

# Annual Report 2015



Serving the Community  
in Greater Western Sydney

# Macquarie Legal Centre (MLC)

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MLC acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land, the Darug people and pays respect to their elders, past and present.

## Funding bodies

### Commonwealth

Attorney-General's Department  
Department of Social Services

### New South Wales

Department of Human Services  
NSW Fair Trading  
Legal Aid Commission of NSW  
Public Purpose Fund

### Non-Government

Macquarie University  
Western Sydney University

Edited and designed by  
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# Macquarie Legal Centre

## Annual Report 2014-2015

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# About Us

Macquarie Legal Centre (MLC) is an independent, non-profit, community organisation providing free legal advice, information, referrals, casework, minor assistance and community legal education to disadvantaged people across 132 suburbs in 14 local government areas (LGAs) of Greater Western and Northern Sydney.

Established in 1978 by a small group of lawyers, academics and law students from Macquarie University, MLC's ties with Macquarie University continue, with clinical legal programs offered to students of the university and a considerable number of students taking part in MLC's volunteer program. In recent years, MLC has also been working in partnership with Western Sydney University through Parramatta Community Justice Clinic: a free legal service offering advice and assistance at the Parramatta Local Court.

As a community legal centre with a vision to help people overcome barriers through empowering and advocating for those disadvantaged and vulnerable, MLC's clients include people on low incomes, people with health and ability issues, Indigenous Australians, people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, single parents and victims of domestic violence. The statistics throughout this report highlight the types of clients MLC assists and the problems they seek our help to resolve.

Located in Parramatta, MLC provides services in Western Sydney: a region with a diverse industry base and the largest justice precinct in Australia, outside of the Sydney and Melbourne Central Business Districts. The precinct includes judicial, police, custodial and justice administration functions as well as professional services. The continued growth in the region and the dynamic changing populace present MLC with many challenges and opportunities to assist the community.



MLC staff with The Hon. Brad Hazzard, NSW Attorney General and Dr. Geoff Lee MP, Member for Parramatta

# Chairperson's Report

## Debra Ronan

I'm happy to report that 2014-2015 has been another successful year for Macquarie Legal Centre. It's also been another very busy one for the staff, management and Management Committee, and although this year has delivered challenges, all staff within the organisation have risen to and met those challenges, and the report is principally optimistic.

We welcomed Paula Chegwiddden and Len Kenny to the management committee in 2015. Along with committee members John Buscall, John Hargrave, Lisa McLoughlan and Sylvia Sant, Len and Paula have contributed considerably to the work of the committee bringing years of sector experience and knowledge to the positions.



The management committee has continued throughout the year to work on policy reviews, staffing issues and financial management. I would like to acknowledge and thank all of these colleagues for their great support to me as the chair, for their commitment and collaborative teamwork, and for giving up their time to deal with day-to-day, and extra-ordinary committee matters.

The most encouraging news to report is that MLC survived with minimal funding cuts, which is very good news. Although we've been advised that there will be funding cuts to the community legal sector in 2017 (to be confirmed in 2016), MLC's funding has been guaranteed for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. More good funding news is that MLC has also been advised that Central West Contact Service (CWCS) is not one of the 78 services that will suffer an indexation pause over the next 5 years. Funding for the Children's Court Advocacy Service (CCAS) is secure until June 2016, and we were pleased to learn that we received funding for HoBAS for a further 3 years.

As part of the new Domestic Violence reforms, the Macquarie WDVCS was selected as the local coordination point to start the Safer Pathways Program. Two are already in operation in Waverly and Orange and 28 are being rolled out state-wide. This new project will commence on 1st July. 2014/2015 has certainly been busy and productive for all the services at MLC, and I'd like to close by expressing admiration and gratitude to everyone involved in the continued success and growth of Macquarie Legal Centre.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of all staff to the continued success of MLC. I extend my gratitude to those who work closely with and assist the management committee. Maria Girdler leads the organisation with strength and steadfastness; and along with Elizabeth Wulff, John Rafferty and Giehan Gergis continues to run and develop the organisation, and give invaluable support to the Committee in its work.

Finally, I would like to express my deep appreciation to all solicitors, program coordinators and staff, administration staff and volunteers, for their team and individual contributions to the success of the programs that collectively make MLC such a prominent and successful organisation.



John Hargrave  
Treasurer, Secretary 2014  
Meeting attendance: 5 of 7



Debra Ronan  
Chairperson  
Meeting attendance: 6 of 7



Paula Chegwidden  
Committee member  
Meeting attendance: 3 of 4  
(joined Feb 2015)

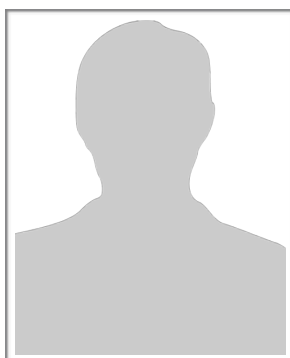


Len Kenny  
Committee member  
Meeting attendance: 4 of 4  
(joined Feb 2015)

## Management Committee 2014-2015



Lisa McLoughlan  
Secretary 2014,  
Treasurer 2014, 2015  
Meeting attendance: 7 of 7



John Buscall  
Committee member  
Meeting attendance: 5 of 6



Sylvia Sant  
Deputy Chair  
Meeting attendance: 6 of 7



# Manager's Report

## Maria Girdler

This report contains the highlights, successes and achievements of 2014 – 2015.

### *Networking*

- \* On 3 July 2014, we met with Ms. Julie Owens, Federal Member for Parramatta, as part of our regular dialogue about the value of our service.
- \* On 31 July 2014, I attended a Community Forum organised by Dr. Geoff Lee, State Member for Parramatta.
- \* On 2 March 2015, tenancy team member Franya Repolusk and I met with Dr. Geoff Lee about funding for tenancy services.
- \* On 3 March 2015, tenancy team member Jayd Raffoul and I met with the Hon John Robertson, State Member for Blacktown, about funding for tenancy services.



- \* On 8 May 2015, Ms. Julia Finn, State Member for Granville, came to meet our staff and discuss our services.

### *NSW Attorney-General visit*

On 27 January 2015 we welcomed the Hon Brad Hazzard, then NSW Attorney-General, and Dr. Geoff Lee to our office. We showcased our work and engaged with the Attorney about our services and funding.

### *Federal Shadow Attorney-General visit*

On 12 March 2015, the Federal Shadow Attorney-General, Hon Mark Dreyfus, and Ms. Julie Owens came to our office to see our service and discuss our funding.

### *Good news story - Federal funding restored for family and domestic violence services*

On 26 March 2015, the Federal Attorney-General, Senator George Brandis, announced the restoration of funding for family and domestic violence services, which included funding to our Centre.

In 2013 the previous Federal Government had provided the funding under a 4 year contract. In 2014 we were advised that the funding would end by 30 June 2015 (2 years short of the original agreed funding term).

I welcomed the restoration of the funding, which has allowed us to continue our very necessary services. What will happen after 30 June 2017 is still in doubt.

### *New Funding for domestic violence victims – Safer Pathways*

We look forward to becoming a 'Local Coordination Point' for Safer Pathways. The new program will provide additional funding and additional staff to reduce the risk for clients who have been identified by the Police as being at serious risk of harm.

On 6 May 2015, in preparation for the launch, we met with local stakeholders at Deloitte's Parramatta office.

On 19 June 2015 we welcomed the opportunity to meet with the Hon Prue Goward, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, and Dr. Geoff Lee about Safer Pathways.

For now the program will only be funded in the Parramatta Police Local Area Command. In future we would like to see the service provided to all our clients.

#### *New partnerships*

We have used meeting rooms at Deloitte free of charge for meetings. This has allowed us access to high quality meeting rooms, which have been particularly suitable for large events.

#### *Youth Koori Court – Parramatta Children's Court*

In 2015 we welcomed the new Youth Koori Court at Parramatta Children's Court. The establishment of the Court provides a culturally appropriate way of supporting Aboriginal young people in the justice system.

#### *Funding uncertainty*

We live with great funding uncertainty and increasingly short contracts. In some areas where we previously had 3 years Funding Agreements, we now have only one year Agreements. This is an unsatisfactory situation for clients and staff alike. I am extremely grateful to our staff, who continue to work with such insecurities.

#### *Investing in staff*

First Aid training and Suicide Prevention training have been offered across the Centre as well as targeted training for particular teams. Mediation training has been popular with our Tenants Advocates. Our solicitors have also benefited from the training provided through our CLC State Office.

#### *Children's Court Assistance Scheme- 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary- later this year*

Our Children's Court Assistance Scheme (CCAS) will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in September 2015. It's a very important milestone. We know we do valuable work but we have always struggled to secure adequate funding.

#### *Thank yous*

Many people should be given special thanks for their assistance to the Centre. Our services have been enhanced by many volunteers (students and solicitors) who have contributed their time during the year. In turn, we believe they have benefited from their interaction with our clients. For many students being here is their first contact with real-life legal issues (and the real people who need the help our services can provide).



# Legal Information & Referral

The Legal Information & Referral Officers (LIRO) are the first point of contact for advice and assistance at MLC.

The two LIROs supervise a roster of law student volunteers from Universities across the Sydney region.

MLC appreciates the interest and support of these bright young scholars; their commitment to social justice and awareness of social justice issues means they will be effective legal practitioners.

