



**LawRight™**  
Access | Justice

# Annual Report 2017



# CONTENTS

Introduction	4
President's Report	6
Launching LawRight	8
Reaching Clients across Queensland	11
15 Years of Pro Bono	12
Farewell Tony Woodyatt	14
Pro Bono Referral Service	16
Self Representation Service	20
Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic	24
Refugee Civil Law Clinic	28
LegalPod	30
Mental Health Law Practice	32
Health Advocacy Legal Clinic	34
Student Clinics	36
Resources	38
Publications	41
Events	42
Partnerships	46
Lawright Members	50
Treasurer's Report	57
Lawright Financials	59



# 25,000+

## hours of pro bono work.

LawRight connects disadvantaged people and organisations with pro bono lawyers - to navigate complex legal processes and reduce disadvantage.

This year, because of LawRight, over 2,000 disadvantaged people and organisations were connected to hundreds of lawyers, barristers and law students, who gave over 25,000 hours of pro bono help.

### 194

people and 27 not-for-profits connected to law firms and barristers for representation to secure their legal rights.

### 750+

homeless clients in Brisbane, Townsville, Cairns and Toowoomba improved their wellbeing with holistic legal help

### 66

refugees and new arrivals helped to adjust to Australia's legal system

### 61

young people supported to stabilise their income and housing as they leave state care

### 559

self-representing litigants had 741 appointments to help them participate confidently in the justice system

### 207

people with mental illness helped to address a significant stressor - their legal problems

### 130

people had an advocate beside them at their Mental Health Review Tribunal hearing

### 120

clients helped through 3 new pilot representation services in the Magistrates Court, QCAT and QIRC

### 51

clients helped in hospital settings through the Health Advocacy Legal Clinic









# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

This was a very significant year for LawRight.

Early this year, LawRight launched its new name. The former name, QPILCH, no longer represented the full scope of the services which the organisation provided to disadvantaged Queenslanders. It was no longer a mere "clearing house" – rather, the organisation provided numerous clinics and direct assistance services and new services were being constantly developed. It was also important to increase our visibility with the community and our stakeholders, particularly while engaging with the State Government in relation to our ongoing funding.

A short time after the name change, we also farewelled our tireless former Director, Tony Woodyatt. Tony provided fifteen years of dedicated leadership to the organisation. In his modesty, he resisted the accolades which were his due. LawRight is the result of enormous contributions from many employees, volunteers and supporters over the years but Tony's imprint on the organisation was very strong. We are grateful for his service and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

In the last Annual Report, both the President and the Treasurer addressed the issue of funding uncertainty.

Unfortunately, the issue of funding was a dominant theme over the last year. Although LawRight is grateful for the funding which was ultimately provided by the State Government, the organisation (like all CLCs) faced months of uncertainty as to which services might be lost and which might need to be scaled down. As a result, new service development was halted, some services closed and once our reduction in funding was announced, and when we ultimately received notice of our allocations, some valued staff were abruptly lost.

Unless there is a degree of certainty as to future funding, it will be difficult to reinstate some services. We hope to work collaboratively with stakeholders, including the State Government, over the next two years of my term, to place government funding of CLCs on a more secure footing. At the Management Committee level, we are also sharpening our focus of direct fundraising to attempt to reduce our reliance on government funding over time.

There has, of course, been good news this year. The Legal Walk held in May was a great success, raising a record sum and confirming the dedication of lawyers, young and old, to the organisation. I extend my appreciation to the hundreds of supporters who fundraised and turned out on the day.

I hope that one legacy of my time as President of LawRight will be an improved level of engagement with barristers and the Bar Association. I am pleased to report that steady progress has been made in that regard. I wish to thank the President of the Bar Association, Christopher Hughes QC, and its CEO, Kelsey Rissman, for their

interest in and support of our organisation this year.

It is also pleasing to see that LawRight has emerged from the uncertainty of the last year and a substantial cut in funding in a robust position. Our new Joint Directors, Sue Garlick and Linda Macpherson, have provided strong and focussed leadership, taking over from Tony Woodyatt at a difficult time. We are fortunate to have on our Management Committee a group of experienced and dedicated professionals who offer sound advice and guidance, even on short notice.


Finally, I would like to thank our supporters. Our Patron, The Honourable Catherine Holmes, Chief Justice of Queensland, has supported us in many ways this year. We receive philanthropic donations from a number of individuals, without whose generosity many Queenslanders would be left without assistance. Our many volunteers, who are too numerous to name here, do remarkable work. We are also fortunate to have such dedicated and hard-working employees across our services. Further, I express my genuine gratitude, on behalf of LawRight, to the Attorney General, the Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP, for her efforts in securing funding for LawRight, which partially offset the loss of previous Commonwealth funding.

This report is a brief introduction to the annual report. I commend it to you for a comprehensive account of LawRight's activities during 2016-2017.

**Matthew Jones**  
*President*



It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as the patron of LawRight for another year, in the course of which the organisation changed its name, but not its commitment or its activity. As I said at the launch of the new name in February, the collaborative nature of LawRight, based on the work of individual volunteers, law firms and academia, means that it is, in effect, the profession's legal service. Building on the efforts of its friends and partners, and using creative approaches, LawRight helps those who would otherwise fall through the gaps in the justice system."

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



# LAUNCHING LAWRIGHT

After 15 years as the Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House Incorporated, we have changed our name to LawRight.

The new name was officially launched by The Honourable Catherine Holmes, Chief Justice of Queensland on 15 February 2017 at the Banco Court. The Chief Justice expressed her affection for our old name and detailed QPILCH's history and the involvement of so many people.

LawRight President, barrister Matthew Jones, explained that pro bono organisations such as Justice Connect, JusticeNet SA, Law Access in WA, and now LawRight have developed well beyond being mere pro bono clearing houses, and the name LawRight had been chosen to better communicate our role and function.

Speakers included Damien O'Brien QC for the Bar Association of Queensland and Christine Smyth, President of the Queensland Law Society.

Keynote speakers for the night were journalist Peter Greste and Gilbert + Tobin law firm partner Christopher Flynn, who led the international team of lawyers who secured Peter's freedom from prison in Egypt.





**“Peter took the advantage of an audience of a room packed full of lawyers to [talk of] a changing world with changing values to emphasise the importance of the work that LawRight and the pro bono community does in seeking to provide better access to justice for the disadvantaged and marginalised; to uphold the best of the values in Australian society.**

**The event marked another important milestone in the growing maturity of the pro bono culture in Queensland, and in Australia.”**

**John Corker**  
Australian Pro Bono  
Resource Centre

**WE REACH CLIENTS**

**OVER THE PHONE,  
BY EMAIL & POST**

**IN TOWNSVILLE, TOOWOOMBA, CAIRNS**

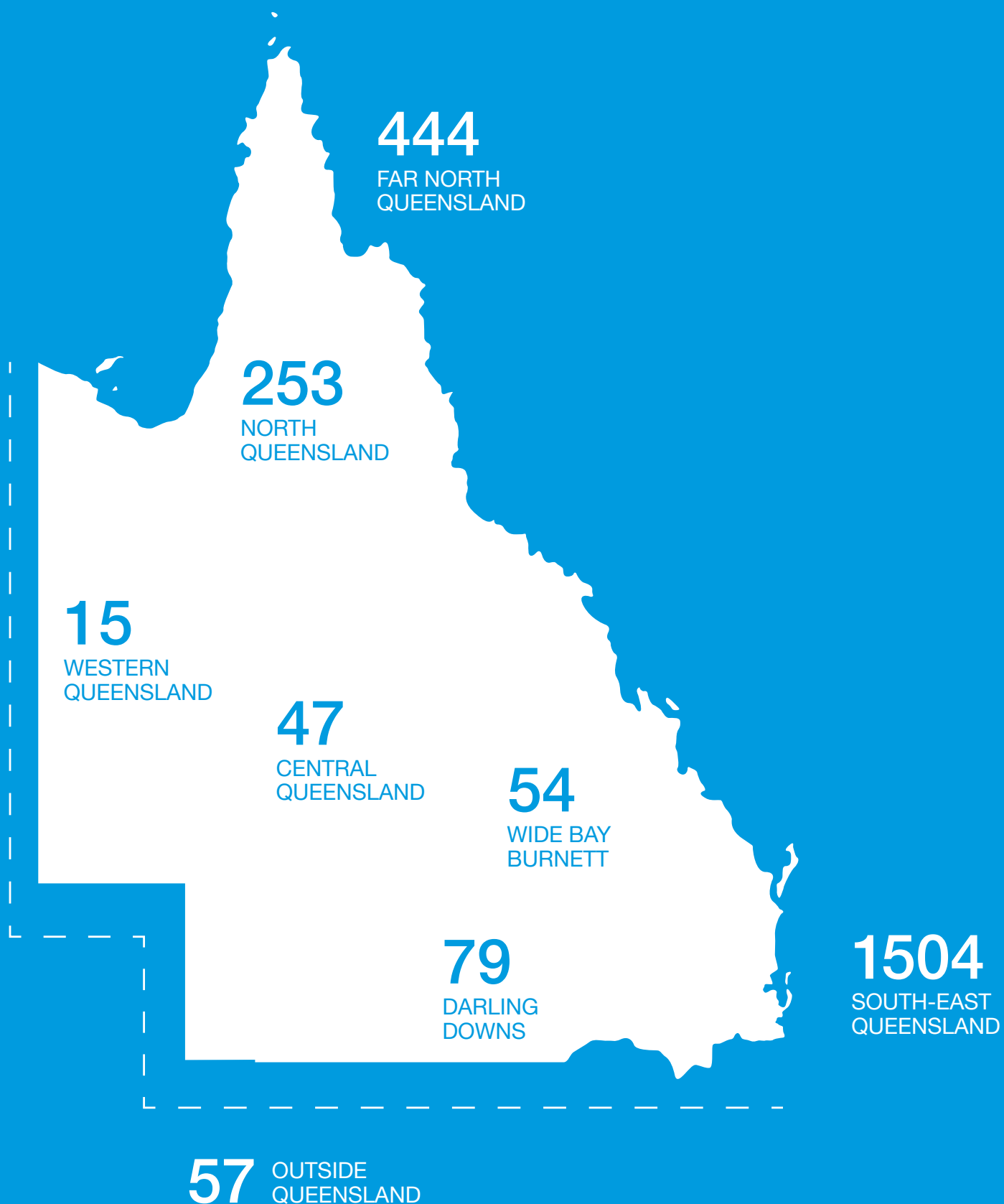
**AND BRISBANE,**

**IN OUR OFFICES AT COURTHOUSES,  
BY LOCATING VOLUNTEER LAWYERS  
IN COMMUNITY AGENCIES AND HEALTH SERVICES**

**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE EXITING STATE  
PROTECTIVE CARE, WE MEET  
WHEREVER THE CLIENT FEELS COMFORTABLE**



# ACROSS QUEENSLAND



# 15 YEARS OF PRO BONO

## PRO BONO REFERRAL SERVICE

Established 2002



**4,657**

applications

**1,633**

people connected with  
pro bono legal help

**3,024**

people given advice  
or directed to other help

Homeless Persons' Legal  
Clinic (est. 2002)

**7,056**

clients

Refugee Civil Law Clinic  
(est. 2007)

**452**

clients

Self Representation Service  
(est. 2007)

**4,166**

clients

Mental Health Law Practice  
(est. 2009)

**1,273**

clients

Legal Pod  
(est. 2014)

**154**

clients

## CLIENTS



# VISION

---

# GOALS

**A just, fair & accessible legal system**

**Provide targeted, efficient and effective services**

**Facilitate engagement of the legal profession in pro bono work**

**Undertake research and exercise a responsible influence to achieve systemic change**







# 15 YEARS OF PRO BONO

## FAREWELL TONY WOODYATT

This year our founding director, Tony Woodyatt, stepped down after nearly 16 years at the helm. We recognise his significant contribution to the development of the pro bono movement in Australia.

