



St Kilda Legal Service

Annual Report 2018/19



Onsite interpreters are available when funds permit, otherwise telephone interpreters are used. Auslan interpreters are available if required.

Acknowledgements

This Annual Report covers the period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019.

St. Kilda Legal Service (SKLS) acknowledges the Yalukit Wilam Clan of the Boon Wurrung as the traditional owners of the land on which SKLS operates. The catchment of SKLS includes the Cities of Port Phillip, Stonnington and Bayside. The City of Stonnington includes the traditional lands of both the Boon Wurrung and Woi Wurrung (the Wurundjeri Wilam clan of the Woi Wurrung). The traditional owners of the land in the City of Bayside are the Boon Wurrung. We pay respect to their elders past and present.

SKLS also thanks those who contributed and assisted with the production of this report along with Allens Lawyers and K&L Gates.

St Kilda Legal Service Inc. ABN: 83 519 420 198 St Kilda Community Centre 161 Chapel Street, St Kilda, VIC 3182 info@skls.org.au 03 8598 6635 F 03 9525 5704

www.skls.org.au

Opening Hours

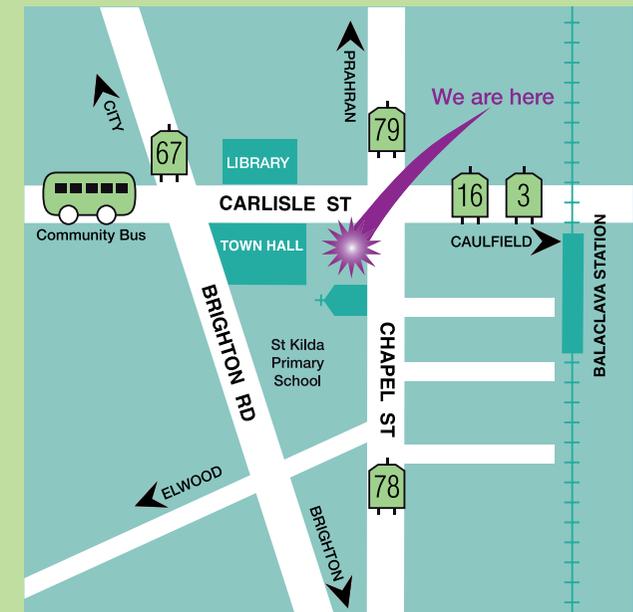
Day Service: Monday – Friday: 9:00am – 5:00pm

Night Service: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Legal assistance provided by the generalist legal service is via appointment. Appointments are available to residents of the Cities of Port Phillip, Stonnington and Bayside and the suburb of North Caulfield, who satisfy eligibility requirements as set out in the SKLS Casework Guidelines (as amended from time to time). Appointments can be made by contacting the Service during opening hours.

We thank the following for the front cover artwork:

The 'Spoken' project was done in collaboration by Space2b Social Design and the team at Ondru Art, supported by the City of Port Phillip with artwork by Heesco and based on photography by Shane Lam.



Contents

About St Kilda Legal Service	2	Family Violence Program	12
Our vision and mission.....	2	LGBTIQ Legal Service	13
Our structure	3	Family Law Program	14
Who we are.....	4	Our volunteers and their work	15
President’s report.....	5	Volunteers	17
Executive Officer & Principal Lawyer’s report	7	Community legal education, law reform & projects	19
Legal Services statistics.....	9	Our collaborations	20
Community Outreach Program	10	Financial statements.....	21

About St Kilda Legal Service

The St Kilda Free Legal Service, as it was known at its inception, began informally in 1971, and began recruiting volunteer solicitors in 1973. At the first meeting on 4 April 1973, the Legal Service became part of the new St Kilda Community Group that was set up to provide welfare services to the community.

Since that time the St Kilda Legal Service has grown from strength to strength. It now has 14 staff, approximately 100 volunteers, and

numerous targeted legal programs, including the Community Outreach Program, Family Violence Program, Family Law Program and LGBTIQ Legal Service, as well as a generalist legal service that runs across both the day and night.

For over 45 years, St Kilda Legal Service has provided legal information, advice, referrals, ongoing casework, representation, community legal education and consistently engages in law reform activities.

Our vision and mission

Vision

The vision of the Service is a society that provides equitable access to the law and legal system and is committed to justice for all.

Mission

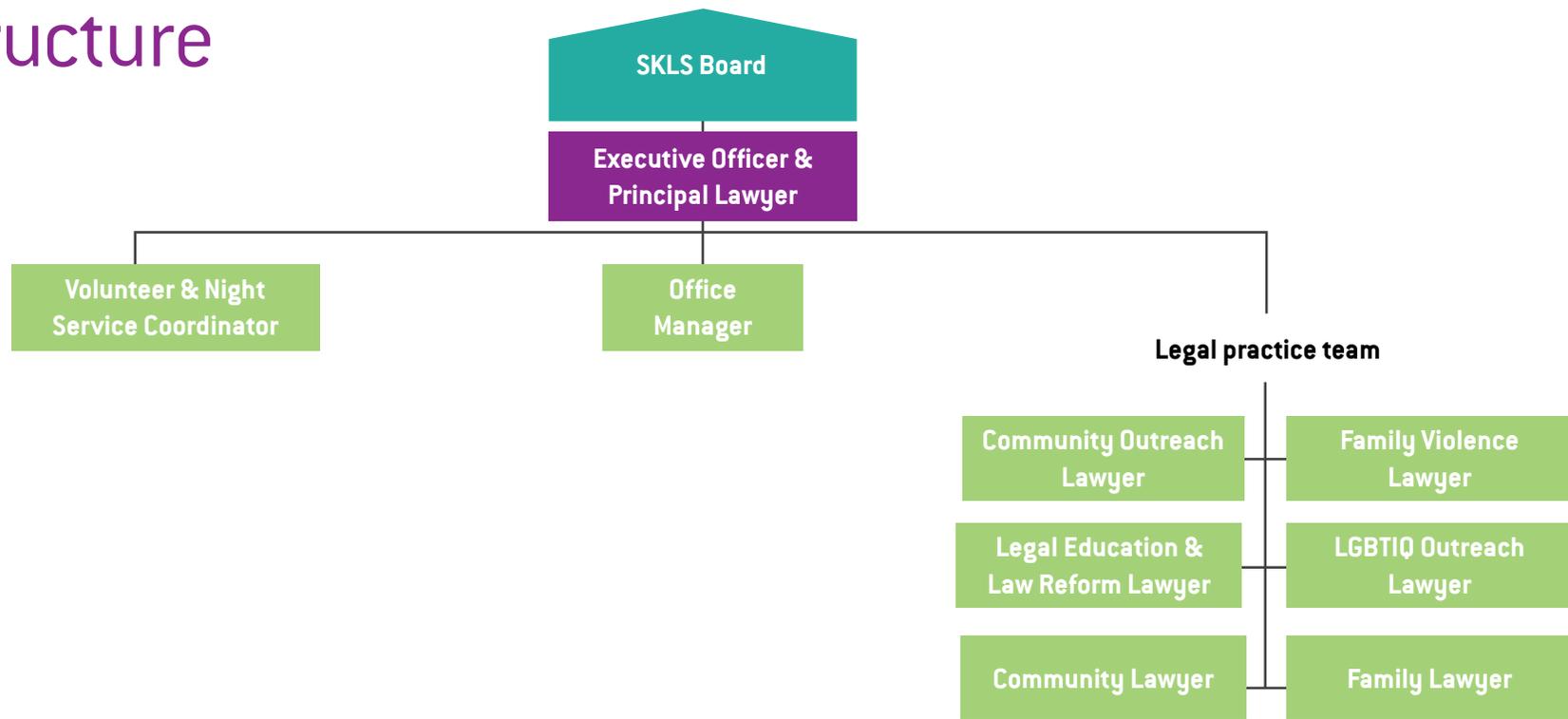
The Service aims to protect and promote the legal rights and interests of the community, to assist and empower individuals and groups who are disadvantaged in their access to justice, and to contribute to the reform of laws and structural inequities to achieve fair and just outcomes.



