

FINANCIAL REPORT 18-19

| | 2019 | 2018 |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| INCOME | \$ | \$ |
| Government Grant Funding | 2,480,237 | 2,230,828 |
| Other Grant Funding | 901,604 | 877,710 |
| Philanthropic Funded Projects | 320,175 | 346,379 |
| Other | 59,166 | 93,244 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 3,761,182 | 3,548,161 |
| | | |
| EXPENDITURE | \$ | \$ |
| Administration | 114,667 | 124,817 |
| Depreciation | 36,144 | 38,017 |
| Employment | 23,482 | 24,402 |
| Occupancy | 275,732 | 249,296 |
| Organisational | 118,063 | 111,722 |
| Staff salaries and wages | 3,193,907 | 2,983,219 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 3,761,995 | 3,531,473 |
| | | |
| NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) | (813) | 16,688 |
| | | |
| STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION | \$ | \$ |
| Current Assets | 1,595,152 | 1,051,919 |
| Non Current Assets | 241,769 | 268,869 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 1,836,921 | 1,320,788 |
| | | |
| Current Liabilities | 1,538,914 | 1,021,968 |
| Non Current Liabilities | - | - |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 1,538,914 | 1,021,968 |
| | | |
| NET ASSETS | 298,007 | 298,820 |
| | | |
| STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS | \$ | \$ |
| From Operating Activities | 389,817 | 30,280 |
| From Investing Activities | (9,044) | (15,201) |
| From Financing Activities | - | - |
| NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD | 380,773 | 15,079 |
| | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of FY | 967,028 | 951,949 |
| | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of FY | 1,347,801 | 967,028 |

For our full financial report, please visit our website.

Photos L to R:

- Treasurer Tim Pallas announces \$175k grant to extend Free Myki pilot project to make public transport accessible for vulnerable secondary students to further 15 Wyndham schools
- WEstjustice Train the Trainer program in Ballarat. Community leaders from newly arrived communities learning about employment law for the benefit of their communities
- Great new project with Wyndham City Council – WEstjustice staff providing family violence training for 60 maternal child health nurses
- NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner dropped by our Sunshine Youth Office to see the innovative work we do for young people in the West
- Raising awareness for R U OK Day
- Donations gather for the Elizabeth Morgan Women’s Refuge to support women escaping family violence

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Abode Migration Lawyers
ACCAN
AMES
Angela O’Brien—Barrister
Anglicare
Births Deaths and Marriages Victoria
CDC Victoria
Cindy Dickman—Financial Counsellor
Clayton Utz
cohealth
commUnity Plus Services
Consumer Action Law Centre
Consumer Affairs Victoria
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Council to Homeless Persons
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
Department of Education and Training
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Justice and Community Safety
Department of Premier and Cabinet
(Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division)
Department of Transport
Djerriwarrh Health Services
Doogue O’Brien George
EACH
Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women’s Services
Ethnic Communities’ Council of Victoria
Federation of Community Legal Centres
Gadens
Gordon Legal
H3 Alliance
Hall & Wilcox
Helen Macpherson Smith Trust
Hobsons Bay City Council
HWL Ebsworth
Insurance Council of Australia
Iwi n Aus
Justice Connect
K&L Gates
Kimberley Foundation
King & Wood Mallesons
KPMG
Lander & Rogers Lawyers
Laverton Community Hub
Legal Services Board + Commission
Library at The Dock
Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation
McAuley Community Services for Women
Maribyrnong City Council
Maurice Blackburn
Melbourne Social Equity Institute
Metro Trains
MiCare
Migrant Workers Centre
Mind Australia
Mondira Mukerjee—Locum
National Association of Community Legal Centres
National Union of Workers
Noel & Carmen O’Brien Family Foundation

Newsboys Foundation
Phoenix Youth Centre
Public Transport Ombudsman
Public Transport Victoria
PwC Australia
Relationships Australia Victoria
R E Ross Trust
Ryan Carlisle Thomas Lawyers
Slater & Gordon
Social Security Rights Victoria
Social Ventures Australia
Stary Norton Halphen
Sunshine Family Relationship Centre
Sunshine Magistrates’ Court
Study Melbourne Student Centre
Sze Lim—Locum
Tarneit Senior College
The Grange P-12 College
The Jack Brockhoff Foundation
Thriving Communities Partnership
Transdev
Transport Accident Commission
UnitingCare Werribee Support and Housing
Unity Church in Australia
Victorian Government
Victorian Government—Department of Justice
Victoria Legal Aid
Victoria University
Victoria University—College of Law and Justice
Victorian Women’s Benevolent Trust
Victorian Women’s Trust (Fay Marles Equal Opportunity) Sub Fund
Visy Cares Hub Sunshine
Warringa Park College
Werribee Magistrates’ Court
Werribee Mercy Hospital
Werribee VCAT
Whitelion Open Family
Women’s Health West
WorkSafe Victoria
Wyndham Central College
Wyndham City Council
Wyndham Community and Education Centre (VCAL)
Wyndham Youth Resource Centre
Youth Junction Inc
Yvonne Montfort—Social Worker

The Centre wishes to thank all our funders, pro bono partners, community partners and supporters

For a full list of volunteers, interns and secondees, please visit our website.