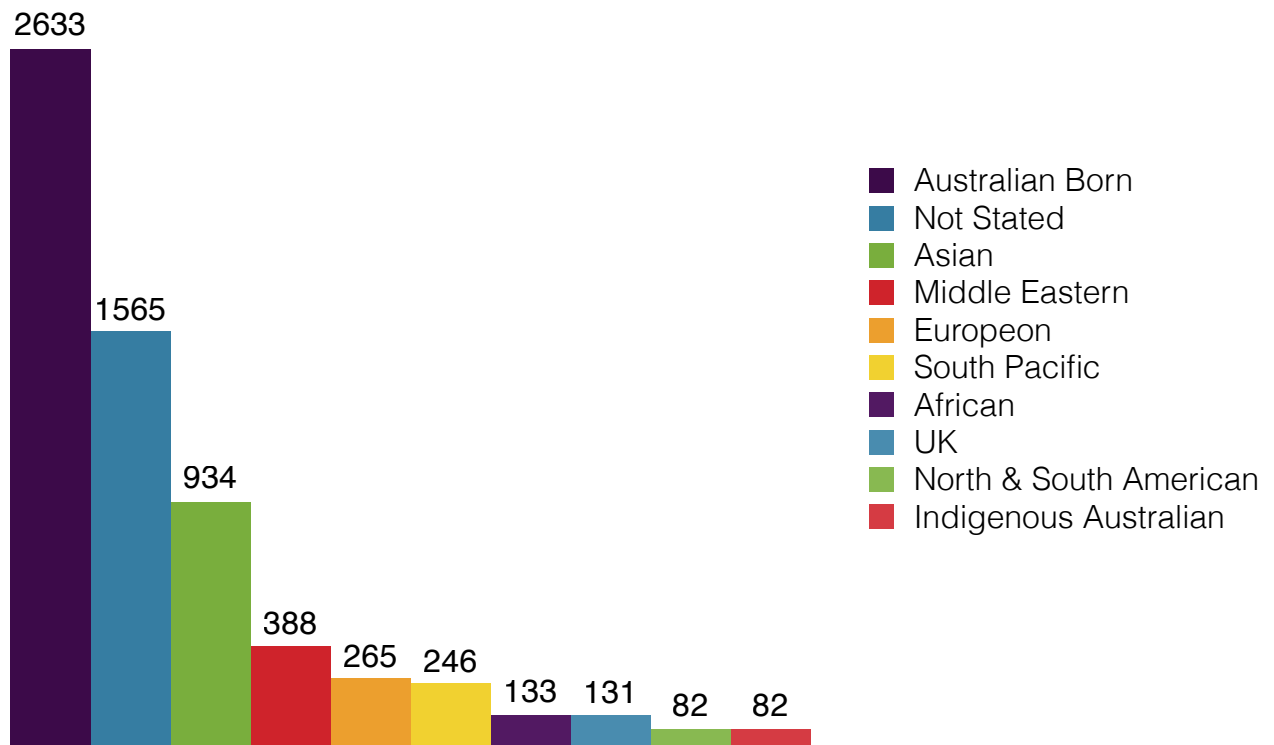


**Total  
Generalist  
Advices: 1205  
Cases: 79**

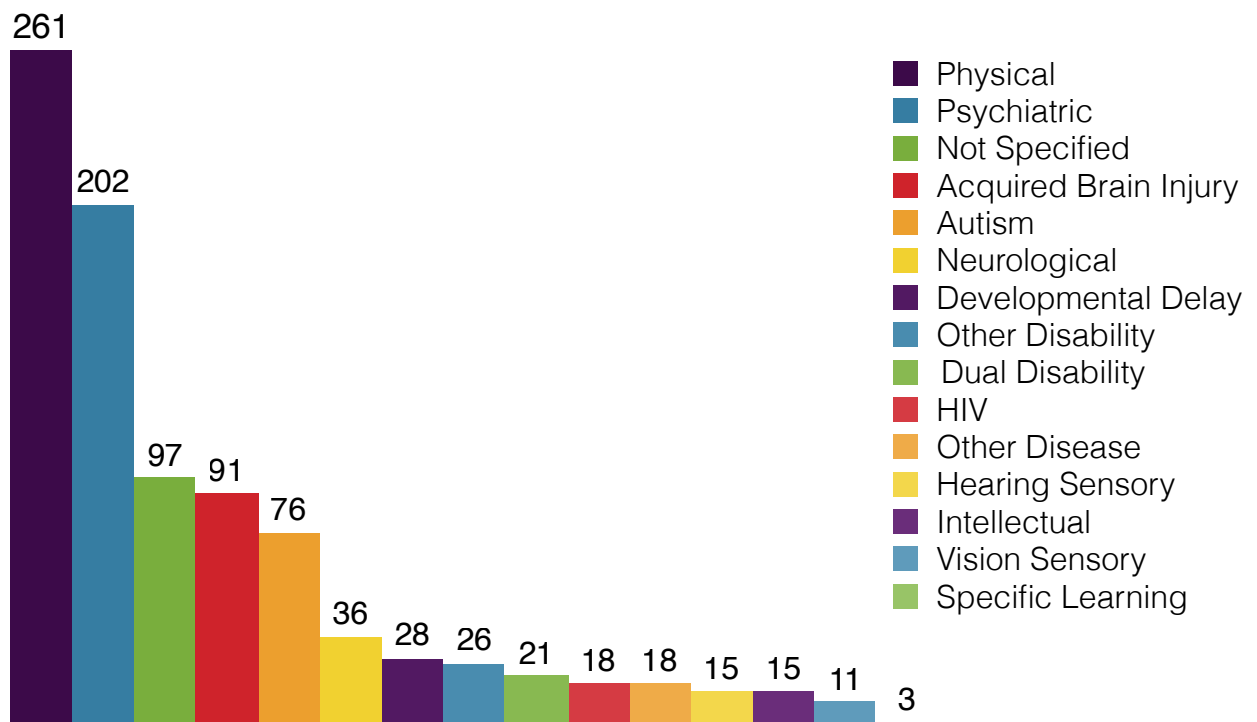
## **Volunteer Student Reflection**

*"At the beginning of my second year studying law, I applied to volunteer at MLC. I was looking for some kind of legal experience that would compliment my degree. Volunteering has taught me a lot about the legal services provided by non-profit centres and the experiences of clients in both civil and criminal matters. When I first started I was afraid of making mistakes when dealing with clients or writing up instructions, however the helpful LIROs assisted me with each task. The hard work everyone puts in from the solicitors, LIROS, volunteer solicitors and other volunteers like myself really makes a difference for all client matters. My experience at MLC has been educating and inspiring. Liaising with clients and solicitors who explain the legal terminology also helps me understand my degree. The hard work the solicitors and LIROS engage in assisting clients sets a great example for the kind of ethics that should be practised in the legal field. Overall, I haven't been at MLC long but I am always excited to attend my volunteer sessions each week and keen to learn something new. I look forward for many more years at MLC."*

## Client Place of Birth and Indigenous Status



## Clients' Disability Type

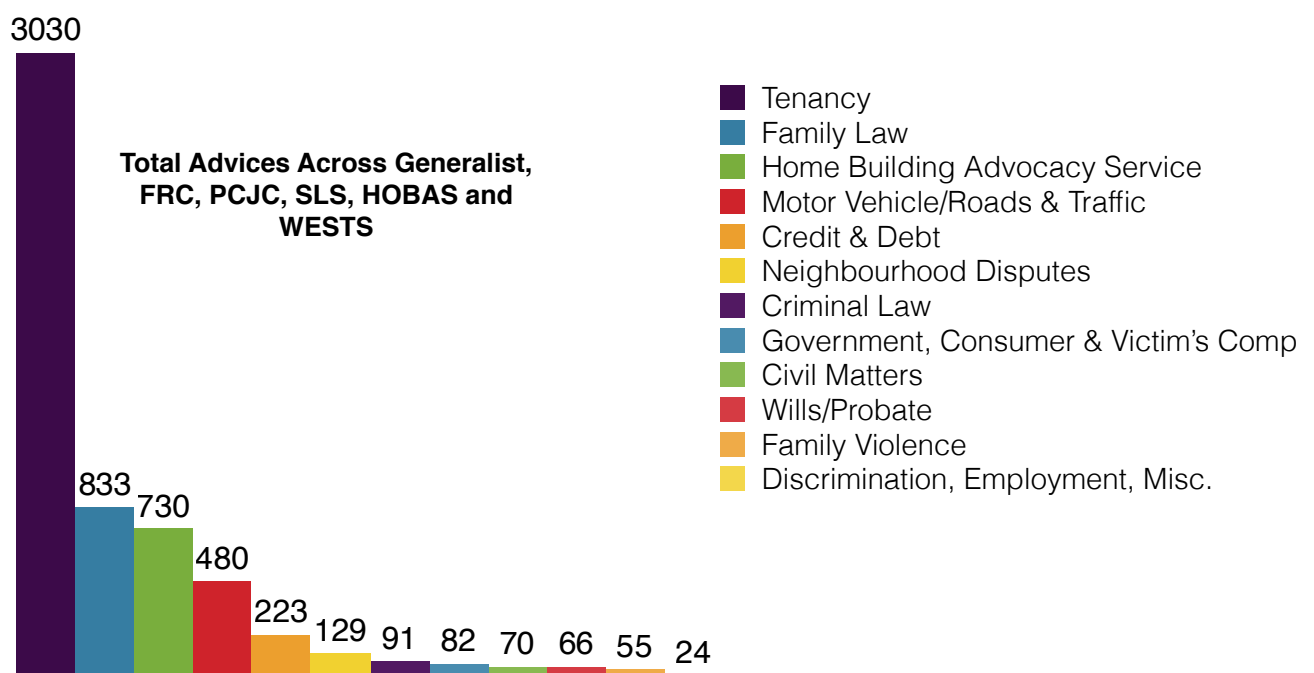
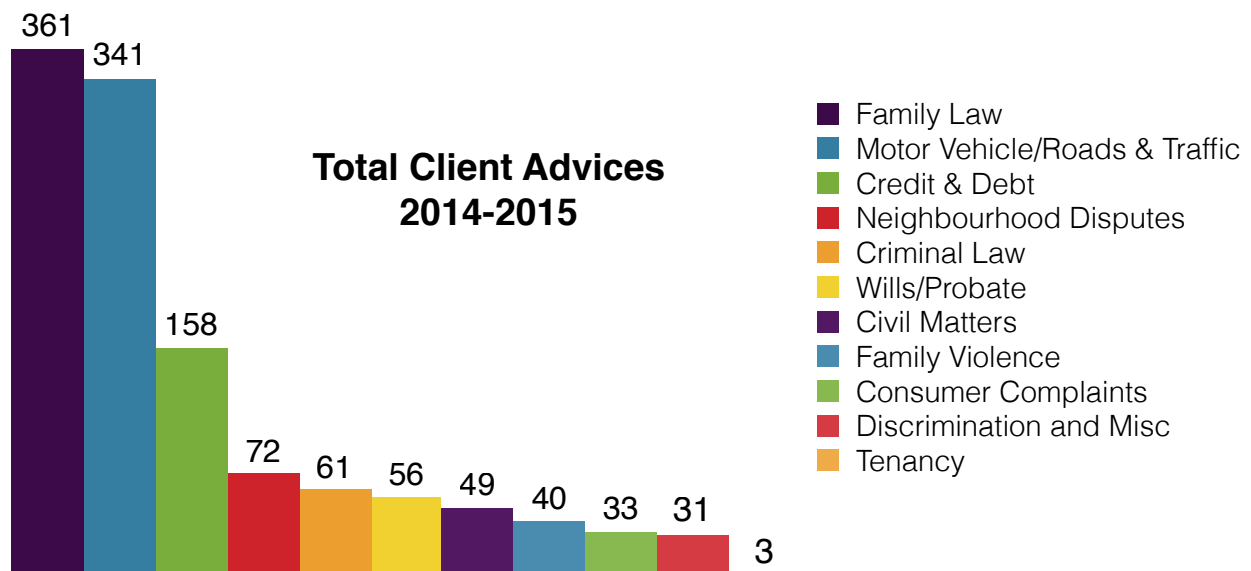