Change Your ID Day team from left to right, Nathan Duong, Emily Grutzner, Sam Elkin, Sebastian Withers, Gemma Cafarella and Daniel Carlos Bennet-Spark



Our structure



Who we are

Our Board

Adam Meyer
President

Elliot Anderson
Treasurer

Stephanie Tonkin
Director

David Pargeter
Director

Diane Preston
Secretary

Brendan Lacota
Director

Linda Glucina
Vice President

Former Board Members

Ian Shepherd

Our Staff

Annie Davis
Executive Officer & Principal Lawyer

Agata Wierzbowski
Executive Officer & Principal Lawyer (Parental Leave)

Nat Barnes
Office Manager

Anthea Teakle
Volunteer & Night Service Coordinator

Victoria Mullings
Family Violence Lawyer

Amber Schmidt
Family Violence Administrative Officer

Julie Asher
Family Lawyer

Will McKeand
Community Lawyer

Hannah Lewis
Community Lawyer

Jessica Richter
Community Outreach Lawyer

Alexandra Partington
LGBTIQ & Community Outreach Lawyer

Sam Elkin
LGBTIQ Outreach Lawyer

Sarah-Jo Watt-Linnett
LGBTIQ Project Support & Community Engagement Officer

Courtney Peters
Community Legal Education & Law Reform Lawyer

Noha Ghobrial
Finance Officer

Former Staff

Acacia Burns
Family Lawyer

Suzy Fox
Administration Manager

Lloyd Murphy
Community Outreach Lawyer

Andelka Obradovic
Community Outreach Lawyer



SKLS Board Members from left to right, Agata Wierzbowski, Annie Davis, Linda Glucina, Stephanie Tonkin, Diane Preston, Brendan Lacota, Adam Meyer and Elliot Anderson



From left to right, Annie Davis, Courtney Winter-Peters, Victoria Mullings, Nat Barnes, Will McKeand, Hannah Lewis, Anthea Teakle, Matt Weinman, Julie Asher, Sarah Baird and Bridget Armstrong

President's report

Adam Meyer
President



Highlights of the year

Over the past year, the Board and staff have been working to strengthen SKLS, following Phase 1 of the Strategic Reform Project which we undertook last year. This has included:

- implementing Phase 1 of the Strategic Reform Project;
- migration of organisational structure to an Incorporated Association;
- adopting new Rules of the Incorporated Association;
- undertaking further phases of the Strategic Reform Project;
- improving operational structures and procedures; and
- expanding our legal services.

Strategic Reform Project

One of the most significant issues addressed by the Board, as part of the Strategic Reform Project during this year has been the migration of SKLS from a Co-Operative to an Incorporated Association, which was completed in March 2019.

The restructure as an Incorporated Association:

- ensures that SKLS meets its obligations under its funding agreement with Victoria Legal Aid, which requires that Community Legal Centres are either an incorporated association or a company; and
- increases our attractiveness to other funders, many of which only fund incorporated associations or companies.

During 2019-2020, the Board will focus on Phase 2 of the Strategic Reform Project, which aims to ensure that SKLS is best placed to provide targeted services to vulnerable clients and to guarantee a successful future for the Service.

Staff

During the past year, there have been few changes in our current staff. Agata Wierzbowski was appointed as Executive Officer/ Principal Lawyer, a key new role created as part of the Strategic Reform

Project. Natalie Barnes was employed as Office Manager, a new role also created by the management restructure. We also welcomed:

- Annie Davis, Executive Officer & Principal Lawyer;
- Noha Ghobrial, Finance Officer; and
- Hannah Lewis, Community Lawyer.

We acknowledge and thank staff who have left SKLS this year, including:

- Acacia Burns, Family Lawyer;
- Suzy Fox, Administration Manager, after a tenure of 31 years;
- Lloyd Murphy, Community Outreach Lawyer; and
- Anelka Obradovic, Community Outreach Lawyer.

Agata Wierzbowski (Executive Officer and Principal Lawyer) commenced maternity leave in June 2019. We have appointed Annie Davis as Executive Officer and Principal Lawyer, during Agata's leave. The Board is looking forward to working with Annie during this period.

The Board recently appointed Linda Glucina as a Board Member, to fill the vacant position created by the abolition of the staff representative role by the migration to the Incorporated Association.

Thank you

Thank you to all of our hard working staff, past and present. We also thank the locums employed during the last financial year to cover staff absences, in particular:

- Victoria Mullings (locum Principal Lawyer)
- Nathan Duong (locum LGBTIQ Legal Service paralegal)
- Lisa Gross and Emilie Bidaine (locum Volunteer Coordinator)
- Family Violence Lawyer locums Asha Prasad, Sara Vessali, Andrew Hale and Victoria Whitelaw.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, without whom running the legal service and conducting the amount of casework that we do, across a wide range of areas of law, would not be possible.

Thank you, also, to my fellow Board members- Diane Preston (Secretary), Elliot Anderson (Treasurer) Brendan Lacota, David Pargeter, Linda Glucina and Stephanie Tonkin- and to Agata Wierzbowski and Annie Davis (Executive Officer and Principal Lawyer) for all the support that they have provided the Board this year.

Thank you to the Port Phillip Community Group (**PPCG**), with whom the Legal Service is co-located at the St Kilda Community Centre, for all of their support and assistance during this year. We look forward to continuing our co-operative working relationship with the PPCG during the coming year.

