



# Annual Report

2018-2019

women's  
legal  
service  
tasmania



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# About Us

Women's Legal Service Tasmania operate a free and state-wide service, with offices in Hobart, Burnie and Launceston.

From our office in Hobart we provide confidential and free legal advice and referral to women right across Tasmania through our telephone advice line. Our highly skilled legal staff are able to provide advice and referral on all legal matters, including family law, family violence, civil and criminal law, as well as estate and property law. In addition to providing telephone advice, we are at times able to take on casework for clients throughout Tasmania who need representation with their legal matters.

Our Burnie office has been operational since April 2016 after Women's Legal Service Tasmania was chosen to open a specialist family violence unit in the north west of Tasmania as part of the Australian Government's response to rising family violence in our communities. Our Burnie office provides legal information, advice and support on any legal matter to those clients in the north west of the state who are experiencing, or who have experienced, family violence.

Our Launceston office operates with funding secured in part as an extension of our Burnie office, and in part through funding provided by the Tasmanian State Government from the *Family Violence Action Plan 2015–2020*. Our Launceston office provides legal information, advice and support on any legal matter to those clients in the north of the state who are experiencing, or who have experienced, family violence.

Women's Legal Service Tasmania is also able to provide community legal education sessions and workshops throughout the Tasmanian community. We produce legal information publications such as brochures, booklets, factsheets, and websites, and strive to make the legal system more accessible and responsive to the issues affecting women through our law reform work.

Women's Legal Service Tasmania is managed and staffed by women who are sensitive to the diverse needs of individual women and groups within the Tasmanian community. For legal advice or assistance, you can contact us through our telephone advice line, or by calling our Burnie office directly if you are in north west Tasmania, and our Launceston office in the north. For all other information or enquiries, please call our Hobart office.

# A Message from the Chief Executive Officer

The last twelve months have been a period of transition for Women's Legal Service Tasmania. I commenced in the role of CEO in early April 2019. We also appointed a new principal solicitor and recruited a senior solicitor at our Burnie office. This change has presented our organisation with an opportunity to revise our strategic direction. We have revised our strategic plan at the Board of Management level and spent time as a team discussing our purpose, the funding framework and the associated opportunities and challenges that structure presents for us as a service.

We remain united in our commitment to promoting access for women to the law. The *Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women* remains our framework in addition to our funding deed parameters.

The legal assistance sector nationally struggles to meet the rising demand for access to legal services. Tasmania is no different. We are focused on tracking data to support need we are unable to meet. We are now entering a period of negotiations with the Commonwealth Government to secure funding to continue to offer services throughout the state to women in need of advice, representation and to deliver community legal education and information. We deliver this service through our three sites in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie through face to face appointments with clients, and through telephone advice and outreach.

We continue to notice a rise in legal presentations where family violence features, perhaps on account of the greater understanding of its facets in the community. We still experience that the community has less confidence to responding to non-physical forms of family violence. There is also a need to upskill the community to respond and support women experiencing family violence in a way which continues to respect their self-determination. Over the next twelve months we intend to focus on a cross service approach to combatting this in partnership with other community organisations. The aim is to build capacity within communities to respond. This focus, along with our intention to build relationships with health service providers in the family violence sector to provide a wraparound service for our clients is a service priority.

We are also reviewing our trauma informed approach and assessing whether we can apply this framework to what we do and how we deliver our services. We recognise this is an important service differential we offer.

Our NPA core activities funding is currently under review by the Commonwealth. We are unable to sustain a continuation of the \$116,000 shortfall. We are grateful that the State Government has met this shortfall from 2017 until 2020, but note from the State budget papers that this

shortfall is not budgeted past 30 June 2020. This funding cut will directly affect the number of women we are able to assist.

Our Domestic Violence Unit funding in Burnie and Launceston continues, thanks to ongoing commitments from the State and Commonwealth Governments. These units allow us to proactively engage in outreach activities with other community and health service providers to offer a holistic service. We have also been grateful of the money allocated by the Commonwealth Government to fund financial counselling and literacy in the north and north west. We are also keen to explore the health justice model's application to the work of these units.

As a service we are focusing on the culture of a regionally dispersed team, with four staff in Burnie, three in Launceston, six in Hobart, and myself spending alternate weeks in the north and south of the state. Additionally, we have the financial counselling position for the next twelve months to integrate in the north and north west.

Stakeholder engagement within both the legal assistance and community sector has been another priority. The focus has been on how we can all work together to better meet the needs of women in our community and offer legal support and advice at an earlier juncture. We are hopeful that this engagement will develop into partnerships with other specialised service providers for women. This approach, apart from being more client centred, also presents an opportunity for us to diversify our funding.

Following the State Government review into the legal assistance sector, we are also focussing on our Board of Management governance over the coming year. This work will be ongoing and we are investing in further training for our Board as an initial step.

