



Western Sydney  
COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE LIMITED

# **WESTERN SYDNEY COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE LIMITED**

ABN: 81 963 193 262 ACN: 629 118 903

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

2022/23



# Acknowledgement of Country

Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited (WSCLC) would like to acknowledge the people of the Darug Nation, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation and the Ku-Ring-Gai people who are the traditional custodians of the land on which our offices are located and where we conduct our work. We acknowledge and pay respects to Elders, past and present, who have given us time, knowledge, and guidance.

We appreciate the rich contribution and resilience that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and youth provide to WSCLC and the community.

WSCLC continues to work together with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, and our non-Indigenous staff, to better our understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and the ongoing connection to the land, waters, and seas. We are committed to creating a genuine appreciation for the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their contribution to the workplace and community, and in turn, we are working towards reconciliation.

Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.



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# Welcome



# Chair & CEO Report

As the year unfolded and the extraordinary events of the pandemic years abated, the Centre was able to do what it has done best for the last 20 plus years and re-engage with the Western Sydney community. Providing varied and valuable services our Centre's legal and social work experts helped people who found themselves in situations of vulnerability and disadvantage navigate our complex legal system.

After 10 years, the Children's Contact Centre relocated to a new premises in Harris Park.

As our world continues its pathway of complexity and the number of those who need our services in Western Sydney increases, our Centre will work to meet these challenges through several key initiatives. We will continue to build, integrate, and improve the Centre, so we can leverage the collective skills and expertise developed over the years in delivering the many varied programs. We will continue to evaluate and challenge the way we deliver our services with a focus on sustained improvement.

Most importantly, we will continue our transformation journey towards ensuring, where possible, our service delivery of the programs are people centred and trauma informed.

A Centre like ours cannot operate without the generosity and support of our staff, volunteers, funders, partners and supporters. We are also appreciative of the support of the Board for the governance and leadership role. A sincere thank you to all these people and entities for their significant contribution to the Centre's success and its ability to assist the people in Western Sydney that find themselves in positions of vulnerability and disadvantage when navigating the complexity of our legal system.

This annual report is a moment in time that allows the Centre to contemplate the year that has been - from intensive individual support through to prevention in the broader community, the stories presented here offer a chance to reflect on the key interactions and intersections – indeed the many moments that matter.

**Helen Bouropoulos**  
Chair

**John Hallam**  
CEO



# About Us





## About Us

Western Sydney Community Legal Centre (WSCLC) provides access, support, advocacy, advice, referrals, and representation to people who live in Western Sydney facing hardship and or barriers in dealing with legal or other problems.

Our purpose is to ensure those in need have access to legal services, adjacent social services to help with navigating the justice system to improve their lives, with the ultimate objective to make a positive impact in the wider community.

Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited (WSCLC) is a public company limited by guarantee, governed by a Board of volunteer skills-based Directors who are generally local residents and professionals with an interest in social justice.

WSCLC is accredited by the Community Legal Centres Australia.

## Our Guiding Principles



Respectful of each other, our communities, and stakeholders



Supporting and empowering each other to achieve our vision and purpose



People, communities and clients come first



Accountable in our thinking and actions



Dynamic in pursuit of excellence

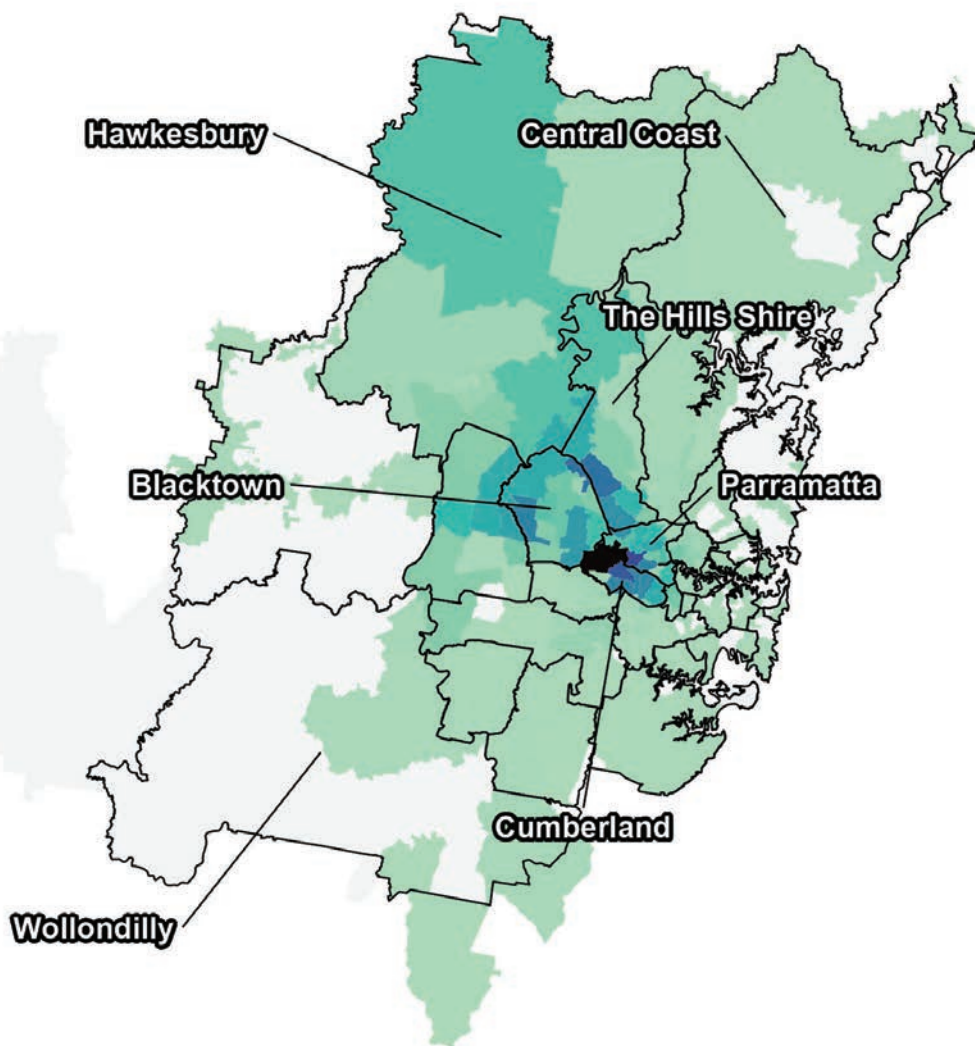
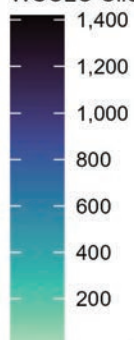


# Western Sydney

Greater Sydney LGAs



Total Number of  
WSCLC Clients





# Our Strategic Goals

The Strategic Plan continues to provide the key pillars of its strategic direction through:

- Building a collaborative culture, supported by the right policies and incentives to drive integrated delivery of services.
- Focusing on ensuring the programs have the capability to deliver the targeted needs of individuals and the wider community.
- Building a resilient high-quality organisation, with governance, resilient systems, clear processes and a diversified revenue base.

Now that the pandemic has passed, the strategic plan will be reviewed in early 2024, with an emphasis on engaging with the community of Western Sydney.



# Our Work



WSCLC provides legal and social support services across the Western Sydney Community by delivering its services through the following programs in the areas of community legal support and community social support.

