

women's
legal
service
tasmania



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022-2023**



IT IS OUR VISION THAT TASMANIA IS A PLACE THAT VALUES GENDER EQUITY.

Who We Are

Women's Legal Service Tasmania is a community legal service funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, operating since 1996.

We provide a free, statewide holistic service to women needing legal advice and information, social work support and financial counselling.

Our service recognises that women face barriers accessing justice due to power imbalances in our economic, social, political and legal systems. We support women who would otherwise not have access to the justice system, in particular those who experience violence, disadvantage and discrimination.

Our Mission

We exist to ensure all women are empowered in a system that promotes their economic, civil, social and cultural rights. We do this by:

- working alongside all women to improve their lives
- working in an integrated way that meets their legal, social and financial needs
- delivering services that are trauma informed
- challenging the systems and culture that perpetuate inequity
- taking a leadership role and working in partnership with others

Our Values

Our decisions, our behaviours and activities are guided by three organisational values:

Empowerment

We empower women and each other to be courageous by listening and supporting their choices.

Influence

We use our influence to challenge injustice and equality, to make a positive difference for today and future generations of women.

Compassion

We treat everyone fairly and with compassion and support the participation of women in all their diversity.

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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**WE EMPOWER,
PROVIDE
INFLUENCE
AND ACT WITH
COMPASSION.**

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



As the Chair of Women's Legal Service Tasmania (WLST) for the 2022-2023 financial year, I have been inspired by the impact of the service. To be the leading law reform advocates in Tasmania on issues affecting women takes courage and leadership and I'm proud to be a part of an organisation that is centred on this purpose. This 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". Through living our values of empowerment, influence, and compassion, WLST work tirelessly towards our vision that Tasmania is a place that values gender equity.

Over the past year, important work continued to be focused on delivering an integrated service for women to improve their lives. We are committed to working collaboratively and delivering high quality, trauma-informed services. With over 1509 calls seeking support via the 1800 line, 283 outreach clinics, 26 community education sessions and 1916 clients seeking legal advice across the state, this demand for services continues to demonstrate the ongoing need.

In addition to these figures, our Just Healthy Families team has provided legal information, advice and secondary consultation services to women through their statewide outreach program.

At each Board meeting we invite our specialists to present a case study which demonstrate where we challenge systems and culture that perpetuate inequality, and the value of our work to deliver our mission.

We also welcomed three new Board members which continued our goal of ensuring diversity of thought and experience around our Board table. The deep strategic thinking the different perspectives and lived experiences that everyone brings to the table is inspirational. Our focus on ensuring strong governance of the organisation is future oriented, values driven and proactive with a Board that is grounded in the organisation's principles for decision making. Key to the delivery of our strategic priorities are client outcomes, funding certainty, staff wellbeing and a healthy organisational culture, strong relationships, and partnerships, and ensuring the service effectively spans statewide. I'm grateful to all our Board members for volunteering their time to providing governance oversight and real care for the sustainability and high functioning of the organisation's people.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Yvette Cehtel for her passion, capability, dedication and persistence in her role as CEO. Yvette has demonstrated outstanding commitment to leading the organisation to work alongside women to improve their lives and challenging the systems and culture that perpetuate inequality.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Spark', written in a fluid, cursive style.

Katrina Spark

Chair of the Board of Management

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



with experience in trauma informed practice and gendered violence. The fiscal constraints are exacerbated by the lack of funding to specifically operate three offices in our core funding base. WLST also failed to attract the Vulnerable Women's Commonwealth funding that was awarded to Tasmania to deliver legal services to women experiencing family and sexual violence, as was promised to flow to women's legal services nationally. This continues to impact the remuneration we are able to offer our staff.

We are also continuing to embrace a working model where we work within the community, operating out of existing community-based service hubs.

This work has been heavily influenced by our health justice partnership work. It involves going to women in community spaces where women feel safe.

Pivoting the way we work

Women's Legal Service Tasmania have forged ahead this financial year to fully operate three domestic violence units statewide. This will ensure consistence of service delivery across the state. We did not feel we could delay this strategic decision any longer as we felt it was important to offer women across Tasmania the same access to legal and social supports. This has real benefits to our client base, with a social worker now operating from each of our office locations in Burnie, Launceston, and Hobart to complement our financial counsellor.

Notwithstanding this strategic change, WLST have continued to operate without a Deed throughout 2022-2023. As a key governance document this is far from ideal and has exposed us to governance risk. This strategic decision to implement the three operational domestic violence units was supported by our strategic plan which was re-set this financial year.

We have continued to struggle to recruit and retain staff within the current fiscal envelope, particularly senior legal staff with family law experience coupled

Shaping a different culture to respond to family and sexual violence

WLST have continued to lead cultural conversations within the community, legal assistance and legal sectors to challenge the underlying assumptions and attitudes that persist and contribute to undermining women's safety at work, in their homes, and on our streets.

This financial year this has taken the form of facilitating community and legal workshops with David Mandel on the Safe and Together™ model. This provided the sector an opportunity to gather and challenge our thinking and approaches to the work we do supporting women who experience family violence to keep the safety of children central. This work was supported by the Department of Premier and Cabinet. From these workshops we devised a plan to work alongside other leaders in the community and government sector to devise a Tasmanian Domestic and Family

Violence Conference which we called the *Safe Equal, Respected Conference* which was held in June 2023 in Launceston. We had an exciting line up of speakers including Michaela Cronin, Australia's first Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner, Cathy Humphries, a Melbourne University academic with experience of measuring community programs and implementation of frameworks, and Padma Raman, CEO of ANROWS. This provided an opportunity for Tasmanian service providers to showcase their work and discuss innovative approaches and to challenge our thinking through break out groups. We had over 160 participants from across the state attend over the four days of the conference.

On the fourth day, WLST also ran a sexual harassment focus day working with Working Women's Centre South Australia, Job Watch and Women's Legal Centre ACT and were very grateful of support from Kate Eastman SC. We are hopeful to run this workshop next financial year also.

WLST developed a podcast on sexual harassment. This represented an extension of our podcast series *Rule of Thumb* with Healthy Tasmania. Again, we leant heavily on contributions from others including the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce to extend our reach, and to include voices of men in the conversation to challenge the culture supporting sexual harassment.

