

Annual Report

2020 – 2021



St Kilda Legal Service Inc ABN 83519 420 198
St Kilda Community Centre, 161 Chapel St, St Kilda 3182
T: (03) 7037 3200 e: info@skls.org.au www.skls.org.au

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INCLUSIVE SERVICE

St Kilda Legal Service is committed to providing an inclusive service and work environment where people feel safe, accepted, affirmed and celebrated. We are committed to equity, irrespective of cultural or linguistic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, intersex status, religion or spiritual beliefs, socio-economic status, age, or abilities.



St Kilda Legal Service acknowledges that we work on the land of the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. We pay respect to their Elders – past, present, and emerging – and acknowledge the important role Aboriginal people continue to play in our community.

Our Vision – Mission – Values – Goals

Our vision reflects our long-term dream of the future:

Our Vision

We work toward a society that provides equitable access to the law and legal system and is committed to justice for all.

Our mission articulates the overarching reason why we exist:

Our mission

We assist and empower individuals and groups who are disadvantaged in their access to justice and contribute to the reform of laws and structural inequities to achieve fair and just outcomes.

Our values highlight what is important to us and how we work:

Our values

Respect
Integrity
Commitment
Collaboration



Our goals represent what we are aiming to achieve:

Our goals

- 1 Deliver high quality legal services to our community, targeting individuals and groups most in need
- 2 Connect with our community and collaborate with other organisations to understand and respond to community legal need
- 3 Undertake systemic advocacy to promote and enhance access to justice, with a focus on increasing the wellbeing of communities and people experiencing disadvantage
- 4 Build and maintain a high performing and sustainable organisation.