## COMMUNITY LEGAL SUPPORT

- **The Community Legal Centre Program (CLCP)**  
funded by Legal Aid NSW.
- **Multicultural Legal Service (MLS)**  
funded by Legal Aid NSW.
- **Aboriginal Legal Access Program (ALAP)**  
funded by Legal Aid NSW.
- **Children's Court Assistance Scheme (CCAS)**  
founded by Legal Aid NSW.
- **Youth Education Program (YEP)** funded by NSW Department of Communities and Justice.
- **Home Building Advocacy Service (HoBAS)**  
operating state-wide and funded by NSW Fair Trading.
- **Western Sydney Tenants' Service (WESTS)**  
funded by NSW Fair Trading.

## COMMUNITY SOCIAL SUPPORT

- **Cumberland Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (CWDVCAS)**  
funded by Legal Aid NSW.
- **Family Advocacy Support Service (FASS)**  
funded by Legal Aid NSW.
- **Central West Contact Service (CWCS)**  
funded by the Department of Social Services (Cth).



# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



**over 18,009**  
**people assisted**  
**and supported**  
**by WSCLC**  
**in the past year**

**62**   
employees &  
staff members

 **76**  
volunteers



**13,840**

**ASSISTED THROUGH  
COMMUNITY LEGAL  
PROGRAMS**



**3,443** people who experience barriers to justice including culturally diverse, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and people with disabilities assisted

**822** youth participated in the YEP

**1,543** people were helped to solve issues with builders (HoBAS)



**2,050** vulnerable youth supported through court and beyond; of those **1,153** were assisted multiple times (CCAS)

**4,829** assisted people with tenancy issues (WESTS)



**4,259** **ASSISTED THROUGH COMMUNITY  
SOCIAL PROGRAMS**

**2,972** women and children experiencing family and domestic violence provided with support and safety planning (CWDVCAS)



**767** women experiencing family and domestic violence supported through the family court (FASS)

**520** children spent time with parents in a safe environment (CWCS)



# OUR PROGRAMS

## Community Legal Support





# Community Legal Centre Program (CLCP)

As part of the CLCP, we have specific programs dedicated to Multicultural Legal Services (MLS), Aboriginal Legal Access Program (ALAP) and the Children's Court Assistance Scheme (CCAS).

## **Funded by:** Legal Aid

CLCP provides free legal assistance and referrals to people in Western Sydney experiencing hardships and barriers in engaging with the legal system. We offer a range of free legal services targeted towards priority groups who experience barriers to accessing justice, including people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander people, people with a disability, and people receiving low incomes who live in Western Sydney. This includes legal information, referrals, advice, tasks, and in some cases, representation in Family Law, Care and Protection, Minor Crime and Civil Law matters. The CLCP team offers services for the community, such as attending community events and delivering community legal education across many topics.

## **How we helped the community:**

**During the last year, CLCP assisted 3,443 people through:**

- Providing legal information
- Providing referral services
- Providing legal advice
- Undertook services such as drafting legal documents
- Represented people in court and through dispute resolution processes
- Undertook case work
- Performed services to the community including educational workshops and presentations
- Worked on law reform projects
- Carried out stakeholder engagement

## CLIENT FEEDBACK:

“I just wanted to let you know that your solicitor is so amazingly excellent. She helped resolve my case quickly and successfully with such a great outcome that is far above and beyond my expectation. I was completely dazzled by her knowledge, legal expertise, professionalism, analytical and communication skills.

She is such an excellent solicitor and nice lady. If it weren't for her hard work, my case wouldn't have been resolved by now. Thank you again for your advice and time. You and your organisation are God send to people like us.”

## STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK:

“Your service has resulted in significant impact and outcomes for our client, and in particular one that had a range of issues that needed to be addressed. Staff advised your work resulted in this client feeling so much calmer than she has in a long time and has resulted in further benefits for her various needs. Her feedback to our staff also stated that you were “the best service she's had yet, and so happy she got to come in and get help!”

## CASE STUDY:



An individual approached our service after being charged with common assault. He had pleaded not guilty, and the matter was proceeding to hearing. He was culturally and linguistically diverse, with no previous experience of the legal system. He reiterated several times how stressed and overwhelming he found the criminal justice process.

In the process of providing him with advice, he admitted a minor assault, however indicated that he did not agree with the facts as alleged by the police. The allegations by the police of assault where the individual had choked the victim. The individual strongly denied those claims. Our service assisted the individual by attempting to negotiate the facts with the police. The police did not agree to our proposed amended facts and the matter proceeded to a disputed facts hearing.

Our solicitor represented the individual at the hearing where the Magistrate was not satisfied with the police's version of events and indicated they preferred our individual's version of events. At the conclusion of the hearing, the solicitor provided submissions on sentence and the Magistrate accepted our submission that the matter should be dealt with by way of a non-conviction penalty avoiding a criminal record.

The individual was extremely thankful for our assistance and commented that they would not have been able to navigate the legal system our assistance.



# Multicultural Legal Service (MLS)

The Multicultural Legal Service is a specific program in CLCP which is focused on providing legal advice and assistance to people who are culturally and linguistically diverse. The service is provided as legal clinics at outreach services.

One of the highlights of the MLS this year was the growth of the outreach at Western Sydney Community Centre – due to increasing need in this outreach, the outreach increased to weekly appointments (from fortnightly). It is often booked out on a weekly basis.



# Aboriginal Legal Access Program (ALAP)

As part of the Community Legal Services Program, we have a dedicated team specifically focused on helping people who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living in Western Sydney. The Aboriginal Legal Access Program (ALAP) assists with legal concerns, navigating the legal system and court assistance. We also assisted with referrals to non-legal services for other issues to provide additional support where needed.

ALAP has strong community ties, so we are easily accessible to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Greater Western Sydney.

# Children's Court Assistance Scheme (CCAS)

The Children's Court Assistance Scheme (CCAS) provides free court support and case work assistance to young people attending The Children's Court of NSW with a criminal matter. The courts serviced by WSCLC are Parramatta and Surry Hills. As their first point of contact entering the Children's Court for criminal matters or Apprehended Violence Orders, CCAS guides them through the process while assessing their immediate needs such as legal aid or accommodation and long term needs like education and employment to improve their overall quality of life.

## How we helped the community:

With the aim of reducing their contact with the juvenile justice system and improving their overall quality of life, CCAS has helped young people in court and through ongoing case management, assisted them in getting back on track by re-engaging with school, finding appropriate services to assist them with homelessness or food and hygiene needs.

Our outreach programs which include our OzTag team, a make-up program, a RAP music program, and a fitness program called ConFit have restored their confidence and relationship building, enabling them to work through the many real-life issues they face. The support provided prevent and divert young people away from the criminal justice system.

## Highlights for the year (1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023):

- Oztag Program continued with support provided by CCAS.
- Mounty Yarns was launched with a well-attended event at Kimberwalli.
- ConFit – funded by CCAS and was delivered through Cobham Youth Detention Centre.
- Music Program – a song written by young people in this program was made into a music video.
- Continued successful case work with young people improving their lives.





## CASE STUDY 1: \*NOT REAL NAME

Brooke\* is a 15-year-old girl who presented at court with multiple charges. She had been kicked out of her family home (where 6 adults lived in a 2-bedroom home) and was currently couch surfing with friends.

Brooke was referred to the program and agreed for her, to progress an action plan which was needed to be put in place for her to get assistance from services to get her into stable accommodation and back to school and away from factors leading to crime. This was presented to the court, which adjourned for 2 weeks to allow Brooke a chance to engage with services. In that time, Brooke moved in with her sister, began attending school regularly and began attending counselling.