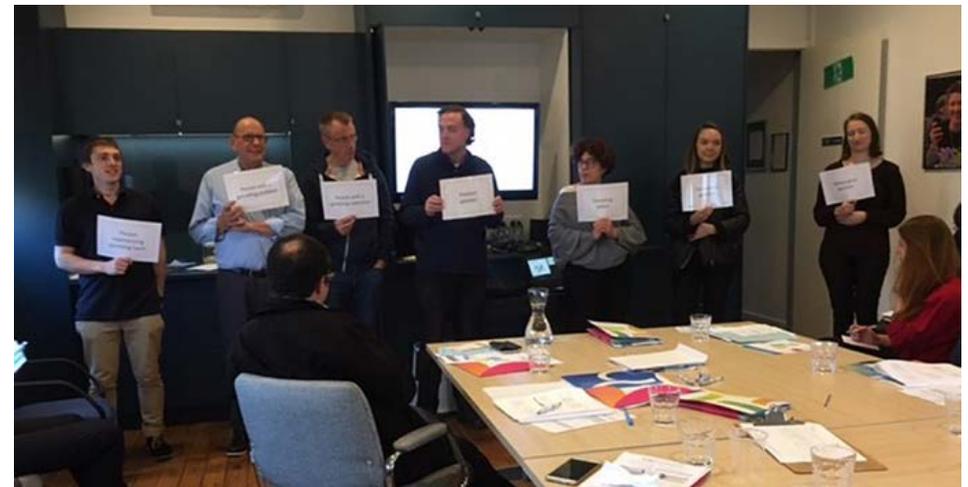
We thank our funders for their on-going support and for specific grants received for programs and projects delivered in 2018-2019, in particular:

Victoria Law Foundation (LGBTIQ Legal Service, "Change Your ID Day" Law Week Event and the Sex Worker Legal Information Project)

Department of Justice & Community Safety (Family Law Program and Family Violence Firearms Project)

- Victorian Government (Family Violence Duty Lawyer program and generalist funding)
- Commonwealth Government (generalist funding)

The Board looks forward to a productive and successful year during 2019-2020.



Executive Officer & Principal Lawyer's report

Annie Davis
Executive Officer & Principal Lawyer

We reached important milestones this year along the road of strategic reform, maintaining the same passion for access to justice that inspired us from the very beginning



This year has marked a very important moment in time in the history of our service, following our migration from a co-operative to an incorporated association in March 2019. With a refreshed set of rules, our new model has significantly strengthened our governance arrangements and supported the modernisation of our policies, procedures and back-of-office systems. These reforms are crucial to ensuring we meet the standards and expectations of a modern community legal centre and that we have a strong foundation from which we can further innovate and grow.

Importantly, as an incorporated association this change has better positioned us to diversify our funding sources. We thank our new and existing funders for their generous support of our work. We also acknowledge the generous contributions made this year by anonymous donors and the broader community, including local businesses, in supporting our fundraising efforts such as our Trivia Night this year.

The coming year will see us embark on the implementation of our strategic plan for 2019-2021, which sets out a clear statement of our mission, values, and strategic goals for the next three years. A key component will be the roll-out of a monitoring and evaluation framework to measure our impact and support continuous improvement in the quality of our services. Work on the next

phase of our Strategic Reform Project will continue in the coming year, with a focus on service design, a location for growth, and strengthening partnerships to increase our impact and sustainability.

These achievements would not be possible without the support and dedication of our volunteers and we thank the various teams across our night service, day service and specialist programs for working with our Board and staff through this change process. We have seen exceptional outcomes delivered for clients through greater resourcing, support and collaboration between our staff and volunteers. Just one example of a big win, among many, has been the recovery of around \$25,000 of underpayments for our clients, mostly from recently arrived migrant backgrounds who have experienced exploitation in the workplace.

Fast approaching its twentieth year in operation, our Community Outreach Program continues to connect with some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our catchment, many of whom are sleeping rough, live with mental illness or suffer from alcohol or other drug dependency. Our partnerships with an enviable number of highly respected services including Launch Housing, the Salvation Army, Sacred Heart Mission, 101 Engagement Hub, Gatehouse and Star Health continue strong. We thank each of our outreach partners for working

so hard in collaboration with us to meet the challenge of responding to the significant legal and other needs of our shared clients.

Responding to those affected by family violence continues to be a core part of our work and we have again seen an increase in demand on our family violence duty lawyer service at Moorabbin Justice Centre this year. Our Family Violence Lawyer and Family Violence Administration Officer have continued to work very hard in responding to higher numbers of clients we see at court and the increasing complexity of their needs. The welcome addition of a specialist Family Lawyer into the SKLS staff team this year has significantly bolstered what we can achieve to protect the safety and wellbeing of those at risk. Within its first year, our Family Law program has enabled us to assist many clients affected by family violence with complex family law issues who would otherwise not have access to legal aid or afford a private lawyer.

Working together with our Family Violence Lawyer, our Family Lawyer has greatly expanded the support we can offer to women in crisis through our outreach services to the Salvation Army and Sacred Heart Mission. They have designed and delivered training to build capacity and expertise across our staff and volunteer teams so we can all better recognise and respond to clients presenting to our services who are affected

by family violence. We have also continued our partnership with Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre to support its Policing Family Violence project for another year. We look forward to the roll-out of a specialist family violence court at the MJC next year and our new Family Law program, together with our strong partnerships, position us well to provide holistic legal responses to clients impacted by family violence.

Our LGBTIQ Legal Service has continued to go from strength to strength, with the service and our inaugural LGBTIQ Outreach Lawyer Sam Elkin receiving much-deserved accolades this year as winner of the LIV Community Lawyer or Organisation of the Year. We thank Thorne Harbour Health management and staff for their ongoing commitment and support in co-delivering this very unique health justice partnership with us. We also thank the very talented and dedicated team of volunteers who have worked with Sam to help us achieve so much within the service's first year of operation. Although the subject of next financial year, we also give our thanks to the Department of Premier and Cabinet for their commitment of funding to help us build a website and recruit a project support officer to support us in meeting the high level of demand our LGBTIQ Legal Service has been responding to from across the state. We also thank the City of Melbourne for their funding to

establish a dedicated program for the specific legal needs of the trans and gender diverse community in 2019-20.

Alongside organisational change and the great volume and quality of our legal advice and casework, 2018-9 has been a prolific year for our community engagement, community legal education and law reform work. We were very proud to launch a series of information sheets for sex workers through our Legal Information for Professionals (LIP) project this year, which provide plain-language and accessible legal information about safety, dealing with authorities and rights at work. This work would not have been possible without the great support and contribution of Vixen Collective, RhED and funding from the Victorian Law Foundation. In addition to leading this project, our CLE and Law Reform Lawyer has coordinated and produced an exceptional number of law reform submissions this year. Much of this work was produced in collaboration with our LGBTIQ Outreach Lawyer to highlight the experience and perspectives of the LGBTIQ community on issues including birth certificate law reform, sexual harassment in the workplace and the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System.

I give my special thanks to Agata Wierzbowski for her support in preparing me to act in her role while she is on parental leave and for her incredible diligence in progressing so



much of this first phase of strategic reform. Special thanks also to our Office Manager and Finance Officer for their great support in putting our reform agenda into practice. I am also very grateful to the Board for their steadfast guidance and support for me personally and for SKLS as an organisation in leading SKLS through this important juncture.