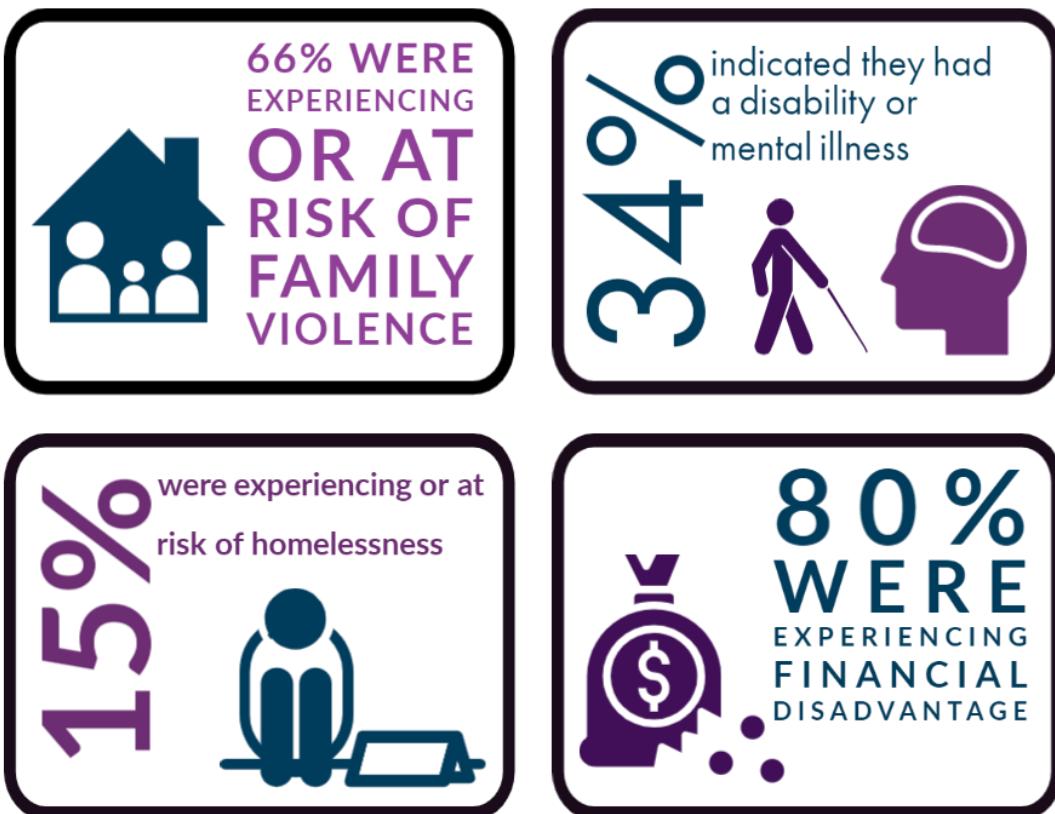
2. Our Clients

We helped

895

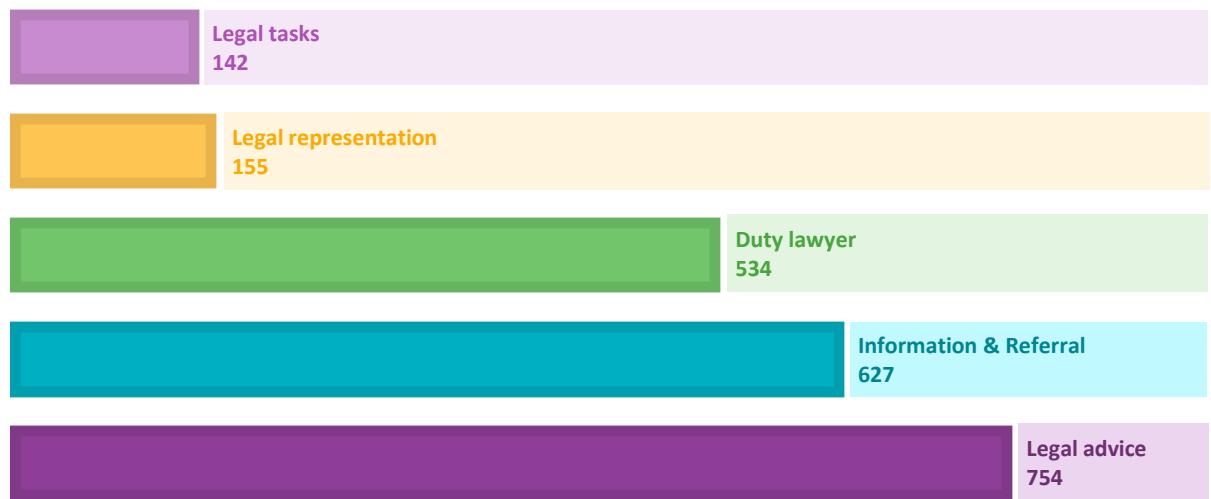
clients

Of our clients:



We provided:

SERVICES TO CLIENTS 20-21



3. Message from the President & CEO

Like most other organisations, much of this year has been riding the rollercoaster of the pandemic.

We have been mindful of its impact to staff, partners, community and clients, and responded with compassion and flexibility.

We also used the opportunity to pause, reflect and reset. Often not a luxury afforded to a busy community legal centre.

Change agenda

A big focus for the organisation this year was 'getting our house in order'.

The legal practice implemented new and streamline digital services and commenced its transition to an online case management system. In responding to client need, it also began a legal needs analysis and strengthened its community partnership program.

For management, we modernised our internal systems, most notably in finance and IT. We are indebted to Deborah Wilson and her team at Good Financials for helping us in our finance transformation. And to Paul Gottliebsen from Computer Troubleshooters for his patience and guidance.

Staff

This year the staff have shown great resilience, adaptability, and humour. Spending much of the year physically apart, they kept connected through virtual coffee-catchups, shared lunches, buddy walks and random acts of kindness.

In December, we conducted a COVID-19 Staff Check-In Survey with the assistance of the Voice Project. The results showed that wellbeing was high at 82% and that 92% of staff were satisfied with the organisation's response to the pandemic.

In recognition that working with vulnerable clients carries impact for our staff, we introduced regular reflective practice sessions with external counsellors. All staff favourably reported that they feel the health and safety is a priority of the organisation.



The team went on a walk with Koorie Heritage Trust in celebration of NAIDOC Week.

As at 30 June 2021, our talented team consisted of:

Alexandra Partington

Bridget Armstrong

Courtney Winter-Peters

Emily Smith

Hilary Knack

Jessica Richter

Julie Asher

Mikayla Pashias

Natalie Barnes

Sarah-Jo Watt-Linnett

Tanja Golding

Victoria Mullings

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

Annie Davis (EO and Principal Lawyer)

Amber Schmidt (Family Violence Administrative Officer)

Brooke Collins (Paralegal)

Hannah Sycamore (LGBTIQ Project Support & Community Engagement Officer)

Noha Ghobrial (Finance Officer)

Will McKeand (Community Lawyer)

Nathan Duong (LGBTIQ Outreach Lawyer & Community Outreach Lawyer)

Tanja Golding (Managing Lawyer, LGBTIQ Legal Service).



The team toured the new office following a staff lunch during a period of relaxed pandemic restrictions

Board

A key priority for the Board this year was finding a fit for purpose venue. Through the generosity of a social impact investor, we have secured a new home (after 48 years) and plans are afoot for a move in December 2021.

A changed external environment, also saw the Board explore methods of service delivery and an increased focus towards targeted and integrated services. The Board also made significant investment in IT and technology this year allowing staff to engage with the Courts and its clients remotely.

In Australia, women retire on average with significantly less superannuation than men. To address this inequality, the Board decided to pay superannuation to staff for the full duration of their parental leave.

We are indebted to our committed and passionate board members of:

Brendan Lacota

Diane Preston – Secretary

Elliot Anderson – Treasurer

Linda Glucina

Sonia Clarke

Stephanie Tonkin

Stephen Somerville – Vice President

We also thank Peter Dikranis for his financial prowess on the Finance Sub-Committee.

Farewell

In 2020, we said farewell to long serving volunteer and Board member, Adam Meyer.

Adam provided outstanding service to the SKLS and the community of St Kilda for over 20 years. Adam commenced volunteering as a law student in 1999, joined the Board in 2006 and became Chair in 2009.

We thank Adam for his years of dedication and wish him all the best on his next endeavours.

The year ahead

First and foremost, we hope to collectively move into the recovery phase of the pandemic.

Exciting, many of our efforts will begin to bear fruit over the next 12 months, including:

A new office

A new design



CEO, Mel Dye and Manager of Strategy & Engagement, Courtney Winter-Peters met with Josh Burns MP – Member for Macnamara

A new website

The year ahead will also see us commence our next strategic plan, improve the way we measure and understand our impact and heighten our engagement and communication across the sector and beyond.

Acknowledgements

We thank our funders for their ongoing financial support and Victoria Legal Aid for its effective and collaborative administration of the Community Legal Services Program (CLSP).

