

women's
legal
service
tasmania

**2021-2022
ANNUAL
REPORT**

ABOUT US

IT IS OUR VISION THAT ALL WOMEN HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN TASMANIA.

We empower women to take control of their lives by providing holistic, client-centred legal services.

We do this because women experience specific barriers, structural inequality, on account of their different life experiences of factors like poverty, family violence and pay inequality.

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

From our offices 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 can 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 northwest of Tasmania as part of the Australian Government's response to rising family violence in our communities.

Our Launceston office operates with funding secured in part as an extension of the Burnie office, and in part through funding provided by the Tasmanian State Government from the Family Violence Action Plan 2015-2020.

Our specialist family violence units can provide legal information, advice, and support on any legal matter to those clients in the north of the state who are experiencing family violence.

Women's Legal Service Tasmania can provide community legal education sessions and workshops throughout the Tasmanian community. We produce legal information publications such as brochures, fact sheets, information on our website, and podcasts. We 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.

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STATISTICS

WE OPERATE WITH INTEGRITY, COMPASSION AND RESPECT.

The figures here illustrate the work achieved for Tasmanian women over the 2021-2022 year.

1485

Tasmanian women
directly assisted

83

community and legal
education sessions

3028

legal advice, task and
information services

144

outreach clinics

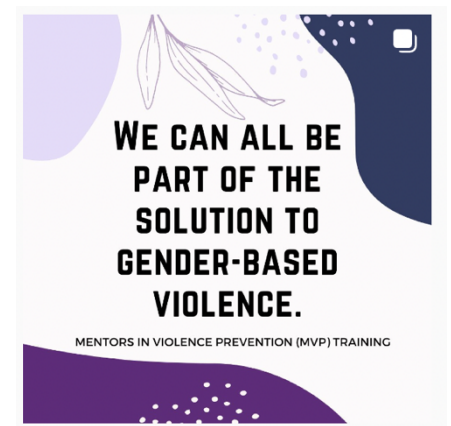
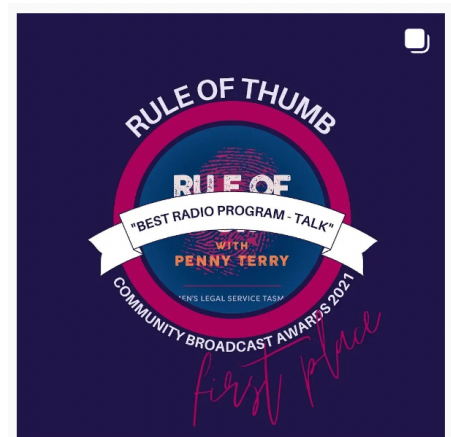
204

casework files

392

social work and financial
counselling services

services have been provided for these legal issues



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

As the Chair of Women's Legal Service Tasmania (WLST) for the 2021-2022 financial year, I have been incredibly honoured to see firsthand the achievements and impact of the service.

Advocating for justice and reform and maintaining and expanding our services to women has only been possible through our people and their commitment and compassion.

According to our Mission, WLST "exist to ensure all women are empowered in a system that promotes their economic, civil, social and cultural rights". This reminds me that WLST's purpose is to improve the lives of women, now and into the future by creating a community that values gender equity.

Over the past year, considerable work has been undertaken to ensure we attain (and maintain) a service where there is increased access to support and continual growth in services that allow us to work alongside women to improve their lives, where we deliver services that are trauma informed and where we challenge systems and culture that perpetuate inequality. This has been demonstrated through the amazing amount of quality work the WLST staff have delivered this year.

With over 1100 calls seeking support via the 1800 line, 144 outreach clinics, 83 community education sessions and 1485 clients seeking legal advice across the state, high demand for services continues to demonstrate the value of our work. The case studies presented at each board meeting are further demonstration to the Board of the ways in which we are achieving our mission.

In addition to these services, WLST have increased access to information through season three of their award-winning podcast, Rule of Thumb. WLST partnered with Healthy Tasmania to release a third season, building on the success and momentum of previous seasons, with over 2000 listeners in July 2021.

Expanding reach and achieving growth in the current financial climate, with continual uncertainty in the contract and funding environment has been by no means an easy feat, requiring a continuing balancing act for both Board and the CEO.

To support the Board to make sound and sustainable financial decisions, the WLST engaged Purpose Accounting to review our finance systems, reporting and finance processes, and ultimately support the CEO and the Board with oversight of the WLST financial position.

The Board identified a need to be better representative of the diversity in our community. As result, this year we increased board membership and filled vacant roles, appointing members with diversity of skills and expertise, and the perspectives and lived experiences of people from different backgrounds.

During my three-year term on the board of WLST I have worked on the Board alongside a team of remarkable women. I would like to sincerely thank all Board Members for their time, given voluntarily, and the effort they put in to proving governance oversight, ensuring the integrity of systems, and keeping in mind the sustainability of the organisation, with genuine care for the CEO and staff of the WLST. While my term finishes at the 2021-2022 Annual General Meeting and I step down, I know the governance and the strategic direction of the organisation will remain in the very capable hands of my colleagues.

I would also like to pay tribute to Yvette Cehtel for her passion, commitment, and diligence in her role as CEO. Yvette has demonstrated significant courage and influence in the community, which has challenged injustice and inequality to promote real difference in the lives of the women the service supports.

Mel Harback

Chair

August 2022

PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR REPORT

The legal practice of Women's Legal Service Tasmania has had a year of transition over the 2021-2022 financial year. While we have maintained the dual principal structure, we have said goodbye to much loved and respected principal Deb Bailey and welcomed Amelia Baker into the role.

One of the major transitions we experienced was the merger of the Family Courts. The Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia ("FCFCoA") commenced in September 2021., and along with the merger came a new set of Court Rules, practices, and procedures, which all solicitors have been working hard to familiarise themselves with. We have seen promising changes since the merger, including the way Courts deal with family violence matters, which we hope to see continue under the new Court system.

The Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot accelerated during this financial year. The partnerships with both Red Cross and the Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service (TRLS) have been crucial to the success of the Pilot to date. WLST are the only Women's Legal Service in the country who have a continuing collaboration with the Refugee Legal Service in their state, and it is a testament to TRLS's willingness to collaborate and assist us to maintain a client centred and trauma informed approach to the work. The Pilot has once again been funded through Department of Social Services (Cth) for 2022-2023, and we will be working towards building a business case for the continuation of the Pilot after the end of next financial year.

We continue to hold fortnightly Case Management meetings with solicitors and allied professionals. We have been lucky enough to have speakers from outside WLST contribute to these meetings, including Dr. Torna Pitman, Job Watch, and other community organisations.

In relation to law reform, WLST drafted a submission in support of the Criminal Code Amendment Bill 2022. The Bill was the culmination of years of law reform and advocacy engaged in by WLST, other community organisations, including Engender Equality and Laurel House, as well as in consultation with victim/survivors. The Bill introduced a standalone offence for non-fatal strangulation, which is a form of family violence that is not only terrifying to experience, but a red flag for increased risk of future homicide. The Bill also included a provision criminalising stealthing.

Staff have continued to provide community legal education sessions to our community and stakeholders, predominantly around family violence. Sessions have been delivered to staff at the Launceston General Hospital, City Mission, and Tas Ports. We have also partnered with Women's Health Tasmania to deliver webinars on non-fatal strangulation and stealthing (as set out in the Bill), and reproductive coercion.

Our solicitors continue to provide advice and representation in relation to our main areas of practice, which include family law (both property and parenting), family violence, child safety, and other legal issues which cause an injustice to women.

The work is hard, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank all our staff who work so compassionately and professionally with our clients.

Elise Whitmore

Principal Solicitor

TREASURER'S REPORT

As a not-for-profit community legal centre, WLST relies on funding from the Commonwealth and Tasmanian State Governments to be able to provide our core services. WLST staff strive to ensure that all obligations and targets are met, overseen by the Financial Subcommittee, and in turn the Board of Management.

The Financial Subcommittee have met monthly throughout the course of the year to review and track finance objectives, budgets, and any ad-hoc activities. A special mention to our internal finance team and our external finance function who have worked collaboratively to deliver monthly reports that are presented to the financial sub-committee and then approved by the Board of Management.

Our external finance function is managed by Purpose Accounting. Purpose Accounting performed a finance function review in July / August 2021. A key change WLST implemented from the review was transitioning to an accrual accounting approach. This in turn created more reliable and complete reports for decision making.

Through the 2022 financial year, WLST received core funding from the National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP).

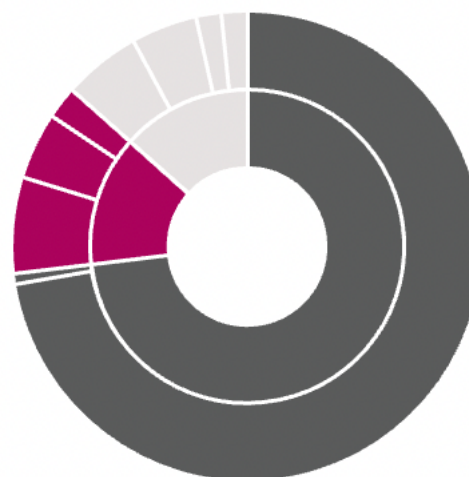
This was supplemented by various other grants and from private donations. Total Grant Revenue was \$2,082,750, up from \$1,826,181 in the 2021 financial year. I note that un-expended grant funds is retained in the balance sheet as a liability until it is expended in a future period, or alternatively, if approval is received for WLST to retain unspent grant funds. WLST's financial position is fair with total reserves of \$676,000.

The 2022 year saw an underspend in staffing costs, this was due to the later than expected recruitment for jobs against National Legal Assistance Partnership funding and Health Justice Partnership funding. Recruitment is still a focus for the organisation, being a not for profit there are higher restraints on how much can be spent on wages compared to the private sector. Having staff terms and conditions contained within SCHADS is exacerbating the issues with staff recruitment, as wages for senior legal staff do not accord with the market remuneration for a similar position. This is made more difficult in the absence of a Funding Deed, where KPI's are not identified, but expected reporting follows previous templates.

The Finance sub-committee will continue to work with the internal and external finance functions to ensure the finances are dealt with due care which then allows staff to deliver high quality services to our clients.

Emily Ridler

Treasurer



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

REAFFIRMING OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS AND REFLECTING AND EXPLORING WHAT WORKS

Women's Legal Service Tasmania (WLST) continues to focus on preventing and responding to gender inequality when it arises. This takes many forms. Strategically, this has resulted in WLST this year taking on an additional role in aiming to prevent and respond to sexual harassment as another form of gendered violence.

We are also committed to working in different ways, through piloting a Health Justice Partnership (HJP) to explore how we can extend our reach to people who would not otherwise realise they have a legal issue or realise that they can receive our assistance. We secured this funding in collaboration with Tasmania Legal Aid, through a grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund. This is the first HJP to run in Tasmania, despite over 110 other such programs operationally nationally. WLST has led this project with support from Health Justice Australia from the outset.

In addition to piloting our HJP, *Just Healthy Families*, we have also piloted a program to assist women on temporary visas who are experiencing family violence, funded directly by the Department of Social Services (DSS Commonwealth) and also provided to specialist women's services nationally.

We have also added two full time social workers to our team, providing us with social workers in each of our three offices. To accommodate this change, we have revised our Strategic Plan to extend to social, economic, and civil rights. This provides further social supports to our clients as they navigate the legal system with the intention of securing more sustainable legal outcomes for our clients. In turn outcomes are more trauma informed, holistic and client centred.

WOMEN'S BUDGET STATEMENT DISAPPOINTMENT - A LOST STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY

Ahead of the 2021-2022 federal budget, Women's Legal Services Australia (WLSA) retained an economist to estimate the unmet legal need nationally, as identified by Women's Legal Services throughout the country. This resulted in a budget submission, requesting \$100 million to be provided nationally to address the unmet needs that were identified. The funding was to provide specialist gendered services to women experiencing family violence in a trauma informed and integrated way. When the May 2021 Morrison budget announced \$129 million for women's legal centres over the following four years, both WLSA and WLST were ecstatic. Finally, we would have the funds to integrate social work, financial counselling, and case work into our operational plans nationally, and our services would have adequate funding for women to be supported in a holistic way. Strategically this aligned with providing legal support that was sustainable and empowering to women, as social supports would be offered to sit alongside the provision of legal service delivery.