Partnerships and collaborations

WLST have continued to strive to extend our influence through strengthening our reach and offerings by working alongside other services. The intention is to create new and dynamic ways of working and activities that actively engage the community to engage in conversations to challenge the cultural drivers than underpin violence against women in all forms.

Laurel House

WLST have collaborated with Laurel House to speak with girls before their first sexual experience. The aim is to arm them with information, not just about the law but about the gendered drivers and all our role in perpetuating these attitudes. We have partnered with Guides Tasmania to test the program that we have been developing. We have received some financial support from My State and Hydro Tasmania to support

the development of these workshops throughout the three regions of Tasmania. We will deliver the program in the next financial year as a pilot program and re-work the resources developed based on the feedback we receive from the young people who participate.

White Ribbon

We are working with White Ribbon, Laurel House and Playgroup Tasmania to develop a children's play and supporting materials to parents that challenge gender stereotypes. This partnership is a dynamic and exciting partnership which we hope will bear fruit in the first half of next financial year but has been underway for over a year. WLST acknowledge the leading role the CEO of Laurel House, Kathryn Fordyce has taken in this partnership.

Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP)

This project has formally drawn to a close. It is now being led by Women's Health Tasmania. WLST will continue to deliver these workshops next financial year as we value the engagement with community. We also recognise the ability of these facilitated sessions to meet community where they are at and build their capacity to respond effectively to family and sexual violence.

Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Peak – Women's Alliance

WLST are excited to be one of the founding organisations supporting TasCOSS to auspice this change to the Tasmanian peak landscape. WLST are excited at the possibilities this new funding in our sector provides to ensure that we can maximise the voice of our client cohorts across women's specialist services in Tasmania. We are grateful that the Department of Premier and Cabinet has funded this foundational work.

Health Justice Partnership

We are continuing to lead the first health justice partnership in Tasmania, Just Healthy Families. This program, with significant in-kind and financial contributions from all partners, remains on track to

meet all the service deliverables despite being unable to fill one of the practitioner positions due to the short period of the contract remaining and the ongoing funding uncertainty surrounding the program post January 2024.

WLST acknowledge the funding from the Tasmanian Community Fund, Equity Trustees (to enable support and engagement from Health Justice Australia), philanthropic funds from Perpetual Trustees acquired by Hobart Women's Shelter, and from the Commonwealth Government, through the vulnerable women's funding pool to enable this program to operate statewide. WLST lead this project alongside our other partners, Tasmania Legal Aid, Child and Family Learning Centres (CFLC), Child Health and Parenting Service (CHaPS) and the Hobart Women's Shelter.

The geographical reach of this program demonstrates the value of working in places of trust, with existing service providers embedded in community. We have no doubt that this extends our reach into areas where legal problems have not been identified. The ongoing success of this program is in large part down to the openness of our staff in this program to work in a flexible and dynamic way to meet client need in places and spaces where clients feel safe. These practitioners also champion integrated practice. They do this working alongside financial counsellors and social workers to connect women to all the supports they require.

Working towards other partnerships

We are also exploring further partnerships with Engender Equality, Laurel House, and the business community to extend our reach in the sexual harassment space.

Nationally, we have also worked with others providing employment services such as Job Watch and Working Women's Centres to offer a sexual harassment workshop in Launceston this year. We hope to build this into an annual event for the community, legal and business sectors and for other interested members of the community. We aimed to keep registration costs low to enable greater participation. We also wish to acknowledge the support of Kate Eastman AM SC for her support of our work and clients on a pro-bono

basis. The benefit of her insight and practice wisdom is invaluable to us as we have carved out a specialised program to respond on the ground in local Tasmanian communities to the Jenkins Safe at Work Report. The high incidence of sexual violence in workplaces is a source of shame – we as a service are committed to shining a light on this dark corner.

Temporary Visa Program

WLST have continued to work with Red Cross and the Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service to meet the need of temporary visa holders experiencing family violence. The particular vulnerability of women in these circumstances is confronting. We were pleased to see that the Commonwealth Government Department of Social Services has committed to extending this program for a further period, up until January 2025. We are exploring what the best way to meet client need is in the future design of this program. The gender focus and particular plight of women on temporary visas remains our service focus as does being able to offer a trauma informed service.

National law reform activities

Women's Legal Services Australia (WLSA)

With an association of thirteen Women's Legal Services across the country there has been a move to better co-ordinate and formalise our activities nationally to improve our ability to influence national policy and advocacy. WLSA have leveraged the trusting relationships formed by CEOs to establish working committees across our respective practice reaches including family and sexual violence, temporary visa, sexual harassment and integrated practice and data committees. These working groups have been very effective, in particular in relation to the family law reforms package announced by the Commonwealth Attorney-General, representing the most significant changes to the family law system in decades. It has also been great to share our emerging practice wisdom arising from our respective integrated practices.

The newly formed committee briefed Federal Members of Parliament on the pertinent issues and

bought their practice wisdom to making constructive suggestions for improvement to the law. This systems reform advocacy is important if we are to change the experiences women have when they enter the legal process on separation.

This is especially so when we know that 80% of matters filed in the family law court nationally have family violence indicators. Women clearly are not on the same starting block as their male counterparts in the division of property. Children still are not central to determinations of what is in their best interests. Safety must always be prioritised, and we have a long way to go. We will continue, through our advocacy and through our work within WLSA to advocate for improvements in the law to realise the safety of women and children in their interface with the legal system.

Next financial year, we are looking forward to discussing the National Legal Assistance Partnership Agreement and commencing the re-negotiating of the terms of the funding package.

WLSA are also moving towards incorporation and realising our role as a national peak.

National Women's Safety Alliance

As CEO I have continued to participate in the discussions concerning the establishment of the National Women's Safety Alliance. The main achievement apart from setting the strategic direction of the organisation was the settling of the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*.

Hague Convention Advocacy

Through our participation on the Hague Mothers Group, we were able to appear at the Law Council hearing on the future of the Hague Convention in February of 2023. Again, we are pleased at WLST and at WLSA to see the reformulation of the rule by the Commonwealth Attorney-General and again welcome this Commonwealth Government's commitment to applying a gendered perspective and a family violence lens over laws impacting women. We welcome the ongoing discussion as to how we can further improve these laws.

