

PENINSULA
COMMUNITY
LEGAL CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT

{2016}

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OUR STATEMENT

VALUES

VISION

A fair and inclusive society that promotes and protects human rights and equality before the law.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To empower and support people who live, work or study in the catchment who are disadvantaged and vulnerable to address their legal needs.

Fairness

we treat all people justly, reasonably and in a non-discriminatory manner and strive for a fairer justice system.

Empowerment

we work towards strengthening the capacity of all people, either as individuals or members of our community, to understand their rights, pursue their interests and understand their responsibilities.

Accessibility

we seek to ensure that all members of our community are able to use and benefit from our services, activities and premises.

Respect

we treat others with dignity and in a manner which demonstrates regard for their feelings, wishes, autonomy and rights.

Independence

we are free from external control or influence and are therefore unfettered in our ability to speak for our clients and our community.

Quality

we maintain a culture of continuous quality improvement and we strive for excellence in our operations and service delivery.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

This past year I have had the opportunity to lead a committed, dynamic and diverse Committee of Management in a drive toward creating an improved standard of governance of PCLC.

In seeking to improve the governance of the organisation and ensure closer scrutiny of risk management issues three subcommittees, being finance, policy and procedures, and Committee of Management planning, oversaw a streamlining of processes, and continue to work towards a structure of growth and development within the Committee of Management which will support the organisation for the long term.

With the pro bono assistance of Halpin Consultants, and input from all staff, the next strategic plan for PCLC has been finalised. While continuing to maintain the primary mission and vision of PCLC the strategic plan aims to draw the goals and aspirations of the organisation into a holistic framework.

Given the pending reduction in government funding proposed for 2017, PCLC is moving toward sourcing a variety of funding options to ensure the organisation remains in a position to meet its clients' needs. Recent applications have seen grants of funds from philanthropic organisations, such as The Ian Potter Foundation, which have provided for the development of innovative ventures such as the Frankston North Schools Project.

I have also had the pleasure throughout 2016 of being in a position to observe leadership and innovation grow within PCLC. Through its role as convenors of the community development and community legal education working groups of the National Association of Community Legal Centres and the Federation of Community Legal Centres (Vic) PCLC provides leadership in the areas of community legal education and law reform. There have also been several significant partnerships established in the Streamlines Fines project, and a relationship is being developed with Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association in Hastings.

I commend our Chief Executive Officer, Jackie Galloway, on her commitment to steering PCLC forward over the past 12 months, providing support to the Committee of Management, and managing her excellent team of staff and volunteers. I also give my thanks to all of the stakeholders, funders and many other supporters of PCLC, whose ongoing involvement in the organisation is integral to its continuing development into the future.

Amanda Graham
PCLC Chairperson 2016

CEO'S REPORT

Over the past year we have achieved much and the foundations for further improvements and new initiatives have been laid. We enhanced our client focused approach with a commitment to holistic services and emphasised the importance of our strong connections to community in the planning and development of our services within our vision of a fair and inclusive society that promotes human rights and equality before the law.

Our dedicated, skilled and empathetic staff and volunteers worked hard against the tide of rising demand to respond to the needs of our large and diverse community this past year assisting 5,745 clients with free legal services. We were responsive to emerging issues and challenges with initiatives such as our fines clinic and family violence duty lawyer flexible service delivery model supported by the Department of Justice & Regulation's Community Legal Centre Assistance Fund.

It was disappointing that the Federal Government did not respond to the Productivity Commission's Access to Justice Arrangement Report findings, calling for an interim investment of \$200 million nationally, just to meet the most pressing of civil law needs. Despite this recommendation and the evidence that community legal centres are effective, efficient and innovative in addressing the legal needs of vulnerable people the Federal Government has proposed

funding cuts of 30 per cent nationally from July 1, 2017 under the National Partnership Agreement. We continue to work with our legal assistance colleagues and the Fund Equal Justice Campaign to highlight the crisis in legal assistance and the significant impact the funding cuts will have on a local and national level.

We welcomed the findings of the Royal Commission into Family Violence and the recognition of the need for an integrated service delivery model, this was a key factor in the planning of our family violence services, with one in four of our clients reporting family violence.

Our work is undertaken in a collaborative framework with our legal assistance sector colleagues, clients, community organizations and government. Throughout the year we strengthened collaborations and expanded our partnerships, we worked at a local, state and national level, with active involvement in both the national and state peak bodies for Community Legal Centres. We continued our focus on regional service planning with our work with the South East Legal Assistance Network (SERLAN) after the completion of the South East Legal Needs Analysis (SELNA) in 2015.

