

women  
matter

# project respect

Annual Report 2010/11

working with women in the sex industry to challenge violence against women everywhere

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The Lotus Flower starts as a small flower down at the bottom of a pond in the mud and muck. It slowly grows up towards the water's surface, continually moving towards the light. Once it comes to the surface of the water the lotus flower begins to blossom and turn into a beautiful flower.

Project Respect would like to sincerely thank for generously allowing us to use their art in this report: Christie (painting and photograph from Project Respect weekend away) Shaine Hobbs (leadlighting)

# Our Mission

Our mission is to support women in the sex industry in Australia and to help prevent the exploitation and enslavement of women by the industry.

We aim to see this fulfilled through:

- Empowerment: of women who are or have been in the sex industry to rebuild their lives outside the industry and to educate about the impacts of prostitution;
- Education: of the community, led by women from the industry, to bring a greater awareness of the impacts of prostitution and trafficking, and to assist women to address these;
- Advocacy: promoting government, community and individual policies and practices which reduce the conditions that cause the sex industry to thrive and which promote feminist responses to prostitution and trafficking;
- Activism: based on the expertise of women in the sex industry, which tackles discrimination and structural inequalities which support prostitution and trafficking.

# Our Vision

A world where there is no longer demand for prostitution and people trafficking

# Our Priorities

- Adequate support given to women in the sex industry, including trafficked women, such as access to shelter, health care, legal support, compensation, and alternative employment pathways
- Eradication of the abuse and inequalities, including between men and women, different cultures and different classes, which underpin and are strengthened by the sex industry
- Individuals, organisations and communities informed and mobilised to support women in the sex industry

# Report from the Chair

## *A year of empowerment and advocacy*

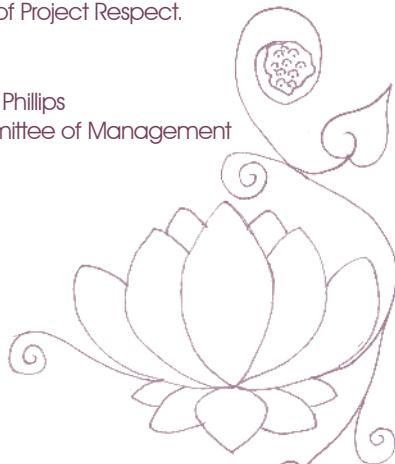
Project Respect has both consolidated and expanded this year in line with its principles of representing and supporting a broad range of women from diverse backgrounds. Our most significant achievement has been the successful transition of leadership from Nina Vallins our former Executive Director to Kelly Hinton, who commenced with Project Respect in December. Kelly has brought her skills established working in the family violence sector to strengthen our organisational staffing, processes and functions. Through her warm and professional approach she has garnered respect and admiration from the Committee of Management, Project Respect staff, the women we support and our donors, supporters and other stakeholders. We have been delighted to welcome Kelly and other new staff to the Project Respect community. We also thank Nina and the other staff who have departed in the last year for their hard work and commitment.

Through its transformative work, Project Respect seeks to empower women to rebuild their lives. We have been particularly pleased this year, therefore, to have our Social Enterprise catering business up and running as a pathway to employment for women we support. Not only have the women been producing delicious food, but they have established already a reputation for professional and responsive service despite a challenging establishment phase. The success of the business at this early stage is a wonderful testament to the staff of Project Respect and the key women involved.

Women continue to be trafficked, exploited and enslaved by the sex industry. Our outreach work and support of women is vital to the integrity and function of Project Respect, yet is often difficult, stressful and soul-destroying. We thank our many supporters, volunteers and donors for their essential involvement and encourage you to continue and consider increasing your support, so that our important work reaches as many women as possible.

The Committee of Management looks forward to the next strategic phase of Project Respect where we will be seeking to reinvigorate our future direction to meet the challenges of violence and exploitation that women face through our core activities of empowerment, education, advocacy and activism. It is a wonderful privilege to be associated with Project Respect. Thanks to our dedicated and talented staff and thank you to all of our supporters. Please join us as we seek to expand and enhance the critical work of Project Respect.

Dr Georgina Phillips  
Chair, Committee of Management



# Executive Director's Report

## *A year of new beginnings and growth*

### *The PR Team*

Our previous Executive Director, Nina Vallins, was farewelled by Project Respect in late 2010. Nina is an extremely passionate and informed advocate for women in the sex industry, including women who have been trafficked. We are so grateful to Nina for all of her hard work, and wish her all the best.

In early 2011, Project Respect was able to employ an additional case worker, plus an admin worker (for the first time – ever!) Our organisation is currently at its peak, with 6 extremely hard working and dedicated staff – not to mention a fantastic team of volunteers and very supportive and skilled Committee of Management.

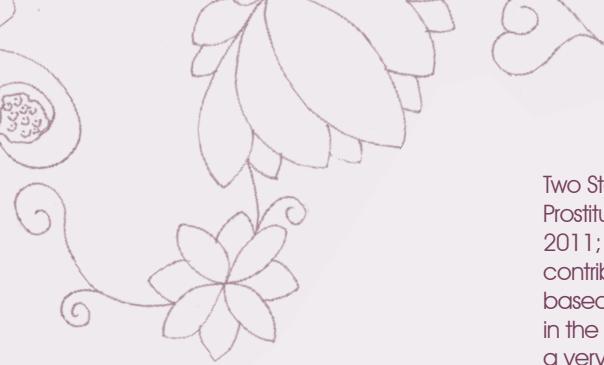
Project Respect involves women from the sex industry in all aspects of our service, both formally (as staff, Committee of Management Members and volunteers) and informally (through peer support lunches and weekends away). These women ensure that our work continues to be up to date, informed and relevant, and we are so grateful for their continued involvement.

All women involved with the organisation are a privilege to work with, and I sincerely thank everyone for their support and generosity in welcoming me as the new Executive Director.