There are many adages about the constancy of change: one is that you can never step into the same river twice. It is in a state of constant change and movement, much like the evolving context of client and

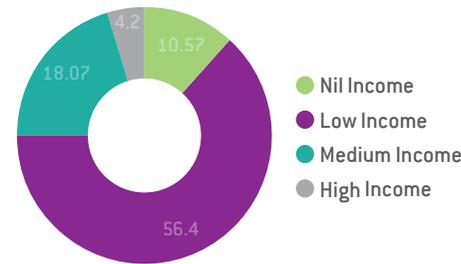
community need around us and how SKLS has adapted to meet those needs over the years. However, just as constant as change at SKLS has been the passion we have always shown when it comes to reaching those who would otherwise miss out on legal services they need. That same commitment, care and understanding that inspired the establishment of this service in 1971 continues to flow through the veins of this organisation and it will continue to sustain us as we move into this next exciting chapter.

Legal Services statistics

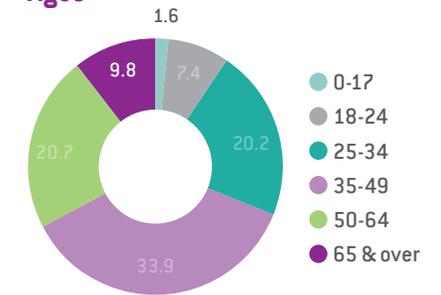
Breakdown of Services Delivered

	TOTAL 18-19	TOTAL 17-18
Information and Referral	1092	1061
Legal Advice	1774	1357
Legal Task	227	120
Duty Lawyer	582	514

Income Level



Ages



People experiencing financial disadvantage

72%

People experiencing family violence

47%

1.43% Indigenous Australians

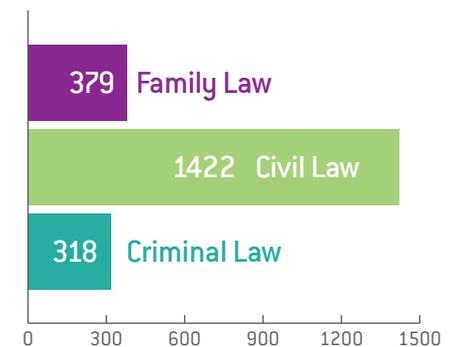
33% clients identified as having a disability or mental illness

13% Homeless

Services by high level problem type

	Information	Referral	Legal advice	TOTAL
Civil law	68	669	1414	2151
Criminal law	8	110	368	486
Family law	21	232	544	797
TOTAL	97	1011	2326	3434

Client by Law type



Community Outreach Program

Our Community Outreach Program enables us to reach some of the most disadvantaged communities in our catchment.

The SKLS Drug Outreach program was established by SKLS in 2003 because we recognised the need to assist clients experiencing drug or alcohol dependency with their legal issues at an earlier stage. The best way to do this was to send our lawyers out of the office and into services where clients were already seeking help with their alcohol or drug dependency and other, often, connected issues such as homelessness and mental health. The program has since evolved into a number of thriving outreach partnerships with services who support our clients from a diverse range of communities, with a diverse range of needs and in a diverse range of ways.

We have now renamed the program our Community Outreach program – a name that far better reflects the diversity of experiences and perspectives our clients and service partners bring to us through this part of our practice. Our Community

Outreach lawyers see clients with legal needs arising from many forms of disadvantage and marginalisation, including mental illness, disability, homelessness and alcohol or other drug dependency.

This past year we have continued to build and strengthen our outreach partnerships, each of these with local community-based organisations who provide critical services to some of the most disadvantaged people in our catchment. Through this program we have continued to see high demand for our services and our lawyers have assisted some of the most vulnerable people not only in our catchment but in the state, particularly those sleeping rough or reintegrating into the community after serving time in prison or on remand.

We have achieved many great wins for our Community Outreach Program clients this year and the most meaningful are those where our lawyers made a crucial difference to a client's sense of safety, belonging, self-worth and fairness through the justice system. In addition to positive legal outcomes, our lawyers have also played a crucial role in achieving non-legal outcomes where we have linked clients into urgent housing and other assistance through our strong outreach partnership networks.



Former Community Outreach Lawyer Andelka Obradovic with SKLS volunteers Will Scheidlinger and Nathan Duong

We would like to thank our host organisations for the 2018/2019 financial year: 101 Engagement Hub, Sacred Heart Mission, Star Health (particularly the RhED and Wominjeka BBQ programs), Gatehouse, Launch Housing and Moorabbin Youth Hub. We are honoured to work with organisations who make such a positive impact in the community, and without their assistance and collaboration we would not be able to deliver the level of care we know our most disadvantaged clients need.

The Community Outreach Lawyer Program this year said goodbye to Lloyd Murphy and Andelka Obradovic who both achieved incredible outcomes for their clients and who are very much missed by their former clients and outreach service staff. We have since welcomed new lawyers Hannah Lewis, Alexandra Partington and Jess Richter into the program.

CASE STUDY

Paula's* story - Connecting with our Community Outreach Lawyer

Paula has been a tenant of the Office of Housing for almost 20 years. In addition to experiencing mental health issues and alcohol and drug dependency, Paula suffers from an acquired brain injury. Following a period of being particularly unwell, Paula was arrested by police and for a 6 week period spent time in and out of custody and hospital. During this short period, the Office of Housing tried to contact her. When they couldn't reach her, her home was declared abandoned. Proceedings were commenced in VCAT without Paula's knowledge, even though her belongings were still in the property and all rent and utility bills had been paid in full. When she returned to her house, Paula found a new family living there and all her belongings gone and she then went on to live on the streets.

After first meeting with Paula at one of our outreach locations, our Community Outreach lawyer advocated on Paula's behalf to have the Office of Housing decision reviewed. Pending their decision, she connected Paula with urgent housing support through our outreach partner network. With support from our Outreach Lawyer and her new case management team, Paula successfully lodged a new application for housing and her application has been escalated to highest priority due to her exceptional circumstances.

**Not their real names. This case study has been de-identified, and published with the consent of our client*

CASE STUDY

Lily's* story – a complex intersection between family violence and mental health

Lily was a young woman who had recently immigrated to Australia to be with her partner, who was a permanent resident. Lily was quite socially isolated, having no friends or family in Australia. They had no children. Lily had become depressed and anxious.

After an argument which turned violent, Lily called the police and Sam was removed from the home. All contact was barred by the safety notice that was issued. Lily had not expected this outcome and was further alarmed by criminal charges pending against Sam. She was concerned the court proceedings and criminal charges would affect his application for citizenship and impact on them as a family. Lily became so distressed by these proceedings that she made a very serious suicide attempt a week before the court date.

At court, still very unwell, Lily told our duty lawyer that she did not want an intervention order. However, police would not withdraw and were pushing for a further exclusion period to conduct a risk assessment. Lily was devastated and did not believe she could cope.

The SKLS duty lawyer referred her to the Forensicare practitioner at the court and made a submission to the Magistrate that put forth Lily's own views about her wellbeing and safety and that, on balance, Lily's perspective that the risk to her would be greater if Sam was not at home to provide support. The submission was accepted and Sam returned home with certain conditions to protect Lily's safety. Referrals were made to the Applicant Support Worker (for Lily), and Sam was referred immediately to the Respondent Support Worker, to further minimise any potential risk.

