Contents

3  What We Do and Areas of Law
4  Staff at the Centre
5  Management Committee and Patron
6  Convenor’s Report
7  Indigenous Women Law and Justice Program
11  Legal Service
12  Legal Service Statistics
17  Community Legal Education
19  Access, Equity and Community Development
21  Fundraising
22  Law Reform
26  Volunteer and Pro Bono Work
27  Volunteer Students
28  Financial Statements
What We Do &
Areas of Law

The Women’s Legal Centre is a community legal centre for women in Canberra and the surrounding area. The Centre is run by women and aims to improve women’s access to justice by:

- Providing legal information and advice
- Referring to sympathetic lawyers and other support services
- Running community legal education sessions
- Producing information for women about their rights, the legal system and the law
- Undertaking research, law reform and lobbying activities to improve women’s access to justice
- Publishing a quarterly newsletter about our activities

The Centre advises on a wide range of legal problems including:

- Divorce and separation
- Disputes over children
- Property settlement
- Domestic violence
- Child support
- Going to court
- Discrimination
- Unfair dismissal
- Other employment rights
- Compensation for criminal injuries

The Women’s Legal Centre is funded by the Indigenous Justice & Legal Assistance Division, Commonwealth Attorney General’s Department.
Staff at the Women’s Legal Centre

Principal Solicitor
Rhonda Payget

Coordinator
Carol Benda

Office Manager
Iris Elgueta

Solicitor
Kirsty McLeod

Indigenous Liaison Officer
Traci Harris

Solicitor
Josephine Thomis

Locum Solicitor
Margie Rowe

Human Rights Solicitor
Heidi Yates, currently on parental leave

Principal Solicitor
Jill Heeley
Resigned 12/3/10

Human Rights Solicitor
Nena Hicks
Resigned 28/5/10
I have been working on a number of research projects over the past two years. One is on building justice after conflict and this work has involved some travel in the Pacific, to places such as the Solomons, Bougainville and Timor Leste. Another has been in partnership with the ACT government, on whether the ACT Human Rights Act should be amended to include economic, social and cultural rights. We have had a number of visitors from South Africa as part of this project and they have allowed us to develop a keen sense of the way that economic, social and cultural rights affect judicial decisions and policy-making generally. I have also taught human rights courses at UCLA Law School (Jan 2009) and at the Hague Academy of International Law (July 2010); these experiences have been very stimulating for me. I have just finished up as Director of the School of Regulation, Justice and Diplomacy at the ANU and now have renewed respect for administrative work.
Convenor’s Report Rachel Harris

This has been my first year as convenor of the Women’s Legal Centre management committee (MC). It has been a great honour working with the wonderful women that make up the MC, and the passionate, committed women that drive the Centre’s work within the ACT community.

A few of the highlights for the year include:

- Lobbying work to secure ongoing funding for the Indigenous Women’s Law and Justice Support Program. The Centre spent considerable time meeting with politicians and other community support bodies to enable us to continue to assist Indigenous women in the ACT community.

- Once again the Centre increased the number of women it assisted. This year the Centre assisted over 1,000 women. This is approximately 20 women each week. For a small team this is an amazing number. Of course this would not be possible without the Centre’s volunteer solicitors. I would like to thank these women for volunteering their time after hours and giving free legal assistance to ACT women. I would also like to thank the students that volunteer at the Centre each week, who help to keep the Centre afloat with its limited resources.

- This year’s annual Bags ‘n’ Bling event was an absolute hoot, as always, and raised significant funds for the Centre. In August the Centre hosted the inaugural ‘Frau Now’, a fund-raising concert for the Centre featuring local female musicians. It was truly heart-warming to see how many ACT women came to these events to support the Centre, and each other.

- This year the Centre made the decision to ‘opt-in’ to the ACT Human Rights Act, 2004. This was a large task as the Centre needed to ensure all of its policies and procedures were human rights compliant. Fortunately the Centre enlisted the help of Renuka Thilagaratnam at the ANU. Renuka has a great deal of human rights expertise and I would like to thank Renuka for assisting the Centre with this work.

- The Centre experienced a number of staff changes over the year. Heidi Yates took leave to have baby Harper. Heidi is due to return to the Centre shortly. In March, Jill Heeley the Centre’s principal solicitor moved to Victoria, Nena Hicks the Centre’s Human Rights solicitor also resigned deciding to spend six months overseas. The Centre would like to thank Heidi, Jill and Nena for their valuable contribution to the work of the Centre.

The Centre was very fortunate that Rhonda Payget agreed to take over the role of principal solicitor. Rhonda has 30 year’s experience as a family law solicitor and has brought a great deal of experience and acumen to the legal work of the Centre. The Centre welcomed back Josephine Thomis who returned to the Centre working two days per week after taking two years parental leave. The Centre employed Kirsty McLeod who has been an enthusiastic member of the Centre’s legal practice. I would like to thank all these women for their work and dedication to ensuring women in Canberra are offered professional and accessible advice that is appropriate to their needs.

I would also like to thank the other staff members who make up the team at the Centre. Carol Benda the coordinator, Iris Elgueta the office manager and Traci Harris the Indigenous Liaison Officer. The work of the Centre cannot be achieved without people in these support roles and the MC values their continued contribution to the smooth operations of the Centre. In particular, I would like to extend my warmest thanks to Carol. We came to realise just how much we rely on Carol when she took an enormously well-deserved holiday to Paris this year. I think it is safe to say that Carol is the life-blood of the Centre, and we are extremely lucky to have her.

