871 CLIENTS**



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



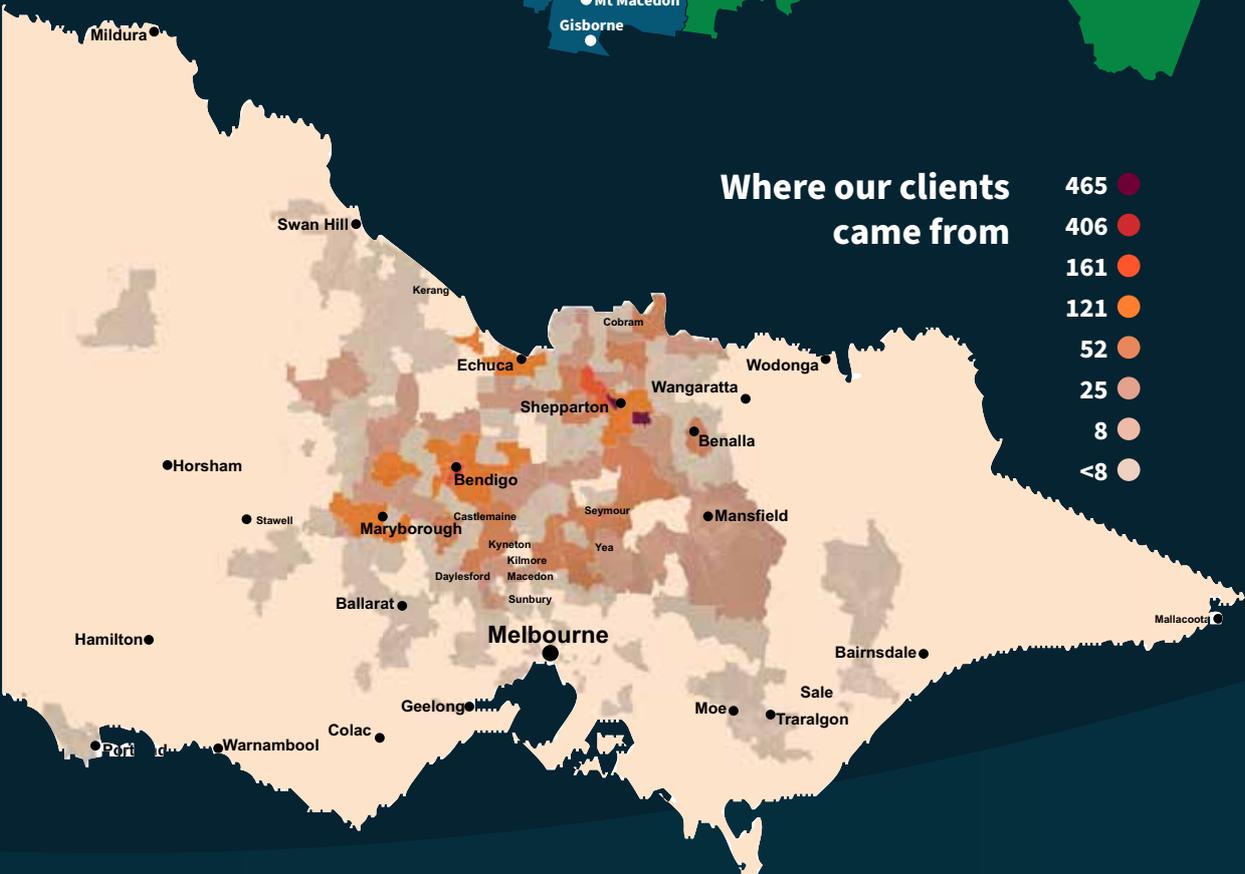
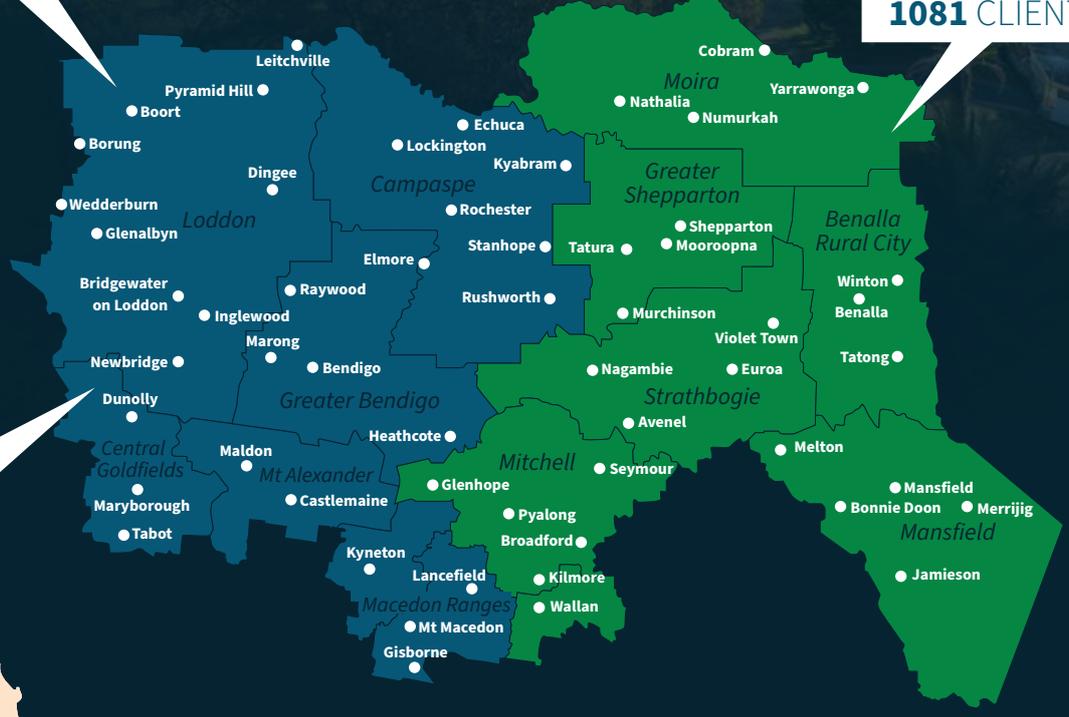
goulburn valley  
community legal centre

**1081 CLIENTS**



housing justice

**878 CLIENTS**



Priority 1:

# Increasing access to legal and tenancy support

*This year we provided **3,133** legal advice, casework and tenancy advocacy services to our clients.*



**1,243**

Legal advice services



**1,173**

Duty Lawyer appearances



**319**

Legal Representation services



**378**

Tenancy Advocacy and Support services

## Who we helped

We prioritise helping people who are experiencing systemic disadvantage or marginalisation to increase their access to legal and tenancy support services and to ensure they have a voice in the justice system.



