




LawRight

Access | Justice

Annual Report 2017-2018

direct.connect



LawRight acknowledges Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander peoples as the
traditional custodians of the
land on which we work.

We pay deep respect to their
elders, past, present and emerging.

We commit to working with First Australians to
improve access to justice and recognise the
strength and expertise of their contribution.

Contents

4	Patron's message
6	LawRight's strategy
8	President's report
9	Joint Directors' report
10	Queensland Legal Walk
12	Red Wine for Justice
13	Friends of LawRight
14	Pro Bono Connect
16	The Disbursement Fund
18	Self Representation Service
20	State Courts Self Representation Service
22	Federal Courts Self Representation Service
24	QCAT Self Representation Service
26	Duty Barrister Service
28	StreetSoccer
30	Outreach Legal Clinics
32	Refugee Civil Law Clinic
34	Cairns HPLC
37	Law Yarn
38	Mental Health Law Practice
40	Health Advocacy Legal Clinic
44	Student clinics
48	Members
50	Supporters and volunteers
52	Staff
53	Management Committee
54	Resources
56	Treasurer's report



“ LawRight’s management, staff and volunteers are to be congratulated for another year’s sterling service, in providing legal assistance and access to justice for those whose means are not sufficient to pay for representation and, as a very beneficial side-effect, in helping the legal system to run more smoothly as a result.



The Honourable Catherine Holmes,
Chief Justice of Queensland
Patron of LawRight

LawRight improves lives of vulnerable people

by increasing access to justice through strategic partnerships with pro bono lawyers

We partner with...

800

lawyers

65

law firms

170

barristers

140

law students

30,000+ pro bono hours

...to locate lawyers in...



hospitals and health services



community



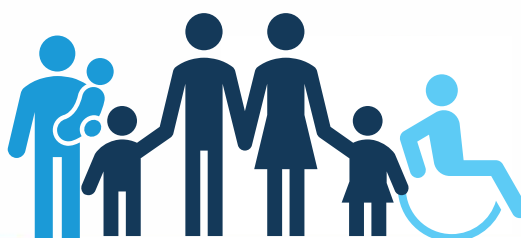
courthouses and tribunals



homelessness services



mental health services



In 2017-18 LawRight helped:



1,865 clients across Queensland

123

people connected to
pro bono help

186

people on mental
health orders

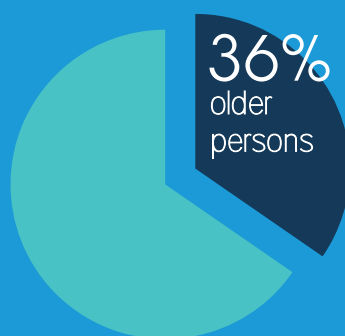
525

people
self-representing

1,025

people at
outreach clinics

including...



117



young persons

300



people with a disability or
mental illness

262



Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander persons

384



people from regional or
remote areas

President's report

I am pleased to present my second report as President of LawRight.

This has been a year of growth for LawRight.

My previous report referred to a sharpening focus on direct fundraising to place LawRight on a more reliable long-term financial footing.

In August 2017, we held the popular Red Wine for Justice fundraising evening. The Legal Walk, held in May 2018, cemented its position as one of the major legal events of the year. The Walk raised a record sum and brought together hundreds of supporters from around the State in a wonderful demonstration of the legal profession's commitment to pro bono legal services. We saw large teams representing the judiciary, the Department of Justice and Attorney General, many solicitors' firms, numerous barristers' chambers, the Queensland Law Society and Bar Association of Queensland. A healthy fundraising rivalry saw some firms and chambers make extraordinary contributions.

This year we also launched the 'Friends of LawRight' initiative, which is a strategic fundraising program, seeking a core group of supporters from across the legal industry who can commit to a significant donation each year for three years. As that program expands, it will reduce our reliance on other funding sources and will help to secure the long-term financial future of LawRight's programs.

I am grateful for the expertise and effort of our Fundraising Committee in developing that program and to the founding 'Friends of LawRight'. **I would encourage any senior lawyer who has not yet joined to do so.**

We have also had the benefit of numerous grants and private donations, which together with membership fees, have made important contributions to LawRight's work. As so much of our funding is provided from government grants we are, of course, grateful for the clear commitment to community legal services provided by both the Attorney General the Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP and the Shadow Attorney General, Mr David Janetzki MP.



Matthew Jones of Counsel

Chair, LawRight Management Committee

LawRight has an enormous supporter base across the community. I commend the solicitors branch and our member firms for their leadership in pro bono work. I am pleased to see so many enthusiastic young solicitors at LawRight events and to see the evidence of senior lawyers' commitment to the cause through the resources they make available to our programs.

I referred last year to my hope that my Presidency would foster an improved level of engagement with barristers. There is no question that many members of the Bar Association care deeply about pro bono work. However, the proportion of practising barristers who join as members and who actively participate in LawRight referrals and programs should be higher. I hope that 2019 sees supportive words converted to more widespread action.

I thank our Patron, the Honourable Catherine Holmes, the Chief Justice of Queensland, who has again supported LawRight in many ways this year.

Our Joint Directors, Sue Garlick and Linda Macpherson, refer in their report to the efforts of staff and volunteers throughout the year. I agree wholeheartedly with their sentiments. I extend particular thanks to the Joint Directors for their continuing strong leadership and industry.

This report is a brief introduction to the annual report. I commend it to you as a comprehensive account of LawRight's activities during 2017-2018.

Joint Directors' report

It is our privilege to acknowledge many champions in a year characterised by change on an unusually high scale, even for LawRight.

Severe funding cuts and the subsequent closure of services, staff farewells and restructures took many months to settle. The closures of our Townsville office, the Toowoomba Homeless Persons' Legal Clinics and LegalPod impacted 20 law firms, regional members of the Bar, LawRight staff and volunteers and hundreds of clients.

The unexpected opportunity to move LawRight's main office to Law Society House was welcome but also disruptive. The change in leadership roles has been smooth but a change nevertheless.



Sue Garlick and Linda Macpherson

LawRight Joint Directors

Through all these challenges and uncertainties, LawRight staff, volunteers and members have continued to drive outstanding outcomes for clients.

In spite of shrinking resources, LawRight delivered 50% more services than anticipated on behalf of our main funder. Stories in this report will assure readers our improved performance is not quantity only, but that LawRight services are characterised by well-designed, integrated, intensive and holistic service delivery and by the collective impact made possible through pro bono partnerships.

30 LawRight member firms and 58 member barristers together with law students and other volunteers contribute an astounding 30,000 hours of pro bono assistance to LawRight clients as well as offering expertise and resources to support LawRight operations. This report demonstrates our members' leadership in pro bono and their humble commitment to the most vulnerable members of our community.

Our strong partnerships with seven Law Schools across Queensland assure us that future lawyers are following this lead. More than 140 law students volunteer or undertake clinical education at LawRight annually.

We acknowledge the outstanding support of volunteer individuals at LawRight, in particular, our Patron, the Honourable Catherine Holmes, the Chief Justice of

Queensland; Margaret McMurdo AC, Patron of the Civil Justice Fund; the flexible Chairs of our Reference Groups – Margaret White AO, Margaret Wilson QC and Marshall Irwin; and the calm expertise of Dan Pennicott, Andrew Buchanan and Kathleen Singleton. We are very encouraged by the support of the founding Friends of LawRight. The LawRight Management Committee are active and generous custodians and we particularly thank Matt for his energy and support.

We appreciate the generous support of the wider legal profession at LawRight events, such as the Legal Walk, Red Wine for Justice and Street Soccer.

Finally we thank LawRight staff for their resilience and support, for being excellent lawyers and humans and for their healthy respect for cake. You are a terrific team to work with.

Together we will continue to meet the challenges in the year ahead, expected and unexpected, with open arms and legal skill.



Queensland Legal Walk

The 11th annual Queensland Legal Walk took place at 7am on Tuesday 15 May 2018 – National Pro Bono Day – as part of Law Week.

Over 1,000 members of the legal profession and community supporters supported the Walk in Brisbane, Toowoomba, the Sunshine Coast, Townsville, Cairns, the Gold Coast and Mackay.