Tony's enthusiasm, dedication and perseverance to help those in need have been infectious.

When QPILCH started in 2001, Tony was its sole employee working from a donated office and focused on referrals of public interest matters to a handful of top tier private law firm members.

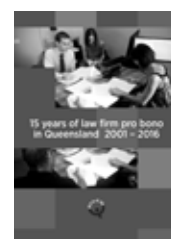
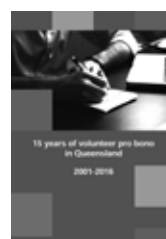
Toda, LawRight has over 30 staff and hundreds of volunteers spread across Queensland. It has over 100 members including 40 law firms, barristers and universities.

Tony worked tirelessly to identify gaps in legal services to the disadvantaged and to liaise with a variety of stakeholders across the community to invent, adopt or adapt effective pro bono solutions beyond the ongoing public interest referrals.

He is most proud of the Self Representation Service, which he says has seen wonderful outcomes and is so necessary for the many people who fall through the gaps in legal prevention services.

At his farewell, Tony was lauded for his leadership, professionalism, inspiration, innovation, passion, drive, hard work and humour.

*Thank you Tony for your extraordinary commitment.*



**We celebrated 15 years of pro bono work in Queensland with three publications.**



“I have been privileged to meet and work with many lawyers in the private profession who demonstrate their commitment to helping others and to the ideals of our profession.

Over the years, I have been supported in my role by a terrific management committee, most of whom continue their involvement with LawRight.

I have had the pleasure of working directly with and am grateful for the support of the other staff members who have so readily and energetically embraced the goals and ideals of LawRight.

They have all inspired me by their talent, commitment and generosity.



**Tony Woodyatt**  
Founding Director of LawRight

# PRO BONO REFERRAL SERVICE

For people who have a complex legal problem and can't afford a lawyer, the Referral Service is often their last chance at getting legal help.

With legal help, people can participate in the justice system to secure their legal rights, and improve their wellbeing.

This year our Referral Service had 429 requests for help.

**“LawRight and the lawyers that assisted me on a pro bono basis made a huge difference in getting a result I was satisfied with at mediation.**

**It was such a relief to have the matter resolved... I know I couldn't have done it without the assistance I received.”**

**“I honestly always felt supported and cared for. If I did not get the support I did, I would not be here today to give my comment.**

**Thank you so much.”**

This year our Referral Service:

Connected

**194**

people to law firms or barristers for pro bono advice or full legal representation

Connected

**27**

not-for-profits to law firms

Gave

**307**

people direct advice or other assistance

”

Pro Bono  
Referral  
Service  
clients





## Partners

Queensland Law Society  
Bar Association of Queensland

The Referral Service relies on the commitment of member firms and barristers, as well as participants in the BAQ and QLS Referral Schemes and student volunteers. Particular thanks to the firms and barristers who took on new pro bono clients this year:

### Barristers

Amanda Stoker	Matthew Jones
Anand Shah	Maxwell Walker
Andrew Crowe QC	Michael De Waard
Angela Rae	Peter Travers
Angelar Rae	Philippa Ahern
Ben McMillan	Polina Kinchina
Christian Jennings	Rob Anderson QC
Clem van der Weegen	Simon Hamlyn-Harris
Dan Fuller	Simon Trewavas
Danae Younger	Stephen Colditz
Donna Callaghan	Stephen Mackie
Emma Hoiberg	Steven Jones
Greg Potter	John Farren
Hamish Clift	Kim Bryson
James Earl Smith	Cathryn McConaghy
Jennifer Hewson	Michael Kehoe
Julene Winn	John Hammond
Justin Carter	Chris Crawford
Kasey McAuliffe-Lake	Damien O'Brien QC
Kate Gover	Stephen Lee
Ken Barlow	Ken Barlow
Mark Steele	Gary Coveney
Matt Black	Douglas Savage QC
Matthew Holmes	

### Law Firms

Maurice Blackburn	Butler McDermott Lawyers
Allens Linklaters	Baker McKenzie
Holding Redlich	Moulislegal
MurphySchmidt	Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Broadley Rees Hogan Lawyers	Fuller & White Solicitors
Clayton Utz	Ashurst
Minter Ellison	Berrigan Doube Lawyers
Wotton Kearney	Hopgood Ganim Lawyers
Shine Lawyers	KF Solicitors
Ashurst Australia	
Connolly Suthers	
Hopgood Ganim	
McCullough Robertson	
ATSILS	
Henry Davis York	
Sparke Helmore Lawyers	
TressCox Lawyers	
K&L Gates	
HWLitigation	
Thornton Legal	
Colin Biggers and Paisley	
Slater & Gordon	
Piper Alderman	

# STORIES



**“We are more disabled by the society that we live in than by our bodies and our diagnoses.”**

**Stella Young**  
Writer & disability advocate,  
TEDxSydney,  
April 2014

## YOHANNES

Yohannes is a 50-year-old refugee from Ethiopia who arrived with limited English. When he was new to Australia, he was charged with common assault. He hadn't understood what was culturally and legally acceptable in Australia. He pleaded guilty.

Five years later, Yohannes had completed training to become a disability support worker, to help people with mental and physical disabilities.

But when he applied for his Blue Card, it was rejected because of the assault charge.

Yohannes came to our Self Representation Service and we helped him apply to QCAT to review the Blue Card decision, and to prepare his story to explain the events of his past.

We then connected him with pro bono lawyers Ashurst and barrister Angela Rae, to attend the compulsory conference and then the hearing.

The decision was overturned and Yohannes got his Blue Card.

Thanks to this help, Yohannes can earn a living and look after his family.

## JAMES

James uses a motorised wheelchair and doesn't mind a boogie.

Visiting a local club, he parked his wheelchair on the dance floor and was dancing in his seat for 20 minutes before he was approached by a security guard and asked to leave the dance floor.

The club did not permit wheelchairs on the dance floor for safety reasons.

James made a complaint to the Australian Human Rights Commission. Basic Rights Queensland helped him in the conciliation, and when the matter escalated to the Federal Circuit Court, we connected him with a barrister. James settled the complaint at a court-ordered mediation.

When people seek to uphold their human rights and are backed by the legal profession, they will feel empowered to continue the fight and discriminatory practices will decline.



# SELF REPRESENTATION SERVICE

Anyone could find themselves involved in litigation. Representing yourself in court is one of life's most stressful experiences. Most people would struggle to pay for a lawyer.

Plus, the court system runs more efficiently when litigants have legal advice to resolve their claims.

Equal access to the courts is a fundamental pillar of our justice system, but most free legal services have limited resources to assist with the complexities of litigation.

LawRight connects self-represented people with volunteer lawyers. With LawRight, people can participate confidently in the justice system.

Thank you to the firms that support this service, the volunteer lawyers and barristers who staff appointments and assist clients, and members of the judiciary and SRS Reference Group who contribute their time and expertise.

**We helped clients across the state in:**

- Court of Appeal
- Supreme Court
- District Court
- QCAT
- Federal Court
- Federal Circuit Court
- Land Court
- Magistrates Court

## We provided 741 appointments

- to help clients help to draft their court forms, affidavits and submissions
- to give advice
- to support clients to prepare for court

**We advised 90 people to discontinue their proceedings and we know at least 56 took that advice.**

**This adds up to a big saving for the court system and all parties involved.**



### **Pilot representation services**

We innovate and build new services to respond to need – always aiming to harness the available pro bono services to help clients where it is needed most. In 2016-17 we piloted three representation services designed to offer one-off legal representation to clients at a defined stage of their proceeding:

- Compulsory conferences in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. We had 41 applications for assistance with appeals and organised representation for 22 of those clients at their conferences.
- Enforcement hearings in the Magistrates Court. We helped 74 clients responding to enforcement proceedings.
- Child Protection conferences in QCAT. This service assisted 5 parents and/or carers seeking to review a contact, placement or removal decision of Child Safety in QCAT.

These pilot services were funded by the 2015-17 Additional temporary Commonwealth CLC funding and were discontinued in May 2017 due to funding uncertainty. We have since obtained funding to operate a Duty Lawyer Service at QCAT to provide comprehensive services for parties impacted by domestic and family violence and breakdown.

**We helped 559 people who were representing themselves in civil proceedings, including**

- seeking or reviewing guardianship and administration orders for themselves or loved ones
- seeking to reclaim unpaid wages
- responding to bankruptcy proceedings
- resolving legal issues involved in elder abuse
- addressing Blue Card issues
- seeking asylum in Australia
- participating in decisions about child safety
- resolving discrimination complaints

# STORIES

”

**“The court system is very complex and stressful, so I was thankful for LawRight’s assistance.”**

## DAVID

David is a pensioner and English is his second language. When David came to us, he wanted to re-open his QCAT case. The dispute had been resolved – with David agreeing to pay an amount to the other party.

But when he reviewed his invoices, he found a problem and wanted to re-open proceedings. QCAT refused to re-open the case but David wanted to appeal.

David talked to volunteer lawyers at our Self Representation Service. They explained that the QCAT decision couldn’t be appealed, and the payment agreement was binding.

David accepted that advice and expressed his appreciation for the Service’s assistance.

## JEFFREY

Jeffrey and his wife were getting older but didn’t own their own home, so they gave \$96,000 to their son and daughter-in-law to help them buy a property, on the understanding that Jeffrey and his wife would be allowed to live there for the rest of their life.

But when Jeffrey’s son passed away, his daughter-in-law sold the property and evicted Jeffrey and his wife. They applied for a declaration that they had an equitable interest in the property. Sadly, Jeffrey’s wife passed away soon after proceedings commenced and Jeffrey sought our help to progress the matter.

We helped Jeffrey to draft his pleadings, comply with his disclosure obligations and make an offer to settle the dispute. Jeffrey and his daughter-in-law reached a settlement.

With LawRight’s help, Jeffrey could participate in the justice system and get secure housing again.

## RITA

Rita is an Aboriginal woman with five biological children and strong ties to her communities in the Northern Territory and South Australia.

In 2014, Rita became the kinship carer for her niece and nephew, under child protection orders from the Queensland Government

It was a tough time for Rita. Her nephew had extreme behaviour issues. Rita had been diagnosed with depression. She was living with family in the NT so she didn't get the usual government support from Queensland.

