



Annual Report 2017



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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.”

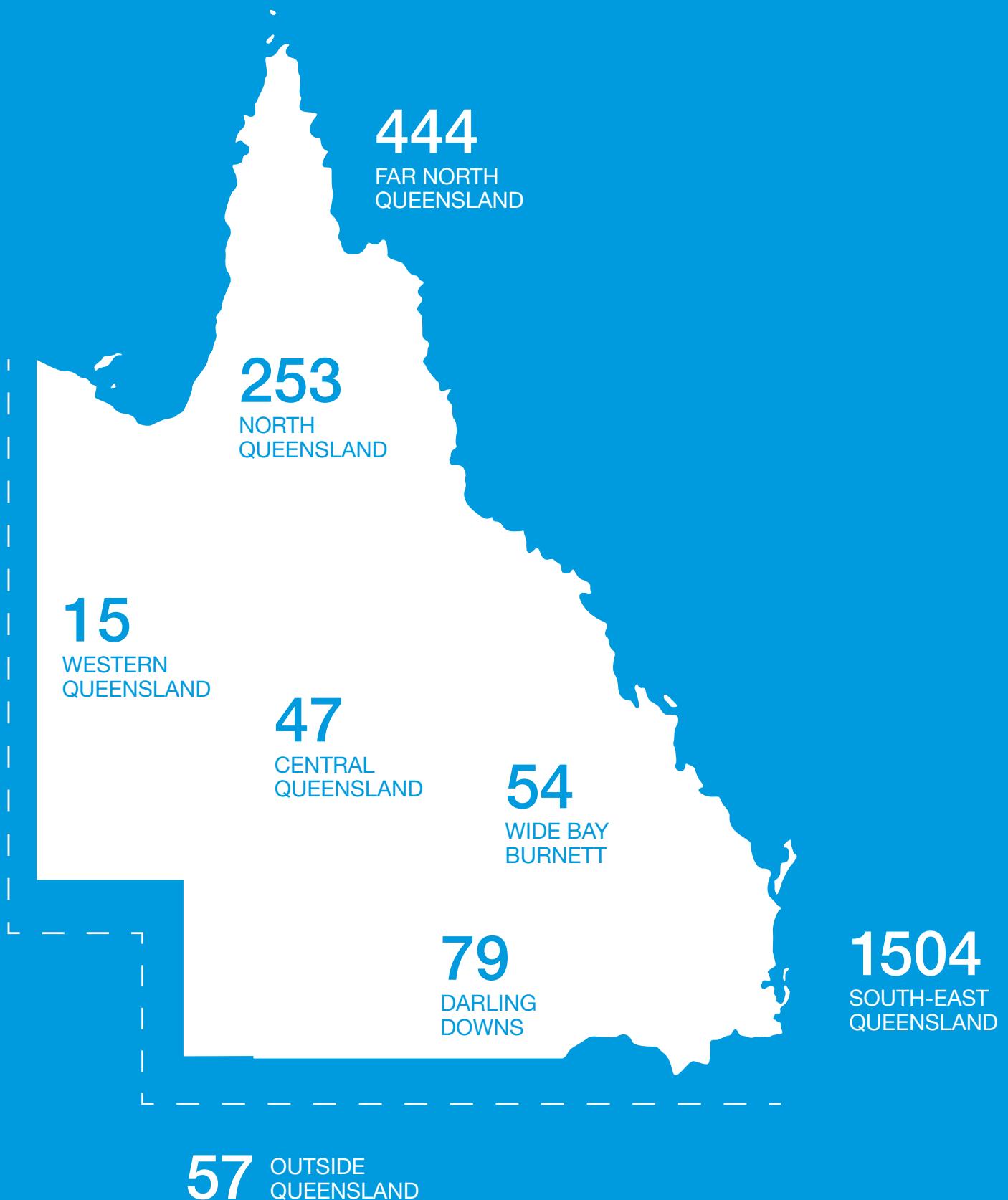
The event marked another important milestone in the growing maturity of the pro bono culture in Queensland, and in Australia.”

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.

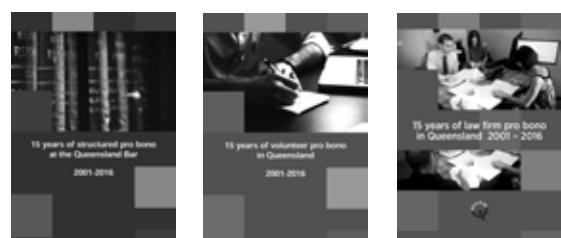
Today, LawRight has over 30 staff and hundreds of volunteers spread across Queensland. It has over 100 members including 40 law firms, barristers and universities.