We continue to be innovative to ensure that we can provide leading practice in all our services. To this end, we were pleased to have been accepted as one of seven community legal centres in

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We welcomed the findings of the Royal Commission into Family Violence and the recognition of the need for an integrated service delivery model...

Victoria to take part in a pilot Outcomes Measurement Project being undertaken by the Federation of Community Legal Centres. This two year project is designed to help the Victorian CLC sector to better measure and demonstrate the outcomes it achieves by developing a shared outcomes measurement framework and will assist us to build on our current evaluation processes.

I take this opportunity to thank the Management Committee, management team and all staff and volunteers for their tireless work and our funders and supporters who continue to believe in the work we do and share our vision and purpose of access to justice.



OUR WORK

FOR CLIENTS

The year 2015-16 has seen a plethora of changes to the legal services provided by the centre, taking us in some exciting and important directions which will see us refining our focus on priority groups, already the mainstay of our existing client base, such as family violence victims, those on low incomes, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. We have taken on board the challenges in servicing these clients, as flagged in the National Partnership Agreement, firstly by looking at offering our services more directly to those least likely to access legal advice and by further reinforcing our existing links with local agencies, always one of the great strengths of CLCs. It is well recognised that those in crisis find it more difficult than most to organise their lives, and so flexible service delivery is crucial if we are to ensure that access to justice is as easy as we are able to make it!

As part of our path towards a more holistic framework, an improved telephone intake and assessment process has virtually removed waiting times, and has enabled clients to be advised, assessed for ongoing assistance, and if necessary, seen that very day. Other options include day and evening appointments, visiting services at locations within our catchment, dedicated appointments for family violence and family law clients, and duty lawyer and advocate services.

We are also moving towards providing a comprehensive, client centred service following research which shows that most disadvantaged clients are likely to have a variety of legal problems, and are often

prevented from addressing them by the fragmentation of assistance options available. In particular, this approach, raised in the findings of the Batty Inquest, has seen a boost in our support to family violence victims. We have been fortunate to secure funding for a second duty lawyer at the very busy Frankston Magistrates' Court, who also assists with initial applications for intervention orders as well as urgent Victims of Crime applications, and provides a seamless referral path to address associated issues such as family law, sexually transmitted debt and fines, and tenancy problems.

This integrated service has been supplemented by a new and highly successful Fines Clinic, where student volunteers enable us to see the ever increasing numbers of people seeking help with tollways infringements. The employment of an in-house social worker, in a philanthropically funded pilot program, has highlighted the importance and benefit of also assisting clients with related non-legal matters and has helped focus our holistic approach. A much valued resource for the entire organisation, the social worker supports caseworkers to assist clients with non-legal aspects of their matter, provides direct client services and engages with a wide range of other agencies.

Demand for assistance through the tenancy and consumer programs continues to be high, with clients coming from broader catchment areas than the general legal program. The duty advocate services offered at the Dandenong and Frankston Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal venues for

residential tenancies matters, play an important role in assisting vulnerable and financially disadvantaged tenants who have not accessed advice prior to their hearing and for whom the very fundamental issue of housing may be at stake. Issues relating to the purchase and repair of second-hand cars, installation of solar panels, access to and charges for utilities and training programs have featured in the consumer area.

Under the Metropolitan Rooming House Residents Support Program, our outreach workers have continued to visit rooming houses across the southern and eastern Melbourne metropolitan areas. People living in rooming houses are among the most vulnerable residents in the state and also among the least likely to exercise their rights under residential tenancies law. Our workers play an important role in making contact with residents, providing information about rights and responsibilities and referrals to relevant services.

Our clients and the types of legal matters they experience are key drivers informing our community legal education and legal policy work. The involvement of volunteers, trainee lawyers, law students and pro bono support enable us to extend the number and scope of legal services offered to the community. This contribution is recognised and much appreciated and enables us to continue to serve the community in a manner that is both cost-effective and highly professional.

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Community partners add tremendous value to our work by sharing their complementary expertise, knowledge of community needs and practical support...

FOR COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

Our community legal education (CLE) activities connect us with vulnerable people who need legal help. We have reached people with disabilities, sole parents, people experiencing family violence, drug and alcohol addiction, psychiatric illness, adults learning English, people with low education, seniors at risk of elder abuse and many other people who are vulnerable to exploitation and unsure how to progress their legal issues, or who don't realise they have legal issues at all.