This case study emphasises the importance of the availability of duty lawyer services for affected family members even where police are acting, and the benefits of a range of support services at the court. Mental health factors can impact on either (or both) parties in IVO matters, in this instance being potentially life-threatening. A co-ordinated, holistic and client-focussed approach is essential to ensuring affected family members of family violence are supported and heard

**Not their real names. This case study has been de-identified, and published with the consent of our client*

Family Violence Program

Victoria Mullings
Family Violence Lawyer

Our Duty Lawyer service at Moorabbin Justice Centre is growing busier by the year, and as a specialist family violence court, building has already commenced on an entirely new and more safety-focussed area for affected family members for next year.

This year we saw 581 clients at court, an increase on last year, partly due to the additional listing days but also as a result of increased matters being listed. Days where we assist nine or ten clients are now the rule rather than the exception. Whether the higher numbers are due to increased levels of reporting, clearer community understanding of what constitutes family violence, improved police responses, or other factors is not entirely clear, but the system is certainly providing a more reliable avenue for women and children fleeing violence than ever before.

Issues that have come to the fore during this reporting period include the need for better support for police in correctly identifying perpetrators of violence in situations where the primary victim has caused injuries to the perpetrator in self-defence. An understanding of the background dynamics is essential to making 'the right call' when assessing a situation, and there is much research taking place to aid the making of such decisions. SKLS was pleased to be involved in interviews by a Melbourne Monash University post-graduate student on this very issue.

One of the downsides of the additional court days has been a limitation on time available for seeing clients at outreaches, or within the office itself. Fortunately, this last year has seen SKLS employ a family lawyer, enabling us to share the outreach advice sessions at the Salvation Army Family Violence service, and still offer a valuable source of legal support to their clients.

This year we have also provided training in Intervention Order issues to our volunteers, as well as talking to Alfred Health workers about the IVO process. We continue to attend court users meetings on a regular basis, and where possible attend meetings of the Family Violence Applicant Lawyers Network, providing valuable interaction with others in the same role, and advocacy on issues impacting on our clients, and on the sector in general.

We are also continuing to host law students from Deakin University, who are acting as clerks to the duty lawyer; many have subsequently expressed a keen interest in considering family law related roles or working in a community legal centre as part of their future plans!

“I am very fortunate to have had your support and advice through this. Thankyou.”

- Family Violence client



Family Violence Lawyer, Victoria Mullings

LGBTIQ Legal Service

Sam Elkin
LGBTIQ Outreach Lawyer

Our health justice partnership with Thorne Harbour Health (THH) continues to connect our service with many LGBTIQ clients accessing THH services.



We have received many direct referrals based on the growing reputation of the service state-wide and the legal issues continue to be wide-ranging, including family violence, tenancy, infringements, Centrelink appeals, criminal law and discrimination.

The experiences and perspectives of our LGBTIQ program clients greatly informed and supported SKLS's law reform activities this year, with LGBTIQ Outreach Lawyer Sam Elkin and our CLE and Law Reform Lawyer Courtney Winter-Peters working hard to co-deliver many important law reform submissions which either addressed or focussed on particular issues affecting LGBTIQ communities, including the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, the proposed Religious Freedoms Bill and the National Enquiry into Sexual Harassment in the Workplace.

In addition to providing much-needed legal services, our Sam Elkin has worked tirelessly to build capacity across the legal sector to deliver more inclusive services and greater access to justice for LGBTIQ communities. Sam delivered a number of successful and well-attended LGBTIQ Inclusive Practice training sessions, including to the law firm Russell Kennedy and to WEstjustice. Sam also attended the annual National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) conference in both 2018 and 2019,

co-presenting training and showcasing the program's development of the LGBTIQ Inclusive Practice Toolkit (to be launched in 2019-20).

Beyond the community legal sector, Sam promoted the service by speaking at the International Commission of Jurist's (Victoria) Community Opening of the Legal Year at the County Court on 29 January 2019, and at the Neighbourhood Justice Centre's Transgender Day of Visibility event on 29 March 2019. Sam was also invited to speak at the Melbourne University Annual Queer Law Lecture about the establishment of the Outreach Service and the legal problems experienced by LGBTIQ people.

A highlight for the program's community legal education and community development work this year was our Law Week Event 'Change Your ID day', where we brought together representatives from Births, Deaths and Marriages, VicRoads, the Department of Human Services and other government agencies to support people to change their ID in a safe and inclusive environment. Lawyers from St Kilda Legal Service were also on hand to perform legal health checks, and the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission also attended to provide legal information about discrimination law. We hope to run the event again in the coming year.

Another great highlight was our successful stall in collaboration with Fitzroy Legal Service at Midsumma Carnival, where over 200 people participated in our first LGBTIQ Community Legal Needs Survey. We also facilitated the Federation of Community Legal Centre's participation for the first time in Pride March, which was very well attended by our sector despite the extremely hot weather on the day.

SKLS has another big year ahead with its LGBTIQ programs, following our successful application for a grant from the City of Melbourne to establish a legal service for trans and gender diverse clients in partnership with Trans Gender Victoria. We were also awarded the Department of Premier and Cabinet LGBTI Capacity Building Program grant to support the program in reaching more LGBTIQ clients and community members needing legal information, advice and assistance through an improved web presence and the engagement of a dedicated LGBTIQ Project Support and Community Engagement Officer.

Family Law Program

Julie Asher
Family Lawyer

In January 2019 we commenced offering Family Law services at SKLS through a specialist program targeting clients at risk of family violence who would otherwise struggle to obtain the legal assistance they need

The service started with Acacia Burns and then in April 2019 Julie Asher commenced on a permanent basis as the St Kilda Legal Service Family Lawyer. The service provides Family Law advice and casework within the St Kilda Legal Service catchment and guidelines four days per week. One of these days is conducted as outreach at Salvation Army Family Violence unit. The service has also received referrals from Thorne Harbour Health and Star Health. The legal matters conducted through the Family Law service encompass the full gamut of family law matters, including divorce, property and parenting matters. These matters have sometimes been complex, including overseas jurisdictional issues and the intersection of other areas of law with family law, for example, family violence, immigration, VOCAT, criminal law, property and estate matters.

Working together with our Family Violence Lawyer, the Family Law Service has provided in-house training for volunteers and staff regarding family violence and family law, and training to the Bayside Family Violence Network regarding the intersection of family violence and family law. These sessions were well received and the Family Law service has received requests from other organisations to provide in-house family violence and family law training.

In 2018, St Kilda Legal Service worked with Flemington Kensington Legal Service, and Women's Legal Service Victoria, on the Policing Family Violence project - a collaborative project that aims to respond to inadequate police response to family violence. Julie is now the St Kilda Legal Service representative for the Policing Family Violence project and has continued with this work throughout 2019.

Between January 2019 and end of June 2019, the Family Law service has provided assistance to 56 clients.



Our volunteers and their work

Anthea Teakle
Volunteer Coordinator

The Volunteer and Night Service Programs have been steaming ahead over the past year. We have volunteers involved in virtually all aspects of our work and across our different sites and outreaches.

