



# FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES VIC



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
2019 – 2020

# ABOUT THE FEDERATION

**WE WANT A COMMUNITY THAT IS FAIR, INCLUSIVE AND THRIVING: WHERE EVERY PERSON BELONGS AND CAN LEARN, GROW, HEAL, PARTICIPATE AND BE HEARD.**

The Federation is the peak body for Victoria's Community Legal Centres. Our members are at the forefront of helping those facing economic, cultural or social disadvantage and whose life circumstances are severely affected by their legal problem.

For over 40 years Community Legal Centres have been part of a powerful movement for social change, reshaping how people access justice, creating stronger more equitable laws, and more accountable government and democracy.

We pursue our vision of a fair, inclusive and thriving community through challenging injustice, defending rights and building the power of our members and communities.

The Federation:

- ▼ Enables a strong collective voice for justice and equality;
- ▼ Mobilises and leads Community Legal Centres in strategic, well-coordinated advocacy and campaigns;
- ▼ Works with members to continuously improve the impact of community legal services;
- ▼ Drives creativity and excellence in the delivery of legal services to communities;
- ▼ Helps make justice more accessible.

Read our strategic plan online [fclc.org.au/about](http://fclc.org.au/about)

## OUR PRINCIPLES

### COMMUNITY

Our priority is to be fully accountable to the communities we serve and belong to.

### SOLIDARITY

**With each other.** Community Legal Centres are a part of a movement for justice. We must work together to be a powerful, effective voice. We practice our principles through our engagement with each other. We back each other up, make time and space for everyone's viewpoints to be heard, and act collectively, with a focus on long-term, systemic change.

### With communities most affected by injustice.

We recognise that people and communities most directly affected by injustice and discrimination are experts in their own lives and have their own voices. We are allies, not saviours.

### STAND WITH FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

We celebrate the strength, leadership and resilience of First Nations Peoples. We recognise the ongoing injustices perpetrated against them, and we stand with them in fighting for self-determination and equality.

### RESPECT

In all of our work, we show respect. We acknowledge and celebrate differences and commonalities, and the strength that diversity brings to our communities.

### LEARNING

We are inquisitive and reflective, committed to adapting and growing in response to evidence about what works, and to sharing our learning with our communities. We learn from our success and failure.

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 **THE FEDERATION ACKNOWLEDGES THE ORIGINAL CUSTODIANS OF COUNTRY AND WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO ELDERS PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING. WE RECOGNISE THEIR CONTINUING CONNECTION TO LAND, WATER AND COMMUNITY. SOVEREIGNTY WAS NEVER CEDED.**

# CHAIR AND CEO REPORT

It's no stretch to say that 2019/2020 has been one of the most unusual we've ever seen, and while we have no doubt seen challenges, throughout this time we have also seen the best of people coming together.

For the Federation and community legal centres, it's been a time of major change and upheaval, but it's also been a time of action and collaboration. Together we've achieved some real outcomes that will continue to have a great impact on the communities we work in.

The Federation and its members along with Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) have developed a Specialist Family Violence Court (SFVC) Legal Practice Model to better address the needs of family violence victim-survivors in local communities. And despite the impact of COVID-19 on the justice sector, we are making good progress on designing and delivering more integrated client-focused services at Victoria's SFVCs.

We also supported centres through the National Accreditation Scheme and implemented a strong training program to support CLCs in the important role they play in the community. In particular we facilitated Governance training for CLC boards and senior leaders to give them the tools and confidence to lead a strong community legal sector. The Federation is committed to supporting and working with members to build a culture of continuous improvement, robust governance and excellence in service delivery.

And we have continued to support members to improve their data quality and capability which will provide a better understanding of the services CLCs provide within their communities and of the unmet legal need.

We continued to support community collaboration through administration of the Integrated Services Fund on behalf of the Victorian Government, which supports community legal centres' pioneering work with partner organisations to address individuals' legal, medical and social concerns more holistically.

## THE CENTRAL ROLE OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPERATIVE THAN DURING THESE TIMES.

And welcomed a further \$1.8 million in funding for nine community legal centres and Aboriginal Legal Services to deliver integrated services within their communities.

Because we know that working effectively means continually reviewing services, we commissioned the report *Meeting People Where They Are, Delivering Integrated Legal Community Services* to better understand the impact, effectiveness and opportunities for integrated services.

The bushfires at the end of 2019, pushing into 2020 devastated many communities and local residents and support services came together to support those most in need. Victoria's community legal centres joined local support organisations to provide advice and assistance.

The Federation, as part of Disaster Legal Help Victoria and working with community legal centres, helped to identify community needs, raise awareness of the challenges and provide relevant support.

After ongoing advocacy with government and department staff, we worked with the State Government and were pleased to welcome \$5.1 million funding in Federal Government funding for the legal assistance sector.

No sooner were the fires out, than we were met with a virus unlike anything we have experienced. COVID-19 spread throughout the world, impacting us all like nothing before it. It forced our communities to rethink everything, how schooling was delivered, how we worked and how we operated together as a community.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been significant on the community legal sector as well as the Federation. The pandemic will have wide ranging financial, economic and social impacts on individuals and communities across Victoria for years. It has, in equal measure, created significant areas of legal need, while also seriously impacting on the ability of the community legal sector and support organisations to meet those demands.

The Federation has continued to work with community legal centres and the government throughout, raising awareness of the impact of the pandemic on our communities, advocating for funding and monitoring the impact of changing laws on those in our community most impacted by economic, social and cultural disadvantage.

Alongside community legal centres we have worked to ensure family violence remote referrals could continue, and created dedicated resources for CLC family violence legal referrals.

The Federation and community legal centres have also played a crucial role in helping ensure Victorians can keep a roof over their heads during the pandemic.

When the pandemic hit, we began advocating on behalf of the sector to ensure the community could access the help they need. We welcomed an announcement by Victorian Attorney General Jill Hennessy of \$17.5 million in additional funding for frontline legal assistance services in response to the pandemic.

Our ongoing work resulted in the Federation being asked to appear at the Victorian Parliament's Public Accounts and Estimates Committee on work being done by community legal centres in response to the pandemic and the ongoing need for further action.

Never has the work of community legal centres been more greatly needed, or the importance of a fairer Victoria been more crucial than at this time.



KRISTEN WALLWORK  
CHAIRPERSON



SERINA MCDUFF  
CEO

# IMPROVING OUR IMPACT RESPONDING TO A PANDEMIC

It's not a stretch to say COVID-19 has affected every aspect of our lives. Before the pandemic it would have been unthinkable to imagine students attending school from home, shops closed and public transport just about empty during peak hour.