1,000 walkers

7 locations

\$105,000 raised







Red Wine for Justice

The fifth Red Wine for Justice was held on 18 August 2017 and graciously hosted by Herbert Smith Freehills.

Speakers were Christopher Hughes QC, BAQ President and John Lunny, whisky expert. Damien O'Brien QC was the MC and Tyler James of Apollo Auctions donated his time.

Attendees raised over \$25,000 to support LawRight services.



Friends of LawRight

Friends of LawRight make a significant three-year commitment to help restore services impacted by government funding cuts.

22 founding Friends have joined the campaign and enabled us to increase the legal staff at our Health Justice Partnerships (HJPs) at Wuchopperen Health Service in Cairns and Mater Young Adult Health Centre.

We look forward to leveraging this support with the addition of further Friends – please contact LawRight for further details.

Roslyn Atkinson

Thomas Bradley QC

Lucy Bretherton

Andrew Buchanan

Olga Buchanan

Andrew Crowe QC

Matthew Jones

Margaret McMurdo AC

Jennifer McVeigh

Paul Newman

Damien O'Brien QC

Katharine Philp

Majella Pollard

Joanne Rennick

And seven anonymous Friends



Pro Bono Connect

People who are vulnerable and need legal representation for complex legal problems such as elder abuse, contractual agreements and property disputes can apply to Pro Bono Connect. We assess the problem and refer public interest matters to LawRight member firms and barrister for pro bono representation or advice. Members of the Queensland Law Society and Bar Association of Queensland also take referrals for pro bono representation.

Applicants apply online or via application form and many clients are referred by other community legal centres.

This year LawRight received 1,016 applications for legal help. 516 applicants were directed to the Self Representation Service and 279 were considered for possible referral by Pro Bono Connect. Of those, 75 people with public interest matters were referred to LawRight members, 48 people were referred to QLS & BAQ members and 156 were given some advice and referral elsewhere.



This year...

Pro Bono Connect assessed slightly fewer clients this year, but referred a higher proportion of clients. 221 applicants who were clearly ineligible for Pro Bono Connect or the Self Representation Service, were given targeted information and referrals by our triaging lawyer.

LawRight also handled 1,913 phone and email enquiries from potential applicants who were given useful information.

Members who took on pro bono clients

Firms

Allens
Ashurst
Barry.Nillson. Lawyers
Clayton Utz
Colin Biggers and Paisley
Herbert Smith Freehills
Holding Redlich
K & L Gates
Minter Ellison
Roberts and Kane Solicitors
Shine Lawyers
Sparke Helmore Lawyers
TressCox Lawyers
Thornton Legal

Barristers

Carolyn McKeon
Damien O'Brien QC
Douglas Campbell
Emma Hoiberg
Jade Marr
John Hammond
Justin Carter
Matthew Jones
Justin Carter
Melinda Zerner
Mitch Rawlings
Sally Robb
Sean Russell
Stephen Lee
Steven Jones
Toby Nielsen

Common legal issues

- Not-for-profit law
- Refugee & immigration
- Credit and debt
- Government decisions
- Elder abuse
- Property issues
- Consumer issues
- Small business

“The greatest of all was finding a barrister who could give me specialised advice.”

Hopeful for the future

‘It never rains but it pours’ and this clustering of problems is even more apparent when you are already vulnerable. A person who is already experiencing mental illness, disability or domestic violence (or all three), has limited education or fragile relationships will find legal problems are overwhelming. Pro Bono Connect recently referred one such client to a member law firm for pro bono representation when they were being made bankrupt.

With their house about to be repossessed, the law firm will advise and represent the client so they don’t have to deal with the stress alone.

The client told us that getting legal help made them “feel hopeful for the future”.

“ You have a fantastic service, with every staff member I speak to being so helpful to assist my queries. Thanks for assisting those who cannot assist themselves – like me at this point!

“ Our lawyer was so helpful and friendly. She was able to understand the situation, made no judgment, but listened and carried on with the materials provided. This whole matter has been and still is shocking to us.



The Disbursement Fund

The Disbursement Fund offers financial support to clients of community legal centres and pro bono lawyers for expenses associated with their legal case, such as travel, obtaining witness reports, medical reports and filing fees.

This year, the Disbursement Fund granted funds to 22 clients from across Queensland, including Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Mackay, Toowoomba and Townsville.

This year, the Disbursement Fund
helped clients of:

Caxton Legal Centre
Clayton Utz
Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau
Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic
HopgoodGanim Lawyers
Mental Health Civil Law Service
Refugee Civil Law Clinic
Self Representation Service
Suncoast Community Legal Service
Townsville Community Legal Service
The Advocacy and Support Centre

The Disbursement Fund is made possible by
fundraising events such as the Queensland Legal Walk.

Community legal centres and pro bono lawyers who wish to access the Disbursement Fund for their clients, can read the fund's guidelines and apply at www.lawright.org.au.

Finding freedom

Often, the Disbursement Fund helps to pay for little things that make a big difference. When Ndaya was just 11, she was acquired as a sex slave in an African country. At 13, she was 'given' for marriage, had several children and was subjected to serious and ongoing sexual, verbal and physical abuse. Eventually, the family ended up in a refugee camp before migrating to Australia.

Ndaya separated from her husband but they remained living under the same roof. The abusive nature of the relationship continued, and the client obtained DVOs.

Ndaya could not obtain a copy of the marriage certificate. Pro bono lawyers helped her to apply for nullity, rather than divorce, based on Ndaya's age at the time of the marriage.

Support from the Disbursement Fund enabled Ndaya to pay the filing fee for her annulment.

Ndaya was very relieved to receive with the outcome and she is now ready to focus on her children and their future.



Self Representation Service



People who have a civil law dispute in courts or tribunals but can't afford a lawyer are at a grave disadvantage as they try to navigate complex procedures. The dispute which brought them to court often threatens their housing, their income, their health or their basic rights. The Self Representation Service supports people who are representing themselves.

Volunteer lawyers explain options and procedures and prepare litigants for hearings. Member barristers provide opinions on prospects and assistance to draft pleadings. LawRight staff intake and assess files, coordinate appointments and help clients to keep on track in between appointments.

We helped people self-representing in:

- District Court
- Supreme Court
- Court of Appeal
- Federal Circuit Court
- Federal Court
- Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal



Lawyers from 26 member law firms helped us provide more than 400 appointments, 800 advices and 300 legal tasks. Volunteer barristers assisted with advice on prospects and drafting pleadings.

This year...

Court proceedings can be the most complex and risky legal matters. Through ten years of experience operating the Self Representation Service, we have identified that the best way to assist is to give intensive support to the most vulnerable people.

"People diverted from legal proceedings" includes people who settled their cases and people we advised to discontinue proceedings. A large proportion of people took that advice.

We assist clients to resolve their dispute without proceeding to trial where it is appropriate.

Our pro bono mediator schemes in the State and Federal Courts have increased access to mediation, and our duty lawyer and barrister schemes provide one-off representation at critical stages of proceedings.

Self Representation Service in the State Courts

143

new clients

55

people diverted
from court

We delivered:

350 advices

18 referrals for pro bono
help or advice

131 legal tasks

Partner firms

Allens
Ashurst
Barry.Nilsson. Lawyers
Bartley Cohen
Clayton Utz
Cooper Grace Ward
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Crown Law
DLA Piper Australia
K&L Gates
King & Wood Mallesons
McCullough Robertson
McInnes Wilson
MinterEllison
MurphySchmidt Solicitors

Common legal issues

- small business and commerce
- corporate and consumer complaints
- credit and debt negotiation
- property disputes
- defamation
- other civil matters



“A really good result...

Several years ago, Thomas started a business partnership with a friend for the breeding and sale of horses. The relationship between the parties deteriorated over a dispute about the time and cost each party was investing into the partnership and what the next steps should be.

Thomas' finances and mental health were strained as the dispute remained unresolved, so Thomas commenced proceedings.

Unable to afford private legal representation, Thomas was forced to represent himself.

Unaware of the appropriate court rules or procedure, Thomas commenced three separate proceedings in the Supreme and District Court, which were dismissed.