The struggle for equality and the equal access to the law for women continues. We are privileged as a service to walk alongside women on this journey. There remains much to be done. We as a service and a team of women are committed to continuing to deliver legal solutions for the women who turn to us.

**Yvette Cehtel**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

# A Message from the Board of Management

The last twelve months have been a period of transition for Women's Legal Service Tasmania both operationally and at a governance level as we fully embraced our northern offices in Burnie and Launceston, while at the same time supporting our CEO, Susan Fahey, to have a well-earned break by accepting her resignation from the position of CEO, and to finish performing her role in December. A recruitment process followed, which included a fresh consideration of the role of CEO and needs of the organisation. Kim Woolley served as Acting CEO for just over three months and assisted Yvette Cehtel transition into the new role as CEO when she joined the service in April 2019.

The Board of Management are grateful of the contribution made by Susan Fahey to build the service over three sites and for her leadership on a vast array of issues impacting women. Her long contribution to the service over sixteen years is to be commended. She has elevated the profile and standing of the service. These are big shoes for her successor to fill.

## Our Staff

We are very privileged to have such a dedicated team working at WLST. The staff have been very supportive in the transition period, with the expansion of the service, and have continued to impress by providing outstanding service to meet the continually increasing needs in the community for legal advice. This increase in need is demonstrated all too clearly in the demand for family violence support. Although the staff are able to provide legal advice, it is only able to be at a reactive level rather than proactive level. We are hoping that by teaming up with other support services we will be able to be more proactive in this space.

## Our Board of Management

This year the Board of Management welcomed Melissa Harback and Amelia Higgs, and farewelled Robin Banks and Katinka Challen. We have identified additional members who will join us next year from the north and north west as well as in Hobart. The Board of Management is working towards a geographically diverse membership with a diverse range of skill sets as part of the governance restructure.

Last year we identified that the rapid expansion of the service necessitated a review of the governance structure and processes to enable the Board of Management to meet the changing needs of the service and staff. We will continue to refine this as part of a continual review

process. To this end, as a Board we have prioritised the revisiting of the strategic plan for Women's Legal Service Tasmania moving forward and have identified six main priorities:

1. The culture of the organisation across the three sites in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart;
2. Renewal of the Board membership and its constitutional framework;
3. Management of and strategic support to the CEO;
4. Fostering a collaborative working approach within the legal assistance sector;
5. Working collaboratively within the community services sector and with health providers;
6. Need for diversification of funds.

In this constantly changing environment, the Board of Management recognises that we need to creatively seek partnerships with other services to better meet legal need. The requirement to do our business differently in a way which better supports legal outcomes in partnership with others is crucial in the current funding environment. Ultimately our goal is to better support the women who come to us for help and we foresee that by working closely with other services in providing a more holistic support service, this aim would be achieved.

The Board of Management is confident we have the right team to enable our staff to do what they do best throughout the state – provide legal advice and support to empower Tasmanian women to take control of their own lives.

**Dr Sonia Shimeld**

**Convenor of the Board of Management**

# Who We Helped

WE HELPED **1,259** TASMANIAN WOMEN

**77%** OF OUR CLIENTS ARE EXPERIENCING FAMILY VIOLENCE



WITH **2,208** LEGAL ADVICE, LEGAL TASKS, AND INFORMATION SERVICES

**76%** OF LEGAL ADVICE SERVICES GIVEN OVER THE PHONE



AND **83** CASEWORK FILES

**46%** OF OUR CLIENTS ARE ON LOW OR NO INCOME



WITH **46** CLIENTS ASSISTED WITH NON-LEGAL ISSUES

**26%** OF OUR CLIENTS HAVE A DISABILITY



**354** WOMEN WERE ASSISTED ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASSION THIS YEAR

**51%** OF OUR CLIENTS HAVE DEPENDENT CHILDREN



# Our Services

## Why a legal service for women?

In addition to the general legal problems that can affect anyone, there are areas of law in which a women's experience is different – as the victim of a crime, particularly sexual or family violence, as the primary carer of children, or through discrimination or lack of equal opportunity in employment or business.

Some women face additional barriers in accessing justice due to factors such as cost, child care responsibilities, and feelings of intimidation by having to go to court or dealing with a male dominated legal profession. Other issues such as language barriers, cultural backgrounds, disability, sexuality, geographical isolation can compound to make access to a legal service intimidating and difficult.

Women's Legal Service Tasmania is staffed by women who are sensitive to the diverse needs of women as individuals and as a part of a community.

This year 2222 calls were made to our state-wide legal advice line, that's an average of 185 calls each month, or around 9 calls for help each weekday.