The next time Brooke was at court her legal representative outlined the action plan to the Magistrate who was happy with the status and proceeded to grant Brooke a caution to all matters. CCAS remained in contact with Brooke and her sister to help her keep her action plan on track. Brooke and her family have expressed to CCAS they feel that the intervention of CCAS has saved Brooke's life and allowed them to rebuild family relationships.



## CLIENT FEEDBACK:

“Young people and their families attending court are always grateful for the assistance provided at court.”

## STAKEHOLDER:

Stakeholders are extremely positive about the impact that CCAS has both at court and outside of court. Services regularly seek out our workers and make positive referrals to us for further assistance.



## CASE STUDY 2: \*NOT REAL NAME

Jim\* is an Aboriginal young man who has been known to the Children's Court from the age of 12. Services have found it difficult to engage with and get the trust of Jim. CCAS had been providing support to Jim with many issues over the years. Recently, Jim was invited to participate in the Youth Koori Court with CCAS as his primary support. Jim was in the care of the minister from the age of 6 and has recently turned 18.

CCAS has assisted him to navigate his after-care plan, successfully apply for and receive a housing offer and attend a meeting with elders to obtain confirmation of his Aboriginality. Jim has had many charges and spent a lot of time in detention. He lives in poverty, has experienced long periods of homelessness and disconnection from his culture and community. Jim struggles to trust services, but with the assistance and guidance of CCAS, he has made connections with Youth Justice and his NDIS supports. Jim still has work to do but is willing to accept offers of help from others with the support of CCAS.

Without the support of CCAS, he is a young person who could easily have been 'lost' in the system.

# Youth Education Program (YEP)



**Funded by:** Department of Communities & Justice

The Youth Education Project aims to provide targeted early intervention education and skills training to prevent the entry of young people into the juvenile justice and care systems by providing information resources and sessions on topics that impact on young people aged between 12-24 years, young parents, and youth workers. A specific focus for YEP is on healthy relationships education including intimate partner violence, consent, and bullying.

## **How we helped the community:**

Young people have expressed the positive impact that healthy relationships education has on their thought processes and ability to identify negative interactions with peers.

Workers have reported their understanding of issues impacting young people has been strengthened because of attendance at education sessions.

## **Highlights for the year (1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023):**

- Involvement with Love Bites Program. LoveBites is a respectful relationship program aimed at young people aged between 15-17 years. Sessions were conducted together with workers from other youth services to Year 10 students in the school setting.
- Training sessions conducted online for workers.



## **CASE STUDY:**

A young person who had been involved with the care and protection system as a child approached YEP for information about her rights regarding the removal of her own child. YEP provided information and referrals to assist her to navigate the child protection system and communicate with her child's case workers.

# Home Building Advocacy Service (HoBAS)

## **Funded by:** Fair Trading

HoBAS's service assists individuals and educates communities around consumer protection when dealing with builders and tradies. We provide free legal services to both individuals and communities including legal advice, information, referrals, and representation to people in NSW who have issues with their builder including people living in rural and regional NSW who may have barriers to access justice.

Some community services include the development and delivery of community legal education to inform people of their legal rights when they have problems with their builders.

HoBAS is a strong advocate for people with disabilities who having NDIS modifications and we advocate for people with disabilities through the NDIS review to ensure access and equity.

## **How we helped the community:**

**In the last 12 months, HoBAS has assisted 1,543 people by providing:**

- Legal advice to 562 people
- 187 legal tasks
- Assistance 1,543 people throughout NSW.







## CASE STUDY:

An individual who was culturally and linguistically diverse, entered into a contract with a builder ('A') for the performance of residential building works consisting of an extension to his existing home. The extension included adding a new slab, extending an old roof and some internal and external renovations.

The contract did not include the laying of an engineered floor over the new slab. For this, the individual entered into a second contract with another builder 'B.' This contract provided that 'B' would lay a soundproofing material and a water-vapour barrier before laying the engineered flooring material.

After completion the individual noticed black marks developing on the ends of the engineered floorboards. NSW Fair Trading investigated the matter, which was complicated by having two builders that may have legal liability for any defective works. Direct negotiations between all parties broke down.

The individual obtained a report from an expert waterproofing specialist who concluded that both 'A' and 'B' were liable for defective works because builder A has not treated the existing internal wall and builder B had not installed a water-vapour barrier.

HoBAS made an application to NCAT on behalf of the individual against both builders and represented the individual on all directions hearings and ensured the individual complied with all orders and directions of the Tribunal.

The result was builder A was required to remove the end floorboards and chemically treat the wall for rising damp and builder B to install a vapour barrier on the exposed slab, install new floorboards and restore skirting boards. The individual was extremely happy with the successful outcome and said it could not have been achieved without assistance from our service.

## TESTIMONIALS:

“The consultation itself was invaluable. I am extremely grateful for (HoBAS staff member's) time and measured advice.”

“The advice was helpful, practical, and has significantly helped manage the claim against a rogue and unlicensed trader. (HoBAS staff member) was direct and clear with their guidance, which was terrific as we planned the response.”

“(HoBAS staff member) was absolutely fabulous and if in the future I need this service again, I hope to be lucky enough to get them again as they were very professional, extremely knowledgeable, and even gave me a little advice regarding another matter that I unfortunately am dealing with, so they went over and above to help me. I would highly recommend this service to anyone!”

“We couldn't have asked for more, we received help within a matter of days, the advice couldn't have been more concise and easily understood and at the end of the process we felt far more comfortable with the process of resolving a dispute with our builder. A fantastic service all round, thank you.”

# Western Sydney Tenants' Service (WESTS)

## **Funded by:** NSW Fair Trading

WESTS provides free advice, information, and support to people in Western Sydney experiencing issues with their tenancy. This includes free, confidential tenancy advice and advocacy to residential tenants, boarding house residents, lodgers, people living in land lease communities, social and community housing tenants and as well as other renters.

Many people we assist are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, low-income earners, social and community housing tenants and/or those with a disability. WESTS use interpreters, face-to-face appointments, assist tenants at NCAT, and communicate with Real Estate Agents and Social/Community Housing providers on the tenants' behalf.



## **How we helped the community:**

4,829 people assisted.

2.4% Identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Total of 14,753 tenancy services helping people navigate the tribunal.

1,722 people assisted at NCAT or received assistance other than advice for their NCAT matter.

92.34% tenant positive resolution rate where assistance offered.

45 Community Information sessions delivered and attendance to community events.

## **Highlights for the year (1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023):**

A massive win for our service is successfully securing funding until June 2028.

From day-to-day telephone advice, duty advocacy services to lobby for legislative changes in NSW, WESTS continues to save tenancies and educate the public in regard to their tenancy rights and obligations to maintain their tenancies and reduce the stress and anxiety many face during the current rental crisis.

WESTS team looks forward to servicing the community in the future.

## STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK:

Positive feedback from many stakeholders after referrals, education sessions and other community engagements received from our local MPs, Housing providers, Real Estate Agents, Park operators, and service providers.

## CLIENT FEEDBACK:

“Thanks so much for your assistance the other day and the information you have kindly provided. Just wanted to pass on X's and my appreciation. We have since moved into the new place and got our full bond back.

I have to say it is quite an experience as a tenant in NSW having dealt with about 8 different real estate agents over 7 years across three properties. The work you do is very needed. There would be countless renters who don't know their rights and unfortunately get advantage of or left in the lurch. It's comforting to know there is support and guidance here.”

“I'm delighted to inform you that our bond has been released in full. Thank you for your help and guidance. Really appreciate it.”

“I just wanted to reach out to you and personally thank you for your professionalism and advice during this extremely difficult time with Link Wentworth and their application to NCAT and hearing.