WEstjustice acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Westjustice

ANNUAL REPORT 18-19

Werribee Office (Head Office)
Level 1, 8 Watton Street
Werribee VIC 3030
Ph: 03 9749 7720
Fax: 03 9749 8276
Email: admin@westjustice.org.au

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm by appointment

Footscray Office
Level 1, 72 Buckley Street
Footscray VIC 3011
Ph: 03 9749 7720
Fax: 03 9689 8155
Email: admin@westjustice.org.au

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9.30am – 5.00pm by appointment

Sunshine Youth Office
Visy Cares Hub
80B Harvester Road
Sunshine VIC 3020
Ph: 03 9091 8237
Fax: 03 9091 8207
Email: sunshine@westjustice.org.au

Day Service: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am – 4.30pm by drop in/appointment

Australian Business No. 72 604 181 071
Australia Company No. 604 181 071

www.westjustice.org.au
www.twitter.com/WesternCLC
www.facebook.com/WEstjustice

WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

It has been a very busy year for WEstjustice. Some of the highlights in 2018-19 include:

- \$175k Community Support Fund grant to extend our free Myki pilot to make public transport accessible for vulnerable and homeless secondary students to a further 15 schools in Wyndham;
- Commitment to pay full superannuation benefits for up to 12 months to staff on parental leave, with the new policy intended to address loss of super and pay inequality for women working in the sector; and
- Expansion of our partnership with Study Melbourne to support international students’ legal rights.

We wish to acknowledge the outstanding service of our Board of Directors – Sarah Strapps, Meredith Blackstock, Meseret Abebe, Patricia Crossin, Rhys Benny and Stuart Brown; and a special thank you to Peter Renwick a long standing Director who has since resigned.

We also wish to thank all of our dedicated volunteers, staff, supporters and funders; without their continued support our organisation could not serve and support those at risk in our community.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge Denis Nelthorpe, Chief Executive Officer whom will be finishing up at the end of 2019. His dedication to the Centre over the last 10 years and to the Community Legal Sector over the last 30 years cannot be overstated. His leadership and commitment in the pursuit of better outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged clients, have helped shape the WEstjustice for the better. On behalf of the staff and the Board, thank you for your service.

Vern Fettke, Board Chair



PEOPLE

BOARD

Vern Fettke Chairperson
Sarah Strapps Secretary/Public Officer
Meredith Blackstock Director
Meseret Abebe Director
Patricia Crossin Director
Rhys Benny Director
Stuart Brown Director

STAFF

Denis Nelthorpe CEO
An Huynh General Operations Manager
Angus Woodward Senior Lawyer
Annette Au Yeung Principal Lawyer
Banafsheh Abedali Community Worker
Carol McNair Administrator
Catherine Hemingway Director of Policy & Community Development
Chrisovalantis Nicolaou Lawyer
Dacia Abela Tenancy Lawyer

Francesca Lai Employment Lawyer
Gabrielle Watson-Munro Senior Lawyer
Gillian Davy Community Engagement Manager
Ha Le Principal Lawyer
Heather Neilson Financial Counsellor
Hilary Knack Family Violence Lawyer
Joseph Nunweek Senior Lawyer
Lachlan Clarke Administrative Assistant
Matthew Martin Senior Lawyer
Melissa Hardham Director of Policy & Community Development
Michelle Moone Administrator
Neng Boi Community Worker
Pa Hmun Community Worker
Pauline Alabakis Family Violence Lawyer
Priyanka Shetty Senior Lawyer
Rachel Shulkes Family Violence Program Manager
Sarouche Razi Principal Lawyer
Sean Vagg Senior Lawyer
Semisi Kailahi Lawyer

SERVICES

GENERALIST LEGAL SERVICES

Werribee Office
Footscray Office
Sunshine Youth Office

SPECIALIST LEGAL SERVICES

Consumer Advice and Advocacy Program
Family Law and Family Violence Legal Clinic
Fines Legal Clinic
Hear Me Legal Triage Clinic
Mortgage Wellbeing Service
Motor Vehicle Accident Legal Clinic
Newly Arrived and Refugee Employment Law Service
Pasifika Legal Clinic
Refugee Legal Clinic
Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Program
Youth Law Clinic

FINANCIAL COUNSELLING

Financial Counselling Service
Burmese Financial Counselling Service

SCHOOL LAWYER PROGRAM

The Grange P-12 College
Tarneit Senior College
Warringa Park College
Wyndham Central College
Wyndham Community and Education Centre (VCAL)

Sharon Blazier Financial Counsellor
Shifrah Blustein Policy & Projects Lawyer
Shorna Moore Director of Policy & Community Development
Su Robertson Clinical Practice Manager
Susan Huang Tenancy Lawyer
Tarni Perkal Director of Policy & Community Development
Tess Matthews Consumer Lawyer
Trang Chau Tenancy Lawyer
Veronika Levchenkova Administrative Assistant
Vincent Shin Senior Lawyer
Wendy Sengotta Mind Project Lawyer
Za Tuah Ngur (Nguri) Community Worker

WE WELCOMED...

Emily Scott Lawyer
Kate Robinson Family Violence Lawyer
Nadia Baldassi-Winderlich Youth Lawyer
Noha Ghobrial Finance Officer
Rachel Gregory Youth Lawyer

OUTREACH LOCATIONS

Djerriwarrh Health Services
Docklands Library
Laverton Community Hub
McAuley Community Services for Women
Mind Williamstown
Newport Community Hub
Point Cook Youth Services
Study Melbourne
Sunshine Family Relationship Centre
Werribee Mercy Hospital
Wyndham Youth Resource Centre
VLA Melbourne

DUTY LAWYER SERVICES

Family Violence Intervention Orders

Werribee Magistrates’ Court
Sunshine Magistrates’ Court

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Community Legal Education
Community Development and Law Reform
Student Placement / Internships

For more information about our services please visit our website.

For a copy of our impact statements, please visit our website.

Shani Williams Lawyer
Skye Hawkins Financial Counsellor

WE SAID GOODBYE TO...

Kathryn Bastounas Paralegal
Monique Hurley School Lawyer
Rebekah Wong Lawyer
Stephanie Tonkin Director of Policy & Community Development
Jennifer Lindstrom Family Violence Lawyer
Vu Kim Senior Lawyer

TRAIN THE TRAINER PARTICIPANTS

Dal Bahadur Khadka
Francess Connison
Harkiran Sandhu
Henry Madit
Zo Mauan

| WEstjustice Statistics | 18-19 | 17-18 | |
|---|-------|-------|---|
| Clients experiencing financial disadvantage | 69% | 67% | ^ |
| Duty lawyer services | 1098 | 944 | ^ |
| Advices | 2492 | 2804 | ^ |
| Clients from a CALD background | 41% | 38% | ^ |
| CLE Sessions Delivered | 55 | 46 | ^ |
| Referrals made | 799 | 676 | ^ |
| Legally assisted family dispute resolutions | 37 | 21 | ^ |
| Outreach services offered | 21 | 20 | ^ |
| Community Legal Education Participants | 618 | 700+ | v |
| Volunteers | 180+ | 170+ | ^ |
| Clients assisted | 2928 | 3399 | v |

CASE STUDY ONE

Background:

Tony* a Centrelink Disability Support Pensioner and unemployed, was made homeless after an accidental house fire at his rental property. Tony had no money to arrange removal of his belongings and also received a letter of demand from his landlord’s insurer’s debt collector. He approached WEstjustice for assistance.

What was done:

We negotiated with the landlord to assist with removal of his belonging and negotiated with the insurer waive the debt on the basis that Tony was effectively judgement proof.

Case outcome:

Tony only faced a small fee for removal of outstanding rubbish and got his full bond back. The insurer also agreed to cease pursuit of the fire debt of over \$425,000.

Impact to Client:

Tony was no longer facing further legal or enforcement proceedings; he was able to put his bond towards finding new housing and ultimately felt more empowered after this situation had left him feeling hopeless and vulnerable.

CASE STUDY TWO

Background:

Ellie* worked as a part time cleaner in an office building. Due to a medical condition, Ellie had to undergo surgery and was unable to perform certain tasks at her workplace. She returned to work on modified duties. Three months after this occurred, Ellie was stood down by her supervisor pending a full medical clearance to return to her un-modified duties. At the time she visited the employment law practice at WEstjustice, she understood this to be a constructive dismissal, however a few days later her employer invited her to attend a meeting to discuss her return to work.

What was done:

We accompanied Ellie to the meeting with her employer and highlighted the discriminatory conduct of Ellie’s supervisor to her employer’s HR representatives.

Case outcome:

Following negotiations with Ellie’s employer, the employer apologised for the behaviour of Ellie’s supervisor, agreed to pay Ellie for the period during which she was stood down and agreed to pay compensation for the hurt and humiliation caused to Ellie. Her employer also agreed to ensure that its entire management staff underwent anti-discrimination training.

Impact to Client:

In response to her employer’s commitment to provide anti-discrimination training, Ellie said:

‘After knowing that I can help so much, it doesn’t matter what else ends up happening. This is fantastic...

I really appreciate that you are supporting people like me who never have protection against the big companies, it is really important.’

*All names have been changed to maintain confidentiality