Continuous Improvement

We are continuing to explore better ways of measuring the impact of what and how we work. Next financial year we will commence rolling random audits of our clients conducted by our allied team to learn and hear from our clients about their experience using our services. We hope to use this feedback to further improve our services. This client feedback will be in addition to the required Commonwealth annual feedback collection required.

Our Staff

Last, but not least, WLST acknowledge the committed work of our staff team, who each and every day are present and willing and able to assist women in our community to better realise their legal, social, cultural, and political rights.

Our staff empower women across our communities in Tasmania to access and use their legal rights in practical ways on a daily basis.

Our staff are committed to collaborative work alongside other specialist services, private practitioners, barristers and generalist legal services if that is what our clients need. Our staff team bring to life the *Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*. They do this under the direction of the strategic plan finalised by our Board.

Our Board has set a strategic framework that values the work of all our staff equally to contribute towards achieving the social, cultural, and political rights of our clients.

We are all, together, leaders. I am extremely honoured to lead such a dedicated and talented group of women towards this vision – to ensure women have equal opportunity in Tasmania.



Yvette Cehtel

Chief Executive Officer

WLST 2022-2023

NATIONAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIP

- + partial funding for Launceston DVU by Tasmanian Government
- + partial funding for Just Healthy Families Health Justice Partnership from Tasmanian Community Fund
- + philanthropic funding for solicitor placement at Hobart Women's Shelter

Client Demographics

Financially Disadvantaged	1509
Homeless, or at risk of Homelessness	20%
Family Law where experiencing FV	62%
Civil or Criminal Law where experiencing FV	37%
Regional or Remote	34%
Disability or Mental Illness	20%
Homeless, or at risk of Homelessness	10%
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (Tasmania's population is 5% ATSI)	8%
English Second Language	6%

Client Services

Referrals to Legal or Support Services	2533
Telephone or Outreach Legal Advice	1916
Information Services	1874
Social Work Support Services	1072
Legal Tasks	320
Women Assisted with Legal Casework	223

DEDICATED COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS FUNDED OUTSIDE OF NLAP

Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Family Violence

Department of Social Services

Financially Disadvantaged	51
Homeless, or at risk of Homelessness	45
Family Law where experiencing FV	5
Civil or Criminal Law where experiencing FV	37

Financial Counselling

Financial Counselling Foundation

Referrals to Legal or Support Services	85
Telephone or Outreach Legal Advice	291

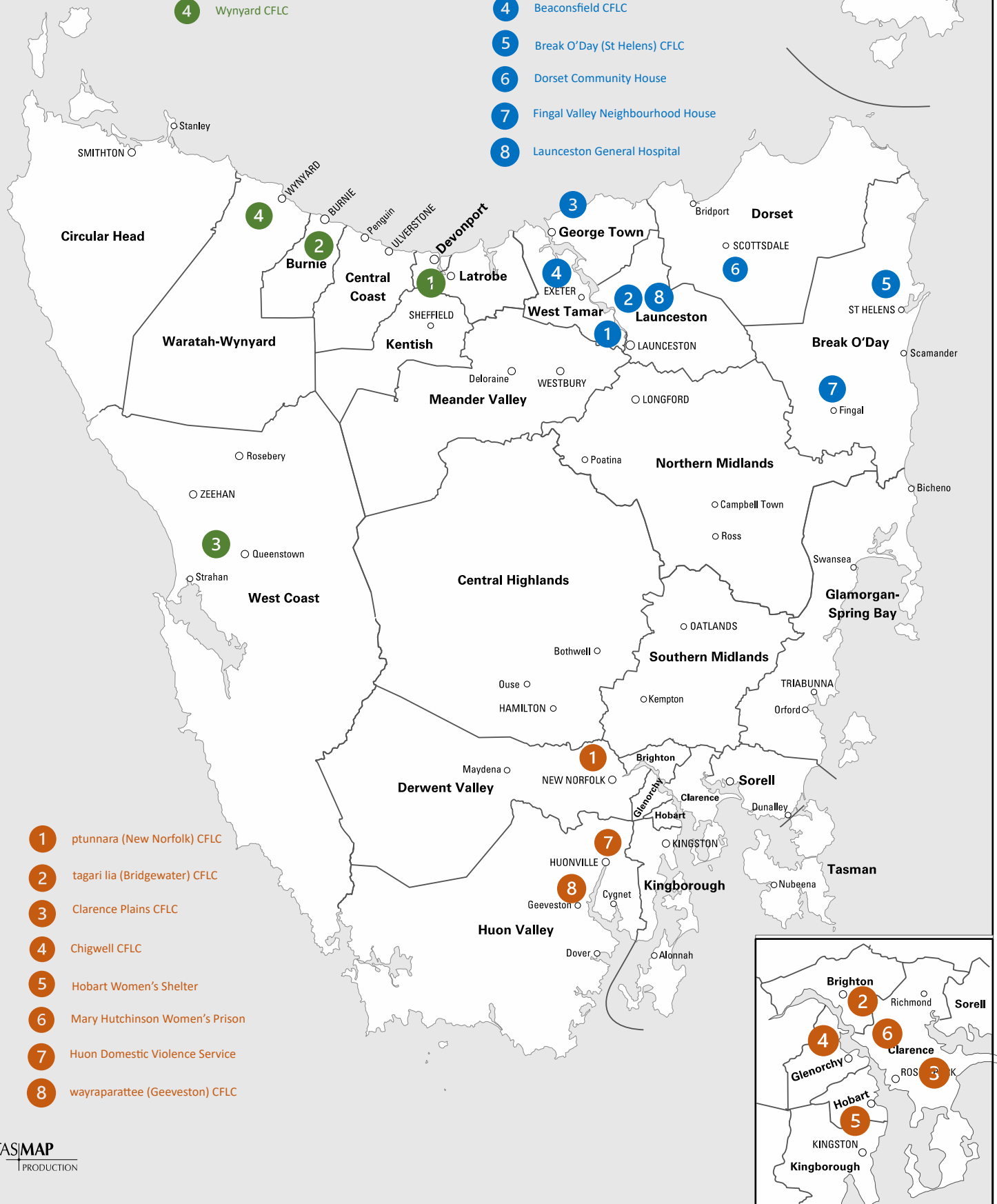
~ \$57,923 worth of debts waived

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE TASMANIA OUTREACH SERVICES 2022-2023



- 1 East Devonport CFLC
- 2 Burnie CFLC
- 3 Queenstown CFLC
- 4 Wynyard CFLC

- 1 Ravenswood CFLC
- 2 mylatina (East Tamar) CFLC
- 3 George Town CFLC
- 4 Beaconsfield CFLC
- 5 Break O'Day (St Helens) CFLC
- 6 Dorset Community House
- 7 Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House
- 8 Launceston General Hospital



TREASURER'S REPORT

Women's Legal Service Tasmania is predominantly grant funded as a not-for-profit community legal service and relies on funding from the Commonwealth and Tasmanian State Government to deliver its core services.