Community partners add tremendous value to our work by sharing their complementary expertise, knowledge of community needs and practical support like venues, promotion and catering for events. We have partnered with specialist and generalist CLCs, health and education providers, local councils, government departments and a range of community organisations. Our partnership with Family Life and Victoria Legal Aid (Peninsula Regional Office) helps ensure that separating parents at Family Relationship Frankston and Mornington Peninsula have access to timely legal information and advice.

We are pleased to have forged new connections with Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association to help us understand and respond to legal needs of local Aboriginal people. We are also collaborating with Community Corrections Services Victoria to deliver legal education about family violence intervention orders to clients undertaking Men's Behaviour Change Programs, aimed at preventing future breaches. A community grant from the City of Kingston enabled us to offer community forums for seniors, with Seniors Rights Victoria, and professional development for workers on recognising and responding to elder abuse.

Law Week was a highlight in our CLE calendar, starting with a radio interview about fines on ABC Melbourne radio, a booked-out fines seminar for community workers and public information stalls in Frankston and Rosebud. Another highlight was the launch of the Clothesline Project, a family violence awareness campaign that displays t-shirts with artwork by women and children who have experienced family violence. We worked closely with the Frankston & Mornington Peninsula Family Violence Network in creating the clothesline, and are now supporting the development of a Cranbourne clothesline.

LAW REFORM

Addressing systemic barriers to justice is a crucial part of our work. We made a public submission to the Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation's Access to Justice Review, detailing our work to support vulnerable people achieve equality before the law, as well as flagging the limitations caused by inadequate funding to our sector. We also contributed substantially to the joint submission of the Victorian CD & CLE Working Group and Victoria Legal Aid's CLE team in relation to the issue of duplication in legal education material, highlighting our complementary and collaborative approach to producing and delivering CLE.

We supported the campaign of Women's Legal Services Australia to "put safety first" in family law, calling for reforms to better protect women and children at risk of family violence. We also participated with the Federation of Community Legal Centres (Vic) and court staff in a consultation regarding the wording of Family Violence Intervention Orders.

We made three submissions to the Fairer Safer Housing review of the Victorian government, calling for improved protections for vulnerable and disadvantaged tenants and sharing our experiences of how current practices and provisions impact on our clients.



OUR STORIES

MARY'S STORY

'Mary' is a mother of two in her 30s, the older child being from a previous relationship. The marriage was an arranged one in which Mary had little say, and was unfortunately characterised by ongoing physical violence and sexual abuse.

There had been a serious incident when the youngest child was only a baby, where 'Allen' had assaulted Mary and also the baby, by punching him whilst he was in his cot because he was crying. This led to police charges, and a period of suspended imprisonment. The parties continued to live together, as separation was not common within their community, but ultimately there was another serious assault on the older child in front of the younger one, and Allen was charged and sentenced to a period of imprisonment. Despite his appeal to the County Court, the sentence was upheld.

There was some family reluctance to offer support to Mary, as the police reporting was regarded as contrary to the preferred course of action within the community, of having elders counsel and discipline the offending party.

Mary came to us for help with ensuring that Allen could not, as he had threatened, remove the children overseas. An urgent Watch List application was prepared and filed; Allen responded with an application for contact with his son, and the matter was heard over almost two years before final orders were made.

We assisted throughout this period, with preparation of documents and court appearances, and ultimately, with the support of the Independent Children's Lawyer, orders were made for Mary to have sole parental responsibility. The child was to have no contact or communication with Allen, in our experience not a common outcome, but one welcomed by our very relieved client, who can now raise her children in safety.



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Tony was still under rehabilitation from heart surgery and was trying his very best to recover as well as maintain his employment.



LISA'S STORY

'Lisa' is a young mother of two, with another child on the way, due very shortly. Her oldest child is living with other family members as he has had an Intervention Order made against him as a result of drug use and violent behaviour. Lisa herself suffers from a variety of mental health issues.

After an incident in which Lisa's partner 'Thomas' pushed her down and punched her in the face for complaining that she was hungry, Lisa rang her oldest son, and told him what had happened. He rang police and reported the assault. Police attended and noted bruising to her face, and photographs were taken.

A Child Protection notification by police resulted in concerns for the younger child of the couple, who lived in the house, but had not witnessed the assault, and a direction to police to apply for an Intervention Order on behalf of both Lisa and her child.

Lisa became distressed and indicated that she did not want Thomas removed from the home as she feared for her ability, because of her mental health issues and other disabilities, to care for her younger child as well as a new baby without Thomas' help.

Child Protection was insistent that the application proceed on behalf of the child, as well as a limited order for Lisa. The consequences of such action were that the younger child would be taken into foster care, as Lisa could not cope alone.