Following the May 2021 Women's Budget Statement announcement, WLST expected that we would be consolidating each of our three sites state-wide under one funding stream. However, the Commonwealth Government, in leaving the allocation and distribution of funds to the State Government, moved away from the commitment. The funds were instead disbursed across the whole legal assistance sector. This resulted in WLST receiving a quarter of the allocated funds earmarked for women's services in Tasmania, amounting to an additional \$1 million over four years. We received the first instalment of this funding on 28th June 2022, over a year after the original announcement was made. At the time of writing and publishing this Annual Report, we are still waiting for our 2020-2025 core funding Deed, almost halfway through the five-year funding cycle aligned with the National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP).

Furthermore, we were disappointed to be allocated only \$50,000 of the \$2.2 million State Government commitment to the legal assistance sector. However, this funding will mean we will now have a fund to engage barristers and senior members of the legal profession to assist us with complex family law litigation.

WLST have been encouraged by conversations to date with the now Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus SC, and Minister for Women's Safety Katy Gallagher, who have each acknowledged the need for specialist women's funding and for the Commonwealth to maintain control over its funding announcements and priorities.

The decision made to dilute the Women's Budget Statement funding not only fails women, but also undermines the collaborations with other legal assistance service providers at the local level. It also continues to support the gender pay gap and fails to value the work being completed by our team of women to address structural disadvantage by driving down the terms and conditions we can offer our team of staff.

We are hoping new opportunities will arise alongside the new *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*, currently being drafted by the Commonwealth Government that sets the agenda for women and children for the next ten years, due to be released this year.

GENDER EQUITY AND PAY PARITY

WLST hoped that the funding committed under the Women's Budget Statement could be used to restructure our operations from Burnie, Launceston, and Hobart, to ensure that our staff continue to have competitive wages and terms and conditions to assist recruitment and retention. Unfortunately, with wage and superannuation increases and rising rents along with KPI's to match the increase in funding, a restructure of all positions is not currently financially viable.

This is particularly disheartening for our team as it means that our Senior Solicitors work for less than any of their counterparts in private practice. It entrenches gender inequality in our sector, most particularly at WLST where we uniquely institute a range of family law proceedings in the Federal Court jurisdiction. We institute family law proceedings and see them through as otherwise perpetrators of family violence engage in legal proceedings knowing from the outset the other party will only be funded to mediate matters affecting their children and property. We are the only lever in the legal system that directly addresses this systemic abuse, ensuring that women can access and exercise their legal rights. It also indicates that the work we do is not valued. I also note that gender parity in Australia is sliding backwards.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES TASMANIA GRANTS

With the funding for our Launceston Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) Office under the Tasmanian Government's *Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan* due to end 30 June 2022, the Department of Communities has granted continued funding of just over \$212,000 for the 2022-2023 financial year to continue our Launceston outreach operations. In addition, the Department of Communities has given WLST an additional grant of \$50,000 to enable WLST to lead training, development, and conversations around David Mandel's *Safe & Together* program within the Tasmanian context.

COLLABORATION WITHIN THE LEGAL AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

WLST has maintained our focus on collaborative working relationships throughout 2021-2022, with the following key collaborations in progress:

Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) – funded by the Tasmanian Community Fund

WLST continues to partner with Hobart Women's Shelter, Engender Equality and Women's Health Tasmania to provide early intervention and prevention workshops concerning the behaviors and drivers behind violence against women. We continue to see the benefit of applying a family violence lens upon different professional lenses (counselling and legal) to help change the normative culture that sustains family violence. This project demonstrates our commitment to driving cultural change one conversation at a time. It is an early intervention project that builds the capacity of communities, one at a time.

Women on Temporary Visas Experiencing Family Violence Pilot – migration collaboration with Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service (TRLS)

WLST initiated a collaboration, the only of its kind nationally, to place clients at the very centre of their assistance. WLST designed and facilitated a working relationship with Red Cross, TRLS and Dobson Mitchell Allport (DoMA) to ensure that women on temporary visas experiencing family violence receive the legal support they need. WLST provides our clients in this program with assistance with family law matters and are able to buy in migration support from both TRLS and DoMA. We are indebted to DoMA for offering us a pro bono contribution to the value of us paying a quarter of their usual chargeable rate.

Throughout the year, we have also advocated with the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments to secure funding for TRLS to continue their valuable work.

***Just Healthy Families* – A Health Justice Partnership pilot with Tasmania Legal Aid (TLA), Child Health and Parenting Services (CHaPS), Child and Family Learning Centres (CFLCs) and Hobart Women's Shelter (HWS)**

Just Healthy Families is Tasmania's first Health Justice Partnership. It is a collaboration with TLA and funded as a pilot by the Tasmanian Community Fund with a contribution from the Commonwealth Government. This pilot project employs a team of three lawyers, each based in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart who move between CFLCs and other partner organisations state-wide. Longer term, WLST envisages this work will encompass more legal casework than the model presently supports.

Financial Counselling Foundation – a charitable trust established by Financial Counselling Australia

WLST receives a grant of funding from the Financial Counselling Foundation to offer financial counselling in-house through our integrated practice. This allows us to offer financial counselling services to our clients through a gendered and trauma-informed lens.

Laurel House – Consent Workshops

WLST partnered with northern Tasmanian specialist sexual assault support provider Laurel House to develop and deliver consent education workshops in the north and north-west of Tasmania.

Women's Health Tasmania – Reproductive Coercion Workshop

WLST delivered a reproductive coercion legal education unit for Women's Health Tasmania.

Laurel House and White Ribbon

WLST are working in partnership with Laurel House and White Ribbon to deliver a version of the *All Come Out to Play* program, designed to encourage pre-school age children to understand respect and to model appropriate behaviour from the outset. This initiative is in the development phase presently and Play Group Tasmania are supporting the roll out of the project.

All of these collaborations demonstrate our commitment and focus to continuing to deliver legal information and support to other specialist women's service providers and to grow the communities understanding of family violence with a view to stopping it before it starts.