It has been a year of significant growth, with the volunteer numbers increasing from around 70 to about 100 people. Such a big increase has been required because of the expansion of our programs, the surge in casework and general workload across the programs; as well as the increased rigor being placed on our data standards and file management.

As with last year, there has been some change to our operations, and we very much appreciate the volunteers working with us on this. The staff have also undertaken quite a lot of back-end work and training support in relation to the changes referred to above, and ensuring that the Legal Service can meet the increased complexity of our casework and accountability requirements.

The volunteers attending the St Kilda office during the day continue to undertake a range of tasks, including staffing the reception phone and making appointments for people attending in-person. People are presenting with a wide range of matters, and the volunteers need to be adaptable. There has been a significant amount of training and resourcing provided to new and existing volunteers and we are extremely appreciative of everyone's goodwill and efforts here.

In addition to undertaking reception duties, the daytime volunteers input client data to

the CLASS statistics system and take on paralegal tasks for the staff lawyers. Some of the daytime volunteers undertake specific roles, such as participating in the Fines Clinic. We are also fortunate to have a number of volunteer lawyers and PLT graduates here on placement who also work on casework in our specialist programs.

We also have a great team of volunteers who primarily work off-site. They include those who attend Thorne Harbour Health with our LGBTIQ program, as well as the Moorabbin Justice Centre where Deakin University Law students assist the Family Violence Lawyers as part of a legal internship program.

A very welcome change to the Night Service has been the addition of staff lawyers, Courtney Winter-Peters and Hannah Lewis, attending the Monday and Wednesday sessions respectively as the supervising lawyers. Instead of the legal advice being supervised and checked the following day by the Principal Lawyer, Courtney and Hannah can work with the volunteer lawyers on the spot – checking the advice and working together on how the matters should proceed. It has also been helpful to have them provide clarity on conflict of interest and statute of limitation queries. This has all greatly assisted the volunteers and provided greater certainty to the clients as to how the Legal Service can assist with their matters.

The volunteers remain central to our operations and are a real pleasure to work with. As has been noted in previous years, the volunteers are the “heart” of the Legal Service. They undertake great work – many having done so for a number of years. They are also great company and provide rich insights into all that we undertake. And like the staff, the volunteers are here to assist our local community members who often have few other options open to them when it comes to obtaining legal assistance.

We say a heartfelt thank you to those who have finished up with us over the last year, as well as a big welcome to the many new people who have joined the volunteer team!

CASE STUDY

Fines clinic

This year, through our night service volunteers, day service volunteers and staff lawyers, we provided crucial support to community members experiencing homelessness, drug and alcohol issues, mental illness, disability and other vulnerabilities deal with their infringements. For our vulnerable clients, fines and infringement debt can seem like an unsurmountable challenge. Over the past financial year, we have assisted over 120 clients with their fines matters. This includes advices, legal tasks and representations.

Amir's* story

Amir, an asylum seeker experiencing homeless and mental illness came to St Kilda Legal Service for assistance with a fine. Through advocating for Amir, our lawyers were able to have Amir's parking fine removed from being listed in court and waived on the basis of special circumstances. By building trust with Amir, our lawyers were able to identify that he had many thousands of dollars of unpaid fines and work with him to address these fines. Amir, of the service provided said, "thank you for everything, I feel like a weight is beginning to be lifted from me."

** Not their real names. This case study has been de-identified, and published with the consent of our client*



Volunteers

Board Members

Adam Meyer
Diane Preston
Elliot Anderson
David Pargeter
Stephanie Tonkin
Linda Glucina
Brendan Lacota

Day Service

Bridget Armstrong
Caroline Atkinson
Sarah Baird
Nathan Duong
Billy Ellen
Maria Fernanda Fierro Pulido
Edward Gansky
Rachelle Gorbachinska
Georgie Hibbins
Joel Humphreys
Matthew Ki Chun Li
Matthew Minkeun Kim
Sophia Liu

Juliet Louey
Beverley Ng
Jay Ong
Maxwell Panek-Hudson
Aaron Rielly
Sarah Robinson
Gail Ryan
Laura Sanderson
Will Scheidlinger
Will Simon
Taras Sobol
Nicole Stanfield
Billy Strintzos
Jessica Walker
Matthew Weinman
Elaine Wen
Nolan Youngkwang Lee

Practical Legal Training Placement

Nathan Duong
Sarah Robinson
Matthew Weinman

Deakin University Legal Intern

Lauren Breckler
Eliza Harrison
Tessa Faiman
Catherine Innocenzi
Kim Koelmeyer
Josh Pianko
Nicola Pouki
Yosef (Yossi) Segal

LGBTIQ Volunteers

Daniel Bennet-Spark
Jayden Chew
Brooke Collins
Kirsten Congerton
Nathan Duong
Tegan Evans
Emily Grutzner
Harrison Jones

Meri Leeworthy
Rebecca Leighton
Naomi Sloan
Sebastian Withers

Monday Night Service

Tomas Acutt
Jaclyn Artoso
Violet de Lyons-Rowley
Lucinda Elsner
Alex Fildes
Peter Fogarty
John Herron
Stephanie Hope
Laura Sanderson
Frank Sanna
Sarah Schaefer Rivilla
Mark Shenken
Lydia Strohfeldt
Kylie Trinh
Ying Wong
Georgina Wu

Wednesday Night Service

Angela Avgerinos
Peter Cavanagh
Meg Davies
Ian Diaz
Charlotte Geddes
Harriet Geddes
Larissa Goldberg
Alanna Harrigan
Samuel Jackson
Duncan McLean
Mitchell Moody
Ronni Murphy
Lucy Nihill
Niva Sivakumar
Kon Tringas
Evelyn Zeglinas

Thursday Night Service

Nussen Ainsworth
Georgie Carson
Maddi Coleman

Kingsley Davis OAM
Celia Laragy
Tony Lopes
India Mauritzen
Will McKeand
Victoria Muravchenkov
Pat Fabris
Abbie Singh
William Suhr
Jesse Tsiodras
Roger Volk
Millie Wheeler
Courtney White
Carl Wilson

People who have left during the year:

Katherine Baker
Benjamin Bolshinsky
Menoz Bowler
Matthew Collins
Declan Cutler
Astrid Haban-Ber

Mia Ha
Max Hall
Melanie Hannon
Michael Helman
Georgie Hibbins
Julian Hocking
Joel Humphreys
Rochina Iannella
Kathie Karapalidis
Jack Kelly
Tami G Kunoo
Sara Kowal
Vanessa Mahon
Frankie Manson
Sidney Marshall
Damien McAree
Sarah Pinikahana
Jayshiv Rewal
Jessica Saunders
Nikita Schilke
Lauren Schoff
Ian Sheppherd
Rufus Thomas-Webb
Helen Winter (dec)

Special commendations – long serving volunteers

Adam Meyer – 20 years Kon Tringas – 20 years



Helen Winther

In Memoriam - Helen Winther

The volunteers – especially those from the Thursday Night Service, staff and ongoing clients were immensely saddened by the passing of Helen Winther in November 2018.

