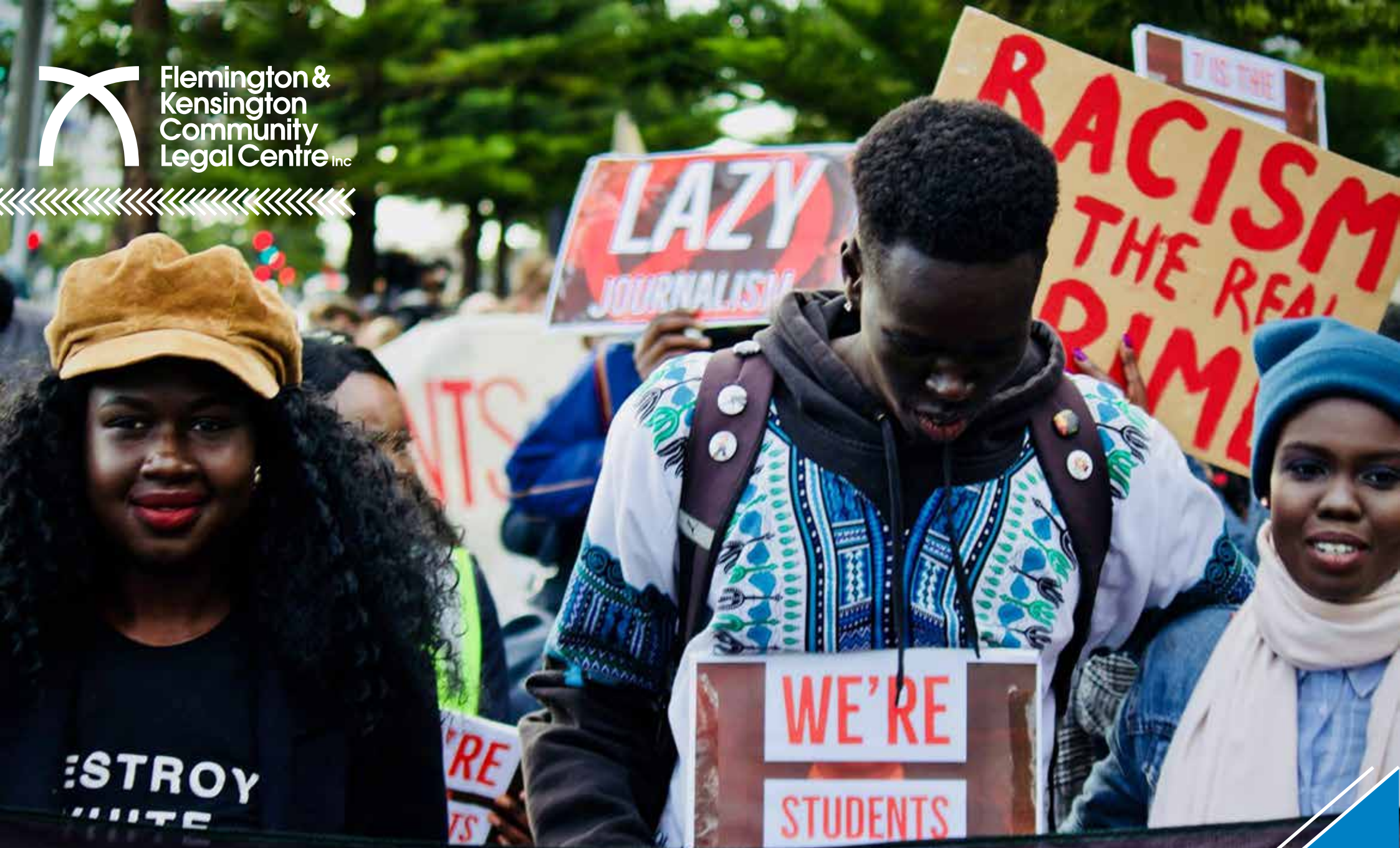




Flemington &
Kensington
Community
Legal Centre Inc



Annual Report **2017-2018**



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photo credit: Charandev Singh

Cover Photo: African communities staged a peaceful protest against media vilification outside Seven's Melbourne headquarters at Docklands on Saturday 28th July 2018.

Photo: Charandev Singh



CONTACT US

Flemington and Kensington
Community Legal Centre (FKCLC)

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KENSINGTON Vic 3031

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Email: fklegal@fkclc.org.au

Website: www.flemkenlegal.org

www.policeaccountability.org.au

www.safefromharm.org.au

ABN: 38 029 753 353

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday to Friday: 9am – 5pm

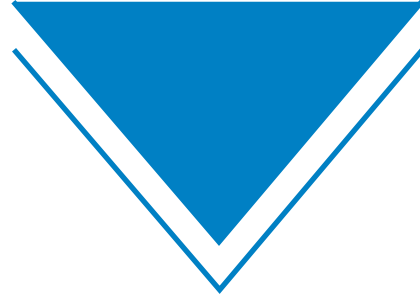
Night Service

Monday fortnight 6pm– 7pm

Closed public holidays

 Flemington &
Kensington
Community
Legal Centre Inc.





OUR MISSION

We work for inclusive and safe communities and the full realisation of human rights. We believe in equality before the law and aim to ensure that all people have access to justice and protection of the law regardless of their income or power. We assist people and communities to assert their rights and access justice fully and freely. We advocate for systemic change in many areas and are committed to working toward human rights compliant and accountable policing.

The Centre does this by:

- Providing free, accessible, high-quality legal casework, advice and assistance,
- Developing strong collaborative networks and relationships with local community agencies and groups, and state-wide and national legal and human rights networks,
- Driving and supporting law reform and policy advocacy on behalf of and alongside our clients and communities,
- Providing community legal education through production of online and offline resources, tailored training sessions, talks, forums and via the media,
- Training and support for legal students and other community members through a strong, accessible volunteer program and law graduates completing practical legal training.

OUR CATCHMENT

The Flemington and Kensington Community Legal Centre generalist program provides services to people who live, work or study in Flemington or Kensington. Our Migration program and Police Accountability programs accept clients and referrals from around Victoria on a case by case basis. Our Safe from Harm program focuses on the Flemington Housing Estate. We also make and accept referrals from surrounding Community Legal Centres (CLCs) on a case by case basis.

OUR PRACTICE AREAS

- Debts (Consumer debts)
- Fines (Infringements)
- Social Security (Centrelink and other social security matters)
- Tenancy
- Consumer rights
- Criminal law (summary)
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Employment (Limited)
- Family violence
- Family Law
- Police Accountability – (Inquests, criminal, discrimination, FOI, police complaints, civil litigation, appeals)
- Migration: Offshore Refugee/ Humanitarian applications
- Wills
- Power of Attorneys.

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

The Centre's core funding is provided by Victoria Legal Aid and the Commonwealth Community Legal Services Program as part of the National Partnership Agreement for Legal Assistance Services (2015-2020).

We wish to acknowledge other critical support from the following:

- Department of Justice & Regulation - CLC Assistance Fund
- Department of Justice & Regulation – Somali Women's Access to Justice
- The Reichstein Foundation
- Melbourne University Law School
- Myer Foundation
- Federation of Community Legal Centres
- Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation
- Debbie Jacobs
- Ian Melrose
- Robinson Gill Lawyers
- Dr Richard Williams - Melbourne Social Equity Institute
- Cohealth

And all of our smaller donors to whom we remain eternally grateful.

Tax deductible donations can be made at www.flemkenlegal.org/donate/



photo credit:
Charandev Singh



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This centre works on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nations who have never ceded sovereignty. We acknowledge the continuing impacts of colonisation and the resilience and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We pay our deepest respects to Country and to Elders past and present.

FKCLC wishes to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has assisted and supported us over the past year including;



Abselem Nega, Iempower
 Adam Bandit
 (Member for Melbourne)
 Ahmed Dini
 Alison Thorne
 All of our brave clients who
 stand up for their rights and
 the rights of others
 Amanda Burnnard
 Andrew Diamantis
 Andy Naidoo
 Arnold Bloch Liebler
 Audry Foley
 Australian Communities
 Foundation
 Australian Lawyers Alliance
 Australian Lawyers
 for Human Rights
 Australian Progress
 Bigididge Pty Ltd
 Bindy Gross –
 Muckleford Holdings
 Border Crossing Observatory,
 Monash University
 Brad Penno
 Catherine Boston

Charandev Singh
 Centre for Innovative
 Justice, RMIT
 Christine Melis
 Chris Atmore
 City of Melbourne
 City of Moonee Valley
 Claire Harris
 Clare Land
 Clyde Sharady
 (African Media Association)
 Cohealth
 Colourcode, Roj and Shen
 David Manne
 Danny Pearson MP
 (State member for Essendon)
 Djirra
 Dr Leanne Weber,
 Monash University
 Dr Nesam McMillan,
 Melbourne University
 Dr Diana Johns,
 Melbourne University
 Drum Youth Services
 Dyson Hore-Lacy SC
 Education-Justice Partnership

Reference Group
 Emrys Nekvapil
 Emily Clark
 Erin Ramsey
 Eva Wynn
 Everyone at the Federation of
 Community Legal Centres
 Everyone at the National
 Association of Community
 Legal Centres (NACLC)
 Fadzai Jaravaza (Sista Zai)
 Fiona Dowsley (Victoria
 Crime Statistics Agency)
 Fiona Spencer
 Fiona Ryan
 Fitzroy Legal Service
 Flemington Community Centre
 Fleur Spitzer
 Foundation House
 Gabi Crafti
 Gailey-Lazarus Foundation
 Gemma Cafarella
 Get Up
 Greg Barns
 Greg Hughan
 Hall & Wilcox Lawyers
 Hall & Wilcox Lawyers
 Harry Venice
 Hayley Day – Youth Support &
 Advocacy Service (YSAS)
 Human Rights Law Centre
 Hopetoun Early Years Centre
 Ian Freckleton QC
 Indigenous Social
 Justice Association
 (Melbourne and Sydney)
 Inner Melbourne
 Community Legal (IMCL)
 Islamic Council of Victoria
 Natalie Hallam/ Jen Missing
 Victorian Accreditation
 Coordinator
 Jennifer Kanis
 Jenny Young

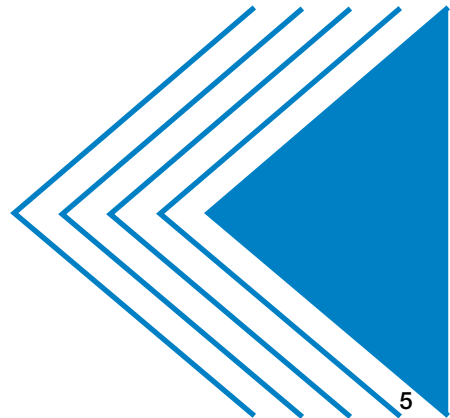
Jeremy Hearne, cohealth
 Jeremy King, Robinson
 Gill Lawyers
 Jessica Tester
 Jessie Taylor
 Jill Reichstein
 Jim McKenna
 John Dickie
 Josephine Byrt City of Melbourne
 Justice Connect Mary Quinsacara
 – CoHealth Arts Generator
 K & L Gates
 K&L Gates
 Karen Argiropoulos
 Kate Fischer-Doherty
 Kathleen Foley
 Katrina McAuley, Merri
 Outreach Support Services
 Klaus Mueller
 Kot Monoah
 Krystyna Grinberg
 Kyle McDonald
 Law Aid
 Law Institute of Victoria (LIV)
 Legal Services Board
 Leighton Gwynn
 Liberty Victoria
 Loddon Campaspe
 Community Legal Centre
 Lord Mayors Charitable
 Foundation (LMCF)
 Louise Martin
 Luke Hilikari and Matt Kunkel,
 Victorian Trades Hall Council
 Lynda white
 Lyn Morgain, cohealth
 Mahlab Costing
 Maki Issa
 Maria Autridge
 Melbourne Activist
 Legal Support (MALS)
 Melbourne University Law School
 Merys Williams
 Michael Stanton