These are only a couple of the many activities the Centre worked on over the year, all of course on top of the very busy legal practice that the Centre operates.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the MC. I have been impressed with the commitment from this group of women who after working in their own demanding professions give up their time to lead and direct the Centre in its operations. It has been a privilege, and a pleasure.

Rachel Harris
Indigenous Women’s Law & Justice Support Program

The Aim of the Program

The aim of the project is to improve access and outcomes for Indigenous women in relation to law and justice services in the ACT. The key focus of the project is to address the unmet need where it relates to lack of culturally appropriate law and justice services for Indigenous women. The goal is to ensure that Indigenous women are provided readily accessible and culturally appropriate law and justice related services.

Indigenous Liaison Officer

The Indigenous Liaison Officer (ILO) undertakes a range of duties in ensuring that the aims of the project are met. This work includes working with clients, supporting Indigenous women if obtaining legal advice, assisting other services to deliver appropriate associated services to Indigenous clients, undertaking community legal education activities, lobbying government to provide better outcomes for Indigenous people and forming connections between Indigenous people and services in the ACT.

As a result of the inroads made by the ILO, the WLC now enjoys a high profile amongst women and community organisations in Canberra’s Indigenous community.

Working with Clients

The ILO assists Indigenous women in a number of ways. Assisting clients involves:

- Meeting with clients, either at the Centre, or in the community
- Ensuring clients are able to access the solicitor either at the Centre or at another suitable location
- Sitting in on client appointments to ensure the client understands the advice given by the solicitor
- Following up with clients after their appointment to ensure the client is undertaking the necessary steps to ensure their matter progress
- Ensuring clients are able to access other services when appropriate
- Offering other support where appropriate throughout the client’s matter
Indigenous Women’s Program

Community Event & Activities

Once again, the Centre participated in a large range of meetings, networks, panels, community events, outreach work and forums. This work occurred in addition to the legal assistance given to clients. These activities included:

- NAIDOC opening event at Boomanulla Oval
- NAIDOC on the Peninsula
- NAIDOC Lunch
- Throughcare and Aftercare: Encouraging & Supporting Indigenous Offenders to plan for their future
- ACTCOSS & YWCA Being White: Racial Privilege in Canberra and Australia
- National Network of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women’s Legal Services
- Participated in the Circle Sentencing
- Wills Workshop for Indigenous people
- Participated in a forum on Indigenous Legal Services in the ACT
- Honouring our Elders, Nurturing our Youth a forum held in NAIDOC week
- Article about the Centre’s Program for the Canberra Times
- Provided Cultural training for staff in community organisations
- Lobbying activities to secure ongoing funding for the project
- Providing cultural supervision to Indigenous workers in community organisations
- Women in Law Brunch – forum held at ANU for the Program
- Law Society, Equal Opportunity and the Law committee
- Women and Prisons Group
- Effective people workshop
- Healing Farm Committee
- Actcoss Cultural Toolkit
- Staff at the Centre attended Aboriginal Culture, History & Heritage Training
- The Centre assisted an Aboriginal student with a placement to give her work experience. The student worked on a specific project for the Program

Case Study 1

Client has dealt with a long history of serious family violence which children witnessed. Client has a joint shared arrangement because of her fear of other party. Client is very reluctant to initiate any proceedings in court. The current week about arrangement is not working. The other party drinks, takes drugs and leaves children unattended. The Centre assisted client with initial advice and support and assisted the client to obtain legal aid.
Indigenous Women’s Project

Data
The Centre recorded over 100 client activities during the year. Indigenous clients sought assistance from the Centre on a range of matters. Most of the clients accessing the Centre were dealing with multiple legal issues. Many of the clients who accessed the Centre had matters which needed to be undertaken as case work as the legal issues were involved and more complex than giving one off advice.

Problem Types
The following table sets out the problems for which our clients sought assistance with. The main problem clients needed assistance with was children issues. Children issues involve contact, residence, paternity and relocation. The Centre assisted a number of clients with contact orders.

Case Work
The Centre undertook a substantial amount of case work for Indigenous clients during the year. Case work for a client can involve a range of legal assistance such as:
- On-going advice
- Assisting clients to draft correspondence, providing letters of advice, writing letters on behalf of the woman and writing letters of support for the woman
- Drafting & settling of documents
- Negotiation
- Representation
Indigenous Women’s Project

Referrals from Other Services

A number of services referred Indigenous client to the Centre for assistance. These services included:

- Welfare Rights and Legal Centre
- Aboriginal Legal Service
- Community Organisations
- Centrelink
- Refuges
- Human Rights Commission
- Family Relationship Centre
- Friend/Relative

Case Study 2

Client has two young children. Client was very unwell after birth of second child. Client has been dealing with family violence. Client separated from partner. Client has been finding it extremely difficult to try and put in place contact arrangements with other party. Other party would not return children on time and on one contact visit returned the children three days late. Client was also having child support problems, payments were erratic if they were paid at all.

Centre assisted client to apply for child support through the Child Support Agency. Client is now receiving payments. Centre attempted to assist client with informal contact arrangements. These arrangements were not working for the children so the Centre assisted client with formal Consent Orders.

Referrals to Other Services

The Centre also refers Indigenous clients to other services for assistance. These services included:

- Aboriginal Legal Service
- Community Organisation
- Private solicitors
- Legal Aid
- Health services
- Counselling services
- Human Rights Commission
Legal Service

The Centre’s legal service operates in a number of ways to maximise the assistance the Centre is able to offer clients. Below are the various methods the Centre uses to assist women in the ACT and surrounding area.

Legal Advice Line

The Women’s Legal Centre offers free confidential telephone advice and information through the Centre’s phone advice service. This is the main intake service of the Centre.