# Legal Practice

MLC's Legal Practice provides legal advice, minor case assistance and casework for disadvantaged clients in various areas of civil and criminal law. The featured case studies below on debt, domestic violence and family law provide examples of the diverse range of matters in which the MLC legal team assist the community.

## Case Study - Debt

A client from a culturally and linguistically diverse background had a debt from a personal loan. The amount owing by the client was over \$20,000.00. Although the client was working and making some repayments, they were facing financial difficulty and requested assistance from MLC. The company had already commenced proceedings against the client in the General Division of the Local Court. MLC completed the Acknowledgment of Liquidated Claim and a Notice of Motion to Pay by Instalments. Although the Court entered judgment against the client and rejected their instalment application, the solicitor negotiated with the company for the client to pay the debt in affordable fortnightly instalments and so avoided enforcement action being taken against the client.





### **Case Study - Domestic Violence / Family Law**

A client from a non-English speaking background approached MLC for assistance with her domestic violence and family law matter. She was undergoing counselling to address post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms as a result of witnessing atrocities in her country of origin, Afghanistan. She was a protected person under a current Apprehended Domestic Violence Order. The children had been living with the client in the matrimonial home since separation. Advice was provided to the client in relation to her legal options, family law and property settlement. The client was advised on how to proceed with an arrangement for the children by taking pre-action procedures. The focus on the children and their interests were highlighted as a priority in the client's family law issue. The client was provided referrals for different government and not-for-profit agencies regarding accommodation, counselling, financial assistance as well as Legal Aid. Although MLC was unable to provide legal representation, the client provided very positive feedback in relation to our service.



Generalist Solicitors Clare Mangiokas and Tamara Bailey

#### ***Client Feedback***

*"I just wanted to say thank you so much for providing me with the right advice and helping me get through this court matter with a positive outcome. Thanks!"*



# Family Relationship Centre (FRC) Legal Services

The Family Relationship Centre (FRC) program offers legal advice, information, lawyer-assisted mediations and assistance to separated families going through the mediation process at Macquarie Park and Parramatta FRCs. The FRC solicitors give legal advice to parents to help them reach agreements which will be best for their children. Legal advice before mediation informs parents about family law and what the likely outcome would be if the matter went to Court. Many clients assisted at the FRC are dealing with difficult issues including domestic violence, mental health issues, drug and alcohol problems as well as unrealistic expectations about parenting arrangements.

## Case Study - Parramatta

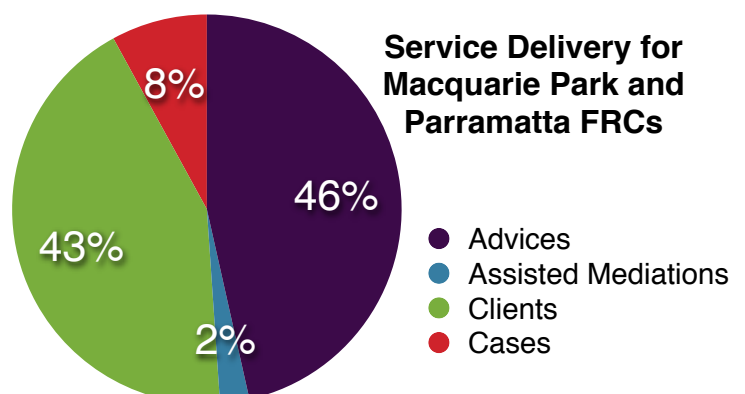
Our solicitor represented a client at mediation who was the father of a three-year-old child. The parents had been separated a year and since separation the client had been spending a few hours a week with the child. The client collected the child from preschool each Thursday and Friday and spent a few hours with her before dropping her home later that night. The client wanted more time with his child including overnight stays. The mother had previously accused the client of being violent towards her, however she had never sought an AVO, nor were there charges against our client. During mediation, the mother was very aggressive and controlling towards the client in relation to care of the child. The solicitor for the mother and the MLC solicitor both had to call for breaks to give the clients legal advice. As a result of the mediation, the mother agreed to the client spending time with the child each alternate Saturday night as well as every Thursday and Friday afternoon. The client was very happy with this outcome. He was satisfied that he had obtained more time and he could concentrate on building and maintaining the relationship he has with his child.

## Macquarie Uni Family Law Program

There were three successful Family Law student programs for the 2014-2015 period. The highlight of the program has always been the MOOT run on the last day. On the first day of the program the students are given a scenario and parts to play. During the two-week program the students are required to research and prepare legal arguments and present them on the last day of the program as they would if they were in a courtroom. The moot is run as a mock trial with solicitors acting as the Judges.

### FRC Student Feedback

*"I think the program is fantastic! I have learnt so much more in these two weeks than when I studied the family law elective for a semester. It has been an invaluable experience for me. I would like to thank both Helen and Sarah for the time they have dedicated to the program – it has been wonderful."*



### **Case Study - Macquarie Park**

Our solicitor represented a mother of three children. The children lived with the mother and spent time with their father. Our client and the father had been separated for 18 months. Before separation the father had been drinking an excessive amount of alcohol each night until he “passed out” on the lounge. Our client believed that the father was an alcoholic, however he held down a good job and denied that he had a drinking problem. Our client wanted the father to have a good relationship with their children but was concerned about their safety if he continued to drink to excess. Mediation was held at the FRC where we assisted our client. The father was also represented by a community lawyer. Our client raised her concerns about the father’s use of alcohol, especially while the children were in his care. It was agreed that the father would spend time with the children on two afternoons mid-week after school and the two older children would stay each Saturday day and night. Because of her young age, the youngest child would only spend day times with her father. It was also agreed that both parents would remain under the driving limit (0.05) of alcohol while the children were in their care. To set our client’s mind at ease, the father agreed to have his blood tested by his GP for excessive consumption of alcohol. The father’s blood test results indicated a chronic, harmful level of alcohol abuse. He was shocked as he considered his alcohol consumption to be “normal”. At a second mediation it was agreed by both parents that the father would continue to spend time with the children but any overnight time with the children would be supervised by another adult family member. The father would have further alcohol tests and if the result was still high, he would attend an alcohol rehabilitation course. A copy of the test results would be provided to our client and the mediator. Once his alcohol levels returned to the normal range, supervised time would not continue. This agreement was put into a Parenting Plan signed by both parents.



FRC Solicitors Sarah Hart and Helen Taranto

**Macquarie Park**  
**Legally Assisted**  
**Mediations: 13**  
**Total Advices: 173**  
**Cases: 34**  
**Clients: 156**

**Parramatta**  
**Legally Assisted**  
**Mediations: 5**  
**Children-in-focus**  
**Sessions: 20**  
**Total Advices: 171**  
**Cases: 25**  
**Clients: 163**

### **Community Legal Education Sessions**

Three times a month the FRC solicitor presents family law information sessions to clients going through the mediation process at Parramatta FRC. The sessions are delivered as part of the FRC’s “Children in Focus” sessions, and often lead to clients making appointments for individual legal advice.