When we collectively acknowledge that we can weather any storm (or pandemic), we are stronger together.

Denis Nelthorpe – President

Mel Dye – Chief Executive Officer

4. Our Work

Community partnerships

We continue to provide targeted legal help through our community partnerships. This financial year, we continued to partner with the Anglican Church – 101 Engagement Hub, Launch Housing, Sacred Heart Mission, Salvation Army, St Kilda Gatehouse and Star Health.

We acutely understand that for many of our clients, a lawyer is not always the first person they turn to for legal help.

Throughout the tumultuous times of lockdowns, SKLS has continued to provide support and has proven to be "proactive and assisting in a timely manner".

Sacred Heart Mission, Community Partner



We also know that targeted and integrated legal help, delivered at the right time and the earliest possible opportunity can help resolve problems that can otherwise escalate, leading to more problems, greater disadvantage, and higher costs. In 2021, we started our Legal Needs Analysis. This project will continue into 2022 and will allow us to determine the met and unmet need of our catchment. An important part of this project will be to explore the potential for new partnerships to further assist our community.



We note that all case studies included in this report have been deidentified and have been published with our clients' consent.

Working in collaboration: client story

SHIRA'S STORY

A fire ignited at Shira's public housing property in 2019 causing significant damage and leaving her property uninhabitable. She was offered temporary accommodation by the Director of Housing however this wasn't suitable for her needs. At the age of 64, Shira found herself homeless for the next two and a half years. The Director of Housing initially agreed to repair the whole property, and then said they would only repair one room, then said no repairs would occur – these discussions taking over 12 months. The Director also said that COVID-19 meant they were not able to do any urgent repairs on the property.

Shira's caseworker at Sacred Heart Mission in St Kilda referred her to SKLS for advice through our Community Partnerships Program in late 2020. Our Community Partnerships lawyer began negotiations with the Director of Housing to repair the property, or to transfer her to a suitable property. The Director of Housing continued to refuse to repair the premises, but made Shira two offers to transfer in 2021, but neither were suitable to Shira's needs. We commenced legal proceedings in VCAT to get the property repaired, and appeared at VCAT and successfully argued for an order for urgent repairs for the entire property. The urgent repairs were completed in 2021 and Shira was finally able to return to her home.

Because of the lengthy delays in Shira's matter, continuity of support was pivotal in progressing negotiations and obtaining the successful outcome. Shira's case management support was shared amongst Star Health, Sacred Heart Mission and Salvation Army over this time. SKLS' established partnerships with these organisations eased the burden of Shira's legal problem, providing a holistic team of support successfully working to get Shira back in her home.

Specialist legal clinics

As a generalist legal service, our lawyers have specialist legal expertise covering criminal law, civil law such as debt, social security (Centrelink) and tenancy, infringements (fines), family law, family violence, and Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal claims.

This diversity helps us to provide a holistic service, as many of our clients have multiple legal problems, often in different areas of law.

SKLS provides the following specialist legal clinics:

- Criminal law
- Civil law – debt, social security and tenancy
- Infringements (fines)
- Family law
- Family violence.



Dedicated help, as long as it takes: client story

JARROD'S STORY

Jarrod* came to SKLS for assistance with dealing with over \$3,000 of outstanding fines, incurred between 2015 – 2018.

At the time the fines were incurred, Jarrod was dealing with significant impacts of anxiety and depression. SKLS submitted an enforcement review application on the grounds of special circumstances with support documentation from his psychologist to Fines Victoria in April 2019.

Due to significant delays with the fines review process, it wasn't until a year later in April 2020 that a decision was made by Fines Victoria to cancel enforcement of Jarrod's outstanding fines.

Victoria Police subsequently withdrew 6 fines relating to speeding offences and issued charge and summons for the matters to proceed to court. Due to delays experienced by the Magistrates' court during the Covid-19 pandemic, Jarrod's matters were not heard until July 2021.

SKLS appeared for Jarrod at Moorabbin Magistrate's Court and submitted plea material outlining Jarrod's circumstances at the time of the driving offences, his history of mental health and the impact that the drawn-out fines process had on his wellbeing.

SKLS was successful in having no financial penalty imposed, with the Judicial Registrar ordering a sentence of a 12-month adjourned undertaking.

Jarrod was extremely grateful for the assistance of SKLS and for the outcome we were able to get for him so that he could move on without this lengthy matter hanging over his head.

Family violence duty lawyer service

Responding to those affected by family violence continues to be a core and important part of our work. We continue to provide a Duty Lawyer service on-site at the Moorabbin Justice Centre Specialist Family Violence Court. This service ensures that the many people who do not see a lawyer before attending a court hearing are able to obtain advice, negotiation and in-court representation in family violence intervention order (FVIVO) matters.

Throughout the last year, and in response to many hearings being heard remotely, we have expanded our service to include a pre referral model. Where possible, some clients receive initial advice before the day of the hearing. This helps to relieve some of the stress on the day of hearing as the clients have an understanding as to what they can expect from the court process.

An important part of our work is ensuring that clients are linked in with appropriate services post court, whether this be support workers, one of our community partnerships or even our own Family Lawyer. SKLS continues to provide wrap around support to our clients.