The advice line operates: **Monday to Friday 9.30am to 12.00 noon**

Face to face Appointments

Face to face appointments are available to women every day. Appointments are undertaken by staff and volunteer solicitors. Appointments are offered when, for example, documents need to be viewed or an interpreter is needed.

*Face-to-face appointments have to be booked in advance as the Centre is not a drop-in service.*

The Centre has been able to increase the number of face to face appointments it has available because of the extra assistance given by solicitors at Farrar Gesini and Dunn and Dobinson Davey Clifford Simpson. Each Friday morning solicitors from these two firms spend the morning at the centre giving legal advice to clients.

Night Time Service

Every Tuesday evening the Centre offers women appointments which are held out of business hours. These appointments are available for women who may otherwise struggle to make an appointment during the day. Tuesday evening appointments are undertaken by the Centre’s volunteer solicitors; the Centre thanks these women for giving up their time after work to assist clients of the Centre.

Case Work

The solicitors at the Centre undertake a range of case work activities for clients of the Centre. In the 09/10 year the Centre worked on 190 cases which is an increase of 22% over the previous year. Case work involves a range of legal work, some examples are:

- **On-going advice**
- **Assisting clients to draft correspondence, providing letters of advice, writing letters on behalf of the woman and writing letters of support for the woman**
- **Drafting & settling of documents**
- **Negotiation**
- **Representation**
- **Research**
Legal Service Statistics

Statistical information about our clients and the areas of law about which they seek advice are given below. This information is drawn from the Community Legal Services Information Scheme (CLSIS) database administered by our major funder, the Indigenous Justice and Legal Assistance Division, Commonwealth Attorney-General’s Department.

Clients Assisted

In 2009/2010:

- 1016 clients were assisted
- 2,242 advice activities were undertaken
- 196 information activities were undertaken
- The Centre worked on 190 cases during the year

Approximately 10% more clients were assisted this financial year compared to the previous year. This was only possible because of the increased assistance given to the Centre by volunteer solicitors.

The Centre increased its case work by 22%. This large increase is in part still due to the Centre revising the way it records information in the database. It is also in part due to the Centre undertaking more complex work with clients and assisting clients with court matters.

The work undertaken on a case can be extremely time consuming. This work involves:

- Providing ongoing legal advice
- Liaising with other community organisations who may be providing support to clients
- Drafting letters
- Drafting court documents
- Advising the client about negotiation and court processes
- Assisting clients to apply for Legal Aid
- Assisting clients to apply for reconsideration or review of a Legal Aid decision
- Representing the client in court, tribunals and commissions.
Who Are Our Clients?

Client Age

664 clients gave information about where they were born. 16% of these clients were born in a non-English speaking country. Our clients come from around 50 different countries. The majority of clients were born in Australia, then India, Vietnam and China.

Place of Birth

Case Study 3
Woman of non-English speaking background. Married 30 years. 2 children. History of domestic violence. Separated after domestic violence incident. Husband charged with assault and convicted. Husband returned to live in the former matrimonial home as he said that he did not have anywhere else to live. He then contested the wife’s application for divorce claiming that the parties were not living separately and apart under one roof. The WLC represented the woman in the contested divorce proceedings and the divorce was granted. The WLC arranged for an experienced family law solicitor in private practice to help her with the complicated property matter on a deferred payment basis.

Indigenous Clients

The Centre’s Indigenous Women’s Law Support Program commenced in 2006. One of the Project’s most important outcomes has been a substantial increase in the number of Indigenous women accessing the Centre and receiving legal assistance. The Indigenous Liaison Officer, Traci Harris, has forged strong links with a range of community organisations and plays a key role in assisting these organisations to make their services accessible to Indigenous women. Traci has also been appointed to a number of local and national representative roles focused on Access to Justice for Indigenous women.

Details of the Program can be found on Pages 7 – 10.
Income Levels

955 clients gave the Centre information about their income. 67% of these clients defined themselves as having a low income, 21% as having a medium income and 12% as having a high income.

A person is on a low income if their income is less than $35,000 pa. A person is on a medium income if their income is between $35,000 pa and $60,000 pa and on a high income if their income exceeds $60,000 pa. In accordance with the Centre’s means test, further assistance beyond initial telephone advice is generally restricted to those on low and medium incomes.

Where our clients live

665 clients gave the Centre information about where they live. 85% of clients live in the ACT. The remainder 15% were mostly from the surrounding NSW area.

Method of Service Delivery

The Centre provides assistance to clients in a number of ways. The majority of the assistance is given by phone. This year the statistics show an increase in assistance being given to clients via face to face appointments, a reflection on the increased appointment times being offered because of the assistance from our volunteer solicitors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face to Face</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Areas of Law

The 2,438 instances of legal advice and information dealt with 4,012 problems (each advice often covers more than one problem type). The 4,012 problem types can be divided into three key areas of law:

* Relationship breakdown 3,232
* Civil law 737
* Criminal law 43

**Relationship Breakdown**
The 3,232 relationship breakdown law problems were made up of the following:

- Contact & Residency 41%
- Property 27%
- Domestic Violence 8%
- Divorce & Separation 15%
- Child Support 5%
- Child/Spousal Maintenance 1%
- Child Protection 2%
- Other Family Law 1%
- Domestic Violence 8%
- Divorce & Separation 15%
- Child Protection 2%
- Other Family Law 1%

**Civil Law**
The matters dealt with under civil law were:

- Consumer complaints 4%
- Employment 26%
- Discrimination 12%
- Injuries 12%
- Wills and Probate 17%
- Other Civil Law 29%

**Criminal Law**
The matters dealt with under criminal law were:

- Offences against Persons 49%
- Offences against property and other offences 51%
Referrals from other Agencies

A range of agencies refer clients to the Centre. Other community organisations refer the greatest number of clients to the Centre. Refuges are the main community organisation which refer clients to the Centre. The Centre also receives a large number of referrals from Dispute Resolution Services, government departments, the ACT Human Rights office, Child Protection, Legal Aid, and the Law Society.