None of us could have imagined what 2020 would bring, or what living through a global pandemic actually means.

COVID-19 has completely upended the world we knew. The impact for many has been disastrous. It is a time when more and more Victorians need access to support services, but it is also a time when reaching those people has never been harder.

Isolation and forced lockdowns has meant face-to-face services are no longer possible, providing advice on available services during gatherings or in public spaces is prohibited and often the only way services can be delivered – either court services or in person consultations - is via technology.

Coupled with that is the introduction of new laws, and the expectation that communities are across, understand and can abide by those laws with little to no warning.

**The COVID-19 health crisis will have wide ranging financial, economic and social impacts on individuals and communities across Victoria, creating significant areas of legal need while seriously impacting the ability of the community legal sector to meet demand.**

CLCs across Victoria felt this impact early. Uncertainty around legal rights and obligations combined with mass job losses has led to unprecedented demand for free legal assistance in relation to tenancy, employment and social security law matters. Combined with that is an increase in family violence issues.



© FEDERATION STAFF MEET IN 2020.  
PHOTO BY ADRIAN DUNCAN

## INCREASING KEY ISSUES

 FAMILY VIOLENCE

 TENANCY

 EMPLOYMENT

 SOCIAL SECURITY

As employers make workforce decisions that lead to redundancies, reduced work hours and disputes about entitlements, more and more people are seeking advice from community legal centres about employment issues.

Tenancy issues have increased as tenants seek to better understand their legal rights when it comes to rental agreements.

We know that during disasters instances of family violence rise, and the pandemic has proved no different. As well as violence against a partner, other types of family violence are also felt, including elder abuse, economic abuse and the exposure of children to seeing and/or experiencing violence directly.

Demand for assistance with these issues will remain at elevated levels during the post-crisis recovery period, while levels of need in relation to other types of legal problems will grow as restrictions and stimulus packages come to an end but financial and economic pressures remain.



The virus has also increased the need for greater clarity and advice in relation to social security assistance. Government changes to the national social security scheme, the introduction of JobKeeper and JobSeeker payments have led to greater confusion among the community and more Victorians are in need of government support services than ever before, many of whom need help navigating the complex application and eligibility processes for the first time.

Social Security Rights Victoria (SSRV) and generalist community legal centres have navigated these changes providing advice and assistance to help the community make sense of these challenges.

Meanwhile the Victoria-New South Wales border has closed for the first time in 100 years, adding to the complexity of helping the local community for organisations, including Hume Riverina Community Legal Service.

People living on the border frequently travel between states to access medical appointments, healthcare, childcare, and schooling, courts, for child contact purposes and for many other reasons. Residents often have legal challenges that cross borders and require multiple agencies from both sides of the border to reach a resolution. This has created its own set of challenges from a legal perspective.

The Federation with CLCs have played a vital role in advocating for the rights of community. We have continued to push for fairer emergency measures laws, regulations and practice changes in response to COVID-19 - for tenants, for consumers, for people in custody including children and people seeking asylum, for victim-survivors and for people with mental health issues.

We worked with our members and the State Government to raise awareness of the added pressure these changes have had, and will continue to have on need for community legal services.

In June the Federation welcomed more than \$14 million in State and Federation Government funding to help the sector deal with the added burden the pandemic has created.

LODDON CAMPASPE  
COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE

# MARYBOROUGH THERAPEUTIC JUSTICE PROJECT

Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre (LCCLC) partners with the Maryborough District Health Service (MDHS) to deliver the Maryborough Therapeutic Justice Project (MTJP). This project aims to provide integrated legal-health services to clients with complex needs, including people at risk of offending, parents involved with Child Protection, and people affected by or using family violence. The project team comprises a Lawyer and a Social Worker who work closely with other local service providers to connect clients with the supports they need to address the issues contributing to their legal problems.

During COVID-19, the project team changed the way in which it operates, moving largely to remote delivery of legal services. Through the partnership with MDHS, the project 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 project Social Worker was able to facilitate supervised video-call contact for parents and children.

The team also joined the Central Goldfields Pandemic Relief and Recovery Committee during this time. 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 enables the project team to work collaboratively with other stakeholders and ensure a wraparound 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. Project staff are also working with the Central Goldfields Pandemic Relief and Recovery Committee to develop an Action Plan around mental health, financial security, housing and safety – including all the associated legal issues.

## LEADING SERVICE DESIGN

# RISING TO THE CHALLENGES OF A NATURAL DISASTER



# 300+

homes lost in the Victoria black summer bushfires

“THE ABILITY OF FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TO RECOVER AND MOVE ON AFTER A DISASTER CAN BE SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY THEIR ABILITY TO ACCESS HELP TO DEAL WITH THEIR LEGAL ISSUES.”

© BUSHFIRE SURVIVORS - A MOTHER KANGAROO AND HER JOEY IN MALLACOOTA

At a time when communities were getting ready for Christmas celebrations and the holiday season, Australians watched in horror as fires sparked across the country.

The bushfires devastated local communities. In Victoria, more than 300 homes were lost and countless businesses were destroyed or, at the least, heavily impacted.

History tells us that when the threat is past the full impact of the devastation slowly becomes apparent. It's then that individuals, households and communities turn to their local support services to try and rebuild the threads of their lives. Community Legal Centres form a vital part of that support structure.

“CLCs have always advocated and stood for local communities and servicing, particularly during and after a disaster. That's why we have local CLCs, they are entrenched in and are a vital part of the community.”

- LORRAINE MURRAY, GIPPSLAND COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE

The full legal implications of a situation may not be apparent in those early days following a disaster, or may take some time to develop.

In the aftermath of the bushfires, Community Legal Centres began helping their local communities with a wide range of legal issues, from insurance law problems to tenancy and mortgages, social security and wills and estates, as well as family violence.

If not addressed, these problems can escalate and place significant burden on individuals, families and communities. They can lead to bankruptcy, ill health, psychological distress or homelessness.

But this year, with the threat of the pending legal issues escalating after the worst of the bushfires was over, a second threat emerged. COVID-19.

And so, when people would normally begin reaching out to support networks, the rising pandemic changed the way services could be delivered and meant reaching out to communities in need, raising awareness of the services that could help them, moved from face-to-face to digital.

People need to understand their legal rights when it comes to a range of issues, including housing, job losses and consumer scams.

The inability to provide face-to-face advice to communities at large has meant Community Legal Centres have worked tirelessly to adapt their services.

As well as helping the local community Gippsland Community Legal Service, for instance, found themselves explaining to local residents how to use Zoom and other technology in place of face-to-face meetings for when technology was restored and available within communities.