### *Advocacy*

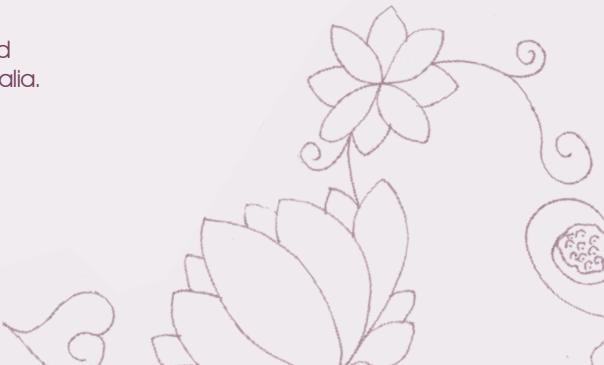
In February 2011, Project Respect partnered with Fitzroy Legal to submit to the Attorney General's Inquiry the Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking. Our contribution included:

- That all offences related to trafficking, including debt bondage, harbouring and receiving persons who have been trafficked, profiting from or using a slave are serious offences and should be treated as such by the justice system
- That the current criminal law provisions need to be broadened in terms of the definition of exploitation and coercion to match that of the UN Trafficking Protocol's, which include abuse of power, and abuse of the vulnerability of another person. The Protocol's definition more adequately reflects the complex nature of coercion, power and control, in the context of trafficking for the purpose of sexual servitude.
- That women who have been trafficked face significant difficulty in accessing State Victim of Crime schemes, which vary significantly depending upon each state jurisdiction. This is further complicated when women are trafficked into different states over a period of time. There should be a Government Inquiry into the harmonization of the state Victims of Crime compensation/assistance schemes, or a Federal Scheme set up.



Trafficking remains a serious and ongoing issue in the sex industry in Australia, and methods of trafficking continue to change, ensuring it remains an extremely difficult crime to combat. Project Respect continues to hear stories of and meet, women who have been exploited, threatened, assaulted and raped – in our legal sex industry. And so our work must continue!

Project Respect continues to advocate at the National Roundtable on People Trafficking, which had an additional Roundtable in 2011 on the difficulties of appropriate and accessible housing for people who have been trafficked. Project Respect also took part in a People Trafficking Collaborative Awareness Exercise in early 2011, hosted by the Australian Federal Police. This exercise was an attempt for various government departments and non-government organisations to work together to find ways to eradicate trafficking in Australia.



Two State Government Inquiries into Prostitution occurred during the first half of 2011; in WA and the ACT. Project Respect contributed to both of these inquiries, based on our ongoing work with women in the sex industry. This continues to be a very controversial and highly emotive area, but for us, comes back to the basic premise of respect and equality for all women, who have a right not be exploited or enslaved in this day and age. All of our advocacy is informed by the reality of the sex industry, and the damage that the sex industry can cause (see Outreach Report for further details).

Project Respect (and other groups) advocated with the Victorian Government to extend the requirement for mandatory monthly STI tests (of those in the sex industry) to three month intervals. Those who are sexually active, including those in the sex industry, should share the responsibility to practice safe sex. However, current regulations require that only those in the sex industry are required to be tested, despite much of the evidence indicating low levels of STIs and high levels of sexual health. There is no other industry we are aware of where OHS measures are enforced primarily to protect the customer.

## *Research*

In 2010/11, Project Respect participated in a number of research projects, including the Australian Institute of Criminology - Trafficking into Marriage study, plus a large number of student research projects (ranging from Honours to PhD's) from universities around Australia. We understand that the combination of theoretical research plus on the ground knowledge of NGO's (such as Project Respect) allows policy makers in Australia to have a better chance of creating relevant, equitable and empowering policies. We began to work on research projects with other organisations, including:

- Springvale Monash Legal Centre's investigation into the Swedish Model of Prostitution, and Italian Model of Support for Trafficking, with an analysis of the applicability of these in the Australian context.
- PILCH's facilitation of an investigation into the legal definition of the 'contribution' women who have been trafficked need to make to the AFP investigation in order to gain access to a Witness Protection Certificate and Visa. (We continue to advocate that women should not be required to make any contribution to the Criminal Justice Process in order to gain support or a visa – the fact that they have been subjected to such violations of human rights and horrendous crimes in Australia should be more than enough).
- With a strong team of volunteers and our new relationships with academic institutions, we look forward to developing further research in the next 12 months.





### *Community Education*

In addition to the informal information sessions and speaking engagements that Project Respect provides wherever possible to interested/relevant groups, we also run a training program on working with women in the sex industry. This training program has now been reviewed and updated, and will run publicly (for fee) at least twice per year.

In 2011, Project Respect ran a new seminar at the Feminist Futures Conference in Melbourne. This seminar acknowledged the different forms of feminism and how they each view the sex industry, then discussed how Project Respect works with women from a radical feminist perspective.

Project Respect was fortunate to consult with a number of International Groups this year, who are also concerned with the exploitation of women. This included delegates from the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs, United States Trafficking in Persons Office and United States Embassy (Women's Issues), and NGO's from South Korea and Serbia that work to support survivors of human trafficking. We also corresponded with organisations in Ireland, Sweden, New Zealand, Thailand, and Nepal.

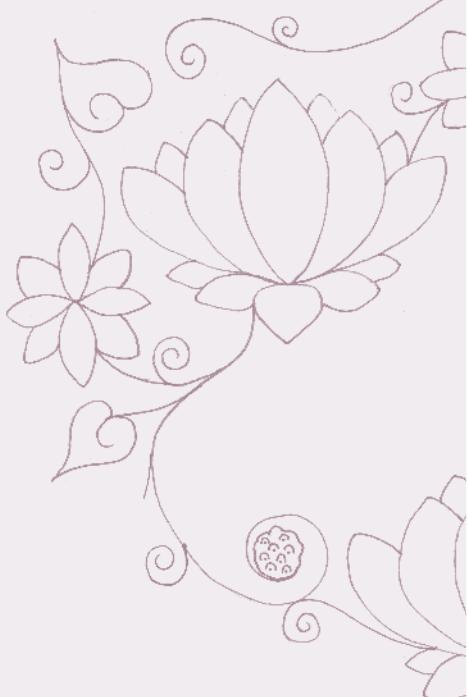
Project Respect worked with various media outlets to raise awareness of the issues within the sex industry and trafficking this year. Our sincere thanks to those journalists that showed considerable dedication to understanding the issues thoroughly, and raising awareness within the wider community.