**7%**

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander



**62%**

Women



**29%**

People with disability



**55%**

Experienced family violence



**4%**

Children under 18

# Family Violence Program

*Family violence continues to be one of our largest legal practice areas. Our CLC teams provide family violence duty lawyers services at ten courts across central and northern Victoria, and ongoing legal assistance for related family law, child protection and criminal law matters. Below are some highlights from our Family Violence Program this year.*

## Opening of the Specialist Family Violence Court in Shepparton

In October 2016, the first Specialist Family Violence Court (SFVC) in Victoria was officially opened in Shepparton. This facility is the first of five SFVCs to be constructed throughout the state following the recommendations of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence.

GVCLC played an instrumental role in the design of the SFVC, advocating for the needs of the community as a member of the re-development committee for the Shepparton Law Courts.

Through this work, GVCLC successfully lobbied for upgrades to the Old Court House building, resulting in the creation of a separate, dedicated facility within the court complex for victim/survivors of family violence and their children.

The purpose-built SFVC in Shepparton includes separate court entrances and a safe waiting space with amenities for applicants and their children, helping to support people living with family violence.

The operating model includes a team of specially trained magistrates, operational staff, family violence practitioners, partner agencies and other court-based services working together to deliver a coordinated response, with enhanced family violence services for families and the introduction of a court-mandated counselling program to help improve the reach and impact of men's behaviour change programs.

In April 2020, GVCLC received funding to provide an expanded specialist family violence legal service within the SFVC, a great outcome for the community that will increase access to support for people experiencing family violence and related legal problems, such as family law and criminal law matters.

GVCLC's experience advocating for the needs of the community in the court re-development process is now informing stakeholder engagement and advocacy work by LCCLC in Bendigo, with planning and consultation underway for the development of the new Bendigo Law Courts, including a SFVC facility.

**Below:** *The Hon. Jill Hennessy, Victorian Attorney General*

**Photo courtesy:** *Shepparton News*





## Working with police in the family violence system

This year we continued our focus on working with police in the family violence system. Victoria Police are often the first responders attending and investigating family violence incidents and supporting victim/survivors to apply for Family Violence Intervention Orders (FVIO).

It is estimated that police applications for FVIOs now make up close to 80% of all FVIO applications across the state. In this context, it is critical that police, legal services and other specialist family violence services work together to provide a coordinated response to family violence, ensuring that all victim/survivors have access to independent legal advice and other supports for their safety and wellbeing.

### Some examples of our work with Victoria Police this year include:

LCCLC's Tipping the Scales Project in Maryborough worked with the local Family Violence Unit at the Maryborough Police Station to co-facilitate two workshops with local family violence and community services to strengthen understanding of roles and responsibilities in the local family violence system and the police "Code of Practice for the Investigation of Family Violence".

GVCLC worked with Victoria Police and Victoria Legal Aid in Shepparton at the start of the COVID-19 crisis to co-produce an information resource for people affected by family violence that police could distribute when conducting home visits.

LCCLC's Legal Practice Manager and several lawyers joined members of the Bendigo Police Family Violence Unit, local police prosecutors and representatives from Bendigo Magistrates Court attending the inaugural Multidisciplinary Family Violence Conference presented by Victoria Police and Victoria's Magistrates Court in Melbourne.

ARC Justice received funding from the Victoria Law Foundation through their Knowledge Grants Program for a research project exploring how police, legal services and other specialist family violence services are working together to support victim/survivors in the family violence intervention order process across regional Victoria. This research project is currently on hold due to COVID-19 but will recommence in 2021.



## Child Protection Program

This year our Child Protection Program has continued to mature, with an increasing number of lawyers across our practice now skilled in this area of law.

Our stakeholder and community engagement work within the program continues to focus on early intervention support, encouraging referrals for parents and children early on in their engagement with Child Protection, before the family reaches a 'crisis point'.

We have been pleased to see an increase in direct referrals from local service providers working with vulnerable families, as well as clients themselves, showing strong local awareness and trust in our service.

This year we have also been closely monitoring the impact of COVID-19 and other trends on our child protection clients, including the impact of permanency amendments introduced four years ago. We provided input to a Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) report, "Achieving safe and certain homes for children", examining the impact of these permanency amendments.

The report found that while these amendments were intended to increase permanency for children in care by introducing strict time limits for reunification with parents, this system has not working as intended.

This is particularly problematic during COVID-19 with a reduction in face-to-face services and ability for parents to see their children. This is consistent with the experience of several of our child protection clients during COVID-19.

Read the full report and recommendations here:  
**<https://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/about-us/news/more-work-needed-to-achieve-safe-and-certain-homes-for-victorian-children>**

# Tenancy Assistance

*Our Housing Justice Team provides critical support to people struggling to maintain their tenancies and at risk of homelessness. Below is an overview of our tenancy support programs this year.*

Our Tenancy Plus service has been working hard to prevent homelessness by supporting people in public and community housing to sustain their tenancies.

This is achieved by our Housing Advocates working with clients to create a support plan that is tailored to their specific needs and personal goals, and working in partnership with other local services to connect tenants to the supports they need. With the chronic shortage of public housing available, this work is vital to help people avoid slipping into homelessness.

Similarly, our Tenancy Assistance and Advocacy Program (TAAP) has been supporting vulnerable tenants in private rental properties, including privately operated rooming houses and caravan parks.

Our Housing Advocates have provided information and advice to tenants about their rights and responsibilities, helping to negotiate with property managers and landlords, and providing advocacy support at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

Housing Justice has engaged in community education sessions to reach out to the community with information and advice about ways for people to sustain their tenancies and deal with tenancy issues. This includes sessions targeted at youth, those applying for new tenancies, and to discuss the impacts of COVID-19.

Housing Justice took part in community engagement with the Department of Health and Human Services in late 2019 to develop a masterplan for a \$10 million development of the Virginia Hill public housing estate in Eaglehawk. Housing Justice provided extensive consultation in this process, which has also involved research with the community about what they like about Virginia Hill Estate and what they want to see improved.

This community engagement is currently being shaped into a set of proposed key directions that will inform the development of a masterplan for Virginia Hill Estate.

Throughout the year, we have also provided many secondary consultations to other service providers working with clients at risk of homelessness, including the following organisations:

- ▶ Bendigo Community Health Services
- ▶ Maryborough District Health Service
- ▶ Castlemaine Housing
- ▶ Haven; Home, Safe
- ▶ Anglicare
- ▶ Bendigo District Aboriginal Cooperative
- ▶ John Bomford Centre
- ▶ Loddon Campaspe Centre Against Sexual Assault
- ▶ Centre for Non Violence
- ▶ headspace
- ▶ Golden City Support Services
- ▶ Beyond Housing
- ▶ Interchange
- ▶ Better Places Australia
- ▶ Salvation Army
- ▶ Consumer Affairs VIC
- ▶ Yarrawonga Health
- ▶ Cradle to Kinder
- ▶ Wombat
- ▶ Amicus
- ▶ MIND
- ▶ Goldfields Family Centre
- ▶ Njernda
- ▶ YO Bendigo
- ▶ LCH Alliance
- ▶ St Vincent De Paul
- ▶ Australian Community Support Organisation
- ▶ Annie North
- ▶ Department of Health and Human Services Victoria
- ▶ Housing for the Aged Action Group
- ▶ Rights Information and Advocacy Centre



## Aarya's story

Aarya is an international student living in regional Victoria and studying at a local university. She lives in a rented room in a house with seven bedrooms and a shared kitchen and dining area, but no living room.