Michelle Old and
 everyone at Flatout
 Miguel Belmar
 Min Guo
 Moonee Valley
 Legal Service (MVLS)
 Moonee Valley Local Learning
 Employment Network (MVLLEN)
 Moya O'Brien
 Nesam Macmillan
 (Melbourne University)
 Noel Russell
 Paula Shelton
 Peter Rozen
 Peter Crowley
 Peter Seidel
 Phoebe Knowles
 Progressive Law Network
 Rachel Doyle SC
 Rebecca Wilson
 Reichstein Foundation
 Remedy Australia
 Robert Falcone –
 Melbourne City Council
 Robert Stary
 Robinson Gill
 Rosemary Madden, Centrelink
 Ruth Shann
 Sam Wakhlu
 Sarah Leighfield
 Senator Gavin Marshall
 Shorna Moore, WestJustice
 Simon Moglia
 Smart Justice for Young People
 Springvale Monash
 Community Legal Service
 Stella Gold
 Stephen Davies Facilities
 St Kilda Legal Service
 Property Management
 Services City of Melbourne
 Stephen Donaghue QC
 Stephen Warne

Sue Ball & Cindy Wong
 Legal Services Board
 Spark Consulting – Heather,
 Richard and all the team.
 Tim Fitzpatrick
 Tony French
 Trevor Monti QC
 Uniting Church in Australia,
 Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
 Victorian Aboriginal
 Legal Service (VALS)
 Victorian Council of Social
 Services (VCOSS)
 Victorian Law Foundation (VLF)
 Vincent Ryan
 Warren Smith
 WestJustice
 Women's Legal Service (Vic)
 YouthLaw
 Zero Partos

Members of Stop Data Expert Working Group (in alphabetical order):

Professor Janet Chan (UNSW),
 Professor Chris Cunneen (UNSW),
 Tamar Hopkins (PhD candidate ANU)
 Dr Clare Land (Victoria University)
 Dr Raul Sanchez-Urribarri
 (La Trobe University),
 Dr Victoria Sentas (UNSW)
 Associate Professor
 Leanne Weber (Monash)



OUR VOLUNTEERS

We should also acknowledge the volunteer co-ordinators during the 2017- 2018 financial year.

Ben Borrelli, Ruth Engelbrecht and Megan Buttigieg were outstanding volunteer co-ordinators. We were sorry to see them go but as a service that supports law students it is always heartening to know that they have gone onto ongoing legal employment.

Volunteers 2017 - 2018

Aaron Batchelor
Alex English
Alli Paxton-Hall
Ayrton Roy
Britta Maunder
Ben Borrelli
Britta Maunder
Brittany Baker
Caitlin Setter
Caitlyn Goldney
Charlie Schaffer
Clara Harper
Crystal Roman
Daniel Anderson-Luxford

Daniel Bakewell
Daniel Lucanus
Derek Zhong
Dylan Pietrocola
Elizabeth Najjar
Emily Rutherford
Emily Smith
Finbar Larkin
Heather Boyle
Heidi Edwards
Hodan Ali
Indigo York
Jake Tyler
Jazmine Rosart

Jenny Au
Jimmy Kefford
Joanna Taylor
Juliette Saoud
Jusleen Katarina
Karin Desai
Kathryn Bastounas
Kenneth Cheng
Kingsley Okafor
Lachlan Holmes
Lachlan Sievert
Liam Currie
Luke Karakas
Lynn Barratt

Marje Matthew
Megan Buttigieg
Mohammad Ibrahim
Nathan Dodd
Naveen Raghavan
Ned Jackson
Nick Bugeja
Nimet Gurleyen
Patrick Sexton
Paula Castillo
Peter Divitcos
Rebecca Chung
Rhiannon Dickson
Robert Daly

Robyn Sinclair
Ruth Engelbrecht
Sam Moulton
Shane Don
Sinead O'Brian Butler
Sophia Liu
Tabea Hansen
Timothy Siu
Kai Yuen – Kelvin
Tony French
Tyler McKenzie
Vincent Ryan
Vivian Lai-Tran
Yvonne Kushnir
Zoe Tapp

OUR BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Joel Townsend	Chairperson
Amy Frew	Secretary <i>(to December 2017)</i>
Ash Thomas	Secretary <i>(from December 2017)</i>
Nimet Gurleyen	Treasurer <i>(from November 2017)</i>
Jeffery Stricke	Treasurer <i>(to November 2017)</i>
Genevieve Nihill	Member
Karen Pyke	Member
Linda Gale	Member
Jenny Si	Member
Anthia Atsis	Member
Daniel Hagan	Member
Berhan Ahmed	Member
Tonye Segbedzi	Member

OUR STAFF

Anthony Kelly	Executive Officer
Carmen Tommasi	Office Manager
Deng Maleek	Peer Advocacy Team Coordinator
Denise Gardner	Migration Agent
Erin Buckley	Family Violence Police Complaints Project Officer (February to August 2018)
George Ghobrial	Solicitor (commenced October 2017)
Julian McDonald	Police Complaints Clinic Supervising Solicitor
Lauren Caulfield	Advocacy & Law Reform Officer
Nadine Bradilovich	Family Violence Solicitor Safe From Harm
Nick Boag	Police Accountability Solicitor (to October 2017)
Nimet Gurleyen	Outreach lawyer (February 2018 – July 2018)
Matt Wilson	Solicitor (from July 2017 to October 2017)
Sophie Ellis	Police Accountability Solicitor
Sue Brown	Principal Solicitor
Thuan Nguyen	Finance Officer
Venetia Bombas	Solicitor (until August 2017)
Verity Smith	Police Accountability Solicitor (commenced January 2018)

OUR EXPANDING CENTRE



Board Chair's Report

Since it was established, Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre has been a small, grassroots, community-centred organisation, which has at the same time had an eye to the wider world. Again, this year, our police accountability work has been both a response to local legal need, and an effort to advance a cause which is relevant for all Victorians. Our generalist practice is, of course, rooted in the demands of the disadvantaged in the Flemington Kensington community, but in our 'Safe From Harm' project and in our engagement with the wider community legal sector, we contribute to better legal outcomes for people well beyond the local area.

The role of the Board is to ensure that FKCLC continues to maintain both responsiveness to our local community, even as it changes, and at the same time ensure that the centre continues its proud tradition as a leading institution in the community legal sector. The Board has sought to be part of the constructive discussions with near neighbours Inner Melbourne Community Legal, and Moonee Valley Legal Service, with a view to improving our already strong and collaborative relationships. Those conversations will continue in the months ahead.

The Board is immensely grateful for the contribution of staff, volunteers



and supporters of the centre. FKCLC continues to be a tight-knit community. I am grateful to the Board members, including Amy Frew, Ash Thomas, Jeffery Stricke, Anthia Atsis, Daniel Hagan and Tonye Segbedzi, who for various reasons were unable to continue as Board members, but who left with every good wish, and gratitude for their fine contributions. I look forward to working with new and continuing Board members, to oversee the efforts of FKCLC to be equally relevant to the people of Flemington and Kensington, and to the access to justice movement.

Joel Townsend,
Board Chair



Executive Officer Report

Despite decades of reforms and improvements, access to justice remains vastly unequal and determined by wealth and privilege. It is unfortunate in many ways that the work of Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre is as relevant today as it ever was.

The fact that over ninety-four percent of our services are delivered to people experiencing financial disadvantage indicates that legal problems are inextricably linked to poverty, discrimination, systemic disadvantage and to gross inequalities in society. It is because of this that, alongside our individually tailored casework, we undertake so many projects that seek systemic change.

Our *Without Suspicion* campaign against racially discriminatory policing continues to expand with the input of many brilliant young people in the Peer Advocacy Team. We have also seen this year a veritable movement grow against the toxic racialized crime panic and its manipulation by political figures.

Our *Safe From Harm* project with Moonee Valley Legal Service maintains its strong focus on outreach, community education and sector support for an end to family violence beyond what we can achieve through casework.

This year the Department of Justice and Regulation (DOJR) asked us to identify specific and general barriers to the delivery of justice services to Somali-Australian women. Through tailored group consultations, surveys, meetings,

forums, workshops and information sessions the *Somali Women's Access to Justice Project*, run so effectively by Nimet Gurleyen, was able to identify a range of ways in which various community agencies and departments can develop robust, trusting relationships between Somali-Australian women and the wider justice system of Victoria. It was an example of how well placed we are as a centre to identify and work to meet the legal needs of such an important section of our community.

The year also culminated in a substantial and historical step towards an independent police complaint system that we have been calling for since the 1980's. This has come as a result of decades of work from this centre and we have included this advocacy work as a key case study below.

An effective independent police complaints system is a critical component of responding to violence against women. As such, through the dedication of Lauren Caulfield and Erin Buckley, we were able to launch the *Policing Family Violence: Changing the Story* project, a ground-breaking legal education and advocacy project. In the first half of 2018 we were able to pilot the project with Women's Legal Service Victoria and St Kilda Legal Service and establish clear and evidence-based pathways for best practise community legal education, advocacy and policy reform. This important project represents a new branch of our Police Accountability work and is now



expanding with additional Integrated Services funding via the Federation of Community Legal Centres.

Over this year we have said goodbye to solicitors Venetia Bombas and Nick Boag who greatly enriched their respective areas in the centre. We have also had the pleasure to have Matt Wilson, Erin Buckley and Nimet Gurleyen work with us in short term project and locum positions. In October 2017 we welcomed solicitor George Ghobrial to our staff team after many years with us as a volunteer.

Our Board continues to support and champion our work diligently and strategically as ever. The Board has overseen a long and complex *Collaborations Project* with our community legal centre neighbours and Spark Consulting which only now is beginning to bear useful insights and strategic options for the long term future of the centre. Alongside this we have been lucky to have Charandev Singh

conduct a detailed and expert review of the *Police Accountability Project* as we look to its impact, underpinning values and sustainability.

I was also lucky this year to receive the Jill Reichstein Award for Social Change which allowed me to tour four cities in the United States in August 2017 and meet with some incredible legal, human rights and police accountability bodies, organisations and grassroots groups, many of whom have inspired some of our work here and from whom we continue to glean valuable strategic and tactical ideas.

In what is my seventh year at this little powerhouse of a centre I remain as inspired by the tenacity and sheer brilliance of our staff, board, volunteers and our network of collaborators as ever.

I urge you to read through this report for a glimpse of what we have collectively achieved this year.

Anthony Kelly
Executive Officer

Our work by the numbers

The results from our file-closure outcome reports indicated that our interventions had a range of positive outcomes for 77% of our clients. Reduced stress was noted for almost half of our clients (44%), increased safety identified for 5% of our clients, and 18% of clients were noted to have improved financial situation after our intervention. Please note that this was practitioner reported outcomes and in future reporting will be assessed alongside client surveys.

Number of cases we closed during this time

417

Total number of legal advices provided

605

Total number of referrals provided

424

New outreach partnerships and locations established

2

Community legal education events / law reform or advocacy activities we completed

42

Media stories, articles & interviews:

165

Number of volunteer law students, interns, para-legals, and pro-bono lawyers

71

Number of large multi-year civil litigation cases for police accountability

10

Most popular web post 10 things you need to understand about race & crime reporting (January 2018) - with

33,765 views

Police Accountability Project website users

49,877 users with
87,024 page views

Meetings with Members of Parliament

10

Combined social media followers

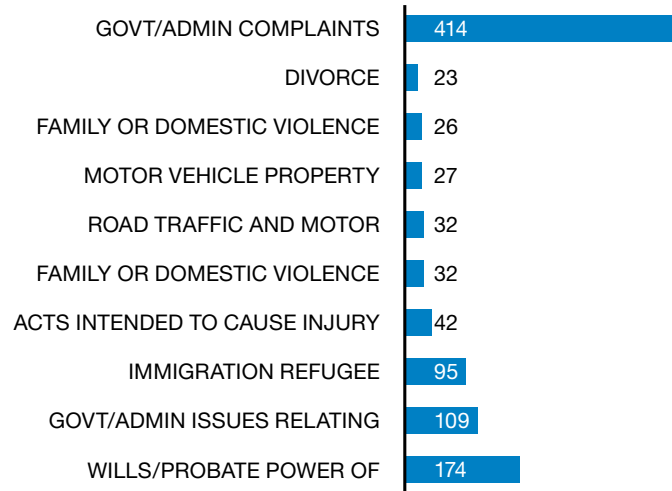
9,210

Total number of clients 2017-2018

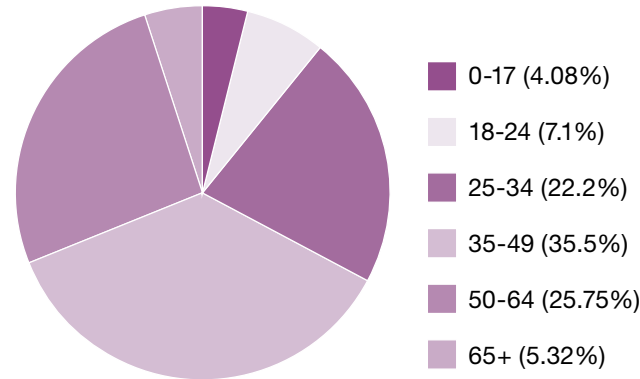
852



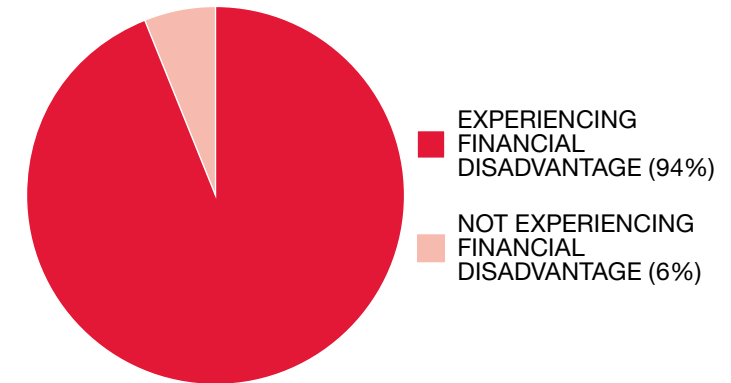
FREQUENT LEGAL MATTERS BY PROBLEM TYPE 2017-2018



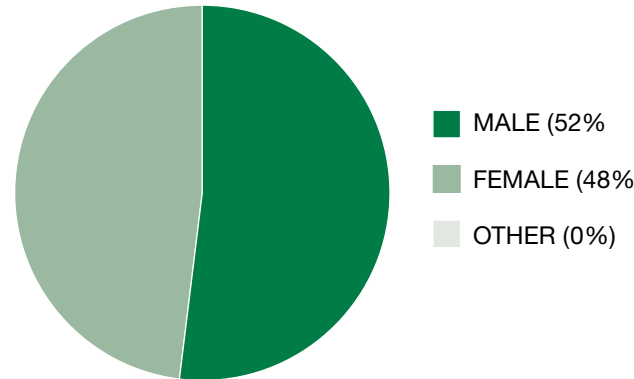
AGE OF CLIENTS 2017-2018



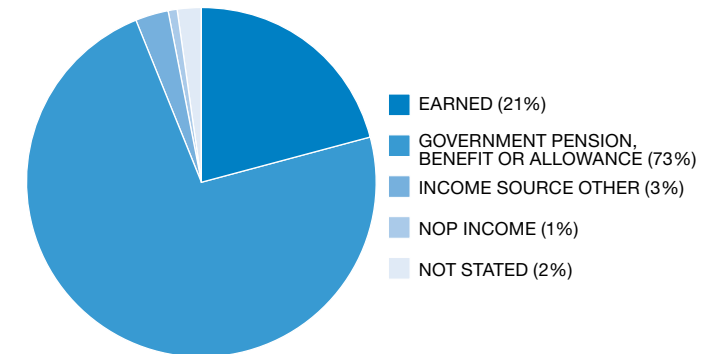
FINANCIAL DISADVANTAGE FOR CLIENTS 2017-2018



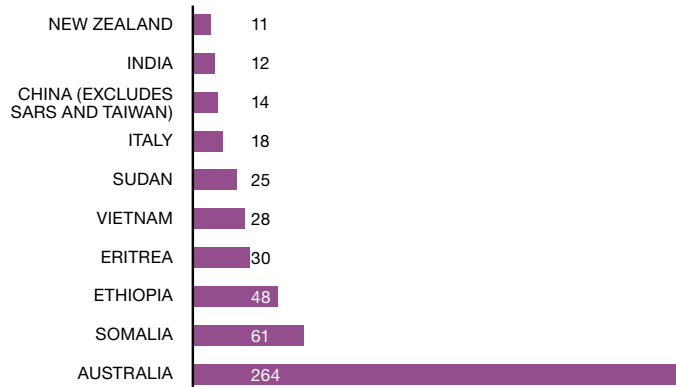
GENDER OF CLIENTS 2017-2018



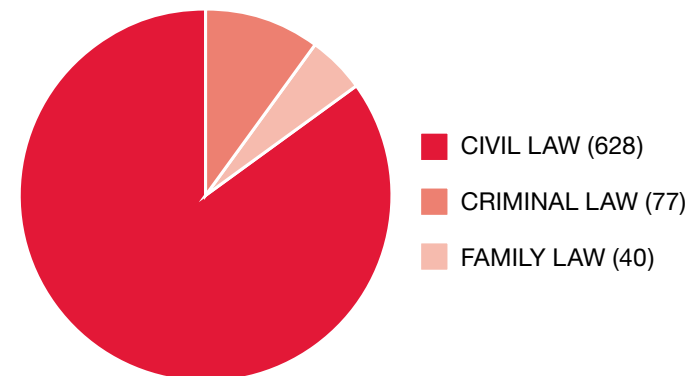
CLIENT INCOME SOURCE 2017-2018



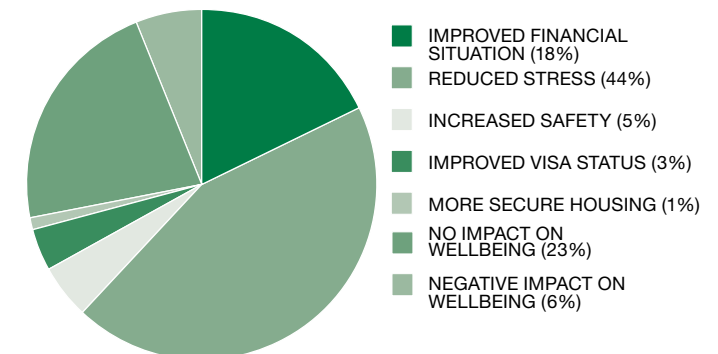
TOP 10 COUNTRIES OF BIRTH FOR OUR CLIENTS 2017-2018



AREA OF LAW 2017-2018



OUTCOMES FOR CLIENTS 2017-2018



Our Generalist Legal Services

FKCLC continues to 'bat above its average'. It obtains great outcomes for its clients with limited resources. It is able to do this because of its dedicated staff and volunteers.

Our Safe From Harm project and the Wills Clinic continue to provide badly needed local legal support and the Somali Women's Access to Justice Project provided a unique opportunity this year to closely examine how we and other services were meeting, and where we were failing to meet the needs of an important local community.

After a hiatus and a review, our Night Service has been re-established as a fortnightly clinic, under the supervision of George Ghobrial and supported by a great team of volunteers. Attendance figures have been high and it resumes its role as a valued pathway into the day service.

While there have been a number of procedural issues this year with the legal centre, we as a team have been able to put procedures in place to ensure the continued 'high quality' operation of the legal centre.

Our generalist legal practise is motivated fundamentally by the needs of our disadvantaged and vulnerable clients. We recognize the difficulties faced by people with various disabilities, homeless, family violence victims and CALD communities in dealing with diverse legal issues, from criminal matters to a variety of civil law, especially debt matters and infringements. While we are able to assist clients with these matters and continue to achieve successful outcomes, we still require resources to be able to satisfy the actual level of need in our catchment area. Both the Somali Women's Project and safe From Harm demonstrated the need for more legal outreach services and the need to allocate more time to community legal education activities continues.

Our clients are clear reflection of the diversity of our community. This year has also seen a number of impressive outreach events. The FKCLC Bills+ Day not only helped advise a number of disadvantaged community members on legal and financial matters, but saw a major influx of cliental to the Wills Clinic.

I started my current position as a generalist solicitor at FKCLC late in 2017, after more than four years of working as a volunteer. It did not take me long to realise that this is a unique legal practice. I discovered how successful FKCLC is as a legal practice and more importantly as a haven for those who are in need for help. Its police accountability project has impressive reputation in addition to a robust generalist legal service, family law and a migration service made it a second to none CLC. Another impressive characteristic of the centre is the ability of the above services, to work collaboratively for the benefit of clients and the community.

As I was a volunteer for a long time myself, I would like to thank our volunteers for their amazing contributions to FKCLC. We are lucky to have many outstanding volunteers from a variety of backgrounds who are possess a wide base of knowledge. I would like to acknowledge their efforts as it would not be possible to do all the work without them.

George Ghobrial, Solicitor

I have been able to assist more victims of crime with awards of compensation. I have also been involved in appealing decisions by the Federal Government to revoke visas on the basis of character. I have been assisting prisoners who are due for release or who have been released into detention with their appeals at Administrative Appeals Tribunal. This has been a huge learning curve for me and I am grateful for the assistance of Justice Connect in securing pro bono representation in these matters.

Sue Brown, Principal Solicitor



THE WILLS CLINIC

Our Thursday morning Wills clinic has retained its popularity in 2018. Pro-Bono Lawyer Tony French working alongside the Wills clinic paralegal, has helped provide free Wills and Powers of Attorney for those in the Flemington and Kensington catchment. To date the clinic has assisted over a hundred clients, most of which would have otherwise lacked the means to have a Will made. For these reasons the Clinic continues to play a valuable role within the community, offering clients access to professional and experienced legal support in the drafting of their Wills.

The legal centre is aware that community legal education sessions for older and migrant communities should be undertaken. Many of these communities once they are given the information about why it is necessary to obtain legal advice about Wills or Powers of Attorney they arrange for these documents to be done.

The Wills clinic in the last 12 months has been supported by Tony French, Pro bono lawyer, Caitlyn Goldney, Megan Buttigieg and Daniel Lucanus.



SOMALI WOMEN'S PROJECT

This year I had the good fortune to run the new Somali Women's Access to Justice Project, funded by the Department of Justice & Regulation. As our (first or second) largest non-Australian born client group, I had assisted many Somali clients previously and was familiar with the legal problems and significant barriers they often face. With the support of some amazing staff and volunteers, as well as workers from external organisations, we consulted with local Somali women, provided legal advice and casework services, gathered data through detailed surveys and held educational events with a view to reporting common barriers, legal needs and recommendations for change to the Government.

In May 2018 we held a Know Your Rights information forum, with an impressive attendance of nearly 50 Somali women. Speakers were from a nearby Mosque, Consumer Affairs, Transurban, Births Deaths Marriages, Moonee Valley Legal Service, Foundation House and Victoria Police on the topics of Consumer Law, Fines, Mental Health and Racism. The attendees asked insightful questions about their rights and expressed concerns about how to enforce them. Questions and feedback were key considerations in writing our report.

In June we held the practical successor to our first educative event. Bills+ Day provided on the spot assistance from and showcased various government, utility and financial assistance organisations (23 in total). While the Somali Project was responsible for this event, the

invitation was extended to people of any cultural background experiencing hardship. Interpreters in many community languages, childcare and lunch was provided. The event brought in almost 100 people and survey responses indicated a high level of satisfaction with the event. Most involved in the event believe a recurring Bills day would be beneficial to the community and has great potential in reaching those who would otherwise fall through the gaps.

At the culmination of the project, we wrote and submitted a detailed report to the Department of Justice & Regulation.

The most complained about problem for local Somali women were fines, most commonly for parking and toll offences. The women were not necessarily the driver and had difficulty navigating the infringements system, often leading them into debt and/or taking responsibility for offences they had not committed. Fines grow the longer they stay unresolved. Toll fines in particular start at approximately \$3 and gain administrative fees, reaching upwards of \$300 for one offence. It only takes two weeks of return trips through a toll road to accumulate over \$10,000 of debt.

Our recommendations are numerous, but most importantly require a commitment to do *something*. Our consultations revealed that the Somali community are over surveyed. There is a reluctance to be involved in further projects of this kind, because it is always talk and never action. Ideally, Somali speaking lawyers should be employed across the legal centre and Department of Justice. Initiatives to educate



the Somali community on the law as well as on the spot help services, like Bills+ day, should continue. Action and participation will in turn help to increase the Somali community's trust in our justice system. We now await the Department of Justice & Regulation's response, which we hope will continue this project into its next phase.

I started volunteering for Flem Ken in 2015 as a practicing lawyer, in our generalist and Safe From Harm departments. I have worn a lot of hats, including volunteer lawyer, Somali Women's Project Outreach Lawyer, Board member, Treasurer, tech extraordinaire, reception relief, volunteer supervision and Denise's desk mate.

Nimet Gurleyen,
Outreach Solicitor

OUR IMPACT

Legal problems are connected to poverty, discrimination, systemic disadvantage and to gross inequalities in society. As these case studies illustrate, vulnerable and disadvantaged community members have a greater likelihood of facing complex issues and suffer a disproportionate amount of legal problems. Even though legal problems can seem minor, even small problems can impact significantly upon people and community's health, wellbeing and ability to prosper.

Karen

Karen, a Disability Support Pensioner, had accrued a tax debt after an income tax assessment, owing several thousand dollars to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Karen's debt was referred to a debt collection service. After coming to us one evening we were able to write a letter to the debt collector requesting that they waive the debt and provided evidence of the medical condition. About four weeks later Karen received a letter stating there was no outstanding debt with the ATO.

Bilan

Bilan is a single parent in her 40s living in Flemington. Her English is limited and she lives in public housing. Bilan had immigrated to New Zealand in the 1990's under the refugee re-settlement program and moved to Australia in the early 2000's.

She received an invalid's benefit in New Zealand as a result of injuries she incurred from a car accident. Over the years, Bilan developed a number of other medical conditions, physical and mental health issues that further impacted on her health.

In Australia, she received the Disability Support Pension under the social security agreement between Australia and New Zealand. However, Bilan was suddenly advised by Centrelink that her pension would cease. She came to our centre in some distress, not know the reason for this decision and how it could be changed. The centre quickly made an appointment, listened to her story and helped her with a review of this decision at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). It took us three months but we were successful in having this decision overturned.

Ahmet

An elderly gentleman Ahmet, attended our service with his son in order to obtain a Power of Attorney. At the start of the interview it was discovered that the son was to be sole executor. Our lawyer advised Ahmet's son that he would have to leave the room in order to ensure that the power of attorney was not made under any undue influence or duress. Our client's son was reluctant to leave his father as he wasn't sure if we could interpret his father's requests.

We then arranged for a telephone interpreter. The interpreter advised us that Ahmet was confused as to why he had to execute any documents and was adamant that he did not need a power of attorney. Ahmet was then given additional information concerning why people need these documents and was told to discuss with his children. Ahmet was then advised that we would book an onsite interpreter when they next came. Ahmet seemed happier to consider this and returned with two executors and an onsite interpreter was arranged.



We all have a right to live Safe from Harm

In 2018 the Safe from Harm project celebrates its 4th year of providing free legal advice and assistance to people in Flemington and Kensington experiencing family violence or relationship breakdown.

The focus of the Safe from Harm project, operated in partnership with the Moonee Valley Legal Service, has remained consistent; to engage with our local community and other service providers; to provide legal help in a way that is thoughtful, accessible and attempts to understand and address cultural and linguistic barriers to accessing legal help; and to raise awareness of family violence and help available to those who have experienced it.

The past year has seen significant developments. Our new Family Law Clinic was launched in early 2018. Two new outreach partnerships and locations were established: Flemington Community Centre and Hopetoun Early Learning Centre. We relaunched our website to be more user friendly and informative, and our project's Steering Committee evolved to establish the new Moonee Valley Family Violence Network (MVFVN) in July 2017.

The MVFVN is a multi-agency forum comprising representatives from government, non – government, police and community agencies at the local level who share a collective commitment to addressing family violence and improving the safety of women and children. Member organisations include CoHealth,

DHHS, Grace, McAuley, Womens Health West, Victoria Police, New Hope and Moonee Valley City Council.

The Annual Safe from Harm Forum was held in October 2017, a large multiagency forum which brought together local community based family violence support services to facilitate knowledge sharing on the scope and availability of support services. Our forums aim to improve referral pathways and understanding between service providers to facilitate better and more holistic support for community members affected by family violence.

Throughout the year we have provided community legal education on family violence to community members, groups, schools and English classes.

A key aspect of Safe from Harm is building service networks, professional relationships with a vast array of agencies, and advocacy on legal issues arising from family violence. These activities have seen Safe from Harm and FKCLC represented at:

- The 'Community Around the Family' network run by Moonee Valley City Council family services concerned with supporting children and early intervention in the family violence space (particularly around the Flemington & Ascot Vale housing estates).
- The Women's Health West 2018 International Women's Day breakfast
- The Western Integrated Family Violence Committee

- Federation of Community Legal Centres working groups, including the Royal Commission in to Family Violence Working Group and the Health Justice Partnerships Working Group
- The Moonee Valley City Council 2017 White Ribbon Day Event
- Various Flemington and Kensington CLC initiatives, like Bills+ Day



Photo: Members of the Moonee Valley Family Violence Network, including Safe from Harm lawyer at FKCLC, Nadine Bradilovich, at a community event for the 16 days of activism against family violence (picture and text taken from Moonee Valley Leader)

WHAT OUR CLIENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS SAY THE STRENGTHS OF SAFE FROM HARM ARE:

- accessibility to the community
- the level of care and support offered by the lawyers
- provision of holistic family violence support to women with CALD backgrounds

WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY ABOUT SAFE FROM HARM:

- One hundred (100) per cent of clients rated their experience of the Safe from Harm project as excellent
- Fifteen (15) percent of clients came to see us after first taking part in community legal education sessions and many were referred from local workers at other community organisations
- One hundred (100) per cent of clients felt safer and better supported after speaking with a lawyer
- One hundred (100) per cent of clients found that meeting with the project lawyer helped them to understand and deal with their legal problem
- Eighty (80) per cent of clients said meeting with the lawyer helped them to know which other services could provide additional support
- Ninety (90) per cent found accessibility in a safe discrete environment a key benefit of having the family violence lawyer available in community based locations

"I came to Australia and didn't know anybody. I was very trapped in a bad marriage and she [the Safe from Harm lawyer] helped me to leave with my kids"

"Easing confusion and laying out the process rather than just asking 'what do you want?' because I was scared and didn't know what I wanted."

"The lawyer is very helpful and helps with my situation and the pathway to move forward."

"Seeing a female lawyer is very helpful. [The lawyer] is the best"

"[The lawyer] explains things in a way that's easy for me to understand"

"The lawyer and service is helping me a lot through my roughest time"

Source: responses to anonymous online and phone surveys conducted of Safe from Harm project clients of Flemington and Kensington CLC in late 2017.

Photo: Law student volunteer Hodan and Safe from Harm lawyer Nadine Bradilovich at a Flemington and Kensington Community Legal Centre Community Forum



FAMILY LAW CLINIC

Our weekly Family Law Clinic was launched in early 2018. The clinic model recognises that family violence and family law matters are not discrete issues, rather they need to be addressed together for better outcomes for families. Family violence often leads to separation, and early legal intervention can assist families to work out the best arrangements for each parent to spend time with children, communicate about parenting where there is an Intervention Order, and reduce uncertainty and future engagement with legal processes. Later on, providing legal assistance with matters like divorce applications, means that a person can get divorced without having to make direct contact with their abuser. While divorce is usually a procedural matter, it can provide enormous relief to someone when what they may view as a final tie to an abusive partner is gone.



OUTREACH SERVICES

An essential component of the SFH project is its community partnerships. Through outreach services, lawyers can be accessed at locations that are safe, accessible, confidential, and where members of the community already access other services. We acknowledge that members of our community with a CALD background experience more barriers than others to access legal services and support. Lawyers are not always the first person people will talk to about legal issues, with people more likely to speak with health practitioners and other support services. We work actively to undertake community legal education and partner with other support services to ensure community members can access legal help.

Safe from Harm currently operates two legal outreach clinics.

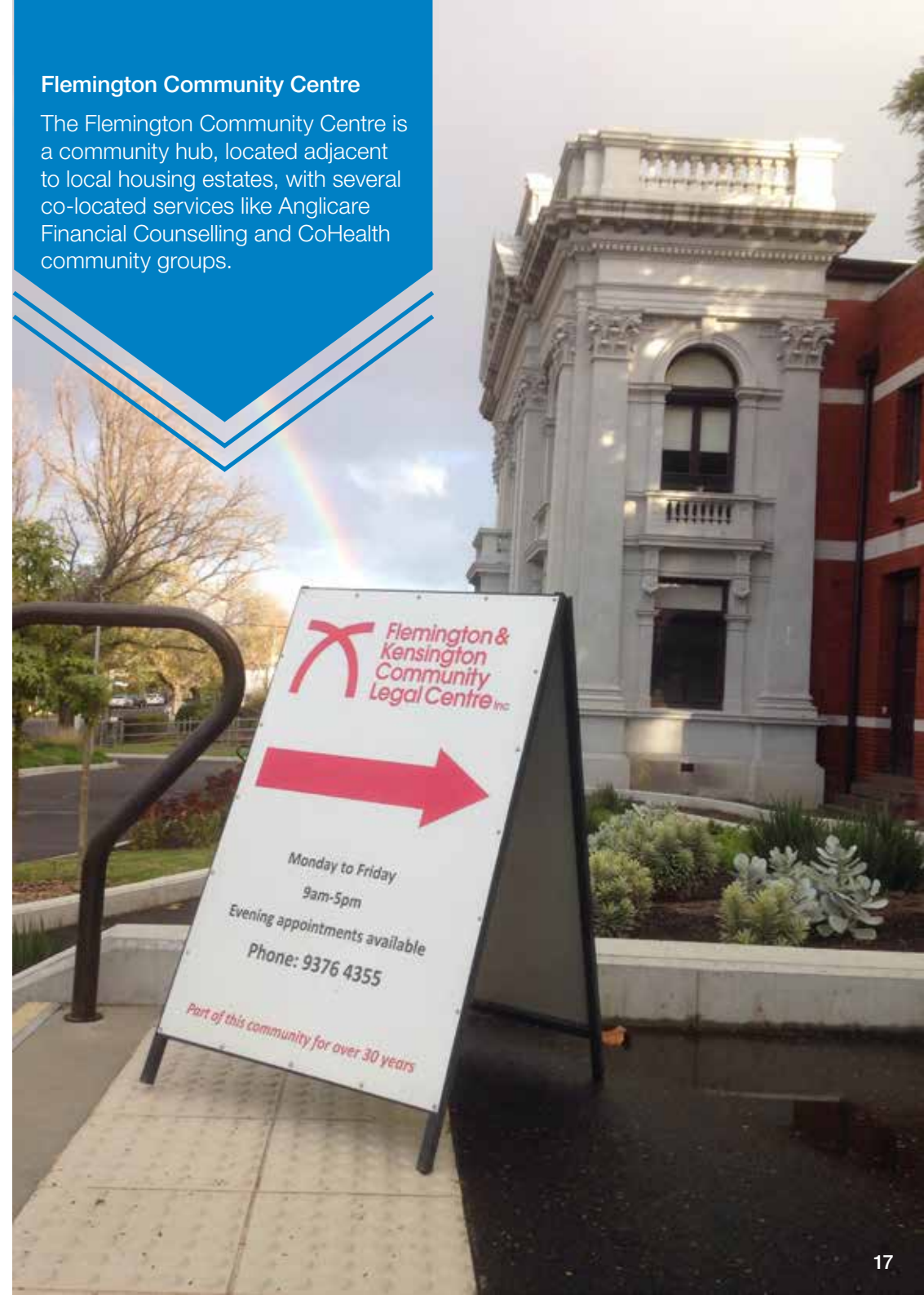
Hopetoun Early Years Centre

Hopetoun Early Years Centre houses Maternal Child Health Nurses and early childhood care and programs, such as breastfeeding classes. It is located adjacent to public housing estates in Flemington and routinely accessed by parents in the area. Cognisant of the exacerbated risk of family violence to which women can be exposed during pregnancy and post-partum, times parents access this Centre represent a critical period of opportunity for intervention. Working collaboratively with MCHNs and other staff creates better potential to respond to the legal issues raised by families who have identified family violence.

Nadine Bradilovich
Solicitor, Family Law & Family Violence

Flemington Community Centre

The Flemington Community Centre is a community hub, located adjacent to local housing estates, with several co-located services like Anglicare Financial Counselling and CoHealth community groups.



A word from our Volunteers at Flem Ken



“Volunteering in the Generalist Practice exposes you to a diversity of legal matters. On any given day, volunteers could draft a memo to counsel for a client implicated in the criminal justice system, undertake a legal research project on the Migration Act, draft a letter of demand in relation to a consumer issue or prepare an application for special circumstances in relation to infringements. It is hard to think where else young, eager law students can acquire such valuable experience.

In addition to exposure to a raft of different legal issues, volunteers develop the ability to conduct client interviews under the supervision of Sue Brown, Principal Solicitor. In my view, the most satisfying aspect of volunteering at the Centre, it also can be particularly challenging considering language barriers, financial realities and the emotional stress which confront clients going through increasingly complicated legal processes. This experience is a timely reminder of the importance of maintaining empathy and compassion when working in this field.

Furthermore, as a current law student, the breadth of skills I have developed through volunteering in the General practice include, but are not limited to, communication and written skills, preparing formal correspondence and administrative skills. These skills have provided me with a solid foundation to further pursue a passion for access to justice.

Outside the abundance of legal experience, the ability to chat with other lawyers, support staff and fellow volunteers on topics as diverse as current police review practices to 20th century lunch-time trivia to the many ups and downs of law school means the Centre remains a friendly and supportive environment for all those who pass through its doors.

Overall, it has been a pleasure to work in a supportive environment and a privilege to support clients who live, work or study in the Flemington and Kensington area.”

Charlie Schaffer
Volunteer law student

“Volunteering for the Somali Women’s Project has been very rewarding for a variety of reasons. As a Somali-Australian law student, I was given the opportunity to work alongside one of the legal centres solicitors, Nimet. The project was to develop an outreach to assess legal needs and consultation combined with targeted community legal education for Somali-Australian women in the Flemington-Kensington area.

I was able to work within the Somali community, and to provide an ‘inside’ perspective to allow for a holistic approach in assisting Somali women of the Flemington and Kensington area. The project objectives included engagement with Somali women to exchange information and knowledge, and to learn the legal needs met/unmet by the community. It was important to address the areas of the law that Somali women felt needed additional attention as relating to their circumstances.

As a current law student, the Flemington and Kensington Community Legal Centre (FKCLC) provides an opportunity to absorb a wealth of knowledge and a variety of skills. Volunteering at FKCLC is undoubtedly a valuable experience. “

Hodan Ali
Volunteer law student



“As a law student, the experience of meeting with clients for an interview, taking notes, and drafting their Wills has been invaluable and highly practical addition to my studies. The Wills Clinic helps to build the type of skills employers are looking for and it importantly feels like we are helping to make a difference through providing such a valuable service.”

Caitlyn Goldney,
Wills Clinic paralegal

Bringing war-torn families together

This centre has run a small, specialist migration service for humanitarian offshore family reunion applications. Our Migration Agent Denise Gardner has over 16 years' experience in this field and has won numerous awards and accolades for her work.

We have strong partnerships with Foundation House, the Unaccompanied Minor Program, and a network of others working with recently arrived refugee communities.

My desk in the back office at the legal centre tells my history and provides the makings of this year's report.

There's a shambles of books (atlases, dictionaries and guidebooks) and a couple of teddy bears waiting for new homes. Maps of Myanmar and Tibet and a National Geographic map so old that there is no mention of Eritrea or South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo is named as Zaire. And then there is the magnificent map of Asia given to me

by Venetia when she left. Thank you notes and important images of Buddha and the Dali Llama, of Aung San Suu Chi in the time that she was a person of repute and a postcard of Jesus labelled as a refugee (which of course he was) and of course Mr. Frank Hulls volunteer extraordinaire. There is wooden lion and giraffe and a white Tibetan scarf given to me as a wedding gift. This hangs from a dated 'No Smoking' sign. Randomly a St George's beer label and a holographic Star Trek postcard and the Flemington Kensington Phonographic Alphabet where F is for father and not Fox Trot (so much easier when your clients don't speak English as their first language). A cartoon of Zeke and another of a koala relaxing up a tree which is protected by razor-wire. An ex worker asleep on my couch and weird and wonderful notes from others. There are a few token representations of the canine world (a world dear to my heart - thank you, chief vollie Marje, for that), a couple of stress toy rhinos and of course, a used snake skin.

Denise in the kitchen with food cooked by grateful clients whose family member was granted a visa.

To make it easier I will adopt a dot point outline of the snaps of clients past:

- My very first 'Split Family' visa case. A photo taken at a Foundation House Christmas function. The client was Moslem but embraced the party.
- A young Burmese boy (he was 16 going on 12 when we first met. He was utterly all alone). We supported him through reunion with his mother and siblings and later through his marriage. There is a photo of his child named for my father.
- A prominent and much persecuted Jehovah Witness family.
- Photos at the Melbourne airport showing a very ill client being reunited with her children.
- One of the few Afghani clients who managed to bring his family here before the Immigration Minister closed the right of child 'Boat Arrivals' to sponsor their parents.
- The golden jewelry of a baptism.

Finally a blast from my past – photos, clad in pajamas, taken at a fund-raiser, then later at Government House and lastly a couple taken at the Tim McCoy dinner. Firstly leaning casually on Jon Faine and another featuring Karen Pyke, Gen Nihill, Lou Schetzer and Gregor Husper (aka Watkins).

I do, indeed, stand on the shoulders of giants.

Denise Gardner
Migration Agent



Police Accountability Project

HOLDING POLICE ACCOUNTABLE IN THE COURTS

We have had great success for our client, Tara Smith (a pseudonym), who is suing the State of Victoria for the negligent actions of members of Victoria Police across 2005-2014. Late in 2017 the state made an application to have the case dismissed without trial, however this application was rejected by the Supreme Court in September 2018. Tara's landmark test case about the duty of care owed by police officers to people experiencing family violence will now continue through the courts. This was a great win not only for our client, but also for many women trapped in similar situations across Australia.

We have continued the fight to expose police corruption for longstanding client Fay Spear. Unfortunately, our efforts in the court have been hampered by legislation shutting out the Coroner's Court's jurisdiction. As Graeme Jensen's inquest was held under now-repealed legislation, the Supreme Court found that it did not have the jurisdiction to hear our client's application. In spite of this disappointing outcome, we are very proud of Fay's resilience in the face of repeated hurdles and roadblocks, and continue to support her in her tireless efforts to expose the truth through non-court avenues.

We have continued to provide representation and litigation advice to clients coming through the Police Complaints Clinic. We have settled two

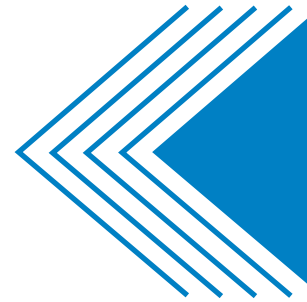
matters, commenced litigation for three more clients, and taken up criminal defence representation for one client. We have also facilitated many warm referrals to Robinson Gill for advice and representation for civil litigation.

I joined the Police Accountability Project (PAP) at the end of January 2018 and since then the Project has been consolidating our current practice and working through some large strategic casework matters.

Aside from court files, much of my role this year has been devoted to working through longstanding files in the Police Accountability Project practice, and finalising old files. Since the beginning of the year we have closed more than 120 police related matters.

PAP has been grappling with the extensive growth of the project in the past couple of years without a change to the management or support systems within the centre. On an interim basis, I have taken on some extra responsibilities to provide some extra help and support to the team. We are undergoing strategic planning and I look forward to seeing how the project evolves in the coming years.

Verity Smith
Police Accountability Solicitor



“it is self-evident that organisations cannot conduct independent investigations into themselves

The Age Editorial, 3rd April 2018

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS



“

It is now up to parliamentary leadership to address the institutional conflict of interest that exists in our current police complaint model that causes harm to all Victorians, including its police.

TAMAR HOPKINS



CHALLENGING AND CHANGING THE POLICE COMPLAINTS SYSTEM

A case study in systemic advocacy

For over twenty years Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre has worked toward the legal, cultural and political change needed for Victoria to adopt a fully independent police complaints system.

Since 2014, when the UNHCR handed down its decision on the case of Corinna Horvath we have worked hard to build a sector-wide consensus on the need for change.

In 2016 the Victorian parliament's IBAC Committee agreed to our calls and launched an Inquiry into the External Oversight of Police Misconduct and Corruption in Victoria, which represented the first serious look at how police misconduct is investigated in several decades.

Drawing upon our many years of casework and detailed complaint data captured by our Police Complaints Clinic, our Independent Investigations of Complaints against the Police: Policy Briefing Paper (2017) became the central submission to the Inquiry endorsed by the vast majority of other submissions.

In late 2017 we brought together a network of legal and community partners to coordinate our advocacy surrounding the inquiry. Together we made sure IBAC, key ministers and the public remained very informed of the systemic changes that were needed.



After many months of work with journalists, April 2018 saw avalanche of shocking news stories about the failings of Victoria's police complaints system which shifted both public opinion and government positioning on the issue.

Finally in September 2018 the IBAC Committee released its recommendations that the Victorian Government establish a Police Corruption and Misconduct Division within IBAC to independently and effectively investigate complaints and disclosures about Victoria Police.

The work to shepherd this into legislation lies ahead in 2019.

The Police Complaints clinic

For the past three years the centre has run the Police Accountability and Human Rights Clinic in partnership with the Melbourne University Law School (MLS), as part of its clinical legal education program.

The Clinic operates throughout the university semester providing an accessible, high-quality legal advice, referral and support service. Eight students work on placement each semester providing advice and casework for approximately 150 clients each year.

As Victoria Police are still responsible for investigating the vast majority of police complaints, the substantiation rates for complaints remains very low (around 2% in the last two years). However, we are continuing to see the value of the Clinic's work by looking at the advocacy outcomes.

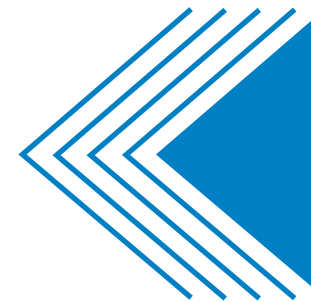
We would like to thank Kate Fischer-Doherty and each of the wonderful interns over the past two semester teams for their ongoing support for the clinic.

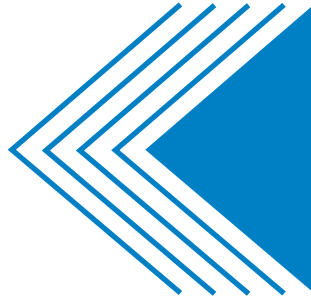
Victoria's first police accountability legal needs analysis

In mid-2017 we received a grant from the University of Melbourne Social Equity Institute allowing us to assess the legal needs arising from unfair police treatment, police misconduct and police corruption in Victoria.

Drawing on data from various legal centres, and Victorian Legal Aid, this report identifies unmet legal needs, highlighted several barriers to accessing justice for victims of police misconduct. We concluded the report with recommendations for improving access to justice for victims of police misconduct.

The paper has been co-authored by Julian McDonald and Daniel Anderson-Luxford, under the supervision of Dr Nesam McMillan at first and then later Dr Diana Johns from the University of Melbourne.





POLICING FAMILY VIOLENCE: CHANGING THE STORY

Since the Family Violence Royal Commission the Victorian Government has committed to substantial improvements into legal system responses to family violence.

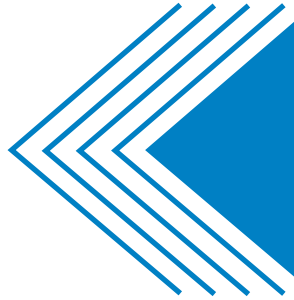
The police response to family violence is recognised as a critical area for reform and improvement. However, while policing of family violence is a focal area of the Royal Commission findings, there are little to no resources allocated for victim/survivors who experience family violence duty failures by police.

Complaining to Victoria Police can be extremely daunting for victims of family violence, who are already at risk as a result of the violence and often already feel like they have not been heard, that they won't be believed, or that they will face retributive charges for complaining.

The pilot phase of the work

Between February and May 2018, our pilot project with Women's Legal Service Victoria (WLSV) and St Kilda Legal Service (SKLS) educated in excess of 100 community lawyers in how best to respond to police duty failures in family violence cases. It also coordinated casework between the three centres for a number of cases where a policing duty failure was an increased risk factor, collated data relating to incorrect policing of family violence as presented to duty lawyers in the Melbourne Magistrates' Court and collated the personal testimony of family violence survivors who have experienced police duty failures. As a result of this work, the project has established clear and evidence-based pathways for best practise in capability building, community legal education, advocacy and policy reform to address the skills and deficits apparent in legal and government responses to family violence





The next phase - Policing family violence: Changing the Story

The next phase of this work is a legal education and advocacy project that will develop capability within the legal sector to address the needs of high risk survivors of family violence, whilst simultaneously advocating for systemic reforms to radically improve the effectiveness of the Family Violence Prevention Act.

Working collaboratively with the Women's Legal Service, Djirra, and Inner Melbourne Community Legal Centre, *Policing Family Violence: Changing the Story* will create the capability for lawyers to address the failings of the current Family Violence Intervention Order system in Victoria where police are not adequately fulfilling their responsibilities, and advocate for systemic reforms to prevent police duty failures in the future.

Although most people have a negative experience with the complaints system, with the vast majority of complaints coming back unsubstantiated, some clients manage to achieve outcomes where police admitted wrongdoing. We have included a few of those cases below.

CASE STUDIES FROM THE POLICE COMPLAINTS CLINIC

Assaulted whilst seeking protection - Brittany Smith*

Britany and her friend called the police after Britany had refused to leave her friend's house because her children were asleep. Police had treated Britany incredibly poorly after previous calls like this.

Due to this history, Brittany decided to run to another house in the hope of protecting herself from the police. She was aware that a police officer lived in this house, so she knocked on his door.

He yelled at her in response, so she began to run away. He assaulted her.

After leaving the hospital she attended the local police station to report the officer's actions. When she arrived, she was informed that he had filed an Intervention Order against her, and had reported her for assault. During her statement, Brittany was interrupted multiple times and treated inappropriately. Our client made

a complaint to the IBAC, which was then passed back to the PCU, who determined that the complaint did not warrant investigation. The investigating officer made statements that the local police station was refusing to co-operate or provide him with the relevant documents.

Eventually, Britany's attacker was charged with assault over this incident. The IBAC found that the officers involved were not adequately investigated at the time.

Captured on a GoPro - Aamir Sheik*

Aamir was riding his motorcycle down a main road when he was pulled over by an undercover police car after exiting. He had not, until that time, seen or heard the police siren because of the noise of the motorcycle and his helmet. The client admits that he was speeding, and promptly paid the fine, but denies that he was trying to evade the police in anyway. On the side of the road, the officer assaulted our client. The officer continued to be verbally abusive towards our client during the course of their interaction. This was all captured by the client's GoPro camera that happened to be mounted to the motorcycle.

After the incident, our client was shocked, distressed, and lost confidence in and respect for the police. He immediately attended his GP who advised that he address his heightened blood pressure and anxiety due to the incident as these posed significant risks to his health due to his diabetes.

A complaint was made to PCU on behalf of our client, alleging three counts of police misconduct. Victoria Police opened a formal investigation into the matter. As a result of the investigation, the allegations of assault and use of abuse language were substantiated. One officer received an admonishment, while the other less involved officer was given workplace guidance. Both officers admitted to wrongdoing. The client was very pleased with the outcome of the investigation, and was considering pursuing civil action to assist with medical bills he obtained after suffering a stress related heart attack he attributes to the incident.

Calling for mental health assistance - Logan Martin*

Logan, our client, returned to his home one evening to find that his housemate had locked himself in his room and was threatening to commit suicide. After he called an ambulance, multiple police cars arrived at the house.

The officers were aggressive in their communication with the roommate and our client, yelling and swearing at him. One female officer was willing to talk appropriately with our client. While she was explaining to Logan that they had entered the house due to fear for the housemate's safety, the other officers continued to yell and swear at him. Logan was pushed and verbally abused continually. He was able to capture some of the abuse on a camera attached to his glasses.

Logan was traumatised by the event and has suffered nightmares since. We submitted a complaint to the Police Conduct Unit (PCU) alleging five instances of police misconduct. Victoria Police decided to open a formal investigation and, after a lengthy delay, determined that there was 'no complaint' in regards to the allegations of assault, the allegation of a breach of the Mental Health Act was 'not substantiated', and the allegation of use of obscene language was 'substantiated'. In response to the substantiated allegation, 'management action [was] taken to prevent similar situations from occurring.'

The length of the process understandably frustrated Logan, and only the least significant of the claims was substantiated. He also felt that no operational, procedural or systemic change was made to prevent the behaviour reoccurring.

*Please note that names have been changed.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all of our volunteers who give up their valuable time to contribute to our casework and administration; we wouldn't be able to operate without them. Thanks to Dr Nesam McMillan and Diana Johns for their time and valuable feedback in supervision of my grant project and also thanks to Daniel Anderson-Luxford for his copious work in writing the report. We would also like to thank Tamar Hopkins, Sophie Ellis and Charandev Singh for their support and contribution to our casework and practice.



Bringing young people to the front: The Peer Advocacy Team

The Peer Advocacy Team actively reach out to and support young people who have been impacted by discriminatory and unlawful police contact and abuse.

The Team consists of *Peer Advocacy Coordinator* Deng Maleek, who supports 8-12 young peer advocates. The team of young people have shown extraordinary initiative and leadership educating their communities about police encounters and encouraging participation in individual and collective anti-discrimination efforts.

The program's core strategies include assertive outreach and empowering peer-led workshops, forums and events, transformational relationships, and providing concrete support to young people to address discrimination. These strategies are built on the importance of developing a strengths-based, pro-social support network for young people and to centre young people's voices and experiences in wider efforts to address discrimination.

The program recognises the wider experience of racialised media narratives and societal discrimination and its' exclusionary and health impacts upon individuals and communities.

Evaluation of the Peer Advocacy Team over 2017-2018 has highlighted the value and uniqueness of this project, which has drawn significant praise from many quarters.

This project has been proudly supported to date by:

The Funding Network,
The 6A Foundation
The Reichstein Foundation,
The Gailey/Lazarus Charitable Foundation
The Hantomeli Foundation,
The English Family Foundation,
The Hart Line Fund,
The Assia Altman Fund,
The Ronald and Mary Henderson Fund
Australian Communities Foundation
cohealth – Arts Generator Project

Trainings, forums and workshops

In small teams, peer educators organised "Know your rights/Tell your story: Say no to Racial Profiling" sessions to young people from Indigenous and migrant backgrounds throughout metropolitan Melbourne.

Know your rights workshops and training events have been held in Footscray (ASRC centre) Yarra City (Fitzroy town hall), North Melbourne, (Bunckle Street YMCA hub), Sunshine (Visy Hub), Dandenong (YSAC), Flemington and Kensington (Kensington town hall).

In October 2017, Barry and Deng conducted a presentation at Victoria University, in Footscray to over 40 students on the topic of Racial profiling, and the work of the police Accountability project in relation to unit 'Construction of deviance, crime and social control'.



The Peer Advocacy and popular education model



photo credit: Charandev Singh



In November 2017, Deng provided training to youth workers and lawyers at the Youth Practice Forum, organised by the Police Accountability Project.

Due to the nature of the team's speciality and unique role member so of the Peer Advocacy Team are invited to speak at large, well-attended public events on a regular basis.

Deng and Sadjia presented at the large Progress Australia Conference in June 2017 on the Power + Diversity panel. In February, 2018, Deng presented at the Maribyrnong Youth Services Forum in Footscray.

In March 2018 Deng presented at and ran a workshop at an event *African Australian Communities: Challenges and Opportunities*, a forum in partnership with Victoria Police, Leadership Victoria and the University of Melbourne, and the African Think Tank.

Other forums the team participated in included the Black Lives Matter march against criminalization of African communities in April 2018 and the Smart Justice, "We Must Stand Together" forum held at the Footscray Community Arts Centre in May 2018.

'Where Are We heading? Q and A for the racialized & criminalised communities' held on the afternoon of Saturday 28th April 2018, was an attempt to not only answer these questions, but provide

opportunities for impacted communities to access valuable strategies to build resilience and access justice.

Organised by the Peer Advocacy Team and attended by over 120 people, the forum created an opportunity to learn from First Nations' People and from one another to explore survival mechanisms for social justice.

Presenters spoke about the adverse effects of negative media framing and racialized policies on targeted communities who are already facing systemic challenges and the responsibility to address these challenges together.

The forum was supported by **cohealth Arts Generator**, helping us with catering and remuneration for each of the performers.



WHERE ARE WE HEADING?
Q AND A FOR THE RACIALIZED AND CRIMINALISED COMMUNITIES.

28 APRIL 2018
12PM - 4PM

KENSINGTON TOWN HALL
22 BELLAIR STREET,
KENSINGTON VIC

Free event and Lunch provided

For catering purposes & questions contact Deng

✉ youthofficer@fkcc.org.au

☎ 0434 442 466

🌐 <https://www.facebook.com/police-accountabilityvic/?ref=bookmarks>

🌐 www.policeaccountability.org.au



Peer Advocacy Video project

In a short advocacy video released by team in October 2017, six young people from our Peer Advocacy Team bravely talk about the impacts of racial profiling for themselves, their friends and communities, and call for Victoria Police and the Victorian Parliament to monitor and stamp out the practice. The video received over 15,000 views online and a Facebook reach of 30,381 people.

This one and half minute video took over 6 months to create. The script was workshopped by the Peer Advocacy Team members in meetings and training's throughout May, June, and July and in online conversations until a script was eventually drafted. We wanted it to contain all the basic impacts of racial profiling and reflect our key asks of the Without Suspicion campaign. We wanted it to truthfully reflect the experiences of young people and their friends and speak truth in the face of the overwhelming bias and harmful stereotypes in the media.

It is viewable online at <https://vimeo.com/239227645>



Media and public advocacy

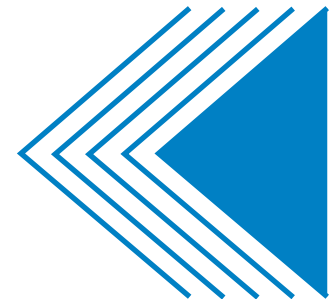
The team also took part on a huge range of media advocacy over the year, conducting multiple interviews for mainstream statewide and national media outlets, producing radio shows, podcasts and participating in community media projects.

Over the past 12 months the Peer Advocacy Team have held strategic meetings with numerous Ministers and Shadow Ministers, parliamentary advisors, the Race Discrimination Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners and Commanders of Victoria Police and multiple others, bring the voice of young people impacted by racialized and discriminatory policing directly to decision-makers.

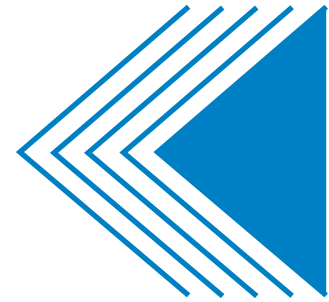


Project development and expansion

Evaluation of the Peer Advocacy Team over 2017-2018 has recommended an expansion of the program due to its unique and significant impact. The project has received praise and support from numerous agencies and community organisations and we hope to build upon this support with new partnership with **cohealth**, (Prevention and Population Health Team), and the integration and expansion of the peer advocacy team to provide greatly enhanced outreach and engagement, and to provide a pathway for more young people to become peer advocates.



Without Suspicion: The campaign to end racial profiling in Victoria



The Without Suspicion campaign is working to end racial profiling by Police in Victoria, using an integrated strategy of political advocacy and law reform work, targeted media and communications, strategic litigation and community organising.

Without Suspicion incorporates the work of the Police Accountability Project (PAP) team; CEO Anthony Kelly, PAP Senior Litigation Solicitor Verity Smith, who joined the team in 2018, Police Complaints Clinic solicitor Julian McDonald, Peer Advocacy Coordinator Deng Maleek Deng, with advocacy and law reform work coordinated by Lauren Caulfield.

In 2017, Erin Buckley joined the team on a short-term contract to pilot the family violence police accountability work, including the interface between duty failures, racialised policing and police complaints.

The 2017-18 period saw Victoria Police work move into Phase 3 of the Equality Is Not The Same (ENS) Action Plan, developed in response to and following on from the settlement of the FKCLC Haile Michael Federal Court case. Pursuing the full and best practice implementation of the ENS commitments remains central to the work of the Without Suspicion campaign.

Over the period this has entailed monitoring and engagement with the Chief Commissioner's Human Rights Advisory Group, Meetings directly with senior command, submissions and

targeted correspondence, generating and supporting community advocacy with Victoria Police regarding their commitments to end racial profiling.

At the launch of the 'Monitoring Racial Profiling' report in December 2017, the Without Suspicion campaign generated numerous pieces of media coverage, including television, print and radio coverage discussing Victoria Police's commitments, and prompting Victoria Police media department to issue a press release on their position.



Police Stop Data Expert Working Group

During this period the Police Stop Data Expert Working Group completed and published the 'Monitoring Racial Profiling' report, the first of its ilk in Australia, providing expert investigation into best practice data collection schemes internationally, and a series of key recommendations for implementation by Victoria Police.

Experts from the working group have presented the findings publicly at a number of events, including youth justice sector campaign forums, conferences, and numerous community workshops and fora as well as provided comment to media outlets both here and interstate.

Together with the public report launch, Without Suspicion drove an e-letter campaign that saw several hundred letters directed to the Chief Commissioner and PCD, calling for ethnicity data collection to prevent racial profiling.

In response to this and ongoing advocacy for ethnicity data collection, Victoria Police have recently established the Transparency and Accountability Monitoring Group (TAM), which is the forum through which Victoria Police have stipulated that approaches and pathways to data collection will be determined. In itself this represent a very real step toward Victoria Police implementing one of our key advocacy goals.

Countering racist media narratives

The last three years of extraordinary toxic media, public and online commentary has been 'supercharged with racism' and has shifted the political focus towards more punitive law and order rhetoric and policy announcements.

In this new context we had faced enormous difficulty gaining traction and support within parliament for our legislative goals and we have had to spend enormous energy countering the worst aspects of the racialized crime panic.

This overarching moral panic is complicated and challenging to counter, and in turn influences and further drives the racialised policing of young people.

Despite our limited capacity, we have managed to carry out a range of public, media and advocacy interventions on current staff time including advocacy surrounding the misuse of crime statistics, submissions to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration in order to influence the outcomes and shape the dissenting reports, produce a widely shared guide for journalists and interviews with a huge array of state, national and international media.

Direct support work for targeted individuals and communities

Providing meaningful support for individual and communities remains a core focus of Without Suspicion work – both in order to support people in seeking accountability and remedies in regards to specific incidents, and to guide and drive systemic advocacy, campaign and law reform work.

In this period our Police Complaints Advice Clinic and advocacy team coordinated to provide rapid response direct support work for individuals and communities targeted by racialised policing.

Key examples of the types of support work include:

- a) Providing rapid response to a family subject to excessive force in a police raid, including referrals to criminal advice, direct Victoria Police chain-of-command advocacy to minimise harm to family.
- b) Providing centre-based legal observers to attend a controversial

Strategic litigation

Strategic litigation remains a key tactic in our campaign to tackle racialised policing – at the systemic level as a tool to drive policy and practical change in Victoria Police through the litigation outcomes itself, via coverage and commentary of the cases, and at the individual level, to deliver meaningful outcomes for people who have been targeted. Over this period of the Without Suspicion work there has been five strategic litigation files concerning racially discriminatory treatment currently running, and at various stages in the legal process.

event by right-wing commentator Milo Yiannopolous held in the local area. Support included attendance and legal observation, follow-up client work – complaints support, evidence-gathering, attendance at local PS, criminal legal support referrals, outreach/community meetings and gathering of testimonial evidence of racialised policing, meetings and advocacy with Victoria Police. Broader advocacy follow-up included coordinating community support, media commentary and comment and analysis of police conduct.

- c) Rapid response, assistance and referrals in instances of racial profiling

More generally, the project continues to provide legal information, support and advice, referrals and complaints assistance to individuals and communities impacted by racial profiling and racist policing.

To build momentum for both legislative and policy changes to tackle racial profiling we have been briefing and holding meetings with a range of parliamentarians and advisors including the Minister for Youth Affairs, the Special Minister of State, advisors to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, and meetings with MPs holding shadow youth and crime portfolios.

Lauren Caulfield,
Advocacy & Law Reform Officer

Stop and Search Receipting

In mid-2018, Victoria Police announced the roll-out of a ‘business card’ trial in Victoria for all people stopped by police members to be given a business card providing a record of the stop. As it stands these business cards will do little as an accountability or anti-racial profiling measure,

Victoria Police renewed their policy commitments against racial profiling in this period in response to the work of the Without Suspicion campaign, and the launch of the Monitoring Racial Profiling report.

In response to the wave of campaign-initiated media in April 2018 regarding police misconduct, and the revelations about corruption and racially abusive behaviour by Senior Victoria Police Ethical Standards staff, IBAC commenced Operation Turin to investigate the behaviour by Brett Guerin, with findings and recommendations (including for potential policy change to tackle systemic racism in Victoria Police) due later in 2018.

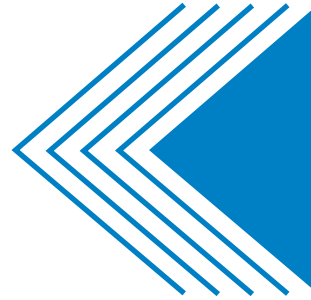
Our well-established community relationships and campaign networks mean that we are able to follow this up with expert comment, lobbying and advocacy, and deliver targeted pressure despite the smallness of our team.

Our sustained advocacy and media communication work shone a light on systemic racism by Victoria Police, police misconduct issues and bias in the complaints system, to develop new levels of public momentum for systemic reform. Simultaneously, we have been a lead voice resource and support for those speaking out against the intense racialized media narrative and the societal harms.

We now have Victoria Police planning to pilot stop and search data collection and have established the working group to implement it. This, together with political pressure focused on building an independent police complaints system has the campaign in the strongest position to date.



photo credit:
Charandev Singh



Administration and finance

Another year has passed and we are all getting a year older with a little bit more life experience. This time of year we also stand back and look at how we have operated over the last 12 months. Our centre received recurrent funding from the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Victoria. These funds are distributed by Victoria Legal Aid to all Victorian Community Legal Centres on a quarterly basis.

Apart from our recurrent funding, we also received grants and donations from other organisations and private donors in support of our projects. The board and staff at the centre are deeply appreciative of these generous grants and donations.

Anything that involves numbers I enjoy tackling, there are times when I wonder how we were able to bring it to a balanced. At times it can bring on a slight headache to achieve that balanced. Apart from preparing financial reports I also undertake admin duties such as receptions, supporting volunteers, go to person when other staff members are not in the office, process incoming and outgoing mail or emails, monitoring interpreter funds and data entry for Community Legal Assistance Services System (CLASS).

In late May 2018, I participated in Web seminars for Community Legal

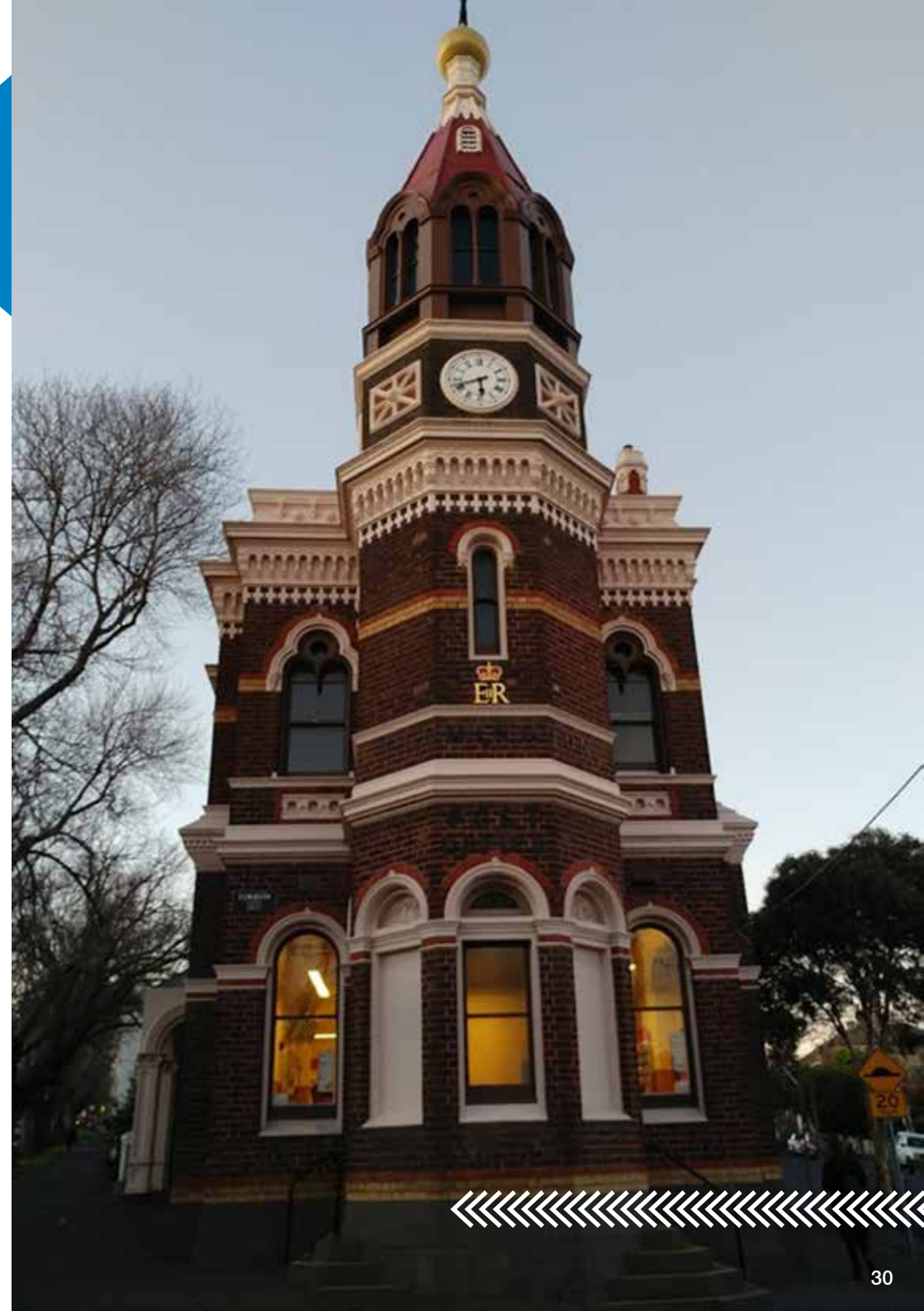
Assistance Services System (CLASS) Reports and Accountability database for administrators hosted by National Association of Community Legal Centres. As this is a new program and not all the reports and accountability are available so I still not familiar with and still learning day by day.

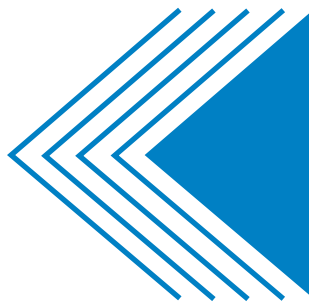
Our centre continues to appreciate monthly donations: G. Nihill, K. Richardson, A. Dale, E. Buckley, M. Singer and K. O'Connor.

Thanks to other individual donors: S. Wilson, G. Osboldstone, N. Syed, A. Simpson, J. Pilgrim, B. Vukovic, W. Theresia, A. Lidders, A. Tong, D. Couch, B. Dodsworth, R. Paterson, R. Young, S. Byard and S. Hall.

Thanks to all Admin and non-Admin Volunteers for their important work and good cheer. Importantly I also need to thank the Committee of Management who have spent valuable time and skill to volunteer and help our Centre. Last but not least, thanks to Denise who is still manages to obtain good quality stationery on her regional op-shop stationery collection drives to donate to the centre.

Thuan Nguyen
Administration and Finance Officer





Office Manager

So much can happen in an organisation such as ours, it continually reacts to influences from the outside. For example there may be a surge in people seeking legal advice regarding infringements, or police complaints. Intake and internal systems to support these enquiries are required. Heather our ever skilled and consistent volunteer continues to provide her warm professional approach for reception duties. For the others days of the week we have recruited and trained up new eager volunteers.

Refining the reception area, intake and referrals has been a focus this year. The new volunteers that have been inducted continue to surprise me, with the range of life skills these students already have acquired so early in their career. As one of the primary staff members that support the day volunteers, we hope that their time here with us is where they feel supported, energised and learn useful legal and advocacy skills. Our volunteer co-ordinators, Ben, Ruth and Megan offered many extra hours towards recruitment, roster juggling and training of new volunteers, and we all appreciate their commitment to this centre.

My two days in the office are often varied for instance; I am called upon to provide front desk support, dabble in accreditation, or sorting out system failures. Given our

somewhat older equipment we often face documents that won't print, or other IT failures. Mid-morning wooden door leading to the back office falls off its hinges. Later that day staff were unable to log onto the server. The following day a filing cabinet became stuck and we were unable to access closed files. A few days later, after a few frustrating attempts, one of our new volunteers unlocked this cabinet. There is always something that requires attention many of my tasks are trouble shooting and providing support to staff and volunteers. Liaising with IT and maintenance staff can be a core role of mine.

Other challenges for the year has been CLASS and staff and volunteers getting used to this new data base. I don't feel that we have managed to set enough time to master this program. CLASS still continues to be restrictive in providing required reports. I would like to thank the volunteer co-ordinators, front desk and admin staff this year. Dan Anderson-Luxford also provided invaluable support and knowledge in drawing together our CLASS statistics for this annual report. Even though we may not work all on the same day together we do seem to keep this very active CLC running without too many major glitches.

Carmen Tommasi
Office Manager



Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2018

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

Income	2018 \$	2017 \$
CLC Recurrent - Commonwealth	115,040	113,068
CLC Recurrent - State	220,232	215,912
Commonwealth VLA - SACS ERO Contribution	11,360	9,280
State VLA - SACS ERO Contribution	53,904	42,560
State VLA - SACS ERO Extra	20,336	17,292
VLA one-off/Innovation Grant	50,286	16,670
CLC Advance carried forward to next year	-	(15,112)
Service Generate Income	3,209	8,322
Interest received	11,311	11,503
Fundraising/Donations	4,101	5,043
Sundry - Salary Recoupment (W/Cover)	45,104	42,560
Other Administration recovery income	19,200	26,783
Other Income	479,495	324,103
	1,033,578	817,984



Expenditure	2018 \$	2017 \$
Amenities	1,206	1,522
Annual Leave Loading	4,197	2,936
ASC Lodgement Fees	114	112
Audit	4,300	4,030
Bank Charges	2,342	2,182
Cleaning	5,060	5,388
Depreciation	2,416	3,658
Electricity, Gas & Fuel	3,994	3,639
Insurance	4,344	5,731
Library & Subscriptions	4,523	4,206
Membership	2,028	500
Migration Agents Certificate	105	105
Minor Equipment Purchases	147	3,897
Other	4,839	7,125
Postage	1,813	2,593
Practising Certificates	469	1,707
Provision for Annual Leave	2,744	17,581
Provision for Long Service Leave	12,813	11,297
Funded Program - Auspicing for Local Group	24,225	47,500
Funded Program - Safe From Harm	61,484	48,719
Funded Program - Without Suspicion	77,880	58,136
Funded Program - PAP Costs Recovered	38,273	34,419
Funded Program - PAP Donation	48,611	19,812
Funded Program - Peers to Peer	64,478	33,381
Funded Program - VLF G15-006 Stopwatch/Without	-	7,749
Funded Program - LSB Police Complaints Clinic	16,945	55,845
Funded Program - Melb Uni Police Complaints Clinic	22,841	-
Funded Program - DoJ Police Complaints Clinic	26,049	-
Funded Program - Family Complaints	30,376	-
Funded Program - Somali Women's Project	20,739	-
Rent	8,100	7,425
Salaries	327,973	278,745
Stationery & Photocopying	14,739	11,676
Superannuation	30,609	26,481
Telephone	10,828	14,677
Training	5,214	2,882
Travel	11,665	9
VLA Innovation Expenses	50,286	16,670
Walk Alongside Program	-	9,322
Work Cover Insurance	1,794	1,563
Work Cover Salary	44,224	42,560
	994,787	795,780
Surplus/(Loss) before income tax	38,791	22,204
Income tax expense	-	-
Surplus/(Loss) after income tax	38,791	22,204
Retained Surplus/(Loss) at the beginning of the financial year	119,749	97,545
Retained Surplus/(Loss) at the end of the financial year	158,540	119,749

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Current Assets		
Cash	491,649	644,474
Trade and other receivables	3,516	-
Total Current Assets	495,165	644,474
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	2,300	2,660
Total Non-Current Assets	2,300	2,660
Total Assets	497,465	647,134
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other creditors	39,263	25,281
Amounts received in advance	151,344	354,974
Provisions	127,504	113,464
Total Current Liabilities	318,111	504,719
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	20,814	22,666
Total Non-Current Liabilities	20,814	22,666
Total Liabilities	338,925	527,385
Net Assets	158,540	119,749
Members' Funds		
Retained profits	158,540	119,749
Total Members' Funds	158,540	119,749

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Receipts from government grants (recurrent)	403,906	395,932
Receipts from customers	392,326	561,612
Payments to suppliers and employees	(957,616)	(765,608)
Interest received	10,615	11,503
Net Cash provided by operating activities	(150,769)	203,439
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Payments for purchase of property and equipment	(2,056)	-
Net Cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(2,056)	-
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	(152,825)	203,439
Cash at the beginning of the year	644,474	441,035
Cash at the end of the year	491,649	644,474

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Share Capital \$	Reserves \$	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2016	-	-	97,545	97,545
Surplus attributable to the entity		-	22,204	22,204
Other comprehensive income		-	-	-
Shares issued	-			-
Balance at 30 June 2017	-	-	119,749	119,749
Surplus attributable to the entity			38,791	38,791
Other comprehensive income		-	-	-
Shares issued/(forfeited)	-			-
Balance at 30 June 2017	-	-	158,540	158,540

FLEMINGTON KENSINGTON COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC.
ABN 38 029 753 353

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2018

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

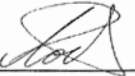
In the opinion of the committee of Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre Inc.:

a) the financial statements and notes of Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre Inc. are in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 30 June 2018 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- ii. complying with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 ; and

b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.


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


Chairperson

JOA TOWNSEND

Dated: 2/10/18

Dated:


Treasurer

NIMER GURLEHEN

Dated: 01/10/2018

FLEMINGTON KENSINGTON COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC.
ABN 38 029 753 353

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

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, as auditor for the audit of Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2018, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

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


Sean Denham

Dated: 8th OCTOBER 2018
Sean Denham & Associates
Suite 1, 707 Mt Alexander Road
Moonee Ponds VIC 3039

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FLEMINGTON KENSINGTON COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC.

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report, of Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre Inc., which comprises the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2018, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows and the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report of Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre Inc. has been prepared in accordance with Div 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b) complies with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) and Div 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

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

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

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

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

Responsibility of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee of the association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 of the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

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

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

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

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


Sean Denham

Dated: 8TH OCTOBER 2018
Suite 1, 707 Mt Alexander Road
Moonee Ponds VIC 3039