### *Organisational Sustainability*

Project Respect is extremely grateful for the various levels of support we get from all levels of Government; however we continue to survive only on project grants. This is not a sustainable way of running any organisation, and means we cannot plan for the future. We continue to advocate for recurrent funding for our cause, which is so important and still so under resourced.

Project Respect is so very grateful for the recognition within the wider community of the vital work we do and your ongoing support. Financial and in kind contributions from individuals and groups keep our organisation going, and we cannot express our gratitude enough. Every bit makes such a difference to the organisation, and ultimately, the women we work with. Thank you so much.

Kelly Hinton | Executive Director

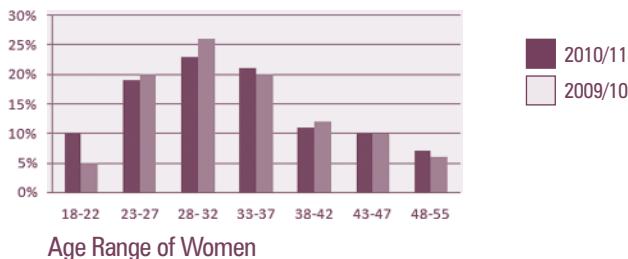


# Outreach Program

## Brothel visits and counselling hours

Year	Number of brothels visited	Total number of visits	Number of women encountered	One-on-one counselling hours
2009 – 2010	59	319	546	884
2010 - 2011	71	431	995	1278

Due to heightened project funding, the number of visits to brothels has increased significantly from the previous year and now includes brothels in the Monash, Yarra, Southern, Western, Northern and Eastern areas of Melbourne. Project Respect is working towards having the resources to regularly visit all legal brothels in Victoria.



The majority of women that Project Respect meets in brothels continue to be between 28-37 years old. Most of the women in this age range advised that they entered prostitution after leaving violent relationships, in order to support their children and regain security for themselves and their families. Other reasons given by women were buying a house for their family, going back to school, and financially supporting children's extra-curricular activities.

The number of women in the sex industry from 48-55 years old has increased significantly. Project Respect believes this is partly due to an ever increasing number of women who are finding it difficult to obtain other work after spending many years in the sex industry. This situation may be exacerbated by a lack of self-esteem, fear of having no up-to-date workforce skills, fear of computers, and huge gaps in resumes.

## Information Kits

Project Respect continuously develops and provides information kits to all brothels visited, that offer a range of information about local and statewide services for women. The information kits also include pocket size information cards that the women are encouraged to take. These cards are replaced in the kits regularly.

New information has been added to the information kits in the past year in line with the emerging issues that women are raising with the Project Respect workers. This includes:

- Information on an Employment Agency that assists those living with mental illness to find suitable employment
- Neighborhood Houses and their contact details
- Material Aid Services and their contact details.

### Uptake of Information from Kits

Year	Health	DV & Sexual Abuse	Drugs, Alcohol & Gambling	Housing	Legal	Careers	Project Respect	General	Total
2009-10	8	124	160	178	115	74	146	98	903
2010-11	95	302	340	432	320	298	340	247	2374

The number of leaflets and cards being taken from the Information Kits has significantly increased from previous years, and indicates that the main issues affecting women in the industry include:

- Housing
- Employment & Education
- Drugs/Alcohol, & Gambling
- Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
- Legal issues.

5 Project Respect Newsletters were distributed to the brothels visited throughout the year and have impacted greatly on our work, with a large number of self-referrals coming from women who have read the newsletters. The Newsletter enables us to reach women other than those we encounter whilst conducting outreach during the day. Topics that have been raised in the Newsletter in the past year are:

- Signs of Trafficking – What Trafficking Looks like
- Recent Media Articles to with Trafficking
- Updates of upcoming Activities and Outings i.e. Weekend away and Community Lunches
- Services that Project Respect provides
- The flexibility of our services compared to other organisations
- Some light hearted comedy
- Information regarding other women's services

“

*“Project Respect is the only place I have ever felt I can be ‘me’ in. The varying facets of my life up until now have had to be hidden from mainstream society due to fear of stigma and judgement. These facets though have made me the person I am today. At Project Respect I can be ‘me’, with full acceptance in a loving, non-judgmental environment. Although I’m currently a student at Project Respect, once placement has finished, Project Respect will be a place I stay linked into and an important part of my life.”*

”

## Identified Issues for Women Encountered

### Domestic Violence

60% of the women encountered spoke about either currently living in a violent relationship or having been in one in the past. Approximately one third of these women began prostitution as a result of being in debt due to relationship breakdowns.

### Children and Single Motherhood

75% of the women encountered were single mothers, with an average of three children. Many of the women talk about feeling guilty over spending so much time away from their children; even those who do not do prostitution full time talk of having no energy for their children and the toll that prostitution has taken on their health. Other issues raised involve pressure from brothels owners and managers to do more hours and/or shifts; and the difficulty in getting reliable babysitters.

**An Emerging Issue:** In the past year an increasing number of women encountered by Project Respect have children with special needs (particularly autism). These women speak of many other women in the sex industry in the same situation. Reasons cited by the women in this situation for entering the sex industry are the high costs of specific medication, nappies (adult size), and food required for specific diets.

### Sexual Abuse

73% of the women encountered by Project Respect spoke of either childhood or adulthood sexual abuse, a similar number to that of the previous year. The ability to have conversations about such sensitive and potentially traumatic issues is due to the trust and rapport that has been built between the outreach workers and the women, making it easier for them to be open and honest about their lives. Education has also played a role in women disclosing their experience of sexual abuse – however many women remain unclear on what constitutes sexual abuse and did not consider that they had been abused, when in fact they had!

Based on the training Project Respect workers have received in this area, it is estimated that up to 90% of the women encountered have been sexually abused. Some are not willing to talk about it, and that is their choice. This estimate is based on observations and comments made during conversations with the women.

### **Financial Abuse**

Approximately 47% of the women encountered are living in situations whereby they are supporting a husband or boyfriend. Many of those women talked of their partners losing their jobs, or not being able to find work. Unfortunately, what seems to happen is that once the partner is aware that the woman is bringing in regular money, they don't actively look for work and are happy to live off her earnings. Living off the earnings of prostitution is illegal.