The Centre saw a large increase in the number of women being referred from the Family Relationships Centre. At the beginning of this financial year the Commonwealth Attorney General announced measures to assist partnerships between Family Relationship Centres and Community Legal Centres. The Centre and the FRC have worked hard to put in place good referral systems so that a woman dealing with family violence gets assistance from a solicitor and does not need to go through the process of family dispute resolution.

Referrals to other Agencies

The Centre refers clients to a range of other services. This is predominantly ACT Legal Aid and private lawyers. This reflects the Centre’s aim, which is assisting women who are not able to obtain assistance from Legal Aid because of the means test or are unable to afford a private solicitor. The Centre has seen an increase in this group of women who find it difficult to access the legal system.

Domestic Violence

24% of clients who obtained assistance from the Centre reported dealing with domestic violence. The majority of these clients had a child or children. The Centre assisted these women with a range of matters such as divorce, property, child support and child protection in addition to the domestic violence situation.
Community Legal Education

The Women’s Legal Centre undertakes a number of community legal education (CLE) activities each year. Below is a list of the activities undertaken during 09/10.

**Legal Information for Women over 50 and their Families**

This year the WLC applied for and received a grant to produce a booklet on legal information for women over 50 and their families. The grant was received from the ACT Government under the Seniors Grants and Sponsorship Program. The booklet is in easy to understand language, large print with a layout which is easy to follow. The booklet was posted to a wide range of community organisations and senior groups.

The booklet covers the following topics:

- Wills
- Power of Attorney
- Domestic Violence
- Grandparents and Grandchildren
- Public Housing Options in the ACT
- Elder Abuse

**Healthy Relationships Project**

The WLC worked with the Queanbeyan Domestic Violence Inter-agency Forum and Barnardos to deliver information to high school students in Queanbeyan on “Healthy Relationships”. The WLC delivered information to students on domestic violence, the cycle of violence and domestic violence in the age of technology.

**CLE sessions were run for the following organisations**

- Family Law session for workers at Parentline
- Parenting after Separation sessions at the Women’s Information and Referral Centre
- University of Canberra Family Law Class, session on property law
- ANU Law Student Brunch “Women in Law”
- Family Law Panel at ANU
- Information session on Domestic Violence presented to staff at Centrelink
CLE Continued

Willing it Away
The Centre ran several workshops during the year on Wills and Powers of Attorney. One session was delivered to workers in October. A session was delivered to the members of the Auxiliary at Calvary Hospital. A further session was delivered specifically to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people at the ACT Cultural Centre.

“There’s No Place Like Home”
Once again the WLC in conjunction with Tenants Union ACT and Welfare Rights & Legal Centre ran a day-long training program for community workers covering ACT tenancy laws and links with domestic violence. This training covered the following areas:

- What is Domestic Violence
- DVOs and Exclusion Orders
- Introduction to Tenancy
- Office of Rental Bonds and RTT
- Housing ACT
- Damage, Security and Belongings

Responding to Family Violence
In May this year the WLC was involved, through the Family Pathways Network, with a two day conference on family violence, national perspectives, local initiatives. This two day conference covered a range of research, reports and initiatives in family violence.

A number of excellent speakers attended to share their research work and experience working in the area of family violence. Speakers included:

- Deputy Chief Justice John Faulks, Family Court of Australia
- Family Courts Violence Review, Professor Richard Chisholm
- Evaluation of the 2006 Family Law reforms, Dr Rae Kaspiew, Australian Institute of Family Studies
- Improving Responses to Family Violence in the Family Law System, Ms Nicky Davies, Legal Aid QLD

Tip Sheets
The WLC produces a number of tip sheets each year. This year the WLC produced two new tip sheets, Domestic Violence Orders and Family Dispute Resolution.
Each year staff at the Centre participate in a number of networks and forums. This year the staff were involved in the following:

- ACT Community Legal Centres Forum
- ACT Court Stakeholder’s Forum
- ACT Family Pathways Network
- ACT Family Pathways Network Steering Committee
- ACT Law Society Pro-Bono Clearinghouse Assessment Panel
- ACT Law Society Family Law Committee
- ACT Law Society Fundraising & Events Committee
- ACT Law Society Elder Law Committee
- ACT Legal Assistance Forum
- ACT Women’s Services Network
- ACT Women’s Summit
- AMC Throughcare Expo
- Human Rights Roundtable
- National Association of Community Legal Centres’ (NACLC) Committee
- NACLC Admin Network
- NACLC Community Legal Education Worker’s Network
- Women’s Legal Services Australia
- Women Speak

**ACT Human Rights Act**

This year the Centre made the decision to ‘opt-in’ in to the ACT Human Rights Act. One of the provisions in the ACT *Human Rights Act 2004* allows organisations who are not Public Authorities to voluntarily ‘opt-in’ to the Act.

The option to ‘opt-in’ to the *Human Rights Act* is unique to the ACT in Australia. The Centre reviewed all its existing policies to ensure they comply with human rights to the greatest extent possible.
Community Activities

Each year the Centre participates in various community events. This year the Centre participated in the following:

- National Multicultural Festival
- Alexander Maconochie Centre Expo
- International Women’s Day Lunch
- Law Week Market Day
- NAIDOC events
- Reclaim the Night
- Seniors’ Week Expo
- Youth Week Expo

Visitors to the Centre

This year the Centre greeted a couple of interesting visitors.