Day in the life of a duty lawyer: staff story

The Duty Lawyer's work starts before the day they are rostered on. They call clients who have requested the pre-referrals service to give them advice and get instructions before the day of their hearing, which can often be frantic and stressful for clients.

Almost all our clients are Affected Family Members (protected people) in police applications for Family Violence Intervention Orders (IVOs). We are still giving advice by telephone – whilst obviously not ideal it is COVID safe for all parties.

On this day, the two pre-referrals both identify as women, and both have young children living with them. One of the applications includes a serious incident involving a weapon. The Duty Lawyer provides her with advice around risk, the involvement of child protection and future issues around child contact. The Duty Lawyer takes her through the court process, and likely outcomes, as well as taking her instructions regarding the order she would like and communicate that to the police lawyers who will be at court the following day.

The day of court starts with a pre-court meeting for our Duty Lawyer, which is a chance for the court Registrar or the police to flag any potential concerns or any other matters.

On this day, the Duty Lawyer received an additional seven referrals, making it a total of nine matters for the day. As we are still in a covid lockdown on this day, all matters are conducted virtually. Each client gets time to speak with our Duty Lawyer on the phone and to give instructions. Our Duty Lawyer then negotiates on our clients' behalf with police and the respondent's lawyers, then provides a written submission on our client's behalf to the court. Many clients agree with what police are seeking as the applicants, but a few do not. Where the workload and the technical issues of working remotely allow, we appear on the WebEx link before the Magistrate.

Clients referred to the service typically face various barriers to receiving legal help. Many are on Centrelink or a low income, many do not speak English and require an interpreter, many are living with a disability or experiencing homelessness.

The Duty Lawyer finishes the day by providing follow up legal advice to most of the clients, on matters related to their IVOs, including family law matters, child protection and criminal

5. LGBTIQ+ Legal Program

The last year has seen significant growth within our LGBTIQ+ legal program, and we ended the year with news of a further 12-month commitment from the Victorian Government to fund SKLS to continue to provide free legal assistance on LGBTIQ+ specific legal issues across Victoria.

While the LGBTIQ Legal Service started as a health justice partnership with Thorne Harbour Health, during the last 12 months we have continued to expand and refine our legal services for LGBTIQ+ people through the ‘Roberta Perkins Law Project’ in partnership with Transgender Victoria and the provision of family violence support for LGBTIQ+ people.

Tanja Golding was appointed as our first managing lawyer of the LGBTIQ+ program in September 2020, and under her leadership, we undertook a strategic planning process for our services for the LGBTIQ+ community. The Strategy identifies the vision, mission, strategic priorities and enablers of our LGBTIQ+ services from June 2021 to December 2022 that responds to and is informed by the legal needs of the LGBTIQ+ community, the views of key stakeholders, and the broader evidence-base related to LGBTIQ+ legal services. The Strategy builds on our achievements to date and lessons learned and focuses our efforts to areas where we can have the greatest impact for the LGBTIQ+ community.

Roberta Perkins Law Project

In June this year the Roberta Perkins Law Project concluded. This was a two-year project, funded by the City of

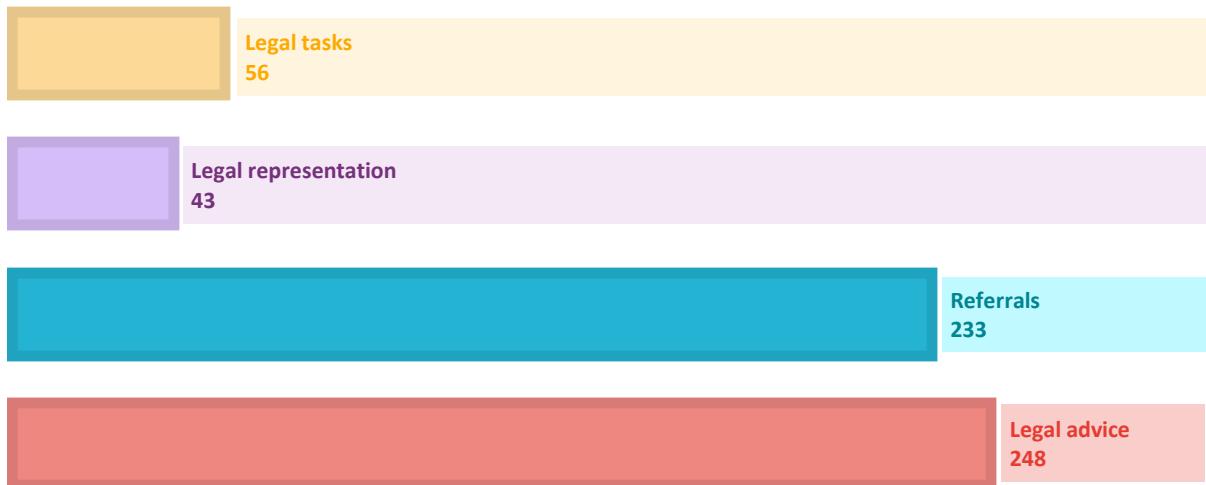
Melbourne, to provide free legal assistance to trans and gender diverse Melbournians in partnership with Transgender Victoria. Over the last year, this Project supported 56 clients, providing 135 legal advices, 39 legal tasks and 25 ongoing representation files. The Project aimed to improve the health and wellbeing of trans and gender diverse Melbournians, and 77% of clients surveyed reported that the legal help they received increased their feeling of safety in the wider community. The Project also assisted a number of incarcerated trans and gender diverse clients, providing 70 legal advices, 33 legal tasks and 9 representation services to these clients. While the Project has ended, providing legal assistance to the trans and gender diverse community remains a strategic priority of our LGBTIQ+ program.