Rita had a nervous breakdown and assaulted her nephew. She informed Child Safety and the police, and was convicted of aggravated assault.

Rita's Blue Card was cancelled, her kinship carer certificate suspended, and the children were removed from Rita's care and placed in foster care.

We helped Rita to get her Blue Card back. Our lawyers helped her file submissions and affidavits in support of her application, prepare for a compulsory conference and take the steps to get her application to a hearing. We also connected Rita with barrister Kim Bryson for representation at the hearing.

At the hearing, the Tribunal set aside the Blue Card decision, and Child Safety later agreed to return the children to Rita's care.



**“I was at a funeral in APY land when I heard the news and have been in cloud 9 since. I cannot verbalise my thanks... It was unbelievable.**

**I thought I would fall apart so many times but you guys really just made me focus. Thanks seem inadequate, but thank you anyway.”**



# HOMELESS PERSONS' LEGAL CLINIC

People experiencing homelessness are likely to have at least 3 new legal problems each year and do not attend traditional legal services for legal help. Unsolved legal problems just perpetuate the hardship.

We empower clients to resolve their legal issues and build self-reliance, to help break the cycle of disadvantage.

**We helped people to**

- sort out their credit issues
- deal with fines, which disproportionately affect people sleeping rough
- secure their tenancy rights and housing
- deal with mental health laws & supported decision making
- navigate government decisions, such as Centrelink

To address those legal problems, volunteer lawyers undertook over 12,700 hours of pro bono, which equates to over \$4 million worth of legal work.

Thank you to the lawyers, firms and partner agencies who helped us to support our most vulnerable clients.

**We reached over 750 new clients.**

**We gave 246 pieces of one-off legal advice and opened 1445 files to address more complex problems.**

**Money isn't the only hurdle to getting legal help. Vulnerable people with multiple, complex problems may not even identify that their 'problem' is a legal issue. And they are more likely to tell a support worker than to tell a lawyer.**

**We placed over 450 volunteer lawyers in community agencies, to help people where they are supported in other ways, to reach holistic solutions.**



## Partnerships

### Host agencies

139 Club  
Anglicare  
Australian Red Cross  
The Basement  
(Toowoomba)  
Brisbane Youth Service  
Footprints  
Micah Projects  
Mission Australia  
Multicultural Development  
Association  
New Farm Neighbourhood  
Centre  
Open Minds Australia  
OzCare  
Red Cross Housing Hub  
(Townsville)  
The Salvation Army  
The Women's Centre  
(Townsville)  
Wuchopperen Health  
Service Ltd (Cairns)

### Law Firms

Allens  
Anderson Fredericks Turner  
Ashurst  
Aussiegration  
Clewett Lawyers  
Connolly Suthers  
Corrs Chambers Westgarth  
DLA Piper  
Herbert Smith Freehills  
Holding Redlich  
HWL Ebsworth  
Kennedy Spanner Lawyers  
King & Wood Mallesons  
Macdonald law  
MacDonnells  
Mackey Wales  
Maurice Blackburn  
McCullough Robertson  
Miller Harris  
MinterEllison  
MurphySchmidt  
Roberts Nehmer McKee  
Shine  
TASC  
Walker Lawyers



# STORIES

## PENELOPE

Penelope was a young woman experiencing mental illness and a severe brain injury as a result of chronic alcoholism and an attempted suicide.

When Penelope met with the volunteer lawyers, she had been sleeping rough and was struggling to manage debts totalling almost \$20,000.

LawRight lawyers helped negotiate for almost all the debts to be waived.

This helped to make Penelope's income more stable, and it removed the pressure of being chased for a debt.

Penelope could focus on her personal wellbeing, while she looked for permanent housing.

## THERESA

Theresa is a young mother who suffered significant long-term injuries from her partner's attacks. When she tried to flee her home, she couldn't find a new rental because she had been wrongly black-listed on TICA, the landlord database. Theresa was also held responsible for her partner's debts. She was forced to stay in emergency accommodation while her children stayed with relatives.

LawRight lawyers met Theresa at her emergency accommodation and had the TICA listing removed. We negotiated with Theresa's creditors to stabilise her income and enabled her to secure a safe rental.

LawRight also assisted Theresa to be compensated for her injuries, so she can pay her extensive medical expenses.

Now Theresa can take steps to heal her other hurts.

**“Thanks for everything, means a lot having someone to turn to and in my world not many people have been there for me so thank you to you and your team.”**

**“Bridget has been amazing and her professionalism plus the care she has shown to the client has allowed her to become very positive about this whole process. My client feels very supported, which has allowed her to gain control over both her emotions and the plans regarding her financial situation.”**

**“Thank you so much again for the hard work that you have done for me! It has helped me immensely.”**



**Clients and community  
support workers.**



# REFUGEE CIVIL LAW CLINIC

## We helped 66 clients

- to navigate a new legal system
- to deal with government departments and overcome bureaucratic hurdles
- to move on from dodgy deals and contracts they don't understand
- to feel like they belong

## Partnerships

Volunteer lawyers from Corrs Chambers Westgarth meet clients at the Multicultural Development Agency in South Brisbane and work with clients and caseworkers until the problems are resolved.

The Refugee Civil Law Clinic operates as part of the HPLC, using the model of outreach to help a group of vulnerable clients by putting lawyers in a location where they receive other services so the clients receive holistic support.





# STORIES

Barkhado arrived in Australia as a refugee after fleeing Somalia. Because she couldn't speak English, she was unaware that her date of birth had been incorrectly recorded on her immigration documents, recording her to be 17 years younger than she really was.

Having this error on an official government document made it even harder for Barkhado each time she dealt with the government, and caused her a lot of stress.

The volunteer lawyers of our Refugee Civil Law Clinic applied to the Department of Immigration to have Barkhado's details corrected. This was a big relief and allowed Barkhado to focus on settling into her new life in Australia.

---

The clients were a family from a country where surnames are not commonly used.

They didn't understand how to fill out the form for their visa, and each had their first name incorrectly recorded as their surname.

It was difficult to find enough evidence to prove their real names, so helped them to have their documents annotated with their correct names.

Now we are helping them to legally change their names through the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

”

**“The family could not express their full gratitude in English. They have told me many times how much they appreciate the support, information, advocacy, patience and the assistance.**

**They wanted a surname – a family name – and the measure of assistance helped them feel like they belong to the wider Australian community.**

**Thank you for the wonderful assistance.”**

# LEGALPOD

Each year, over 500 young people on turning 18 will transition from the Queensland child protection system into independence.

40% will exit the child protection system into homelessness, and up to 88% experience homelessness within the first 12 months.

Many legal problems can arise during an unstable transition, often relating to tenancy, debt, Centrelink and criminal law problems.

This often leads to long-term homelessness throughout their lifetime.

We developed LegalPod to limit the lifelong risk of homelessness for young people exiting state protective care. We intervene before legal problems escalate. We give assertive, personalised and consistent long-term legal assistance, maintaining a direct connection for up to 4 years.

## Partnerships

### COMMUNITY AGENCIES

Anglicare  
ARROS  
Bric Housing  
Churches of Christ Care  
Create Foundation  
Life Without Barriers  
Lutheran Community Care  
Mercy Community Services  
Open Minds Australia  
The Smith Family  
Yourtown  
Youth Advocacy Centre  
Zig Zag

### LAWYERS

Allens  
Ashurst  
BakerMcKenzie  
Clayton Utz  
Freedom Migration  
HopgoodGanim  
HWL Ebsworth  
Idemitsu  
King & Wood Mallesons  
MinterEllison  
MurphySchmidt

### LEGALPOD REFERENCE GROUP:

The Honourable Margaret White AO  
Lucas Moore, CREATE Foundation  
Tracey Smith, PeakCare Queensland  
Paul Newman, Ashurst

**This year LegalPod intervened for 61 young people:**

#### to sustain housing

- 10 clients had evictions overturned or public housing secured

#### to avoid jail

- 25 clients were represented in criminal proceedings and improved their outcomes (eg. getting charges withdrawn)

#### to stabilise health

- 11 clients were supported with stalking complaints, disability issues, victims' compensation or family disputes

#### to stabilise income

- 44 clients had 76 debts or fines waived or reduced

#### to support decision-making

#### to strengthen their connection to community support.

## Funding

LegalPod has been funded by StreetSmart, the Ian Potter Foundation and the Sidney Myer Fund and the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. In 2016-17, LegalPod received temporary Commonwealth funding and then Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General temporary funding, which ceased in September 2017.

IT IS HEART-BREAKING TO KNOW THAT LEGALPOD IS COMING TO A CLOSE ... IT'S A REAL SHAME BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN ACHIEVING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR LEGALPOD CLIENTS

LegalPod volunteer lawyer

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, MEANS A LOT HAVING SOMEONE TO TURN TO AND IN MY WORLD NOT MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN THERE FOR ME SO THANK YOU TO YOU AND YOUR TEAM

LegalPod client

HELLO! ... I HAVE OFFICIALLY GOTTEN MY NAME CHANGE! THANK YOU SO MUCH AGAIN FOR THE HARD WORK THAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME! IT HAS HELPED ME IMMENSELY

LegalPod client

THE YOUNG PEOPLE OUR AGENCY WORKS WITH ARE HIGHLY VULNERABLE. FOR SEVERAL YEARS WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ALONGSIDE LEGALPOD TO SUPPORT PEOPLE TO ENGAGE WITH VOLUNTEER LAWYERS TO ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE LEGAL STRESS THEY ARE UNDER. THIS HAS ALLOWED OUR SOCIAL WORKERS TO FOCUS MORE ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THE YOUNG PERSON."

Community worker

LEGALPOD GOES A LONG WAY TOWARDS RESPONDING TO THE DISADVANTAGES THAT FACE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A CARE EXPERIENCE AND A COGNITIVE DISABILITY IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM. [WE] BELIEVE THAT THIS IS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO'VE EXPERIENCED STATE CARE."

Community worker

IT'S SUCH A VALUABLE SERVICE AND SAVES US ALL IN FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL COSTS

Community worker

# MENTAL HEALTH LAW PRACTICE

Many people with a mental illness are highly vulnerable.

Mental illness can cause other difficulties with housing, income and decision-making, so multiple legal problems can build up, just when clients feel least able to deal with them.

Research shows that people with a disability (of which 80% relate to mental illness) are twice as likely to experience legal problems, and these problems are often substantial.

## Partnerships

Thank you to all the volunteers who appeared as advocates in the Mental Health Review Tribunal, as well as other volunteers and our partner organisations.

### COMMUNITY AGENCIES

Open Minds

Footprints

Princess Alexandra Hospital

### LAW SCHOOLS

University of Queensland

## We supported 207 people:

- **with advice about examination and treatment orders**
- **to resolve debts and stabilise their income**
- **to protect their right to safe, high-quality medical treatment**
- **to access information on their health records and make sure it's correct**

## Funding

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.