I pressed a little further today with Link Wentworth and the Team Leader dealing with the complaint and appeal in which you advised me to lodge. I am happy to attach the outcome of that review below.

I would not have been able to achieve an outcome like this without your service, advice and recognition that I was doing the right things and following correct process.

It would seem when the evidence stacks up, they realise they cannot win. I knew I was not in the wrong. I am so grateful for this outcome and hope your manager recognises how much you have helped and assisted me and recognises that.”

“Thank you so much for your help and support all the way! I don't know what can I say except thank you thank you! Our intention is not for compensation or else, all we want is JUSTY - a fair deal! I still believe that there are lots of good people out there, like you! Thank you for your advice and support when the time I feel hopeless... Wish you have a wonderful day and keep helping the people in need like us!=”





## CASE STUDY 1:

WESTS had assisted an individual and provided them with the tools to be able to represent themselves effectively and confidently at NCAT. In one case, WESTS assisted a tenant with multiple disrepair issues in their premises of which many of the items were required for essential day-to-day living, and some items had even posed imminent risk of harm and danger to the tenant and their family.

WESTS provided advice to the individual pertaining to their rights and obligations under the Residential Tenancies Act 2010 and encouraged them to use one of our sample letters to escalate the issues whilst simultaneously reminding the Landlord of their own obligations. The Landlord had saw this letter in a negative light and immediately issued a Notice of Termination providing No Grounds due to the person being on a Periodic Agreement. WESTS helped draft the Application form for the person to take the matter further to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, whilst simultaneously preparing their Submissions regarding the request for Repairs, a request for a Rent Reduction and a request for the Tribunal to consider the actions of the Landlord to be retaliatory in nature.

The individual with the tools provided by WESTS, achieved an outcome that they deemed to fair, just, and satisfactory and attributed it to the confidence they were given with the support and guidance provided by the professionalism and expertise of WESTS.



## CASE STUDY 2:

WESTS assisted a person with an ongoing NCAT matter against her landlord. The main issue surrounded the landlord parking their caravan on the tenant's property, taking up the entire driveway and 80% of her backyard. The person sought a rent reduction for withdrawal of facilities and compensation for a breach to the tenant's quiet enjoyment of the property. Through WESTS' extensive advice, assistance during her conciliation and evidence preparation, the tenant was awarded a total of \$11,778.57 in both rent reduction and compensation. The landlord's appeal was unsuccessful. This was a great outcome for the individual. .



# Community Social Support





## Domestic Violence Support Programs

Our programs help women and children experiencing family and domestic violence focusing on social work support through the Court system:

- a) Cumberland Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (CWDVCAS)
- b) Family Advocacy and Support Services (FASS)





# Cumberland Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (CWDVCAS)

**Funded by:** Legal Aid

CWDVCAS provides support, safety planning, guidance and empowerment to women and children experiencing family and domestic violence. This includes information and referrals to social support and legal services, risk assessments and safety plans, Court advocacy for people who have Apprehended domestic violence orders (ADVO) matters; hearing support for ADVO related charges, case management and case Coordination through the Safer Pathway's local coordination point (LCP) and the Safety Action Meeting (SAM).

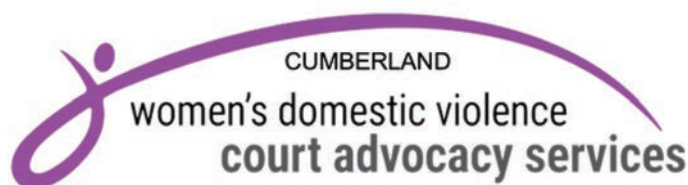
Securing Case Management Funding for our service enabled us to provide a smooth and seamless transition between the advocacy and support for ADVO matters at court to short-term case management for individuals. It also removes the need for them to retell their story.

With this additional funding, we employ three (3) full time case managers who complement the core work of our program and provide additional services and support to the community.

**How we helped the community:**

**We supported and provided:**

- Safety planning and risk assessments for 2,972 women and children experiencing family and domestic violence. This provides clear options for individuals on how to navigate their safety, putting the power back in their hands to make decisions for themselves.
- court support such as helping them understand what to expect, what's involved in the court process and can provide a duty solicitor if needed, all of which minimises the anxiety and stress level experienced by women when engaging the judiciary system.
- 21,008 referrals and links for women to appropriate services to assist in their recovery and identifying their own strengths.





## CASE STUDY: \*NOT REAL NAME

Jill\* came to Australia on a permanent resident (PR) visa after getting married in India. Jill was abused by her partner back in India and she experienced the same in Australia as well. Her in-laws told her to act according to her husband's wishes and Jill felt helpless. JShe was forced to stay at home, prevented from talking to friends and her husband wouldn't allow her to enrol in a course so she could seek employment.

The husband continued to physically abused her so this time she called the police. With no support, no friends she could go to and knowing the police statement would aggravate her husband, Jill was living in fear. We contacted her after receiving the Police referral and conducted a risk assessment and safety plan. We helped Jill access crisis accommodation and some financial assistance. Jill had only been in Australia for a year therefore, due to her visa status, she was not eligible for any Centrelink payment. She was referred to our case management team for ongoing support.

During a follow up call weeks later, the telephone was answered by her father who expressed his gratitude for the support his daughter received when she needed help, especially in foreign country.

## CLIENT FEEDBACK:

The following is an email received from an individual copied verbatim which expressed how they felt about the services received from the CWDVCAS team.

*“ I just wanted to say a huge appreciation from myself and my family. You have really gone above and beyond for me in providing resources for financial support, counselling, legal aid and through our conversations on the phone. Following from this, you have also been very caring and empathetic towards me. It has been a long and strenuous journey; however, I believe I am finally free from this situation. The outcome from the mention is that there is no court case on 27th as he has pleaded guilty to all charges. Your kindness, support and concern has meant more to me than you could ever know. I have been given a lot of support and love from people around me and so if there's any way I can give back please let me know. I have been given a lot of clothes and toys so whatever I do not need I would love to donate to a Women's Domestic Violence Shelter.*

*Thank you once again and please know that you and everyone else at the Women's DV Court Advocacy service is greatly appreciated by us in this journey too! God bless you. ”*

## STAKEHOLDER:

The following is feedback from some of our Duty Solicitors on our duty roster:

*“ You applied a sensible strategy. And you played a vital part in supporting me.*

*I'd say together we got across the "starting line". ”*



# Family Advocacy and Support Services (FASS)

## **Funded by:** Legal aid

FASS provides support in the family court for women affected by domestic and family violence by providing Information and referrals to social support services; risk assessments and creating safety plans and court support for court hearings in person and via Audio Visual.

## **How we helped the community:**

- Supported 767 women and children experiencing family and domestic violence attending the family court by: minimising their anxiety and stress on the day and had 3,322 engagements with people in need.
- Provided a Safe Room for women attending court. This also provides a sense of security while at court in avoiding any interaction with the other party.
- Conducted safety plans and risk assessments in preparation for attending court.
- Linked women with appropriate services to assist in their recovery and identifying their own strengths.

## **Highlights for the year**

### **(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023):**

- The FASS program was only operating in four Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA) – Parramatta, Sydney, Wollongong, and Newcastle. In October 2022, it was expanded to 13 FCFCOA in New South Wales. This is a great recognition by the government of the work we do in this space, and it highlights the need for this service to be available across the state.
- The recognition of the FASS team in Parramatta FCFCOA where Judges are seeking out their input on how they can help in reducing client anxiety during court proceedings.  
In addition, the FASS team have now been invited to be part of information sharing meetings of court users which includes court staff, Judges, and Associates. FASS was also invited to present at one of these information sharing sessions.
- Creating great working relationships with the FASS male worker in court, where we can work collaboratively.