LGBTIQ+ Family Violence Program

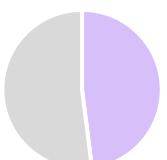
During the year, we also launched a State-wide LGBTIQ+ family violence program to address the ongoing barriers to accessing legal assistance for people impacted by family violence in the LGBTIQ+ community. The program provides regular legal advice clinics as well as community legal education to both the legal assistance and family violence service sectors. The program has worked closely with key LGBTIQ+ organisations, family violence response sector and legal assistance sector to enhance our referral pathways and provide ongoing secondary consultations to enhance understanding and responses to LGBTIQ+ family violence.

We provided the following services to the LGBTIQ+ community:

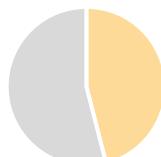
SERVICES TO CLIENTS 20-21



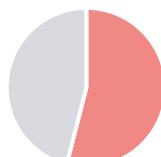
Of our 133 LGBTIQ+ clients:



48% identified as a gender other than male or female such as transgender, non-binary and/or gender diverse



86% were experiencing financial disadvantage



Some words from our clients

"I would recommend the LGBTIQ+ program at St Kilda Legal Service to a friend because it provides free legal assistance to those who need it without any prejudice or discrimination."

"Having a free and dedicated service for LGBTIQ+ issues is invaluable!"

"Working with the LGBTIQ+ program at St Kilda Legal Service has made a difference to me... I was given some valuable legal help free of charge and now I'm more secure having my name legally changed with a new birth certificate."

"I don't feel as overwhelmed. I feel supported... This service has helped immensely with my mental health."

Community Legal Education

Over the past twelve months, the service has delivered 30 community legal activities including the delivery of workshops, training, and panel presentations, with 22 legal education activities focused on family violence and another 7 legal education activities focused on civil law issues such as discrimination and employment.

A total of 360 participants across Victoria attended our community legal activities over the past 12 months. Participants included 39 LGBTIQ community members, 100 LGBTIQ community service providers, 126 Legal professionals and 95 Community service providers (Health professionals and family violence practitioners)

Stakeholder engagement and Law reform activities

Over the past 12 months, the program engaged in 55 stakeholder activities including the provision of secondary consultations, participation in law reform and advocacy working groups, and prioritising the ongoing development of key stakeholder relationships within the LGBTIQ+, family violence, and legal assistance sector.

The program contributed submissions and consultations on the following law reform and policy inquiries:

Submission to the whole of Victorian Government LGBTIQ+ Strategy, as well as providing feedback on the LGBTIQ+ Strategy Directions paper

Submission to the Review into Sexual Harassment in Victorian Courts

Participation in a roundtable for the Australian Law Reform Commission Judicial Impartiality Inquiry.

Participated in a national round table on the criminalisation of Coercive Control

Consultations on the reforms of Victims of Criminal Compensation Scheme

Consultations on the development of LGBTIQ+ family violence resources for the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Management Framework

The program advocated for and promoted the experiences of LGBTIQ+ Victorians in the following law reform and advocacy working groups

Smart Justice for Women

Prison and Covid Working Group

Discrimination Law Service Providers working group

Federation of Community Legal Centres Family Violence Royal Commission Recommendations working group

Policing and Family Violence working group

Victoria Police LGBTIQ Portfolio Reference Group

Federation of Community Legal Centres Victorian Employment Law working Group

Health Justice Partnership Learning Network

LGBTIQ+ Inclusive Practice

We continued to develop the internal capacity of the St Kilda Legal Service to meet the needs of the LGBTIQ+ community. We developed a comprehensive policy to ensure that all details regarding our clients' previous names (including dead names), sexuality and gender identity can be recorded with sensitivity, ensuring our clients understand why this information is needed and how it will be used. The policy will be used to inform the capacity development training delivered to legal assistance services.

The program also organised training for all staff and some Board members on Human rights for people with intersex variations from Intersex Human Rights Australia and Trauma Informed Gender Affirmative Care for TGD people from Dragan Wright.

Complex and diverse legal needs: client story

JANICE'S STORY

Janice is a transgender woman in custody in the Victorian prison system. Janice has experienced multiple instances of mistreatment and violence while in custody, some of this influenced by discrimination towards her on the basis of her transgender identity. The RPLP's lawyer has assisted Janice with identifying multiple legal needs and potential causes of action, doing ongoing case work for Janice over several months. The RPLP lawyer provided a warm referral for Janice for personal injury legal representation by a no win-no fee private firm in relation to a physical assault, and is supporting Janice with contacting and instructing her lawyers in that matter. In relation to broader issues of discrimination, the RPLP is assisting Janice with a complaint to the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, in addition to connecting Janice with broader civil litigation advice regarding her experiences in custody.