Thomas then commenced a fourth proceeding, appealing the previous decisions to the Court of Appeal. At this point, Thomas was referred to LawRight by court staff.

LawRight provided advice to Thomas about his situation and assisted him to understand the court process and the options he may have to pursue the matter.

During an appointment, LawRight assisted Thomas to negotiate with the other side and reach an agreement for the Court of Appeal proceedings to be dismissed with no order as to costs, and for the parties to attend mediation.

LawRight obtained a pro bono mediator to conduct the mediation. Given Thomas' mental state, the complexity of the matter and the significant stress he was experiencing in representing himself, LawRight also arranged for a law firm to provide Thomas with pro bono representation at the mediation.

At mediation, Thomas reached a settlement with the other party. Thomas told LawRight that resolving the matter at mediation was a 'really good result' and that he was very appreciative of the assistance of LawRight and the pro bono firm.

Self Representation Service in the Federal Courts

247

new clients

152

appointments

48

people diverted
from court

Common legal issues

- Unpaid wages & entitlements
- Judicial review
- Asylum seekers & migration
- Bankruptcy
- Enforcing decisions
- Unlawful termination of employment

Partner firms

Ashurst
Clayton Utz
Clyde & Co Australia
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Hall & Wilcox
HopgoodGanim
King & Wood Mallesons
McCullough Robertson
McInnes Wilson
MinterEllison
Piper Alderman
Sparke Helmore Lawyers
Wotton + Kearney
MurphySchmidt Solicitors

42 Fair Work settlement conferences

were conducted by 17 volunteer mediators:

Joe O'Hare
George Kalimnios
Stephen Lee
Rob Stevenson
Angela Hellewell
Farley Tolpen
Kirsty Petersen
Reimen Hii
Chris Lenz
Matt Jones
Shane O'Connor
Lynette Vanderstoep

Half reached settlement. In the other half, the issues in dispute were identified, which facilitated legal proceedings.

Protecting young employees

Younger workers can be particularly vulnerable to underpayment of wages.

David was a 17-year-old apprentice chef who was underpaid. He managed to get an order from the Federal Circuit Court requiring his former employer to pay, but he needed help to enforce that order.

David's mother acted as his litigation guardian and encouraged David to seek help from LawRight's Self Representation Service to enforce the judgment debt.

We advised David about the enforcement process and prepared a letter of demand to his former employer.

David sent the letter to his former boss, who paid the debt soon afterwards.

**David was happy he did not have to return to court
to enforce his right to receive his wages.**

Enforcing rights at work

Andrew was working in sales and complained to his boss about a lack of training and unreasonable workloads. He was then sacked. Andrew made a complaint to the Fair Work Commission alleging that his employment was terminated in breach of the general protection provisions of the Fair Work Act.

Andrew asked LawRight for advice and assistance to commence proceedings in the Federal Circuit Court. Our volunteer lawyers advised Andrew, and helped him draft court documents and prepare for a hearing.

With our help, Andrew reached an agreement with his former employer and discontinued proceedings by consent, without costs.

“These services must continue to be supported to greatly assist the judicial system's ongoing mission of providing better access to our world-class justice system... for everyday Australians.

Self Representation Service in QCAT

126

new clients

116

appointments

11

people diverted
from QCAT

In the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, we focus on the human rights jurisdiction and appeals in any of these areas.

Common legal issues

- Guardianship & administration
- Child safety
- Blue Card reviews
- Anti-discrimination
- Right to information
- Victim assist
- Appeals in these areas

Partner firms

Clayton Utz
Cooper Grace Ward
Energex
K&L Gates LLP
Lander & Rogers
McCullough Robertson Lawyers
McInnes Wilson Lawyers
MinterEllison
Murphy Schmidt Solicitors
Shine Lawyers
Sparke Helmore Lawyers
TressCox Lawyers

QCAT Duty Lawyer Service

When legal problems are caused or aggravated by family violence...

The QCAT Duty Lawyer Service offers free legal advice and one-off representation to people involved in matters being heard in QCAT, where that matter has been caused or aggravated by family violence.

- advice and representation with tenancy and minor debt hearings, and child protection or Blue Card directions hearings at drop-in sessions;
- compulsory conferences and hearings outside of drop-in times.

After securing funding in late 2017, LawRight worked with OCAT, the Queensland Law Society and other stakeholders to develop a duty lawyer service in to provide representation to parties impacted by family violence, allowing the service to commence operations in the 2018-19 financial year.

Working with stakeholders

Decisions about Blue Cards impact people's income, wellbeing and legal rights.

We engaged with Blue Card Services to encourage more referrals.

This led to a greater than 80% increase in the number of applicants seeking legal help with Blue Card matters.

The Self Representation Service can provide ongoing assistance to applicants who are seeking to review a Blue Card related decision in QCAT. These review proceedings involve a number of steps, and applicants often report feeling overwhelmed by the process. The Service aims to empower these applicants to self-represent, assisting them from behind the scenes.

We plan to replicate this engagement with other stakeholders to strengthen referral pathways and achieve more positive outcomes for vulnerable Queenslanders.

“The lawyers always made themselves available and nothing was ever too much of a big deal.
I would definitely recommend LawRight to other people, and have done so already.





Enforcement Hearing Duty Barrister Service

The Enforcement Hearing Duty Lawyer Service offers free legal advice and one-off representation to enforcement debtors attending an enforcement hearing. On the morning of the enforcement hearing, with the assistance of volunteer lawyers and barristers, LawRight:

- gives clients legal advice about the dispute, court processes and other options for the resolution of their dispute;
- assists to complete court forms; and
- represents clients at the enforcement hearing.

After an initial pilot in 2016, the service re-commenced operations on 16 May 2018 and assisted 9 clients in its 6 weeks of operation before the end of financial year.

Thank you...

to the barristers, lawyers and stakeholders who have attended training, appeared for clients and participated in appointments for these services





The 6th annual Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic StreetSoccer Tournament received great feedback from the community sector. All teams competed enthusiastically, and the spirit of social inclusion that we feel every year in this tournament continues.

**Together, we raised around \$ 3,300 for
The Big Issue and the Legal Clinics.**

This money ensures that the Big Issue can continue to operate its Street Soccer Program for vulnerable community members. Thank you to Lady Bowen Trust for providing a small grant and to Clayton Utz for catering.





Outreach Legal Clinics

The Outreach Legal Clinics respond to the many unrecognised and unaddressed legal problems faced by people experiencing extreme hardship and vulnerability. People experiencing or at risk of homelessness, newly arrived Australians and people under community mental health orders need better access to housing, income and their legal rights; and improved health and well-being.

Outreach Legal Clinics tailor holistic, intensive and collaborative legal services to disrupt cycles of disadvantage.

456

new clients given
ongoing legal help

90

drop-in advices

400

volunteer lawyers

Partner firms

Ashurst
MurphySchmidt
Allens
Holding Redlich
King & Wood Mallesons
MinterEllison
Clayton Utz
McCullough Robertson
Herbert Smith Freehills
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
DLA Piper

Connections

Micah Projects
Community
Footprints
BYS
3rd Space
OzCare
Roma House (Mission Australia)
Multicultural Development Association
Open Minds
Salvation Army
Encircle

The Outreach Legal Clinics include:

- Homeless Persons' Legal Clinics
- Refugee Civil Law Clinic
- Outreach Legal Clinic
(phone-based clinic to vulnerable suburban communities)

We helped clients resolve over
\$ 300,000 of debt.

This year...

We closed legal clinics at Townsville, Toowoomba and Pindari Women's Hostel due to funding cuts.

Making your own decisions

Having the autonomy to make your own decisions about your health and finances can be an important part of your identity.

When Josh first came to see us at a LawRight legal clinic, he faced a number of challenges: he was a homeless young person, had a history of mental illness, had difficulty reading or writing and had a physical disability arising from an abusive childhood. He was also under an Administration Order.

Josh had been working closely with his support team to improve his life and independence. He was distressed about decisions the Public Trustee had made about his money, and he wanted our help to apply to have his administration order reviewed.

Josh's volunteer lawyers gave him advice about the process, explained what he would need to show the Tribunal and helped him write his application.