Each bedroom has a lock on the door and is rented to an international student. When Aarya moved into her room, she signed an agreement with her landlord until July 2020 and paid a bond. She did not receive a receipt, and her bond was not lodged with the Residential Tenancies Bond Authority.

Aarya's parents, who live overseas, had been supporting her financially while she completed her studies. Aarya could not get work in Australia because of her international status.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, Aarya's parents lost their jobs and were no longer able to provide support. She was unable to pay her rent and fell into rent arrears. A friend offered that Aarya could move into their spare room until her financial situation improved and she could get back on her feet.

When Aarya contacted her landlord to them know about her circumstances, and to find out if she could end her lease early, the landlord demanded a copy of her visa, her passport number, bank account details, her parent's passport and bank account details, and the contact number details of the friend she planned to stay with.

Aarya felt intimidated by the landlord and did not know what her rights and obligations were, so she contacted Housing Justice for help.

One of our Housing Advocates contacted the landlord to advise them that their property needed to be registered as a Rooming House, and that they did not have the right to request the information they had asked Aarya to provide. The landlord disagreed and said that Aarya would need to continue paying for her accommodation.

Our Housing Advocate reported the landlord to Consumer Affairs Victoria, and informed Aarya that she could apply to VCAT to break her lease under hardship provisions as she had no source of income. Aarya was able to leave the property, where she no longer felt safe, and move in with her friend.

This case illustrates the impact that COVID-19 has had on international students, and others who have fallen through the cracks in government support, struggling to maintain secure housing during the COVID-19 crisis.

Priority 2:

**Our services will recognise and address the interconnectedness between social and economic circumstances, physical and psychological health and our clients' interaction with the legal system and housing.**

## **Bendigo Family Violence Justice Partnership**

The Bendigo Family Violence Justice Partnership (BFVJP) between LCCLC and specialist family violence service the Centre for Non-Violence (CNV) aims to increase access to wrap-around legal and other supports for women affected by family violence in the Greater Bendigo region.

The BFVJP has gone from strength to strength this year, helping women affected by family violence to access legal support earlier, before they attend court, in a safe environment at CNV.

Since July 2019, more than 80 CNV clients have accessed legal assistance from LCCLC lawyers co-located within the CNV office in Bendigo. CNV staff have also benefited from increased access to legal information, secondary consultations and training provided by LCCLC lawyers.

The social and economic impacts of COVID-19 are exacerbating the risk of family violence for many women and children. This is particularly concerning in regional areas where women can be geographically isolated and may struggle to access transport, telephone or internet services in order to seek help.

As public health restrictions begin to ease in the coming months and people affected by family violence are able to seek help, we expect to see an increase in demand for family violence support, including urgent legal assistance with intervention orders and related legal matters, such as family law and child protection.

In June 2020, the BFVJP received additional funding from the Frances and Harold Abbott Foundation and the W.C.F. Thomas Charitable Trust (both managed by Equity Trustees) and is now well-positioned to respond to the growing need for family violence support in the region.



## Sandra's\* story

Sandra is a single mother who received assistance through the Bendigo Family Violence Partnership between LCCLC and the Centre for Non-Violence (CNV). Like many women that CNV supports, Sandra faced a range of legal problems as a result of her experience of family violence.

Sandra and her children found themselves in a stressful and precarious situation when she left her violent ex-partner. Sandra was referred to the CNV by police for family violence support. She told her worker at CNV she was worried about what would happen to the family home, and how she could protect her children who were still having contact with her ex-partner.

The CNV worker understood that Sandra's family law issues regarding parenting arrangements and property could increase the risk of Sandra and her children being exposed to further family violence. These disputes are often used by perpetrators to exert ongoing power and control. The CNV worker referred Sandra to our lawyer, based at the CNV office.

Our lawyer gave Sandra advice about family dispute resolution, de-facto property settlement, and making a parenting plan with her ex-partner that would keep her and her children safe.

The CNV Worker helped Sandra to consider all the risks and what safe contact might look like for Sandra and her kids. She also helped Sandra to apply for Centrelink payments so she could be financially independent from her ex.

The CNV Worker attended court with Sandra to provide support while the police took out a Family Violence Intervention Order on Sandra's behalf.

Sandra was also connected with one of LCCLC's duty lawyers at court and received independent advice about the conditions on her interim order to make sure that she and her children could remain safe in the family home, and to prevent her ex-partner from removing any property until family law matters were finalised.

After the family violence intervention order was granted, Sandra received ongoing support from our lawyer at CNV to better understand the family dispute resolution process and to complete the relevant court documents to resolve her de-facto property matter.

With coaching and wrap-around support from our lawyer and the CNV Worker, Sandra was able to successfully self-advocate and gain an early and reasonable property settlement for herself and her children.

This case study highlights the benefits of an integrated and wrap-around legal and social support service for clients experiencing family violence and intersecting legal issues.

*\*To protect client anonymity, the client story above is a combination of multiple client experiences with similar issues and outcomes*

# Maryborough Therapeutic Justice Partnership

In 2019, our Maryborough Legal Service received a second year of funding from the Federation of Community Legal Centre's Integrated Services Fund to continue the successful Maryborough Therapeutic Justice Partnership (MTJP) with Maryborough District Health Service (MDHS).

The MTJP involves a lawyer and a social worker co-located at MDHS providing therapeutic support to clients in contact with the criminal justice system. In 2019, the MTJP also expanded its integrated legal and social supports to clients involved with Child Protection and with complex family violence matters.

This partnership is helping vulnerable clients to navigate, access and successfully engage with a range of local support services to achieve more sustainable justice and wellbeing outcomes.

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the project team changed the way in which it operates, moving largely to remote delivery of legal services. Through the partnership with MDHS, the MTJP Social Worker was able to remain on-site, ensuring a continued service presence that has been crucial to helping clients navigate the impacts of COVID-19.

For example, when clients with Child Protection Orders in place found themselves struggling to maintain contact with their children due to changes within DHHS and the suspension of other face-to-face services, the MTJP Social Worker was able to facilitate supervised video-call contact for parents and children.

The MTJP team also joined the Central Goldfields Pandemic Relief and Recovery Committee during this period. The Committee meets fortnightly online, bringing together all service providers including essential services and local businesses to plan and disseminate information about services available during COVID-19, including legal support.

The Committee is enabling the project team to work collaboratively with other stakeholders and ensure a comprehensive response for the community. A flyer outlining service availability and access has been delivered to every household and caravan park resident in the Central Goldfields Shire.

The MTJP team are also working with this Committee to develop an Action Plan around mental health, financial security, housing and safety, including associated legal issues.