Righting a wrong: client story

HENRY'S STORY

Henry identifies as a gay cis gendered man. While Henry waited in line to attend a local bar in Melbourne CBD with his partner, Henry was harassed by a group of men who taunted and mocked him on his more feminine features. While trying to ignore the men, the situation escalated when Henry was sexually groped by the men in the middle of the bar. Henry sought assistance from the security staff and bar manager who refused to help. The Bar manager suggested that Henry leave the bar for his own protection. The LGBTIQ Legal Service lawyer assisted Henry in making a complaint with VEOHRC about the discrimination he faced as a patron of the bar and negotiated, through the conciliator, a potential settlement where the bar staff will undergo sexual assault response training from CASA and donation to an LGBT or sexual assault victim support charity. As Henry is in Australia on a working visa, without assistance of the LGBTIQ Legal Service, Henry would not have been able to access the legal advice and assistance he needed to make and resolve his discrimination complaint.

Recognising the impact of homophobic abuse: client story

KEVIN'S STORY

Kevin made an application to the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal. Kevin is an elder generation gay cisgender man and was physically assaulted by a friend's neighbour. During the assault he was subjected to homophobic verbal abuse and threats, targeting him for his colourful clothing, which the perpetrator associated with Kevin's LGBTIQ community membership. The perpetrator received a diversion for offences stemming from the attack, and Kevin felt that the homophobic nature of the attack was not adequately or clearly reflected in the case presented by police. Kevin was unable to work following the attack and experienced stress and trauma in its aftermath. Our service represented Kevin before the VOCAT, making submissions that a substantial award of compensation should be made to reflect the community's disapproval and sorrow for the attack Kevin experienced, particularly it's homophobic nature. Our submissions were accepted by the Tribunal and the Presiding Member expressed sorrow and regret on behalf of the Victorian community towards Kevin. Kevin was extremely pleased with the outcome and substance of the hearing, finding it to be a validating and healing experience.

Family violence & family of origin: client story

ELISA & BRENDA'S STORY

Elise contacted the LGBTIQ Legal Service to obtain legal advice on the intervention order application. Elise had been in a relationship with Brenda for 10 years. When the Covid-19 restrictions started they both lost their jobs in Melbourne and had to move in with Brenda's father in regional Victoria. Brenda had little contact with her father. He had physically assaulted her when she came out and refused to accept her sexuality or long term partner. While living with him their relationship became increasingly strained and after an argument her father called the Victoria Police alleging that Elise had threatened him. Elise and Brenda denied the allegations but were not listened to when the Police attended, and were concerned that the Police officers had been homophobic towards them. The Police removed Elise from the house, issuing a family violence safety notice against her, resulting in the couple becoming homeless when they relocated to Melbourne. Elise and Brenda were scared that they would experience homophobic violence from Brenda's family or the Police if they returned to the area.

We assisted Elise by resolving the intervention application at the first hearing, ensuring that she did not have to return to the area or continue to engage with the local Police. We then organised an LGBTIQ Police liaison officer to attend the father's property and assist them collect their remaining property and also raise concerns about the way that the local Police had treated them. We continued to assist Elise with other legal issues that have arisen from the incident and referred her to an LGBTIQ inclusive homelessness services for ongoing assistance with housing. Elise said she was happy to be represented by a legal service that understood the complexities of homophobia within the family and Police and who were able to link her into inclusive services. Elise's experience with the LGBTIQ police liaison officer has increased her confidence in working with the Police and she intends to access this program again if she has to deal with the Police.

6. Our thanks

We are grateful for the support and pro bono contributions of many people and organisations this year.

Barristers

Christopher McDermott
Tim K Jeffrie
Emrys Nekvapil
Julia Kretzenbacher
Gemma Cafarella
Kate Bowshell
Robert O'Neill

Law firms

Ashurst
Clayton Utz
Herbert Smith Freehills
HWL Ebsworth
Lander & Rogers
Maurice Blackburn
Nicholes Family Lawyers

Slater & Gordon
Kerdo Legal
Robinson and Gill



Government & Organisations

Attorney-General's Department (Victoria)
Bernadette Hughes
Boon Wurrung Foundation
Centre Against Violence
Cohealth
Computer Troubleshooters – Port Phillip
City of Melbourne
City of Bayside
City of Port Phillip
City of Stonnington
Department of Justice and Community Safety
Dragan Zan Wright
Drummond Street Services & Queerspace
DYB Consulting
Federation of Community Legal Centres
Flat Out
Fitzroy Legal Service
Hothouse Media
Go People & Performance

Good Financials
Intersex Human Rights Australia
JosefLegal
Just World Investments
Justice Connect
Kara House
Launch Housing
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
Magistrates' Court of Victoria LGBTIQ Family Violence Practitioner Service
Nous Group
Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre & the Police Accountability Project
Port Phillip Community Group
Paper Giant
Rainbow Health Victoria & Queer Family Violence Sector Network
Sacred Heart Mission
Salvation Heart Mission
Star Health

St Kilda Gatehouse
Switchboard & Rainbow Door
Tenants Victoria
The Collective. Social Justice.
Thorne Harbour Health
Transgender Victoria
Uniting Church – 101 Engagement Hub
Victoria Law Foundation
Victoria Police
Viola Design
Vixen Collective
Voice Project
Women's Legal Service Victoria
Zoe Belle Gender Collective



7. Financial Information

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.