COVID RESPONSE

Our operational response to COVID to manage any associated safety risks to staff and our clients necessitated ceasing travel between the three offices. This has come at a cultural cost, with some offices being more isolated as a result and not receiving face to face support they had previously received.

INTEGRATED PRACTICE

We are excited to have expanded the WLST social support team from a single 0.4 FTE social worker position to a team of three social workers at 2.4 FTE, meaning a team member is available from each of our three offices. These additional positions complement our financial counsellor, with all four staff members joining together to make up our allied team. This benefits our clients by creating a 'one-stop shop' whereby they can access legal support with our solicitors while also referred to in-house social work support to help them navigate their interaction with the legal system.

We are also keen to work differently in our outreach practice to provide more legal information and advice off site, to improve the connection between community and legal assistance.

This year we have moved our Launceston office to bigger premises to accommodate our growth in response to demand in Launceston. We now have a team of solicitors, complemented by a social worker and a financial counsellor all available from our Launceston office.

NATIONAL ADVOCACY AND COLLABORATIONS

We continue to work alongside other women's organisations throughout the country to promote structural and institutional change through our participation in:

Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA)

National Women's Safety Alliance (NSWA), a peak body focused on advocating for an improved national plan for women's safety.

Women's Legal Services Australia (WLSA), a non-funded women's legal services peak body.

Hague Mother's FiLiA – an international committee tackling international law change. My expert evidence in the New Zealand High Court proceedings resulted in a New Zealand residing Hague Mother resisting the Australian Government's application to have her returned to Tasmania, notwithstanding her safety concerns and an extensive history of family violence.

DYNAMIC AND FLEXIBLE THOUGHT LEADERS

We are encouraging different systems responses through having offered two David Mandel *Safe & Together* workshops in Launceston and are developing a proposal for the second stage of this project for the Department of Communities sign off.

We have also reinvested in podcasts, having worked on producing a third series of our *Rule of Thumb* podcast this financial year, which focuses on sexual harassment. Podcasts remain a way to ensure that information continues to be accessible to all Tasmanians on this form of gendered violence. This next podcast series was released in September 2022.

LAW REFORM FOCUS AND AREAS OF LEADERSHIP

Predominant Perpetrator Misidentification

We are working on tracking the increasing number of women wrongly identified as the predominant perpetrator of family violence. An incident-based approach that views each action independent of the cycle of abuse surrounding those actions complicates these presentations.

Coercive Control

We continue to promote a model which criminalized coercive control.

Economic Abuse

We are also tracking client presentations where economic abuse features.

Improved Understanding of Family Violence

We continue to lead conversations around what the behaviours constituting family violence are:

Non-Fatal Strangulation

In partnership with Engender Equality and Deborah Thompson, we worked hard to ensure that non-fatal strangulation became a standalone offence in Tasmania.

Declaration – Serial Family Violence Offender

We supported the introduction of a declaration identifying a perpetrator of family violence as a serial offender.

Stealthing

We encouraged and supported the Tasmanian Government to clarify the law around consent to ensure the introduction of stealthing (the act of removing a condom during sexual intercourse) as a crime.

January 26th (Invasion Day)

WLST staff all agreed to work on 26/1/2022 and to celebrate along-side palawa and pakana community in lutruwita during NAIDOC week. After cultural awareness training and a following discussion, WLST staff agreed that we needed to adopt this change to offer a trauma informed and inclusive service.

David Mandel's Safe & Together Model

We continue to promote analysis and thinking that holds perpetrators of family violence accountable for their behavior and reactions to acts of violence. This encourages investigating the systems responses to family violence. This approach provides a framework for structural analysis and reflection on the part we all play in the systems response to those experiencing family violence.

Every member of the WLST team has worked towards gender equity. We will continue our record of examining the laws and how they serve women in our community. We do this to ensure we keep Tasmania on track to be a place that values gender equity.

Yvette Cehtel

Chief Executive Officer

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE TASMANIA
PRESENT

**DAVID MANDEL
SAFE & TOGETHER MODEL
WORKSHOPS**

WEDNESDAY 8TH JUNE 10AM - 4PM
COMMUNITY & GOVERNMENT SECTOR PROFESSIONALS
(PRACTITIONERS & POLICY-MAKERS)

THURSDAY 9TH JUNE 9AM - 2PM
TASMANIAN JUDICIARY & LEGAL PRACTITIONERS

THE WORKSHOPS:

- Introduction to the Safe & Together Model Training provided to the Federal Judiciary in 2022
- Improving responses to Family and Domestic Violence

EVENT DETAILS:

- The Tramsheds, Tram Room 29, 4 Invermay Rd, Launceston
- Morning tea/coffee and light lunch provided
- Free tickets available through Humanitix
- Tickets are strictly limited, with registrations closing COB 31st May 2022

<https://events.humanitix.com/safe-and-together-a-free-workshop-with-david-mandel>

women's legal service tasmania
LAW INSTITUTE
Tasmanian Government
This event has been made possible through a grant from the Department of Communities Tasmania

JUST HEALTHY FAMILIES – A HEALTH JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP

Just Healthy Families (JHF) is a collaboration between Women's Legal Service Tasmania and Tasmania Legal Aid (TLA), in partnership with the Child Health and Parenting Service (CHAPS), Child and Family Learning Centres (CFLC) and Hobart Women's Shelter (HWS).

JHF is a state-wide program that embeds legal help in health and social service settings with the aim of reducing the impact of family violence in the community. Currently, there are 3 lawyers employed to directly assist clients within JHF. The lawyers are based in Hobart, Launceston, and Burnie. JHF commenced delivering services to the community in mid-January 2022 and is funded for two years until January 2024.

JHF is Tasmania's first Health Justice Partnership. Health Justice Partnerships involve legal services working with health and social services to streamline early access to legal help.

By co-locating within health and social services, and building strong referral pathways, the opportunity for early legal intervention is optimised.

Co-location also provides for a safe space to access legal help in the community and assists with breaking down barriers that might otherwise exist for those who want to seek legal help in the context of family violence. The difference that co-locating with health and social services can make was made clear when a client told us:

"Lucky you're here in my safe community... I feel safe speaking with you here because I know all the staff, and I feel safe in the space."