As a member of Disaster Legal Help Victoria (DLHV), the Federation worked closely with Community Legal Centres, Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations including VALS and Djirra as well as on-the-ground specialists to help coordinate the local community legal sector's response to bushfire recovery.

Organisations met weekly with specialist and local CLCs and Aboriginal legal services in the affected areas to support the sector to mobilise, and ensure DLHV has been kept informed by the local experience and expertise of the community legal sector.

Meanwhile, Gippsland Community Legal Service with the help of the Federation created a one-page checklist to help local support services more easily assess legal needs during a crisis.

The Federation is proud to have seen its members repeatedly step up and mobilise to respond to natural disasters despite working with constrained resources and in particularly difficult conditions.

# HEALTH JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP

## HOLISTIC AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE OUTREACH (HALO) PROJECT

The impact from the bushfires will be felt well into the future and we are ready to give people legal advice to help them recover from this disaster, and provide support as they confront their challenges. The quick response from the legal sector, using lessons from the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires, meant people needing help immediately could access legal assistance without having to jump over hurdles.

The strong relationship with Gateway Health, built over years of our successful Holistic and Legal Assistance Outreach (HALO) project, helped us connect seamlessly with all the key support services, as Gateway took the lead locally in the bushfire recovery phase for North East Victoria. We also work closely with the financial counselling program within our auspice Upper Murray Family Care, to ensure we are reaching people who might have legal problems as a result of the fires.

"As a community legal centre, we have seen the benefits of being imbedded inside other community services, and the importance of establishing referral pathways, sharing information and providing legal health check training for non-legal services." - SARAH RODGERS, MANAGER AND PRINCIPAL LAWYER, HUME RIVERINA COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE



© BUSHFIRE MEETING IN BRIGHT, 27 FEBRUARY 2020 - HELEN COLLINS (NLG SOLICITORS), TIM MAY (TONER AND MAY LEGAL), SARAH RODGERS (HRCLS), ALICIA SEMPLE (VLSB), SUSAN OUGHAM (SKINNER & ASSOCIATES), PIPPA WEEKS (TONER AND MAY LEGAL), SAM PANDYA (LIV PRESIDENT), CAM COATES (NELAPRESIDENT AMANDATONER'S PARTNER), FIONA MCLEAY (VLSB COMMISSIONER), AND SARAH NOTARIANNI (MAURICE BLACKBURN)

# IMPACT INFOGRAPHIC

VICTORIAN COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES; HELPING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

92,086  
Legal matters



28,750  Family Law matters

17,059  Domestic Violence Protection Orders

6,706  Consumer credit and debt matters

5,853  Domestic/Family Violence concerns

3,518  Housing issues

2,761  Employment concerns

\*Figures reflect those reported through CLASS only. Actual figures may be higher.

## FEDERATION OUTREACH

 COVID updates - 13

 Meetings with ministers - 50

 Media outreach - 7

Meetings with DJCS - 46

 Submissions - 5

 Public statements - 4

Appearance at Public Accounts and Estimates Committee hearing into the impact of COVID-19

# SMART JUSTICE FOR WOMEN

The Federation has convened Smart Justice, a coalition of more than 60 legal and social services organisations for over 10 years. In 2019, the Federation created a new subcommittee, Smart Justice for Women (SJFW) with a focus on building a coordinated policy and advocacy response to the increasing rate of women's incarceration.

SJFW is a coalition of legal services, Aboriginal organisations (VALS and Djirra), community organisations, service and housing providers, and academics across Victoria that share concern for the rising numbers of women at risk of engaging with the criminal justice system and being incarcerated in Victoria.

The group was created to influence policy, champion fairness and equality, and highlight criminal justice policies that reduce crime, based on evidence and in line with human rights obligations. These goals are outlined in SJFW's terms of reference.

The Federation has appointed the Law and Advocacy Centre for Women as Co-Chair of SJFW so that the group can be led by CLC sector expertise on women at risk of engaging with the criminal justice system.



The number of women in prison in Victoria, particularly the number of Aboriginal women, has been increasing over the past decade. Prior to COVID-19, this growth was largely due to amendments to the Bail Act 1977 (Vic) making it more difficult for women to get bail, particularly if they have been accused of committing a breach of bail offence. Women also have more extensive offending histories than previously, including in relation to drug use or possession.

As part of this work, the Federation is coordinating three expert working groups to develop policy platforms for SJFW that will guide future advocacy work. The working groups focus on housing, justice reform including bail, sentencing and parole reform and changes to policing practices, and service system reform including supports for issues relating to mental health, family violence and alcohol and other drugs.

**IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 90 PER CENT OF WOMEN IN PRISON ARE VICTIM-SURVIVORS. SJFW IS WORKING TOWARDS BRINGING THESE ISSUES TO THE ATTENTION OF POLICY DECISION-MAKERS TO ENSURE JUSTICE RESPONSES TAKE A SYSTEM-WIDE AND HOLISTIC APPROACH TO REDUCING INCARCERATION.**

SJFW aims to respond to these issues by changing community and government attitudes towards women at risk of engaging with the criminal justice system, and recommending reforms that take a system-wide and holistic approach to reducing incarceration. SJFW aims to increase community understanding and awareness of issues impacting on women in the system and increasing support for reforms that will ultimately reduce the incarceration of women.

The coalition recognises that there are links between increases in the number of women in prison, unfair legislative responses in Victoria, and issues with the support service system and housing options for women at risk of family violence or homelessness.

# ADDRESSING FAMILY VIOLENCE

Stories of family violence and the experiences of victim-survivors, or worse, the loss of lives through domestic violence, seem to be becoming all too prevalent across our media.

This year, with the combined disasters of the Victorian bushfires and COVID-19, sadly those stories have only increased in number.

History tells us when there is a natural disaster, instances of family violence escalate.

Across Victoria Community Legal Centres have assisted in more than 17,059 Family Violence Intervention Orders and 5853 Family Violence concerns in this reporting period.

There is still a long way to go to ensure the best support for those who need it. But there have also been some gains over the past 12 months.

The opening of Victoria's first specialist family violence courts (SFVCs) in late 2019 was an important step in creating a safer community for victim-survivors of family violence.

SFVCs are better placed, equipped and resourced to respond to the needs of victim-survivors, they promote perpetrator accountability and provide safer outcomes, in part because they provide funding for legal services before, during and after court.

The Federation and its members along with Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) have developed an SFVC Legal Practice Model to better address the needs of family violence victim-survivors in local communities. And despite the impact of COVID-19 on the justice sector, we are making good progress on designing and delivering more integrated client-focused services at Victoria's SFVCs.