With our help Josh could show that he had the capacity to make his own financial decisions and now manages his own finances. He is paying his bills on time and saving to buy a house.

“LawRight volunteers helped me to understand my rights.
Things have been going really, really good.”



Refugee Civil Law Clinic

36

clients
represented

6

drop-in advices

Refugees and recent arrivals often face significant barriers when accessing our legal system as they reestablish their lives in Australia.

They may be unfamiliar with the bureaucratic nature of our legal system, have previously experienced persecution, injustice and corruption by those in power, and experience practical barriers to addressing legal issues, such as language and cultural barriers.

We partner with Corrs Chambers Westgarth to connect clients of the Multicultural Development Agency to support this vulnerable client group.

Insurance hassles resolved

Astur was being chased for over \$60,000 in claims by two separate parties following a car accident.

As a young refugee mother with no insurance, newly arrived from Eritrea and relying solely on a Centrelink benefit as her income, Astur spoke no English and her legal matters were causing her significant confusion and distress.

With the assistance of her MDA caseworker, we assisted Astur to respond to the claims against her, ensuring that both claims were discontinued. This had a significant positive impact on Astur and she is no longer scared about debt collectors chasing her.

Astur is now doing well and raising her young family.

Astur's caseworker explained that LawRight gave the family 'the opportunity to spend the limited income they receive from Centrelink on their children.

“ LawRight's help gave the family the opportunity to spend the limited income they receive from Centrelink on their children.

- Astur's caseworker

Drowning in debt

Poverty and disadvantage can leave you in a state of despair, unable to pay basic living expenses. Financial pressures in turn make you vulnerable to financial or credit providers that target the disadvantaged, imposing high credit costs and generating insurmountable debt.

Janet was having a tough time – recovering from a significant injury meant she was unable to work. Unable to work, she couldn't afford food for her kids. Drowning in debt, her mental health was deteriorating.

Her community worker had connected clients to LawRight often through a phone-based legal service, which enables the client to phone from home, have the worker with them during the appointment and access relevant documents easily. The worker knows her clients would not otherwise connect to lawyers.

They called LawRight together and over time, Janet's volunteer lawyer resolved over \$20,000 worth of debt, allowing Janet to focus on her and her family's wellbeing.

With her debts resolved, Janet has experienced a remarkable change in her mental health and is no longer on anti-depressants.

She feels strong and supported. The future looks a little brighter!

“ It is an amazing feeling being able to prioritise feeding my kids over paying off all these debts.

My volunteer lawyer took an immense weight off my shoulders and I may not have still been here if not for her.

Cairns

393

clients

Since 2014, our Cairns LawRight service has aimed to reach those most in need of legal assistance and least likely to access it, by embedding itself full-time in the homelessness sector and doing strategic outreach to respected community organisations.

We gratefully acknowledge our pro bono partners:

Shine Lawyers, Miller Harris, MacDonnells Law and Maurice Blackburn

as well as numerous law students, graduates and recently admitted lawyers without whom we could not have ably assisted so many clients in our Cairns Homeless Hub clinic this year.

Cairns Homelessness Service Hub

We are generously hosted by the Cairns Homelessness Service Hub at the goodwill of Anglicare North Queensland, which saw an opportunity to partner with LawRight to bring power to their work to improve the lives of those facing or at risk of homelessness.

The arrangement begets opportunities for collaboration for the benefit of our client group far and above a visiting outreach model.

263

services
delivered

Wuchopperen Health Service

Since its inception in March 2016, LawRight's health justice partnership with Wuchopperen Health Service has pioneered best practice legal service delivery to disadvantaged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. With the health gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians largely a factor of social determinants such as poverty, housing and social exclusion, the Wuchopperen HJP aims to improve health outcomes through legal advocacy. By consciously partnering with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisation, engaging the Wuchopperen Elders Committee, and being staffed by respected Torres Strait lawyer Donnella Mills, the legal service harnesses the strength and knowledge within those communities to deliver outcomes which reach beyond individual clients, aiming to enhance access to legal rights and early intervention at a community level.

At the outset of 2017/18 the health justice partnership faced funding uncertainty causing it to close its doors for a period. The Queensland Government then saw an opportunity to invest in a model with potential learnings across the legal assistance sector. We look forward to the release of a comprehensive evaluation in 2018/19.

149

services
delivered

Douglas House

The Legal Clinic at Douglas House began in January 2015 to respond to the legal needs of chronically homeless tenants of Mission Australia's supported accommodation house in Cairns.

In addition to a background of long-term rough-sleeping, residents of Douglas House are typically Indigenous, generally experiencing disability and/or mental health issues and alcohol dependence, and frequently cycling through the criminal justice system, resulting in multiple overlapping legal issues and limited capacity to negotiate solutions.

Among other legal issues, LawRight has assisted a number of chronically ill clients with end-of-life planning, and connected clients to the Public Trustee and other agencies where necessary. Recently LawRight and Mission Australia have collaborated to build capacity to assist clients with Victim Assist claims. Sadly, several of our clients passed away during the past year.

Dedicated funding for this Clinic ceased in June 2017, but we have been able to continue this vital work through this financial year thanks to the enormous voluntary effort of pro bono barrister Ms Judy Collins and volunteer lawyer Cicilia Halaholo, who has now been employed by LawRight in a temporary role.

27

services
delivered

Systemic casework for exploited tenants

In Cairns, a tight rental sector, high levels of poverty and structural racism combine to create conditions ripe for a for-profit market in precarious sub-standard tenancies.

When in 2014 and 2015 LawRight Cairns began to receive numerous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients with legal problems arising from a particular large accommodation provider in Cairns, Three Sistas Pty Ltd, we formed concerns as to exploitative practices requiring a systemic advocacy response. The complaints related to routine mismanagement of tenant monies and frequent eviction into homelessness of family groups without legal basis.

While our work has resulted in numerous positive outcomes for individual clients over this period, it was in 2017/18 that our efforts came to a head when we were able to contribute to a number of key government agencies at local and state level taking resolute action.

We provided a dossier of evidence to the Residential Tenancies Authority with analysis from our casework, which led to the prosecution and conviction of the property licensee on numerous tenancy offences.

LawRight and a number of our clients appeared as witnesses.

We continue to assist Investigations regarding additional matters, while engaging with the community sector around a transitional plan for affected tenants. This example demonstrates what can be achieved when a legal service has strong collaborative relationships within the community sector.

Debt help for a veteran

A doctor at Wuchopperen Health Service in Cairns was concerned for an elderly Aboriginal patient, Archie, so she referred him to our on-site lawyer.

Like many ex-servicemen, Archie had PTSD, had spent time in prison and was struggling to manage household affairs. Debts had started building up.

With advocacy from our lawyers in Cairns, the bank agreed to waive \$16,000 of his accumulated debts and arranged a payment plan for his wife's debt as well.

This was an enormous relief for both client and as a result, now they can plan their later years with dignity and certainty.

Respecting cultural and family protocols

A young, terminally-ill Torres Strait Islander woman at Douglas House wanted legal help to give her peace of mind by ensuring that cultural and family protocols would be respected at the time of her passing. Staff at Douglas House referred her to the visiting LawRight lawyers.

We had numerous weighty meetings with the client, family members and caseworkers. By coordinating the involvement of the GP, hospital, Public Trustee and family members, we facilitated the making of a will and a Power of Attorney shortly before the client passed away.

Sadly, not all the client's wishes were met regarding her end-of-life care.

We supported the client's family to make a complaint to the hospital and participate in conciliation.

The next stage is to explore options for a just resolution, and with their input we hope to improve practices for the future.

Law Yarn

Law Yarn is a unique resource that supports good health outcomes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Law Yarn helps health workers to yarn with members of remote and urban communities about their legal problems and connect them to legal help. Legal problems with money, housing, crime and families will lead to poor health if they are not resolved. Without Law Yarn the problems won't be identified and will instead be ignored. This turns them into bigger problems.



Representatives from LawRight, Wuchopperen Health Service, the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service and the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Legal Services met in Cairns in 2017 to develop culturally safe resources based on LawRight's successful Legal Health Check resources.