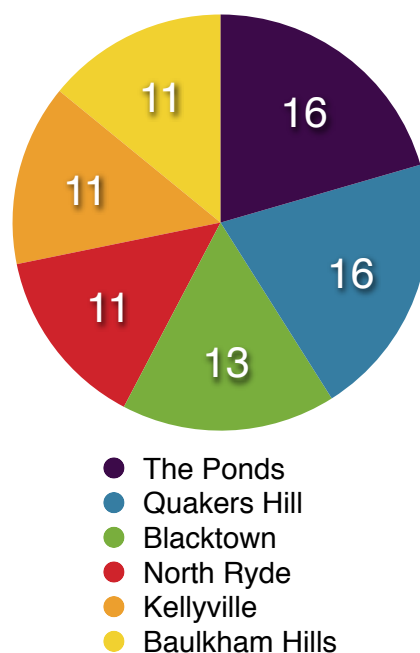


# Home Building Advocacy Service (HoBAS)

The Home Building and Advocacy Service (HoBAS) provides a state wide legal service to assist home-owners resolve their home building claims with their builders. HoBAS is funded by NSW Fair Trading. HoBAS helps home owners with:

- Advice on defective and incomplete work.
- General advice on contractual disputes, including:
  - variations/adjustments;
  - progress payments, delay and termination of contract.
- Damage caused by a builder/tradesperson.
- Process and procedure at the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT), including advice and assistance with the preparation of evidence.
- General advice on NCAT internal appeals.
- The transfer of proceedings from the court system to NCAT.
- General advice on insurance under the Home Building Compensation Fund.

**Most Common  
Suburbs for Advices**



## Case Study – Vulnerable Client

A HoBAS solicitor assisted a linguistically disadvantaged couple in terminating their building contract and receiving a refund of a portion of the deposit. The contract was terminated because Council had not approved the dwelling as per the building specification in the contract. A deposit of \$6,600 had been paid. The builder was agreeable to terminating the contract, but our client found it difficult to claim the deposit after reducing the costs incurred. The solicitor provided assistance in drafting a letter to the builder who was delaying refunding the deposit. The client was able to receive a refund of \$2,100 and the documents and approval for which they had paid. The client was delighted at the outcome and with HoBAS's assistance in the matter.

### **Client Feedback**

*"I just wanted to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to HoBAS for the wonderful assistance you provided over the last few months. It has been a journey and you have held my hand and guided me throughout all the difficult steps to help bring about the eventual successful closure to this saga. The wonderful assistance I received from one of your solicitors when going to court was more than I could have asked for. To know there is help such as your organisation provides is truly a blessing and you have touched my heart."*

### Case Study - NCAT Preparation

A HoBAS Solicitor assisted a client who was on a disability pension to prepare for the Tribunal. There was significant work in drafting Points of Claim and Chronology of Events, ordering all the evidence and matching the evidence with each claim, and preparing submissions consistent with the Tribunal's procedural directions. The Solicitor attended the Tribunal hearing to assist the client and provide support throughout the four hour hearing. The outcome was a Monetary Order granted in favour of our client. The amount was less than requested, but given that the building work was conducted 6 years ago and the Tribunal gave the evidence little weight due to the passing of time, the client did quite well under these circumstances.

#### **Client Feedback**

*To whom it may concern. I would like to thank you for the excellent service that your solicitor gave me with the dispute. The staff member was professional, helpful and considerate at all times. I feel very fortunate that my dispute was well looked after and I was treated with understanding. I am very grateful.*



The Ponds CLE (Community Legal Education) session: HoBAS

### Networking, Training and Community Events

HoBAS presented a CLE session at The Ponds Community Centre on “Resolving Home Building Disputes and Claims”.

HoBAS attended the Civil and Administrative Tribunal’s Consultative Forum and Legal Education seminars on the significant changes to the NSW Home Building Act.

**Total  
Advices: 717  
Cases: 28**

# Parramatta Community Justice Clinic (PCJC)

The Parramatta Community Justice Clinic (PCJC) provides free legal advice and casework to eligible residents of Western Sydney. In conjunction with the Student Legal Services, PCJC delivers a practical legal education program for Western Sydney University (WSU) law students. PCJC is located at MLC and the Parramatta Local Court. A total of 164 WSU law students completed the Clinical Legal Placement elective through PCJC.

## Case Study - Fine

A client made an appointment at the PCJC after receiving a fine and enforcement order for failing to attend jury duty. The PCJC liaised with State Debt Recovery and the Office of the Sheriff in an attempt to have the fine withdrawn. The client contacted the SDR and was told that the enforcement order had been withdrawn.

## Case Study - Neighbourhood Dispute

A client had a dispute with a neighbour about a dividing fence between their two properties. The neighbour commenced proceedings in the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, seeking orders for the construction of a fence. The PCJC assisted the client to prepare the response to the neighbour's application for the NCAT hearing. At the hearing, the tribunal member made fencing orders, with which the client agreed. The client was very happy with the outcome.



WSU student Anthony Byrne, PCJC solicitor Katherine Boyle,  
WSU students Hala Kazwini and Obaid Samal

## Community Engagement, Events and Meetings

In July 2014 there was a meeting with the Local Court staff meeting to discuss the services of the PCJC. In August 2014, there was the Parramatta Local Court forum.

### **PCJC Student Feedback**

PCJC students identified the most rewarding aspects of the program:

*“Being involved in practical work is much better than just listening to how work gets done. Meeting the clients and being allowed to input ideas into the advice and also debrief afterwards about what needs to happen and what is likely to happen.*

*Being able to sit in on client interviews with the solicitors to see how they handle difficult situations, particularly those involving clearly distressed clients and clients that could possibly cause further conflict and need someone to reassure them in a calm manner.*

*Being exposed to real life practice is very different from the theory-based learning we experience in class and textbooks. This was a real hands-on experience. I know my time here was valuable.*

*The admin staff and the solicitors from PCJC and MLC were very helpful, always ready to answer any questions. I felt very welcome. They provided me with an insight into the legal industry and the set expectations.”*



PCJC interview process with WSU student Obaid Samal, PCJC solicitor Katherine Boyle, and WSU students Hala Kazwini and Anthony Byrne observing

### **Community Information Sessions**

PCJC in partnership with MLC staff presented a Tenancy Community Legal Education (CLE) session at the Community Migrant Resource Centre in Parramatta in February 2015.

**Total Client  
Appointments: 625  
Advices: 367  
Cases: 156  
Referrals: 69  
Closed files: 83**



# Student Legal Services (SLS)

Student Legal Services (SLS) is a partnership project between Western Sydney University (WSU) and MLC funded through the Student Services and Amenities Fee. SLS provides students with advice on a variety of legal matters. Areas of assistance include motor vehicle accidents, tenancy, credit and debt, on-campus parking fines, and traffic offences. Recent changes to the service have allowed SLS to advise on internal university issues such as on-campus parking, WSU Village disputes and plagiarism. SLS has developed relationships throughout the year with the Student Welfare Team and Student Representation and Participation. SLS participates in the biannual Student Services Fair which has helped raise awareness of the service.

## Case Study - Motor Vehicle Accident

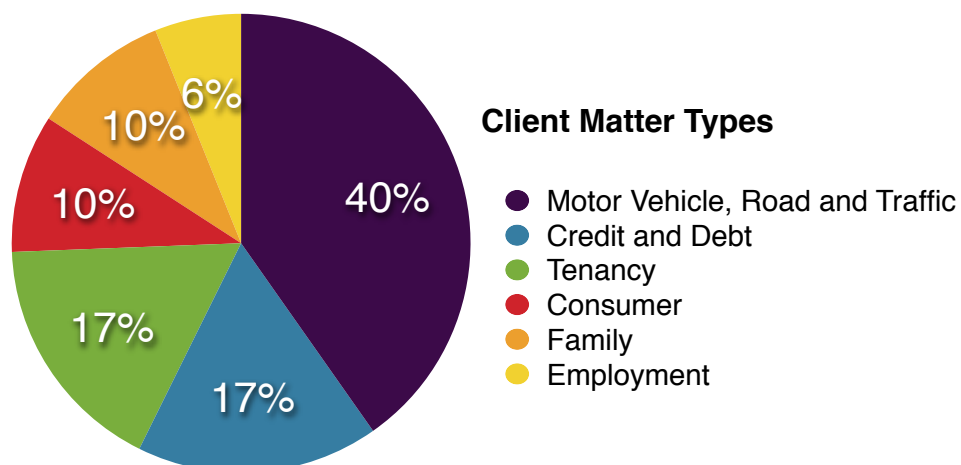
A student was involved in a motor vehicle accident in September 2014. After alighting from the car to check the other party was not injured, the other party attempted to flee the scene. Our client called them back and the police attended the scene. With the support of an independent witness, the police confirmed the other party was at fault. SLS assisted the client to understand the debt recovery process and prepare for court proceedings. The matter was successfully negotiated before the court proceedings commenced.

## Case Study - Debt

After being chased for overdue credit card bills, a single mother of two approached SLS for advice. The client had been working on a casual basis and fell behind in payments when she stopped working. While the outstanding bills totalled \$3000, prior legal expenses increased the debt to \$3700. SLS was successful in advising the client of her options to respond to the Statement of Claim. The client was confident enough to negotiate with the other party and they both agreed to a payment plan.