*Above: LCCLC's Maryborough Team*

## Priority 3:

# The experience and expertise of our local communities will guide our work

## Tipping the Scales Evaluation

In December 2019, ARC Justice engaged Melbourne-based consulting firm Clear Horizon to conduct an independent evaluation of LCCLC's Tipping the Scales (TTS) Project funded by the Victorian Legal Services Board in Maryborough.

### **Over three years, the TTS Project aimed to:**

1. Increase access to justice for people experiencing family violence and related legal issues in the Central Goldfields Shire;
2. Strengthen service coordination within the local family violence system; and
3. Work with partners to identify and address local barriers to justice.

The project involved a full-time Lawyer and part-time Community Development Officer working together to embed a place-based legal service in Maryborough and to facilitate service coordination, capacity building and other systems strengthening initiatives within the community. This is the first place-based 'Community Justice Project' of its type to be implemented by ARC Justice.

The purpose of the final evaluation was to seek feedback from our community partners about the strengths and weaknesses of the TTS model, and to identify key lessons and recommendations to inform the next phase of our work with community in Maryborough.

Below are some 'key lessons' from the evaluation that will inform our ongoing work in Maryborough and service development work in other parts of regional Victoria:

### **Place-based services are critical for increasing access to justice in regional areas**

Smaller regional towns like Maryborough struggle with "drive-in, drive-out" models of service delivery. In order to understand community needs, increase service visibility and access, build trust within the

community, and establish strong and active referral pathways, legal services must be embedded in the local community, demonstrating commitment to a regular and ongoing presence.

### **Investing in relationships is key to embedding a legal service within smaller regional towns**

This relationship-building work takes time and requires flexibility within project work plans, a willingness to share resources and to work towards community-identified goals. Even in smaller regional towns it is important to note that there is no one single 'community' and no one group or service that represents 'the community' as a whole.

### **Building strong and trusted local relationships requires legal services to step outside 'traditional' models of service delivery and be willing to participate in 'community life'**

For the TTS Project this included working with local Council, sporting clubs, local service groups such as Rotary, the Community House, and a range of community working groups and committees. Funding for place-based legal services needs to be flexible enough to allow active participation in and support for these types of community groups and initiatives, which may not have a directly 'legal' focus, but help to facilitate the work of the legal service within the community.

### **Next steps**

LCCLC has recently secured an additional 12 months funding from the Victorian Legal Services Board to build on the successful first phase of the TTS Project. The second phase of this project will focus on strengthening coordination with the Orange Door Access Point soon to be established in Maryborough, and Early Years services providing wraparound support to vulnerable families.

# Community Engagement

Through our community engagement and legal education work we not only aim to raise awareness of rights and responsibilities, but also to work with and learn from different groups within our community to better understand their legal and tenancy needs, priorities, and how our services can assist. Below are some highlights from our community engagement work this year.



**Above:** Housing Justice staff presenting at Private Rental Forum.

## Private Rental Forum

As part of our ongoing efforts to support the community we serve, Housing Justice delivered CLE sessions across Central Victoria on legal and tenancy issues. An example was a popular private rental forum organised by Uniting Care, with a presentation by Housing Justice, alongside representatives from Bendigo Real Estate and Haven; Home, Safe. The forum highlighted significant concerns in our community about the lack of affordable and public housing. (Pictured above)

**Below:** Representatives from GVCLC, Victoria Legal Aid, Rights Information Advocacy Centre (RIAC), Centrelink, Energy & Water Ombudsman Victoria (EWOV), Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS) and the Victims Assistance Program

## Law Week 2020

For Law Week 2020 Housing Justice Manager Kirsty Waller participated in a panel discussion online with Lynne Hamilton from the Victoria Law Foundation and Jennifer Beveridge from Tenants Victoria about the impacts of COVID-19 on tenants and available supports. View video below:

<https://youtu.be/lw4pcj4j7bY>

## Cut your money worries

Through our Rumbalara Health Justice Partnership we formed the Rumbalara Community Legal Education Working Group, to pool resources and coordinate education for the Rumbalara community. The group conducted a CLE session called “Cut Your Money Worries”, with a focus on credit and debt issues.

The community were able to receive expert advice and answers to their questions from a range of service providers on the day, including Victoria Legal Aid, Rights Information Advocacy Centre (RIAC), Centrelink, Energy & Water Ombudsman Victoria (EWOV), Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS) and the Victims Assistance Program. This initial session showed the strength of organisations working together to support local communities to address their legal and related needs.



## Priority 4:

# Advocate for systemic change that enhances the rights of rural and regional Victorians.

## Everybody's home

Access to safe and affordable housing is a basic human right, but many people in our community are struggling to keep a roof over their head. It's clear that the housing system isn't working for everyone. Rents have skyrocketed and in regional communities, affordable private rentals are in short supply. The demand for social housing is outstripping supply, and this is contributing to an increase in homelessness, particularly for women and children.

In August 2019, our Housing Justice team organised an awareness raising event for Homelessness Week in Bendigo. The event titled "A Car is Not a Home" raised awareness of the number of people living in cars and other temporary and unstable forms of accommodation in the community, and the need to invest in more affordable and social housing in regional Victoria.

The event included a free BBQ, stalls by local service providers, a visit from the Haven; Home, Safe "HeyVan", and an eye-catching installation involving a car fitted out like a makeshift home in Hargreaves Mall. Bendigo Mazda donated a car for the day, and Reece Plumbing donated some essential household items that are inaccessible for people living in their cars or sleeping rough.

It was great to have Federal MP for Bendigo Lisa Chesters and Bendigo Mayor Margaret O'Rourke in attendance at the event to show their support for efforts to address homelessness in our community.

View video of the event here:

<https://youtu.be/S1csoxeZSoQ>

*Below: Housing Justice staff and staff from Haven; Home Safe with local MP Lisa Chesters during Homelessness Week*





*Pictured: Staff from Spring Gully General Store participating in the Cafe Smart Appeal*

## Homelessness Week 2019

Also during Homelessness Week 2019, Café's around Bendigo chipped as part of the CafeSmart Appeal, donating \$1 from each coffee to support homeless prevention services in Bendigo.

Supporting cafés included Bendigo Corner Store Café, Indulge Fine Belgian Chocolate, The Anxious Goat, Old Green Bean and Spring Gully General Store who collectively raised \$2,500 for Housing Justice to help people maintain their tenancies.

In 2020-21 we will continue our support for the Everybody's Home Campaign, calling on state and federal governments to invest in more affordable and social housing, particularly in rural and regional areas, to help fix our broken housing system and stimulate the economy following COVID-19.

## Raise the Rate

In September 2019, our staff attended a Raise the Rate Rally in Bendigo, and more recently this July we joined the National Day of Action online calling for a permanent increase to Jobseeker.