**FAMILY  
ADVOCACY  
& SUPPORT  
SERVICES**

Funded by the Australian Government



An Australian Government Initiative





## CASE STUDY: \*NOT REAL NAME

Shyla\* was referred to us by the Family Advocacy and Support Services (FASS) Duty solicitor after assisting her with legal advice. Shyla is from India and has followed her culture ever since she was young, part of which is an arranged marriage. Shyla arrived in Australia on a student visa to pursue her master's degree.

Although she had not met her fiancé, she was excited about her marriage and journey to Australia. At the time, her parents thought highly of their soon to be son-in-law and praised him for been a caring person therefore, she thought she was going to be safe.

She met her fiancé for the first time on her wedding day but during the wedding she noticed some behaviour that was disrespectful in their culture. After the official ceremony, her brother-in-law took her with others from the groom's family to the city to celebrate. Whilst out she was refused access to the bathroom, and they refused to take her back to the marital home, so she eventually was able to access a taxi home.

Her in-laws started pressuring her to consummate the marriage and when she said she wanted to get to know her husband first, they locked her in the room with little food stating that she was fat and needed to lose weight.

On the second day, the husband forced himself on her to have sexual intercourse against her will. They would not allow her to leave the house for her sibling's birthday and when she tried, she was dragged back inside.

On the third day of her marriage, she rang her siblings for help, and they called triple 000. An Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (ADVO) was applied for by police.

We were called in to assist and after hearing her story, conducted a needs assessment and referred her to Redcross and Victims Services for financial support. Her application for the immediate needs support package (INSP) and counselling to Victims Services was approved as well as the application to the Red Cross for financial assistance.

In addition, she was provided with DFV resources to read to understand Australia Law when it comes to DFV and how ADVO works. FASS encouraged Shyla to carry on with her online tutoring business to support herself financially in the long term, a safe way to stay in touch with what she loves the most, which is teaching.

She was also referred to her local WDVCS service for court support during her ADVO matter at the local court. We addressed her needs using the strength-based approach and we linked her to appropriate local services which we continued to work collaboratively with during this time.

Shylas recovering from the trauma she experienced and is now living in shared accommodation and had booked counselling sessions for herself.

## CLIENT FEEDBACK:

The following are some feedback clients sent to the team.

“Thank you very much for this and your patience with me getting the correct documentation to you.”

“I'm grateful for all your support during this hard time.”

“Thank you for your help till now. Means a lot for me.”

“Hi, I have not sent a message lately I was busy started working. I bought a car, kids started school and childcare, my brother came to visit me from overseas for 4 weeks I am so happy...”

## STAKEHOLDER:

The following is from the Project Officer at the WDVCA Unit.

*Good afternoon, Team FASS!!  
As we wrap up 2022, I wanted to thank each and every one of you for all that you have done and continue to do as part of the FASS. Thank you for your commitment and flexibility to this amazing service and for being exactly who our clients need as they navigate through this challenging space. I truly feel so thankful for each of you and am looking forward to continuing to grow and nurture the FASS together in 2023.*

- At one of the information sharing sessions, one of the Early Intervention Unit (EIU) solicitors provided great feedback to the Judges and solicitors present about working with FASS.



## Central West Contact Service (CWCS)

**Funded by:** Department of Social Services

We assist families who experience family separation and who are at risk of further violence and/or conflict, by providing a safe family friendly environment where children can continue to have a relationship with both parents without the risk of further conflict or harm.



**How we helped the community:**

**We enabled families to meet and engage in meaningful contact that would otherwise not be able to do so. CWCS:**

- Enabled 14 families to become empowered and independent to be self-managed, no longer requiring the service.
- Provided supervised contact sessions to 53 families.
- Supervised 520 contact sessions so children could safely spend time with their parents.
- Assisted in moving 14 supervised contact sessions to self-managed contact.
- Continued to offer Virtual Supervised Contact and delivered 44 sessions in total.
- Supported 10 families for change over.
- Supported 3 changeover families to move to self-managed changeover.
- Completed 95 intakes of new families.

## CLIENT FEEDBACK:

“Thank you for all your assistance. I am nervous to move away from the service but could not have achieved this outcome without the support and encouragement of staff to change my life.”

“I like coming here because mummy lets me spend time with daddy and I want to spend more time with him, but mummy does not want me to as she is scared, he will hurt us again.” **7-year-old child.**

I feel safer coming here as the kids can see their dad and I don't have to see him or deal with him. I don't have to have anxiety and feel unsafe anymore.” **Mother.**

## STAKEHOLDER:

“It is great we can work together to meet the needs of our community. CALD individuals often struggle accessing services due to cultural differences and we really appreciate you understanding and supporting the community's needs.” **Arab Council of Australia.**

“Thank you so much for all your work on working with families. Its great you have the experience you have to deal with Clients in difficult situations. We don't know how you and the team do some of the work you do. The clients, lawyers and courts really appreciate it, and it really assists us in getting the best outcomes for the children.” **ICL.**

## CASE STUDY 1:

A family started with CWCS in 2021. One parent had criminal charges before the court and was also dealing with a custody dispute at the Family Court. CWCS staff worked closely with the father to assist him in enrolling in and completing a Men's Behavioural Change Program, Parenting after separation, Positive Parenting and Circle of Security.

The parent now engages in community sport and has enrolled in studies and attends self-help groups on a regular basis and now has unsupervised contact for six hours a fortnight. Changeover can occur at public centre outside of CWCS and the family continue to successfully self-manage.

## CASE STUDY 2:

CWCS worked closely with a family where the children wanted to have contact with both parents but really struggled with the mental health of one parent. The service provided by CWCS enabled the court to fully understand the issues and assisted in obtaining a favourable outcome for the family being the children be providing supervised contact outside of CWCS at the children's discretion.

The children reported they are glad they can still see both parents but don't have to see their parent when the parent is unwell, and this helps them feel safe.



# Our Partners





WSCLC works with external partners to provide an all-inclusive approach enabling us to ensure the people we help have access to the supports they need. Our team works closely and collaboratively with these partners to ensure the best possible outcomes for the people we assist.

#### **ALAP Partners**

- Sydney Regional Aboriginal Corporation, Koolyangarra, Baabayn, Butucarbin, Yenu Allowah and Merana.

#### **CWCS Partners**

- Family services Anglicare, Catholic Care, Relationships Australia, Benevolent Society, Uniting Care, The Arab Council of Australia, and other community services.
- UNSW provided clinical placement to Social Work students.

#### **CCAS Partners**

- Just Reinvest
- Marist 180 Daramu
- Specific services such as: OzTag Football competition, Mac Studios (music production), ConFit (fitness services).
- Court based relationships including the Court registry, Legal Aid Children's Legal Service, Aboriginal Legal Service, Justice Health, Youth Justice, Dept of Education, DCJ, Private Solicitors and Barristers, Police Prosecutors and Magistrates.