Baroness Valarie Amos

In February the Baroness visited the Centre to find out about the work the Centre undertakes in the community. The Baroness has an impressive history and has recently taken up an appointment to the United Nations as the Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. The Baroness is one of three black peers that sit in the House of Lords, she was created a life peer in 1997. The Baroness spent a short time in Canberra as the British High Commissioner in Australia.

Attorney-General

The Hon Robert McClelland MP, Member for Barton (NSW) visited the Centre in August 2009. It was extremely pleasing that the Attorney took time out of his very busy schedule to come and hear about the work the Centre undertakes in the ACT community.

ACEH DELEGATION

The Centre welcomed a group of women from ACEH in January 2010. The group were representing the Aceh Women Awakening Committee which is an independent women NGO in Aceh, their mission is to strengthen the function and role of women in various positions in civil society and government.

It was interesting to listen to the problems they face as they go about their work, and clearly makes our problems pale in comparison.
Fundraising Activities

The Centre organised two fundraising activities this year. The Centre ran the annual Ovarian Cancer Breakfast in November to raise funds for ovarian cancer research. In April the Centre once again organised Bags ‘n’ Bling which is becoming more popular each year.

Ovarian Cancer Breakfast

The Centre held its annual fundraising breakfast to raise funds for Ovarian Cancer Australia. The breakfast was once again a success raising over $500.00 for ovarian cancer research.

BAGS ‘N’ BLING

The Centre held its second Bags ‘n’ Bling. Amazingly it was bigger and better than the first! Women and men came from all sections of the Canberra community to bustle through the crowds, grab a bargain, have a drink and laugh with Centre staff, management committee and friends. Once again many generous women donated handbags, jewellery and assorted goodies. These same women plus some, then came along to purchase someone else’s cast offs.

It never ceases to amaze us just how generous people are and at events such as this you are reminded once again of the fantastic community spirit which exists in Canberra.

This year Bags ‘n’ Bling raised over $4,000. This money was used to enable staff at the Centre to attend the annual Community Legal Centres conference which was held in Melbourne.
Law Reform

The Centre contributed to a range of law reform activities in 2009/2010. In addition to written submissions, the Centre participated in a number of ongoing law reform projects and meetings, a selection of which are outlined below.

Written Submissions

Family Violence

The Centre’s main focus during the 09/10 year centred on family violence. This was in part due to the Federal Attorney General’s announcement that the government was undertaking a number of measures to address family violence. These measures included:

- Australian Institute of Family Studies evaluation of the 2006 Family Law Reforms
- A review of the federal family court processes in the context of family violence
- Legal assistance pilot looking into the option of providing legal representation in mediation sessions to families who have experienced violence or who are at risk of violence
- Australian Law Reform Commission inquiry to identify gaps in the law to assist in the reduction of violence against women and children.

Family Courts Violence Review

This review led by Professor Richard Chisholm was set up to consult relevant stakeholders on family violence and examine whether the practices and procedures in the family courts encourage appropriate disclosures of family violence, and whether appropriate support is provided within the family court system for families who have experienced or who are at risk of violence.

The Centre raised several issues in its submission including:

- The uncertainty about definitions of violence
- The fear that women have of not being believed that they are victims of family violence
- The issues for victims of violence presenting as unrepresented litigants
- That family violence concerns are not given the appropriate consideration at interim hearings

Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) Family Violence Inquiry Online

The Centre was asked by the ALRC to participate in an online consultation pilot. The ALRC had been asked by the federal Government to report on:

- the interaction in practice of State and Territory family/domestic violence and child protection laws with the Family Law Act and relevant Commonwealth, State and Territory criminal laws; and
- the impact of inconsistent interpretation or application of laws in cases of sexual assault occurring in a family/domestic violence context, including rules of evidence on victims of such violence.

The Family Violence Consultation Pilot was set up as a small closed online community with a view to enabling frank and open discussion in a secure online environment among a specific group of stakeholders spread across Australia, and the ALRC. The ALRC selected Women’s Legal Services as the stakeholder group for this Pilot. The Centre participated in this pilot by accessing the site weekly and commenting on different issues which were raised by the discussion.
Law Reform

Australian Law Reform Commission “Family Violence Review”

The Centre commenced its submission with comments surrounding the length of the inquiry paper and the short time frame for lodgement of submissions. The Centre also commented on the limited way in which Indigenous Family violence was dealt with in the inquiry. The Centre was unable to address every question in the inquiry. Following are some points from the submission.

It is the view of the Centre that the definition of family violence in the Family Law Act is too narrow.... In the first instance the police and the DPP need to be on board with actively prosecuting family violence matters.... The WLC supports the approach taken in the Model Domestic Violence Laws that police should be required to investigate family violence where they have reason to believe or suspect that family violence has been, is being or likely to be committed. Police should be required, in cases where they did not take action, to record the reasons why....

Commencing parenting proceedings is seen as a high-risk strategy in terms of safety for the victim or, in other cases, the victim-parent is fearful that the children will bear the repercussions of any such action.... In cases such as these there is a reluctance to disclose the real history of violence as the Consent Orders may not be made, leaving the choices of no orders or commencing proceedings. In the Centre’s experience it is often the victim who is forced to leave the former matrimonial property and so the issue is one of the victim obtaining property. ...This question raises the important need for the family courts to consider expert opinion about family violence when making relocation decisions....Many women are isolated from their families as a part of the cycle of domestic violence...In cities like Canberra the cost of living can be prohibitive for a separated parent, particularly a parent who has full-time care of the children....