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
Anand Shah
Andrew Crowe QC
Angela Rae
Angelar Rae
Ben McMillan
Christian Jennings
Clem van der Weegen
Dan Fuller
Danae Younger
Donna Callaghan
Emma Hoiberg
Greg Potter
Hamish Clift
James Earl Smith
Jennifer Hewson
Julene Winn
Justin Carter
Kasey McAuliffe-Lake
Kate Gover
Ken Barlow
Mark Steele
Matt Black
Matthew Holmes

Law Firms

Matthew Jones
Maxwell Walker
Michael De Waard
Peter Travers
Philippa Ahern
Polina Kinchina
Rob Anderson QC
Simon Hamlyn-Harris
Simon Trewavas
Stephen Colditz
Stephen Mackie
Steven Jones
John Farren
Kim Bryson
Cathryn McConaghay
Michael Kehoe
John Hammond
Chris Crawford
Damien O'Brien QC
Stephen Lee
Ken Barlow
Gary Coveney
Douglas Savage QC

Maurice Blackburn
Allens Linklaters
Holding Redlich
MurphySchmidt
Broadley Rees Hogan
Lawyers
Clayton Utz
Minter Ellison
Wotton Kearney
Shine Lawyers
Ashurst Australia
Connolly Suthers
Hopgood Ganim
McCullough Robertson
ATSLS
Henry Davis York
Sparke Helmore Lawyers
TressCox Lawyers
K&L Gates
HWLitigation
Thornton Legal
Colin Biggers and Paisley
Slater & Gordon
Piper Alderman

STORIES

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.



"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

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.



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

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:

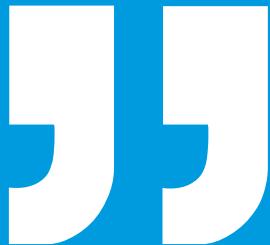
- Compulsory conferences in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. We had 41 applications for assistance with appeals and organised representation for 22 of those clients at their conferences.
- Enforcement hearings in the Magistrates Court. We helped 74 clients responding to enforcement proceedings.
- 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.

- 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

DAVID



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

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.

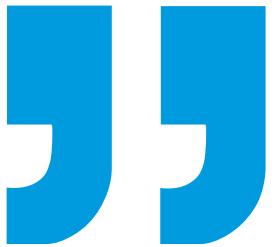
JEFFREY

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.