**Each piece of advice or practical help removed a significant stress for our clients, at a time when they needed it most, so they can focus on looking after themselves.**



# STORIES

## NICK

Nick is 41 years old and training to be a mixed martial arts professional. He had previously received voluntary treatment for depression, anxiety and a psychotic illness. After Nick's relationship broke down and he lost his job, he experienced a period of heightened stress. He was placed on his first Treatment Authority and received treatment for Paranoid Schizophrenia.

Nick wanted the Treatment Authority to be revoked as the side effects from the medication – weight gain, sedation and slowed reflexes – interfered with his martial arts training and healthy lifestyle.

We helped Nick to apply for an early review hearing. Nick's first hearing was adjourned due to technical difficulties, and he was worried that he would have to have another depot injection before the re-hearing. Fortunately, he was given another hearing within 7 days, where his Treatment Authority was revoked.

Nick was an excellent self-advocate, and appreciated the volunteer advocate's assistance.

Nick said that the advocate's submissions were on point and well organised. He was "stoked" with the decision, and looks forward to making his own treatment decisions going forward.

**130 clients were given a voice in decisions about their treatment. A LawRight volunteer helped them prepare for their Mental Health Review Tribunal hearing and attended with them, supporting them to tell their story in their own words.**

**For some clients, the Tribunal lifted their Involuntary Treatment Order. For all clients, they were empowered to be part of the process.**

# HEALTH ADVOCACY LEGAL CLINIC

Many people with health problems are highly vulnerable. People with health problems often also have concurrent complex legal, social, emotional and psychological issues.

Having HALC located at hospitals is beneficial to clients as it provides a familiar environment and gives clients ease of access. It also allows the lawyer to work in partnership with the medical professionals and allied health. This health justice partnership is truly a holistic form of legal practice.

Through HALC, our clients know someone is in their corner. HALC provides emotional and social support at a time when clients often feel vulnerable and isolated

HALC is an interdisciplinary clinic run by a small supervised team of law and social work students at the Mater Hospital and St Vincent's Hospital.

HALC provides free advice or legal help as well as social work support that aims to connect clients to appropriate services. HALC understands the complexities and challenges that come with ill health.

The clinic is a blend of social work, medical and law students with a mix of skills, knowledge and client focus. Rather than coming at clients from different perspectives, the holistic ethos of the clinic allows for a wrap around approach to client needs.

## Partnerships

University of Queensland TC  
Beirne School of Law

Griffith University School of  
Medicine

Queensland University of  
Technology School of Public  
Health and Social Work

St Vincent's Hospital

Mater Young Adult Health Centre

### **This year, we supported 51 clients to:**

- **make Advanced Health Directives and sort out their guardianship arrangements, to simplify future decisions about their health**
- **resolve tenancy disputes to stabilise their housing**
- **access their Centrelink entitlements to stabilise their income**

**Each client received relevant, practical and holistic support at a time when medical problems crowd out the legal and social concerns.**

# STORIES

## BELLE

When Belle first came to the Health Advocacy Legal Clinic she was 28 weeks pregnant and planned to offer the baby for adoption.

She was 43, had a history of mental health issues, rheumatoid arthritis and chronic illnesses. Belle lived in a public housing complex that did not allow children.

Belle had been a ward of the state and was fearful of her child getting lost in the child protection system if something happened to her during or after the birth.

We gave her advice and support to complete an advanced health directive, enduring power of attorney and a will.

We also negotiated with the Department of Housing to allow Belle to live in the complex with the baby for three months after birth.

Just before her due date, Belle told us she was being bullied by family members about her late sister's will, of which Belle was a beneficiary. We connected Belle to a law firm for help to resolve this.

Belle had a beautiful baby girl who is thriving and still in Belle's care.

Belle told us that knowing she had somewhere to go to ask questions, gave her peace of mind and clarity. She said "I would never have been able to do it, without the support of you."

# STUDENT CLINICS

## MENTAL HEALTH LAW CLINIC

The University of Queensland

Ameera Ismail

Whitney Smart

Tegan Barrett-McGuin

Christopher Vale

Shalini Ramjee

George Tabakov

Harriet O'Hare

Madeleine Forster

Joseph Kneipp

Ji Joo

Linus Mueller

Amelia Nolan

## HOMELESS PERSONS' LEGAL CLINIC STUDENT CLINIC

The University of Queensland

Arthur Dowdle

Genevieve Feely

Jordan Carey

Kurt Sines

Ryan Godfrey

Verity Smith

Andrew Simpson

Daniel Rigden

Elissa Morcombe

Lucinda Tonge

Sarid Milne

Tessa Boardman

## LITIGATION CLINIC

Bond University

Dakota-Lily Morris

Ellen Soust

Emily Macdonald

Felix Kalade

Holli Edwards

Laura McGee

Lauren Bucksath

## LITIGATION CLINIC

Queensland University of  
Technology

Batool Al Sallakh

Emma Williams

Gavin Alford

Jenny Nugent

Joshua Watkins

Michael Webster

Paul Cartmill

Thomas Cavanough

The MHLC students supported the Princess Alexandra Hospital outreach clinic and helped clients with mental health law and civil law issues.

The HPLC student clinic has two rotations, with students spending half the semester in our Brisbane office working on research projects and the other half at pro bono partner law firms, attending and supporting the volunteer lawyers at the outreach legal clinics.

The Litigation Clinic, run in alternating semesters by Bond University and QUT, supports the work of the Self Representation Service, preparing briefs for the volunteer lawyers.

Public Interest Research Clinic students investigated the role of technology to increase access to justice, looking at the impact of digital disruption, global trends as well as what software could be used by LawRight to improve our efficiency and assist clients. Outcomes included an on-line induction module and recommended the use of open source software to develop a guided interview for self-represented litigants. Students worked with the software to develop a questionnaire to automatically populate court forms for unpaid wages claims in the Federal Circuit Court. At the end of semester, the students presented to the UQ Law School, which led to LawRight applying for an applied research grant.

Access to Justice and Social Justice Lawyering Clinic students work on Referral Service files and assist referral staff members to assess applications, refer and advise clients.

Students are exposed to pro bono and community lawyering including notions of the "justice gap", resource limitations and associated career options. They gain experience dealing with uncertainty and understanding that some client solutions may not necessarily involve legal outcomes. They practise written and oral communication skills, time management and team work not only through working on files but through group discussions and presentations from the profession.

**"Just as CLCs must adapt to new technologies, it is important that law students are ready to face the inevitable digital disruption of the legal industry. I am grateful for the opportunity to finish the final semester of my degree with exposure to a new and exciting legal technology and a greater appreciation for the shifting landscape of the profession."**

**"LawRight actually taught me how to deal with real life cases and guided me to apply all the analytical skills that I learnt in law school."**

**"This clinic allowed me to realise how important this type of work is, and why lawyers need to assist in these areas... I was able to see first-hand how beneficial it can be."**



#### **PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH CLINIC**

Griffith University  
Elise Allcock  
Timothy Guazzo  
Tom Letts  
Justin Resulovic  
Wil Alam  
Callum Gribbin  
Shonna Lye  
Emma McLean  
Bridie McQueenie  
Thanaphol Pattanasri

#### **ACCESS TO JUSTICE CLINIC**

Queensland University of  
Technology  
Harrison Bell  
Elinor Buys  
Georgia Corpe  
Hillary McVeigh  
Dylan Regan  
Grace Tadj

#### **SOCIAL JUSTICE LAWYERING CLINIC**

Griffith University  
Angelina Ah Sam  
Elaine Auo  
Dylan Ebanks  
Abel Ganesan  
Madeline Underwood

#### **HEALTH ADVOCACY LEGAL CLINIC**

UQ, QUT & Griffith  
Julia Hutton  
Corrine Dodd  
Kira Larwill  
Wing Ki Chong  
Zhenxia Li  
Elizabeth Da Costa  
Amelia Searle  
Lachlan Cusack  
Gabrielle Brady  
George Hempenstall  
Ryan Webb  
Abbie Birmingham  
Junling Lu  
Edwina Sully  
Carmen Nichols

#### **TOWNSVILLE STUDENT CLINIC**

Ashleigh Guy  
Bo Ryan  
Jarred Winterkorn

#### **Thank you to the guests and supporters of the student clinics:**

Bridget Cullen, QCAT Member

The Honourable Justice Vasta

Registrar Belcher, Federal Circuit Court

Ed Santow, Human Rights Commissioner

Department of Justice and Attorney General

Steven Jones, Barrister-at-Law

Michael Bell and Lisa Sylvester, LexisNexis

Tristan Lockwood, The Legal Forecast

Tim Baumann, MurphySchmidt

The Honourable Justice Peter Applegarth

Bridget Cullen, Member, QCAT

Matthew Jones, Barrister

Kasey Chambers, Barrister

Marshall Irwin, former District Court Judge

Professor Harry McConnell, Neuropsychiatrist, St  
Vincent's Hospital

Greg McGahan, Manager, Mater Young Adult Health  
Centre

Helen Squibb

Dr Tatiana Ewais, Senior Psychiatrist, Mater Hospital



# RESOURCES

**LawRight resources the community with innovative tools to access justice, including the Legal Health Check, Legalpedia, training for community workers and on-line videos.**

## Training

The Mental Health Law Practice trained 30 new volunteers to act as advocates in the Mental Health Review Tribunal.

### **The Self Representation Service delivered:**

6 induction sessions for new volunteers

3 information sessions for QCAT staff and members

Training for volunteer lawyers on:

- The laws of wills and enduring documents – barrister Matthew Holmes
- Drafting Applications and Affidavits – barrister Gary Coveney
- Disability Support Pension requirements and an overview of AAT proceedings – Steve Irvine – Solicitor, Basic Rights Queensland and Justin Toohey, Director ADR, AAT
- Client interviewing skills – Farley Tolpen, Mediation Experts, Michaela Manning, Bartley Law, and David Manwaring, QAI
- Ethics – Brian Bartley

### **The Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic delivered:**

9 induction sessions for new volunteers

8 training/information sessions for community caseworkers

training for volunteer lawyers on:

- Interactions between vulnerable people and the criminal justice system
- Capacity considerations & appropriately helping clients with mental health concerns
- SPER debt casework strategies & systemic advocacy opportunities
- Cultural competencies and effectively engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients

## Legalpedia

Over the past few years, Lawright developed Legalpedia – a searchable, online, peer-edited database for the community legal sector and its clients that provides unrestricted access to legal information.

A strength of Legalpedia for community legal centres and their clients is that it provides a central platform that can be updated also by the private profession on a pro bono basis, ensuring that the information remains current. We are seeking expressions of interest from law firms, barristers, universities and community legal centres that would like to add to this valuable resource.

In August 2016, LawRight solicitor Ben Tuckett presented Legalpedia at the 2016 National CLCs Conference.

You can visit Legalpedia at [www.legalpediaqld.org.au](http://www.legalpediaqld.org.au).

## Online videos to help people self-representing

With funding from Legal Aid Queensland's CLE Collaboration Fund, LawRight developed a series of videos designed to explain the litigation process. They were 'released' this financial year and are available to view on Legalpedia.