Noted artist, Riki Salam, designed Law Yarn using the content and inspiration of the workshop. The workshops were facilitated by Samantha Wild, Director of Awakening Cultural Ways. Samantha said:

"I am really excited about this work and the impact it will have on the Aboriginal health and legal sectors."

Law Yarn has attracted interest from communities around Australia since its launch at Wuchopperen and will be independently evaluated.

Law Yarn uses images of cyclones, mangroves, stars and journeys to help vulnerable communities recognise their legal problems in context and learn where to get help.

Four icons embedded in the artwork represent the main legal problems and help structure the yarn.

Launch at Wuchopperen

Law Yarn was officially launched in Cairns on 30 May 2018 by the Queensland Attorney-General, The Honourable Yvette D'Ath at Wuchopperen Health Service as a Reconciliation Week Event. Herbert Smith Freehills and King & Wood Mallesons sponsored the launch.



Mental Health Law Practice Advocacy

186 clients

126 new 60 returning

187 hearings in the Mental
Health Review Tribunal

97 by LawRight staff 90 by volunteers

Law students volunteer as advocates in the Mental Health Review Tribunal

26 students from four law schools volunteered with the Mental Health Law Practice's Advocacy Service, which assists clients at hearings in the Mental Health Review Tribunal. Students prepare for and attend hearings with clients and assist with the operation of the Mental Health Law Practice. Students attended 83 hearings, requiring an around 6-7 hours of preparation per hearing.

The volunteers also include junior lawyers. They are supervised by LawRight staff lawyers, who oversee all advocates, liaise with stakeholders to develop the service's expertise, and attend the more complex hearings with clients.

22

electro-convulsive
therapy hearings

5

children and
young people



Thank you...

From 2014 – 2017 the MHLP was funded by a generous 3-year grant from the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation, which supports medical research, the disadvantaged, the homeless, and the elderly.

We helped clients from across Queensland

78 Brisbane
39 Gold Coast / Logan / Redlands
26 Townsville
21 Sunshine Coast / Moreton Bay
11 Cairns area
8 Central Queensland
4 Ipswich / Toowoomba

For 60% of clients we gave extra help, such as:

- getting a Statement of Rights/Reasons
- information about Advance Health Directives
- making a complaint
- applying for Applicant Review



A salute to Joe's recovery

We were very proud to support Joe through his recovery, helping him access the things that gave him strength – time with his kids, independent housing and a trusting relationship with his treating team.

Joe was first referred to LawRight by Legal Aid when he had a review of his Forensic Order coming up. Forensic Orders are made when someone is charged with an offence but cannot stand trial due to their mental health condition. The offences were for property damage and driving infringements.

Moving to his own place and choosing to be clean

Joe was living in community care units in a large regional city. He was having trouble engaging with his treating team, partly because of continuing illicit drug use. Joe applied to the Department of Housing for a unit. A suitable unit was found, so Joe could live independently again. Joe had a few admissions to the acute mental health unit in the months following his move into the community, but he made the decision to give up illicit drugs and cigarettes, and his mental state stabilised.

Seeing his sons

Joe asked us if he could visit his two young sons, who live in Europe with their mother. We liaised with the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist and raised the issue at his next review hearing, to help Joe get the approval from his treating team. Joe was so happy when he called to tell us his travel was approved and he was going to see his kids for 3 weeks! The trip went well and Joe returned committed to becoming fully rehabilitated so he could be a role model for his kids.

Joe's efforts recognised by the Tribunal

At Joe's most recent hearing, his treatment team recommended a step-down from the Forensic Order to a Treatment Support Order. The treating team consulted LawRight about the criteria for a step-down so they could give relevant evidence in support at the hearing. At the hearing, all parties agreed that Joe had made significant progress in his recovery and the Tribunal agreed to the step-down.

Joe was delighted and felt that it was recognition of the hard work he had put into his rehabilitation.

In the future

Joe hopes to work with people who have a mental illness and use his experiences to help others. For now, he is focused on his next trip to see his sons. He tells us his relationship with his kids has strengthened after his last visit and wants to keep his life on track, so he can be there for them.

LawRight represented Joe at 3 hearings over the 18 months he was our client. This year we represented 28 clients at reviews of their Forensic Orders.

Health Advocacy Legal Clinic

There is overwhelming evidence that people with chronic health problems also have complex intersecting legal needs. HALC is a health justice partnership, which responds to this evidence and embeds lawyers in a health service to work collaboratively with treating teams. This holistic approach responds to legal issues in tandem with health care needs and allows a client focused trauma informed approach to legal practice.

HALC operates during university semester and spent two days a week at the Mater Young Adults Health Centre from February 2018 and prior to that a day per week at each of St Vincent and Mater Hospitals. The clinic is multidisciplinary with law, medical and social work students learning to work together and to provide a wrap around approach to meet the medical and legal health of the clients.

Clients of HALC can either attend at the clinic for an appointment or, when necessary, have a bedside visit from the lawyer and the students. In addition to this, the HALC, from time to time will attend appointments with the client with the treating teams.

44

new clients given
ongoing legal help

Common legal issues

- Housing
- Income / money problems
- Guardianship & administration
- Consumer issues
- End-of-life planning
- Child safety
- Domestic violence

This year...

We met with **74** people and **44** became clients.

Clients had 2 - 8 significant legal issues diagnosed and addressed.

We worked closely health professionals on **18** matters.

We made **26** referrals to other agencies.

We gave advice to **22** clinicians.

A photograph of a modern interior space, likely a lounge or office area. It features large windows on the left side, offering a view of a city skyline with a prominent tower. The room has a dark, polished floor and a large, dark-colored sofa on the right. The lighting is soft, and the overall atmosphere is professional and contemporary.

Partnerships

- TC Beirne School of Law,
The University of Queensland
- School of Public Health & Social Work,
Queensland University of Technology
- School of Medicine,
Griffith University

Connections

- Mater Hospital Young Adult Health Centre
- St Vincent's Hospital

- We used the Legal Health Check on intake for every client and were able to address more legal issues impacting the health of clients.
The Legal Health Check identified 110 legal problems faced by 36 clients – compared to last year, where we didn't use it and helped 31 clients with 40 legal problems. We have also increased the intensity of our services, typically spending 10 – 50 hours with clients.
- A sharp increase in contact with health professionals indicates that HALC is becoming a recognised part of the Mater system, which will benefit patients in the long run.

Safety from domestic violence

We worked closely with a Mater youth worker from to assist a young man, Jake, and his elderly grandmother Irene after they had been subject to relentless violence from Jake's mother. They feared for their safety and had applied for a domestic violence protection order against the mother.

To address the risk urgently, Jake and Irene made an urgent temporary application to the court, which granted a no-contact order based on the level of violence. We also negotiated with the Department of Housing to change the locks on their apartment, at no cost to them.

We worked with Irene's GP and Jake's youth worker to help them prepare evidence about their health and apply for legal aid. We secured a direct referral to a legal aid lawyer to continue assisting the clients with their DVO application.

When Jake and Irene were subpoenaed to give evidence for a separate a DVO application brought by Jake's mother, we negotiated with the court to allow them to remain together in a safe witness room while they gave evidence, due to the fragility of the clients and the level of risk.

During the first court appearance, the presiding Magistrate dismissed the mother's application and granted the Domestic Violence Order to our clients on the basis of risk, so they did not have to proceed to the hearing of their application.

“No one has ever listened to me. I always felt like a ball of nothing. And I kept getting smaller. But you quietly listened to me and let me have a voice.

“You are an angel sent from the heavens. I don't know how I can ever repay you, but I could repay you in food!

Peace of mind for a mother

Nina, a young mother of three young children, was terminally ill and was connected to LawRight's Health Advocacy Legal Clinic by her social worker at the Mater.

Nina wanted all her young children to remain in their step-father's care, as the father of her two older children was extremely violent. The client was worried that after her death, the older children might be returned to their father and separated from their younger sibling.

HALC helped to organise a will and a Power of Attorney through the Cancer Council pro bono service. This was done in the context of great personal anguish for the client about her poor prognosis, escalating pain and several attempts for her to return home to her young family.