It is very unlikely that this client would have accessed legal help had we not had a physical presence within her safe space.

JHF has directly assisted 184 clients, which is likely to mean that a total of around 426 clients and family members have benefited from our services so far. JHF most commonly assists clients with issues relating to family violence involving family violence orders, family law parenting arrangements and family law property settlement. Clients who need ongoing casework assistance are referred to TLA and WLST and the private profession, depending on capacity. We have also provided training to 205 people around the state.

Talk to a Just Healthy Families lawyer.

Call or email anytime on:

Phone: **1800 874 986**

Email: lawyers@justhealthyfamilies.org.au



Would you like to talk with a lawyer about something that is happening in your life?



Accessibility to legal help is also promoted through JHF's innovative service delivery design of 'professional loitering'. This means that, where appropriate, JHF lawyers will be immersed in activities taking place at co-location sites such as joining in with playgroups, arts and crafts and community education. This has helped JHF lawyers build trust and connection within the community and assisted with facilitating client engagement.

The JHF service delivery model has not only benefited clients, but it has also helped service providers who work with clients. We heard from a service provider that:

"Everyone I have referred to you and the HJP have said how helpful and reducing of stressors it was to be referred your way...I hope it becomes a mainstay of our sector."

We have also been told:

"what you do for our region is amazingly brilliant and you are sincerely appreciated for being with us ..."

Community support for our project has been shown by Hobart Women's Shelter providing funds from a Perpetual Impact Grant to JHF to assist in securing a fourth lawyer for the project. This solicitor will work with clients of the Women's Shelter to make arrangements to divide assets, liabilities and financial resources when they have separated from their partner. This will provide economic security for these women through a just and equitable division of property from the relationship.

JHF have also had additional financial support from the Department of Education who have agreed to fund the overnight costs of the JHF solicitors regularly providing legal services at Child and Family Learning Centres in St Helens and Queenstown.

JHF has extended its outreach in the community by collaborating with the Emergency Medicine Education Training (EMET) program in the south of Tasmania to deliver training to health professionals about recognising and responding to family violence. Through the EMET program, JHF have provided training sessions to health professionals including doctors, nurses, medical students and medical administration staff in Oatlands, Bruny Island and Geeveston. JHF have also provided two training sessions to the Emergency Medicine Registrars at RHH.

Further, JHF has provided training to the Australian Childhood Foundation staff in Launceston and the feedback received by JHF was very positive.

JHF is making a real difference in the community, and we know this when we receive phone calls like this:

"I just wanted to call to say thank you. I got out of my violent relationship last week because of what you did."

JHF will continue to make a difference for many more clients and their families. The difference that JHF is making in the community will be independently evaluated by the School of Nursing at University of Tasmania.

We too hope that JHF will become a mainstay in the sector.

Rachel Collins

Principal Solicitor, *Just Healthy Families*



THE ROLE OF INTEGRATED SERVICES – SOCIAL WORK AND FINANCIAL COUNSELLING

Since June 2021 the allied team as a part of the integrated service at Women's Legal Tasmania has expanded across the state.

Beginning with a part-time social worker at Burnie's Domestic Violence Unit in 2020, WLST now employs a state-wide Financial Counsellor, a full-time Social Worker in the South, and a Senior Social Worker in the North. This has enabled opportunities for expanding our outreach capabilities making integrated legal practice more assessable for women, particularly those who are experiencing family violence and financial abuse. The outreach efforts of our solicitors and allied staff are being recognised through positive feedback regarding our engagement with both services and the community.

At WLST, we recognise that the support needs of women who access our service can be complex, as too are the service systems they are required to navigate. Alongside legal practitioners, social workers and financial counsellors meet women where they are at, and recognise the multiple barriers faced when experiencing separation, family violence, and financial hardship. Navigating the legal system can have an emotional and psychological impact on women and children. The integrated, wrap-around approach to supporting woman provides trauma informed support that reduces the barriers to accessing supports and services and focuses on the wellbeing of women and their families.

The financial abuse experienced by women who present to WLST is becoming increasingly concerning. WLST has seen a significant increase in referrals to our financial counsellor, who is able to support these women in their experience of financial abuse. A national concern, 1 in 30 women were subjected to financial abuse in 2020, compared to 1 in 50 men during the same period. In 2020, financial abuse cost the Australian economy \$5.2 billion

and cost victims \$5.7 billion due to perpetrators withholding or controlling funds, refusal to contribute to shared household and expenses for children, and debt liability. As well as the financial cost, there are broader implications to the economy in the way of mental health, legal and productivity costs (The Cost of Financial Abuse in Australia 2022; Deloitte Access Economics).

Approached with a family violence and trauma informed lens, and with capacity to provide outreach across the state, the provision of our financial counselling service is unique in Tasmania. We can see that this continuing role is critical for supporting women experiencing financial hardship, and for those who often are continuing to experience abuse throughout legal proceedings.

With COVID-19 becoming more manageable in 2023, plans are afoot to provide community financial literacy sessions, which will also consider the indicators of financial abuse.




WLST successfully obtained funds from The Department of Communities to host David Mandel (Founder and Executive Director of the *Safe and Together Institute*) to deliver two one-day training workshops for the Tasmanian legal professionals and the Tasmanian community sector with a focus on children and family violence perpetrators.

The Workshops engaged key Tasmanian stakeholders from government, non-government support sectors, education, and justice to promote a better understanding of best practice approaches to responding to family violence and improving outcomes for victims and their children. Aligning with the values of WLST and the goal to contribute to family violence reform, the *Safe and Together* approach recognises the importance of supporting adult family violence survivors to support children in a way that empowers the protective parent and does not victim blame.

The team look forward to continuing to innovate in the space of integrated legal practice in Tasmania going forward.

Camille Demeyer

Senior Social Worker



MENTORS IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION
Learn how to identify and confront gender based violence

Who can attend? **Everyone!**

How much does it cost? **It is free!**

How do I register? **Call 1800 682 468**

Economic Abuse

This includes:

- controlling finances;
- not allowing access to bank accounts;
- providing only an 'allowance' that is not enough;
- using money earned by the affected person for household expenses while the perpetrator can spend their money on anything they choose.