## Telephone Advice Line

Women's Legal Service Tasmania is a community legal service funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. We operate a free and confidential state-wide telephone advice line from our Hobart office from 10:00am to 4:00pm each weekday. Wherever you live in Tasmania, the first point of contact with the service is often through our telephone advice line, where you will be able to speak directly with a solicitor regarding your legal issue. Solicitors are able to answer questions and provide legal advice, and if a client requires further assistance or an appointment, they will be able to arrange it.

Calling our 1800 682 468 number is free from landlines and most mobiles (some phone companies do charge for calling 1800 numbers, so please check before dialling). You can call the 1800 number from anywhere in Tasmania, and the call will not be displayed on your telephone bill.

All calls are completely confidential.

## Representation

Women's Legal Service Tasmania is able to provide some ongoing legal assistance for clients through casework, including representation services in court, tribunals or mediation.

While our focus is on achieving successful outcomes for our clients through negotiation, it is inevitable that we will need to assist some of our clients to make applications to the Court. We currently have 15 matters filed in the Federal Circuit Court/Family Court, and a number of matters being taken before the Magistrates Court. While these figures fluctuate, this is indicative of the number of matters we generally have before the Courts at any given time.

Matters in the Federal Circuit Court/Family Court range from simple Divorce Applications and Applications for Consent Orders, through to highly contested parenting and property matters. We generally attend the Magistrates Court for Family Violence Order applications and variations.

In an effort to assist those most in need and make the most of our resources, in some cases we help capable clients by preparing court documents, and providing advice and guidance to assist the client represent themselves. We pride ourselves on providing a personal and holistic service, which can support women through the often-stressful court process.

Our solicitors provide representation for routine court events, conciliation conferences, Family Dispute Resolution Conferences, and Interim and Consent Hearings. However, interim hearings involving complex issues, and contested final hearings are generally briefed to a barrister. We are lucky to have a number of very experienced barristers linked in with our service, who have provided pro-bono assistance and/or reduced rates to our clients, in support of our Service's objectives.

## Community Legal Education and Engagement

As a community legal centre, a big part of what we do is to provide a range of early intervention and preventative strategies such as community legal education. We work with other legal service providers and community groups like neighbourhood houses and community centres to present legal information on various topics to groups of women right across the state.

We manage and provide workshops in schools, and provide specific legal information for young people through our Girls Gotta Know and Guys Gotta Know websites.

We work on community development, creating partnerships with other legal assistance service providers as well as community service providers such as counselling services, women's shelters, community health organisations, housing, drug and alcohol services in order to provide a cohesive, holistic response to community need.

## Law Reform

Women's Legal Service Tasmania is constantly working towards making the legal system more accessible and more responsive to the issues affecting women. We want to promote a legal system that is responsive to the needs of women accessing justice.

We regularly prepare submissions regarding proposed changes to the law, and are part of a national network of community legal centres specialising in women's issues.

Over the past year, we have made the following submissions – having identified these issues and proposed amendments as ones that will potentially have a significant impact on women:

- In October 2018 we prepared a submission in response to the issues paper on Legal Recognition of Sex and Gender. We supported amendment to the *Justice and Related Legislation (Marriage and Gender Amendment) Act 2019*, to make it easier to obtain official documentation reflecting a person's gender identity. We also supported prohibiting any reassignment surgery on unconsenting minors, while making it easier for consenting minors choosing to undergo gender reassignment treatments and procedures.
- In May 2019 we prepared a submission in response to proposed amendments to section 194K of the *Evidence Act 2001*. This section deals with the restriction on publication of details in sexual offence proceedings, and we discussed whether the section strikes the right balance between protecting complainants, and the public interest in open justice.
- In February 2019, we prepared a brief submission in response to proposed amendments to the *Criminal Code Amendment (Bullying) Bill 2019*.
- In October 2018 we prepared a submission in response to the *Criminal Code and Related Legislation Amendment Bill 2018*. We raised concerns about the introduction of a crime of failing to report a serious offence, and we supported the expansion of offences relating to child sex offences. We also supported the inclusion of religious ministries as mandatory reporters under the *Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997*. We support the extension of the use of pre-recording of evidence for adults who experienced childhood sexual abuse under the *Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses Act) 2001*. We supported the removal of the limitation for making a complaint in relation to an Assault with Indecent Intent under the *Police Offences Act 1935*, and an amendment to the *Sentencing Act 1997* ensuring that sentences for multiple child sex offences detail the sentence attributable to each offence, and that they should not take into account sentencing practices at the time of offence.

We are currently in the process of preparing a submission in response to the Consultation Paper: Options for Improving Family Violence Competency of Legal Practitioners, and a submission in response to the recently proposed *Religious Discrimination Bill 2019*. The proposed introduction

of the Religious Discrimination Bill would explicitly override section 17(1) of the *Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Act* (which makes it unlawful to make comments that are likely to humiliate or cause offence) and weaken and remove a significant portion of the work done by Equal Opportunity Tasmania, with a disproportionately adverse effect upon women.