The Federation and its members focused on achieving effective and supportive mechanisms pre-court, changing the experience of people who go through the system, and ensuring community legal centres are adequately resourced to provide the support clients need.

Since the start of COVID-19, community legal services have seen how SFVCs use integrated and innovative practices to address court backlogs and respond to client needs through early intervention. SFVC locations have been able to respond more quickly to implement processes that are client-focused and to better facilitate referrals to duty lawyer services.

Victoria's Orange Doors program has been an important step in providing a single entry point into services to help victim-survivors of family violence.

## 17,000+

Family Violence Intervention Orders assisted in by Victorian Community Legal Centres for this reporting period (2019-2020)

The Federation helped advise and inform the program, ensuring that legal assistance is considered at the governance level. Feedback from other services in the Orange Doors has highlighted that Community Legal Centres, while not integrated in the Hubs, are crucial to victim-survivor support and to providing support to those agencies in the Hubs.

The impact of COVID-19 has made its presence felt across every aspect of our community, and sadly the family violence sector is no different. We have seen instances of family violence increase, while access to support mechanisms and even simply the ability to get out of the house and away from the perpetrator has decreased.

The Federation has played an integral role in supporting the sector to adapt and collaborate to meet the needs of and protect family violence victim-survivors during COVID-19.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Federation has worked with Victoria Legal Aid, the Magistrates' Court of Victoria, Victoria Police, Family Safety Victoria and family violence services to:

- ▼ ensure ongoing access to legal assistance for family violence and related matters, such as parenting arrangements, housing and temporary visa issues, through early and effective referrals;
- ▼ improve court processes in relation to Family Violence Intervention Orders (FVIOs); and
- ▼ establish legal assistance referral pathways for victim-survivors in 'hard' lock down premises.

The Federation has worked closely with members and the broader legal assistance sector to ensure innovations that have enhanced access to protection and justice for victim-survivors during the pandemic are retained when restrictions are eventually lifted.

## SUPPORTING REMOTE SERVICE DELIVERY

Throughout the pandemic we've all had to find new ways of working. To help with this shift, the Federation has developed a number of resources to support the transition to remote service delivery and to encourage pre-court legal service referrals from courts, Victoria Police and family violence services including:

- State-wide family violence legal referral site: a comprehensive online CLC referral source for family violence services (including Orange Doors), courts, Victoria Police, Emergency Management Victoria, community services and the general public who might be looking for legal assistance.
- Victoria Police muster room poster: with VLA, the Federation created a legal services promotional poster for police, which outlines the benefits of early referrals to legal services and encourages police to make pre-court legal service referrals to increase family safety and reduce breaches of family violence intervention orders.
- COVID-19 Family Violence FAQ factsheets: The Federation and members co-created two COVID-19 family violence FAQ factsheets for family violence workers in conjunction with VLA. The factsheets support family violence workers with commonly asked questions about family violence legal issues during COVID-19 and encourage referrals to appropriate legal services.

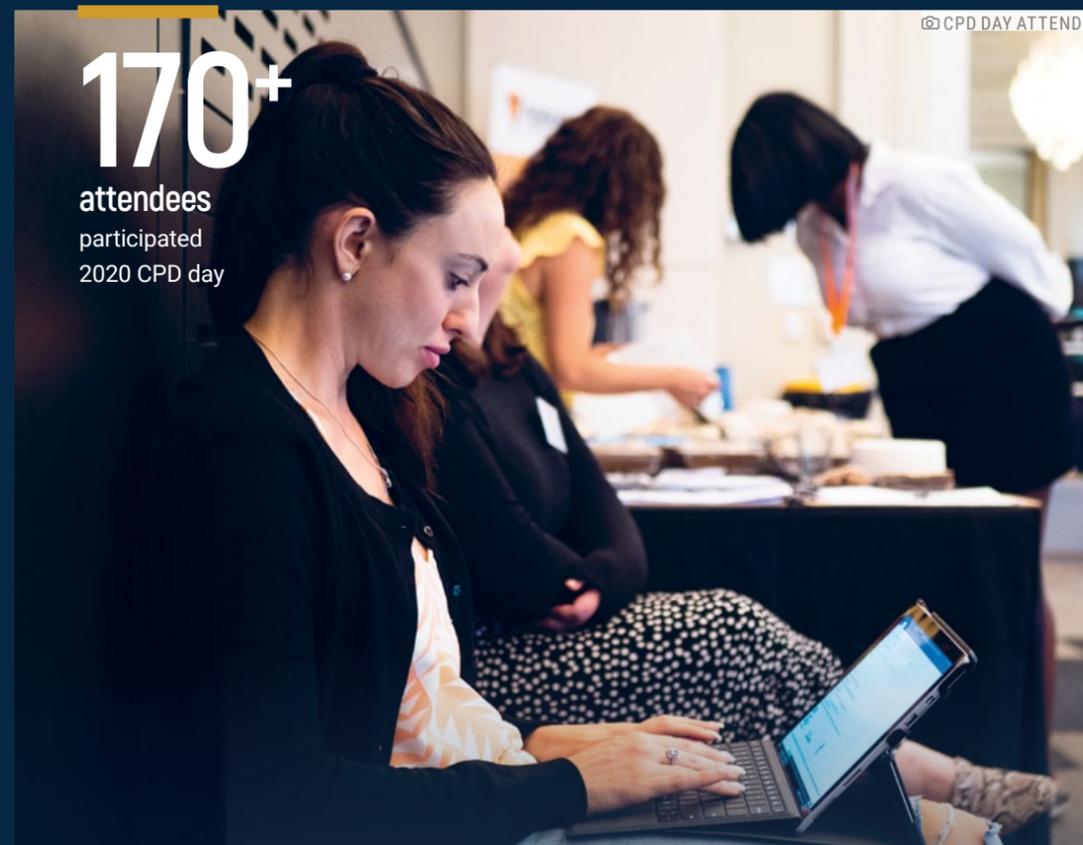
## BUILDING CAPACITY FOR A FAIRER VICTORIA

# CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Engaging, diverse, inspiring, well organised, relevant, informative and feeling connected are just some of the responses used by the 170 attendees describing the Federation's 2020 CPD day

The Legal Services Board + Commissioner provided an overview of their priority areas while the Victorian Law Foundation gave insights on the role of data in organisational planning, monitoring and evaluation. Community specialists demonstrated excellence in service delivery through their client-centred approach.

We learned about Australia's only community justice court, how it feels to participate in the Banking Royal Commission while supporting clients to give evidence and subsequent law reform. Integrated Practice was put under the spotlight as a panel shared benefits, challenges and ways to balance professional and ethical obligations in multidisciplinary teams. We navigated the major reforms to rental laws and an interactive workshop on the climate crisis encouraged us to consider how we can modify services to better meet the new needs of local communities, reflecting on what we learned from the bushfires.