@womenslegaltas

Social Abuse

This is isolating the Affected Person from others using methods including:

- ongoing rudeness to family and friends;
- moving to locations where the Affected Person knows nobody; and
- forbidding the Affected person from going out and meeting people.

@womenslegaltas

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We sincerely thank all 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 volunteer and student placements to occur.

These volunteers and student placements assist our solicitors with casework and valuable research. Our thanks this year to:

Caitlin Ferrier

IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

We highly value those contributions made by individuals and businesses in private enterprise and 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:

Andrew Preece, AANDCP IT Solutions

Charlotte Jones, Mental Health Legal Centre

Chris Park, McPherson Park Lawyers

Engender Equality Advocates for Change Program

Health Justice Australia

Jane Fleming

Kate Mooney SC, Tasmanian Bar Association

Kim Heap, Dobson Mitchell Allport

Mary Ann Ryan, Tasmanian Bar Association

Matthew Verney, Matthew Verney Lawyers

Michael Trezise, Tasmanian Bar Association

Roger Murray, Murray & Associates

DONATIONS & FUNDRAISING

We are very grateful that many individuals and groups in our community have continued their ongoing support of 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 these individuals for their generosity and ongoing support.

Hope Cooper

Jeffrey Schneider

Brianna Smith

Alexander Jensen

PayPal Giving Fund Australia

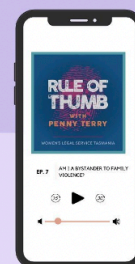
Southside Flyers

John Colby Barker Trust

"THE WORK HAS BEEN
DONE, IT'S THERE...
IT'S JUST A QUESTION
OF POLITICAL WILL,
REALLY AT THIS
POINT."

Grace Tame
Australian of the Year 2021

rule of thumb
ALL EPISODES
AVAILABLE NOW



LISTEN NOW

OUR PEOPLE

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Melissa Harback
Emily Bill
Amelia Higgs
Emily Ridler
Katrina Spark
Rokhsar Hussein
Tamara Reynish
Lisa Croswell
Claire Bachelor
Olivia Rundle
Liz Leslie
Molly Bird

STAFF

Hobart

Deborah Bailey	Principal Solicitor
Amelia Baker	Principal Solicitor
Akanksha Falor	Administration
Jade Henshaw	Senior Solicitor
Avalon Kent	Senior Solicitor
Dhurka Maheswaran	Solicitor
Anne Mainsbridge	Senior Solicitor
Georgina McDermott	Casual Administration
Masika Morris	Solicitor
Lillian King Roberts	Solicitor
Evelyn Wardrop	Solicitor
Kim Woolley	Operations Manager
Lisa Zeitzen	Finance Manager

Launceston

Yvette Cehtel	Chief Executive Officer
Bonnie Clark	Senior Solicitor
Camille Demeyer	Senior Social Worker
Danielle Downs	Administration
Hannah Knowles	Financial Counsellor
Sandy Neil	Financial Counsellor
Hannah Scollard	Senior Solicitor
Elise Whitmore	Principal Solicitor

Burnie

Sharon Ewington	Senior Solicitor
Kyra Foster	Solicitor
Jacinta Morris	Financial Counsellor
Jade Standaloft	Solicitor
Dawn Woolley	Social Worker
Ann Wright	Administration

Just Healthy Families

AUDITOR'S REPORT

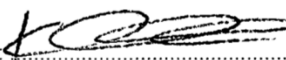
*This is an extract of the WLST Audited Financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022.
A complete copy of the Audited Financial Report is available upon request.*

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**Board's Report
30 June 2022****3. Other items****Significant changes in state of affairs**

No other significant changes in the Association's state of affairs occurred during the financial year.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board:

Board member: 

Board member: 

Dated this 31 day of October 2022.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.

Board's Declaration - per section 60.15 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013

The Board declare that in the Board's opinion

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc 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 (Cth)*.

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

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board:

Board Member.....

Board Member.....

Dated this 31 day of October 2022.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Income			
Grant revenue	2	2,082,750	1,826,181
Service fees		15,683	57,003
Interest income		2,994	10,132
Other income		44,713	59,682
Total income		2,146,140	1,952,998
Less: Expenses			
Advertising		5,000	477
Auditing and accounting fees		5,306	5,650
Bank fees		316	3,286
Cleaning		6,725	6,981
Client disbursements		34,182	33,388
Depreciation		99,994	106,779
Electricity		8,491	9,400
Fuel		5,090	3,466
Insurance		6,287	12,655
Interest expense		6,442	4,250
Internet expenses		3,395	2,846
IT expenses		6,298	3,394
Membership and subscriptions		17,875	13,038
Motor vehicle expenses		5,738	395
Office supplies		30,977	23,264
Other expenses		9,043	43,713
Parking		199	288
Printing and stationery		5,844	8,889
Professional fees		119,165	53,229
Rental outgoings		7,606	24,769
Repairs and maintenance		2,528	4,771
Security costs		5,386	1,852
Staff amenities		1,932	1,805
Staff training		17,889	28,389
Staffing costs		1,602,977	1,508,755
Sundry expenses		1,045	1,405
Telephone		9,948	9,420
Travel expenses		24,558	31,456
Vehicle registration and maintenance		1,632	1,959
Total Expenses		2,051,868	1,949,969
Net Surplus for the Year		94,272	3,029
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		94,272	3,029

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**Statement of Financial Position
As At 30 June 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	2,343,886	1,520,576
Trade and other receivables	4	26,025	9,484
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		2,369,911	1,530,060
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and equipment	5	40,914	-
Right-of-use assets	6	230,897	128,564
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		271,811	128,564
TOTAL ASSETS		2,641,722	1,658,624
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	199,823	148,744
Unspent grant funds	8	1,362,879	654,926
Employee benefits	9	152,178	116,892
Lease liabilities	10	103,991	106,463
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,818,871	1,027,025
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	9	16,030	18,973
Lease liabilities	10	130,020	30,097
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		146,050	49,070
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,964,921	1,076,095
NET ASSETS		676,801	582,529
EQUITY			
Accumulated surpluses		664,801	570,529
Community development reserve		12,000	12,000
TOTAL EQUITY		676,801	582,529

The Association has changed its policy for recognition of grant revenue and the change in accounting policy resulted in a restatement of the 2021 comparatives - Refer notes 1 (i) and 1 (m).