The set of five videos provide self-represented litigants with strategies and resources to navigate litigation. We are grateful to Justice Peter Applegarth who first conceived the project, Justice Daubney and retired District Court Judge Irwin for contributing their presentation and acting skills, the LAQ Collaboration CLE Fund, and to the wannabe actors amongst the UQ Pro Bono Centre students, retired and sitting judges, practising lawyers and LawRight staff and volunteers.

The videos are going to be played on a loop in the registry of the QEII Courts of Law in Brisbane.

## Health Law Queensland

We have developed a new health law resources site where the resources that are available to help people who are experiencing or planning for health law issues, principally mental health, can navigate the health law system, see [www.healthlawqld.org.au](http://www.healthlawqld.org.au)

## Helping community lawyers with mental health clients

LawRight produced best practice guidelines and resources for generalist lawyers to work collaboratively with mental health caseworkers to support people experiencing mental ill-health. These resources are the final installation of the Mental Health Collaboration Project which commenced in June 2016. Deb Stafford, QPILCH project lawyer, consulted over 30 stakeholders and produced six training videos which feature clients, health professionals and legal practitioners working in the field. Deb recently delivered seminars for community legal centres in Cairns, Townsville and the Sunshine Coast, using the video material and received excellent feedback on the need for these collaborative skills.

The videos are available on the LawRight website.

## Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Justice Partnership

In Cairns we partnered with local services to develop and deliver holistic, collaborative legal services to vulnerable indigenous Australians in Aboriginal Health Service settings.

The Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General strongly invested in our Health Justice Partnership with Wuchopperen Aboriginal Health Service to evaluate its impact, develop culturally appropriate resources and to collaborate effectively with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal services.

Commencing in June 2017, the two year project, supported by the Queensland Legal Assistance Forum, brings together LawRight, Wuchopperen, Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service, Fiona Allison – noted indigenous legal needs researcher, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service as well as highly respected Indigenous artists and facilitators.

We have begun the journey of developing a culturally appropriate Legal Health Check together, as a key resource of the partnership.

Donnella Mills, LawRight lawyer and a Torres Strait Islander woman, presented on the project at the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation conference in November.

## Stolen Wages Day in Cairns

Between the 1890s and 1970s, the Queensland Government exercised control over all aspects of the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including wages and savings. These 'stolen wages' were for the most part not always returned or properly accounted for. A current Queensland Government Reparations Scheme offers one-off payments to eligible applicants, although the amount of the payment is not related to a person's actual loss and a person is required to waive their right to future legal action.

Many Indigenous people are not aware of the scheme or have difficulty completing an application. With the scheme's deadline approaching, the Cairns Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic conducted community meetings, culminating in a Stolen Wages Day on October 6 at Wuchopperen Health Service.

The day harnessed pro bono lawyers and students to advise clients of their legal options and assist people to complete their applications, and payments began to arrive soon afterwards.



**Stolen wages**

- Are you 57 or older?
- Did you work for no good wages?
- Want to claim for family who have passed away?

**Quick! - Cut-off for the Government scheme is December 16**

**Thursday 9 - 12 October 6th  
at Wuchopperen**

Free legal help to find out your options  
Bring all your papers – like birth certificate, ID, death certificate, funeral notice

Part of the Wuchopperen Legal Clinic, run by QPILCH  
Please call us on 0459 822 334 for more info

## Financial help in pro bono and CLC cases

The LawRight 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.

The Disbursement Fund is maintained from LawRight fundraising events, such as the Queensland Legal Walk.

### In 2016-17, disbursements have assisted clients of:

- HW Litigation
- Self Representation Service
- Ashurst Australia
- Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic
- Wettenhall Silva
- K&L Gates
- Referral Service
- Caxton Legal Centre
- Shine Lawyers
- Refugee Civil Law Clinic
- LegalPod

## LEO

Leo is a teenager from Townsville who began self-identifying and presenting as a male in his early teens. He had professional medical support and the support of his parents for his gender transition but he needed legal support to get an order from the Family Court so he could have hormone replacement therapy.

LawRight connected him with specialist legal help in this area – a law firm and barrister from Brisbane.

The Disbursement Fund enabled Leo's legal team to travel to Townsville to appear at the hearing of his application in the Family Court.

Leo is now ready to take the next steps as he continues his transition, with support from his family and doctors. Leo and his family were very grateful and relieved to have the support of the legal profession to make this step a little easier.

## DOUG

Doug, a 64-year-old man from a remote area, was sacked following a workplace injury.

A regional Community Legal Centre helped James to file his application for reinstatement with the QIRC and then connected Doug with LawRight.

We connected Doug to a barrister and a Brisbane law firm. We also involved a regional law firm to instruct at the hearing in Cairns. The Disbursement Fund paid for the barrister to travel to Cairns to attend the hearing.

The QIRC found that Doug's termination was invalid. They ordered that he be reinstated and receive back pay.

Doug was very happy with the outcome and told us "The barrister was outstanding, she did a fantastic job in Cairns, I couldn't ask for any better representation, she was absolutely brilliant."



# PUBLICATIONS

**Legal Health Check Pathways Guidelines and Training for Legal Assistance Services Project Report**, Sue Garlick with assistance from Marissa Dooris, June 2016 (Updated November 2016)

Work and development orders – Response to consultation paper, contributions by Marissa Dooris, July 2016

**Submissions to the Better Management of the Social Welfare System initiative**, Paula Hughes and Fiona Thatcher, Submitted to the Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs, April 2017

**Fair and flexible SPER fine options for vulnerable Queenslanders**, Paula Hughes, Anti-Poverty Week, October 2016

**Submissions on the State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Bill 2017**, Stephen Grace, Paula Hughes and Belinda Tang, Submitted to the Finance and Administration Committee, March 2017

**Technology and A2J, Andrea Perry-Petersen**, May 2017. Andrea presented at Community Legal Centres Queensland Conference on innovation and student work in developing an on-line guided interview to produce court documents for use by self-represented litigants.

**SPER Work and Development Orders: What do Caseworkers need to know?**, Paula Hughes, June 2017





# EVENTS

## QLD LEGAL WALK

The 10th Queensland Legal Walk was held on 19 May 2017. Across the state, over 800 members of the legal community joined events in Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Townsville, Cairns, Mackay and the Gold Coast.

With our partners, we raised over **\$90,000** to directly support vulnerable Queenslanders. Funds raised will support LawRight services and the Disbursement Fund, which helps clients of community legal centres and pro bono firms.





# EVENTS

## STREET SOCCER

The 5th annual Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic Street Soccer Tournament was held on 20 July 2016. The tournament was an enjoyable, socially inclusive event in support of people experiencing homelessness and mental health concerns, along with refugees and vulnerable young people.

12 teams took to the field and LawRight's patron, the Honourable Catherine Holmes, Chief Justice of Queensland, presented trophies to winning team Allens Careers and best and fairest team Ashurst.

Thanks to our partners Allens, Ashurst, Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Herbert Smith Freehills, HopgoodGanim – Careers, MinterEllison and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and The Big Issue Australia's Street Soccer program, along with community agencies and government stakeholders for their support.

Together we raised over \$4,000 for the Big Issue and the Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic.





# MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Matthew Jones (President), **Barrister**  
 Gabriella Ritchie (Secretary), **Senior Associate at McCullough Robertson**  
 Tim Baumann (Treasurer), **Senior Associate at MurphySchmidt**  
 Francesca Bartlett, **Academic at TC Beirne School of Law**  
 Lucy Bretherton, **Counsel at Ashurst**  
 Katie Clark, **Special Counsel at MinterEllison**  
 Binny De Saram, **Queensland Law Society**  
 Damien O'Brien QC (BAQ representative), **Barrister**  
 Katharine Philp, **Partner at TressCox**  
 Peter Smith, **Partner at Herbert Smith Freehills**  
 Robyn Wilkinson, **Legal Aid Queensland**  
 Andrew Buchanan (Inaugural President), **retired partner of Allens**  
 Judith McNamara, **Associate Professor, Head of QUT School of Law**  
 Bronwyn Neroni, **Queensland Law Society**  
 Robert Reed, **Minter Ellison**

## Staff

Alice Nagel	Liz O'Connor
Amanda Bosworth	Loretta Stellino
Andrea de Smidt	Lyn Aplin
Andrea Perry-Petersen	Marissa Dooris
Ben Tuckett	Melanie O'Sullivan
Cameron Lavery	Michaela Transton
Cate Banks	Mitchell Dunk
Charlie Raftos	Nikki Gatbonton
Cherie McLaughlin	Paula Hughes
David Maunsell	Phil Hancock
Donnella Mills	Raquel Dos Santos
Elizabeth Gallagher	Rebecca Slade
Ellen Bevan	Renee Lees
Emily Giblin	Sarah Cox
Enisal Newstead	Sophia Finter
Fiona Thatcher	Stephen Grace
Iain McCowie	Sue Garlick
Imogen Coates-Marnane	Tim Laird
Jacob Matysek	Tony Woodyatt
Joel McComber	Victoria Allen
Karen Williams	
Karen Dyhrberg	
Kim Forrester	
Linda Macpherson	

## Secondments

**Minter Ellison**  
 Lauren Chrome  
 Ivan Mukarev  
 Ned Marlow-Weir  
 Belinda Tang

**Corrs Chambers Westgarth**  
 Rachel Hendrie  
 Jack Cornwall  
 Emily Ryan

**Australian Government Solicitor**  
 Jamie Watts  
 Madeline King  
 Tristan Lockwood

**Self Representation  
Service Reference Group**

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

**Self Representation  
Service Volunteer Firms**

Allens  
Ashurst  
Barry.Nilsson.  
Bartley Cohen Litigation  
Lawyers  
Clayton Utz  
Clyde&Co Australia  
Cooper Grace Ward  
Lawyers  
Colin Biggers & Paisley  
Lawyers  
Corrs Chambers Westgarth  
Crown Law  
DibbsBarker  
DLA Piper Australia  
Energex  
Hall & Wilcox  
Henry Davis York  
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers  
HopgoodGanim Lawyers  
K&L Gates  
King&Wood Mallesons  
Lander & Rogers Lawyers  
McCullough Robertson  
Lawyers  
McInnes Wilson Lawyers  
MinterEllison  
MurphySchmidt Solicitors  
Piper Alderman  
Shine Lawyers  
Sparke Helmore Lawyers  
TressCox Lawyers  
Wotton + Kearney

**Townsville**

Jessica Ashwin of Donnie  
Harris Law

**Barristers**

Rohan Armstrong  
Sean Kelly  
Merissa Martinez  
Viviana Keegan  
Alex Raeburn  
Rowan Pack  
Kelly Stone  
Suzanne Smales  
Travis Schmitt

**Research Reference Group**

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

**Funding and fundraising  
subcommittee**

Andrew Buchanan (chair)  
Kathleen Singleton  
Matthew Jones

**QIRC Workers'  
Compensation Appeals  
Service Barristers**

Ajith Perera  
Anastasia Nichols  
Anthony Skelton  
Ben McMillan  
Benjamin Buckley  
Borcsa Vass  
Graham Carter  
Greg Potter  
Hugh Scott-Mackenzie  
James Earl Smith  
James Ford  
Jennifer Hewson  
Jens Streit  
John Curran  
Mark Healy