# 170+

attendees  
participated  
2020 CPD day

@CPD DAY ATTENDEE

**"PROFESSIONALLY ORGANISED EVENT THAT FLOWED SMOOTHLY WITH A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS, GREAT SPEAKERS, WITH GREAT FACILITIES"** - CPD DAY ATTENDEE

**"I HAVEN'T BEEN TO ONE IN A FEW YEARS, THIS ONE WAS SO MUCH BETTER THAN THE ONES I REMEMBER. EVERY SESSION WAS INTERESTING AND HELPFUL TO MY WORK OR MY INTERESTS."** - CPD DAY ATTENDEE

*"So impressed with the presentations and dedication."*

- CPD DAY ATTENDEE

# LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

CPD DAY 2020

A strong community legal sector is underpinned by ongoing learning and development opportunities and this year, the Federation has redoubled its efforts to offer programs that meet industry needs and sector interests.

The Federation worked with the Professional Standards and Support (PSS) Committee to identify opportunities for building capacity across the sector, reshape the way important information is disseminated and to discover ways to make other senior lawyers and managers part of the conversation.



© PRINCIPAL LAWYERS WORKSHOP: R BRENDAN LACOTA, JUSTICE CONNECT MARTIN HA, BRIMBANK MELTON COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE MARQUITA NOLAN, NORTHERN COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE KATE ROSS, PENINSULA COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE JOANNE CARLTON, MOONEE VALLEY LEGAL SERVICE AMANDA STOREY, CONSUMER ACTION LAW CENTRE

## ACCREDITATION

The review of the revised National Accreditation Scheme (NAS) was finalised with Phase 3 aiming to:

- ▼ deliver a more nuanced Scheme that is responsive to organisational development and sector maturity;
- ▼ acknowledge achievement and high performance;
- ▼ help CLCs take greater ownership of continuous quality improvement;
- ▼ support early intervention strategies when CLCs experience organisational change; and
- ▼ build on compliance and evidence requirements (including Governance, strategy and risk).

A state-wide webinar was delivered to the sector, and was attended by more than 40 members. This detailed how Phase 3 certifications will continue during COVID-19 and provided opportunities for Q&A. The Federation continues to participate in sustained engagement with the sector and key stakeholders.

## LGBTIQ+ PRACTICE TOOLKIT

The Federation remains actively engaged with the emerging needs of its members and their communities. The Federation assisted St Kilda LGBTIQ Legal Service to better serve the community through the national *LGBTIQ+ Inclusive Practice Toolkit* for CLC's. The toolkit focuses on practical aspects of creating safe and inclusive legal services. Training was conducted after the launch and ongoing support will be provided for members to implement the toolkit and its accompanying policies within the administration of the NAS.



© NATIONAL LGBTIQ+ INCLUSIVE PRACTICE TOOLKIT FOR COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES (L-R: VLF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LYNNE HAULTAIN, LGBTIQ SERVICE OUTREACH LAWYER SAMELKIN, FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE'S MANAGER, QUALITY & IMPACT NATALIE HALLAM, FORMER ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE EXECUTIVE OFFICER ANNIE DAVIS)

## TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE

To better understand the impact of COVID-19 on CLCs, the Federation conducted a survey on changes to service delivery. The survey showed many frontline workers felt isolated, lonely, and that their wellbeing was a concern. In response, the Federation co-designed a Trauma Informed Practice training program for CLCs.

## GOVERNANCE

The Federation is working with members to provide high level governance training. Tailored sessions for CLC boards and CEOs were attended by 36 Board directors, chairpersons and CEOs from the community legal sector. Feedback indicated the majority of attendees found it useful, relevant, informative and engaging.

# IMPACTFUL LEADERS

## CONTINUING SECTOR GOVERNANCE TRAINING

To help lift the profile of Community Legal Centres and enhance capacity building of the sector overall, the Federation introduced governance training for all CLC board members and CEOs in 2019.

Professional Development is all about making our sector as effective as it can be, and impactful leaders are the heart of that aim.

They help drive the community legal sector, creating community change and fighting for fair, while governing their organisations to operate efficiently and to the highest levels of success.

Governance training ensures our sector leaders are ready for the complex world in which we operate. It adds value to CLCs, and ultimately enhances Board and individual CEO performance overall. In addition, Members of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) can claim professional development points through the training.

The need for training was determined through the National Accreditation Scheme (NAS) and the Federation piloted an initial Governance Training program in partnership with Integrity Governance in 2019. Since then the Federation has continued to offer sessions, building on the pilot module and incorporating sector feedback.

Results to date have been excellent, with 100 per cent of participants agreeing the training was relevant and that they would recommend it to others.



## INFRINGEMENTS WORKING GROUP

CONVENORS 2019-2020: CAMERON LAVERY AND HANNAH LEWIS (JUSTICE CONNECT), JOANNE PARKIN (UNITING REGEN), SHIFRAH BLUSTEIN (WESTJUSTICE),

The Infringements Working Group (IWG) is a joint-working group of the Federation, Victoria Legal Aid and Financial Counselling Victoria. The IWG involves 38 member organisations, drawing on the experience of frontline professionals who help Victorians who are disproportionately affected by fines. In 2019-2020, IWG highlights included:

1. **Making fines reform more effective and accessible** – The IWG directly consulted with and made a detailed submission to the Fines Reform Advisory Board, sharing 10 constructive calls for change to improve Victoria's fines reform process and the wider-infringements system for vulnerable Victorians. The IWG will continue to actively engage with the Victorian Government to ensure best-practice implementation of the Board's recommendations.
2. **Reducing the impact of fines during and after COVID-19** – As part of the IWG's rapid response to COVID-19, we collaborated with VCOSS to help achieve significant infringements policy and practice-based changes, particularly related to enforcement, which have directly benefitted those most at-risk during the pandemic. The IWG continues to call for ongoing protections and better approaches to infringements as part of COVID-19 and the recovery phase, including so that the growing number of Victorians facing financial and housing insecurity are not entrenched in the justice system.
3. **Safer infringements outcomes for victim-survivors of family violence** – The IWG maintained our longstanding priority advocacy to make the fines system safer and fairer for victim-survivors of family violence. This included consultations and an evidence-based position paper to the Victorian Government regarding the infringements Family Violence Scheme statutory review, a tailored submission to the Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor, and ongoing, collaborative work with VicRoads to improve vehicle registration transfer processes.
4. **Securing more consistent and transparent infringements internal review guidelines** – Through a targeted submission and regular engagement with Fines Victoria, the IWG influenced positive changes to the infringements internal review process, which will help Victorians facing social disadvantage to exit the fines system earlier.