#### **CLCP Partners**

- Auburn Library
- Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation
- Community Migrant Resource Centre
- Cranebrook Neighbourhood Centre
- Dillwynia Correctional Centre – LEAP Program
- GLAPDI
- Harris Park Community Centre
- Hawkesbury Library
- Just Reinvest (Childrens Court Program)
- Koolyangarra Aboriginal Child and Family Service
- Link Wentworth
- Marrin Weejali Aboriginal Corporation
- MDAA
- Parramatta, Windsor, Mount Druitt, Blacktown, Penrith Local Courts
- Riverstone Neighbourhood Centre
- SAGE Community Services
- STARTTS
- Sydney Regional Aboriginal Corporation
- Western Sydney Community Centre
- Yenu Allowah Aboriginal Child and Family Centre



### **MLS Partners**

- Auburn Library
- Community Migrant Resource Centre
- GLAPDI
- Harris Park Community Centre
- MDAA
- STARTTS
- Western Sydney Community Centre

### **CWDVCAS and FASS Partners**

- Cumberland Women's Health Centre (CWHC); SAGE Community Services; Lisa Harnum Foundation Inc.
- Domestic Violence duty solicitor (DVDS) scheme – Legal Aid
- Human Services [Centrelink]
- NSW Police – Auburn PAC, Cumberland PAC, Parramatta PAC & The Hills PAC (Safe Reporting Space initiative)
- Share the Dignity
- The Hills DV Prevention Network (HDVPN)
- Western Sydney Love Bites Committee (WSLBC)
- WestNet Safe Connect

### **HoBAS Partners**

- Fellow community legal centres
- Legal Aid NSW

### **FASS Partners**

- Services providing referral pathways for individuals to access emergency relief, financial support, counselling, case management and court support at Local Courts for ADVO matters.
- The DV Unit FASS Legal & Early Intervention Unit (EIU) which co-exist at the Family Court.
- Relationship Australia program supporting men at Family Court.

### **WESTS Partners**

- Parramatta Community Hub and Salvation Army Freedom Centre in Penrith.
- Tenants' Union
- Western Sydney Homeless

### **YEP Partners**

- Relationships Australia facilitate the LoveBites program.

# Our Pro-Bono Partners

A sincere thank you to our partners who provide pro-bono support for the people we help, we thank you for your tireless work and dedication.



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A thank you to the universities and their students who have volunteered their time in helping WSCLC deliver its program.





# Thank you to our Volunteers

The work we do would not be possible without the tremendous support from our volunteers. We would like to extend a thank you to:

Aiza Khan	Jayden Gong	Rafael Corpuz
Alem Paric	Joy Samuel	Rajana Chennampully
Alexa Swientek	Keshav Bajpai	Richard Krajewski
Alexandra Swerydow	Kusum KC	Sally Li
Amani Darwich	Malake El Merhabi	Scott (Peng Yu) Huang
Amber Jain	Morwarid Faiz	Sejal Chawla
Andrea (Hong Yu) Fok	Nidhi Chowkira	Sharika Hossain
Anwesha Chakraborty	Nikita Sharma	Skylar Li
Ashley Sullican	Nina Batra	Smeeti Prasad
Chris Hillman	Nishta Gupta	Stella Monteleone
Cynthia Buthapaty	Oshanie Hettiarachchige	Taylor Doughty
Dahria Datham	Peter Bryce	Thorby Walker
Dinian Pingamage	Phil Marchionni	Tia O'Neil
Harrison White	Phoebe Herrera	Yasmeen Langoo
Ignat Kozlov	Preston Wilson	Zali Furness
Jasmin Pierson	Rabia Radul	Zoe Turner



# Financial Report

## 30 June 2023



# **Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited**

ABN 81 963 193 626

## **Financial Report For the year ended 30 June 2023**

## **Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited Financial Statements**

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## Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited

### Directors' report

30 June 2023

The directors present their report, together with the financial statements, on the company for the year ended 30 June 2023.

#### Directors

The following persons were directors of the company during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated:

#### Name

Helen Bouropoulos (Chairperson)  
Nicola Shaw (Deputy Chairperson)  
Raymond Brazil  
Ian Morgan

#### Name

Simon Elder  
Hena Yearley  
Anna Harding - Resigned 9 August 2023

#### Principal activities

The principal activity of the company during the year was to provide free legal advice and social support services for disadvantaged members of the community. These are currently provided through various programmes including; Aboriginal Legal Access Program (ALAP); Central West Contact Service (CWCS); Children's Court Assistance Scheme (CCAS); Community Legal Centre Program (CLCP); Cumberland Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (CWDVCAS); Home Building Advocacy Service (HoBAS); Western Sydney Tenants' Service (WESTS) and Youth Education Program (YEP).

#### Meetings of directors

The number of meetings of the company's Board of Directors ('the Board') held during the year ended 30 June 2023, and the number of meetings attended by each director were:

	Full board	
	Held	Attended
Helen Bouropoulos (Chairperson)*	5	3
Nicola Shaw (Deputy Chairperson)	6	6
Anna Harding	6	5
Raymond Brazil	6	6
Ian Morgan	6	6
Simon Elder	6	5
Hena Yearley	6	4

\*Meetings held exclude period when Helen Bouropoulos was interim CEO from 2 August 2022 to 18 October 2022.

#### Members' guarantee

The entity is incorporated under *Corporations Act 2001* and is a company limited by guarantee. If the entity is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$1 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the entity. At 30 June 2023, there were 10 members and the total amount that members of the entity are liable to contribute if the entity is wound up is \$10 (2022: \$10).

#### Auditor's independence declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out immediately after this directors' report.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of directors.

On behalf of the directors



Helen Bouropoulos  
Chairperson  
18 October 2023  
Parramatta



Nicola Shaw  
Deputy Chairperson





## Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited Auditor's independence declaration

In accordance with subdivision 60-C of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the directors of Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited.

As the lead audit partner for the audit of the financial statements of Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited for the year ended 30 June 2023, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2023 there have been no contraventions of:

- i. the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- ii. any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Yours sincerely

CIB ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISERS  
Chartered Accountants



Radlee Moller  
Partner

PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

18 October 2023

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### SYDNEY

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T +61 2 9249 7400



## Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited

### Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Revenue</b>	4	6,791,426	6,348,942
Interest income		31,395	1,156
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee benefits expense	5	(5,575,067)	(5,380,939)
Administration expenses		(693,146)	(501,973)
Depreciation expenses	5	(61,947)	(250,651)
Interest expense on lease liabilities		(6,241)	(17,659)
Other expenses		<u>(22,000)</u>	<u>(38,000)</u>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		464,420	160,876
Income tax expense	2d	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net current year surplus</b>		<b>464,420</b>	<b>160,876</b>
Other comprehensive income for the year		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b><u>464,420</u></b>	<b><u>160,876</u></b>

## Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited

### Statement of financial position As at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	2,608,028	2,229,761
Trade and other receivables	7	2,100	4,943
Investments	8	481,113	466,282
Other assets	9	31,057	62,945
Total current assets		<u>3,122,298</u>	<u>2,763,931</u>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	10	32,526	30,766
Right-of-use assets	11	169,379	-
Total non-current assets		<u>201,905</u>	<u>30,766</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u><b>3,324,203</b></u>	<u><b>2,794,697</b></u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	12	442,598	432,715
Lease liabilities	13	51,688	-
Provisions	14	862,599	866,293
Deferred grant revenue	15	396,582	540,507
Total current liabilities		<u>1,753,467</u>	<u>1,839,515</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Lease liabilities	13	120,991	-
Provisions	14	224,021	193,878
Total non-current liabilities		<u>345,012</u>	<u>193,878</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>2,098,479</u>	<u>2,033,393</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>1,225,724</u>	<u>761,304</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained surplus		<u>1,225,724</u>	<u>761,304</u>
<b>Total equity</b>		<u><b>1,225,724</b></u>	<u><b>761,304</b></u>

## Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited

### Statement of changes in equity For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Retained surplus \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2021	600,428	600,428
Surplus for the year	160,876	160,876
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	160,876	160,876
<b>Balance at 30 June 2022</b>	<b>761,304</b>	<b>761,304</b>
Balance at 1 July 2022	761,304	761,304
Surplus for the year	464,420	464,420
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	464,420	464,420
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>1,225,724</b>	<b>1,225,724</b>



## Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited

### Statement of cash flows For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from grants and clients		6,860,515	7,656,323
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)		<u>(6,432,164)</u>	<u>(7,056,284)</u>
		428,351	600,039
Interest received		31,395	1,156
Finance charge		<u>(6,241)</u>	<u>(17,659)</u>
Net cash from operating activities	16	<u>453,505</u>	<u>583,536</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(34,793)	(82,683)
Net increase in term deposits		<u>(14,831)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(49,624)</u>	<u>(82,683)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Repayment of lease liabilities		<u>(25,614)</u>	<u>(208,571)</u>
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(25,614)</u>	<u>(208,571)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		378,267	292,282
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		<u>2,229,761</u>	<u>1,937,479</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	6	<u>2,608,028</u>	<u>2,229,761</u>

# Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited

## Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2023

### Note 1. General information

The financial statements cover Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited as an individual entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited's functional and presentation currency.

Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited is a company limited by guarantee.

Suite 302, Level 3  
107 Phillip Street  
Parramatta NSW 2150

A description of the nature of the company's operations and its principal activities are included in the directors' report, which is not part of the financial statements.

The financial statements were authorised for issue, in accordance with a resolution of directors, on 18 October 2023. The directors have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

### Note 2. Material accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

#### a. New or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted

The company has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') that are mandatory for the current reporting period. The adoption of these standards did not have a material impact on the results and financial position of the company.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

#### b. Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB'), the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and New South Wales legislation the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and associated regulations and the *Corporations Act 2001*, as appropriate for not-for-profit oriented entities.

#### *Historical cost convention*

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

#### *Critical accounting estimates*

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the company's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in note 3.

#### c. Revenue recognition

The company recognises revenue as follows:

##### *Rendering of services*

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

##### *Government grants*

A non-reciprocal contribution or grant is recognised when the company obtains control of the contribution or grant and it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the company, and the amount of the contribution or grant can be measured reliably. If conditions attached to the contribution or grant that must be satisfied before the company is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the contribution or income is deferred until those conditions are met

# Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited

## Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2023

### Note 2. Material accounting policies (continued)

#### *Interest*

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues.

#### *Other revenue*

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established and underlying performance obligation is satisfied.

#### **d. Income tax**

No provision for income tax has been raised as the company is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

#### **e. Current and non-current classification**

Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

An asset is classified as current when: it is either expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the company's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is expected to be realised within 12 months after the reporting period; or the asset is cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is classified as current when: it is either expected to be settled in the company's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period; or there is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

#### **f. Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

#### **g. Trade and other receivables**

Trade receivables are initially recognised at fair value, less any provision for impairment. Trade receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

The company has applied the simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses, which uses a lifetime expected loss allowance. To measure the expected credit losses, trade receivables have been grouped based on days overdue.

Other receivables are recognised at amortised cost, less any allowance for expected credit losses.

#### **h. Property, plant and equipment**

Plant and equipment is stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Depreciation of each item of property, plant and equipment is calculated on a straight line basis over their expected useful lives as follows:

Plant and equipment	1-10 years
---------------------	------------

The residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when there is no future economic benefit to the incorporated association. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit or loss. Any revaluation surplus reserve relating to the item disposed of is transferred directly to retained surpluses.

## Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited

### Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 2. Material accounting policies (continued)

##### i. Right-of-use assets

A right-of-use asset is recognised at the commencement date of a lease. The right-of-use asset is measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability, adjusted for, as applicable, any lease payments made at or before the commencement date net of any lease incentives received, any initial direct costs incurred, and, except where included in the cost of inventories, an estimate of costs expected to be incurred for dismantling and removing the underlying asset, and restoring the site or asset.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the asset, whichever is the shorter. Where the company expects to obtain ownership of the leased asset at the end of the lease term, the depreciation is over its estimated useful life. Right-of-use assets are subject to impairment or adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities.

The company has elected not to recognise a right-of-use asset and corresponding lease liability for short-term leases with terms of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets. Lease payments on these assets are expensed to profit or loss as incurred.

##### j. Lease liabilities

A lease liability is recognised at the commencement date of a lease. The lease liability is initially recognised at the present value of the lease payments to be made over the term of the lease, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, the company's incremental borrowing rate. Lease payments comprise of fixed payments less any lease incentives receivable, variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, amounts expected to be paid under residual value guarantees, exercise price of a purchase option when the exercise of the option is reasonably certain to occur, and any anticipated termination penalties. The variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

Lease liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The carrying amounts are remeasured if there is a change in the following: future lease payments arising from a change in an index or a rate used; residual guarantee; lease term; certainty of a purchase option and termination penalties. When a lease liability is remeasured, an adjustment is made to the corresponding right-of-use asset, or to profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset is fully written down.

##### k. Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the company prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. Due to their short-term nature they are measured at amortised cost and are not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

##### l. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the company has a present (legal or constructive) obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable the company will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. If the time value of money is material, provisions are discounted using a current pre-tax rate specific to the liability. The increase in the provision resulting from the passage of time is recognised as a finance cost.

##### m. Employee benefits

###### *Short-term employee benefits*

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave, long service leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Non-accumulating sick leave is expensed to profit or loss when incurred.



## Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited

### Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 2. Material accounting policies (continued)

##### *Other long-term employee benefits*

The liability for annual leave and long service leave not expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

##### *Defined contribution superannuation expense*

Contributions to defined contribution superannuation plans are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

#### **n. Fair value measurement**

When an asset or liability, financial or non-financial, is measured at fair value for recognition or disclosure purposes, the fair value is based on the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date; and assumes that the transaction will take place either: in the principal market; or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market.

Fair value is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming they act in their economic best interests. For non-financial assets, the fair value measurement is based on its highest and best use. Valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value, are used, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

#### **o. Goods and Services Tax ('GST') and other similar taxes**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the tax authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority is included in other receivables or other payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the tax authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority.

#### **Note 3. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions**

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below.

## Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited

### Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 3. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions (continued)

##### *Performance obligations under AASB 15*

To identify a performance obligation under AASB 15, the promise must be sufficiently specific to be able to determine when the obligation is satisfied. Management exercises judgement to determine whether the promise is sufficiently specific by taking into account any conditions specified in the arrangement, explicit or implicit, regarding the promised goods or services. In making this assessment, management includes the nature/type, cost/value, quantity and the period of transfer related to the goods or services promised.

##### *Lease term and option to extend under AASB 16*

The lease term is a significant component in the measurement of both the right-of-use asset and lease liability. Judgement is exercised in determining whether there is reasonable certainty that an option to extend the lease or purchase the underlying asset will be exercised, or an option to terminate the lease will not be exercised, when ascertaining the periods to be included in the lease term. In determining the lease term, all facts and circumstances that create an economical incentive to exercise an extension option, or not to exercise a termination option, are considered at the lease commencement date. Factors considered may include the importance of the asset to the company's operations; comparison of terms and conditions to prevailing market rates; incurrence of significant penalties; existence of significant leasehold improvements; and the costs and disruption to replace the asset. The company reassesses whether it is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, or not exercise a termination option, if there is a significant event or significant change in circumstances.