Michael Holohan  
Michael Johnson  
Peter Goodwin  
Polina Kinchina  
Rosemary Dalby  
Sarah Poon  
Sean Reidy  
Subramaniam Barataraj  
Susan Anderson  
Zoran Gelic

**Enforcement Hearing  
Barristers**

Anthony Anderson  
Anthony Skelton  
Ben Wetzig  
Benjamin Buckley  
Borcsa Vass  
Bridget O'Brien  
Dan Fuller  
Denika Whitehouse  
Florence Chen  
Gail Hartridge  
Greg Potter  
Jade Marr  
Keith Wylie  
Lonya Sheптооhа  
Matthew Jones  
Melanie Hindman  
Nathan Shaw  
Peter Somers  
Peter Travers  
Sarah Poon  
Stephen Colditz  
Steve Jones  
Steven Hogg  
Sue McLeod  
Zoran Gelic

**Mediators for Fair Work  
settlement conferences**

Chris Lenz  
Farley Tolpen

George Kalimnios  
Jacob Owen  
Joe O'Hare  
John Farren  
Kelly McIntyre  
Kirsty Petersen  
Lynette Vanderstoep  
Matt Jones  
Rob Stevenson  
Roman Krumins  
Shane O'Connor  
Stephen Lee  
**Child Protection  
Conferences barristers**  
George Kalimnios  
Hamish Clift

# VOLUNTEERS

Dan Pennicott

## **Mental Health Law Practice**

Anna Brasnett

Lydia Hugrass

Rebecca Bellamy

Vinay Veerabhadra

Kate Clinton

Pia Conradsen

## **Mental Health Law Practice**

Wendy Pei

Bronte Maddaford

Shannon Hurley

Summer Brady

Ashleigh-Rae Bretherton

Ada Sculthorp

Amelia Bell

Beenush Khokhar

Karen Williams

Nathan Condoleon

Anna Brasnett

Marie Carroll

Bogart Phillips

Connor Davies

Tegan Barrett-McGuin

Robyn Dawe

Elizabeth Katona

Georgina Papworth

Amelia Nolan

Clare Scrine

Nicole Gillard

## **HPLC**

Lily Fletcher

## **Referral Service**

Marcus De Witt-Ryall

Priam Rangiah

Jackson Evans

Damian Lloyd

Lee Vo

Sophie Power

Hunter Thompson

Zara Nadeem

Hazal Gacka

Alisa Nguyen

Emma Williams

Thinh Vu

Larrissa Harrison

Joyce Chang

Chloe Lim

Karen Hauff

Jorge Constantino

Elise Allcock

Carmel McMahon

Elisa Kidston

Kisa Rajapakse

## **MHLP Referral Panel**

Clayton Utz

Colin Biggers & Paisley

HopgoodGanim

Lander & Rogers

Maurice Blackburn

Shine Lawyers

## **QUT placement students**

Racheal Wong

Zoe Busch

## **PLT**

Kara Ramsey

Carly Baker

Michael Daltonalomes

Natalie Schopp

Maxii Macdonald

Christopher Stokes

## **Enforcement hearings**

Chloe Bennett

Julian Ladd

Aileen Wu

Madushi Senadeeva

Saibal Kan

Samed Mace

Ryan Godfrey Amber Black

Jessica Rankin-Dixon

## **State Courts**

Kate Adnams

Marie Carroll

Ben Chapman

Jordan Donaldson

Maria Hall

Kira Larwill

Ewan Raeside

Megan Southwell

Hayley Feales

## **Townsville Referrals**

Anthony Collins (Barrister)

## **Townsville office**

Haydon Wolski

Harry Bechmann

Andrew Douglas

Paula Barry

Ashleigh Guy

Lee Cox

Simon Walker

## **Funding Partners**



## **Australian Government**



**Queensland  
Government**





# LAWRIGHT MEMBERS 2016 // 17

## LAW FIRMS

Allens & Linklaters

ashurst

AUSTRALIAN WORKPLACE LAWYERS

**Baker  
McKenzie.**

Barry Nilsson  
LAWYERS  
Strategic edge. Connected advantage.

**bb** bartley cohen  
LITIGATION LAWYERS

**BUTLER  
McDERMOTT**  
LAWYERS

CLAYTON UTZ

FOR COLLABORATION & INNOVATION  
FOUNDATION  
cbp

**COOPER GRACE WARD**  
LAWYERS

**CORRS  
CHAMBERS  
WESTGARTH**  
lawyers

**DIBBSBARKER**

**DLA PIPER**

**Hall & Wilcox**  
smarter law

**Harper Finch**  
Lawyers

HENRY DAVIS YORK

**HOLDING REDLICH**

**hg**  
HopgoodGanim  
LAWYERS

**Jeff  
Horsey**  
SOLICITOR

**KING & WOOD  
MALLESONS**

**K&L GATES**

**Lander & Rogers**  
Lawyers

**Maurice  
Blackburn**  
Lawyers  
Since 1919

**Lawyers | McCullough  
Robertson**



MinterEllison



## Barrister members

Aida Portia Maier	Douglas Raymond Wilson	Manuel Varitimos	Travis O'Brien
Ajith Perera	Elliott Dalglish	Mark McCarthy	Viviana Keegan
Alexander Nelson	Emma Hoiberg	Mark Steele	William Wild
Alexandra Marks	Fiona Lubett	Mark Healy	
Alexandros Katsikalis	Gary Coveney	Mathew Jones	
Amanda Stoker	Gavin Handran	Matthew Williams	
Anand Shah	George Kalimnios	Michael Labone	
Anastasia Nicholas	Gillian Dempsey	Michael de Waard	
Andrew Greinke	Greg Potter	Michael Fellows	
Andrew Quinn	Hamish Clift	Michael Hodge	
Anna Cappellano	Jacoba Brasch	Michael Ballans	
Anthony Anderson	James McNab	Mitch Rawlings	
Anthony Skelton	James Ford	Nicholas Andreatidis	
Antony Newman	James Doyon	Nitra Kidson	
Benjamin Buckley	Janice Mayes	Patrick Cullinane	
Benjamin Kidston	Janice Crawford	Paul Beehre	
Borcsa Vass	Jennifer Hewson	Paul O'Brien	
Brian Cronin	Jeremy Trost	Paula Morreau	
Bruce Wacker	Jillian Francis	Peter Metzdorf	
Caleb Spicer	John Hammond	Peter Travers	
Carla Klease	John Farren	Peter Hastie	
Carolyn McKeon	John Cahill	Polina Kinchina	
Cathryn McConaghy	John Faulkner	Richard Williams	
Christian Curtis	Joseph Jacobs	Robert Brandon	
Christopher Crawford	Judy Brien	Robert Lake	
Christopher Templeton	Julian Siggins	Robert Stevenson	
Christopher Tam	Justin Carter	Rowan Pack	
Claire Schneider	Kasey McAuliffe-Lake	Sally Robb	
Clare Dart	Kate Blackford Slack	Sarah Scott-Mackenzie	
Clemens van der Weegen	Katrina Kluss	Scott Malcolmson	
Damien O'Brien	Keith Howe	Stephen Keim	
Dan Fuller	Keith Wylie	Stephen Lee	
Daniel O'Gorman	Kelly McIntyre	Stephen Byrne	
David Thomae	Kenneth Barlow	Stephen Colditz	
David Keane	Kevin Max Spry	Stephen Hartwell	
David Cormack	Kila Pedder	Steven Hogg	
David Yarrow	Kim Forrester	Steven Jones	
David Purcell	Kristi Riedel	Stewart Webster	
Deborah Holliday	Lee Clark	Susan Forder	
Dianna Worrell	Leonid Sheptoocha	Thomas O'Brien	
Domenico Ferraro	Liam Kelly	Toby Nielsen	
Douglas Campbell	Liam Burrow	Tracy Thorp	





**Life members**

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

**QLS participants**

Aitken Wilson Lawyers  
 Allens Linklaters  
 Australian Workplace Lawyers  
 Baker & McKenzie  
 Barry Nilsson Lawyers  
 Bartley Cohen Litigation Lawyers  
 Bealla Legal  
 Berrigan Doube Lawyers  
 Bevan & Griffin  
 Broadley Rees Hogan  
 Bruce Thomas Lawyers  
 Butler McDermott Lawyers  
 Byrnes Business Lawyers  
 cbp Lawyers  
 Clayton Utz  
 Cronin Litigation Lawyers  
 David Wise Solicitor  
 Denning Insurance Law  
 DibbsBarker  
 Franklin Athanasellis Cullen Lawyers  
 Fuller and White Solicitors  
 Hall and Wilcox  
 Henry Davis York  
 Herbert Smith Freehills  
 Holding Redlich  
 HopgoodGanim  
 HW Litigation  
 Hynes Lawyers  
 International Aerospace Law & Policy Group

K & L Gates  
 Kafrouni Lawyers  
 Kelly Legal  
 Kerrin Anderson Consultant Lawyer  
 KM Splatt & Associates  
 Lander & Rogers  
 Lee, Turnbull & Co  
 Macrossan and Amiet Solicitors  
 Martinez Lawyers  
 Murray and Lyons  
 O'Hare Law  
 Payne Butler Lang  
 Piper Alderman  
 Queensland Lawyers  
 Rodgers Barnes & Green  
 Rostron Carlyle Solicitors  
 Ruddy Tomlins Baxter  
 Shine Lawyers  
 Slater & Gordon  
 Sparke Helmore Lawyers  
 Thornton Legal  
 Tresscox Lawyers  
 Trudie Rogers Medical Lawyers  
 Wettenhall Silva Solicitors  
 Williams and Associates Lawyers  
 Williams Graham Carman

**BAQ participants Brisbane**

Alex Nelson  
 Alex Alcock  
 Amy Low  
 Anand Shah  
 Andrew Fraser  
 Andrew Hoare  
 Andrew Quinn  
 Angela Sulzmann  
 Angela Rae  
 Anita Sharma  
 Anthony McKinnon

Anthony Morris  
 Anthony Skelton  
 Anthony Kimmins  
 Anthony Fronis  
 Antony Newman  
 Ben McGlade  
 Ben McEniery  
 Ben McMillan  
 Benjamin Buckley  
 Borcsa Vass  
 Brian Cronin  
 Bruce Wacker  
 Caleb Spicer  
 Carolyn McKeon  
 Charles Matthews  
 Chato Alexander Page  
 Chris Tam  
 Christian Jennings  
 Christian Curtis  
 Christopher Templeton  
 Claire Schneider  
 Clare Dart  
 Craig Harding  
 Damien Gates  
 Dan Fuller  
 Danae Younger  
 David Kent QC  
 David Marks  
 David Keane  
 David Yarrow  
 Deborah Holliday  
 Denika Whitehouse  
 Derek Kordick  
 Diana Awad  
 Dianna Worrell  
 Duncan Galton  
 Edmund Robinson  
 Edward Goodwin  
 Edward Shorten  
 Edward (John) Williams  
 Elizabeth Gass  
 Elizabeth Gaffney