While preparing submissions can be time consuming, we consider it an important aspect of our organisation's work – given our unique perspective on the various challenges experienced by women, and the ways in which laws can have an unintended or discriminatory effect.

#### Burnie Specialist Family Violence Unit

Funded through the Australian Government's *Women's Safety Package* in response to rising family violence in our vulnerable communities, our Burnie office runs as a domestic violence unit (DVU).

The DVU provides legal advice and assistance to women who have experienced family violence. They are able to assist with drafting documents, casework for more complex issues, and can represent clients in court. Our Burnie staff also provide practical support to their clients.

Burnie staff also travel across the north-west and west coasts to provide legal education and outreach to the community, and to meet with other service providers.

214 women were assisted through the Burnie office, 59% of these women were from outer regional and remote areas of the north-west and west coasts. All of these women were experiencing family violence.

## Launceston Specialist Family Violence Unit

A joint initiative through the Australian Government's *Women's Safety Package* and the Tasmanian Government's *Family Violence Action Plan*, our Launceston office also runs as a DVU.

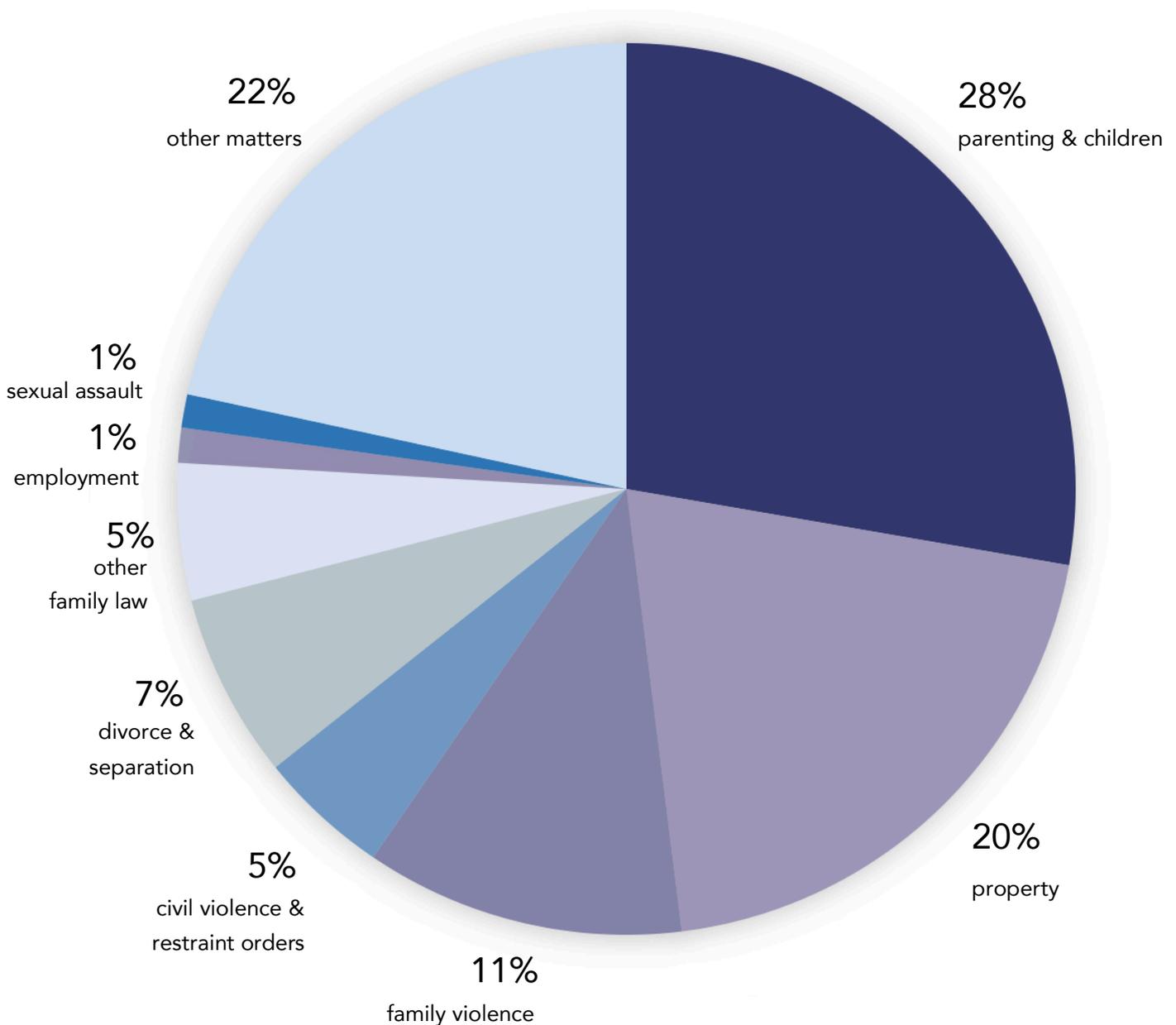
Our Launceston DVU also provides dedicated assistance to women who have experienced family violence, with advice, information, referral, drafting of documents, casework for more complex issues, representation in court, as well as practical support.