This year saw WLST experience significant financial growth, with revenue increasing by 50%. Total revenue for the 2022-2023 financial year was \$3.2m compared to \$2.1m reported in the previous year. Whilst most of the added revenue related to the securing of additional grant funding, WLST also saw an increase in other revenue as a consequence of interest earned and the successful hosting of our first conference.

In line with revenue, expenditure also increased because of the additional funded services. The increase in expenditure was largely employee related, with the staff headcount increasing substantially to meet our client and social need. A huge thank you and congratulations to all the staff for their efforts as even though WLST experienced significant growth this year, it did not come without its challenges and their commitment and dedication has not gone unnoticed.

A net surplus of \$83,000 was achieved in 2022-2023 which aligns with WLST's strategic initiative of growing its reserves. This allows WLST to be agile and respond

to a constant evolving environment by scaling up or adapting services when required. Building reserves also enables WLST to maintain a buffer for unforeseen events or maintain services during funding gaps. The 2022-2023 reserve levels equate to 2.9 months of expenditure when measured against 2022-2023 expenditure; this is an increase of 0.3 when comparing to the level of 2.6 months reported in the prior year.

Yvette and her leadership team, with the assistance of Purpose Accounting, have been instrumental in the financial performance of WLST. External factors such as inflation have created additional challenges this year and their efforts during this time are greatly appreciated.

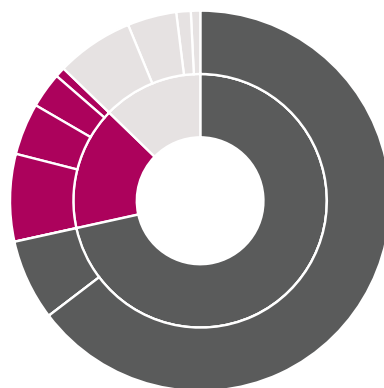
In addition to the ongoing monitoring of WLST's financial health, the Board continues to ensure policies remain relevant, especially as the organisation continues to grow. We also continue to be mindful of investing cash balances to maximise returns.

In closing, I extend my thanks to the Purpose Accounting and WLST leadership teams for their diligent support to the Treasurer and Board of Management during the year.

Sheldene Blackler

Treasurer

	Funding	Amount Recognised as Income in 2022-23
Commonwealth	Commonwealth National Legal Assistance Program (NLAP) inc Domestic Violence Unit (DVU)	\$2,089,178
	Department of Social Services (Cth) Pilot Program for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023	\$221,902
Tasmanian Government	Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan (FSVAP)	\$212,242
	Tasmanian Government NLAP Contribution	\$134,406
	Legal Training Grant	\$39,744
	Legal Assistance Sector Support Funding	\$25,632
Other	Tasmania Community Fund - Health Justice Partnership	\$239,678
	Financial Counselling Foundation	\$142,264
	Service Generated Income and Donations	\$97,252
	Grant to provide specific casework services to Hobart Women's Shelter	\$27,843
Total Income for 2022-2023		\$3,230,141



PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR REPORT

The 2022-2023 financial year has been a busy and challenging time for WLST. We continue to provide information, referrals, and advice to all Tasmanian women through our telephone advice line, and representation to women who have experienced, or are at risk of family violence. All three offices across the state now operate under a Domestic Violence Unit model, and our areas of practice remain focused on family law, family violence and child safety.

Staff shortages have impacted on our legal service delivery this year, to the extent we've trialled a "Triage" system, which ensures that all women who call the service are able to obtain a short 10–15-minute appointment on the day they call, even if we do not have capacity to offer them a full appointment or ongoing casework assistance. We have also prioritised providing our advice appointments to women presenting within our areas of specialisations, and providing the triage appointments to women who present with legal issues in which we do not represent, so we can provide the relevant information and referrals in a timely manner.

Outreach clinics are operating in most areas of the state, including at the Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison, Huon Domestic Violence Service, the Launceston General Hospital, and at neighbourhood houses across the north. Outreach clinics are an integral part of our practice, as we recognise that not all women feel safe or comfortable approaching us directly or feel that it is too difficult to do so.

We have provided Community Legal Education (CLE) to several community groups and organisations over the year, including Family Planning Tasmania, Women's Health Tasmania, and schools in the north of the state. We have made a concerted effort to focus our CLE activities on attitudinal change and primary prevention, in a way that conveys legal concepts, but also challenges assumptions about the drivers of violence, especially as it relates to women.

Our Sexual Harassment in the Workplace program has continued to grow this year. We have a steady increase in client numbers but have also focused out attention of providing CLE and creating resources. This included WLST speaking at the Nursing and Midwifery Union Conference to approximately 76 delegates. We also hosted a sexual harassment conference, in which local and interstate speakers and panellists spoke of the challenges of combatting sexual harassment in our workplaces, and the gendered nature of the problem.

WLST now operates as an integrated practice across all three offices, which means that clients can also access social supports and financial counselling over the course of their legal engagement with WLST. Solicitors have consistently provided feedback about how useful and valuable these services are, and how they enhance outcomes for women using our services.

The work being completed within WLST can be difficult. Clients often present with multiple issues and vulnerabilities, and often face power imbalances in accessing the justice system. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff for their commitment, passion, and hard work in the face of difficult circumstances.



Elise Whitmore

Principal Solicitor

Just Healthy Families Overview of Services 2022

Just Healthy Families is a Health Justice Housing Partnership that commenced in mid-January 2022. Services in the North-West started in June 2022 when the third specialist family violence lawyer was recruited.