National Scheme for the Recognition & Registration of Domestic and Family Violence Orders

The Centre’s statistics in the 08/09 year record reported domestic violence in 41% of children’s matters... the figure is higher as not all clients report... Because of Canberra’s close proximity to Queanbeyan the issue of cross-border recognition and registration of domestic and family violence orders is of particular relevance to the ACT community... Complainants need to be confident of the enforceability of the orders in all jurisdictions... Automatic national registration would enable clear procedures to be put in place in all jurisdictions. Both police and victims need to be in a position to know whether a breach has occurred in a way that can be prosecuted in whatever jurisdiction... The Women’s Legal Centre supports the use of a national data base to track the registration of orders. In our view a standard method of accessibility to information by the complainant should be prescribed as part of this process.
A Human Rights Act would make a positive difference to the lives of women in Australia by improving the policies, procedures and services encountered daily by all citizens. If Australia had a Human Rights Act, it could:

- make the federal Parliament consider how laws impact on human rights
- make the federal government respect human rights when developing policy
- make public servants respect human rights when making decisions and delivering services
- provide a range of enforceable remedies if a government authority breaches human rights

The ACT was the first jurisdiction in Australia to enact a Human Rights Act, which provides an explicit statutory basis for respecting, protecting and promoting civil and political rights. Our Centre assists a great number of women who seek help when their rights under the Human Rights Act in the ACT have been threatened. It is essential to our development as an inclusive democracy that such rights be strengthened at the federal level.

Women’s Legal Services Australia
WLSA is a national group of community legal centres specialising in women’s issues. WLSA has a particular interest in ensuring that women experiencing domestic violence are adequately protected in the family law process, and that disadvantaged women, such as those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Indigenous women, women with disabilities and rural women are not further disadvantaged by the Family Law process. Through WLSA, the Centre collaborates with colleagues from around Australia in lobbying for improved access to justice for women across a range of areas. WLSA members attended six weekly phone link-ups and held a face to face meeting at the NACLC conference in Perth.

The Centre as a member of WLSA assisted with the following submissions:

Family Violence, Improving Legal Frameworks
WLSA was also unable to deal with the entire consultation paper because of its length and breadth. WLSA focused on a number of key sections, following are some of the comments WLSA made on these sections.

In our experience there are many occasions where police use protection orders as an alternative to charging offenders with an appropriate criminal offence. We see cases where, on the face of the Apprehended Domestic Violence Order, the facts are sufficient for charges to have been laid. For many of our clients it is common for police not to charge offenders when charges would have been indicated as appropriate by police policy and the legislation.

In our experience many lawyers and police acting in protection order proceedings are unaware of the court’s power to amend existing parenting orders. Neither police nor lawyers seem to be asking the protected person if a variation is needed or advising them that such amendment is possible. Parenting orders are commonly treated as a fixed backdrop rather than something that could be changed to ensure the safety of the protected person. Often, lawyers representing protection order applicants have a criminal rather than a family law background and are uncomfortable seeking the variation.

Continued next page
A continuous process of risk assessment, including effective screening for family violence at the beginning of court proceedings and improved intake processes, would assist agencies to ensure that appropriate referrals can be made and safety planning undertaken for women and their children when necessary. The overarching risk assessment framework and the importance of preserving safety must be embedded in all Government policy underpinning the family law system.

WLS NSW supports a holistic approach to child and family well being rather than a forensic examination of what may or may not be occurring. For example, there is a greater emphasis placed on evidence of abuse/neglect rather than on the development of the individual child/ren. As Canadian academic, James Anglin, asserts ‘the essential problem is dealing with primary pain without unnecessarily inflicting secondary pain experiences... through punitive or controlling reactions’. This is particularly pertinent in the context of family violence where mothers are the victims of family violence.

**Confidentiality, Admissibility, Practitioner Immunity and Conduct Obligations in ADR Processes: Issues Paper**

Following are some exerts from the WLSA submission on this issue paper.

Inherently connected with the issue of confidentiality is the use and appropriateness of section 60I certificates. There have been some recommendations made that s60I certificates can be used more effectively if more information was provided as to the reasons for why certain matters are not appropriate for dispute resolution processes. WLSA would support the Family Law Council recommendation for an options paper to be written outlining the advantages and disadvantages of reforms in relation to the section 60I certificates.

WLSA acknowledges that there are a number of competing public interest claims relating to the admission of communications that arise out of the dispute resolution process. On the one hand confidentiality and inadmissibility is considered essential for ensuring full and frank discussions to occur but on the other hand there is a serious public interest component that may require the disclosure of certain information in limited situations.

**Family Courts Violence Review**

**WLSA made 21 recommendations on this review, following are some of these Recommendations.**

1) Responses to domestic violence and child abuse should form part of the core business for the family law system and courts.

3) References to specific parenting arrangements, such as equal time, should not be included in the legislation, as this should be determined by what is in the best interests of the child.

10) A gendered analysis of legal aid policy and funding allocation should be undertaken to ensure that women are not disadvantaged in their access to justice.

14) Cases involving allegations of family violence, mental health issues and intractable disputes should be dealt with as complex matters.

18) Court support schemes should be funded to assist victims of violence through the family court process.
Volunteer and Pro Bono Work

The Centre was fortunate to receive help in a number of ways from volunteers during the year. 30 solicitors gave up their time to assist the Centre with its Tuesday evening advice service. The Tuesday evening service provided approximately 200 hours of client assistance during the year. Many more voluntary hours, including some pro bono hours, are provided by solicitors in their offices.