With the office opening in early 2018, we have established relationships with other community services, shelters, neighbourhood houses and other community legal service providers, and look forward to building on those over the coming year, as well as commencing our outreach to east coast communities.

207 women were assisted through the Launceston office - 88% of these women are experiencing financial disadvantage. All of these women were experiencing family violence.

# Legal Problems

The figures below show the primary legal issue that clients sought legal advice for during the 2018-2019 year. Our statistics show that 77% of women who contacted the service for assistance are experiencing, or have experienced, family violence, although specific advice regarding family violence may not have been the reason to make the initial contact.



## Justine's Story

Justine had been in a violent relationship with Brian for about fifteen years – the violence was so extreme that over the years she had broken bones, and damage to her vision. After many years reporting the family violence and breaches of Family Violence Orders to the Police, Brian was prosecuted and this time sentenced to time in prison.

Just before being released from prison, Brian applied to the Court for a Family Violence Order to be made against Justine – an interim FVO was made, and the application set down for hearing even though he was in prison for offences against Justine, and even though the Police had applied for an FVO for Justine to be protected from Brian when he was released.

Justine was referred to Women's Legal Service Tasmania. We were able to help Justine with legal advice and representation in Court, and were able to help her get copies of documents relating to all the past court appearances and copies of Police reports. We worked with the Court Support and Liaison Service to brief and support Justine so that she felt comfortable to give evidence in Court.

When she went to Court, the application was dismissed, and the interim FVO against Justine removed, and Justine was protected from Brian by a Police FVO. We helped Justine get in contact with another service provider who is helping her apply for Victims of Crime Compensation.

## Nina's Story

After a physically and emotionally violent relationship, Nina's husband Jeff left her six years ago – he left just after the birth of their child, Jamie. When Jeff left, he took newborn Jamie with him – he said that Nina was a danger to Jamie because of her mental health. Jeff has been refusing and restricting contact between Nina and Jamie ever since.

After having to undergo continual psychological assessments which showed that she did not pose a threat, and after years of dispute resolution conferences through Legal Aid, Nina was able to spend a few days with Jamie a fortnight. As her grant of Legal Aid ran out, Jeff started to once again withhold, restrict and change her time with Jamie. At the same time, Nina's lease ran out, and the next rental house fell through. No money, nowhere to live, and with the women's shelter in her town full, Nina ended up in a women's shelter two hours away.

The women's shelter recommended Nina call Women's Legal Service Tasmania – working with the shelter, we helped Nina contact social housing providers, and helped her get letters of support – a few weeks later, Nina eventually got a place living back closer to home in independent accommodation. We negotiated with Jeff on her behalf so that Nina could recommence visits with Jamie, and when Jeff once again reduced her time with Jamie, we filed parenting orders and represented Nina in the Federal Circuit Court to ensure that her time with Jamie was regular.

We continue to help Nina with her legal matters, also referring her to other community services that can help her while she gets back on her feet.

# Our Place in the Tasmanian Community

Women's Legal Service Tasmania works with other legal services, community service providers and stakeholders to provide a considered, holistic service for women in Tasmania.

We are members of Family Law Practitioners Association of Tasmania (FLPA), Tasmanian Council of Social Services (TasCOSS), the Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee (DVCC) in the south and north-west of the state, the West Coast Service Providers, Service Providers Access Network (SPAN) and the state-wide Women's Essential Service Provider (WESP) group. We are members of the National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC), and part of TasCLC (Tasmanian Community Legal Centres), and participate in the TasLASP (Tasmanian Legal Assistance Service Providers) meetings. We have participated in the Family & Sexual Violence Roundtable discussions held throughout the state this year.

We have collaborative working relationships with the Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania, Hobart Women's Shelter, Women's Health Tasmania, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC), Family Violence Counselling and Support Service (FVCSS) and Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS); we regularly work with Karinya Young Women's Service and Magnolia Place in Launceston, Community Voices in East Devonport, and Wyndarra Community & Resource Centre in Smithton.

We have provided community legal education sessions at the University of Tasmania, Hellyer College, Devonport High School, Parklands High School, Mount Carmel College, Elizabeth College, to a Community Diversity Expo, and a Seniors Week function, to the Integrated Family Support Service in Queenstown, the West Coast Hub Parent's Group, and 'Diversity Expos' at Huonville, Kingston, and Cosgrove High School.

We conduct outreach sessions at the Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison in Hobart, Wyndarra Community & Resource Centre in Smithton, The Hub in Queenstown, and are developing outreach clinics at Launceston General Hospital and North-West Regional Hospital.