The core services are delivered by three specialist family violence lawyers who visit fifteen health and social service partner sites across Tasmania on a weekly or fortnightly basis. The full list of Tasmanian organisations that have sought assistance from the JHF lawyers in 2022 are listed at the end of this report.

JHF is operating as a two-year pilot with funding from the Tasmania Community Fund and the Commonwealth Government. Evaluation services are provided as in-kind contributions by the University of Tasmania Schools of Nursing and Medicine as well as Law & Development Partners. JHF services were delivered in 2022 with 83% of projected legal resources.

In the first year of operation the following services were delivered across Tasmania:

2788

legal problems referred to the JHF specialist family violence lawyers

1670

services provided by JHF lawyers through direct client consultations and secondary consultations with partners

1434

unique clients, dependants and family members assisted (note JHF Quarterly Updates count clients assisted in that quarter)

13

Child and Family Learning Centres supported by the JHF lawyer visits

25+

Partners across Tasmania request support from JHF lawyers in 2022

312

312 staff at partner organisations participate in a JHF training session

More information on the work of Just Healthy Families, including Quarterly Updates, can be seen [here](#).

women's
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Tasmania
Legal Aid



Evaluation Partners



A collaboration between Women's Legal Service Tasmania, Tasmania Legal Aid and a range of Tasmanian health and social service partners



**Just Healthy
Families**

TASMANIA LEGAL AID +
WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE TASMANIA

JUST HEALTHY FAMILIES – A HEALTH JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP

What services does just healthy families provide?

Our Just Healthy Families solicitors can provide both legal and non-legal information, advice, and referral to clients in a range of areas.

Legal advice can be provided on matters including family law (issues with parenting or property disputes, divorce, child support or maintenance), Family Violence Orders, Restraint Orders, Child Protection matters, tenancy and housing, debt issues, victims of crime compensation or criminal law.

Our legal advice appointments are not limited to a particular time frame, and do not need to be booked in advance if a client accesses our service through one of our partner sites. Advice can be a one-off, or we can also provide a booked follow up appointment as required. We are flexible with our location, and can visit a client at a partner site, or at another location such as a WLST office, or a local neighbourhood centre, and our appointments can be in person or on the telephone.

What makes this service unique?

- We work collaboratively with health and social service providers to embed legal services into the health and community sector so that clients can receive timely and meaningful assistance and support when they need it.
- Our legal practitioners have extensive experience in working with victim-survivors of family violence and apply a trauma informed lens to their practice.
- Clients can link in directly with a lawyer in a location where they feel safe and supported, removing a barrier to accessing legal help.
- Our lawyers also can engage in ongoing advocacy in targeted areas, creating possibilities for effecting long term systemic change for vulnerable populations.
- Strategies to address complex legal, social and health care needs can be developed in an integrated way in collaboration with our partnered and allied service providers – this enables an environment where the client feels empowered and ensures that the client receives wrap around support.
- The service we can provide to clients is qualitatively different to that provided by mainstream legal services.

INTEGRATED PRACTICE

This year has been a period of further embedding integrated practice at Women's Legal Service Tasmania. Social work and financial counselling have become key sources of assistance for solicitors when working with women who present with complex support needs.

The impact of trauma on women has a significant impact on their ability to trust that systems will not become a further source of abuse and trauma, and unfortunately this can be their experience. At WLST we aim to reduce the impact of systems abuse and trauma by facilitating a space where women are heard, can build resilience and a trusting support network. The social workers and financial counsellor at WLST, the 'allied team', have been working alongside the solicitors to assist them navigate the service system, reduce barriers to engagement and work with women to improve their safety.

The allied team work to initiate or be a part of a care team approach, particularly when multiple services are involved, and the client needs are complex. This is leading to greater outcomes for women in relation to safety, support coordination, and access to services and provides clients with a trauma informed response.

A part of this service provision has been to provide support in an outreach capacity, meeting women where they are at, where they feel comfortable and have existing connections. The women's prison and the Huon communities have been a key focus of integrated outreach practice in the south. The consistent presence of this service is reaching many women who are most in need. The Huon outreach clinic is a collaboration with SIS (a program of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service) and the Huon Domestic Violence Service, which is supported by the Bendigo Bank. An integrated team have been regularly attending the women's prison and are uncovering a need for greater continuity of integrated legal practice for women not only during their time in prison but also upon release and transitioning back into the community.

The Safe and Together™ model and utilisation of safety planning frameworks has been guiding the practices of the allied team to improve how our response and support to women who have experienced family violence.

This year, WLST had the opportunity to be a part of a panel discussion with other providers of integrated practice at the most recent Community Legal Centres Australia Conference in Hobart. It was an opportunity to share the journey and learnings of starting an integrated practice and hear from other social workers and legal professionals who are further down the track with their integration. In addition, the connection with other social workers and financial counsellors through the Women's Legal Services Australia communities of practice meetings has been a great opportunity for sharing knowledge and best practice approaches for integrated legal practice.

Also this year, members of the allied team had the opportunity to attend the Financial Counselling Australia Conference, an opportunity to network and learn about practice, program, and policy developments within the financial counselling profession.

Our mission and values of working alongside women to improve their lives, empowering, listening to and supporting individual choices is key to the practice of social workers and financial counsellors at WLST. The allied team have recently engaged in the implementation of a client engagement framework, which outlines the various ways WLST can work alongside women who are using the service, seeking and learning from their knowledge and experience and inviting women to have input into how WLST delivers future services to ensure that WLST is meeting the needs of women in Tasmania.

Camille Demeyer

Senior Social Worker

FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

13-15 JUNE 2023

Following on from the two-day Safe and Together™ Workshops presented by David Mandel in Northern Tasmania on 8-9 June 2022, an opportunity for all sectors to continue a conversation about family violence in Tasmania was actioned through the successful planning and delivery of *Safe, Equal, Respected* – a three-day, statewide family violence conference in Tasmania from 13-15 June 2023. The conference was supported through a grant from the Tasmanian State Government.