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022****2022**

	Community Development Reserve	Asset Revaluation Surplus	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2021	12,000	570,529	582,529
Net surplus for the year	-	94,272	94,272
Balance at 30 June 2022	12,000	664,801	676,801

2021

	Community Development Reserve	Asset Revaluation Surplus	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2020	12,000	567,500	579,500
Net surplus for the year	-	3,029	3,029
Balance at 30 June 2021	12,000	570,529	582,529

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Receipts from customers		152,581	201,541
Receipts from government		2,291,024	2,398,654
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,491,243)	(2,009,164)
Interest received		2,993	10,131
Net cash provided by operating activities	13	<u>955,355</u>	<u>601,162</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		<u>(44,445)</u>	<u>(24,051)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(44,445)</u>	<u>(24,051)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Repayment of lease liability		<u>(87,600)</u>	<u>(76,145)</u>
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(87,600)</u>	<u>(76,145)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		823,310	500,966
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		<u>1,520,576</u>	<u>1,019,610</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	3	<u><u>2,343,886</u></u>	<u><u>1,520,576</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022****1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies****(a) Basis of Preparation**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)*. The Board has determined that the Association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the minimum requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)* and therefore comply with the following Australian Accounting Standards as issued by the Australian Accounting Standard Board:

- AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements;
- AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows;
- AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors;
- AASB 1048 Interpretation of Standards; and
- AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures.

The financial report, except for the cash flow information, has prepared on an accrual basis is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets. The amounts presented within the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

The Association has considered the impact of AASB 1054 and determined that the base requirements have been met, or don't apply to the Association as follows:

Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) - The reports are special purpose. Accordingly, the Association has generally applied AAS, particularly those required under Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)*, but is not required to adopt all AAS. Specifically, the Association has chosen not to adopt AASB 1058 and AASB15. Further explanation on the organisation's policy regarding unexpended grant funding and the non-adoption of AASB 1058 has been discussed below at (m).

(b) Comparative Figures

When appropriate, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(c) 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.

Bank overdrafts also form part of cash equivalents for the purpose of the statement of cash flows and are presented within current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022****1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies****(d) Trade and Other Receivables**

The Association considers accounts receivable to be fully collectible, accordingly no allowance for doubtful accounts is required.

(e) Plant and Equipment

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis to write off the net cost of each item of property, plant and equipment (excluding land) over their expected useful lives.

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

Fixed asset class	Depreciation rate
Motor Vehicles	18.75%
Computers	20%
Furnitures	10%

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.

(f) Trade and Other Payables

Trade and other payables are stated at cost, which approximates fair value due to the short term nature of these liabilities.

(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, plus related on-costs.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022****1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies****(g) Employee Benefits**

Contribution made by the Association to an employee superannuation fund are charged as expenses when incurred.

(h) 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.

(i) Change in Accounting Policy

The Association has changed its policy for recognition of grant revenue (see Note 1 (m)). In 2020-2021, the Association recognised grant revenue on receipt of funds, based on the interpretation of the new revenue standards. The change is to account for grant revenue when spent for the purpose outlined in the grant agreement and to recognise a liability for funding received that is yet to be spent for its intended purpose.

As a result of this change, revenue for 30 June 2021 has been restated from \$2,607,926 to \$1,952,998 and surplus has been restated from \$657,955 to \$3,029. Restricted equity for 30 June 2021 has been restated from \$656,467 to \$0, accumulated surpluses have been restated from \$568,987 to \$570,528, total equity has been restated from \$1,237,454 to \$582,528 and unspent grant funds has been restated from \$0 to \$654,926.

(j) Adoption of New and Revised Accounting Standards

The Association has adopted all standards which became effective for the first time for the year ending 30 June 2022, all required changes in respect of adopting these standards. The adoption of these standards has not caused any material adjustments to the reported financial position, performance or cash flow of the Association.

New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods

The AASB has issued new and amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods. The Standard AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current amends AASB 101 to clarify requirements for the presentation of liabilities in the statement of financial position as current or non-current. This standard applied to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022. The Association has decided against early adoption of this Standards.

(k) Income Tax

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

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022****1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies****(l) Leases***Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc. as a lessee*

At lease commencement, Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc. recognises a right-of-use asset and associated lease liability for the lease term. The lease term includes extension periods where Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc. believes it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised. Finance leases are recognised at an amount equal to the present value of the minimum lease payments determined at the inception of the lease or initial recognition in the case of first application of AASB 16 Leases.

The right-of-use asset using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises; the lease liability, initial direct cost, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration, less any lease incentives. The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight-line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of asset accounting policy.

The lease liability is initially recognised at the present value of the remaining lease payments at the commencement of the lease.

(m) Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST) payable to the Australian Taxation Office. Revenue is measured on major income categories as follows:

Grants revenue

Grant revenue without associated obligations is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income when the association obtains control of the grant, it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the association and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

When grant revenue is received whereby the association incurs an obligation to deliver services or other economic value directly back to the contributor, or to a third party/parties on behalf of the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction. In these cases, the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income in line with expenditure incurred in carrying out that service delivery. Unexpended grant funding is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until either expended in a future period or approval to retain unspent funds is received from the contributor.

Fees for services

Fees for services arise from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations, then the revenue is recognised when control of each performance obligation is satisfied.

Interest Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022****1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies****(m) Revenue and Other Income***Donations*

Donation income is recognised when the Association obtains control over the funds which is generally at the time of receipt.

(n) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the are shown inclusive of GST.

(o) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

The Board members evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Association, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

Key Judgements - Employee Benefits

For the purpose of measurement, the Association expects that most employees will not take their annual leave entitlements within a 12 month period in which they are earned, but this will not have a material impact on the amounts recognised in respect of obligations for employees' leave entitlements.