We work on law reform, developing and writing submissions, to promote a legal system that is accessible, and responsive to the needs of women accessing justice.

To maintain our high standard of service delivery, we continue to attend regular training – either as whole service, or more often individual staff members attend and report back to the team. Over the past year we have attended the eSafety Technology Facilitated Abuse Workshops provided through the Office of the eSafety Commissioner; the DV Alert: Working with Interpreters – Domestic and Family Violence training provided by Lifeline; and participated in Mentors in Violence Prevention Training, with a view to being able to provide similar training to other service providers. We are looking forward to attending Change the Story – Family Violence Primary Prevention Training for the Workplace, which is to be provided by Engender Equality in September 2019. We also participate in in-house training, including trauma informed practice and personal and professional wellbeing, as well as various Continuing Professional Development events.

# Acknowledging Other Assistance

We sincerely thank all of our supporters for their generosity and encouragement to continue our work throughout Tasmania.

## Volunteer & Student Placements

Women's Legal Service Tasmania fosters a learning environment for students and young lawyers, and offers several opportunities throughout the year for volunteers and student placements to occur. Volunteers and students assist our solicitors with casework and valuable research.

Thank you to those who have worked with us this year:

**Nicola Wright**

**Kate Barwick**

**Molly Bird**

## In Kind Contributions

We highly value those contributions made by individuals and businesses in private legal practice. These contributions enable women to access services and assistance that may not otherwise have been available. Thank you to the following people who have assisted Women's Legal Service Tasmania this year:

**David Lewis**

**Kate Mooney**

**Jessica Sawyer**

We would also like to thank **Relationships Australia**, who provided a free training session for our staff.

## Donations and Fundraising

We are very grateful that many individuals and groups in our community have continued their ongoing support to Women's Legal Service Tasmania, some through philanthropic donations, and some through a financial commitment from their weekly or fortnightly salaries. We sincerely thank all of these individuals for their generosity and ongoing support.

**Bianca Hayward, Restore Hope Australia**

**Tasmanian University Law Society**

**Tasmanian Women Lawyers**

**Student Legal Service**

**Alison Butcher**

**Anne Sheehan**

**Emily Baker**

**Kate Cuthbertson**

**Bridget Dunne**

**Marilla Lowe**

**Aaron Pinkus**

**Jessica Pinkus**

**Jeff Schneider**

**Clare Stark**

**William Young**

# Our People

## Board of Management

**Sonia Shimeld**

**Angela Wilson** *resigned Sep 18*

**Rebecca Phelps**

**Robin Banks** *resigned Apr 19*

**Olivia Rundle**

**Katinka Challen** *resigned Jun 19*

**Melissa Harback** *joined Jun 19*

**Amelia Higgs** *joined Jun 19*

## Staff

### Statewide

**Susan Fahey** **CEO** *until Dec 18*

**Yvette Cehtel** **CEO** *from Apr 19*

**Lisa Zeitzen** **Office Manager** *(currently on extended leave)*

**Kim Woolley** **Project Manager**

### Hobart

**Donna Semmens** **Principal Solicitor** *until May 19*

**Oona Fisher** **Senior Solicitor, Principal Solicitor** *from Jun 19*

**Lillian King Roberts** **Solicitor** *from Jul 18*

**Taya Ketelaar-Jones** **Solicitor** *from Sep 18*

**Brittany Slater** **Administration**

### Launceston

**Hannah Scollard** **Senior Solicitor**

**Claire Milligan** **Solicitor** *until May 19*

**Billie-Jo Lowe** **Administration** *until Jan 19*

**Hannah Knowles** **Administration** *from Mar 19*

### Burnie

**Kyra Foster** **Solicitor** *(currently on maternity leave)*

**Laila Nawsheen** **Solicitor** *until Dec 18*

**Emma Field** **Solicitor** *from Mar 19*

**Amelia Baker** **Senior Solicitor** *from Jun 19*

**Ann Wright** **Administration**

# Auditor's Reports

## Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.

### Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2019

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**Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As at 30 June 2019**

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Profits	517,497	425,324
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>517,497</b>	<b>425,324</b>
Represented by:		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash on Hand	1,361	1,168
Bendigo General Cheque & Guarantee Accounts	53,629	314,611
Investment Account - TPT	-	1,484
NAB Cash Maximiser	-	1,849
NAB Community Fee Saver	4,010	42,161
NAB Term Deposit 9035	231,132	223,931
CBA Term Deposit (6199)	250,000	-
Bendigo Investment Account	34,239	33,531
PayPal	1,716	730
NAB Term Deposit 1843	-	223,611
CBA Card & Online Saver & Transaction Chq Accounts	305,333	246,199
Trade Debtors	3,310	354
Mystate Term Deposit (5707)	253,366	-
Provision for GST	-	5,569
	<b>1,138,097</b>	<b>1,095,199</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Plant & Equipment	121,148	121,148
Less Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment	115,823	114,491
	<b>5,325</b>	<b>6,657</b>
Library at cost	-	14,569
Less Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment	-	14,569
	<b>5,325</b>	<b>6,657</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,143,422</b>	<b>1,101,856</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

**Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As at 30 June 2019**

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Wages Accrued	18,300	14,693
PAYG Tax Withheld Payable	30,574	12,824
Trade Creditors	4,780	10,058
Accrued Superannuation	3,261	1,464
Unspent Funds Carried Forward	486,448	509,403
Provisions	12,000	12,000
Provision for Holiday Leave	33,817	69,994
Provision for Long Service Leave	20,498	42,842
Provision for TOIL	1,547	3,253
Provision for GST	14,700	-
	625,926	676,532
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	625,926	676,532
<b>Net Assets</b>	517,497	425,324

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

**Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**  
**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
**For the Year ended 30 June 2019**

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>Retained Earnings</b>		
Balance at 1 July 2018	425,324	310,942
Profit Attributable to Members	92,173	114,382
Balance at 30 June 2019	<u>517,497</u>	<u>425,324</u>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

**Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**  
**Profit and Loss Statement**  
**For the Year ended 30 June 2019**

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Funds carried forward	389,505	49,847
Commonwealth Grants	569,033	952,248
Service Fees	45,100	16,479
State Funding	269,387	271,124
Interest Received	14,615	11,915
Donations	60,872	3,905
	<u>1,348,513</u>	<u>1,305,518</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Finance, Audit & Accounting	4,670	2,406
Bank Charges	366	455
Communications	20,971	23,038
Client Disbursements	28,097	8,278
Depreciation	1,331	1,664
Insurance	9,556	15,159
Library, Resources & Subs	17,236	6,377
Minor Equipment under \$300	273	1,214
Office Overheads	43,511	103,562
Other Premises Costs	12,746	12,533
On Costs Salary	-	25,624
Programming & Planning	49,574	42,778
Rent	78,142	69,671
Repairs & Maintenance	765	840
Staff Recruitment	2,275	2,307
Staff Training	8,657	20,030
Superannuation Contributions	92,357	71,417
Travelling Expenses	17,485	46,242
Wages	868,327	737,540
	<u>1,256,340</u>	<u>1,191,136</u>
<b>Profit before Income Tax</b>	<u>92,173</u>	<u>114,382</u>

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conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.*

**Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the Year ended 30 June 2019**

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Net Income	92,173	114,388
Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to net cash provided by operations:		
Account Receivable	(2,953)	776
Plant & Equipment: Plant & Equipment Accum Dep	1,331	1,664
Accounts Payable	(5,278)	7,931
ATO Liabilities:		
GST Liability	(40,304)	(40,535)
GST Liability: GST Collected	114,597	(37,322)
GST Liability: GST Paid	(240,829)	-
GST Liability: GST Paid: Tax Payable	106,188	64,368
PAYG Tax: PAYG Tax	17,750	2,218
Payroll Liabilities:		
Employee Entitlements (TOIL)	(1,706)	48
Holiday Leave Provision	(36,177)	19,350
Long Service Leave Provision	(22,344)	6,226
Superannuation	3,261	117
Wages Accrued	2,143	16,156
Unexpended Funds	(22,956)	26,096
Unexpended Funds: WLSA Website	-	130
<b>Net Cash provided by Operating Activities</b>	<b>45,505</b>	<b>181,118</b>
<b>Net Cash Increase for Period</b>	<b>45,505</b>	<b>181,118</b>
<b>Cash at the Beginning of Period</b>	<b>1,089,282</b>	<b>908,164</b>
<b>Cash at the End of Period</b>	<b>1,134,787</b>	<b>1,089,282</b>

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**Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Year ended 30 June 2019**

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The financial statements cover Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc. as an incorporated entity. Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc. is a not for profit Association incorporated in TAS under the Associations Incorporation Act 1964 ('the Act').

The functional and presentation currency of Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc. is Australian dollars.

**1. Basis of Preparation**

In the opinion of the Committee of Management, the Association is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Act.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows, AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors and AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**(a) 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.

**(b) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

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**Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Year ended 30 June 2019**

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**(c) 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. Cash flows 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 cash flows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

**(d) Property, Plant and Equipment**

Plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment of losses.

Plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over the assets useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

**(e) 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).

Sale of Goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point of delivery as this corresponds to the transfer of significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods and the cessation of all involvement in those goods.

Interest Revenue

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

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**Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Year ended 30 June 2019**

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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.

(f) **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 assets and liabilities statement.