Fortunately Lisa was referred to our Duty Lawyer service, and submissions were made setting out Lisa's dilemma. The

Magistrate considered the situation and the ramifications for the child. As a result he ordered the Intervention Order against Thomas on behalf of the child dismissed and that a limited IVO application on behalf of Lisa be continued. The Magistrate determined that the matter should be adjourned for two months to allow Child Protection to conduct an assessment concerning the safety of the young child and also the new baby once born.

This matter demonstrates the value of our Duty Lawyer service in raising issues on behalf of clients which allow the court to make fully informed decisions about the safety and welfare of victims of family violence, avoiding a 'one size fits all' outcome which may have unintended or detrimental consequences.

TONY'S STORY

'Tony' was a middle-aged man who had incurred in excess of \$25,000 worth of tollways fines in the course of his casual job as a courier, and had been issued with a 7 day notice. His vehicle had been seized by the Sheriff. He had attempted to apply to have his fines revoked on the basis of his special circumstances, but his application had been rejected. He was in a suicidal state when he came to us.

Over the past twelve years, Tony had suffered a serious heart condition as well as mental health problems. Since 2004, he had survived four heart attacks and had two significant by-pass procedures. In 2012, he was diagnosed with depression and anxiety.

We requested the court consider the fact that the specific period of Tony's intense offending (where he used Eastlink to drive to and from work for several months) was in the immediate aftermath of his fourth heart attack. Tony was still under rehabilitation from heart surgery and was trying his very best to recover as well as maintain his employment.

However, in the course of making an urgent application for revocation of his fines, Civic Compliance advised us that this option wasn't available to Tony as his vehicle had already been seized. They were adamant that an application would not be accepted. We had to escalate the matter to the Registrar of the Infringements Court, spending almost an hour arguing that as the vehicle had not yet been sold, the option of revocation was still available to our client under section 65 of the Infringements Act. Our argument was finally accepted and within 24 hours, the application was approved. Tony was able to take possession of his vehicle the following day.

The key issue raised by this particular matter was the difficulties clients face when negotiating with Civic Compliance without legal advice, often at a time when they are vulnerable or unwell. We are currently involved in a campaign to seek changes to a complex and overly punitive process which sees ordinary, generally law-abiding citizens trapped in a spiral of debt, putting at risk their employment, homes and family as a result of a temporary health or other crisis.

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Oprah spoke with the other professionals about working together to support seniors and her idea for a Law Week Seniors Forum, and our partnership began.

JESSICA'S STORY

'Jessica' is a single mother with 2 children, whose only income is Disability Support Pension, and who suffers from a serious chronic illness. She had a 12 month lease on premises which were in extremely poor condition, requiring numerous repairs. The house had been filthy when she moved in, and the faulty 'brand new ducted heating system' had caused an avalanche of dust to pour in from the roof cavity, where the unit was located.

Fibreglass particles had covered her belongings and furniture, affected her health and that of her children, and the premises became unfit for habitation. Jessica had no alternative but to vacate the premises, and move into crisis accommodation, eventually finding another rental property.

She had issued the landlord with a breach notice, and he had agreed to her breaking the lease, without penalty, but the cost of relocating again had been substantial, at a time when she had only just moved into the premises.

Jessica approached us for help with seeking compensation for the costs, hardship and inconvenience of the enforced move. An attempt was made to settle the matter, but was unsuccessful, and ultimately, a VCAT decision resulted in an award of well over \$2000, with help, including representation, by our Advocacy service.

WALKING AND TALKING TO STOP ELDER ABUSE: A COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION STORY

One cold, drizzly winter's day, our worker 'Oprah' put on a purple beret hand-knitted by her 80 year old neighbour and walked from Carrum to Seaford to join a walk against elder abuse, organised by Frankston Council and Seniors Rights Victoria, as part of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD). Oprah spoke to the hall full of seniors about the types of legal issues we could help with and encouraged them to use our free legal services.

Recognising kindred spirits with a passion for stopping elder abuse, Oprah spoke with the other professionals about working together to support seniors and her idea for a Law Week Seniors Forum, and our partnership began.

From that time forward, we have worked with Seniors Rights Victoria, Frankston City's Ageing Positive team and with other partners, like Mornington Peninsula Shire and Peninsula Advisory Council for Elders. We have held successful seniors forums, participated in a Sound of Music concert, held a purple knitting bee to help 'yarn bomb' Frankston to raise awareness of WEAAD, quizzed the audience on legal issues and getting help at a Tea and Trivia event, spoken at a film festival – and played quite a few rounds of 'Wills Lingo Bingo', to name just some of our activities. With the support of local newspapers, several editorials have highlighted these initiatives and helped inform the community about elder abuse.

We estimate that our collaborative activities over the past few years have directly reached at least 700 seniors in our community. We have spread the word about elder abuse – how to protect yourself from exploitation, how to recognise abuse, the facts about Powers of Attorney and Wills, and very importantly where to get help.

But maybe the best part of this story is that it is "To be continued..."

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's report for the financial year ending June 30, 2016.

Our core income for services was received from the Australian Government Attorney General's Department and by the Department of Justice and Regulation (administered by Victoria Legal Aid) to provide legal services, including legal education and law reform.

Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) funds the Centre to deliver the Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Program (TAAP), Consumer Advice and Advocacy Program (CAAP) and the Rooming House Outreach Program.

The Centre receives financial assistance from five local governments, Frankston City Council, Cities of Glen, Eira, Casey and Kingston and the Mornington Peninsula Shire to support its work in those municipalities.

With an overall revenue of \$2,591,464 and total expenditure of \$2,572,118 there is a profit of \$19,346. Full details of our financial position appear in our Financial Summary, later in this report.

This year the Centre received grants from both Charitable Trusts & CLC Grant Programs, which assisted both in facilitating the running of our programmes, and also in funding trials of programmes which we are certain will enable us to engage more effectively with our clients in the future.

We have implemented a number of changes to the formats of our reports which enable the Committee of Management to more readily track the financial management of the Centre. Another exciting project which has implications for our future reports involves the measurement of the input of our volunteers enabling us to determine the financial benefit to the community of the Centre.

Our Audit for the past year was uneventful and efficient, my thanks to the team at Shepard Webster & O'Neill Audit Pty Ltd who provides us with a robust assessment, and in closing my thanks to our finance team and fellow finance sub-committee members for their diligence and focus on financial accountability.

OUR IMPACT

TOTAL CENTRE ACTIVITIES

3109
ongoing cases

7966
legal advices

419
clients received family law help by Duty Lawyer at Federal Circuit Court (Dandenong)

1065
clients assisted by Duty Lawyer at Frankston Magistrates' Court for family violence intervention orders

PROBLEM TYPE



Family Law	47%
Civil	26%
Tenancy/Consumer	16%
Criminal	11%

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Secondary consults for workers	28
Press releases & public newsletters	21
Local meetings	67
Public events	8
Talks and workshops	53

FACTS & FIGURES

3819

clients accessed
legal advice
in person

2267

clients accessed
legal advice and
triage by phone

210

clients assisted
by Fines Clinic
(commenced
Feb 2016)

13,994

information
& referrals

\$2.1m

estimated total
fines of clients helped
at Fines Clinic

211

clients assisted
at visiting service
locations

120

clients assisted
by Duty Advocate
at VCAT

1697

legal advices
provided by
volunteer
lawyers

we estimate that
the donated hours
of our volunteers
amounts to over

5000
hours

732

rooming
house visits

29%

reported
family violence

683

clients received
tenancy/consumer
advocacy support

10%

reported mental
health issues

20%

have a
disability

75%

clients have
no or low income
(less than \$500 pw)

59% females

41% males

OUR PEOPLE

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson

Amanda Graham

Vice Chairperson

Victoria Campbell

Treasurer

Steven Hopley

Secretary

Travis Fewster

Members

Celestine Moon

Richard O'Donovan

Julian Bartlett

Quinn McCormack

Ben Needleman

OUR TEAM

Jackie Galloway *Chief Executive Officer*

Gillian Wilks *Deputy Chief Executive Officer*

Legal Practice

Victoria Mullings *Principal Lawyer*

Brendan Stackpole *Deputy Principal Lawyer*

General Managers

Andrea Staunton *Volunteers & Education*

Sue Vincent *Administration*

Deputy Managers

Hellen Argiriou *Administration*

Saskia Weerheim *Volunteers & Education*

Administrative Workers

Beth Weerheim

Caitlin Wilson

Jasminka Kumbaric

Nina Mitris

Jessica Thurkle

Executive Support

Valmai Scully

Michele Simpson-Mihailovic

Community Lawyers

Chris Gunasekera

Chris Horsfall

Gregory O'Brien

Kate Gustke

Kate Ross

Natalie Altman

Sokha Um

Alison Laird

Ash Galvin

Jane Carter

Sharon Carr

Education & Policy Lawyer

Saskia Rijfkoogel

Advocates

Cathie Currie

Vanessa Saunders

Robert Braun

Community Workers

Chris Horsburgh

Aldo Taranto

Social Work

Michelle Cauchi

Contract Staff

Jodie De Gregorio *Finance Officer*

OUR RELATIONSHIPS

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

We are highly engaged with our local community and participated in the following networks:

- Bayside Peninsula Integrated Family Violence Partnership;
- City of Casey Collaborative Services Network;
- Collaborative Support Group (Federal Circuit Court, Dandenong);
- Critical Linkages (Casey / Cardinia Family Violence Network);
- Family Relationship Services Community Reference Group;
- Federal Circuit Court Duty Lawyer Meetings;
- Frankston City Council Housing Reference Group;
- Frankston & Mornington Peninsula Family Violence Network;
- Frankston & Mornington Peninsula Police Practice in Common Community Advisory Group;
- Frankston Magistrates' Family Violence Court Users Meeting;
- Frankston North Collaborative Partnership;
- Mornington Peninsula Combined Service Provider Network;
- Outer South Integrated Family Violence Partnership;
- Vulnerable Children, Youth & Families Alliance.

As part of our ongoing partnership with Family Life as the provider of Family Relationship Centre (Frankston & Mornington Peninsula) and Victoria Legal Aid (Peninsula Regional Office), we convene quarterly Partnership Working Group Meetings to strengthen our services for separating parents in our community.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE SECTOR RELATIONSHIPS

Collaborating with other legal assistance providers is an important strategy in identifying and responding to legal needs within our community. We have been pleased to participate in the following initiatives over this period.

Regional

- South East Region Legal Assistance Forum;
- Informal meetings with Victoria Legal Aid (Peninsula Regional Office).

Victorian

- Applicant Lawyers Group;
- CLC Managers Network;
- Community Development and Community Legal Education Working Group (Convenor);
- Infringements Working Group;
- Joint CLE Infringements Project Group;
- Management Committee of Federation of CLCs;

- Principal Lawyers' Network;
- Sector Development Working Group;
- Smart Justice for Young People;
- Tenancy Working Group.

National

- National Association of CLCs Advisory Committee;
- Community Legal Education and Community Development Network of CLCs (Convenor);
- CLC representative on National Legal Aid Community Legal Education Working Group.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

“Give back to the community” and “improve access to justice” were the top two reasons people chose to volunteer with us, according to our Volunteer Survey conducted in late 2015. Our dedicated volunteers enable us to operate additional advice services four nights a week.

Thank you to our 67 lawyer volunteers, who provided 1,697 free legal advices to clients from our Frankston, Pines (Frankston North), Bentleigh, Cranbourne and Rosebud offices. Our lawyers were ably supported by our team of 83 paralegal volunteers who coordinated sessions and provided administrative, research and paralegal support.

We are grateful to our special project volunteers for sharing their talents and time with us. Thank you Inez Dussuyer (Family Violence Research Project) and Dalit Kaplan of Storywell (Storytelling Project).

Congratulations to the winner of the 2015 Kath Neilsen Memorial Award, Amanda Graham, and recipients of Volunteer Encouragement Awards, Lyn Bennett, Luke Denham, Natalia Gorges, Valerie Power, Nadeera Gunawardena and Tanita Northcott. We also presented Volunteer Long Service Awards to Brylee Newman, Adam Birch, Jen Kelly and Amanda Graham for 10 years of service, and George Erlichster for 15 years of service. We also thank Maurice Blackburn Lawyers for sponsoring our volunteer awards.

PARALEGALS

Jessica Awad
Stefan Bagg
Renee Barnes
Justin Bellino
Lynette Bennett
Ivan Bezbradica
Susan Borg
Ashley Brown
Andrew Campbell
Phillip Carr
Damien Christmas
Rosie Cole
Talitha Curcio
Luke Denham
Christian Deppeler
Elizabeth Divers
Aija Dowling
Andrew Doyle
Samantha Doyle
Carrie Ewin
Sonari Fernando
Marcus Frajman
Tatjana Frei
Aaron Gains
Jackie Galloway
Mark Gilbert
Natalia Gorges
Anna Grage
Nicholas Graham
Shevaun Grant
Jade Gregory
Nadeera Gunawardena
Stephanie Hansen
Benjamin Hook
Cassandra Jansz
Tammy Kamil
Adrian Ladd
Claire Loughnan

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“Give back to the community” and “improve access to justice” were the top two reasons people chose to volunteer with us...

Daizy Maan
Alex Marcou
Katrina Markwick
Danielle McCartin
Adele McLeod
Ashley Melnacic
Michele Mihailovic
Alice Mikham
Kara Miller
Vanettia Milne
John Moneir
Benjamin Needleman
Brylee Newman
Michelle Nguyen
Tanita Northcott
Lillian O'Connor
Amelia O'Donovan Schulz
Allana Olah
Kirsty Osborne
Barbara Padfield
Priya Padhye
Thierry Pascal
Olga Pecherski
Heather Perry
Jack Petersen
Ricky Plummer
Valerie Power
Janet Power
Emily Rydel
Amber Salter
Kelly Schober
Andrew Shin
Geeta Shyam
Laura Sibrava
Jonathan Sise
Patrick Smith
Bethany Stewart
Claire Stratton
Brittany Tolson

Michelle Vos
Feyisso Wesho
Jesse Williams
Lauren Wilson
Tia Wishart
Rebecca Wright

LAWYERS

Anna Araneta
Katherine Awad
Leonie Bailey
Rebekah Bessant
Helen Betros
Adam Birch
Rohani Bixler
Bill Boucher
Victoria Campbell
Jane Carter
Philip Cottier
Peter Coutts
Radek Dajer
Chris Daniels
Michael Denison
Tessa Dickie
Amelia Edwards
George Erlichster
Travis Fewster
Natalie Fleming
David Galloway
Ashley Galvin
Wendy George
Canda Glanville
Chris Gunasekera
Chris Hill
Ian Hone
Chris Horsfall
Kristen House

Amanda Humphreys
Michael Labiris
Alison Laird
Vincent Licciardi
Cara Litterick
Damian Lynch
Jennifer Maher
James Marsden-Smith
Peter Martin
Luke Martin
Adam McBeth
Danielle Mercuri
Natalie Mikkelsen
Katie Minogue
Michael Morehead
Victor Moss
Mary Nasser
Julie Newdick
Jacqui Newton
Michael Nguyen
Greg O'Brien
Katerina Patras
Hayley Pope
Villy Raki
Jonathon Rhall
Ashley Richardson
Saskia Rijfkgel
Trish Samson
Vanessa Saunders
Christine Sedrak
Joel Silver
Patrick Smith
Angelica Suarez
Carolyn Tadross
John Wedsley
Terry Weerappah
Scott Whitechurch
Nina Zec

SPECIAL PROJECT VOLUNTEERS

Inez Dussuyer
Dalit Kaplan

VOCATIONAL PLACEMENTS

Trainee Lawyers

Janeca Carranza
Claire Loughnan
Lynette Bennett
John Gibbens

Deakin Law Students

Joylyn Karunakaran
Tanya Kamil
Steven Kenworthy
Loshin Gammampila
Amalia Fidantsis
Jessica Crowe
Emily McAlister
Samantha Marsh

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

*Statement of Profit and Loss and other comprehensive income
for the year ending 30 June 2016*

	NOTE	2016 \$	2015 \$
CONTINUING OPERATIONS			
INCOME			
Grant Funding	2	2,474,961	2,212,246
Other Income	3	116,503	125,083
		2,591,464	2,337,329
EXPENSES			
Communication Expenses		(43,849)	(43,001)
Depreciation Expense		(68,692)	(70,392)
Employment Expenses		(2,040,019)	(1,811,140)
Finance Expenses		(9,008)	(10,939)
Occupancy Expenses		(180,718)	(182,310)
Office & Administrative Expenses		(141,836)	(138,134)
Repairs & Maintenance Expenses		(35,937)	(23,034)
Resources Expenses		(22,654)	(15,231)
Travel & Accommodation Expenses		(29,405)	(33,325)
		(2,572,118)	(2,327,506)
NET PROFIT		19,346	9,823
Other Comprehensive Income			
- Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss when specific conditions are met		-	-
- Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		19,346	9,823

FINANCIAL POSITION

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016

	NOTE	2016 \$	2015 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at Bank and on Hand	12a	400,299	302,765
Receivables		339	226
Accrued Income		22,616	21,720
Term Deposit		800,000	650,000
Other Assets	4	11,239	10,873
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,234,493	9 85,584
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Fixed Assets	5	103,094	154,331
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		103,094	1 54,331
TOTAL ASSETS		1,337,587	1,139,915
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	6	70,094	72,308
Payroll Liabilities	7	58,481	89,414
Grants in Advance	8	90,500	60,000
Employee Provisions	9	285,799	247,589
VLA Unused Funds	10	295,532	162,721
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		800,406	632,032
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee Provisions	9	38,001	28,049
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		38,001	28,049
TOTAL LIABILITIES		838,407	660,081
NET ASSETS		499,180	479,834
EQUITY			
Retained Earnings		499,180	479,834
TOTAL EQUITY		499,180	479,834

CHANGES IN EQUITY

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
RETAINED EARNINGS		
Opening Balance	479,834	470,011
Profit in the current year	19,346	9,823
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
CLOSING BALANCE OF RETAINED EARNINGS	499,180	479,834
TOTAL EQUITY	499,180	479,834

This report includes a summarised version of the Audited Financial Statements. A full version is available on our website www.pclc.org.au

THANK YOU

The work we do and the outcomes we achieve would not be possible without the support of so many who have made financial contributions, provided pro bono support or donated their valuable knowledge and time.

PRO BONO SUPPORTERS

Our pro bono partnership with **Russell Kennedy Lawyers** continues to flourish, the support Russell Kennedy provides strengthens our capability to provide legal services. This past year a total of 209 hours of support was provided including mentoring and training, meeting facilities, funding our client disbursement fund, marketing and business support services at a cost of \$67,096. Special thanks to Victor Harcourt, Principal, Emma Dunlevie, Pro Bono Coordinator, Olivia McMillan Pro Bono Lawyer and the entire Russell Kennedy team.

Halpin Partnership have provided extensive pro bono management consultancy services, the foundations have been laid with the development of our strategic plan and work commencing on our organisational review. We thank Dr Eibhlin Fletcher and Peter Blood for their generous support.

Our **Legal Community** rallied to support our Centre and clients by providing a wide range of pro bono services including special counsel mentoring, professional development training and advocacy to support our clients on a pro bono basis or

significantly reduced fee briefs. We also acknowledge and extend our warmest appreciation to Terry Weerappah who kindly donated his time to conduct two Family Law CPD Workshops with all proceeds raised donated to PCLC client disbursement fund.

LEGAL MENTORS

Amanda Humphreys, *MST Lawyers*
Terry Weerappah, *Bayside Solicitors*

LEGAL ADVOCATES/BARRISTERS

Ivan Brewer
Victoria Campbell
Simon Bright
Zubin Menon
Ashley Richardson
Amanda Graham
Marita Ham
Justice Connect
Women's Legal Service
Bernie Hughes
Victor Moss

The **Peninsula Lawyer Discount Scheme** provides an affordable option for residents in the Rosebud region with legal assistance for those clients where a discount of up to 50% may be offered. Clients are referred to the scheme where the Centre is unable to provide ongoing assistance, do not qualify for legal aid and cannot afford to pay full fees for legal assistance. Special thanks to Michael Moorehead and Villy Raki.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Victoria Campbell, *Barrister*
Victor Moss, *Moss Legal*
Kristen Davis, *Victoria Legal Aid*

SPONSORS

Maurice Blackburn continued to provide valuable support sponsoring our Volunteer Long Service Awards and our Volunteer Encouragement Awards.

Russell Kennedy Lawyers generously supports our client disbursement fund providing much needed assistance to support clients with their disbursements related to their legal matter.

GOVERNMENT

- Australia Government Attorney General's Department
- State Government Victoria Department of Justice and Regulation
- Victoria Legal Aid
- Consumer Affairs Victoria
- City of Glen Eira
- City of Casey
- Frankston City Council
- City of Kingston
- Mornington Peninsula Shire

TRUSTS

- Phyllis Connor Memorial Trust
- The William Angliss (Victoria) Charitable Trust

We also thank our supporters for their additional in kind contributions including Frankston City and Glen Eira Councils for office premises and Victoria Legal Aid, CPD Training and access to Law Guru.



**HEAD
OFFICE**

441 Nepean Highway
Frankston, Vic 3199

Tel: 03 9783 3600

Fax: 03 9770 5200

Free Call: 1800 064 784

DX 19953 Frankston

Email: pclc@pclc.org.au

Hours: Mon – Fri
9am – 5pm

**BENTLEIGH
BRANCH**

82 Brady Road
Bentleigh, Vic 3165

Tel: 03 9570 8455

Hours: Mon & Thurs
evening

**CRANBOURNE
BRANCH**

Bella Centre
Suite 12
33-39 High Street
Cranbourne, Vic 3977

Tel: 03 5995 3722

Hours: Mon – Fri
9am – 5pm

**PINES
BRANCH**

28 Mahogany Avenue
Frankston North, Vic 3200

Tel: 03 9786 6980

Hours: By Appointment

**ROSEBUD
BRANCH**

1375 Point Nepean Road
Rosebud, Vic 3939

Tel: 03 5981 2422

Hours: Mon, Wed & Thurs
9am – 5pm

Peninsula Community
Legal Centre Inc

www.pclc.org.au

Reg A8T
ABN: 23591244622