Helen has volunteered for over 11 years at SKLS! She was the receptionist for Thursday evening where she presided over the front desk and all involved with Thursday nights with her great attention to detail, generosity and mentorship of the students. Extremely intelligent and always inquisitive, Helen attended most training sessions and she loves to debate the issues of the day with the rest of the volunteers after the sessions were over. She was also a phenomenal baker and generously brought in delicious home baked goods to share.

We will always remember Helen fondly.

CRIME CLINIC

Crime Clinic

Our crime clinic, as established in the previous financial year, continues to operate and has achieved impressive results for clients, many of whom suffer from significant mental illness

This clinic is staffed by volunteer lawyers on a Thursday evening. Clients who have been accused of criminal and serious traffic offences are able to get advice and, sometimes, ongoing casework assistance. We are also lucky enough to have volunteer lawyers working with us across the night clinic and during the day, who have extensive criminal law experience and a sophisticated understanding of issues such as mental impairment. We are also fortunate to have PLT students available to provide ongoing support in these matters during the day, with the support of the staff team.

The case of Christopher demonstrates the valuable service that our volunteer lawyers are able to provide to vulnerable members of the community who may not have otherwise been able to access legal support.

CASE STUDY

The story of Christopher*

Christopher was admitted to hospital having suffered a psychotic episode. After his 3 week admission, still in a manic state, he began facing immense psychological stress at the hands of his neighbour, Michael*, who was persistently intruding on his property and texting him inappropriate messages. One day, after a heated conversation with Michael's sister, Christopher suffered a further psychotic episode, during which he threw objects through Michael's back door and window. Michael called the police and Christopher was charged with criminal and wilful damage to property.

Christopher made an appointment with the SKLS crime clinic, seeking to have the charges withdrawn at his upcoming hearing. From there, the team obtained Christopher's discharge summary from the Alfred Hospital under the Freedom of Information Act. This summary made mention of substantial mental disturbance on Christopher's part. The volunteer criminal lawyer also obtained a report from a forensic psychologist which, given the facts of Christopher's case, suggested that it was likely that Christopher was unable to control his actions on the day of his offences due to his underlying psychological condition.

This evidence was presented to the criminal prosecutors at Christopher's hearing. The prosecutors were satisfied, given the evidence, that Christopher was suffering mental disturbances on the day of the offences and, therefore, that it was not in the public interest to proceed with the charges. Ultimately the charges were withdrawn.

** Not their real names. This case study has been de-identified, and published with the consent of our client*

Community legal education, law reform & projects

Courtney Winter-Peters
Community Legal Education
& Law Reform Lawyer

Community Legal Education

St Kilda Legal Service continues to value community legal education as an important means of improving access to justice. We aim to provide information to community members and support workers on a variety of legal issues in order to empower individuals and communities through greater understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities.

A highlight of the last year was the launch of our Legal Information for Professionals (LIP) Fact Sheets. With funding from the Victoria Law Foundation, St Kilda Legal Service produced seven fact sheets for sex workers. The fact sheets address a range of legal issues which sex workers told us (through a series of consultations) impact on them. Topics include dealing with authorities, sex worker safety and your rights at work.

This project represents the next step in SKLS's long and proud history of providing advice and case work assistance to the sex worker community.



Law Reform

Through our case work, we continue to identify systematic issues and barriers to access to justice. We then use our law reform work to educate and encourage decision makers to make fairer policies and laws.

Over the past 12 months, SKLS has been actively engaged in a number of law reform projects, including:

- the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System (in addition to our own submission, we made a submission in response to proposed Terms of Reference, participated in community forums and contributed to the Federation of Community Legal Centre's final submission)
- a detailed submission in response to the National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces. This focussed on the experiences of LGBTIQ people, and included community consultation via an online survey.
- submission in response to Therapeutic Goods Administration re classification of amyl nitrites
- submission in response to inquiry into legislative exemptions that allow faith-based education institutions to discriminate against students, staff and teachers

The Firearms and Family Violence Project

Through the Firearms & Family Violence Project SKLS has continued to provide assistance to family violence survivors who wish to challenge an application by a perpetrator of family violence to get his firearms licence back by way of a section 189 application under the Firearms Act.

In December 2018, we held a roundtable discussion with experts in the field of family violence. Attendees at this session provided invaluable feedback on proposed recommendations in relation to the intersection of firearms and family violence.

Whilst we no longer have funding to assist clients in these matters, we are continuing to receive requests for assistance from around Victoria. This shows the pressing need and lack of resources available for these vulnerable people.

We look forward to launching our final report and recommendations shortly.

Our collaborations

SKLS would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners, supporters and funders over the past 12 months including:

Acknowledgment of pro bono contribution

Thank you to those who have made a pro bono contributions to our Service in the last financial year. This may have been by way of advice in a specialist area of law, or by contributing a skill or resource that the Service doesn't readily have to hand, such as graphic design assistance, colour printing on a large scale, or a room large enough for 40 people. This year, we thank the following private firms and individuals:

Collaborations and partnerships:

101 Engagement Hub – Uniting Church	Port Phillip Community Group
ACGD Design	Resourcing health & Education (RhED)
Barwon Community Legal Centre	Russell Kennedy
Bayside Family Violence Network	Sacred Heart Mission
City of Bayside	Salvation Army
City of Port Phillip	SERLAN Community Legal Education Network
City of Stonnington	Social Security Rights Victoria
Connections UnitingCare	Star Health
Consumer Action Law Centre	Star of the Sea College
Deakin University	St Kilda Gatehouse
Federation of Community Legal Centres	Suzan Gencay
Flemington & Kensington Community Legal Centre	Tenants Victoria
Gambler's Help	Transgender Victoria
Grill'd Local Matters	Thorne Harbour Health
Justice Connect	Victoria Law Foundation
Launch Housing	Victoria Legal Aid
Melbourne University Law Review	Victoria Police
Monash University	Vixen Collective
Moorabbin Justice Centre	West Justice
	Women's Legal Service
	Wominjeka BBQ (a program of Star Health)

Pro bono assistance:

Allens
Gilchrist Connell Legal
K&L Gates
Slater & Gordon
Lander & Rogers
Russell Kennedy

SKLS barristers' panel

Elizabeth Bennett
Nic Chow
Tim Farhall
Laura Johnston
Julia Kretzenbacher
John Leung
Andreia Monteiro
Kylie Weston-Scheuber

Trivia night special thanks

The Local Tap House	Dominos	iCare Toilet Paper	Masani	Train 24/7 Fitness
Dana Patisserie	Hannah	Leonard St	Nord Café	Truffles
Debbie Gluck, Personal Training	Hares & Hyenas,	Luella Beauty Bar	Tilnak	

Financial statements

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2019

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2019

CONTENTS

ITEM	PAGE
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income	1
Statement of Financial Position	2
Statement of Changes in Equity	3
Statement of Cash Flows	4
Notes to the financial statements	5 - 8
Statement by Members of the Committee	9
Auditor's Independence Declaration	10
Independent Auditor's Report	11 - 12
Certificate by Members of the Committee	13