We would like to thank the following solicitors for their help and support:

- Meredith Allen, Certus Law
- Juliet Behrens, Dobinson Davey Clifford Simpson
- Fiona Bowden, Elrington Boardman Allport
- Jessica Barker, Elrington Boardman Allport
- Barbara Campbell, Campbell & Co
- Lois Clifford, Dobinson Davey Clifford Simpson
- Renee Davidson, Dobinson Davey Clifford Simpson
- Julie Dobinson, Dobinson Davey Clifford Simpson
- Andrea Evans, Evans Yeend Family Lawyers
- Averil Foster, Watts McCray McGuinness Eley
- Claire Grogan, Elrington Boardman Allport
- Sarah Keenan, Farrar Gesini & Dunn
- Pam Lyndon, Watts McCray McGuinness Eley
- Claudia Maclean, KJB Law
- Alison Osmond, Dobinson Davey Clifford Simpson
- Lou Pope, Pappas J Attorney
- Jennifer Shelton, Dobinson Davey Clifford Simpson
- Di Simpson, Dobinson Davey Clifford Simpson
- Brigitte Smithies, Legal Aid Office (ACT)
- Lessli Strong, Lessli Strong & Associates
- Anna Szczepanek, Dobinson Davey Clifford Simpson
- Eileen Webb, Consensus Family Lawyers
- Michelle Worthington, Dobinson Davey Clifford Simpson
- Gillian Yeend, Dobinson Davey Clifford Simpson
Student Volunteers

Each year the Centre is fortunate to have a number of students and graduates volunteer their time at the Centre. These volunteers undertake office administration and legal research tasks. The students each spent an average of 2 hours per week at the Centre throughout the year.

We acknowledge and thank the following students and graduates for their help during the 2009/2010 year, as we heavily depend on their generous assistance to keep the Centre running.

Anna Koestenbauer
Ana Kaldi
Jane Norman
Alice Lee
Lynn Nguyen
Catherine Coles
Sangeeta Sharmin
Lauren Waugh
Kiri McEwan

Jane Norman
Lauren Waugh
WOMEN’S LEGAL CENTRE
(Act & Region) Incorporated

Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 30th June, 2010

Houston & Hanna
Chartered Accountants
15/11 McKay Gardens
TURNER ACT 2601

Phone: 02-62498515 Fax: 02-62496792
Email: kim@khanna.com.au
WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE (ACT & REGION) INC.

STATEMENT BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In accordance with the requirements of the Section 73(1)(c) of the Association's Incorporation Act 1991, the Committee submits its report for the financial year ended 30 June 2010.

1. The names of each who held a position as a member of the management Committee during the year ended 30 June 2010 and at the date of this report are:

   - Angela Laumen          Secretary/ Public Officer
   - Julie Whitmore         Treasurer
   - Rachel Hennis          Convenor
   - Vera Kurz              Member
   - Louise Taylor          Member
   - Margie Rowe            Member
   - Belinda Barnard        Member
   - Carol Benda            Member
   - Ya'el frisch           Member
   - Katie Firstar          Member (Resigned 16/11/09)
   - Jennifer Fisher        Secretary/ Public Officer (Resigned 16/11/09)
   - Yola Melgarejo         Member (Resigned 31/5/10)

2. The principal activity of the association during the year ended 30 June 2010 is to provide legal advice for women in Canberra and the surrounding regions.

3. The net surplus (loss) for the financial year ended 30 June 2010 is: 1,270

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Management Committee.

Signed: [Signature]
(Committee Member)  Date: 15 SEPT 2010

Signed: [Signature]
(Committee Member)  Date: 15 SEPT 2010
WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE (ACT & REGION) INC.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

In the opinion of the committee of the Women's Legal Centre (ACT & Region) Inc.:

1. The statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance have been drawn up to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the association as at 30 June 2010 and the trading results for the year ending 30 June 2010.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Women's Legal Centre (ACT & Region) 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 committee and is signed for an on behalf of the committee by:

[Signature]

(Board Member) 18/9/10

[Signature]

(Board Member)