As people in our region continue to feel the economic impacts of COVID-19. We will continue to support the Australian Council of Social Services and other local organisations fighting to ensure that we don't return to the old Newstart rate of \$40 a day, which we know is not enough for people to afford rent and other essentials such as food and medical care.

To learn more about this campaign, visit: [www.raisetherate.org.au](http://www.raisetherate.org.au)

*Below: ARC Justice staff at Raise the Rate Rally*





Above: The Talking Justice event at Bendigo Town Hall.

# Talking Justice 2020

## Press Freedom

In February this year we help our biggest ever Talking Justice event in partnership with the Goldfields Library.

Over 300 people came along to the Bendigo Town Hall to hear a panel of high-profile speakers discussing Press Freedom in Australia, including the role of public interest journalism in our democracy, the criminalisation of journalists who seek to shine a light on civil and human rights issues, and what (if anything) should be 'off-limits' to the press.

Panellists included Richard Ackland (The Saturday Paper/Justinian), Annika Smethurst (News Corp), Matthew Ricketson (Deakin University) and M.C. Jon Faine (former ARC Radio Melbourne host).

View event video:

<https://www.youtu.be/ALSHQkQUaNY>



Above (from left): Guest speakers Matthew Ricketson, Jon Faine, Annika Smethurst and Richard Ackland

Right: Press Freedom event flyer

**PRESS FREEDOM IN AUSTRALIA**

- Raids on ABC and News Corp journalists.
- New national security laws preventing the media from shining a light on issues that affect our rights.
- Journalists criminalised for speaking out.

**ARE WE BEING KEPT IN THE DARK? JOIN US FOR TALKING JUSTICE 2020**

Featuring a panel of high-profile speakers discussing press freedom, the mounting pressure on journalists in Australia, your 'right to know', and whether anything should be 'off-limits' to the press.

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

Richard Ackland (The Saturday Paper / Justinian)  
 Annika Smethurst (News Corp)  
 Matthew Ricketson (Deakin University)  
 and M.C. Jon Faine (Former ABC Radio Melbourne host)

**DATE:** Monday 17 February  
**TIME:** 6:30 to 8:15pm  
**WHERE:** Bendigo Town Hall, 189-193 Hargreaves St.  
**FREE EVENT**  
**BOOKINGS REQUIRED**  
<https://www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/talkingjustice>  
 Presented by:

**SPONSORS:**  
 Thank you to our sponsors:  
 Arnold Dallas McPherson  
 Lawyers; Haven; Home, Safe;  
 The Strategem Foundation;  
 Robertson Hyetts Solicitors;  
 CatholicCare Sandhurst;  
 Women's Health Loddon  
 Mallee; and the Reichstein Foundation

Goldfields Libraries  
 Loddon campaspe community legal centre  
 arcjustice

# Looking forward to 2020-21

## Roll-out of The Orange Door

In 2016 the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence recommended the establishment of support and safety hubs across the state to make it easier for people experiencing family violence or families who need assistance with the care and wellbeing of children to access the services they need to be safe.

Now known as “The Orange Door”, these hubs provide a central intake point and pathways to a wide range of services for affected family members, children and perpetrators. The Orange Door aims to keep the whole family in view, with expert support tailored to each family member’s needs.

Legal services have not been fully integrated into The Orange Door model in pilot sites, but are considered key referral partner and visiting service. We know that people experiencing family violence typically have a

range of other intersecting legal needs, including family law, child protection, housing, credit and debt.

Early access to legal assistance as part of a coordinated response to family violence is critical to achieving long-term safety and wellbeing outcomes for affected family members.

The Orange Door is scheduled to be rolled out across our region in the next 12 months, with hubs in Bendigo and Shepparton, and ‘access points’ in Maryborough and other smaller regional centres.

ARC Justice will continue to play an active role in consultations to ensure that local Orange Door hubs builds on and enhances the strong referral pathways and integrated service partnerships that already exist within our region, and that legal services are appropriately incorporated in the model.

## Redevelopment of the Bendigo Law Courts

In 2019, the Victorian Government announced funding for construction of the new Bendigo Law Courts facility on the corner of Mundy and Hargreaves Streets.

This facility will greatly improve access to justice and safety for the community in Greater Bendigo, particularly for people with disability and those affected by family violence.

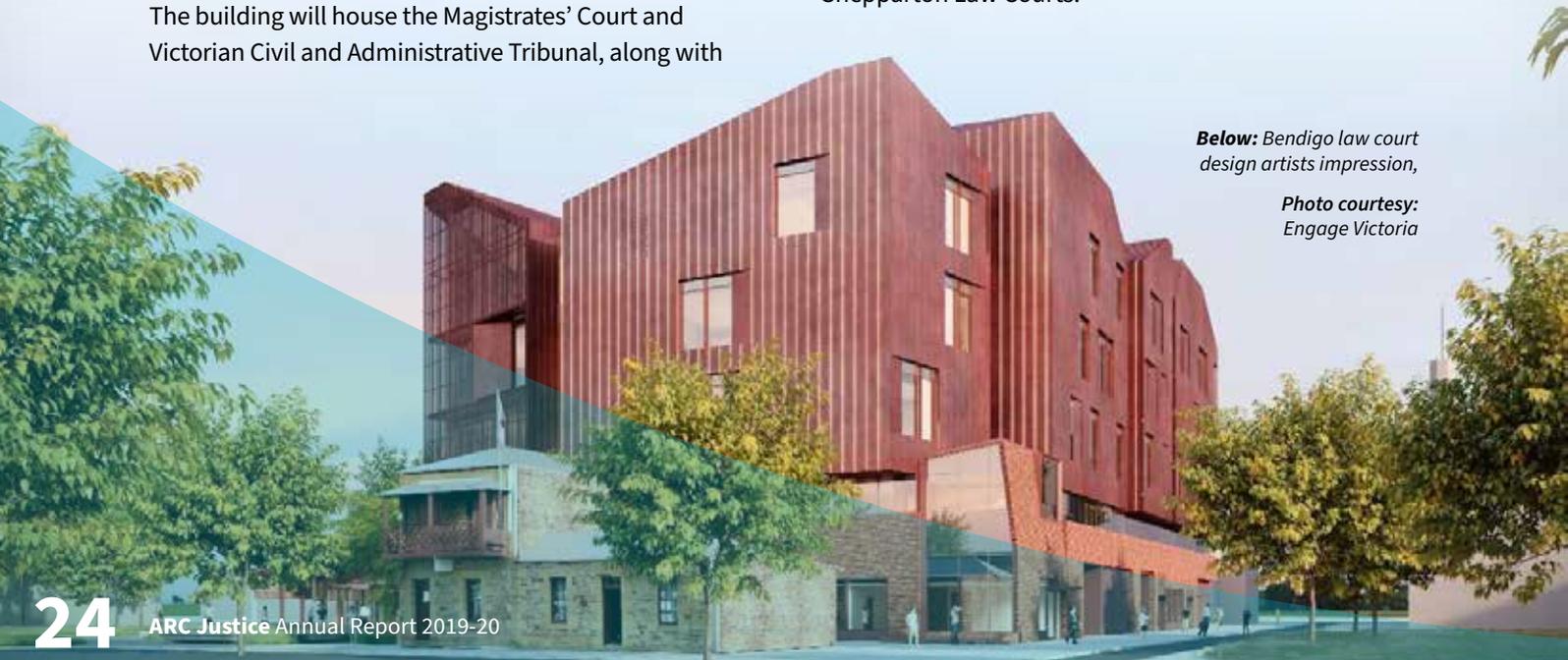
The building will house the Magistrates’ Court and Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, along with

a number of specialist courts including a Koori Court, Drug Court, Specialist Family Violence Court, and response from the Children’s Court.