ABN 83 519 420 198

**SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**



**ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198
SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

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ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198
BOARD'S REPORT

Your board members present the special purpose financial report on the association for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

Board of Management Members

The names of board of management members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

President	Denis Nelthorpe	Appointed 25/08/2020 & President from 27/10/2020
Deputy President	Stephen Somerville	
Treasurer	Elliot Anderson	
Secretary	Diane Preston	
Member	Brendan Lacota	
Member	Stephanie Tonkin	
Member	Linda Glucina	President until 27/10/2020
Member	Sonia Clarke	Appointed 20/11/2020
Member	Adam Meyer	Resigned 27/10/2020

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were:

To provide free and accessible access to justice for people experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage, and people otherwise unable to afford legal services, on the key legal issues affecting them, through the delivery of high quality, evidence based services delivered as part of an integrated and coordinated service system.

Significant Changes

No significant changes in the nature of the association's activity occurred during the financial year.

Operating Results

The surplus for the year attributable to the association amounted to \$116,605 (2020: \$149,249).

After Balance Date Events

A matter has continued to evolve since 30 June 2021 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect:

- (a) the association's operations in future financial years, or
- (b) the results of those operations in future financial years, or
- (c) the association's state of affairs in future financial years.

The ongoing COVID19 pandemic may impact the state of affairs of the association during the financial period ended 30 June 2022. The committee members will take all necessary measures to preserve reserves and shepherd the association through this uncertain period..

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the board.

President


Denis Nelthorpe

Treasurer


Elliot Anderson

Dated this

30th day of September 2021

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
INCOME		
CLC Recurrent Grants - State	700,124	551,809
CLC Recurrent Grants - Commonwealth	428,377	143,191
Other Grants	105,951	84,000
Philanthropic Grant	-	93,098
Reduced Revenue - Grants (Carried)/Brought forward	-	155,240
Costs Recovered and Retained	1,950	299
Fundraising/Donations	-	-
Interest Received	4,858	7,456
Membership Subscription	46	-
COVID-19 Government Assistance Payments	301,850	122,500
Other Income	3,759	31,803
TOTAL INCOME	1,546,915	1,189,396
EXPENDITURE		
Salaries and Wages	1,070,370	835,735
Superannuation	101,993	70,113
Salary On costs	17,258	(13,526)
Travel	268	368
Rent and Refurbishment Contribution	55,524	57,605
Other Premises Costs	132	1,888
Staff Training	13,703	7,826
Staff Recruitment	1,077	4,630
Communications	5,283	3,144
Office Overheads	34,425	9,914
Office Reallocation Cost	16,500	-
Insurance	3,091	3,589
Finance, Audit and Accounting	26,521	2,760
Library, Resources and Subscriptions	23,568	8,417
Programming and Planning	30,945	33,481
Depreciation	26,523	13,778
Minor Equipment	3,129	425
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,430,310	1,040,147
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION	116,605	149,249

The Income and Expenditure Statement is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report
and the notes to the financial statements.

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	705,169	202,511
Trade and Other Receivables	3	7,150	348,688
Financial Assets	4	200,451	200,000
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		912,770	751,199
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Furniture and Equipment	5	38,677	46,219
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		38,677	46,219
TOTAL ASSETS		951,447	797,418
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payable	6	110,242	86,331
Income Received in Advance	7	315,000	338,476
Employment Entitlement Provisions	8	104,163	43,118
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		529,405	467,925
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employment Entitlement Provisions	8	2,316	26,372
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,316	26,372
TOTAL LIABILITIES		531,721	494,297
NET ASSETS		419,726	303,121
EQUITY			
Accumulated funds		419,726	303,121
		419,726	303,121

The Statement of Financial Position is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.



**ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198**
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Accumulated funds \$	Total \$
Balance as at 1 July 2019	153,872	153,872
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Association	149,249	149,249
Balance as at 30 June 2020	303,121	303,121
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Association	116,605	116,605
Balance as at 30 June 2021	419,726	419,726

The Statement of Changes in Equity is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from grants		1,558,247	762,499
Receipts from other sources		307,605	154,602
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,348,620)	(1,011,417)
Interest received		4,858	7,456
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities	9	522,090	(86,860)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(18,980)	(45,389)
Investments in financial assets		(452)	-
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		(19,432)	(45,389)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		502,658	(132,249)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		202,511	334,760
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	2	705,169	202,511

The Statement of Cash Flows is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.

ABN 83 519 420 198

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

Note 1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report includes the financial statements and notes of St Kilda Legal Service Inc., an incorporated association, which is incorporated in Victoria under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Basis of preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria). The board 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, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the company in the preparation of the general purpose financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Accounting Policies

a. Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Plant and Equipment

Plant and Equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the company and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the board commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The asset's residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at each balance date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the income statement.

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.

ABN 83 519 420 198

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

Note 1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (*continued*)

b. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

c. Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities

The Association has elected to apply Australian Accounting Standards AASB 15 and AASB 1058.

AASB 15 involves the use of a five-step recognition model for recognising revenue, the steps are:

- Step 1 – Identify the contract with the customer
- Step 2 – Identify the sufficiently specific performance obligations to be satisfied
- Step 3 – Measure the expected consideration
- Step 4 – Allocate that consideration to each of the performance obligations in the contract
- Step 5 – Recognise revenue

AASB 1058 measures income by reference to the fair value of the asset received. The asset received, which could be a financial or non-financial asset, is initially measured at fair value when the consideration paid for the asset is significantly less than fair value, and that difference is principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. Otherwise, assets acquired are recognised at cost.