Elliott Dalglish  
 Emma Hoiberg  
 Fiona Lubett  
 Florence Chen  
 Fraser Syme  
 Gail Hartridge  
 Gavin Rebetzke  
 George N. Kalimnios  
 Geraldine Dann  
 Graham Carter  
 Hamish Clift  
 Hugh Scott-Mackenzie RFD  
 Ilan Klevansky  
 Isaac Munsie  
 James Grehan  
 James Ford  
 James Doyon  
 James Earl Smith  
 Janice Crawford  
 Jennifer Hewson  
 Jens Streit  
 Jeremy Trost  
 Jillian Francis  
 Jo Chapple  
 Joe Morris  
 John Farren  
 John Cahill  
 John Allen  
 John Dwyer  
 John Hammond  
 John-Paul Mould  
 Joseph Jacobs  
 Joshua Fenton  
 Julene Winn  
 Julia O'Connor  
 Julian Siggins  
 Julie Kinross  
 Justin Carter  
 Kasey McAuliffe-Lake  
 Kate Gover  
 Kate Blackford Slack  
 Katrina Kluss

Keith Wylie  
 Kila Pedder  
 Kim Bryson  
 Kirsty Gothard  
 Kristi Riedel  
 Kristy Crabb  
 Lee Clark  
 Liam Burrow  
 Liam Dollar  
 Lucy Barnes  
 Donna Callaghan  
 Manuel Varitimos QC  
 Margaret Wilson  
 Mark McCarthy  
 Mark Guest  
 Mathew Jones  
 Matt Black  
 Matt Forbes  
 Matthew Brady  
 Matthew Hickey  
 Matthew Williams  
 Maxwell Walker  
 Melinda Zerner  
 Michael Byrne  
 Michael Labone  
 Michael Bonasia  
 Michael Kehoe  
 Michael Lyons  
 Michael Williams  
 Neville Weston  
 Nicholas Andreatidis  
 Nicholas Loos  
 Nitra Kidson  
 Patricia Feeney  
 Patrick Van Grinsven  
 Patrick Wilson  
 Paul O'Brien  
 Paula Morreau  
 Peter Goodwin  
 Peter Travers  
 Peter Hastie QC  
 Philip Looney QC

Philippa Ahern  
 Pierre Le Grand  
 Polina Kinchina  
 Richard Schulte  
 Richard Williams  
 Rob Ivessa  
 Robert Lake  
 Ron Ashton  
 Russell Byrnes  
 Ruth O'Gorman  
 Sarah Poon  
 Sarah Scott-Mackenzie  
 Scott Malcolmson  
 Sean Radich  
 Shaneen Pointing  
 Simon Burgess  
 Simon Cleary  
 Simon Cooper  
 Simon Trewavas  
 Stephen Lumb  
 Stephen Lee  
 Stephen Colditz  
 Stephen Hartwell  
 Steven Hogg  
 Steven Jones  
 Steven Forrest  
 Stewart Webster  
 Sue Brown QC  
 Susan McLeod  
 Tracy Thorp  
 Travis O'Brien  
 Vincent Brennan  
 Willem Kilian  
 William Wild  
 Yulia Chekirova  
 Zoran Gelic

## **Cairns**

Christian Ryall  
 Douglas Turnbull  
 Laura Neil  
 Nerida Wilson  
 Stephanie Williams

## **Gold Coast**

Ajith Perera  
 Bertram Curran  
 Robert Brandon

## **Ipswich**

Ajith Perera

## **Mackay**

Patrick Cullinane  
 Stephen Byrne

## **Moreton Bay**

Lisa Stewart  
 Dean Wells

## **Rockhampton**

Jeff Clarke

## **Sunshine Coast**

Clemens van der Weegen  
 Simon Gerber

## **Townsville**

Anthony Collins  
 Janice Mayes  
 Viviana Keegan

✓ Bid

## Ask

Auto

2000

GEPU5DM15

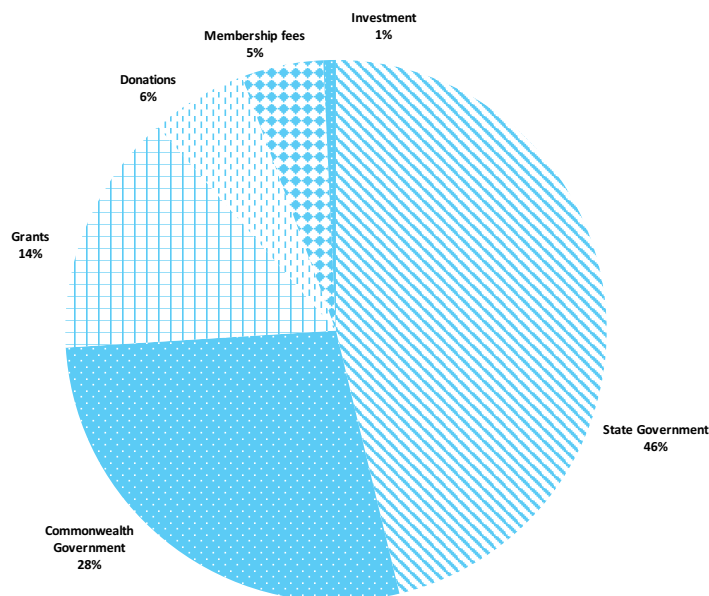
1.4505<sub>3</sub>

1.00

1 A502

SL/TP 24





Income sources (%)

# TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to present my first report as Treasurer, as well as the audited financial statements for LawRight for the 2016 - 2017 year.

Despite a modest operating deficit of (-) \$41,407.00 (a decrease on the prior year of (-) \$67,006.00) LawRight maintains a strong cash balance and healthy prudential reserve to meet future contingencies. State and Federal Government grants remain the largest source of funding - accounting for over 80% of funding for LawRight services and programs.

LawRight continues to make a significant impact in the community through the tireless work and dedication of its staff and volunteers, assisting those most vulnerable and disadvantaged – including the homeless, those suffering from mental illness, and those representing themselves in various Courts and Tribunals throughout Queensland.

This extends far beyond direct service delivery - with the community as a whole benefiting through the preservation of finite Court services, increases in the efficacy of self-represented litigants in the management of their cases and appropriate case diversion.

A recent cost/benefit report identified that, in respect of LawRight's Self-Representation Service with the Federal Courts, the service avoided court operating costs of \$372,176 per year, equating to a benefit to cost ratio of 2:1.

This represents only the net financial impact on Government. The time and cost saving to litigants, particularly from a social perspective, would increase this ratio significantly. This is a good example of the significant and sustained contribution LawRight has made over the last 16 years.

It is important to recognise the significant financial support from the State and Federal Governments, as well as our members and other donors. Without their contributions, LawRight would be unable to fund its core services and continue to assist those in need.

The effect of the most recent round of Government funding announcements for the 2017 – 2020 period will result in a significant loss of funding for LawRight leading to staff and service losses. A wholesale restructure will be necessary to ensure service delivery in our core areas remains at appropriate levels.

The uncertainty of Government funding highlights the ongoing need for LawRight to continue to develop and promote opportunities to broaden its funding base.

Increases in the financial contribution of now established fundraising events, such as the Legal Walk and Red Wine for Justice, with over \$100,000.00 from these two (2) events alone, provide both an important source of funding for disbursements for indigent clients, as well as supplementing the support of core services and programs. The future appears promising for LawRight's fundraising objectives given \$8,500.00 was generated during the inaugural Legal

Walk in 2008.

It has also been a year of significant change – the rebranding of LawRight, and most notably, the departure of founder and director, Tony Woodyatt, after 16 years at the helm.

It is important to recognise the significant contribution Tony has made to LawRight/ QPILCH over the last 16 years. Few have had a more profound impact on the delivery of legal services to the disadvantaged and vulnerable in Queensland. He will be sorely missed but has left a significant legacy for us to build on. The transition has been seamless, largely through the strong leadership of joint directors, Sue Garlick and Linda MacPherson.

Thanks must also be given to LawRight's bookkeeper, Rebecca Slade, and auditor, Jeremiah Thum from Powers Accounting Group, in assisting the management committee to ensure the financial integrity of its decisions and the future direction of LawRight.

It has indeed been a challenging year as foreshadowed by our President in his Treasurer's report for the 2015/ 2016 year. The upcoming restructure of LawRight, and related staff and service losses will prove an even greater challenge for the 2017/ 2018 year.

I am however confident that the quality and dedication of staff and volunteers, and the continued stewardship of the management team, will ensure the continued success of LawRight and its enormous contribution to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community.





# LAWRIGHT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**  
ABN 52 033 468 135

## Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

### For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

		2017	2016
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue	4	2,570,902	2,400,047
Other income	4	26,615	14,785
Employee benefits expense	5	(2,261,641)	(2,026,559)
Travel & Accommodation		(12,549)	(11,549)
Depreciation expense	5	(6,898)	(17,119)
Donation Spent - Titus Ani		(26,157)	-
Telephone & Internet		(13,412)	(16,843)
Accounting & Audit Fees		(5,943)	(4,967)
Consultants Fees		(72,815)	(133,390)
Computer Expenses		(22,911)	(30,807)
Supervision Cost		(15,000)	(33,500)
Printing & Copying		(15,530)	(15,220)
Subscription Fees		(19,582)	(22,545)
Event Expenses		(7,433)	(20,168)
Rent	5	(89,855)	(95,612)
Other expenses		(69,198)	(53,559)
<b>Deficit before income tax</b>		<b>(41,407)</b>	<b>(67,006)</b>
Income tax expense		-	-
<b>Deficit for the year</b>		<b>(41,407)</b>	<b>(67,006)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income, net of income tax</b>			
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss		-	-
Items that will be reclassified to profit or loss when specific conditions are met		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>(41,407)</b>	<b>(67,006)</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	723,228	1,128,454
Trade and other receivables	7	57,695	33,284
Other assets	9	1,450	1,450
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		782,373	1,163,188
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	8	24,838	31,736
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		24,838	31,736
TOTAL ASSETS		807,211	1,194,924
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	10	97,222	142,121
Short-term provisions		8,000	8,000
Employee benefits	12	160,361	214,766
Other financial liabilities	11	136,739	383,741
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		402,322	748,628
TOTAL LIABILITIES		402,322	748,628
NET ASSETS		404,889	446,296
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings		404,889	446,296
TOTAL EQUITY		404,889	446,296

## Statement of Changes in Equity

### For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

**2017**

	<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2016</b>	<b>446,296</b>	<b>446,296</b>
Deficit for the year	(41,407)	(41,407)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2017</b>	<b>404,889</b>	<b>404,889</b>

**2016**

	<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2015</b>	513,302	513,302
Deficit for the year	(67,006)	(67,006)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2016</b>	<b>446,296</b>	<b>446,296</b>



## Statement of Cash Flows

### For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Note</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Receipts from Commonwealth, state and local government grants	<b>2,008,555</b>	1,846,634
Receipts from donations, bequests and raffles	<b>299,047</b>	288,001
Payments to suppliers and employees	<b>(2,731,330)</b>	(2,369,652)
Interest received	<b>18,502</b>	27,444
Net cash provided by/ (used in) operating activities	<b>(405,226)</b>	(207,573)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	<b>(405,226)</b>	(207,573)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<b>1,128,454</b>	1,336,027
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	<b>6      723,228</b>	<b>1,128,454</b>

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **For the Year Ended 30 June 2017**

The financial report covers LawRight as an individual entity. LawRight is a not-for-for profit Association, registered and domiciled in Australia.