## Case Study - Bond Dispute

A single mother of three rented a unit that was infested with cockroaches. After frequently notifying the real estate agent of the pest control issue, they sprayed the entire unit block. Unfortunately the problem remained. When the client moved out, the landlord tried to claim her bond to pay for cleaning and pest control. The client was advised on her rights and how to reclaim her entire bond. Relying on the information provided, the client was successful at the Tribunal, and was awarded her entire bond.



## Publications

SLS is a regular contributor to the University's magazine CrUWSible:

- “Crash without the burn. What to do after a prang” Issue 6, Winter 2014
- “Exercising your right to protest” Issue 7, Spring 2014
- “Tenancy: the joy, the horror” Issue 8, Summer 2014/15
- “Debt: Student Legal says don't ignore it” Issue 9, Autumn 2015



## WSU Rebranding

SLS has been working closely with Angela Macdonald from the WSU Communications team in undertaking the rebranding of SLS, as well as furthering the development of its promotional strategies. The rebranding has resulted in a more appealing design as reflected in the postcards and business cards. SLS is also promoted through the WSU Facebook and Twitter accounts on a monthly basis, and will now be included in the 2016 diary.

## Events and Outreach

SLS had a stall at the Student Services Fairs in August 2014 and March 2015.

SLS began trialling on-campus 'drop-in' advice sessions as part of service delivery at Campbelltown Campus.



SLS solicitor Nina Lau and Event Coordinator Roya Aran





# Western Sydney Tenants' Service (WESTS)

Western Sydney Tenants' Service (WESTS) provides free legal advice, advocacy, community legal information, representation and referrals to residential tenants. WESTS assist tenants in the North Western and Western areas of Sydney who rent premises within the local government areas of Auburn, Blacktown, Holroyd, Parramatta, Baulkham Hills, Hawkesbury and Penrith. The featured case studies below relating to a portable garage, access, repairs and rent provide examples of the diverse range of matters in which WESTS and the MLC team assisted the community.

## **Case Study - Portable Garage**

WESTS assisted a 69-year-old Housing NSW tenant with a portable garage. The client had installed the garage without approval from Housing NSW or Parramatta City Council. Housing NSW lodged an NCAT application against the tenant in relation to the unauthorised erection of the garage and the safety risks it posed, and sought the removal of the garage. With representation by a WESTS advocate, the Tribunal made orders that the tenant could keep the colour bond garage on the car parking space, and that the landlord endorse its consent to a tenants' Building Certificate Application for Unauthorised Works, which the tenant may submit to Parramatta City Council in support of the garage.



Tenant advocates Hannah Moffatt, Emma Keech and Tom Mortimer, Debra Ronan (MLC Chair), tenant advocates Ali Amini, Franya Repolusk and Sarah Boustani

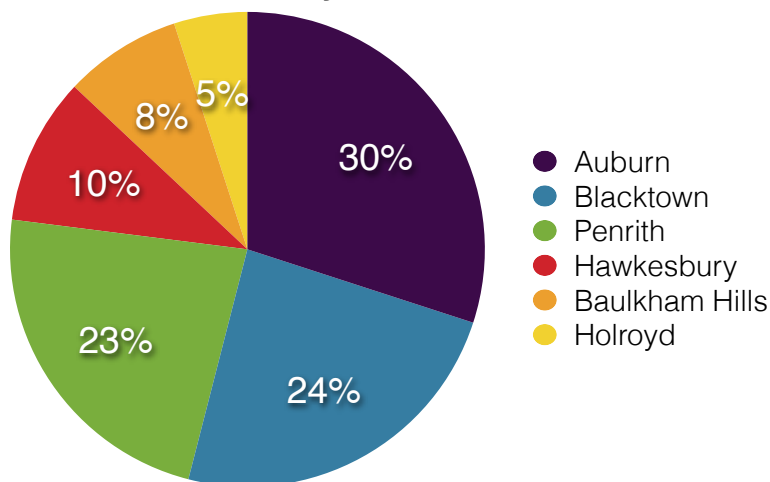
### Case study - Access, Repairs and Rent

WESTS successfully assisted 12 residents of a caravan park. These residents had concerns about access to the park for emergency and home services, outstanding repairs, the Park Manager's inconsistencies in applying the Park Rules, security of the residents' mail and methods of paying rent. After a meeting with representatives of the Trust, residents and WESTS advocates, an agreement was reached. The Trust agreed to complete outstanding repairs, obtain quotations for a pin in/pin out boom gate system, display Park Rules prominently in the Amenities Block and investigate further into the issues of individual mailboxes and methods of payment.

### Community Information Sessions and Events

WESTS presented at the 'Auburn Welcomes You' Community Legal Education (CLE) session to four different language groups. WESTS also presented CLEs to Auburn Housing Working Group, Auburn Diversity Services, Macquarie Community College, Auburn Law Week, Nepean Blue Mountains Tenancy Support Service, and participated in the 'More Bang for your Bond!' project by the Tenants' Union.

**Tenants by Local Government Area**



**Total  
Advices: 2995  
Cases: 120  
Closed Cases: 86**

The Tenants' Union of NSW launched the 'Bang for your Bond' campaign with the aim of utilising tenant bond money to assist tenants through increased funding to TAAP services.



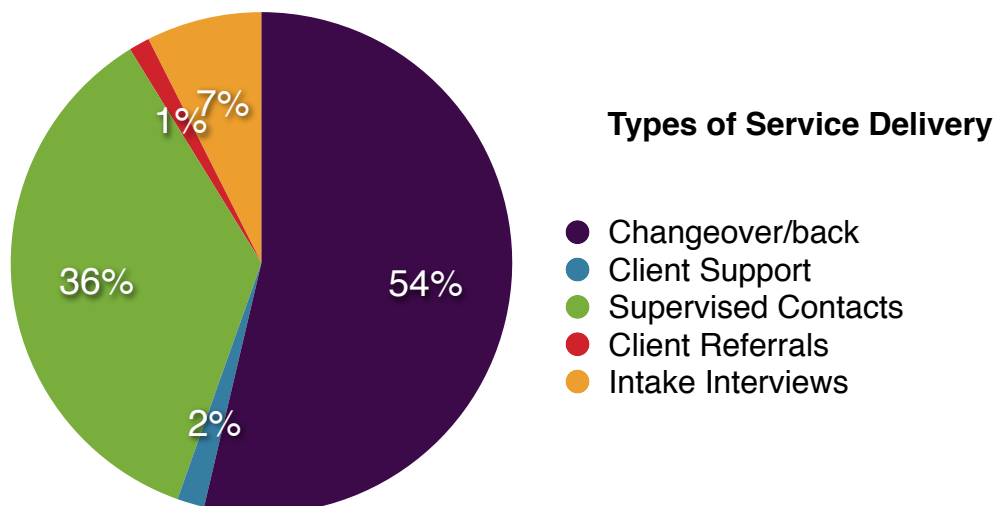
Tenant advocate Franya Repolusk, Sylvia Sant (MLC MC), IRO Roya Aran, Julia Finn MP, MLC Manager Maria Girdler, tenant advocates Emma Keech and Ali Amini

# Central West Contact Service (CWCS)

The Central West Contact Service (CWCS) had a very busy year and has experienced significant changes. Staff continue to enjoy assisting families, which allows children to have an ongoing relationship with both parents. Many of the families have moved from supervised contact to changeover or to self-management safely. CWCS has experienced some challenges in delivering the service. CWCS staff work every day to make a difference to families. Extra support is provided when families experience substantial anxiety about supervised contact or changeover.

## Case Study - Supervised Contact

The parents were married and lived together for 4 years. The mother alleged the father verbally, physically and sexually abused her throughout the relationship. The mother claimed the abuse escalated after the birth of their baby girl and the father attempted to suffocate her. The mother was fearful for her own safety and the safety of her child. The mother was resistant to allowing supervised contact to take place as she had concerns about the father kidnapping the child. The father denied the allegations of domestic violence. He advised that he has bipolar and regularly visits his treating doctor. The matter went to Court and supervised visits at CWCS began with no relationship existing between the father and his daughter. Initially the child cried on separation from her mother for several contacts and the visits did not last the two hour period. The father completed a 'Parenting after Separation' and an 'Engage for Dads' course. He was keen to apply the age appropriate suggestions he learned from attending the parenting courses and a bond between father and daughter quickly developed, with the child very keen and happy to see her father. The father introduced his new partner and baby to the child and the child developed a bond with the new partner. The mother benefited from the time that the family spent at CWCS, as it served to reassure her and allay her fears that her child was safe, and that the father was behaving in the best interests of their child. In March 2015, the family progressed to court ordered contact outside the centre with changeover happening elsewhere and the father's partner acting as his supervisor.



### **Case Study - Changeover**

This family had been using CWCS since May 2014 for supervised contact. The father attended CWCS fortnightly to meet the child and spend time with her for two hours a week as per court order. The mother, who the child lives with, alleged verbal abuse during the relationship and that the father had sexually assaulted the child. FACS are investigating the allegations which the father denies. During supervised contact at CWCS the child made more disclosures and CWCS reported the new disclosures to FACS. FACS advised that supervised contact could continue during investigation of the new disclosure. The father continued to attend the centre for supervised contact; he interacted well with the child and always brought dinner for both to share. Referrals from CWCS were offered to both parents but were declined.

### **Events, Training and Information Sessions**

The Coordinator and Manager of MLC had a successful meeting with the Funding Managers from the Department of Social Services. The feedback from the DSS was positive. During the reporting period the Coordinator attended a conference in Canberra where new innovative ways of service delivery for working with disadvantaged families was discussed. Information sessions were provided for Macquarie University Students about CWCS and its role in the family law system. Staff were provided with updated first aid training and training from the Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW.