### **Gambling**

Approximately 35% of the women encountered either disclose excessive gambling or state that it was debt through gambling that forced them into the sex industry. "Sexually transmitted debt" (debt for which the woman is responsible, though incurred by her partner) has also been cited as a reason for entering the industry and gambling.

### **Housing**

Approximately 65% of the women encountered have been in severe housing stress. Problems include difficulty renting due to no proof of income, a lack of affordable rental properties, landlords and/or estate agents wanting sex in lieu of rent, and difficulty in paying rent due to unpredictable nature of income. Throughout the past year, 295 women encountered by Project Respect were homeless. Most were staying at the brothel temporarily, some were sleeping in their cars, and some were spending one night at a time at different friends' places. Some of the issues raised by women sleeping at brothels were that they got very little sleep after a night shift as the brothel re-opened at 10am; and managers would often pressure them to do more hours or, if morning staff did not turn up on time they would be expected to start as soon as the brothel opened. Most of the women felt that they couldn't object to this as they felt obliged to the owner for allowing them to sleep on the premises.

### **Legal Issues**

Approximately 35% of the women Project Respect has had contact with have sought legal assistance. Issues include custodial issues; debt consolidation; fines, visa issues, and seeking intervention orders. The number of Family and Children's Court issues are similar to that of the previous year. A small percentage of women have required support for criminal matters such as breaching of community based orders.

## **Health Issues**

Most health issues appear to be similar to the previous year with dental problems; recurring thrush, recurring urinary tract infections; and pain during intercourse. There was an increase in reports of insomnia, fatigue, and mental health. Other common health complaints this year involve back and knee problems due to wearing high heels for prolonged periods of time.

Women speak of having to do more shifts and longer hours to make the same money as previous years, and blame the Global Financial Crisis, lack of employment, and the increasing number of illegal brothels where services are cheaper for clients.

The ever increasing use of "Ice" is an ongoing health issue for women (see Drug Use) in that it decreases the appetite, speeds up metabolism, and deteriorates the teeth and gums.

Mental Health issues appear to be dramatically increasing among the women we encounter, with significant numbers of women being diagnosed with anxiety and stress disorders, severe depression, eating disorders, and some with schizophrenia, bi-polar, and drug induced psychosis. In response to the growing numbers of women with Mental Health issues Project Respect maintains contact with specialist Employment Agencies. 18 women with Mental Health issues have been intensively supported in gaining employment this year. In our role as Outreach Workers we also encourage women to enter into a Mental Health Plan and engage the services of a psychologist. Project Respect now has two psychologists who have an understanding of the sex industry and will happily take referrals.

## **Drug Use**

Drug addiction has long been a problem in the sex industry. There are many 'designer' drugs being manufactured, and those that keep a person awake have become extremely popular in the sex industry.

Ice has been the most common drug again this year, and the number of women using the drug is ever increasing. We have provided as much information as possible in the information kits, have spoken to women about rehabilitation, and referred them to Drug Counsellors. The effects of the drug ice are becoming more and more apparent, as it tends to do damage alarmingly quickly. The physical and mental deterioration of the women using ice regularly is apparent in dramatic weight loss over a short period of time, rapid mood swings, loss of memory and train of thought, skin irritations, and rotting of gums and teeth.



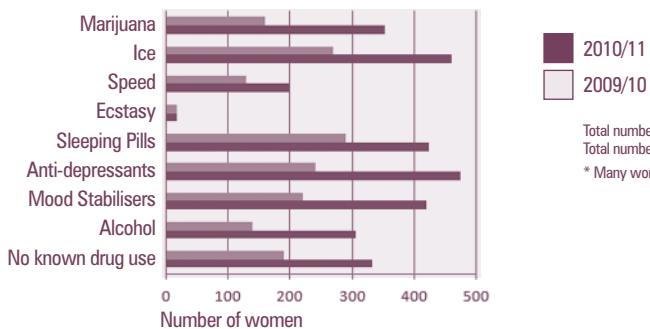
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*“Having contact with other women who empathise with what it's really like to be in the sex industry is an opportunity to heal the soul”*

*“The women are wise and understand me”*

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### Drug Use in Brothels Visited



Total number of women encountered 2010/2011: 995\*

Total number of women encountered 2009/2010: 546\*

\* Many women indicated use of multiple substances

Heroin use among women that Project Respect encounters remains minimal in comparison to other illicit drugs. However, brothel managers appear to have become more tolerant of women who are drug users. According to most brothel managers, there is always a shortage of women, which would make it less likely for them to turn away anyone wanting to do prostitution in their brothel. Previously most women using heroin have resorted to street prostitution as their addiction meant that it was difficult to do a full shift in a brothel. It seems this is no longer the case.

The number of women using anti-depressants, mood stabilisers, and sleeping tablets has increased throughout the past year – possibly related to the impact of using the drug ice, the longer hours/more shifts that women have to do to make satisfactory money and the increasing violence women are reporting in the brothels. Women say that clients are becoming increasingly demanding about what acts they want women to perform in a service, which often leads to arguments and violence.

The use of ecstasy seems to have eased, and the reported use of alcohol and marijuana is on the rise. Most of the women encountered do day shifts and inform Project Respect that most of the designer type drugs are more likely to be used by the women doing night shift. The night shift hours are generally much longer than the day shift hours and the clientele are often more demanding (or intoxicated). The stress levels and fatigue may contribute to the increased and different types of drugs used in the evenings.

## **Study & Employment**

The numbers of women in the industry who are studying has increased dramatically from that of the previous year. An increasing number of women have spoken of leaving the sex industry, stating that it is too difficult to make money in the current economic climate, and that the physical toll on their bodies is impacting on their ability to earn money. Many have concerns about how they would cope in the job market, especially if they have little education. Most women approaching Project Respect about pathways out of the sex industry were those aged from late 30's to late 40's. The areas of study entered into remain similar, with Computer courses and Hospitality becoming popular. More and more women are seeking assistance in regard to their study and employment options.

In response to this issue Project Respect developed relationships with understanding employers and now has 3 businesses willing to employ women referred, with support from Project Respect where required. This allows women to develop confidence and a period of employment they can comfortably put on their resume when applying for further work.