The *Safe, Equal, Respected* conference aimed to bring together all services who work with victim-survivors of family violence, to initiate collaborations, to showcase what is already happening in Tasmania, and to engage the sector in conversations to consider what more needs to be done in addressing family violence against women and children.

Throughout the planning and delivery of the conference, the *Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan* and its direction was considered to be able to connect attendees to the Plan's guiding principles and purpose, particularly in relationship to lived experience of victim-survivors. It was also an opportunity to include services which sit outside the Plan, and to invite them into the conversation. The conference also looked to include the expertise of community leaders who have been influential in the family violence space in other states, including Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner Michaela Cronin, Professor Cathy Humphreys, Padma Ramen, and Betty Taylor.

WLST is grateful to all our speakers, facilitators and delegates who helped make the conference a success.



Through WLST's sexual harassment in the workplace program, we were also able to add another session on 16 June 2023, which focussed exclusively on sexual harassment, with presentations from speakers with significant experience in this space – Gabrielle Marchetti (Principal Solicitor, Job Watch), Emma Johnson (Senior Lawyer at the Working Women's Centre South Australia), Kate Eastman AM SC (Barrister and human rights and law expert), and Tracey Spicer AM (award winning journalist and author, and advocate).

We are also grateful for the assistance of our host Susan Price (Head of Practice for Employment and Discrimination law at Women's Legal Centre ACT), The Hon Elise Archer (Tasmanian Attorney-General) for her opening address, and to Sarah Bolt (Anti-Discrimination Commissioner), Luke Rheinberger, Greg Johannes and Andrew Mitchell for participating in our panel discussion.



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OUR PEOPLE

Board of Management

Katrina Spark	Chair
Sheldene Blackler	Treasurer
Lisa Crosswell	Board Member
Jane Fleming	Board Member
Amelia Higgs	Board Member
Rokhsar Hussain	Board Member
Carolyn Self	Board Member
Simone Zell	Board Member

Madeleine Figg	Board Member
Emily Bill	Board Member (approved leave of absence)
Mel Harback	(outgoing Chair)
Emily Ridler	(outgoing Treasurer)
Claire Batchelor	(outgoing Member)
Tamara Reynish	(outgoing Member)

Staff

Burnie

Sharon Ewington	Solicitor
Jade Standaloft	Solicitor
Dawn Woolley	Social Worker
Ann Wright	Administration

Just Healthy Families

Rachel Collins	Principal Solicitor
Zoe Craven	Principal Solicitor
Megan Hibbs	Solicitor
Kate Willis	Solicitor

Hobart

Amelia Baker	Principal Solicitor
Trish Cameron	Solicitor
Akanksha Falor	Administration
Pia Goode	Social Worker
Jade Henshaw	Solicitor
Dhurka Maheswaran	Solicitor
Julie Melrose	Solicitor
Stella Midgley	Casual Administration
Masika Morris	Solicitor
Rebecca Phelps	Administration
Kim Woolley	Operations Manager
Lisa Zeitzen	Finance Manager

Launceston

Yvette Cehtel	Chief Executive Officer
Olivia Carmody	Solicitor
Bonnie Clark	Solicitor
Camille Demeyer	Senior Social Worker
Jodie Lee	Solicitor
Rebekkah McLean	Administration
Sandy Neil	Financial Counsellor
Elise Whitmore	Principal Solicitor

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:

Sarah-Jayne Hall

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*

Health Justice Australia

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*

Kate Eastman AM SC

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.

Alexandra King

Brianna Smyth

Courtney Webber

Ellen Beddells

Jeffrey Schneider

John Golby Parker Trust

Kirsten Duggan

Millicent Knott

PayPal Giving Fund Australia



**Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Board Members' Report
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023**

Your Board Members submit the financial report of the Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

Board Member

The names of Board Members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Name	Position	Appointment/Resignation
Katrina Spark	Chair	Appointed as Chair 31 October 2022
Sheldene Blackler	Treasurer	Appointed as Treasurer 31 October 2022
Amelia Higgs	Public Officer	Resigned 27 June 2023
Emily Bill	Board Member	
Rokhsar Hussain	Board Member	
Lisa Crosswell	Board Member	
Carolyn Self	Board Member	
Madeleine Figg	Board Member	
Jane Fleming	Board Member	Appointed 31 October 2022
Simone Zell	Board Member	Appointed 31 October 2022

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were to provide confidential and free legal information, advice and support to women right across Tasmania through telephone advice line. The association is also able to provide community legal education sessions and workshops throughout the Tasmanian community.

Significant changes in state of affairs

There have been no other significant changes in the state of affairs of the entity during the year.

Operating result

The association incurred a surplus during the financial year ended amounted to \$93,531 (2022: \$94,272).

Signed on behalf of the Board and in accordance with a resolution passed by the Board.



Katrina Spark
Chair

31st October 2023



Sheldene Blackler
Treasurer

31 October 2023



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Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Auditor's Independence Declaration to the Board of Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, as lead auditor for the audit of Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc for the year ended 30 June 2023, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- b) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

SDJA

Simon Joyce
Director
October 2023
Sydney, New South Wales

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue			
Revenue from contracts with customers	4	3,184,892	2,098,433
Other income	5	45,251	47,707
Total revenue		3,230,143	2,146,140
Expenses			
Administration and other operating costs		(569,518)	(338,279)
Depreciation		(137,532)	(99,994)
Employee benefits		(2,416,060)	(1,607,153)
Finance costs		(10,420)	(6,442)
Impairment of receivables		(3,082)	-
Total expenses		(3,136,612)	(2,051,868)
Surplus for the year		93,531	94,272
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus after income tax		93,531	94,272
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income		93,531	94,272

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets			
Current			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	2,603,669	2,343,886
Trade and other receivables	7	96,777	5,758
Other assets	8	17,855	20,267
Current assets		2,718,301	2,369,911
Non-current			
Plant and equipment	9	48,667	40,914
Right-of-use assets	10	255,413	230,897
Non-current assets		304,080	271,811
Total assets		3,022,381	2,641,722
Liabilities			
Current			
Trade and other payables	11	321,698	199,823
Provisions	12	213,019	152,178
Lease liabilities	13	112,780	103,991
Other liabilities	14	1,423,064	1,362,879
Current liabilities		2,070,561	1,818,871
Non-current			
Provisions	12	31,665	16,030
Lease liabilities	13	149,823	130,020
Non-current liabilities		181,488	146,050
Total liabilities		2,252,049	1,964,921
Net assets		770,332	676,801
Equity			
Reserves		12,000	12,000
Retained earnings		758,332	664,801
Total equity		770,332	676,801