HALC found Nina a family law lawyer and helped her and her partner apply for Legal Aid and file court documents. Nina died soon after documents were filed, but there was a formatting problem and they were rejected by the Court. Legal Aid also rejected the application not realising the mother had since died. LawRight helped clear all these hurdles, with the evidence being so compelling that the court made a final order at the first mention, for the children to remain with their step-father.

Our work in this case would not have been possible without multiple meetings with the client, family members, social workers, pro bono solicitor, the treating team and her partner, who also took care of the children while supporting Nina.

Student clinics

LawRight partners with 6 Queensland law schools and hosts around 70 clinic students each year.

Students from Griffith University, Bond University, Queensland University of Technology and The University of Queensland attended a LawRight service for a full day of supervised casework, policy and presentations to complete a semester of clinical legal education as an undergraduate elective.

In addition to these students, LawRight hosts another 70 student volunteers, from the above universities plus James Cook University and the University of Southern Queensland, who volunteer in LawRight offices to help LawRight deliver services.

Each student clinic supports the delivery of LawRight's pro bono programs, and students learn about the importance of access to justice and how they can contribute to pro bono throughout their professional careers.

In 2017-18...

- Dr Cate Banks (supervisor of the Health Advocacy Law Clinic and Mental Health Law Clinic) published a paper reflecting on the operation of interdisciplinary student clinic model, entitled "Holistic Care in Action – When health and Law Unite", in the Health Education Journal.
- Andrea Perry-Petersen (supervisor of A2J & Innovation, Litigation and Access to Justice Clinics) was a 2017 Legal Innovation Index Winner for developing new ways for students to identify how technology and digital innovation may be leveraged to increase access to justice and prevent disadvantage.

“I have learnt so much during my time with the Clinic that I would never have been able to learn in a lecture hall!

- Clinic student





HPLC student clinic

The University of Queensland,
two semesters per year

Students spend half the semester at pro bono partner law firms, attending and supporting volunteer lawyers at the outreach legal clinics, and the other half of the semester with HPLC staff working on research projects, such as submissions to Brisbane City Council and the State Penalties Enforcement Registry on fines and transport issues impacting on our homeless clients; CLE resources for Refugee Civil Law Clinic clients; and research on domestic violence.

Guests or visits from Queenslanders with Disabilities Network, Kelly Sciacca and the Ozcare Men's Hostel, and MinterEllison were valuable. Supervised by Paula Hughes.

Hosted by King and Wood Mallesons, Holding Redlich, Ashurst, MurphySchmidt, Clayton Utz and MinterEllison.

Supporting the Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic

Mental Health Law Clinic

The University of Queensland, two semesters per year

Students visited the Princess Alexandra Hospital Mental Health Unit weekly on rotation and completed file work and research tasks at the LawRight office. The MHLP addresses all legal needs of clients with mental illness and refers Mental Health Review Tribunal advocacy needs.

MHU Senior Social Worker Brian Cargill facilitated the on-site visits. Research tasks included the impact of the findings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Childhood Sexual Abuse in relation to clients and the intersection of adverse childhood experiences and legal need.

Former student Harriet O'Hare and Associate to Justice Flanagan organised our visit to the Mental Health Court. Supervised by Dr Cate Banks.



Supporting the Mental Health Law Practice

Health Advocacy Legal Clinic

Law students from The University of Queensland, Social Work students from Queensland university of Technology, Medicine students from Griffith University, two semesters per year

Two small teams of law, social work and medical students were based at the Mater Hospital, South Brisbane, in the Mater Young Adult Health Centre (MYAHC) for two days a week. A multidisciplinary approach to client care and integration of a legal response into the hospital system maximised the benefits of a Health Justice Partnership model for clients and students alike.

Students attended appointments with the supervising lawyer as well as bedside visits, outreach service visits and were immersed in all facets of file management. Students assisted with research into adverse childhood experiences and life-long legal impacts, and into effective safeguards for clients in domestic violence proceedings.

Mater colleagues who generously shared offices, time and expertise include: Kris Tindale, Helen Buckle, Alan Heady, Tatjana Ewais, Anne Hardy, Lisa Cummins, Michelle Daly and Meredith Kenny, MYAHC reception team, Helen Squibb and Greg McGahan. Supervised by Dr Cate Banks.

“HALC has given me an understanding of how health conditions can so often intersect with legal issues in people’s lives and the value of offering a service within the hospital setting to people that may not otherwise have access to legal advice.

- Clinic student



A2J and Innovation clinic

The University of Queensland, two semesters per year

Students worked with a technology platform to develop an online guided interview to produce court documents for self-represented litigants. They learned about digital disruption to the profession, the “digital divide” and ways in which technology may increase access to justice. They also learned about design thinking as a means of developing innovative solutions, team work and project management.

Students observed unpaid wages hearings in the Federal Circuit Court and client appointments in LawRight’s Federal Court Self Representation Service. Guests included Judge Vasta and Registrar Belcher of the Federal Circuit Court, employment lawyers from Clayton Utz, the Fair Work Ombudsman and UQ Idea Hub. Supervised by Andrea Perry-Petersen.

Access to Justice Clinic

Queensland University of Technology, Semester 2, 2017

Students assisted the Pro Bono Connect referrals service to assess applications for pro bono assistance, draft referral emails and prepare briefs. The areas of law were diverse and included issues of elder abuse, property law, discrimination and not-for-profit law. The students attended seminars with the Homeless Persons Legal Clinic, the Mental Health Law Practice and at Clayton Utz. Supervised by Andrea Perry-Petersen.

Social Justice Lawyering

Griffith University, Semester 1, 2018

Students undertook case assessments, and assisted with correspondence and referral briefs to firms and barristers. Matters varied from week to week and included discrimination, elder abuse, property and not-for-profit law. Peer presentations on legal and policy issues and guest speakers, including Matt Jones about life at the bar and Georgina Porter from Minter Ellison about working in a law firm and pro bono, made this clinic an overwhelmingly positive experience. Supervised by Rochelle Carey and Rose Mackay.



Supporting Pro Bono Connect

Litigation Clinic

Queensland University of Technology, Semester 1, 2018

Students supported the Self Representation Service with litigation matters in migration matters, unpaid wages claims, complex estate disputes. They also assisted with a property ownership dispute which, if a positive result is achieved, is likely to result in a client remaining in his home and avoiding homelessness. Students benefitted from guest presentations from Tony Woodyatt, former director of LawRight; Stafford Shepherd, Ethics Solicitor OLS; and Angela Rae, Barrister-at-law. Supervised by Rose Mackay and Andrea Perry-Petersen.

Bond University of Technology, Semester 3, 2017

Students assisted the Self Representation Service with litigation matters by preparing client & case summaries, drafting letters, phoning clients to investigate matters and reach opinions on options and prospects. Students shadowed solicitors in client interviews and watched court proceedings. Students prepared a diagram of how court proceedings flow – in versions for clients and for volunteer solicitors to use when speaking to clients. Students benefitted from guest presentations from Matthew Jones, Barrister-at-law and Tim Baumann of MurphySchmidt. Supervised by Karen Dyhrberg.



Supporting the Self Representation Service

Thank you to LawRight 2017-18 members.

Member barristers

Queen's Counsel

Ken Barlow QC
Dr Jacoba Brasch QC
Peter Hastie QC
Stephen Keim QC
Damien O'Brien QC
Dan O'Gorman QC

Counsel

Anthony Anderson
Nicholas Andreatidis
Judy Brien
John Cahill
Stephen Colditz
Clare Dart
James Doyon
Susan Forder
Margaret Forrest
Dr Kim Forrester
Mohammud Jaamae Hafeez-Baig
Gavin Handran
Peter Hastie
Angela Hellewell
Michael Hodge

Steven Hogg
Emma Holberg
Thomas Jackson
Matthew Jones
David Keane
Nitra Kidson
Benjamin Kidston
Carla Klease
Harry Knowlman
Dr Robert Lake
Sean Lamb
Dr Stephen Lee
Amy Low
Francesco Maconi
Duncan Marckwald

Jade Marr
Janice Mayes
Samuel McCarthy
Dr Cathryn McConaghy
Kelly McIntyre
Carolyn McKeon
Paula Morreau
Ben Moses
Jules Moxon
Anastasia Nicholas
Toby Nielsen
Paul O'Brien
Travis O'Brien
Andrew Quinn
Mitch Rawlings

Sally Robb
Sean Russell
Navid Sedaghati
Anthony Skelton
Mark Steele
Amanda Stoker
David Thomae
Bruce Wacker
Dr Angela Walker
Stewart Webster
William Wild
Richard Williams
Dianna Worrell

Member firms

Allens Linklaters
Ashurst
Australian Workplace Lawyers
Baker & McKenzie
Barry.Nilsson.Lawyers
Bartley Cohen Litigation Lawyers
Clayton Utz
cbp Lawyers
Cooper Grace Ward
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
DLA Piper Australia
Hall and Wilcox
Herbert Smith Freehills
Holding Redlich
Hopgood Ganim Lawyers

Jeff Horsey Solicitor
King & Wood Mallesons
K & L Gates
Landers & Rogers
Maurice Blackburn
McCullough Robertson Lawyers
McPhee Lawyers
Minter Ellison
Moulis Legal
MurphySchmidt Solicitors
Slater & Gordon
Sparke Helmore Lawyers
Thornton Legal
WF Yau Lawyers & Notary
Wotton & Kearney

Life members

Andrew Buchanan
Hugh Scott-Mackenzie
Simon Cleary
Peter Rosengren
Joanne Rennick
Lucy Bretherton
Robert Reed

Specified members

Bar Association of Queensland Inc
Community Legal Centres Queensland
Legal Aid Queensland
Queensland Law Society

Universities

Bond University Faculty of Law
Griffith University Law School
Queensland University of Technology Faculty of Law
The University of Queensland TC Beirne School of Law
James Cook University School of Law

Members support LawRight by:

- accepting pro bono matters
- volunteering at outreach clinics and services
- membership fees
- donations and in-kind contributions such as secondments, research and advice

Supporters and volunteers

Pro Bono Connect & Self Representation Service

SRS reference group

Marshall Irwin (Chair)
Joanne Rennick
Monica Taylor
Stephen Colditz
Narelle Bedford

Secondees

Lucy Conway and Molly D'Arcy of Corrs Chambers Westgarth

Volunteers

Kerryn Adams
Sandra Ardelean
Lyndall Barnett
Loretta Benson
Luke Besse
Rikisha Brown
Lilly Burgess
Austyn Campbell
Katharine Chapman
Marrie Corrigan
Madeline Depace
Nicolee Dixon
Jordan Donaldson
Helen Driscoll

Christina Emberley
Hayley Feakes
Elizabeth Furfaro
Oliver Hackney
Aaron Harris
Larissa Harrison
Liam Hickey
Stephanie Irvine
Patrick Johnson
Jayana Kerr
Mi (Julie) King
Kira Larwill
Bryan Lee
Katina Leedie

Taya Leemeijer
Meagan Liu
Leonie Look
Kathryn Lukin
Isabelle MacNicol
Milyka McCutcheon
Kurt McDonald
Ashlea McKenzie
Carmel McMahon
Bridget McMahon
Sarid Milne
Tilishia Moodley
Robert Natanek
Peter Otzen

Dan Pennicott
Priam Rangiah
Robyn Schermer
Jacob Schuurmans
Lachlan Seeto
Justine Singh
Mitch Sorenson
Natalie Stoll
Kerryn Taliacos
Rachel Tomassen
Tamba Thomas
Charlotte Tully
Nicholas Waight
Emma Williams

Student clinics

Litigation clinic

Bond University
Semester 3, 2017
Kelly Abrahams
Rikisha Brown
Michael Dagg
Fengshu Gao
Shanelle Kennedy
Alexandra Marlborough
Vineeta Sethi
Manuel Soares

Social Justice Lawyering

Griffith University
Semester 1, 2018
Dalila Allen
Michelle Gunawan
Leesa Matthews
Amaren Mootoosamy
Shelley Whyte
Anthea Wood

Access to Justice Clinic

Queensland University of Technology
Semester 2, 2017
Sri Lakshmi Unnikrisnnan
Tiffany Kong
Sean Pascoe
Anastasia Stoenko
Rebecca Casanovas

Litigation Clinic

Queensland University of Technology
Semester 1, 2018
Deekshita Ardham
Austyn Campbell
Madeleine Depace
Orchi Sarker
Annalise Spurge
Conor Stensness
Lewis Tracy

A2J & Innovation Legal Clinic

The University of Queensland
Semester 2, 2017
Kristian Wan
Jessica Fuller
Sarah Hamid
Michael Lacey
Kate Finney
Simon Lamb

Semester 1, 2018

Amara Motala
Sacha Robinson
Joshua Ling
Madina Mohmood
Kathleen Moy

Outreach Legal Clinics

Secondees

Belinda Tang and Sam Roach
of Minter Ellison

Volunteers

Rachel Tomassen
Amanda Lamb
Bryan Lee

Cairns volunteers

Judy Collins of Counsel
Cicilia Halaholo
Kathleen Cantarella
Pam Williams
Narelle Vergini
Tiffany Handebo (JCU)
Kayla Greenwood (JCU)
Joel Johnson (QUT)
Marlene Levasseur (PLT)

Student clinics

HPLC student clinic
The University of Queensland
Semester 2, 2017
Brittany Anderson
Luke Borgert
Sasha Gubbins
Laura Kellermeier
Imogen McInerney
Rebecca Tran

Semester 1, 2018
Ryan Branch
Larry Fong
Magdeline Hawkins
Teddy Kao
Lucinda Sergiacomi
Joel Townsley

Mental Health Law Practice

Student placements

Bond University
Virginia Moynihan
Kiarra David

Student volunteers

MHLP
Sabina Crewes
Kris Karan
Olivia Jackson
Clara Huang
Saibal Kar
Aaron Hua
Georgina Papworth

Nicole Gillard
Vinay Veerabhadra

HALC
Edwina Sully
Ashleigh McInnes

Student clinics

Health Advocacy Legal Clinic
Griffith, UQ & QUT
Semester 2, 2017
Ruth Cobbold
Victoria Judd
Radhika Arora
Madeleine Lu Sheen Tang
Jessica Chiann Ju Hsiao
Riley King
Elena Black
Brianna Toms
Tanya Yovich

MHLP student clinic
University of Queensland
Semester 2, 2017
Harriet O'Hare
Madeleine Forster
Joe Kneipp
Ji Joo
Amelia Nolan
Ashleigh McInnes

Semester 1, 2018
Slaiman Akl
Rachel Long Yan Chan
Benjamin Gibbons
Michael Hogan.

Tribunal advocates

Aaron Hua
Amelia Bell
Amelia Nolan
Cecelia Redfern
Emily Gorse
Georgina Papworth
Kai Nash
Kira Larwill
Loretta Benson
Megan Applegarth
Molly Thomas
Nicole Gillard
Rebecca Bellamy

Robyn Dawe
Ryan Chan
Saibal Kar
Ada Sculthorp
Sally Crane
Vinay Veerabhadra
Adam Marsh
Alice Nagel
Anne Hewson
Kris Karan
Zane Jhetam
David Rawnsley
Sabina Crewes

Semester 1, 2018
Maddison Dalla-McIntosh
Paige Donaghy
Larissa Harrison
Ji Yen Loh
Rachael Roberts
Sally Vickers
Taylor Thomas
Amanda Wisenthal



LawRight staff

Kate Adnams
Lyn Aplin
Cate Banks
Renee Blackwell
Courtney Blomfield
Amanda Bosworth
Rochelle Carey
Imogen Coates-Marnane
Sarah Cox
Andrea de Smidt
Marissa Dooris
Raquel Dos Santos
Karen Dyhrberg
Sophia Finter
Elizabeth Furfaro

Elizabeth Gallagher
Sue Garlick
Nikki Gatbonton
Emily Giblin
Stephen Grace
Oliver Hackney
Cecilia Halaholo
Phil Hancock
Paula Hughes
Cameron Lavery
Tim Laird
Renee Lees
Rose Mackay
Linda Macpherson
Jacob Matysek