Dated this fifteenth day of September 2010
WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE (ACT & REGION) INC.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>406,856</td>
<td>340,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepayments</td>
<td>3,331</td>
<td>8,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>1,098</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>411,285</td>
<td>349,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, Plant &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>8,952</td>
<td>16,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leasehold improvements</td>
<td>4,879</td>
<td>4,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>13,831</td>
<td>20,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>425,116</td>
<td>370,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors &amp; Other Payables</td>
<td>36,525</td>
<td>23,966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Employment Entitlements</td>
<td>44,373</td>
<td>45,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Provisions</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpended Grants &amp; Funds</td>
<td>273,907</td>
<td>219,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>351,805</td>
<td>295,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Employee Entitlements</td>
<td>22,913</td>
<td>33,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>22,913</td>
<td>33,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>384,718</td>
<td>328,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>40,398</td>
<td>41,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Balance</td>
<td>37,086</td>
<td>40,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</td>
<td>3,312</td>
<td>1,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</strong></td>
<td>40,398</td>
<td>41,668</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE (ACT & REGION) INC.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2009</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCOME</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>398,280</td>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>438,785</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13,002</td>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>10,054</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,155</td>
<td>Membership Fees</td>
<td>2,445</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>436</td>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>332</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,580</td>
<td>Donations &amp; Fundraising</td>
<td>3,638</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,295</td>
<td>Law Support Income (NET)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98,454</td>
<td>Indigenous Women's Project</td>
<td>50,006</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Project Fees</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>531,763</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>507,233</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LESS EXPENSES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>429</td>
<td>Advertising &amp; Promotions</td>
<td>1,598</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,429</td>
<td>Auditing &amp; Accounting</td>
<td>4,353</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>655</td>
<td>Bank Charges</td>
<td>664</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,869</td>
<td>Cleaning</td>
<td>1,892</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>640</td>
<td>Client/Staff Amenities</td>
<td>2,331</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,884</td>
<td>Computer Expenses</td>
<td>11,194</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,777</td>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>5,325</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>290</td>
<td>Equipment Purchases</td>
<td>2,807</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,050</td>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>2,485</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,834</td>
<td>Library Subscriptions</td>
<td>6,332</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>315</td>
<td>Maintenance &amp; Repairs</td>
<td>640</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>Membership Expenses</td>
<td>730</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>National Law Reform Contribution</td>
<td>1,350</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11,289</td>
<td>Phone, Fax &amp; Internet</td>
<td>14,901</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,454</td>
<td>Postage and Office Supplies</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,587</td>
<td>Practising Certificates</td>
<td>2,897</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,672</td>
<td>Printing &amp; Photocopying</td>
<td>2,598</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Project work</td>
<td>5,985</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12,500</td>
<td>Provision of Annual Leave</td>
<td>757</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,883</td>
<td>Provision of Long Service Leave</td>
<td>10,106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>Provision of Redundancy &amp; Locums</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,956</td>
<td>Rent &amp; Room Hire</td>
<td>13,139</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,231</td>
<td>Staff Training &amp; Conferences</td>
<td>10,469</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,712</td>
<td>Sundry Expenses</td>
<td>6,251</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,893</td>
<td>Superannuation</td>
<td>33,629</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>788</td>
<td>Women &amp; Justice Forum</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>285,591</td>
<td>Wages &amp; Salaries</td>
<td>353,677</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,680</td>
<td>Workers' Compensation Insurance</td>
<td>1,253</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129,822</td>
<td>Indigenous Project</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>528,471</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>505,963</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,312</td>
<td>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</td>
<td>.1,270</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WOMEN’S LEGAL CENTRE (ACT & REGION) INC.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2009</th>
<th>NOTE</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11,487</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>505,511</td>
<td></td>
<td>438,755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13,802</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(460,509)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(502,967)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73,071</td>
<td>NET CASH FLOW RELATING TO OPERATING ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11,423)</td>
<td>Payments for Property, Plant &amp; Equipment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11,423)</td>
<td>NET CASH FLOWS RELATING TO INVESTING ACTIVITIES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53,848</td>
<td>Net movement in cash held</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>343,206</td>
<td>Plus cash at the Beginning of year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>408,856</td>
<td>CASH AT THE END OF THE YEAR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOWS RELATING TO OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO OPERATING RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

| 3,312 | Operating Surplus/(Deficit) | 1,270 |
| 3,777 | Non Cash Flows: |   |
|       | Depreciation | 5,325 |
| 2,248 | Changes in assets and liabilities: |   |
| 1,068 | Movement in prepayments | (5,443) |
| 35,953 | Movement in receivables | 1,099 |
| 17,133 | Movement in creditors | (12,556) |
| 6,746 | Movement in employee entitlements | 10,106 |
| (54,853) | Movement in unexpended grants | | (54,853) |
WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE (ACT & REGION ) INC.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

2 CASH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main cheque Account</td>
<td>170,954</td>
<td>270,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Deposit</td>
<td>170,000</td>
<td>135,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>340,954</strong></td>
<td><strong>406,856</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT (REFER NOTE 1(b))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Equipment (at cost)</td>
<td>75,955</td>
<td>64,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Less</strong> Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>(59,698)</td>
<td>(55,198)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leashold improvements (at cost)</td>
<td>5,491</td>
<td>5,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Less</strong> Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>(1,437)</td>
<td>(612)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,311</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,831</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 PROVISION FOR EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Annual Leave</td>
<td>24,630</td>
<td>23,873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Redundancy</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Maternity</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>45,130</strong></td>
<td><strong>44,373</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Current Liability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Long Service Leave</td>
<td>33,019</td>
<td>22,913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>33,019</strong></td>
<td><strong>22,913</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 OTHER PROVISIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Locums</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 UNEXPENDED GRANTS & FUNDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attorney General's Dept</td>
<td>140,000</td>
<td>125,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Society Grants</td>
<td>71,850</td>
<td>77,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Project</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal Project- DV’sarp</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Minister’s Project</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bags &amp; Blings</td>
<td>3,606</td>
<td>2,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>219,256</strong></td>
<td><strong>273,907</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

K D Hanna FCA (Principal)

GPO Box 810, Canberra ACT 2601
Suite 15, George Turner Offices
11 McKay Gardens, Turner ACT

Telephone: (02) 6249 8515
(02) 6249 8475
Facsimile: (02) 6249 6792

email: kim@khanna.com.au

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE WOMEN’S LEGAL CENTRE (ACT & REGION) INCORPORATED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2010

Scope
I have audited the attached financial statements of the Women’s Legal Centre (ACT & Region) Incorporated (The Association) for the year ended 30th June 2010. The Committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. I have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the Association.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Association’s position and the results of its operations.

The audit opinion in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion
In my opinion,

(a) The financial statements of the Association are properly drawn up

(i) So as to give a true and fair view of matters required by subsection 72(2) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 to be dealt with in the financial statements
(ii) in accordance with the provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991; and
(iii) in accordance with proper accounting standards, being Applicable Accounting Standards;

(b) I have obtained all the information and explanations required;
(c) Proper accounting records have been kept by the Association as required by the Act; and
(d) The audit was conducted in accordance with the rules of the Women’s Legal Centre (ACT & Region) Incorporated.

Kim Hanna FCA
Registered Company Auditor
Date 17/9/10