**Intake Interviews: 161**  
**Supervised Contacts: 774**  
**Changeover/back: 1161**  
**Client Referrals: 29**  
**Client Support: 38**

Leanne Hart, Department of Social Services, CWCS  
Coordinator Leah Cruickshank and Nawal Wehbe



# Children's Court Assistance Scheme (CCAS)

The Children's Court Assistance Scheme (CCAS) provides assistance to young people attending the children's court for criminal matters and Apprehended Violence Orders (AVO) at Parramatta and Bidura Courts. Many of these young people had difficulty navigating the legal processes of the court and most had extensive welfare issues which were often the cause of the offending behaviour. CCAS has been operating for 20 years, is funded through the Public Purpose Fund, and receives funding assistance from Legal Aid NSW. The featured case study below on sexual assault counselling, drug and violence mediation provides examples of the range of matters in which the CCAS team assist the children.



**Total Clients  
Assisted by  
CCAS: 5171**

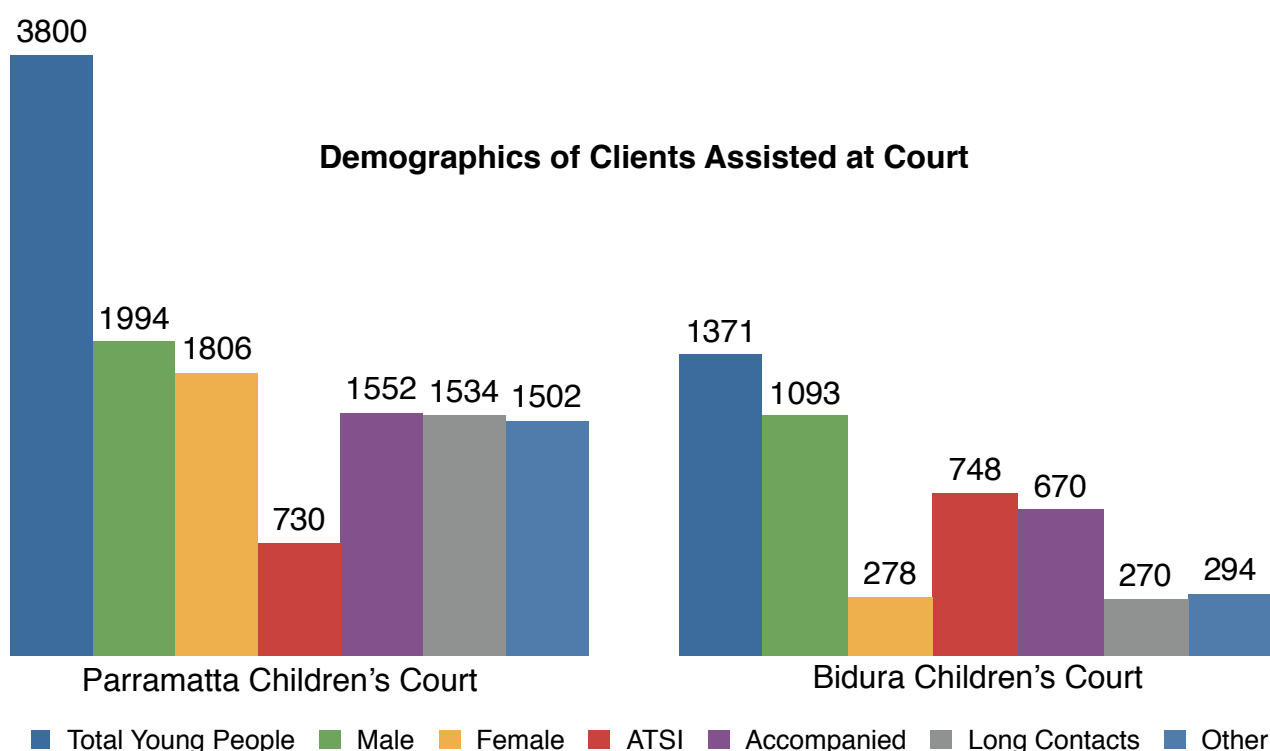
Magistrate Sue Duncombe at the smoking ceremony opening the Youth Koori Court.  
February 6 2015

## Youth Koori Court Working Group

During 2014 CCAS was a member of the Youth Koori Court working group. The Youth Koori Court officially started on 6 February 2015. The opening was marked by a smoking ceremony and speeches made at the Court. The Youth Koori Court has been running smoothly each second Friday. Due to increased numbers of young people referred to the court, Koori Court now operates every Friday. Meetings of the working party continue to discuss improvements to the process. Permission has also been given to start discussions about a Youth Koori Court at Bidura Children's Court. Michele Moore, an Elder of the Wadi Wadi people, has been a crucial part of the Youth Koori Court working as a CCAS worker attending the Courts.

### Case Study - Sexual Assault Counselling

A young woman was represented by Legal Aid for a serious criminal matter at Parramatta Children's Court. She disclosed to her Solicitor that she was living with a family member who had sexually assaulted her when she was younger, but she had never taken action. The young woman wanted to leave her current home but was unable to do so. Her solicitor referred her to CCAS to discuss her living conditions, her abuse and the court case. She feared that her sexual abuse would not be taken seriously and was reluctant to take it further. CCAS encouraged her to talk about what happened and reassured her she would be believed. CCAS referred her to a sexual assault counselling service near to her residence. She decided to stay where she was living in the short term as the abuse had not occurred for a few years, and would look for other accommodation later. She went to see a counsellor at the service and was grateful for the help offered to her at Court. The young woman returned to CCAS a few times after the first meeting to seek further advice and support.



### Case Study - Drugs and Violence Mediation

A family appeared for an AVO where the son was the defendant. A Children's Legal Service solicitor approached CCAS to refer the family to suitable counselling or mediation. CCAS spoke to the young person first and enquired about the issues affecting the young person at home. The young person said that this was the first time that they had felt heard. CCAS explained how a mediator would be able to help the young person be heard by his parents. He thought this would be a good idea and was willing to attend mediation. CCAS then spoke to his parents alone about the same issues. They wanted to talk to someone about their son's escalating violence and drug use. The boy's parents said they wanted him to go to drug counselling but that he refused. CCAS then explained how a softer approach to counselling might be easier for their son to accept and that a mediator might be a starting point in the process. The parents were keen to try mediation too. CCAS made a referral to the Reconnect Service run by the Salvation Army at Blacktown. The young person and the family were grateful for the support.

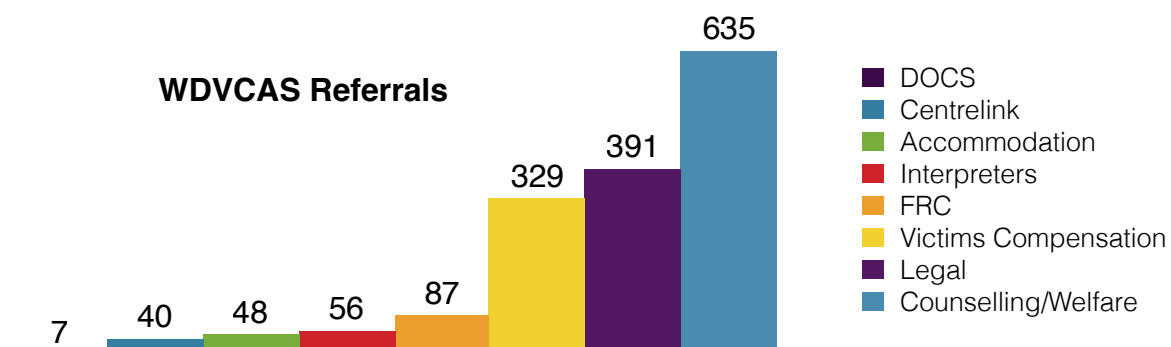


# Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (WDVCAS)

Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS) provides information, advocacy, support and referral services to women and children who have experienced or who are experiencing domestic and family violence. The service assists women and children with obtaining effective legal protection at the Parramatta Local Court, Burwood Local Court and Parramatta Children's Court. While a core function of Macquarie WDVCAS is to provide court advocacy, it also provides information on a range of matters, including avenues of self-empowerment for women and facilitating access to support systems, such as legal and social welfare needs.

## Case Study - ADVO Assistance and Support

A client was hospitalised after an incident with her husband. Police were called, the husband was charged and an ADVO applied for. The client had no family or friends in Australia and was confused and upset. She contacted her brother in the USA, who arranged an appointment with a local solicitor. The solicitor referred the client to WDVCAS for ongoing support. The client did not need to attend her court mention. Her ADVO only had standard orders, with nothing preventing her husband returning to the home. The client had three children, had not worked in 15 years and had no access to family finances. She was afraid to leave. Her husband told her if she did not return, or tried to take the children, he would cut her off from everything and potentially take the children overseas. WDVCAS provided legal and support information to the client. They supported the client to attend court and successfully advocated with the Domestic Violence Liaison Officers to vary the orders to exclude the husband from the family home. They arranged for the client to receive an initial ADVO and family law advice from the DV Practitioner in the safe room. The client was then referred to MLC who helped her obtain a grant from Legal Aid. WDVCAS provided the client with referrals for Centrelink payments, including an emergency payment. The client was also given a referral to case management and counselling and a letter in support of an application for housing. WDVCAS gave the client phone cards as her husband had ceased payments on her phone. During her transition, the client contacted the service to check-in about the steps she needed to take when she was upset and confused. Ultimately, WDVCAS assisted the client to feel empowered and supported, and to safely transition to appropriate ongoing support services.