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Community Development Reserve	Accumulated Surplus	Total Equity
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2021	12,000	570,529	582,529
Surplus for the year	-	94,272	94,272
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	-	94,272	94,272
Balance at 30 June 2022	12,000	664,801	676,801
Balance at 1 July 2022	12,000	664,801	676,801
Surplus for the year	-	93,531	93,531
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	-	93,531	93,531
Balance at 30 June 2023	12,000	758,332	770,332

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from grants, customers and others		3,472,547	2,398,891
Receipts from donations		2,065	44,714
Payments to suppliers and employees		(3,116,806)	(1,491,243)
Interest received		43,186	2,993
Net cash provided by operating activities		400,992	955,355
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(30,736)	(44,445)
Net cash used in investing activities		(30,736)	(44,445)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of lease liabilities		(110,473)	(87,600)
Net cash used in financing activities		(110,473)	(87,600)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		259,783	823,310
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	6	2,343,886	1,520,576
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6	2,603,669	2,343,886

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

1. General information

The financial statements cover Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc, an entity incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards and a registered charity under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The entity's principal activity during the financial year was to provide confidential and free legal advice and referral to women right across Tasmania through telephone advice line. The association is also able to provide community legal education sessions and workshops throughout the Tasmanian community.

The financial report was authorised for issue by the Board on 10 October 2023.

2. Changes in accounting policies

New and revised standards that are effective for these financial statements

A number of revised standards became effective for the first time to annual periods beginning on or after 1 July 2022. The adoption of these revised accounting standards has not had a material impact on the entity's financial statements.

Accounting Standards issued but not yet effective and not adopted early by the entity

A number of new and revised standards have been issued but are not yet effective and have not been adopted early by the entity. The Board is currently assessing the impact such standards will have on the entity.

3. Summary of significant accounting policies

Financial reporting framework

The general purpose financial statements of the entity have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Statement of compliance

The general purpose financial statements of the entity have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of this report are as follows:

The financial statements are presented in Australian Dollars (\$AUD), which is also the functional currency of the entity.

Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the entity expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

Revenue is recognised by applying a five-step model as follows:

1. Identify the contract with the customer
2. Identify the performance obligations
3. Determine the transaction price
4. Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations
5. Recognise revenue as and when control of the performance obligations is transferred

Other revenue

For any revenue streams that are not defined as contracts with customers, then the revenue is recognised when the entity gains control, economic benefits are probable and the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably.

Operating expenses

Operating expenses are recognised in profit or loss upon utilisation of the service or at the date of their origin.

Income tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the entity is exempt from income tax as a registered charity under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any allowance for expected losses. Trade receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and any impairment losses. In the event the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than its estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to its estimated recoverable amount recognised either in profit or loss.

Plant and equipment that have been contributed at no cost, or for nominal cost, are recognised at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated over the asset's useful life to the entity commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rate
Computer Equipment	100%
Motor Vehicles	25%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

Impairment of assets

At the end of each reporting period the entity determines whether there is evidence of an impairment indicator for non-financial assets.

Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the entity prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. Due to the short-term nature, they are measured at amortised cost and are not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

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 payables are stated inclusive of GST.

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

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

Provision for employee benefits

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

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

Liabilities relating to contracts with customers

Contract liabilities

A contract liability is recognised if a payment is received or a payment is due (whichever is earlier) from a customer before the entity transfers the related goods or services/grant conditions are fulfilled. Contract liabilities include deferred income. Contract liabilities are recognised as revenue when the entity performs under the contract (i.e. transfers control of the related goods or services to the customer/fulfils conditions of the grant).

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

The services are usually provided/conditions usually fulfilled within twelve (12) months of receipt of the payment/grant. Where the amount received is in respect of services to be provided over a period that exceeds twelve (12) months after the reporting date/the conditions will only be satisfied more than twelve (12) months after the reporting date, the liability is discounted and presented as non-current.

Leases

The entity assesses at contract inception whether a contract is, or contains, a lease.

As a lessee

The entity applies a single recognition and measurement approach for all leases, except for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets. The entity recognises lease liabilities to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying assets.

Right-of-use assets

The entity recognises right-of-use assets at the commencement date of the lease (i.e., the date the underlying asset is available for use). Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities. The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognised, initial direct costs incurred, and lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received. Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the assets, as follows:

	2023	2022
Buildings	Lease term	Lease term
Equipment	Lease term	Lease term

The right-of-use assets are also subject to impairment.

Lease liabilities

At the commencement date of the lease, the entity recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term.

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The entity's short-term leases are those that have a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement. It also applies the lease of low-value assets recognition exemption to leases of low-value. Lease payments on short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are recognised as expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Comparative figures

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year. With the exception of minor reclassifications between certain financial statement line items, comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

Significant management judgement in applying accounting policies

When preparing the financial statements, management undertakes a number of judgements, estimates and assumptions about the recognition and measurement of assets, liabilities, income and expenses.

Estimation uncertainty

Information about estimates and assumptions that have the most significant effect on recognition and measurement of assets, liabilities, income and expenses is provided below. Actual results may be substantially different.

Receivables

The receivables at reporting date have been reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that any of the receivables are impaired. An allowance for expected losses is included, where applicable, based on historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment. The allowance for expected losses is based on the best information at the reporting date.

Useful lives of depreciable assets

Management reviews its estimate of the useful lives of depreciable assets at each reporting date, based on the expected utility of the assets. Uncertainties in these estimates relate to technical obsolescence that may change the utility of certain software and IT equipment.

Long service leave

The liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
4. Revenue from contracts with customers		
<u>Revenue recognised over time</u>		
Grant income	3,146,541	2,082,750
Event income	24,608	-
Service fees	13,743	15,683
	3,184,892	2,098,433

How the entity recognises revenue

Grants

If conditions are attached to a grant, revenue is recognised when the entity satisfies those conditions.