David Maunsell
Cherie McLaughlin
Donnella Mills
Alice Nagel
Liz O'Connor
Andrea Perry-Petersen
Charlie Raftos
Rebecca Slade
Loretta Stellino
Michaela Transton
Ben Tuckett
Michael Van Hooren
Vinay Veerabhadra
Melinda Willis

Management Committee



President

Matthew Jones of Counsel

Secretary

Gabriella Ritchie of McCullough Robertson

Treasurer

Tim Baumann of MurphySchmidt

Queensland Law Society representative

Binarl De Saram of Queensland Law Society

Bar Association of Queensland representative

Damien O'Brien QC of Counsel

Universities representative

Francesca Bartlett of TC Beirne School of Law,
The University of Queensland

Legal Aid Queensland representative

Robyn Wilkinson of Legal Aid Queensland

Firm representatives

Lucy Bretherton of Ashurst

Katie Clark of MinterEllison

Katharine Philp of TressCox (resigned 30 January 2018)

Chloe Sheptoocha of Clayton Utz (from 5 February 2018)

Peter Smith of Herbert Smith Freehills

Fundraising subcommittee

Andrew Buchanan (chair)

Kathleen Singleton

Matthew Jones



Resources

Online resources

- Legalpedia
- Legal Health Check
- Online videos for self-represented litigants
- Precedents & resources for LawRight volunteer lawyers

Community Legal Education

Community workers were trained and resourced to identify and refer the legal needs of their clients.

- Pindari Hostel 22 August 2017
- 139 Club 23 August 2017
- Brisbane Youth Service 14 September 2017 and 23 May 2018
- Ozcare 23 November 2017, 7 December 2017 and 31 May 2018
- Micah Projects 10 May 2018 and 19 June 2018
- Footprints 13 June 2018

Research Reference Group

Margaret Wilson QC (chair)
Professor Richard Johnstone
Rebekah Leong
Dr Francesca Bartlett

Legal Professional Forums

- The University of Queensland's Pro Bono Centre Board
- Community Legal Centres Queensland Management Committee
- Queensland Legal Assistance Forum
- LawRight is accredited by the National Association of Community Legal Centres

Research

- Criminalisation of Poverty

Professor Tamara Walsh of The University of Queensland leads a 3-year Australian Research Council Linkage Project on the criminalisation of poverty. Staff of LawRight's Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic consulted to the project and the HPLC student clinic gathered qualitative data and conducted interviews.

- Access to Justice: Technology, Innovation and Sustainability

Associate Professor Dr Francesca Bartlett from The University of Queensland is testing the efficiency and sustainability of online applications to deliver consumer legal information and access to justice. An online guided interview used by LawRight's Federal Court Self Representation Service will be observed and the SRS is also providing background information to assist with the research. The applied research project is funded by the Australian Institute for Business and Economics.

- LawYarn

Fiona Allison and Chris Cuneen are undertaking an independent evaluation of LawRight's Health Justice Partnership with Wuchopperen Health Service in Cairns, including the value and appropriateness of Law Yarn.

Publications

- The Crime of Begging: Punishing Poverty in Australia
- Seeking Debt Waivers of Small Amount Loans



Treasurer's report

I am pleased to present my second report as Treasurer, as well as the audited financial statements for LawRight for the 2017 – 2018 financial year.

This year has seen a positive step forward for LawRight – with a modest operating deficit of (-) \$41,407.00 the prior year transformed into an operating profit of \$118,670.00 this financial year. LawRight's ability to meet future contingencies through an increasing cash balance and healthy prudential reserve remains strong.

The Legal Walk continues to cement its position as the primary funding event for LawRight – achieving an event record of over \$100,000.00 in event registrations and donations. We can only hope that the increasing success and profile of this event will not only ensure continued financial support for LawRight's programs and services, but also increase the provision of pro-bono assistance provided by the legal profession throughout Queensland. This year has also seen increases in member subscriptions and event income/ donations generally.

Despite the decrease in Government funding last year, significant financial support from both State and Federal Governments continues to ensure LawRight's services are maintained, accounting for over 72% of total funding received. Pleasingly, from LawRight's perspective, the reliance on Government funding as an overall percentage of total funding received has fallen from the previous year. Thank you to both arms of Government for their ongoing support.

On any cost / benefit analysis of LawRight's programs, the net financial impact to Government, through the preservation of Court resources, is undeniable. LawRight will continue to advocate for increases in Government funding to support and expand its service delivery to the most disadvantaged in our community.

I referred in my prior year's report to the need for LawRight to continue to develop and promote opportunities to broaden its funding base. I wish to echo the sentiments of the President in his report this year in referencing the launch of the Friends of LawRight initiative.

The donations received through this initiative have significantly contributed to the positive financial position of LawRight, almost eclipsing general donations received throughout the year. Sincere thanks must be extended to all those who have committed to contributing individual financial support on an ongoing basis, ensuring LawRight's positive impact and core services are maintained.

The management committee has benefited greatly from the stable and effective day to day leadership of LawRight's joint directors, Linda Macpherson and Sue Garlick. The financial stewardship of LawRight by the management committee is fortified through their ongoing advice and assistance.

Thanks must also be extended to LawRight's bookkeeper, Rebecca Slade, and auditor Jeremiah Thum from Independent Audit Services, who continue to provide outstanding service to the management committee through the preparation of financial documents, ensuring LawRight's financial integrity.

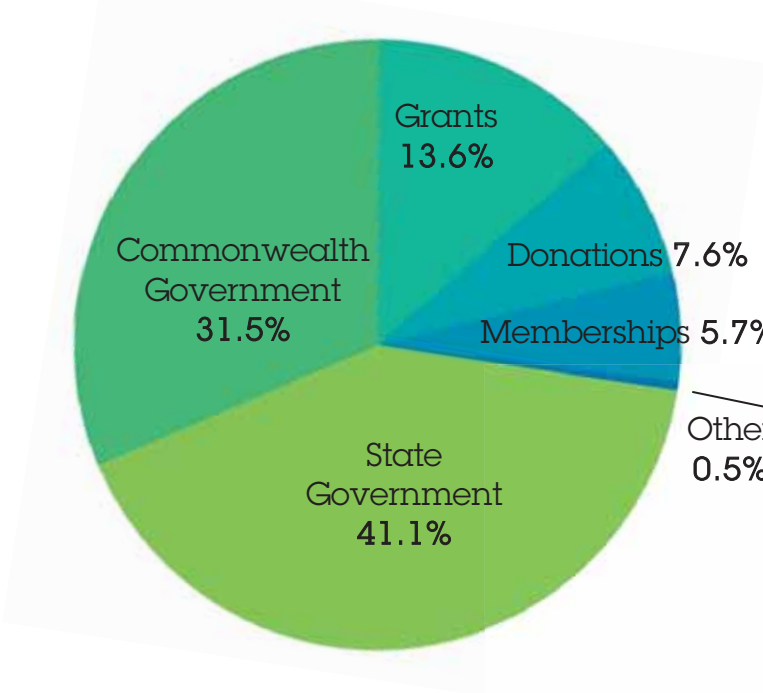
In my prior year's Treasurer's report, I referred to last financial year as being a challenging year for LawRight. The staff must be commended for the manner in which they have endured the significant restructure of the organisation and related staff and service losses while continuing in their unwavering efforts to provide critical assistance to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community.

Tim Baumann, Treasurer

Financial reports

LawRight is association incorporated in Queensland. We are a public benevolent institution, endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a deductible gift recipient organisation. Our accounts are independently audited. A copy of our audited, annual financial report is available at www.lawright.org.au under Annual Reports.

Sources of LawRight funding 2017-18



Funding partners




Queensland Government



An Australian Government Initiative





In the last week of June 2018,
LawRight moved its main office from
our West End home of 9 years.
Thank you Queensland Law Society
for your welcome to the Brisbane CBD.

Photo credits:

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Client names and some identifying features have been changed throughout to protect clients' privacy. Photos are from Unsplash.

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LawRight offices are open 9am to 5pm on business days. Satellite offices may close or have phones diverted due to staff availability.



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