## WORKING TOGETHER

# INTEGRATED SERVICES

We know that working effectively means continually reviewing and evaluating the work that we do. Our Integrated Services Report shone a spotlight on the role of Integrated Services to better identify and support those within our communities at risk of injustice.

In FY2020, the Victorian Government provided \$1.8 million in funding for nine Community Legal Centres and Aboriginal Legal Services to deliver integrated services within their communities, building on the funding committed by the Department of Justice and Regulation, now the Department of Justice and Community Safety, for the Grants Program for Integrated Services 2019-20.

We know that people do not experience legal challenges in a vacuum and that life circumstances can both mask and compound legal issues. And sometimes, it is not until an individual seeks help for a life issue that underlying legal problems become apparent.

That's why Integrated Services are so important to local communities. They help individuals recognize legal challenges and make it easier for them to seek the support they need.

Community legal workers work collaboratively with other community professionals such as social workers, financial counsellors, school communities and health providers to provide holistic support to people experiencing disadvantage to address those overlapping issues.

In its review of the effectiveness of Integrated Services, funded by the Department of Justice and Community Safety, the Federation sought to better understand the impact, effectiveness and opportunities for the future of integrated services.

The result was the report *Meeting People Where They Are, Delivering Integrated Legal Community Services*.

The report found integrated services require a long-term commitment and sustained resources to ensure successful outcomes for both clients and partner organisations.

From this report we know that strong partnerships lead to better outcomes for the community. When services have protocols and dedicated partnership coordinators and dedicated funding Integrated Services are more likely to work and will provide better outcomes for the community. But shared vision, trust and commitment are also necessary for success.

Services work best when they are "person-centred", when they are embedded in local communities and are responsive to client needs and when they have well-developed referral processes in place. Person-centred means assessing the person holistically, not just the issue under focus. It means understanding a person's whole story and not just a part of it.

The Federation has established a Community of Practice (CoP) for Community Legal Centres running Integrated Services.

The CoP is open to any Victorian Community Legal Centre who is delivering integrated services, and their partner organisations, to share with and learn from other legal and community professionals who are working in integrated service settings.

IF WE DON'T SUPPORT THE MOST VULNERABLE, MOST ISOLATED, MOST DISENFRANCHISED, MOST IN NEED, THEN WE CANNOT CLAIM THAT OUR SYSTEM IS FAIR AND EQUITABLE. WE HAVE TO ASK OURSELVES, WHAT SORT OF SOCIETY DO WE WANT TO LIVE IN?

- COMMUNITY LAWYER, MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE, DELIVERING INTEGRATED COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES REPORT

## INTERGRATED SERVICE PARTNERSHIPS

### CONSUMER ACTION LAW CENTRE

Delivering integrated consumer, credit and debt legal services to Victorian Aboriginal communities in partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service which both resolve issues for individuals and ensures that campaign and advocacy attention is given to the systemic issues that are identified as impacting on communities.

### FITZROY LEGAL SERVICE

Assisting community members in Darebin with legal problems where alcohol and other drug use is an underlying factor.

### FLEMINGTON AND KENSINGTON COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE

The Policing Family Violence: Changing the Story provides collaborative legal casework, complaints and advocacy support to survivors of family violence.

### INNER MELBOURNE COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE

A Health Justice Partnership with Royal Melbourne Hospital, which provides advice, casework, community legal education, strategic policy work and develop a promotional video.

### LAW & ADVOCACY CENTRE FOR WOMEN LTD.

Providing pathways out of the justice system for socially and economically disadvantaged women who are in or at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

### LODDON CAMPASPE COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE - ADVOCACY AND RIGHTS CENTRE.

Health Justice Partnership - an integrated legal-health service for clients with complex needs that enables early intervention support for clients who are at risk of coming in to contact with the criminal justice system.

### SENIORS RIGHTS VICTORIA AT COTA VIC.

Supporting those who have been recently diagnosed with dementia to plan ahead and to make informed choices about their future financial, health or care arrangements, and ensuring those choices are recorded in an appropriate legal format.

### SOCIAL SECURITY RIGHTS VICTORIA

Designing, implementing and evaluating an integrated service, which brings together social security law specialists and financial counsellors to work more effectively and improve client outcomes.

### SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE.

Sporting Change: empowering and educating diverse young people to engage more constructively in society by using sport to teach them about the justice system and increase access to justice through an integrated school lawyer.

## OUR TEAM

Chief Executive Officer	Serina McDuff
Director of Policy and Engagement	Shorna Moore
Finance Officer	Deborah Wilson
Senior Legal Policy Adviser	Lara Freidin
Senior Legal Policy Adviser	Laura Burke
Senior Policy Adviser	Michelle Reynolds
Senior Adviser, Sector Strategy and Development	Deborah Lawson
Quality and Impact Manager	Natalie Hallam
Impact and Evaluation Coordinator	Kim Johnson
Senior Communications Adviser	Diane Squires
Data Lead	Kieran Prendergast
Office Coordinator	Rosanna Di Grazia
Training Coordinator	Gabby Talmadge
Human Resources Advisor	Tanya Sawtell
Executive Assistant	Jayde Giggins
Intern	Jan Oh

### FORMER STAFF

Policy and Engagement Adviser	Jeanette Nkrumah
Project Manager – Stories of Strength	Tarneen Onus-Williams
Senior Policy Adviser	David Mejia-Canales

## OUR BOARD

Chairperson	Kristen Wallwork (Springvale Monash Legal Service)
Treasurer	James Ferguson (KPMG)
Secretary	Jackie Galloway (Peninsula Community Legal Centre)
General members	Zana Bytheway (JobWatch)
	Claudia Fatone (Fitzroy Legal Service)
	Chris Povey (Justice Connect)
	Hayley Mansfield (ARC Justice)

YOUR SUPPORT HAS HELPED US  
ADVOCATE FOR A FAIRER VICTORIA...

# THANK YOU

## FUNDING AND SUPPORT

### FUNDERS

Victoria Legal Aid	Legal Services Board + Commissioner
Department of Justice and Community Safety	

### SPONSORSHIP, IN KIND AND PRO BONO

City of Melbourne	Maddocks
Clayton Utz	Minter Ellison
DLA Piper	Norton Rose Fulbright
Holding Redlich	Russell Kennedy Lawyers
King & Wood Mallesons	Victorian Council of Social Services

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES FORM PART OF THIS FINANCIAL REPORT.