LCCLC has and will and continue to be actively involved in the consultation process, advocating for the needs of our clients, and drawing on the experience and lessons learned by GVCLC during the re-development of the Shepparton Law Courts.

*Below: Bendigo law court design artists impression,*

*Photo courtesy: Engage Victoria*





Priority 5:

## Build our organisation's capacity to achieve its purpose

### Cultural Safety and Awareness

ARC Justice acknowledges the systemic injustices experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples since colonisation, and the structural racism that continues in Australian society and institutions to this day. We are committed to educating ourselves about these issues.

In August 2019, all ARC Justice staff and a number of our Board Directors participated in a workshop on Organisational White Privilege facilitated by Jon Bonnace of the Bendigo Reconciliation Committee.

This workshop challenged us to reflect deeply and critically on the ways that we work and operate as a 'mainstream' organisation that can reinforce experiences of inequality and injustice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, partners and community members.

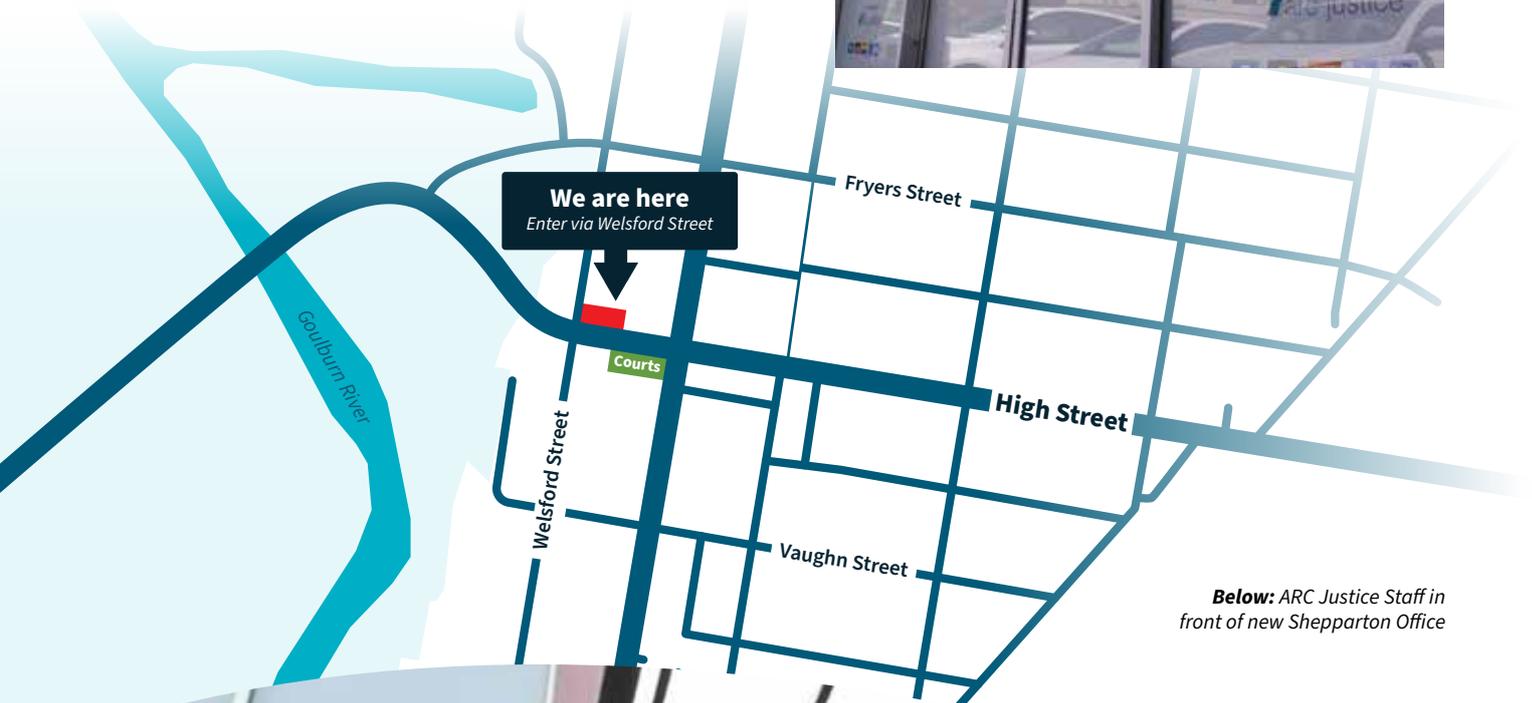
As part of our commitment to providing a culturally safe service and workplace, our staff also undertook Anti-Racism Bystander Training in February 2020, delivered by Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services. This training was a further opportunity to reflect on and identify the assumptions and unconscious bias that we bring to our work and must continually challenge.

Following these reflective workshops, we completed an organisation-wide Cultural Safety Assessment with support from Leigh Brown of the Bendigo District Aboriginal Cooperative in February 2020, identifying ways that we can work together with and alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients and organisations throughout our region to support access to justice and reconciliation, and to challenge unfair systems, laws and policies that impact disproportionately on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This will continue to inform our service improvement and systemic advocacy work in 2020-21.



# New Shepparton Office

In November 2019, our Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre moved into a new office located on the corner of High St and Welsford St in Shepparton. The new office is conveniently located opposite the Shepparton Law Courts, including the new Specialist Family Violence Court, increasing accessibility for clients. The space also includes additional consultation rooms and a waiting area for clients.



**Below:** ARC Justice Staff in front of new Shepparton Office





## Corporate Services Update

This year our Corporate Services team continued its focus on back-of-house systems and processes to support staff and enable the efficient and effective delivery of our legal and housing services.

At the start of the financial year, we completed the transition to online document management and collaboration tools, including in Finance and HR.

While this has been an ongoing project for ARC Justice, the move to cloud-based systems was also timely in ensuring that we had the infrastructure in place to support staff working from home during COVID-19. These have been critical to staff collaboration and team engagement while working remotely off-site, enabling greater use of video conferencing and online collaboration.

Supporting staff to move off-site at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic was a significant project for organisation, with staff requiring additional support to ensure the set-up of home office technology and equipment, and compliance with occupational health and safety requirements.