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
INCOME			
CLC Recurrent Grants - State		430,428	408,777
CLC Recurrent Grants - Commonwealth		138,851	134,695
Other Grants		46,026	122,621
Philanthropic grant		20,000	20,000
Reduced revenue - grants (carried)/brought forward		160,126	(69,428)
Costs recovered and retained		5,080	1,600
Fundraising/Donations		787	6,087
Interest Received		6,709	4,774
Membership Subscription		45	50
Other Income		8,564	279
		<u>816,616</u>	<u>629,455</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries and Wages		533,594	431,353
Superannuation		46,687	40,458
Salary On costs		12,325	31,178
Travel		2,737	2,041
Rent and Refurbishment Contribution		28,158	24,669
Other Premises Costs		11,038	14,635
Staff Training		1,899	1,653
Staff Recruitment		2,998	710
Communications		8,422	10,351
Office Overheads		12,117	9,235
Insurance		4,730	3,942
Finance, Audit and Accounting		4,710	2,655
Library, Resources and Subscriptions		5,383	13,329
Programming and Planning		56,497	33,437
Depreciation		5,925	4,314
Minor Equipment		823	1,179
Projects (Non CLC Recurrent)		20,127	4,316
		<u>758,170</u>	<u>629,455</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year before income tax		58,446	-
Income tax expense		-	-
Other comprehensive income for the year net of income tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income after income tax for the period		<u>58,446</u>	<u>-</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Page 1

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	334,760	558,051
Trade and other receivables	3	5,146	8,961
Financial assets	4	200,000	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>539,906</u>	<u>567,012</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Furniture and equipment	5	14,608	18,088
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>14,608</u>	<u>18,088</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>554,514</u>	<u>585,100</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Sundry Creditors	6	44,947	52,756
Amounts in advance	7	258,444	273,901
Provisions	8	82,797	108,712
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>386,188</u>	<u>435,369</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	8	14,454	54,305
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>14,454</u>	<u>54,305</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>400,642</u>	<u>489,674</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>153,872</u>	<u>95,426</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained surplus		153,872	95,426
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>153,872</u>	<u>95,426</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Page 2

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2019

	Retained Surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2017	91,902	91,902
Surplus for the year	3,524	3,524
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2018	95,426	95,426
Surplus for the year	58,446	58,446
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2019	<u>153,872</u>	<u>153,872</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Page 3

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from government grants		763,789	654,683
Receipts from other sources		37,440	28,016
Interest received		6,709	4,774
Payments to suppliers and employees		<u>(828,784)</u>	<u>(587,303)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	9	<u>(20,846)</u>	<u>100,170</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Funds invested in term deposit		(200,000)	-
Payments for purchase of property and equipment		<u>(2,445)</u>	<u>(3,474)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>(202,445)</u>	<u>(3,474)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(223,291)	96,696
Cash at the beginning of the year		<u>558,051</u>	<u>461,355</u>
Cash at the end of the year	2	<u>334,760</u>	<u>558,051</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Page 4

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2019

Note 1: Statement of significant accounting policies

This financial report is special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity. 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 specifically stated, current valuation of non-current assets. The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in preparation of this financial report.

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 three months or less.

b. Property, Plant and Equipment

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all property, plant 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. Leasehold Improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

c. Employee entitlements

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Provision is made for the Association's liability for long service leave from the commencement of employment with the Association.

d. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

e. Impairment of assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Association reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is an indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2019

Note 1: Statement of significant accounting policies (cont.)

f. Revenue

Revenue is brought to account when received and to the extent that it relates to the subsequent period it is disclosed as a liability.

Grant income

Grant income received, other than for specific purposes, is brought to account over the period to which the grant relates.

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 entity 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).

g. 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 payables 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.

h. Economic dependence

The Association is dependent on Victorian Legal Aid for the majority of its revenue used to operate the Association. At the date of this report the Committee has no reason to believe the Department will not continue to support the Association.

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Note 2: Cash and cash equivalents		
Petty Cash	29	978
Cash at bank	334,731	53,973
Cash deposit account	-	503,100
	<u>334,760</u>	<u>558,051</u>
Note 3: Trade and other receivables		
Accounts receivable	2,400	7,000
Prepayments	2,746	1,961
	<u>5,146</u>	<u>8,961</u>
Note 4: Financial assets		
Funds held on deposit	200,000	-
	<u>200,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Note 5: Furniture and equipment		
Equipment - at cost	58,688	56,243
Less accumulated depreciation	(44,080)	(38,155)
	<u>14,608</u>	<u>18,088</u>
Note 6: Trade and other payables		
Current		
Trade and other payables	44,947	52,756
	<u>44,947</u>	<u>52,756</u>
Note 7: Amounts in advance		
Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) grant in advance	83,014	83,306
Department of Justice and Regulation	-	78,753
Legal Services Board grant in advance	80,000	-
Victoria Law Foundation grant in advance	40,279	43,850
Philanthropic grant	55,151	20,000
Local Government grant in advance	-	1,945
Non VLA income in advance	-	46,047
	<u>258,444</u>	<u>273,901</u>

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Note 8: Provisions		
Current		
Provision for annual leave	30,151	46,859
Provision for long service leave	52,646	61,853
	<u>82,797</u>	<u>108,712</u>
Non-current		
Provision for long service leave	14,454	54,305
	<u>14,454</u>	<u>54,305</u>
Note 9: Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with surplus from ordinary activities after income tax		
Surplus after income tax	58,446	3,524
Non-cash flows in surplus		
- Depreciation	5,925	4,314
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	3,815	(7,227)
- Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(7,809)	7,599
- Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(65,766)	26,943
- Increase/(decrease) in income in advance	(15,457)	65,017
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>(20,846)</u>	<u>100,170</u>

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2019

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 St. Kilda Legal Service Inc.:

- a) the financial statements and notes of St. Kilda Legal Service Inc. are in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:
- i. giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - ii. complying with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*; and
- b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that St. Kilda Legal Service 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:


Chairperson

Dated: 15/10/19


Treasurer

Dated: 15/10/19

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION
60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, as auditor for the audit of St. Kilda Legal Service Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2019, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.


Sean Denham

Dated: 17th October 2019
Sean Denham & Associates
Suite 1, 707 Mt Alexander Road
Moonee Ponds VIC 3039

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.

Qualified Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report, of St. Kilda Legal Service Inc., which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee.

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of my report, the accompanying financial report of St. Kilda Legal Service Inc. has been prepared in accordance with Div 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act)* including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b) 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*.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

I was appointed auditor of the Association on 7 January 2019 and therefore required to satisfy myself with opening balances for the year ended 30 June 2019. The previous financial report was audited however due to limitations imposed on me I was unable to satisfy myself with the regard to the opening balances.

Since the opening balances enter into the determination of the financial performance for the year ended 30 June 2019, I am unable to determine whether adjustments might have been necessary in respect of the income or expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2019 reported in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of the association in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the association's reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibility of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee of the association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 of the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*

and the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee are responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intend to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in 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 association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of responsible entities' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions that may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Sean Denham

Dated: 17th October 2019
Suite 1, 707 Mt Alexander Road
Moonee Ponds VIC 3039



www.skls.org.au