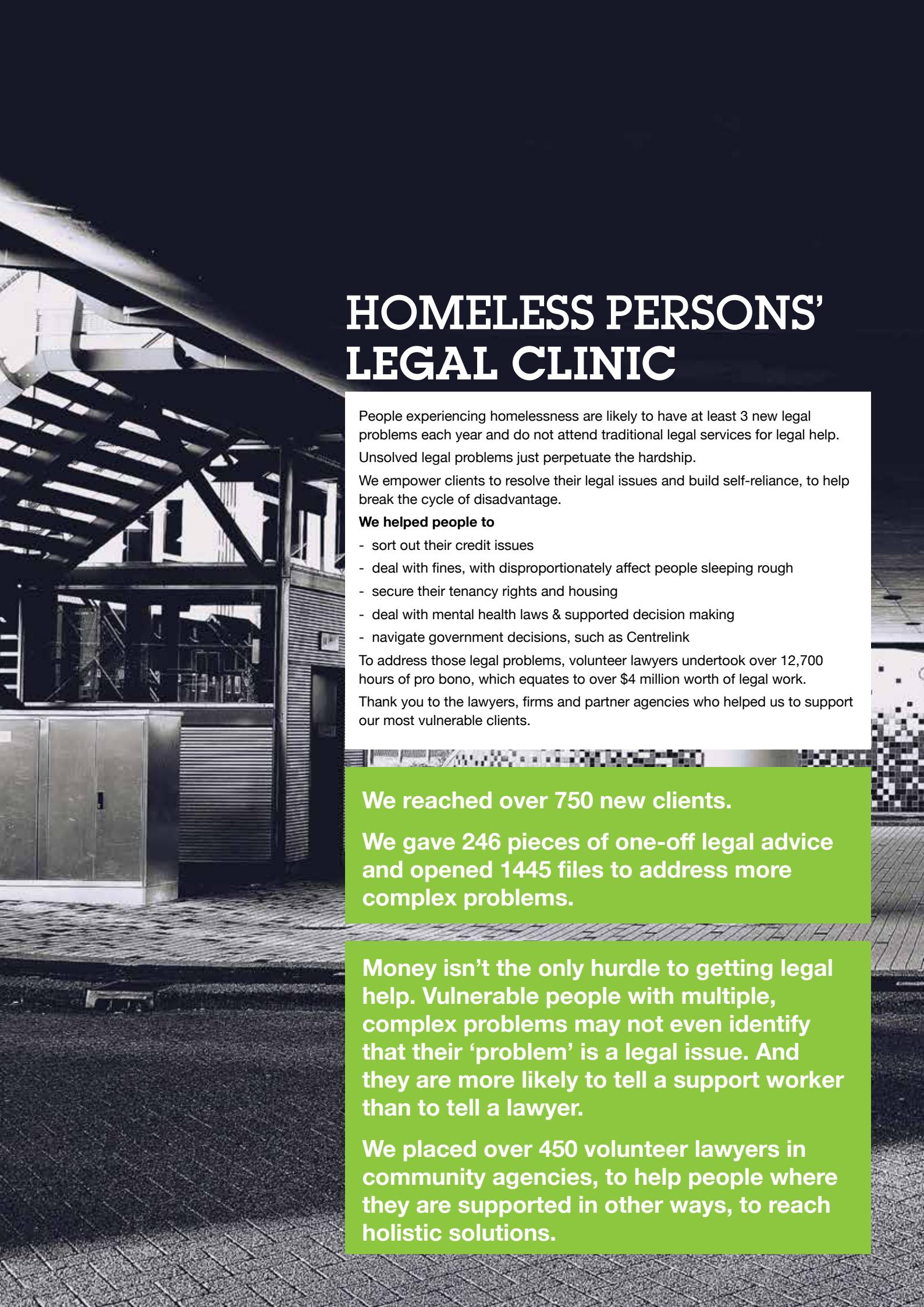
Rita's Blue Card was cancelled, her kinship carer certificate suspended, and the children were removed from Rita's care and placed in foster care.

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
MacDonells
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.

TERESA

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

HELLO! ... I HAVE OFFICIALLY GOTTNEN 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

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

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

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

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 MHLF 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.

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

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 notices.
Part of the Wuchopperen Legal Clinic, run by QPILCH.
Please call us on 0488 425 334 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

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Tim Baumann (Treasurer), **Senior Associate at MurphySchmidt**

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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**

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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	Townsville	Michael Holohan	George Kalimnios
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Joanne Rennick	Barristers	Peter Goodwin	Joe O'Hare
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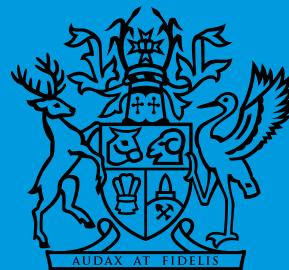
VOLUNTEERS