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**Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Year ended 30 June 2019**

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>3. Profit</b>		
<b>Expenses</b>		
Employee Benefits Expense	960,684	808,957
Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	1,331	1,664
Bank Charges	366	455
Insurance	9,556	15,159
Rent	78,142	69,671
Repairs & Maintenance	765	840
Other Expenses	205,496	294,389
	<u>1,256,340</u>	<u>1,191,136</u>

**4. Profit for the Year**

Profit before income tax expense from continuing operations includes the following specific expenses:

**Charging as Expense**

Movements in Provisions

Depreciation

- Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment	1,331	1,664
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Net Expenses Resulting from Movement in Provisions	<u>1,331</u>	<u>1,664</u>
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**5. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash on Hand	1,361	1,168
Bendigo General Cheque & Guarantee Accounts	53,629	314,611
Investment Account - TPT	-	1,484
NAB Cash Maximiser	-	1,849
NAB Community Fee Saver	4,010	42,161
NAB Term Deposit 9035	231,132	223,931
CBA Term Deposit (6199)	250,000	-
Bendigo Investment Account	34,239	33,531
PayPal	1,716	730
NAB Term Deposit 1843	-	223,611

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**Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Year ended 30 June 2019**

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
CBA Card & Online Saver & Transaction Chq Accounts	305,333	246,199
	<u>881,421</u>	<u>1,089,275</u>
<b>Reconciliation of Cash</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>881,421</u>	<u>1,089,275</u>
	<u>881,421</u>	<u>1,089,275</u>
<b>6. Trade and Other Receivables</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Trade Debtors	3,310	354
Mystate Term Deposit (5707)	253,366	-
Provision for GST	-	5,569
	<u>256,676</u>	<u>5,924</u>
<b>Total Trade and Other Receivables</b>	<u>256,676</u>	<u>5,924</u>
<b>7. Tax</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Provision for TOIL	1,547	3,253
	<u>1,547</u>	<u>3,253</u>
<b>Net Tax Liabilities</b>	<u>1,547</u>	<u>3,253</u>
<b>8. Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>		
Plant & Equipment	121,148	121,148
Less Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment	<u>115,823</u>	<u>114,491</u>
	5,325	6,657
Library at cost	-	14,569
Less Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment	-	14,569
<b>Total Plant and Equipment</b>	<u>5,325</u>	<u>6,657</u>
<b>Total Property, Plant and Equipment</b>	<u>5,325</u>	<u>6,657</u>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.  
These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.*

**Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Year ended 30 June 2019**

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>9. Trade and Other Payables</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
PAYG Tax Withheld Payable	30,574	12,824
Trade Creditors	4,780	10,058
Accrued Superannuation	3,261	1,464
Provision for GST	14,700	-
	53,315	24,346
<b>Total Trade and Other Payables</b>	53,315	24,346
<b>10. Financial Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Wages Accrued	18,300	14,693
Unspent Funds Carried Forward	486,448	509,403
	504,748	524,096
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	504,748	524,096
<b>11. Provisions</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Provisions	12,000	12,000
Provision for Holiday Leave	33,817	69,994
Provision for Long Service Leave	20,498	42,842
	66,315	124,836
	66,315	124,836
<b>12. Statutory Information</b>		
The registered office and principal place of business of the association is:		
Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.		
PO Box 707		
North Hobart TAS 7000		

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conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.*

## Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc. Committee's Report

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The committee members present their report on the association for the financial year ended 30 June 2019.

### Committee Members

The names of each person who has been a committee member during the year and to the date of this report are:

Sonia Shimeld  
Rebecca Phelps  
Olivia Rundle  
Angela Wilson  
Robin Banks  
Katinka Challen  
Melissa Harback  
Amelia Higgs  
Susan Fahey  
Kim Woolley  
Yvette Cehtel

### Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were:  
Provision of legal advice via telephone and face to face contact.

### Significant Changes

No significant changes in the nature of the association's activity occurred during the financial year.

### Operating Result

The profit of the association amounted to \$92,173.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.



Rebecca Phelps



Sonia Shimeld

Dated 18-9-19

**Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.  
Statement by Members of the Committee**

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The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 2 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc. as at 30 June 2019 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
  
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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



.....  
Sonia Shimeld



.....  
Rebecca Phelps

Dated 18.9.19

**Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.  
Independent Auditor's Report  
to the Members of  
Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**

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**Report on the Financial Report**

We have audited the accompanying financial report being a special purpose financial report, of Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc., which comprises the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2019, the income and expenditure statement and statement of changes in equity for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc. is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Act (TAS) 1964 and for such internal control as the committee 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 Note 1, the committee also state, in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, that the financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, 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. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

**Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.  
Independent Auditor's Report  
to the Members of  
Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**

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Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc. as at 30 June 2019 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the Associations Incorporation Act (TAS) 1964.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc. to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (TAS) 1964. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



John H Langford

Macquarie Accounting Pty Ltd

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2019