Event and service fees

Revenue relating to event and service fees are recognised over the period in which the event is held or service is provided.

5. Other income

Interest income	43,186	2,993
Donations	2,065	44,714
	45,251	47,707

6. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash on hand	606	586
Cash at bank	838,256	1,573,574
Short-term deposits	1,764,807	769,726
	2,603,669	2,343,886

7. Trade and other receivables

Current

Trade receivables	78,053	5,758
Accrued income	18,724	-
	96,777	5,758

8. Other assets

Current

Prepayments	17,855	20,267
	17,855	20,267

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
9. Plant and equipment		
Computer equipment at cost	26,161	21,400
Computer equipment accumulated depreciation	(26,161)	(21,400)
	-	-
Motor vehicles at cost	153,605	129,530
Motor vehicles accumulated depreciation	(104,938)	(88,616)
	48,667	40,914
Total plant and equipment	48,667	40,914

	Computer Equipment \$	Motor Vehicles \$	Total \$
Net carrying amount 1 July 2022	-	40,914	40,914
Additions	6,661	24,075	30,736
Disposals	-	-	-
Depreciation	(6,661)	(16,322)	(22,983)
Net carrying amount 30 June 2023	-	48,667	48,667

	2023 \$	2022 \$
10. Right-of-use assets		
Right-of-use assets - equipment at cost	18,935	18,935
Right-of-use assets - equipment accumulated depreciation	(10,374)	(4,936)
	8,561	13,999
Right-of-use assets - buildings at cost	457,451	318,386
Right-of-use assets - buildings accumulated depreciation	(210,599)	(101,488)
	246,852	216,898
Total right-of-use assets	255,413	230,897

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Equipment	Buildings	Total
	\$	\$	\$
10. Right-of-use assets (continued)			
Net carrying amount 1 July 2022	13,999	216,898	230,897
Additions	-	139,065	139,065
Disposals	-	-	-
Depreciation	(5,438)	(109,111)	(114,549)
Net carrying amount 30 June 2023	8,561	246,852	255,413

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
11. Trade and other payables		
Current		
Trade payables	35,172	11,343
Accrued expenses	241,187	89,982
Net GST payable	45,339	98,498
	321,698	199,823

12. Provisions		
Current		
Provision for employee benefits	213,019	152,178
	213,019	152,178

Non-current		
Provision for employee benefits	31,665	16,030
	31,665	16,030

13. Lease liabilities		
Current		
Building lease liability	107,704	95,167
Equipment lease liability	5,076	8,824
	112,780	103,991

Non-current		
Building lease liability	146,074	124,642
Equipment lease liability	3,749	5,378
	149,823	130,020

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
13. Lease liabilities (continued)		
Future lease payments in relation to lease liabilities as at period end are as follows:		
Within one year	126,243	108,286
Later than one year but not later than five years	151,356	142,599
Later than five years	-	-
	277,599	250,885

The entity has leases for the following building premises:

- * Part of the building at 60A Wilmot Street, Burnie, with 4 car parking spaces, for a period of 3 years ending 31 January 2025.
- * Suite 9, 87-91 Brisbane Street, Launceston for a period of 3.5 years ending 30 June 2025.
- * 375 Elizabeth Street, North Hobart for a period of 3 years ending 31 March 2026.

All premises leases have no option of renewal. Payments are made monthly and are subject to annual review based on CPI.

The entity also has lease agreements for office equipment, which end on 13 May 2024 and 30 October 2025, respectively. Payments are made monthly and there is no option of renewal.

14. Other liabilities

Current

Contract liabilities - grant revenue	1,421,717	1,362,879
Contract liabilities - other	1,347	-
	1,423,064	1,362,879

15. Related parties

The entity's related parties include its key management personnel and related entities. Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties.

Key management personnel compensation

Total key management personnel compensation	832,665	508,475
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16. Remuneration of auditors

SDJA

Audit of financial report	4,000	-
Assistance with preparation of the financial report	2,000	-
	6,000	-

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
16. Remuneration of auditors (continued)		
<u>Crowe</u>		
Auditing and compilation of the financial statement	-	5,100
	-	5,100

17. Commitments

The entity had no material unrecognised contractual commitments as at 30 June 2023.

18. Contingent liabilities

The entity has received grant funds with associated agreements whereby unexpected 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 entity had no other material contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2023.

19. Subsequent events

No adjusting or significant non-adjusting events have occurred between the reporting date and the date of authorisation of these accounts.

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Responsible Persons' Declaration
For the Financial Period Ended 30 June 2023

The Responsible Persons declare that in the Responsible Persons' opinion:

- a) the financial statements and notes are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:
 - i) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*; and
- b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable.


Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulations 2022*.



Katrina Spark

Chair

31 October 2023



Shelden Blackler

Treasurer

31 October 2023



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Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc (the registered entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the period then ended, and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible persons' declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act), including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the period then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*.

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 registered entity 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.

Responsibilities of Responsible Persons for the Financial Report

The responsible persons of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as the responsible persons determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the responsible persons are responsible for assessing the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible persons either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The responsible persons are responsible for overseeing the registered entity's financial reporting process.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

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

A further description of our responsibilities for audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

SDJA

Simon Joyce
Director
October 2023
Sydney, New South Wales

Simon Joyce
SDJA
PO Box 324
West Pennant Hills NSW 2125

Dear Simon,

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial report of Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2023 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial report gives a true and fair view in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such enquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Financial Report

We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement dated 5 June 2023, for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*; in particular the financial report gives a true and fair view in accordance therewith.

Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards.

All events subsequent to the date of the financial report which Australian Accounting Standards require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

The effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial report as a whole.

Information Provided

We have provided you with:

Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial report such as records, documentation and other matters;

Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and

Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial report.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.

We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial report may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.

We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the entity and involves:

Management;

Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or

Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial report.

We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial report communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial report.

We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial report; and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.


We have disclosed to you the identity of the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

In respect of other information:

We have informed you of all the documents that we expect to issue that may comprise other information; and

The financial report and any other information obtained by you prior to the date of your auditor's report is consistent with one another, and the other information does not contain any material misstatements.

Yours faithfully,



Name:	Sheldene Blackler
Title:	TREASURER
Date:	31/10/2023

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:





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