	Note	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
<b>INCOME</b>			
Victoria Legal Aid - Recurrent	7(a)	758,996	696,497
VLA - ERO State	7(a)	298,315	210,408
VLA - ERO Extra	7(a)	-	-
Victoria Legal Aid - Other Income	7(b)	-	63,089
Grant Income - Other Projects		2,947,216	2,519,566
Other Income		166,676	102,645
Interest		28,324	36,517
		<u>4,199,527</u>	<u>3,628,722</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Employee benefit expenses		1,360,642	1,213,536
Occupancy expenses		50,866	22,680
Operating expenses		120,572	103,132
Project related expenses		2,463,680	2,217,540
		<u>3,995,760</u>	<u>3,556,888</u>
Surplus before income tax		203,767	71,834
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus after income tax		203,767	71,834
Other comprehensive income net of income tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income attributable to the entity		<u>203,767</u>	<u>71,834</u>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	1,314,671	2,513,199
Trade and other receivables	3	403,091	17,443
Financial assets	4	1,422,328	1,399,459
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>3,140,090</u>	<u>3,930,101</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	5	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>3,140,090</u>	<u>3,930,101</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	6	201,776	276,441
Amounts received in advance	7	2,033,259	3,005,086
Provisions	8	117,177	70,092
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>2,352,212</u>	<u>3,351,619</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provisions	8	17,740	12,111
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>17,740</u>	<u>12,111</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>2,369,952</u>	<u>3,363,730</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>770,138</u>	<u>566,371</u>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained profits		770,138	566,371
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>770,138</u>	<u>566,371</u>
<b>STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020</b>			
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from Gov't Grants - recurrent		732,907	718,536
Receipts from Gov't Grants - non-recurrent		251,791	210,408
Receipts from Other Sources		1,853,007	2,813,745
Interest received		29,907	35,454
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(4,043,271)	(3,563,980)
Net Cash provided by operating activities	9	<u>(1,175,659)</u>	<u>214,163</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Funds invested in term deposits		(22,869)	(373,147)
Payments for purchase of property and equipment		-	-
Net Cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>(22,869)</u>	<u>(373,147)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		<u>(1,198,528)</u>	<u>(158,984)</u>
Cash at the beginning of the year		2,513,199	2,672,183
Cash at the end of the year	2	<u>1,314,671</u>	<u>2,513,199</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

### NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Financial Reporting Framework** - The Board has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity because it is unlikely there are users of these financial statements who are not in a position to require the preparation of reports tailored to their information needs. Accordingly, these financial statements have been prepared to satisfy the Committee's reporting requirements under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The Association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

**Statement of Compliance** - The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. These special purpose financial statements do not comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards. The recognition and measurement requirements that have not been complied with are those specified in AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities as, in accounting for income, recognition of all grant income has been deferred until the related expenses are incurred without assessing whether there are enforceable performance obligations to transfer a good or service to a third party which are sufficiently specific to know when the performance obligation has been satisfied. Refer to Note 1(d) Revenue below.

**Basis of Preparation** - The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise. Where applicable they indicate how the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards have not been complied with. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

**Impact of COVID-19** - FCLC relies on on-going support from both state government and other non-government funders in the form of grant funding to further its principal activities. At the date of this report, there is inherent uncertainty particularly in view of the current global pandemic. The pandemic may have an impact on the Association's financial position and may affect financial performance of the Association in the future.

**a. Cash and Cash Equivalents** - Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of 3 months or less.

**b. Income Tax** - The Association is exempt from paying income tax by virtue of Section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act, 1997. Accordingly, tax effect accounting has not been adopted.

**c. Property, Plant and Equipment** - Furniture and equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation. The depreciable amount of all furniture and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

**d. Revenue - Grant Income** - All grant income has been deferred upon receipt and not recognised as revenue until the related expenses are incurred, without assessing whether enforceable performance obligations exist. This does not comply with AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers or AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities. In future financial years, the Association intends to comply with AASB 1058 and AASB 15. **Membership Revenue** - Membership revenue is recognised as revenue in the year that the membership is for. **Interest Revenue** - Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. **Donations** - Donation income is recognised when the Association obtains control over the funds which is generally at the time of receipt. All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**e. Goods and Services Tax (GST)** - Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

**f. Leases - Exceptions to lease accounting** The Association has elected to apply the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. The Association recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

**g. Employee Entitlements - Short-term employee benefits** Provision is made for the Company's obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled. The Company's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages, salaries and sick leave are recognised as part of current trade and other payables in the statement of financial position. **Other long-term employee benefits** Provision is made for employees' long service leave and annual leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Other long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on government bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Upon the remeasurement of obligations for other long-term employee benefits, the net change in the obligation is recognised in profit or loss as part of employee benefits expense. The Company's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the Company does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

	Note	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
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### NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash on hand		337	388
Cash at bank		1,314,334	2,512,811
		<u>1,314,671</u>	<u>2,513,199</u>

### NOTE 3: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Accounts Receivable		375,274	13,603
Prepayments and Sundry Receivables		27,100	1,540
Accrued Bank Interest		717	2,300
		<u>403,091</u>	<u>17,443</u>

### NOTE 4: FINANCIAL ASSETS

Term deposits maturity greater than 3 mths		1,422,328	1,399,459
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### NOTE 5: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Furniture and fittings - at cost		129,908	129,908
Less accumulated depreciation		(129,908)	(129,908)
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
<b>NOTE 6: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES</b>		
Creditors and accruals	150,752	234,563
Salary and wage accruals	51,024	41,878
	<u>201,776</u>	<u>276,441</u>

**NOTE 7: AMOUNTS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE**

Victoria Legal Aid (ERO) - Extra - Future Years	115,342	115,342
Victoria Legal Aid (ERO) - State (unused)	159,941	206,465
Victoria Legal Aid (recurrent)	3,001	29,090
Total Generalist Funds carried forward	7 (a) <u>278,284</u>	<u>350,897</u>
Total VLA Project Funds carried forward	7 (b) -	-
Non-VLA Project Funds carried forward	1,754,975	2,654,189
	<u>2,033,259</u>	<u>3,005,086</u>

**NOTE 7(A) RECONCILIATION OF VLA GENERALIST FUNDS**

	VLA (\$)	VLA SACS ERO State (\$)	VLA SACS ERO Extra (\$)	Total (\$)
Funds brought forward - 1 July 2019	29,090	206,465	115,342	350,897
Funds received	732,907	251,791	-	984,698
Funds utilised (net of interest)	(758,996)	(298,315)	-	(1,057,311)
Funds carried forward - 30 June 2020	<u>3,001</u>	<u>159,941</u>	<u>115,342</u>	<u>278,284</u>

VLA (ERO) - Extra includes funds carried forward from 2016: \$44,703, 2015: \$38,215, 2014: \$25,927 and 2013: \$6,493.

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS  
OF FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES  
(VICTORIA) INC. ABN 30 036 539 902**
**OPINION**

I have audited the accompanying financial report, of Federation Of Community Legal Centres (Victoria) Inc., which comprises the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2020, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows and the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report of Federation Of Community Legal Centres (Victoria) Inc. has been prepared in accordance with Div 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- complies with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) and Div 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Sean Denham  
Suite 1, 707 Mt Alexander Road. Moonee Ponds VIC 3039

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
<b>NOTE 8: PROVISIONS</b>		
Current		
Provision for annual leave	117,177	70,092
	<u>117,177</u>	<u>70,092</u>

**Non-Current**

Provision for Long Service Leave	17,740	12,111
	<u>17,740</u>	<u>12,111</u>

**NOTE 9: RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS WITH  
SURPLUS FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER INCOME TAX**

Surplus after income tax	203,767	71,834
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**Non-cash flows in profit:**

- Depreciation	-	-
Changes in assets and liabilities;		
- (Increase)/decrease in trade and other debtors	(385,648)	193,268
- Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(74,665)	(32,793)
- Increase/(decrease) in amounts received in advance	(971,827)	(43,253)
- Increase/(decrease) in provisions	52,714	25,107
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	<u>(1,175,659)</u>	<u>214,163</u>

**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

The Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements. In the opinion of the committee of Federation Of Community Legal Centres (Victoria) Inc.:

- the financial statements and notes of Federation Of Community Legal Centres (Victoria) Inc. are in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:
  - giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
  - complying with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that Federation Of Community Legal Centres (Victoria) Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

*Kristen Wallwork*

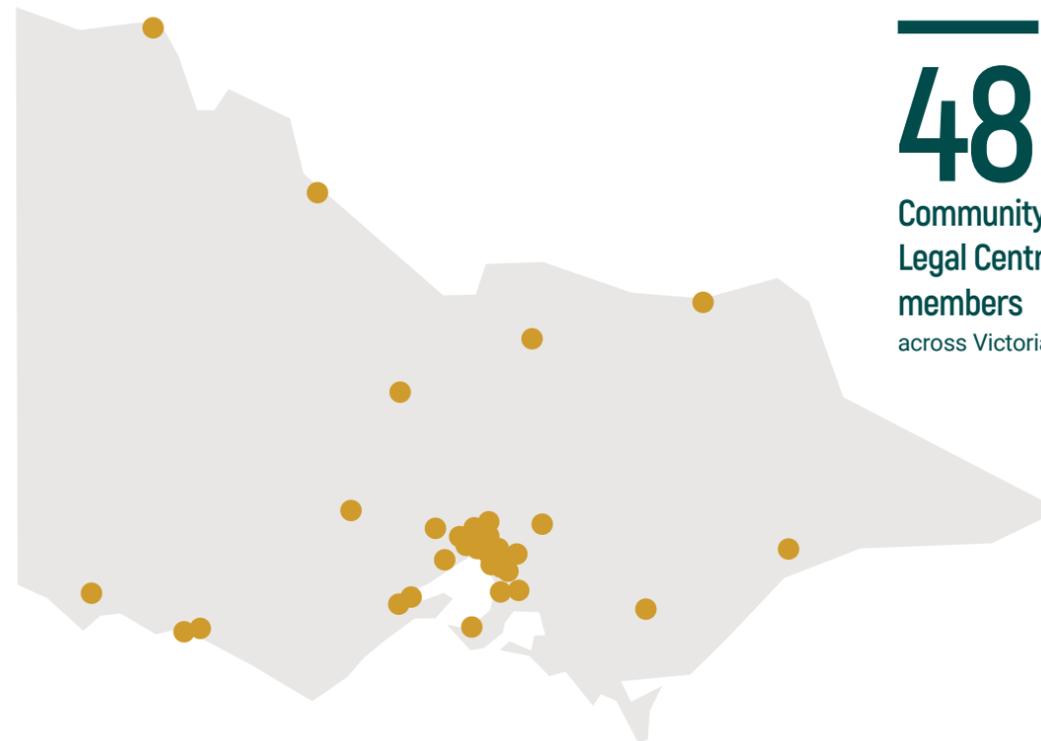
Kristen Wallwork, Chairperson  
Dated: 19/10/2020

*Thomas Green*

Thomas Green, Treasurer  
Dated: 19/10/2020

# OUR MEMBERS

AED Legal Centre; Animal Law Institute Inc; ARC Justice: Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre & Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre; Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Ballarat Grampians Community Legal Service; Barwon Community Legal Service; Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre; Consumer Action Law Centre; Disability Discrimination Legal Service; Djirra; Eastern Community Legal Centre; Emma House Domestic Violence Services; Environmental Justice Australia; First Step Legal Service; Fitzroy Legal Service; Flemington & Kensington Community Legal Centre; Gippsland Community Legal Service; Human Rights Law Centre; Hume Riverina Community Legal Service; Inner Melbourne Community Legal; Intouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence; JobWatch; Justice Connect; Law And Advocacy Centre For Women; Melbourne University Student Union Legal Service; Mental Health Legal Centre; Monash Law Clinic; Moonee Valley Legal Service; Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre; Northern Community Legal Centre; Peninsula Community Legal Centre; Refugee Legal; Seniors Rights Victoria; Social Security Rights Victoria; Southport Community Legal Service; Springvale Monash Legal Service; St Kilda Legal Service; Tenants Victoria; Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service; Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service; West Heidelberg Community Legal Service; WEstjustice; Whittlesea Community Legal Service; Women's Legal Service Victoria; Youthlaw; and Young Workers Centre.



**48**  
Community  
Legal Centre  
members  
across Victoria

**WE APPRECIATE AND CELEBRATE DIVERSITY  
IN ALL ITS FORMS. WE BELIEVE DIVERSITY OF  
ALL KINDS MAKES OUR TEAMS, SERVICES AND  
ORGANISATIONS STRONGER AND MORE EFFECTIVE.**

**Federation of Community  
Legal Centres Victoria**

Location: Level 3, 225 Bourke St,  
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Phone: 03 9652 1500

Email: [administration@fcl.org.au](mailto:administration@fcl.org.au)

Social: @CommunityLawVic

ABN 30 036 539 902

REGISTRATION A0013713H

*Community Legal Centres are  
the heart of a movement for justice.*