### **Number of women studying**

Type of Study	2009-10	2010-11
Nursing	12	40
Arts	17	28
Computers	29	39
Social, Youth, Welfare Work	13	13
Hospitality	24	47
English	no stat	37
Other	12	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>259</b>

## **Body Image and Self Esteem Issues**

Nearly all the women encountered complain about their weight or body shape and constantly compare themselves to women in the media. We estimate that 75% of the women encountered are on weight loss diets, and 159 women who were encountered throughout 2010/11 have had plastic surgery. Breast enhancement is popular; women are also having liposuction, facelifts, collagen, and Botox.

We have continued to support a woman this year who has suffered from anorexia for the past 14 years. She was hospitalised during the year when her weight plummeted to the point that she needed treatment.

## **Self-Harm, Chronic Illness and Death**

5 of the women encountered in the past year disclosed current self-harming behavior, and 7 disclosed self-harming in the past. 5 of these women have horrific scarring and have needed intense support.

2 of the women we work with have cancer, and another who has suffered recurring strokes has been supported by Project Respect in the past year.

3 women known to Project Respect have passed away this year. These women were all aged less than 40 years old. Project Respect was working very intensively with one of these women - Angie. "Angie" was an intelligent caring young woman who left this world far too soon; she will be deeply missed by all at Project Respect.

## Angie's Poem

Love deeply and passionately.  
You might get hurt, but it's the only  
way to love completely.

Learn the rules. Then break some.

Never betray a confidence.

Remember the three R's.  
Respect for self, Respect for others,  
and Responsibility for  
all your actions.

Don't overlook life's small joys while  
searching for the big ones.

Approach love and cooking with  
reckless abandon.

At least once a year, travel some  
place you've never been.

Nothing really important ever  
happens until you take a chance.

Beware the life empty of ambitions.

Memorise your favourite love poem.

Watch your attitude. It's the first  
thing people notice about you.

Pray. There is measurable power  
in it.

Don't take good health, good friends,  
or a good marriage for granted.

Marry a man you love to talk to.

Life is short. Eat more pancakes and  
fewer rice cakes.

Remember that your character is  
your destiny.

Regardless of the situation, react  
with class.

Stand up for yourself and your  
rights. No one else will do it for you.

Risk, risk, and risk again.

DON'T LET THE BASTARDS  
GRIND YOU DOWN!  
'To thine own self be true'

## Individual Support

Project Respect provides individual, woman centred and strengths focused support to any women within the sex industry request our assistance. Support is tailored to meet the needs of each woman as she sees them, and is extremely flexible, with no waiting lists, and no time limit to support periods.

The majority of women that Project Respect works with contact the outreach service for assistance for themselves, however we are finding that brothel managers and owners are increasingly making referrals and seeking assistance for women.

Project Respect has found a significant increase in referrals from community and support organisations that we have provided training or information sessions to, including Health Organisations, Drug & Alcohol Workers, Domestic Violence Counsellors, Psychologists, Community Services, Victoria University, and other women's services.

The significant increase in individual counselling hours this year is due to an increase in project funding to 2.6 EFT outreach workers (as opposed to 1 EFT in previous years). A large number of women continue to require intensive support.

This support has included:

- assisting with legal issues
- financial issues
- domestic violence
- sexual assault
- housing
- mental health issues
- child custody issues
- drug, alcohol, and gambling issues.

The women that Project Respect works with often have chaotic lives and they generally have low self-esteem, making it difficult to find employment in other areas. The pressure for women to earn money from prostitution often amplifies their mental health issues and creates more internalized chaos. These underlying issues commonly express themselves in their lives as unpaid fines, abusive relationships, drug habits, severe isolation, mental health issues and even suicidal tendencies.

A total of 318 hours were spent in 2010/11 supporting individual women in Magistrates Court, Family Court, Children's Court, at police stations, with Legal Aid, and in hospitals. Unfortunately many hours were spent in Family and Children's Court supporting women who are struggling with drug addiction who are then coming to the attention of the Department of Human Services (DHS). 27 women that Project Respect came into to contact with in the past year had one or more children who had been removed by DHS. Some of these women have then managed to get their addiction under control, but there are others who are still desperately trying to get their children back in their care.

Apart from court cases involving children, other court related issues have involved domestic violence, assault, and breach of Community Based orders. These issues are often a reflection of the women's chaotic lives and destructive behavioral patterns which are symptomatic of larger problems.

Project Respect's role in these situations is to support the women emotionally, refer them to specialist services (such as Drug & Alcohol Services), and to ensure that they are treated fairly and without discrimination by the lawyers, the Department of Human Services, and the Courts.

## Advocacy and Referrals

Depending on the specific issue being dealt with, other organisations and individuals are often contacted for assistance, advice and/or referral:

- The Centre Against Sexual Assault
- Fitzroy Legal Service
- Victoria Legal Aid
- Metro West Housing Services
- Wishin Housing Service
- Fitzroy Financial Advice Service
- Domestic Violence Crisis Line
- Good Shepherd
- Salvation Army
- Department of Human Services
- Sunshine & Western Hospital
- Centrelink
- Stroke Victims Support Group
- Wavecare
- RILC
- Community Care (Melton)
- Alfred Hospital
- Dixon Neighbourhood House
- Fusion Neighbourhood House
- Mount St Neighbourhood House
- Thornbury Neighbourhood House
- Angliss Neighbourhood House
- Duke St Community Centre
- Heathdale Community Centre
- Father Bob Maguire Foundation
- Sacred Heart Mission
- Bayside Bentleigh Community Health Centre
- Maurice & Blackburn Solicitors
- Inner East Mental Health Service
- Genesis Medical Centre
- VACRO
- Consumer Action Legal Centre
- Melbourne Sexual Health Clinic
- North Carlton Railway Station Community House
- North Fitzroy Community Health Care
- Gatehouse
- NEAMI (Mental Health Service)
- Vic Relief Foodbank
- Consumer Affairs Victoria
- Australian Federal Police
- Victoria Police
- Trauma Centre of Australia
- Office of Housing
- CHRIP (Centre for the rights of imprisoned people)
- Peninsula Community Health
- Yarra Youth Services
- Women's Health West
- Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal
- Victoria University
- Eastcare Housing Service
- Moneyhelp
- Tenancy Union
- Windana
- AMES Employment
- Breakthru
- SOCAU – Fawkner
- Spectrum MRC
- Victorian Women's Lawyers
- Bridgehaven
- Bridge Centre
- Women's Health West
- DIAC
- Salvation Army

*Many thanks to the above organisations for your understanding and ongoing assistance*

## Material Aid

Our sincere thank you to 'Stop Start' and 'New Hope' who provided us with emergency cleaning and food packs throughout the year. The packs included items such as coffee, tea, sugar, salt, pepper, sauce, dish washing liquid, washing powder, and toilet paper.