### **Community Information Sessions and Meetings**

WDVCAS attended International Women's Day Events, White Ribbon Events, Multicultural Network Events, Local Coordination Point Information Sessions and a meeting with Parramatta Local Council. WDVCAS participated in the Parramatta/Holroyd Family and Domestic Violence Prevention Committee, Ryde Domestic Violence Committee, Castle Hill Family and Domestic Violence Committee, Staying Home Leaving Violence, the Community Migrant Resource Centre, and Parramatta Koori Interagency meetings and working groups.



**Total Clients: 861**  
**CALD Clients: 426**  
**ATSI Clients: 22**  
**Clients with**  
**Disability: 70**

Lisa Kastropil, Samiha Alameddine and Brooke Dell-Sewell

### **Training, Seminars and Conferences**

WDVCAS attended Mental Health Training, Legal Aid Core Training, Civil Law Check-up Training, Anti-Discrimination Training, First Aid Training, a Liz Kelly (Gender & Women's Violence Specialist) Seminar, a Technology and Domestic Violence Forum hosted by Women's Legal Services NSW, and the National CLC Conference in Melbourne.



DV White Ribbon Forum for Parramatta/Holroyd DFV Committee

# Youth Education Project (YEP)

The Youth Education Project (YEP) provides legal education, training and resources to young people and those who work with young people. YEP aims to educate young people about the law and legal issues that affect them through interactive training sessions and workshops.

Throughout the year, YEP took part in the Urban Survival Program together with Granville Multicultural Community Centre. This project was aimed at year nine students who were having difficulties at school and may have been at risk of leaving, dropping out or institutional exclusion. To complement the program, YEP further developed 'Youth Fact Sheets', which are now available on the MLC website. In total YEP produced eight fact sheets on issues such as Police Powers, Sexting, Victims Support and Alcohol. YEP has also commenced research into improving social media avenues for access to the service to create a viable, safe space for young people to learn about their legal rights.

## **Network Events**

During the year, YEP attended:

- The Auburn Youth Interagency (AYI), where meetings are held to allow those working in youth services to meet regularly to identify, discuss and represent the needs of young people in the Auburn LGA.
- The Cumberland Combined Services Network meetings, which are held for services funded by the NSW Department of Families and Community Services.
- Group Community Legal Education Workers (CLEW) meetings.
- NSW CLC's Combined Quarterly Meetings.
- What's Up West?, Youth Action Conference.
- Youth Justice Coalition meetings.

The aforementioned are held bimonthly for youth specific services to discuss issues affecting young people, and the ways in which services can advocate for young people.



'What's Up West?' Youth Action Conference

**In Auburn,  
Parramatta and  
Holroyd LGAs:  
Young People  
Workshops: 45  
Youth Worker  
Workshops: 20**

# Staff

## **Legal Practice**

John Rafferty, Principal Solicitor  
Tamara Bailey, Solicitor  
Susannah Coles, Paralegal  
Clare Mangiokas, Solicitor

## **Legal Information & Referral (LIRO)**

Aimee Hinder (relief), Laura Hugh,  
Charizma Jarque\*, Rose Khattar, Emily  
MacLoud\*, Lauren Newcombe (relief),  
Mary Ann Pham, Rohan Shukla

## **Family Relationship Centre (FRC)**

Sarah Boustani, Sarah Hart, Helen Taranto

## **Home Building Advocacy Service (HoBAS)**

Rachel Dobson\*, Elfet Eid,  
Michelle Ericoli, Raymond Finch,  
Hiranya Perera

## **Parramatta Community Justice Clinic (PCJC)**

Katherine Boyle, Jamal Maroon

## **Student Legal Services (SLS) Western Sydney University (WSU)**

Nina Lau,  
Roya Aran, Events Coordinator

## **Western Sydney Tenants' Service (WESTS)**

Jayd Raffoul, Coordinator  
Justin Abi-Daher, Ali Amini, Roya Aran,  
Joan Gennery\*, Jimmy Huang, Ji Beom  
Jang\*, Emma Keech, Hannah Moffatt,  
Thomas Mortimer, Franya Repolusk

## **Manager, Finance & Administration**

Maria Girdler, Manager  
Giehan Gergis, Financial Officer  
Elizabeth Wulff, Projects Officer  
Admin: Mandy Cai, Lita Chiv, Ben Chung\*,  
Marina Girgis\*, Vanita Vekaria

## **Children's Court Assistance Scheme (CCAS)**

Stan Small, Coordinator  
Daniel Byrne, Michele Moore,  
Carolina Saez, Susan Underwood

## **Central West Contact Service (CWCS)**

Leah Cruickshank, Coordinator  
Gwen Davies, Senior Supervisor  
Contact Supervisors: Daniel Byrne,  
Wendy Chandran, Ozra Meshkat,  
Beatriz Patino, Oloa Savaiinaea,  
Nawal Wehbe  
Admin: Sabna Balakrishnan,  
Leisa Tzanellis, Vicki Vucetic

## **Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS)**

Samiha Alameddine, Coordinator  
Lisa Kastropil, Acting Coordinator  
Court support workers: Jessica Bratina,  
Brooke Dell-Sewell\*, Renate Dwyer\*,  
Yvet Jones, Leisa Tzanellis,  
Tracey Hollywood, Admin

## **Youth Education Project (YEP)**

Anne Gillian  
Julianne Tiglao, Admin

\* Staff member left during the year

^ Staff member transferred to another project



MLC Staff, Shadow Attorney General Mark Dreyfus QC and Julie Owens MP, Federal Member for Parramatta



# Acknowledgements

MLC would like to thank the following individuals & organisations for their generous support throughout the year...

Christopher Haseldine, Solicitor, Cumberland Women's Health Centre, Domestic Violence Line, Dr William Higgs, Barrister Elizabeth Street Chambers, Erin's Place, Family Relationship Centre, Parramatta, Anglicare, Family Relationship Centre, Macquarie Park, Relationships Australia, Horizons Community Legal Centre, Interrelate Bella Vista, Family Courts of Australia Judicial Officers and staff, Federal Circuit Court, Judicial Officers & staff, Law Access, Legal Aid WDVCA Unit, Legal Aid NSW, Marrickville Community Legal Centre, Migrant Resource Centre, Parramatta, NSW Police Domestic Violence Liaison Officers (Rosehill, Parramatta, Castle Hill & Ryde Local Area Commands), NSW Police Regional Domestic Violence Coordinators, NSW Police Domestic Violence Prosecutor Parramatta/Holroyd Family Support Services, Rada Nair, Barrister, Ryde Family Support Service, Sean McNamara, MacAssist IT, Silvia Genoveses, Solicitor, South West Sydney Community Legal Centre, Tenant's Union NSW, The Shopfront Youth Legal Centre, Tim Heenan, Solicitor, Uniting Counselling and Mediation

## Volunteer Solicitors

Chris Baker, Andrew Banna, Keiran Elliot, Ray Finch, Cathy-Anne Grew, Nikolai Haddad, Samia Haddad, Mark McDiarmid, Carolyn Munk, Linda Rogers, Claudia Taylor, Susan Wan, Nidah Youssef

## Volunteer Students

Kirsty Bakic, Harshitha Chamakuri, Carmelle Cuanan, Corinne Deall<sup>^</sup>, Celine El-Azzi, Aimee Hinder<sup>^</sup>, Trishna Kashyap, Stephanie Kalmar, Heela Khatiz, Mark Lee, Janet Li, Nathan Mares, Lauren Newcombe<sup>^</sup>, Aishwarya Naidu, Vanessa Osifo, Timothy Patrick, Catherine Piotrowski, Elodie Somerville, Sophie Swart, Julianne Tiglao, Eleanor Tjondro, Carmen Van Zyl, Jeff Xian, Eric Vuu, Stephanie Wood

<sup>^</sup> Student transferred to another project

## Pro Bono Law Firms

Ashurst, Gilbert & Tobin, Henry Davis York

## Chartered Accountant

ABN 65 143 005 967

MACQUARIE LEGAL CENTRE INC.

ABN 81 963 193 626

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MACQUARIE LEGAL CENTRE INC.

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Macquarie Legal Centre Inc., which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, and the statement of comprehensive income and statement of changes in equity for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the governing committee's declaration.

#### *Responsibility of Those charged With Governance*

The governing committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporations Act 2009 (NSW)* and financial reporting needs of the members.

The governing committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the governing committee determine 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.

#### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

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

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

#### *Independence*

In conducting our audit, we have complied APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.

Tel: (02) 4736 3868	<b>All correspondence to</b> PO Box 606 Kingswood NSW 2747	
Fax: (02) 4736 3868	Email: <a href="mailto:rob@superfundauditing.com.au">rob@superfundauditing.com.au</a>	Website: <a href="http://www.superfundauditing.com.au">www.superfundauditing.com.au</a>
	Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation	



## Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Macquarie Legal Centre Inc. as at 30 June 2015, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report and the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporations Act 2009 (NSW)*.

## Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 in the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Macquarie Legal Centre Inc. to meet the requirements of *Associations Incorporations Act 2009 (NSW)* and the financial reporting needs of the members as determined by the governing committee. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

## Auditor's Qualifications

Registered Company Auditor and member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia. Registered Company Auditor No. 1632.

## Association's Financial Records

The Association has kept such financial records as are necessary to enable the financial statements to be prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.