Dan Pennicott	Alisa Nguyen	Jordan Donaldson
Mental Health Law Practice	Emma Williams	Maria Hall
Anna Brasnett	Thinh Vu	Kira Larwill
Lydia Hugrass	Larrissa Harrison	Ewan Raeside
Rebecca Bellamy	Joyce Chang	Megan Southwell
Vinay Veerabhadra	Chloe Lim	Hayley Feales
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Pia Conradsen	Jorge Constantino	Anthony Collins (Barrister)
Mental Health Law Practice	Elise Allcock	Townsville office
Wendy Pei	Carmel McMahon	Haydon Wolski
Bronte Maddaford	Elisa Kidston	Harry Bechmann
Shannon Hurley	Kisa Rajapakse	Andrew Douglas
Summer Brady	MHLP Referral Panel	Paula Barry
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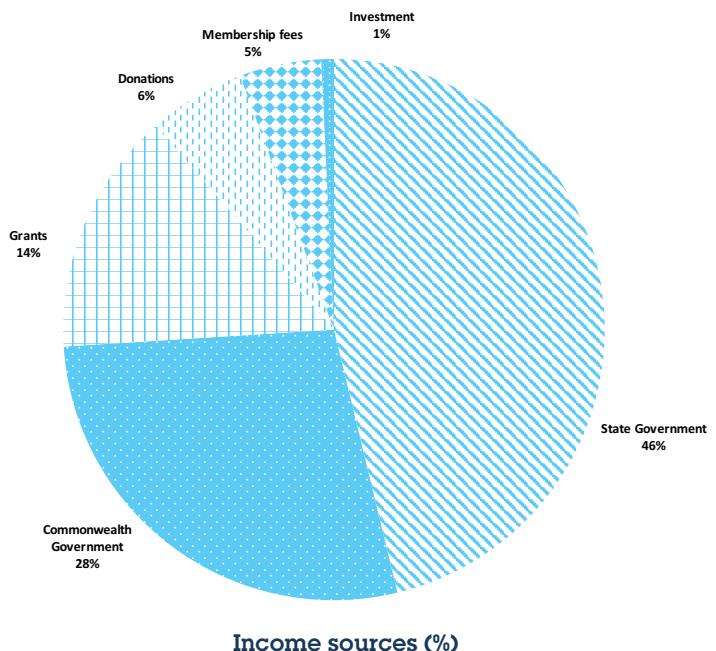
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Domenico Ferraro	Liam Kelly	Toby Nielsen	
Douglas Campbell	Liam Burrow	Tracy Thorp	



Life members	K & L Gates	Anthony Morris	Elliott Dalgleish
Andrew Buchanan	Kafrouni Lawyers	Anthony Skelton	Emma Hoiberg
Hugh Scott-Mackenzie	Kelly Legal	Anthony Kimmins	Fiona Lubett
Simon Cleary	Kerrin Anderson Consultant Lawyer	Anthony Fronis	Florence Chen
Peter Rosengren	KM Splatt & Associates	Antony Newman	Fraser Syme
Jo Rennick	Lander & Rogers	Ben McGlade	Gail Hartridge
Lucy Bretherton	Lee, Turnbull & Co	Ben McEniry	Gavin Rebetzke
Robert Reed	Macrossan and Amiet Solicitors	Ben McMillan	George N. Kalimnios
QLS participants	Martinez Lawyers	Benjamin Buckley	Geraldine Dann
Aitken Wilson Lawyers	Murray and Lyons	Borcsa Vass	Graham Carter
Allens Linklaters	O'Hare Law	Brian Cronin	Hamish Clift
Australian Workplace Lawyers	Payne Butler Lang	Bruce Wacker	Hugh Scott-Mackenzie RFD
Baker & McKenzie	Piper Alderman	Caleb Spicer	Ilan Klevansky
Barry Nilsson Lawyers	Queensland Lawyers	Carolyn McKeon	Isaac Munsie
Bartley Cohen Litigation Lawyers	Rodgers Barnes & Green	Charles Matthews	James Grehan
Bealla Legal	Rostron Carlyle Solicitors	Chato Alexander Page	James Ford
Berrigan Doube Lawyers	Ruddy Tomlins Baxter	Chris Tam	James Doyon
Bevan & Griffin	Shine Lawyers	Christian Jennings	James Earl Smith
Broadley Rees Hogan	Slater & Gordon	Christian Curtis	Janice Crawford
Bruce Thomas Lawyers	Sparke Helmore Lawyers	Christopher Templeton	Jennifer Hewson
Butler McDermott Lawyers	Thornton Legal	Claire Schneider	Jens Streit
Byrnes Business Lawyers	Tresscox Lawyers	Clare Dart	Jeremy Trost
cbp Lawyers	Trudie Rogers Medical Lawyers	Craig Harding	Jillian Francis
Clayton Utz	Wettenhall Silva Solicitors	Damien Gates	Jo Chapple
Cronin Litigation Lawyers	Williams and Associates Lawyers	Dan Fuller	Joe Morris
David Wise Solicitor	Williams Graham Carman	Danae Younger	John Farren
Denning Insurance Law	BAQ participants Brisbane	David Kent QC	John Cahill
DibbsBarker	Alex Nelson	David Marks	John Allen
Franklin Athanasellis Cullen Lawyers	Alex Alcock	David Keane	John Dwyer
Fuller and White Solicitors	Amy Low	David Yarrow	John Hammond
Hall and Wilcox	Anand Shah	Deborah Holliday	John-Paul Mould
Henry Davis York	Andrew Fraser	Denika Whitehouse	Joseph Jacobs
Herbert Smith Freehills	Andrew Hoare	Derek Kordick	Joshua Fenton
Holding Redlich	Andrew Quinn	Diana Awad	Julene Winn
HopgoodGanim	Angela Sulzmann	Dianna Worrell	Julia O'Connor
HW Litigation	Angela Rae	Duncan Galton	Julian Siggins
Hynes Lawyers	Anita Sharma	Edmund Robinson	Julie Kinross
International Aerospace Law & Policy Group	Anthony McKinnon	Edward Goodwin	Justin Carter
		Edward Shorten	Kasey McAuliffe-Lake
		Edward (John) Williams	Kate Gover
		Elizabeth Gass	Kate Blackford Slack
		Elizabeth Gaffney	Katrina Kluss