Thanks also to KOGO (Knit 1, Give 1) for their kind donation of knitted items for the women. These much needed items were very much appreciated by both the women and Project Respect.



*"I can't believe this, I was so stressed about how I was going to pay my power bill, now that I have this food and stuff to take home I will be able to pay it!"*

*"It makes such a huge difference to me financially having these few extras that I don't have to buy with the little money I have, Yay! Less stress!"*

*"Knowing that there is always food and house supplies for me to take home provides yet another form of overwhelmingly helpful support!"*

*"My son particularly loves the Alphabet pasta"*

*"Toiletries are SO EXPENSIVE!! really appreciate being given these from Project Respect, a huge help!"*



## Special Event

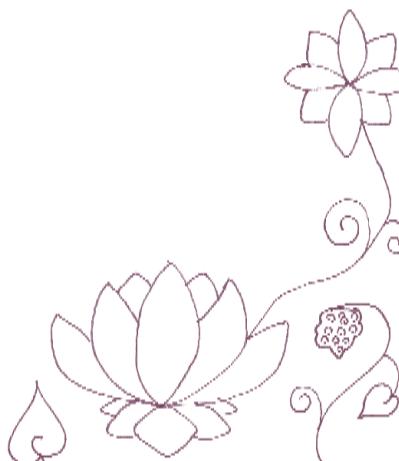
A photographer approached Project Respect in 2010/11, and volunteered to take photos for the women. The concept was 'women and identity', and 5 women chose to be involved. One woman had photos taken in a bookshop, one with her birds, one in the park, one with her son, and 2 wearing Sari's. The photographer was very respectful and all of the women really enjoyed the experience. The women all received free photographs including some enlargements. One women said:

*"I love the photos Kim took of me in the park,  
looking at the pictures makes me realise I'm OK"*

## Also, special thanks to:

- Mystique Printing
- Fort Knox Storage – East Melbourne
- Hanover Southbank
- Cabrini Health
- Council of Single Mothers
- Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation
- Springvale & Monash Legal Centre
- HIPPY
- NAB
- Allens Arthur Robinson
- Cabrini Linen
- Soroptimist International
- Malcolm Foundation
- Anne Smyth
- Brenda House Domestic Violence Service
- Barbara Biggs
- Philip Brookes - Aktiv
- Red Knot Design
- Minihub Communications
- Meta Management
- Collyer and Partners
- Dv Vic
- WIRE
- Anti Slavery Project
- ROAR Collective
- Grill'd (QV, Richmond and Fitzroy)
- Neighborhood Justice Centre
- Stop the Traffik
- ACRATH
- Mary Ellen Davis
- Petra Bueskens
- Cookie bar & restaurant
- Department of Premier & Cabinet
- All of our individual donors and supporters - far too many to name here

*Our sincere thanks to the Federal Attorney General's Department, City of Yarra and City of Monash for making the outreach and individual support programs possible.*



# Emergency Accommodation and Support

Project Respect continues to provide emergency accommodation, intensive casework, and outreach to women who have been trafficked into the sex industry. The extent of trafficking of women into the sex industry continues to be largely unknown. What we do know is that it has happened in Australia, continues to happen to many women in Australia, and has devastating, lifelong impacts on those who survive it.

In 2010/11, Project Respect has focussed on developing a strong co case management relationship with Red Cross, who administer the Commonwealth Trafficking Support Program. This program offers support and accommodation for people who have been trafficked into Australia and are willing and able to engage with the Criminal Justice Process. Project Respect's understanding of the sex industry, flexibility and peer support activities compliment this program.

Project Respect also supports women who are not eligible for, or do not wish to engage with the authorities and therefore, the program. Many women who are trafficked into the sex industry are not willing to speak to authorities in Australia, as they have often been told the police are corrupt, and fear for their safety, and that of their families back home. Some of the women Project Respect has worked with in the last year were unable to provide any information at all due to post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or extreme drug addiction, brought on by traffickers to maintain control over the woman.

Project Respect support to women who have been trafficked can be everything from simple provision of information, to peer support community activities to long-term, intensive case management.

In 2010/11, assistance included:

- helping women attain permanent or stable immigration status
- acquiring stable accommodation
- educating women about victims of crime compensation and supporting women to pursue compensation claims
- supporting women to enrol in and maintain further study
- supporting women to access and maintain employment
- material aid
- social and emotional support
- accessing information about the definition of slavery under Australian legislation and how to urgently access help while under control of the traffickers.

*Thanks to the Victorian Department of Justice and Victorian Multicultural Commission for supporting this program.*

# Peer Support Activities

## Community Lunches

During the past year Project Respect has provided a Community Lunch for women from the sex industry every Friday. The lunch is very informal and varies from week to week. Some weeks there have been 2 women turn up, and others there have been 10, and there is always a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The lunch gives women the opportunity to give and receive both emotional and practical support and exchange information. The lunch also allows women to get confirmation that their feelings are normal, to educate others, or to simply let off steam! The women discuss anything they want to and are always laughing and joking with each other. Often discussions center on prostitution, which can help women to process their experiences among peers who understand. Many of the women who come to the lunches have recently exited the sex industry and are happy to talk to others about how to cope after exiting. Any excess food is given to the women to take home. Women were recently asked what they thought about the lunches and responded with the following comments:

*"It's a safe place for social contact with other women who are supportive with my efforts to make a pathway out of the industry"*

*"I get ideas and practical advice in an informal setting from Project Respect and other women who access their services"*