Robert G. Tesoriero FCA  
Director

  
Audit Solutions Pty Limited  
Sydney

24 September 2015  
Date

Tel: (02) 4736 3868

Fax: (02) 4736 3868

All correspondence to  
PO Box 606  
Kingswood NSW 2747

Email: [rob@superfundauditing.com.au](mailto:rob@superfundauditing.com.au)

Website: [www.superfundauditing.com.au](http://www.superfundauditing.com.au)

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# Macquarie Legal Centre Inc

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended  
30 June 2015

### Contents

*Statement by Management Committee*  
*Auditor Report*  
*Consolidated Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet*

### Individual Grant Profit & Loss Statements

MLC	Macquarie Legal Centre
DVCAS	Macquarie Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services
LCP	Local Coordination Point
FLF	Family Law funds
C & P	Care Partner
YEP	Youth Education Project
CWCS	Central West Contact Service
CCAS	Children's Court Assistance Scheme
HoBas	Home Building Advocacy Service
TAAP	Tenants Advice Advocacy Program
FRC	Family Relationship
PCJC	Parramatta Community Justice Clinic
Maq Family	Macquarie University Family Law Clinic
SLS	Student Legal Services
Event UWS	Event Coordinator
CCOF	Children Contact One Off

**STATEMENT BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
OF  
MACQUARIE LEGAL CENTRE INC**

In the opinion of the members of the Management Committee

- (a) The accompanying Income & Expenditure Statements of:

MLC	Macquarie Legal Centre
DVCAS	Macquarie Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services
LCP	Local Coordination Point
FLF	Family Law Funds
C & P	Care Partner
YEP	Youth Education Project
CWCS	Central West Contact Service
CCAS	Children's Court Assistance Scheme
HoBas	Home Building Advocacy Service
TAAP	Tenants Advice Advocacy Program
FRC	Family Relationship
PCJC	Parramatta Community Justice Clinic
Maq Family	Macquarie University Family Law Clinic
SLS	Student Legal Services
Event UWS	Event Coordinator
CCOF	Children Contact One off

are drawn up so as to give a fair and true view of the results of the financial year ended June 30, 2015 and the state of affairs as of that date.

- (b) The accompanying balance sheet is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Centre as at June 30, 2015
- (c) At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the organisation will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The Centre has, during the financial year:

- i) Kept such accounting records as correctly explain the transactions and financial position of the Centre;
- ii) Kept its accounting records in such a manner as would enable true and fair accounts of the organisation to be prepared from time to time: and
- iii) Kept its records in such a manner as would enable the accounts of the Centre to be conveniently and properly audited in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards;

The Accounts for the Centre have been properly prepared by a competent person.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the committee.

Place: Parramatta, NSW

Date: 12 OCTOBER 2015

Date: 12 OCTOBER 2015

Member: D. RONAN

Member: L. McLOUGHLIN

Signature: [Signature]

Signature: [Signature]  
TREASURER

Committee Position: CHAIR

Committee Position: MEMBER

Macquarie Legal Centre Inc.  
P O Box 23  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Profit & Loss Statement

July 2014 through June 2015

INCOME

Operating Grants		
LAC State Grant	\$299,825.85	
FLLAD Commonwealth Grant	\$173,552.79	
Family Law Fund	\$120,000.00	
Care Partner	\$18,999.96	
Family Relationship	\$121,581.73	
Home Building Advocacy Service	\$252,907.49	
Family and Community Services	\$42,923.22	
Macquarie University CLE	\$33,805.08	
UWS Student Legal Services	\$114,999.96	
Adj to TAAP-Prev Auditor Entry	\$16,803.23	
Tenants Advocacy Program	\$680,073.91	
Children Contact One Off	\$27,300.00	
LAC MDVCAP Grant	\$305,296.97	
Local Coordination Point	\$11,954.00	
Legal Income	\$495.00	
Central West Contact	\$314,857.36	
UWS Event Coordinator	\$14,402.00	
Parramatta Community	\$81,466.00	
LAC - CCAS	\$169,436.31	
Treasury - CCAS	\$58,746.07	
Clinical -Macquarie University	\$20,000.00	
Total Operating Grants		\$2,879,426.93
Bank Interest		\$15,871.76
Donations Received		\$1,200.00
Legal Income		\$2,934.50
Membership Fees Rec'd		\$195.00
Sale of Equipment		\$4,376.04
Sale of Publications		\$163.26
Miscellaneous Income		\$9,613.64
Admin and management costs		
Management fee	\$111,336.00	
C'btion to operating	\$343,056.00	
Total Admin and management costs		\$454,392.00
CWCS Income		
Subpoenas	\$3,875.00	
Admin fees	\$375.00	
Service fees	\$99,657.01	
Total CWCS Income		\$103,907.01
Total INCOME		\$3,472,080.14

EXPENDITURE

Wages and Oncosts		
Direct Salaries	\$1,927,167.77	
Casuals	\$243,658.15	
Relief Staff	\$40,240.95	
Superannuation	\$214,989.61	
Leave Loading	\$32,854.98	
Workers Comp Insurance	\$8,732.72	
Training	\$29,996.55	
Travel	\$14,386.08	
Conferences	\$9,061.36	
Provisions - Annual Leave	-\$6,631.08	
Provisions - Long Service	\$27,884.67	
Total Wages and Oncosts		\$2,542,341.76
Operating Costs		
C'btion to operating costs	\$343,056.00	
Consultancy - supervision	\$31,126.43	
Macquarie University	\$16,500.00	
Advertising / Promotions	\$13,839.99	
Annual Report /Service Eval'n	\$4,315.65	
Bank Charges	\$3,066.88	
Consumables	\$9,984.48	
Electricity / Gas	\$9,503.14	
Insurance	\$3,908.75	
Library & Resources	\$1,349.46	
Management Committee	\$683.49	
Memberships /Subscriptions	\$11,562.20	
P'copier / computer maintenance	\$10,492.92	
Planning Day	\$2,664.09	
Postage / Couriers	\$3,423.07	
Rent and rates	\$158,036.71	



Macquarie Legal Centre Inc.

Profit & Loss Statement

July 2014 through June 2015

Cleaning Services	\$43,622.27	
Repairs & Maintenance	\$15,369.72	
Security (Safety Officer)	\$620.00	
Security / Alarm System	\$912.00	
Stationery & Printing	\$18,966.19	
Telephone / fax / internet	\$39,089.02	
Total Operating Costs		\$742,092.46
Other Costs		
Evening Advice Expenses	\$2,703.80	
Audit Fees	\$17,088.00	
Depreciation	\$47,210.50	
Furniture Provisions	\$38,500.00	
Legal Expenses	\$215.00	
Disbursements	\$1,592.68	
Management fee	\$111,336.00	
Practising Certificates	\$7,374.20	
Translations - Interpreters	\$2,525.60	
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,247.66	
Contribution Expenses	\$2,750.00	
Total Other Costs		\$232,543.44
Total EXPENDITURE		\$3,516,977.66
Operating Profit		-\$44,897.52
OTHER INCOME		
Net Profit / (Loss)		-\$44,897.52

Macquarie Legal Centre Inc.  
P O Box 23  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Balance Sheet

As of June 2015

<b>ASSETS</b>			
Current Assets			
Cash At Bank			
Cheque Account	\$128,153.15		
Business Payments Card	\$4,917.24		
Electronic Clearing Account	-\$9,087.15		
EFTPOS CWCS	\$15,480.41		
Total Cash At Bank		\$139,463.65	
Cash On Hand			
Petty Cash Float	\$200.00		
Petty Cash - CWCS	\$200.00		
Cash Drawer	\$3,249.88		
Petty Cash CCAS	\$40.00		
Total Cash On Hand		\$3,689.88	
Investment Accounts			
Colonial First State Inv MLC	\$409,843.65		
National Term Deposit 4877	\$25,192.22		
MLC Bank Guarantee NASUS 6970	\$24,464.01		
CWCS Bank Guarantee 8580	\$12,057.86		
Total Investment Accounts		\$471,557.74	
Total Current Assets			\$614,711.27
Fixed Assets			
Furniture, Plant & equipment	\$7,395.52		
Computer Equipment	\$23,422.13		
Total Fixed Assets		\$30,817.65	
Total ASSETS			\$645,528.92
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Current Liabilities			
Current Receivables			
Accounts Payable	\$608.07		
Total Current Receivables		\$608.07	
Accrued Leave Expenses			
Sick Leave Accruals		\$20,500.00	
Annual Leave Accrual		\$178,565.58	
Long Service Leave Accrual		\$105,153.48	
Provisions for Redundancy		\$12,250.00	
Parenting Leave Provision		\$12,469.20	
Centrelink Maternity Payment		\$3,878.20	
Grants In Advance			
Care Partner	\$38,000.04		
PCJC-UWS	\$7,936.98		
Children Contact One-Off	\$26,000.00		
Local Coordination Point	\$47,814.33		
UWS Student Legal Services	\$90,000.04		
Total Grants In Advance		\$209,751.39	
Provisions			
Audit Fees Provision	\$13,480.89		
Computer replacement	\$9,228.18		
Equipment replacement	\$33,500.00		
Telephone system	\$3,367.45		
Total Provisions		\$59,576.52	
Total Current Liabilities			\$602,752.44
Total LIABILITIES			\$602,752.44
Net Assets			
			\$42,776.48
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Current Year Surplus			
		-\$44,897.52	
Prior Surplus		\$87,674.00	
Total EQUITY			\$42,776.48