Keith Wylie	Philippa Ahern	Cairns
Kila Pedder	Pierre Le Grand	Christian Ryall
Kim Bryson	Polina Kinchina	Douglas Turnbull
Kirsty Gothard	Richard Schulte	Laura Neil
Kristi Riedel	Richard Williams	Nerida Wilson
Kristy Crabb	Rob Ivessa	Stephanie Williams
Lee Clark	Robert Lake	Gold Coast
Liam Burrow	Ron Ashton	Ajith Perera
Liam Dollar	Russell Byrnes	Bertram Curran
Lucy Barnes	Ruth O'Gorman	Robert Brandon
Donna Callaghan	Sarah Poon	Ipswich
Manuel Varitimos QC	Sarah Scott-Mackenzie	Ajith Perera
Margaret Wilson	Scott Malcolmson	Mackay
Mark McCarthy	Sean Radich	Patrick Cullinane
Mark Guest	Shaneen Pointing	Stephen Byrne
Mathew Jones	Simon Burgess	Moreton Bay
Matt Black	Simon Cleary	Lisa Stewart
Matt Forbes	Simon Cooper	Dean Wells
Matthew Brady	Simon Trewavas	Rockhampton
Matthew Hickey	Stephen Lumb	Jeff Clarke
Matthew Williams	Stephen Lee	Sunshine Coast
Maxwell Walker	Stephen Colditz	Clemens van der Weegen
Melinda Zerner	Stephen Hartwell	Simon Gerber
Michael Byrne	Steven Hogg	Townsville
Michael Labone	Steven Jones	Anthony Collins
Michael Bonasia	Steven Forrest	Janice Mayes
Michael Kehoe	Stewart Webster	Viviana Keegan
Michael Lyons	Sue Brown QC	
Michael Williams	Susan McLeod	
Neville Weston	Tracy Thorp	
Nicholas Andreatidis	Travis O'Brien	
Nicholas Loos	Vincent Brennan	
Nitra Kidson	Willem Kilian	
Patricia Feeney	William Wild	
Patrick Van Grinsven	Yulia Chekirova	
Patrick Wilson	Zoran Gelic	
Paul O'Brien		
Paula Morreau		
Peter Goodwin		
Peter Travers		
Peter Hastie QC		
Philip Looney QC		





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)
Deficit before income tax		(41,407)	(67,006)
Income tax expense		-	-
Deficit for the year		(41,407)	(67,006)
Other comprehensive income, net of income tax			
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		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		(41,407)	(67,006)

Statement of Financial Position

30 June 2017

		2017	2016
	Note	\$	\$
ASSETS			
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
LIABILITIES			
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
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		404,889	446,296
TOTAL EQUITY		404,889	446,296
		404,889	446,296

Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

2017

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

2016

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

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

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

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-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 8th 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:

Fixed asset class	Depreciation rate
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 been 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
	2,552,838	2,372,940
Finance income		
- interest income	18,064	27,107
Total Revenue	2,570,902	2,400,047

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

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
	723,228	1,128,454

7 Trade and Other Receivables

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade receivables	57,695	33,284
	57,695	33,284

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
Total property, plant and equipment	24,838	31,736

(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
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2017				
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
	97,222	142,121

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
Total	136,739	383,741

12 Employee Benefits

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

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 8th 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:

Names	Positions
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: 8th 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 8th day of November 2017



INDEPENDENT AUDIT SERVICES

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 8th day of November 2017



ABN: 52 033 468 135

PO Box 3631
South Brisbane QLD 4101
Phone: (07) 3846 6317

www.lawright.org.au
admin@lawright.org.au

 @lawrightqld

 www.facebook.com/LawRightQLD/

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