Our work earlier in the year strengthening online systems had meant that staff were able to rapidly transition to work from home, and their adaptability and approach to supporting one another and our clients in an evolving work environment this year has been commendable.

# Our People

## Our Staff

Our dedicated staff provide critical help to people in need every day. We have 37 staff in total working across our offices in Bendigo, Shepparton and Maryborough. Over three quarters of our staff are involved in frontline service delivery, including:

- **17** Community Lawyers
- **9** Receptions, Intake and Paralegal Officers
- **3** Housing Advocates
- **1** Community Development / Social Workers

We would like to thank all of our current staff and those who left the organisation this year for their hard work supporting our clients and community. You can find more information about our leadership team by clicking [here](#).

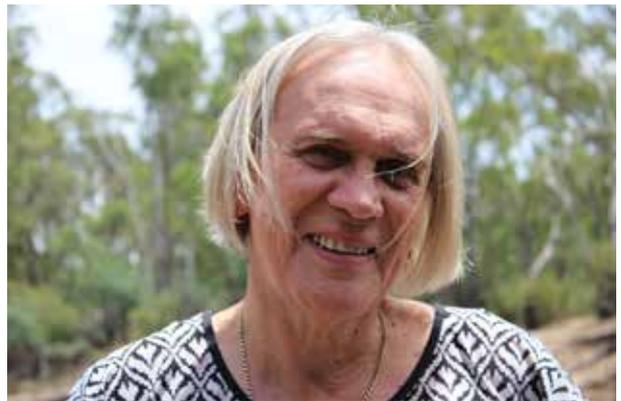
## Kaz Gurney retires

It's very difficult to put into a few short words the incredible impact that Kaz Gurney has had at ARC Justice and in the broader community.

Kaz commenced as Managing Lawyer of GVCLC in 2012 and leaves an incredible legacy. Not only has she led the establishment of GVCLC to be a thriving community legal centre, she has also mentored many community lawyers who will take forward her ethos.

Many lawyers, including both current and past staff, have spoken about the influence Kaz has had on their career and way they work. Sadly, we will be farewelling Kaz on July 24 as she heads on to an incredibly well-deserved retirement.

Kaz has been an inspiring community lawyer and champion for many different causes and community members in the Shepparton region.



**Above:** Kaz Gurney

In 2018 she was awarded Community Lawyer of the Year by the Law Institute of Victoria, recognising the work of the Goulburn Valley CLC team and her outstanding contribution.

While Kaz will be greatly missed, we look forward to working with the GVCLC team to continue to strengthen our work in the GV community, continuing the great work she has led.

# Our volunteers

We couldn't do what we do without the help of volunteers, whose contribution is integral to the effectiveness of our programs and services. This includes the volunteer lawyers who dedicate their time and expertise providing free legal advice to vulnerable clients after hours, as well students who undertake training placements and volunteer their time and skills in support of our work. We thank all of our dedicated volunteers for their continued support and contribution to our programs.

## Volunteer Solicitors

Amilee Myson	Chris Casey	Megan McDonald	Hannah Wynd
Thibaut Clamart	Emily Chamberlain	John McPherson	Louise Hanby D'Wynn
Kristen Nicholls	Aaron Day	Erin Molenaar	Trevor Kuhle
James Maxwell	Caroline Granger	Jennifer Nolan	Trent McGregor
Briana Zito	Michael Hennessy	Kim Parker	Jenny Orchard
Jessica May	Kelsey Johnston	Kim Pethybridge	Greg Westbrook
Sarah Notrianni	Kayla Kristensen	Greta Sabatino	Natalie Westbrook
Polly Symons	Jennifer Lay	Lachlan Singe	Sophie Hogan
Daniel Posner	Siobhan Liston	Shea Stewart	
Amanda Ferguson	Alastair Lyll	Ben Thompson	
Melissa Buchanan	Rebecca Maple	Neil Thredgold	
Eleisha Cairns	Keely McDonald	Cathryn Wardrop	

## Students

Brianna Batey	Sarah Edwards	Alyssa Evans	Brianna Oliver
Emily Costa	Stu Timms	Sophie Hogan	Indi Rumbold
Shannon Chessells	Kate Blanks	Kate Lawn	Tess Rutledge
Caitie Williams	Lena Charnley	Emma Lockhart	Kezia Thomas
Ebony Laux-Marshall	Jess Cooke	Tracey McDonald	Lucy Witham

## Night Service Reception Volunteers

Bev Garlick  
Heather Osland

## Echuca Outreach Lawyer Volunteers

Skye Engwerda  
Cosgriff Lawyers



**Above:** LCCLC Staff with Volunteers at the 2019 Volunteer Christmas celebration



**Above:** Stuart Timms with staff from Haven: Home, Safe

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

### **Stuart Timms** *Housing Justice*

Stuart Timms was one of our dedicated volunteers in 2019-20. Stu initially completed a student placement with Housing Justice as part of a Master of Social Work course, demonstrating a passion and skill for advocacy that led him to continue volunteering with Housing Justice beyond his placement.

Speaking about his experience as a volunteer Stu said:

*“It was really great to feel like you are making a difference, and I felt supported by the fantastic work culture.”*

Stu gained practical experience working with diverse clients through our Tenancy Plus and Tenancy Advocacy and Assistance Program.

He also developed an understanding of the legislation working alongside our Housing Advocates at VCAT. Stu is now applying the skills and experience he gained through volunteering in his new role as a Program Coordinator at AMICUS in Bendigo.

It’s always great to see former volunteers gaining employment in their chosen field, continuing to support clients, and contributing their skills to strengthen the local community sector. We wish Stu all the best in his ongoing career.

# Our Board

The Board drives ARC Justice's strategic direction and ensures a strong system of governance and oversight to maximise the organisation's impact. Guided by the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan, the Board works closely with the Executive Officer to enable the organisation to obtain and effectively allocate resources to implement the organisation's strategic priorities. Through a structured risk management framework and sub-committees, the Board ensures ARC Justice complies with all legal and policy obligations, while ensuring the organisation's ongoing sustainability.



## **Andrew Chittenden** *Chair*

Andrew is a long term Bendigo resident and high performing manager in various financial roles, with over 15 years of experience leading successful and cohesive teams. Andrew is currently the General Manager of Finance at Haven; Home, Safe and also chairs the Audit & Risk Committee for Inglewood & Districts Health Service.

His background includes financial roles in Food and Beverage, Construction and Accommodation organisations, and he is known for his commitment to achieving high levels of accuracy using ethical work standards, as well as a broad knowledge of corporate services practices, including HR/payroll, IT and procurement. Andrew is an excellent communicator with a can-do approach to problem solving and resolution. Andrew is also involved with local community through extensive volunteer experience outside of his work commitments.



## **Clare Fountain** *Secretary*

Clare Fountain is the owner operator of local Bendigo business Sorted, who provide workshops, planning, facilitation, consulting, training and business mentoring for a wide range of businesses. Her book "Sorted," has been widely used by small businesses and entrepreneurs to establish and organise their businesses.