##### *Incremental borrowing rate*

Where the interest rate implicit in a lease cannot be readily determined, an incremental borrowing rate is estimated to discount future lease payments to measure the present value of the lease liability at the lease commencement date. Such a rate is based on what the company estimates it would have to pay a third party to borrow the funds necessary to obtain an asset of a similar value to the right-of-use asset, with similar terms, security and economic environment.

##### *Employee benefits provision*

As discussed in note 2, the liability for employee benefits expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date are recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

##### *Lease make good provision*

A provision has been made for the present value of anticipated costs for future restoration of leased premises. The provision includes future cost estimates associated with closure of the premises. The calculation of this provision requires assumptions such as application of closure dates and cost estimates. The provision recognised for each site is periodically reviewed and updated based on the facts and circumstances available at the time. Changes to the estimated future costs for sites are recognised in the statement of financial position by adjusting the asset and the provision. Reductions in the provision that exceed the carrying amount of the asset will be recognised in profit or loss.

## Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited

### Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 4. Revenue

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Grants and funding	6,695,255	6,269,553
Central West Contact Service	85,616	33,322
Other	10,555	46,067
	<u>6,791,426</u>	<u>6,348,942</u>

#### Note 5. Expenses

Surplus includes the following specific expenses:

##### *Employee benefits expense*

Salaries and wages	5,058,966	4,907,595
Contributions to defined contributions superannuation funds	516,101	473,344
	<u>5,575,067</u>	<u>5,380,939</u>

##### *Leases - Short-term and low-value assets lease payments*

	<u>254,333</u>	<u>19,805</u>
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##### *Depreciation expense*

Property, plant and equipment (Note 10)	33,033	92,766
Right of use assets (Note 11)	28,914	157,885
	<u>61,947</u>	<u>250,651</u>

#### Note 6. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash on hand	-	872
Cash at bank	2,608,028	2,228,889
	<u>2,608,028</u>	<u>2,229,761</u>

#### Note 7. Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables	<u>2,100</u>	<u>4,943</u>
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#### Note 8. Investments

Term deposits	<u>481,113</u>	<u>466,282</u>
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#### Note 9. Other assets

Prepayments	27,757	59,645
Security deposits	3,300	3,300
	<u>31,057</u>	<u>62,945</u>

## Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited

### Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 10. Property, plant and equipment

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Plant and equipment - at cost	520,956	486,163
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(488,430)	(455,397)
	<b>32,526</b>	<b>30,766</b>
<i>Movements in carrying amounts</i>		
Balance at 1 July	30,766	40,849
Additions	34,793	82,683
Depreciation expense	(33,033)	(92,766)
Balance at 30 June	<b>32,526</b>	<b>30,766</b>

#### Note 11. Right-of-use assets

At 1 July	-	312,608
Additions	198,293	-
Disposal/remeasurement	-	(154,723)
Depreciation	(28,914)	(157,885)
	<b>169,379</b>	<b>-</b>

#### Note 12. Trade and other payables

Trade payables	32,111	38,868
Sundry and accrued payables	410,487	393,847
	<b>442,598</b>	<b>432,715</b>

#### Note 13. Lease liabilities

At 1 July	-	363,294
Additions	198,293	-
Disposal/remeasurement	-	(154,723)
Interest expense	6,241	17,659
Payment	(31,855)	(226,230)
At 30 June	<b>172,679</b>	<b>-</b>

#### *Classified as:*

Current	51,688	
Non-current	120,991	
	<b>172,679</b>	<b>-</b>

#### *Future lease payments are due as follows:*

Within one year	51,688	-
One to five years	120,991	-
	<b>172,679</b>	<b>-</b>



## Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited

### Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 14. Provisions

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Annual leave	431,106	440,978
Long service leave	393,145	358,779
Sick leave	146,709	147,660
Lease make good	68,239	60,500
Other employee benefits	47,421	52,254
	<u>1,086,620</u>	<u>1,060,171</u>
<i>Classified as:</i>		
Current	862,599	866,293
Non-current	<u>224,021</u>	<u>193,878</u>
	<u>1,086,620</u>	<u>1,060,171</u>

#### Note 15. Deferred grant revenue

Deferred revenue	<u>396,582</u>	<u>540,507</u>
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#### Note 16. Cash flow reconciliation

Surplus for the year	464,420	160,876
<i>Adjustment for:</i>		
Depreciation expense	61,947	250,651
<i>Changes in assets/liabilities</i>		
- Trade and other receivables	2,843	4,308
- Other assets	31,888	(32,608)
- Trade and other payables	9,883	53,362
- Provisions	26,449	143,534
- Deferred grant revenue	<u>(143,925)</u>	<u>3,413</u>
<b>Net cash from operations</b>	<u><b>453,505</b></u>	<u><b>583,536</b></u>

#### Note 17. Remuneration of auditors

During the financial year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by, the auditor of the company:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<i>Audit services</i>		
Audit of the financial statements (including acquittals)	<u>14,000</u>	<u>24,675</u>

CIB Accountants & Advisers were auditors for 2023 (2022: WilliamBuck Accountants & Advisers)

#### Note 18. Contingent liabilities

The company has given bank guarantees of \$55,921 to the landlords for premises leased by the company.

#### Note 19. Commitments

The company has no commitments as at 30 June 2023 (2022: Nil).

## Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited

### Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 20. Related party transactions

##### *Key management personnel*

Any person(s) having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the company, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of the company, is considered key management personnel.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Total key management personnel compensation	514,015	335,662

##### *Transactions with related parties*

There were no transactions with related parties during the current and previous financial year.

##### *Receivable from and payable to related parties*

There were no trade receivables from or trade payables to related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

##### *Loans to/from related parties*

There were no loans to or from related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

#### Note 21. Financial Risk Management

The company's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, term deposits, accounts receivable and payable, and lease liabilities.

The carrying amounts for each category of financial instruments, measured in accordance with AASB 9: Financial Instruments as detailed in the accounting policies to these financial statements, are as follows:

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	2,608,028	2,229,761
Trade and other receivables	7	2,100	4,943
Investments	8	481,113	466,282
		<u>3,091,241</u>	<u>2,700,986</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	12	<u>442,598</u>	<u>432,715</u>

#### Note 22. Members' guarantee

The entity is incorporated under *Corporations Act 2001* and is a company limited by guarantee. If the entity is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$1 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the entity. At 30 June 2023, there were 10 members and the total amount that members of the entity are liable to contribute if the entity is wound up is \$10 (2022: \$10).

#### Note 23. Events after the reporting period

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2023 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the company's operations, the results of those operations, or the company's state of affairs in future financial years.

**Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited**  
**Directors' declaration**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

In accordance with a resolution of the Directors of Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited, the directors of the company declare that, in the directors' opinion:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 3 to 15, satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and:
  - a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures applicable to the entity; and
  - b. give a true and fair view of the financial position of the company as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is signed in accordance with subs 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

On behalf of the directors



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Helen Bouropoulos  
Chairperson

Parramatta  
18 October 2023



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Nicola Shaw  
Deputy Chairperson

## Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited

### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Western Sydney Community Legal Centre Limited is in accordance with Div 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (the ACNC Act), including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – AASB 1060: *General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* and Division 60 of *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ACNC Act, the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

### Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the registered entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Report**

The directors of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – AASB 1060: *General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* and the ACNC Act and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

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

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

CIB ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISERS  
Chartered Accountants



RADLEE MOLLER  
Partner

18 October 2023  
Parramatta NSW 2150

# Notes



## **WESTERN SYDNEY COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE LIMITED**

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Western Sydney Community Legal Centre

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