Where the asset has been measured at fair value, AASB 1058 requires that elements of other Accounting Standards are identified before accounting for the residual component. These standards are:

- AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers
- AASB 16 Leases
- AASB 1004 Contributions
- AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities & Contingent Assets

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

d. Income Tax

By virtue of its aims as set out in the constitution, the Association qualifies as an Association specifically exempt from income tax under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.

ABN 83 519 420 198

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

Note 1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (*continued*)

e. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

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

f. Employment Entitlements

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amount expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

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

g. 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.

h. New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods

The Association has adopted all of the new, revised or amending Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the AASB that are mandatory for the current reporting period. The adoption of these Accounting Standards and Interpretations did not have any significant impact on the financial performance or position of the Association.

New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods

The AASB has issued a number of new and amended Accounting Standards that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods, some of which are relevant to the Association. The Board of Committee Members has elected not to early adopt any of the new and amended pronouncements.

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Note 2. Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at Bank	705,169	202,482
Petty Cash	-	29
	705,169	202,511
Reconciliation of cash		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the cash flow statement is reconciled to items in the balance sheet as follows:		
Cash and cash equivalents	705,169	202,511
	705,169	202,511
Note 3. Trade and Other Receivables		
Accounts Receivable	-	311,250
Other Receivables	-	36,021
Prepayments	7,150	1,417
	7,150	348,688
Note 4. Financial Assets		
Term Deposit	200,451	200,000
	200,451	200,000
Note 5. Furniture and Equipment		
Furniture and Equipment		
At cost	92,810	104,077
Accumulated depreciation	(54,133)	(57,858)
	38,677	46,219
Note 6. Accounts Payable and Other Liabilities		
Current - unsecured		
Accounts payable	10,323	486
Accrued expenses	46,140	29,714
GST liability/(asset)	20,938	44,382
Other payables	5,312	-
PAYG Withholding payable	18,659	11,749
Superannuation payable	8,870	-
	110,242	86,331
Financial liabilities at amortised cost classified as trade and other		
Trade and other payables		
- Total current	110,242	86,331
- Total non-current	-	-
	110,242	86,331

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

Note 7. Income Received in Advance

Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) grant in advance	265,000	305,500
Philanthropic grants	50,000	32,976
	315,000	338,476

Note 8. Employment Entitlement Provisions

Current		
Provision for annual leave	84,716	42,813
Provision for long service leave	19,447	305
	104,163	43,118
Non-current		
Provision for long service leave	2,316	26,372
	2,316	26,372

Note 9. Cash Flow Information

Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Profit after Income

Operating surplus/(deficit)	116,605	149,249
Non-cash flows in profit		
Depreciation of non-current assets	26,523	13,778
Changes in assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease in trade debtors and other debtors	347,271	(344,871)
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(5,733)	1,329
Increase/(decrease) in accounts payables and accruals	23,911	41,384
Increase/(decrease) in income received in advance	(23,476)	80,032
Increase/(decrease) in employee entitlements	36,989	(27,761)
Cash flow from operations	522,090	(86,860)



**ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN 83 519 420 198
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

The Board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Board, the financial report as set out on pages 2 to 10:

- 1 Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the St Kilda Legal Service Inc. as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2 At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that St Kilda Legal Service Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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

President

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "D. Nelthorpe".

Denis Nelthorpe

Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "E. Anderson".

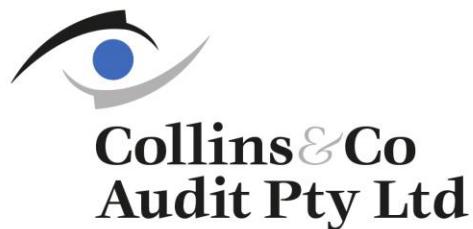
Elliot Anderson

Dated this

30th day of September 2021



TOWARDS A VISION SHARED



127 Paisley Street
Footscray VIC 3011
Australia
Phone (03) 9680 1000
Fax (03) 9689 6605
www.collinsco.com.au

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
TO THE MEMBERS OF
ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
A.B.N. 83 519 420 198**

I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 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 contravention of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryke".

**Frederik Ryk Ludolf Eksteen CA
ASIC Auditor Registration Number 421448**

**Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd
127 Paisley Street
FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011**

Dated this 4th day of October 2021

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Audit Pty Ltd**

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Footscray VIC 3011
Australia

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www.collinsco.com.au

**ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC.
A.B.N. 83 519 420 198
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS**

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report of St Kilda Legal Service Inc. (the Association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2021, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the statement by the members of the Board.

In my opinion, the financial report of the Association is in accordance with *the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and *the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its performance for the year ended; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards as per Note 1, *the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and *the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

Basis for Opinion

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 our report. I am independent of the Association in accordance with 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 our 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 and Restriction on Distribution

I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist St Kilda Legal Service Inc. to meet the requirements of *the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and *the Associations Incorporation Reform 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.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is 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 management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

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Audit Pty Ltd**

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Footscray VIC 3011
Australia

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Fax (03) 9689 6605

www.collinsco.com.au

Auditor's Responsibilities 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 our 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 registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the 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 registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my 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 may cause the registered entity 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 controls that I identify during my audit.

Auditor: **Frederik Ryk Ludolf Eksteen** **ASIC Registration Number: 421448**

Address: **Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd, 127 Paisley Street, FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011**



Signature:

Date: **4 October 2021**

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