The functional and presentation currency of LawRight is Australian dollars.

The financial report was authorised for issue by those charged with governance on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

#### **1 Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

#### **2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

##### **(a) Income Tax**

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

##### **(b) Revenue and other income**

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

##### **Grant revenue - Others**

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income when the entity obtains control of the grant, it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

##### **Grant revenue - Government**

Government grants are recognised at fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all grant conditions will be met. Grants relating to expense items are recognised as income over the periods necessary to match the grant to the costs they are compensating. Grants relating to assets are credited to deferred income at fair value and are credited to income over the expected useful life of the asset on a straight-line basis.

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **For the Year Ended 30 June 2017**

#### **2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

##### **(b) Revenue and other income**

###### **Donations**

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received.

###### **Interest revenue**

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

###### **Rendering of services**

Revenue in relation to rendering of services is recognised depending on whether the outcome of the services can be estimated reliably. If the outcome can be estimated reliably then the stage of completion of the services is used to determine the appropriate level of revenue to be recognised in the period.

If the outcome cannot be reliably estimated then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable.

###### **Subscriptions**

Revenue from the provision of membership subscriptions is recognised on a straight line basis over the financial year.

###### **Other income**

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the Association is entitled to it.

##### **(c) Goods and services tax (GST)**

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

##### **(d) Property, plant and equipment**

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Items of property, plant and equipment acquired for nil or nominal consideration have been recorded at the acquisition date fair value.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

## 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

### (d) Property, plant and equipment

Where the cost model is used, the asset is carried at its cost less any accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses. Costs include purchase price, other directly attributable costs and the initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and restoring the asset, where applicable.

#### Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured using the revaluation model.

#### Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the assets useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

<b>Fixed asset class</b>	<b>Depreciation rate</b>
Motor Vehicles	15%
Furniture & Equipment	5% to 15%
Computer Equipment	25%

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

### (e) Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised initially using trade date accounting, i.e. on the date that the Association becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

#### *Financial Assets*

Financial assets are divided into the following categories which are described in detail below:

- loans and receivables;

Financial assets are assigned to the different categories on initial recognition, depending on the characteristics of the instrument and its purpose. A financial instrument's category is relevant to the way it is measured and whether any resulting income and expenses are recognised in profit or loss or in other comprehensive income.

All income and expenses relating to financial assets are recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income in the 'finance income' or 'finance costs' line item respectively.

#### *Loans and receivables*

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They arise principally through the provision of goods and services to customers but

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

## 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

### (e) Financial instruments

also incorporate other types of contractual monetary assets.

After initial recognition these are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Any change in their value is recognised in profit or loss.

The Association's trade and other receivables fall into this category of financial instruments.

Significant receivables are considered for impairment on an individual asset basis when they are past due at the reporting date or when objective evidence is received that a specific counterparty will default.

The amount of the impairment is the difference between the net carrying amount and the present value of the future expected cash flows associated with the impaired receivable.

In some circumstances, the Association renegotiates repayment terms with customers which may lead to changes in the timing of the payments, the Association does not necessarily consider the balance to be impaired, however assessment is made on a case-by-case basis.

#### *Impairment of financial assets*

At the end of the reporting period the Association assesses whether there is any objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired.

#### *Financial assets at amortised cost*

If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss on financial assets carried at amortised cost has been incurred, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the financial assets original effective interest rate.

Impairment on loans and receivables is reduced through the use of an allowance accounts, all other impairment losses on financial assets at amortised cost are taken directly to the asset.

Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against other expenses in profit or loss.

### (f) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.



## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **For the Year Ended 30 June 2017**

#### **2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

##### **(g) Employee benefits**

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cashflows are discounted using market yields on high quality corporate bond rates incorporating bonds rated AAA or AA by credit agencies, with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

##### **(h) Adoption of new and revised accounting standards**

The Association has adopted all standards which became effective for the first time at 30 June 2017, the adoption of these standards has not caused any material adjustments to the reported financial position, performance or cash flow of the Association.

#### **3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments**

Those charged with governance make estimates and judgements during the preparation of these financial statements regarding assumptions about current and future events affecting transactions and balances.

These estimates and judgements are based on the best information available at the time of preparing the financial statements, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

The significant estimates and judgements made have been described below.

##### **Key estimates - fair value of financial instruments**

The Association has certain financial assets and liabilities which are measured at fair value. Where fair value has not able to be determined based on quoted price, a valuation model has been used. The inputs to these models are observable, where possible, however these techniques involve significant estimates and therefore fair value of the instruments could be affected by changes in these assumptions and inputs.

##### **Key estimates - receivables**

The receivables at reporting date have been reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that any of the receivables are impaired. An impairment provision is included for any receivable where the entire balance is not considered collectible. The impairment provision is based on the best information at the reporting date.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

#### 4 Revenue and Other Income

##### Revenue from continuing operations

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Main revenue		
- Events/ donations	155,503	144,153
- State/ Federal Government grants (Operating)	2,279,183	2,099,387
- member subscriptions	118,152	129,400
	<u>2,552,838</u>	<u>2,372,940</u>
Finance income		
- interest income	18,064	27,107
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u><b>2,570,902</b></u>	<u><b>2,400,047</b></u>

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Other Income		
- other income	26,615	14,785
<b>Total Revenue and Other Income</b>	<u><b>2,597,517</b></u>	<u><b>2,414,832</b></u>

#### 5 Result for the Year

The result for the year includes the following specific expenses:

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Other expenses:		
Employee benefits expense	2,261,641	2,026,559
Depreciation expense	6,898	17,119
Auditor's remuneration	4,900	4,967
Rental expense	89,855	95,612

#### 6 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and in hand	723,228	1,128,454
	<u><b>723,228</b></u>	<u><b>1,128,454</b></u>

#### 7 Trade and Other Receivables

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade receivables	57,695	33,284
	<u><b>57,695</b></u>	<u><b>33,284</b></u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

#### 8 Property, plant and equipment

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Motor vehicles		
At cost	-	177
Total motor vehicles	-	177
Office equipment		
At cost	24,156	30,385
Total office equipment	24,156	30,385
Computer equipment		
At cost	682	1,174
Total computer equipment	682	1,174
Total plant and equipment	24,838	31,736
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>24,838</b>	<b>31,736</b>

#### (a) Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Motor Vehicles	Furniture Equipment	Computer Equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Year ended 30 June 2017</b>				
Balance at the beginning of year	177	30,385	1,174	31,736
Depreciation expenses for the year	(177)	(6,229)	(492)	(6,898)
Balance at the end of year	-	24,156	682	24,838

#### 9 Other Assets

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Prepayments	1,450	1,450

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

#### 10 Trade and Other Payables

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Current		
GST payable	-	43
Employee benefits	97,219	142,075
Other payables	3	3
	<u>97,222</u>	<u>142,121</u>

Trade and other payables are unsecured, non-interest bearing and are normally settled within 30 days. The carrying amounts are considered to be a reasonable approximation of fair value.

#### 11 Other Financial Liabilities

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Government grants	51,000	314,771
Prepaid memberships	85,739	68,970
<b>Total</b>	<u>136,739</u>	<u>383,741</u>

#### 12 Employee Benefits

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Current liabilities		
Long service leave	29,657	99,606
Provision for employee benefits	130,704	115,160
	<u>160,361</u>	<u>214,766</u>

#### 13 Contingencies

In the opinion of those charged with governance, the Association did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2017 (30 June 2016: None).

#### 14 Events after the end of the Reporting Period

The financial report was authorised for issue on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 by those charged with governance.

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **For the Year Ended 30 June 2017**

#### **15 Statutory Information**

The registered office of and principal place of business of the Association is:

LawRight

19 Dornoch Terrace

WEST END QLD 4101



**COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

Your committee members submit the financial report of LawRight for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.

**Committee Members**

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

<b>Names</b>	<b>Positions</b>
Matthew Jones – President	Barrister
Gabriella Ritchie – Secretary	Senior Associate, McCullough Robertson
Tim Baumann – Treasurer	Senior Associate, MurphySchmidt
Francesca Bartlett	Academic, TC Beirne School of Law
Judith McNamara	Associate Professor, Head of QUT School of Law
Lucy Bretherton	Counsel, Ashurst
Katie Clark	Special Counsel, Minter Ellison
Binari de Saram	Queensland Law Society (QLS Representative)
Bronwyn Neroni	Queensland Law Society (QLS Representative)
Damien O'Brien QC	Barrister (BAQ Representative)
Katharine Philp	Partner, TressCox
Peter Smith	Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills
Robyn Wilkinson	Legal Aid Queensland
Andrew Buchanan	Inaugural President, retired partner, Allens
Robert Reed	Special Counsel, Minter Ellison

**Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were to provide legal referral and direct services.

**Significant Changes**

The association changes their business name from Queensland Public Interest Clearing House Incorporated ("QPILCH") to LawRight effective 12 April 2017.

No other significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

**Operating Result**

The net deficit for the 2017 financial year amounted to \$41,407. (2016: \$67,006 Deficit)

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the committee.



---

**Matthew Jones – President**

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017



---

**Gabriella Ritchie – Secretary**

## Responsible Persons' Declaration

The responsible persons declare that in the responsible persons' opinion:

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013*.



Responsible person .....

Matthew Jones – President



Responsible person .....

Gabriella Ritchie – Secretary

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of November 2017



INDEPENDENT AUDIT SERVICES

[www.independentauditservices.com.au](http://www.independentauditservices.com.au)

T 07 3218 7394

Level 7, 127 Creek Street  
Brisbane, QLD 4000

## LawRight

# Independent Audit Report to the members of LawRight

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of LawRight (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and responsible person's declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- (ii) complying with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* 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 our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

#### 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 to assist the Association to meet the requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

## **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

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

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

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

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

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

We also provide the committee members with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with the committee members, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT SERVICES**

**Chartered Accountants**



Jeremiah Thum  
Director

Brisbane, QLD

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of November 2017





ABN: 52 033 468 135

PO Box 3631

South Brisbane QLD 4101

**Phone: (07) 3846 6317**

[www.lawright.org.au](http://www.lawright.org.au)

[admin@lawright.org.au](mailto:admin@lawright.org.au)

 [@lawrightqld](https://twitter.com/lawrightqld)

 [www.facebook.com/LawRightQLD/](https://www.facebook.com/LawRightQLD/)

**LawRight offices are open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday**

Thank you to LitSupport for printing this annual report, and to Strictlymarketing for graphic design.