She is co-founder of the Synergize Hub, a co-working space for social entrepreneurs and micro-business owners in Bendigo. Her membership on a number of Boards and active volunteering in leadership positions with a number of local organisations in Central Victoria make her a key driver in the community. In 2016, her business Sorted won the Bendigo Business Excellence Award for Professional Services.



## **Melinda Charlesworth**

Melinda is currently the Director of Governance and Strategy at Bendigo Health, and has worked for over 25 years in the health industry. Melinda is a credentialed Speech Pathologist with post graduate qualifications in Health Systems Management and Executive Coaching.

Melinda has managed a broad variety of services focusing on provision of high-quality leadership for teams who provide excellent patient care. With a passion for communication, she applies evidence based leadership principles to inform governance and accountability, ensuring best practice, values based outcomes for her community.



## Christopher McDermott

Christopher McDermott is a Barrister at the Victorian Bar specialising in public law and general civil litigation. Prior to joining the Bar, he was a Senior Lawyer with the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) specialising in administrative law, appearing on behalf of Commonwealth Departments in complex litigation in federal courts and tribunals.

Prior to working with the AGS, Christopher was Senior Associate to the Deputy Chief Justice of the Family Court. Before this, Christopher worked at the Attorney-General's Department on human rights and access to justice strategies. He is the Vice President of the Victorian AIDS Council / Gay Men's Health Centre (trading as Thorne Harbour Health), and a Director of Mental Health Victoria Ltd. He is the Secretary of both the LGBTI Working Group and the Equality & Diversity Committee of the Victorian Bar.



## Kate Scarce

Kate is a qualified CPA and proud Bendigo local who has been working in audit, risk management and accounting roles for 30 years. Currently, she is an Audit Manager at AFS & Associates and has worked with the Victorian Auditor General's Office, Telstra, CPA Australia and Haven; Home, Safe. She is an audit committee independent member for Remembrance Parks Central Victoria and is a former Chair of the Audit Committees for the City of Greater Bendigo and Gannawarra Shire.

Her experience encompasses many sectors including health, local government, waste management, catchment management, credit unions, telecommunications, for profit and not for profit organisations. She is also a community representative on the Specialist Clinics Steering Committee at Bendigo Health and a member of the GMHBA Consumer Consultation group. Kate loves supporting the local community, and is passionate about the not for profit sector with a particular interest in good governance and accountability.



## Khayshie Tilak Ramesh

Khayshie is a 23-year-old passionate advocate for youth, multiculturalism and diverse representation at influential decision-making tables. She is an experienced Director, Legal Advisor and is the Multicultural Youth Commissioner of Victoria.

Khayshie has served on a number of boards and committees including Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services, Ambulance Victoria Community Advisory Committee, Victorian Electoral Commission Advisory Group, Victoria's Volunteer Strategy Taskforce, Young People for Refugees and City of Greater Bendigo Economic Strategy Steering Committee.

Khayshie also served as the Inaugural City of Greater Bendigo Youth Mayor in 2019 and has been named as Young Citizen of the Year 2017, Premier's Volunteer Leadership Champion 2019, Law Student of the Year 2019 and was named in the Top 100 Future Leaders of Australia.

# Financials

FY2019-2020

*Below are summary financial figures for the 2019-20 Financial Year. Full financial figures in our Audited Financial Report, will be available in October 2020 from our website at [arcjustice.org.au](http://arcjustice.org.au)*

## Statement of profit and loss

and other comprehensive income for the year ending 30 June 2020

	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
Revenue	3,770,669	3,192,814
Employee Benefits Expenses	2,952,582	2,438,465
Supplies and Consumables	492,298	678,765
Depreciation and Amortisation	287,823	44,313
Interest Expense	54,907	
Audit Fees	7,100	7,200
Total Expenditure	3,794,710	3,168,743
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	<b>(24,041)</b>	<b>24,071</b>

## Balance Sheet

	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	500,045	1,205,671
Investments	1,079,103	562,557
Trade and other receivables	267,300	255,110
Other assets	131,638	79,541
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,978,086</b>	<b>2,102,879</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Property, plant and Equipment	293,332	214,144
Right-of-use assets	1,144,675	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,416,092</b>	<b>2,317,023</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	237,345	197,729
Prepaid income	744,459	892,216
Provisions	232,292	185,723
Lease liability	180,012	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>1,394,108</b>	<b>1,275,668</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Provisions	100,946	76,597
Lease liability	1,018,967	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>2,514,020</b>	<b>1,352,265</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>902,072</b>	<b>964,758</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained earnings	902,072	964,758
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>902,072</b>	<b>964,758</b>

# Our Supporters

ARC Justice is a not-for-profit organisation that relies on the generosity and support of our partners to achieve impact in the lives of our clients and communities. We would like to thank the following organisations who have provided funding and/or in-kind support to our programs and services this year.

**LCCLC and GVCLC** core funding, family violence and child protection legal services

- Victoria Legal Aid
- Victorian Government
- Commonwealth Government

**Housing Justice** Tenancy Assistance and Advocacy Program (TAAP), Tenancy Plus and generalist support

- Victorian Government
- StreetSmart
- City of Greater Bendigo

**Bendigo Family Violence Justice Partnership**

- Frances and Harold Abbott Foundation, administered by Equity Trustees
- WCF Thomas Charitable Trust, administered by Equity Trustees
- Centre for Non-Violence

**Bendigo Health Justice Partnership**

- WCF Thomas Charitable Trust, administered by Equity Trustees
- Victorian Government
- Bendigo Community Health Services

**Haven Connect Youth Justice Partnership**

- Victorian Legal Services Board Grants Program
- Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project

**La Trobe University Student Legal Service**

- Bendigo Student Association

**Maryborough – Tipping the Scales Project**

- Victorian Legal Services Board Grants Program
- Go-Goldfields, with funding administered by Centre for Non-Violence
- Maryborough District Health Service

**Maryborough – Therapeutic Justice Partnership**

- Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety Integrated Services Fund, administered by the Federation of the Community Legal Centres Victoria
- Maryborough District Health Service

**Rumbalara Health Justice Partnership**

- Victorian Government
- Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative

**Temporary Visa Employment Law Project**

- Victorian Government
- JobWatch
- Barwon Community Legal Service

**Talking Justice**

- Arnald Dallas McPherson Lawyers
- Haven; Home, Safe
- The Strategem Foundation
- Robertson Hyetts Solicitors & Conveyancers
- CatholicCare Sandhurst
- The Reichstein Foundation
- Women's Health Loddon Mallee

**Thank you also to**

- Clayton Utz
- Deakin University
- King & Wood Mallesons
- Victoria Law Foundation

## Many thanks

ARC Justice would like to thank all our supporters, funders, workers and volunteers for their support throughout the year. Without your generous support we would not be able to provide all the services we provide for the most vulnerable members of our community.

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**Email:** [reception@arcjustice.org.au](mailto:reception@arcjustice.org.au)

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