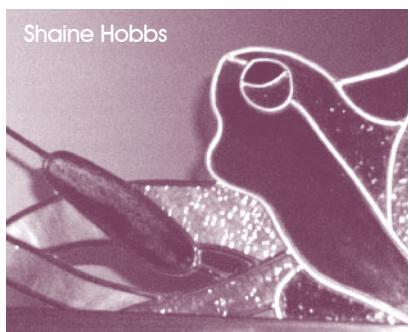
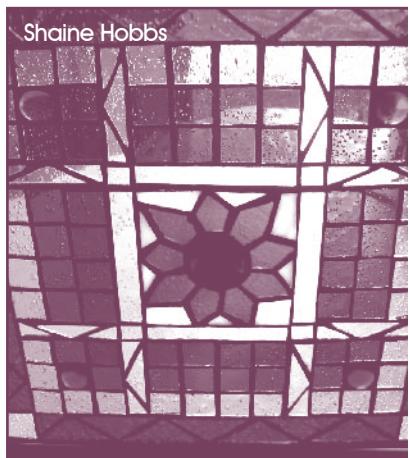
*"This year I have been recovering from alcoholism and much of my old life has faded away. Project Respect, however is a place I can always go to be with my friends on Fridays"*

*"Ideas for in-season, economical, and nutritious meals"*

*"Over the past 4 years Project Respect has been the most consistent support network and social outlet in my life"*

*"It's my day off!"*

*'Even though I left the industry seven years ago, I still find areas of my life where I need support. It has been a long slow process of emotional and practical rehabilitation. I am grateful that I can turn up to Project Respect any Friday and find a warm welcome, an open offer of assistance from people who understand me and great food! Thank you Project Respect and all the intelligent caring wonderful women who work there!'*



## **Weekends Away**

During the past year Project Respect has provided 3 weekends away for the women we work with. The weekends away provide a safe and friendly environment for women to process their life experiences, and get away from the stresses in their lives. Many women who don't generally talk about their life experiences will talk more openly on a weekend away. Project Respect provides nutritious food, a day outing, and a free massage for the women. Women who are survivors of trafficking often attend the weekends away, providing an ideal opportunity for them to gain a new network of friends that they can trust. The women were recently asked "what do you like about the weekends away?"

The following comments were made:

*"The other women in the group  
were supportive  
and the food was divine!"*

*"I just spent a weekend away with  
the ladies from Project Respect  
and women in the industry.  
I can honestly say I have never  
met such wonderful, supportive,  
caring, and intelligent women  
ever, it was the best thing I have  
ever done and I can't wait for the  
next one!"*

*"I really look forward to it as it  
replenishes my energies  
and is a welcome break"*

*"I enjoy the peace and  
nature aspect"*

*"It's a lot of fun"*

*"Just had my first weekend with  
Project Respect and  
it was very healing and  
therapeutic for me, who,  
finally quit 'the game' a year ago"*

Our very sincere thank you to Cabrini Health who make this program possible.

Shirley Woods | Outreach Co Ordinator

# Community Enterprise

2011 brought the development of the Social Enterprise to fruition, opening for its first sales as a catering business in May. During the development process and start-up phase of operation, 10 jobs in total were created, 7 short term and 3 long term jobs for women who have been trafficked or wish to exit the sex industry.

Participants within the enterprise developed many skills on the job and participated in training including safe Food Handling, Barista, Occupational Health and Safety, Book Keeping and First Aid. The project has also taken on a number of volunteers, all of which have had different skills to offer to the enterprise, including professional cooking skills.

Mentoring the women has been supplied by the Project Manager, Project Respect Case Worker, Project Respect Director and volunteers; each mentor has provided different support from emotional support to practical work skills.

There has been increasing interest from within the sex industry from women who wish to develop their skills with a view to exiting the sex industry. The challenge for the enterprise moving forward is to increase sales so it can provide much needed support to these women through employment and training, without attaching stigma to the women working in the enterprise being labelled as having been in the sex industry.

The Enterprise has a bright future with sales gradually increasing and great reviews in abundance:

*"I've had Project Respect's food at a conference and also at Council, and it was fresh, tasty and healthy, as well as well-presented and with enough variety for a range of palates and dietary preferences. Staff were helpful, friendly and efficient."*

(Alison Clarke, Mayor of The City of Yarra)

Like any Social enterprise there has been a tremendous amount of support from many sectors of the community so a sincere thank you to all of our supporters. We look forward to continuing this fantastic project, and are keen to talk to any professionals or businesses about support they can offer our enterprise; from ordering our food, to mentoring the staff, to financial support for ongoing costs.

Therese Watson | Project Manager

*Thank you to Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Ian Potter Foundation, Brigadene Sisters, Department of Planning and Community Development, and StreetSmart for your support of this project.*

# The Project Respect Team

## Committee of Management

Dr Georgina Phillips (Chair)

Kathleen Maltzahn (Public Officer)

Joy Banerji

Deb Itzkowic (Secretary)

Elaine Robb

Andrea Gangi

Kim Lo

Natalie Pyles

Susan Shepherd

Petra Wahr

Lucie O'Brien (retired)

Phillippa Dee (retired)

Angela McMahon (retired)

## Students

Amanda Lloyd Tait

Lisa Doyle

## Staff

Kelly Hinton (Executive Director)

Shirley Woods (Outreach Coordinator)

Vicky di Mayo (Outreach Worker)

Marilyn Torres (Case Worker)

Therese Watson (Social Enterprise Project Manager)

Shei Vadjdi (Admin Officer)

Nina Vallins (Executive Director - retired)

Sally Waldron (Social Enterprise Project Manager - retired)

## Volunteers

Laura Bailey

Valli Mendez

Vicky Marshall

Sarah Reynolds

Julie Aares

Alana Roy

Ninawa Younan

Eloise Brown

Heather Anderson

Megan McCormack

Sophie Minosora

Colleen Smalley

Therese Watson

Lillian Hendrikson

Sara Barber

Phill Deresa

# Financial Statements

	2011 \$	2010 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Consulting Fees	-	-
Management Fees	93,518	45,922
Interest Received	505	132
Donations & Fundraising	49,105	29,340
Sales	57	542
Training & Forum Workshops	-	80
Other Income	-	140
Loss on Sale of Non-current Assets	-	(4,661)
	<b>143,185</b>	<b>71,496</b>
<b>Income - Grants</b>		
City of Yarra	23,034	53,797
City of Monash	13,410	14,213
Dept of Justice	20,000	49,500
Lord Mayor's Foundation	-	10,000
Jobs Fund	157,135	154,000
Dept of Planning & CD	-	13,750
Federal Attorney General (POCA)	104,000	61,600
Ian Potter	21,545	-
NJC	9,981	-
VMC-T	10,692	-
	<b>359,797</b>	<b>356,860</b>
Less Carried Forward	<b>107,257</b>	<b>(98,574)</b>
	<b>467,054</b>	<b>258,286</b>
Total Income	610,240	329,782
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Accountancy Fees	-	4,553
AGM & Annual Report	1,989	1,738
Advocacy	-	110
Audit Fees	1,100	4
Bank Charges	1,384	1,714
Conferences/Subscriptions	50	497
Comm Enterprise	171,308	-
Depreciation	990	802
Filing Fees	42	41
Fundraising Expenses	-	1,563
Holiday Pay	8,480	(6,382)
Insurance	10,235	6,545
Information Technology	16,738	2,577
Long Service Leave	-	(3,202)
Office Expenses	-	3,410
Printing & Stationery	-	1,245
Project costs	18,494	24,021
Project Management Fee	51,518	45,922
Promotion / Publications	-	20
Rent & Utilities	5,819	9,376
Repairs & Maintenance	-	338
Salaries & Fringe Benefits	247,203	157,269
Staff Recruitment	2,216	2,207
Staff Training & Welfare	1,572	2,808
Sundry Expenses	(461)	-
Superannuation Contributions	24,533	14,100
Supervision	735	460
Telephone	6,464	7,474
Translation/Consulting	-	176
Travelling Expenses	11,517	11,762
Website	-	-
Workcover	1,315	4,160
	<b>610,240</b>	<b>295,310</b>
Operating Profit (Loss)	<b>-</b>	<b>(20,073)</b>

## Balance Sheet As at 30 June 2011

	2011 \$	2010 \$
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Earnings	(47,626)	26,866
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>(47,626)</b>	<b>26,866</b>
Represented by:		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Petty Cash	1,076	342
Cash at Bank	210,858	292,312
Sundry Debtors	-	1,253
	<b>211,934</b>	<b>293,907</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Motor Vehicles	32,800	-
Less Accumulated Depreciation	792	-
	<b>32,008</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Office Furniture &amp; Equipment</b>		
Less Accumulated Depreciation	1,979	1,980
	<b>659</b>	<b>461</b>
	<b>1,320</b>	<b>1,519</b>
	<b>33,328</b>	<b>1,519</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>245,262</b>	<b>295,426</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Sundry Creditors	10,705	-
Accounts Payable	2,872	1,021
ANZ Visa Card	979	251
Provision for Holiday Pay	8,840	-
Provision for GST	57,496	-
Income in Advance	212,357	267,287
	<b>292,888</b>	<b>268,559</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>292,888</b>	<b>268,559</b>
<b>Excess of Liabilities over Assets</b>	<b>(47,626)</b>	<b>26,866</b>

## Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year ended 30 June 2011

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	26,866	3,030
Prior Year Adjustments	(74,492)	(10,636)
Profit (Loss) Attributable to Members	-	34,473
<b>BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2010</b>	<b>(47,626)</b>	<b>26,866</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

## Note 1 – Statement Of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the economic entity in the preparation of the financial report.

### Fixed assets

Each Class of fixed assets is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated using the prime cost method or the diminishing value method over their useful lives to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

### Employee Entitlements

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements expected to be settled within one year together with entitlements arising from wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave which will be settled after one year, have been measured at their minimal amount. Other employee entitlements payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those entitlements.

Contributions are made by the association to employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

### Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognized net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of the GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognized as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the Balance Sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

## Statement of Cash Flows For the Year ended 30 June 2011

	2011	2010
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Receipts from grants	467,054	258,286
Receipts from other sources	89,003	302,090
Payments to suppliers and employees	(604,481)	(324,636)
Interest received	505	132
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (Note 2)	<u>(47,919)</u>	235,872
<b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Proceeds from (payment for) property, plant and equipment and motor vehicles	(32,800)	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(32,800)</u>	-
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	(80,719)	235,872
Cash at beginning of year	292,653	56,781
Cash at end of reporting period (Note 1)	<u>211,934</u>	292,653

### NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

#### Note 1. Reconciliation Of Cash

For the purposes of the statement of the cash flows, cash included cash on hand and in at call deposits with banks or financial institutions, investments in money market instruments maturing within less than two months, net of bank overdrafts

#### (a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

Cash on Hand	1,076	342
Cash at Bank	210,858	292,311
	<u>211,934</u>	292,653

#### Note 2. Reconciliation Of Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities To Operating Profit

Operating result	-	34,473
Prior year adjustments - Re Assets	-	(3,787)
Prior year adjustments - Reserves	<u>(74,492)</u>	(3,063)
Depreciation of Non-current Assets	990	802
Changes In Net Assets and Liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	1,253	127,493
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	70,780	(9,035)
Increase/(decrease) in income in advance	(54,930)	98,573
Increase/(decrease) in provisions for leave	8,480	(9,584)
	<u>(47,919)</u>	235,872



### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of PROJECT RESPECT

#### Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of **PROJECT RESPECT** which comprises the balance sheet as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

#### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The management of are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The management's responsibility also includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

#### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

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

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Management's financial reporting requirement. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

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



Chartered Accountants

#### DIRECTORS

JANET L. COLLYER FCPA  
LIONEL R. ARNOLD CA B.BUS  
RAELENE LAI CPA B.COM

LIABILITY LIMITED BY A SCHEME APPROVED  
UNDER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS LEGISLATION

*Independence*

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the relevant independence requirements.

*Auditor's Opinion*

In our opinion the financial report of **PROJECT RESPECT**

- (a) gives a true and fair view of **PROJECT RESPECT**'s financial position as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.



.....

Janet Collyer

J L COLLYER & PARTNERS

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011



Find out more about Project Respect  
[www.projectrespect.org.au](http://www.projectrespect.org.au)

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