Key Judgement - Right of Use Asset Lease Term

The Association determines the lease term as the non-cancellable period of a lease, this covers option to extend the lease if the Association is reasonably certain to exercise that option and periods covered by an option to terminate the lease if the Association is reasonably certain not to exercise that option. In assessing whether an Association is reasonably certain to exercise an option to extend a lease, or not to exercise an option to terminate a lease, the Association has considered all relevant facts and circumstances that create an economic incentive for the Association.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022****2 Revenue**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Commonwealth grant funding	1,014,954	1,025,121
Family Violence Action Plan grant	253,440	100,136
COVID-19 legal assistance grant	-	209,515
Other grants - Federal, State and Financial Counselling Foundation	224,451	126,131
Funds brought forward	589,905	365,278
	<u>2,082,750</u>	<u>1,826,181</u>

3 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Cash on hand	586	420
Bank balances	1,573,574	753,364
Short-term deposits	769,726	766,792
	<u>2,343,886</u>	<u>1,520,576</u>

4 Trade and Other Receivables

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Trade receivables	5,758	7,568
Prepayments	20,267	1,916
	<u>26,025</u>	<u>9,484</u>

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022****5 Plant and Equipment**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Motor Vehicles		
At cost	129,530	24,052
Accumulated depreciation	(88,616)	(24,052)
Total motor vehicles	<u>40,914</u>	<u>-</u>
Office Equipment		
At cost	-	14,569
Accumulated depreciation	-	(14,569)
Total office equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Computer equipment		
At cost	21,400	121,148
Accumulated depreciation	(21,400)	(121,148)
Total computer equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total plant and equipment	<u><u>40,914</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

6 Right of Use Assets

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Right of use asset - Equipment	18,935	18,934
Accumulated amortisation	(4,936)	(8,155)
Total Equipment leases	<u>13,999</u>	<u>10,779</u>
Right of use asset - Building	318,386	231,678
Accumulated amortisation	(101,488)	(113,893)
Total Building leases	<u>216,898</u>	<u>117,785</u>
Total Right of Use assets	<u><u>230,897</u></u>	<u><u>128,564</u></u>

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022****7 Trade and Other Payables**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Accrued expenses	65,259	44,746
PAYG payables	24,723	21,478
Trade payables	11,343	34,452
GST payables	98,498	48,068
	<u>199,823</u>	<u>148,744</u>

8 Unspent Grant Funds

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Commonwealth contracts	1,157,456	251,480
Other contractual liabilities	205,423	403,446
	<u>1,362,879</u>	<u>654,926</u>

9 Employee Benefits

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Current		
TOIL provisions	2,602	10,353
Annual leave	99,909	95,057
Long service leave	49,667	11,482
	<u>152,178</u>	<u>116,892</u>
Non current		
Long service leave	16,030	18,973
	<u>16,030</u>	<u>18,973</u>
	<u>168,208</u>	<u>135,865</u>

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022****10 Lease Liabilities**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Current		
Equipment lease liability	8,824	7,022
Building lease liability	95,167	99,441
	<u>103,991</u>	<u>106,463</u>
Non current		
Equipment lease liability	5,378	9,409
Building lease liability	124,642	20,688
	<u>130,020</u>	<u>30,097</u>
Total lease liability	<u><u>234,011</u></u>	<u><u>136,560</u></u>

11 Auditors' Remuneration

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Remuneration of the auditor of the Association, Crowe Audit Australia, for:		
- Auditing and compilation of the financial statement	5,100	4,770
Total	<u><u>5,100</u></u>	<u><u>4,770</u></u>

12 Contingent Assets and Contingent Liabilities*Contingent Assets*

The Association did not have any contingent assets at 30 June 2022 (2021:Nil).

Contingent Liabilities

The Association has received grant funds with associated agreements whereby unexpended funds may be repayable to the funding provider in the future in the event of either cessation of the funded services or upon triggering of a repayment clause in a funding agreement.

The Association did not have any other contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2022 (2021:Nil).

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022****13 Cash Flow Information****(a) Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities**

Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Net surplus for the year	94,272	3,029
Cash flows excluded from surplus/(deficit) attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in surplus:		
- depreciation	81,997	106,779
- lease interest	4,250	4,253
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(16,541)	122,316
- (increase)/decrease in other assets	-	(1,916)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	115,813	55,920
- increase/(decrease) in unexpended grants	643,221	289,538
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	32,343	21,243
Cashflow from operations	<u>955,355</u>	<u>601,162</u>

14 Events after the end of the Reporting Period

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.

15 Association Details

The registered office of the Association is:
 Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.
 GPO Box 707
 North Hobart TAS 7002

**Crowe Audit Australia**

ABN 13 969 921 386
 Level 1, 142-146 Elizabeth Street
 Hobart TAS 7000 Australia
 GPO Box 392
 Hobart TAS 7001 Australia
 Tel 03 6210 2525
 Fax 03 6210 2524
www.crowe.com.au

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.

Auditors' Independence Declaration under Section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012 (Cth)

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2022, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012 (Cth)* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Crowe Audit Australia

Crowe Audit Australia

Alison Flakemore
Senior Partner

Dated this....25...day of. ..August...2022

Hobart, Tasmania.

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The title 'Partner' conveys that the person is a senior member within their respective division, and is among the group of persons who hold an equity interest (shareholder) in its parent entity, Findex Group Limited. The only professional service offering which is conducted by a partnership is the Crowe Australasia external audit division. All other professional services offered by Findex Group Limited are conducted by a privately owned organisation and/or its subsidiaries.

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Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.

Independent Audit Report to the members of Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc.

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Womens' Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022 the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity, the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by the member of Board.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and 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 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 – Change in Accounting Policy

We draw attention to Note 1 (a) and (i) to the financial statements, which indicates that the organisation has not applied all recognition and measurement accounting standards, specifically the organisation has chosen to not adopt AASB 1058 and AASB 15. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describe the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Association to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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Other Information

The Board are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Board's Report the year ended 30 June 2022, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Board for the Financial Report

The Board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial statements is appropriate to meet the needs of the members in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Board 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 the 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 this financial report.

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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 Board.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's 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.

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We communicate with the Board 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 the audit.

Crowe Audit Australia

Alison Flakemore
Senior Partner

Dated this...1...day of...November...2022.
Hobart, Tasmania.

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We would like to thank the following funding bodies for their financial support of Women's Legal Service Tasmania:



As well as the following organisations for their collaboration and support throughout the year:

