



**Community  
Legal Centres  
Queensland**

# Annual report

**2015-2016**

**Community Legal Centres Queensland Inc.**

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**Community Legal Centres Queensland** affirms that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the Indigenous inhabitants of Australia and acknowledges their unique relationship with their ancestral country. In particular, we acknowledge the Turrbal and Jagera peoples, the traditional custodians of the land in and around Brisbane, and pay respect to their elders, past and present.

This Annual Report covers the period **1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016** and was presented at the Community Legal Centres Queensland Inc. Annual General Meeting on 10 October 2016.

Community Legal Centres Queensland held appropriate insurance throughout the 2015-16 financial year. This included \$20 million in public liability insurance cover.

**Community Legal Centres Queensland** acknowledges funding from the following sources in 2016-2017:

- Legal Practitioners Interest on Trust Account Fund, responsibility for which lies with the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General and which is administered through Legal Aid Queensland;
- Federal Attorney-General's Department;
- Queensland Department of Justice;
- John Villiers Trust; and
- Event sponsors, including: The Services Union, Herbert Smith Freehills, Colin Biggers & Paisley, Clayton Utz, DLA Piper, Xari Group, Queensland Law Society, University of Queensland and FRRR.

**This annual report is available online at [www.communitylegalqld.org.au](http://www.communitylegalqld.org.au).**

## What is a community legal centre?

Community legal centres are independent, community organisations providing equitable and accessible legal services.

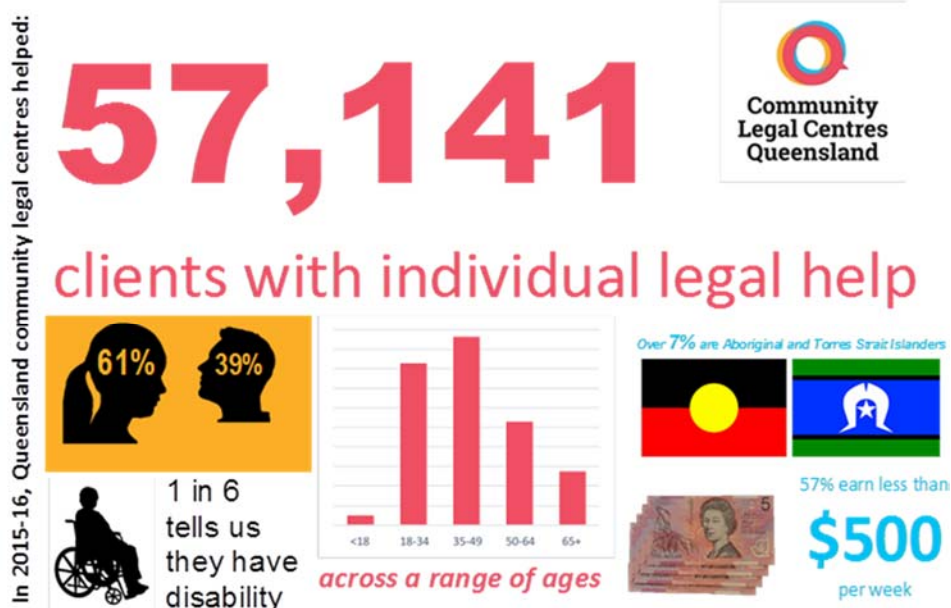
They are of their communities and responsive to their communities. 'Communities' may be geographic communities, as for generalist community legal centres, or communities of interest, as for specialist community legal centres that may target a group (eg. children) or a particular area of law (eg. tenancy).

Community legal centres are able to offer appropriate, effective and creative solutions based on their experience within their community. It is this community relationship that distinguishes community legal centres from other legal services. It is this community relationship that makes community legal centres essential and vital organisations.

While providing legal services to individuals, community legal centres also work beyond the individual. Community legal centres initiate community development, community legal education and systemic advocacy that are preventative in outcome and that strengthen the community.

The clients of community legal centres are those who are facing injustice, who can't afford a private lawyer, and whose life circumstances are affected by their legal problem.

Community legal centres harness the energy and expertise of thousands of volunteers across the country. Centres are committed to collaboration with government, legal aid, the private legal profession and community partners to ensure the best outcomes for their clients and the system of justice in Australia.



Find your community legal centre at  
[www.communitylegalqld.org.au](http://www.communitylegalqld.org.au)

# Overview

From the President and Director

## ***‘This is the first annual report for Community Legal Centres Queensland’***

During the year, the Association changed its name from Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services, or QAILS. After more than 20 years, we felt it was time to be clearer about our organisation’s purpose, activities and aspirations. We work to support and advocate for Queensland’s community legal centres, and we are confident this change will help us as we communicate the important work our member community legal centres provide to communities across Queensland.

While this is our first annual report as Community Legal Centres Queensland, it reflects the continuing work of this organisation, and the community legal centre movement.

Over half of all Queenslanders had a legal problem this year; many didn’t know where to turn for help. Less than one in six reached out to a lawyer and Queensland’s 33 community legal centres – our members – provide a safety net for many of the most disadvantaged people. This includes people suffering elder abuse; children and young people; people experiencing homelessness; people with mental health problems; people with disability, particularly those with intellectual disability; people experiencing family and domestic violence, to name a few.

Despite providing valuable services to almost 60,000 people in Queensland last year, research from the National Association of Community Legal Centres shows that another 60,000 were turned away. These people with legal problems couldn’t get legal help over the phone or arrange an appointment to see a lawyer.

Our role is to support and advocate for community legal centres, and we prioritise six areas of work:

1. Support and develop the organisational capacity of community legal centres;
2. Support and develop community legal centre staff, including volunteers;
3. Provide targeted information to members of the public so legal needs are responded to in a timely way;
4. Mature as a peak body for Queensland’s community legal centres;
5. Be a respected and leading voice for community legal centres and social justice; and
6. Deliver clear and transparent governance and operational management.

This annual report discusses each of these actions, our achievements this year and the work that we'll continue to focus on in the future. Key achievements this year include:

- Working with other legal assistance services and governments to support implementation of the new National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services;
- Undertaking funded projects to:
  - support the learning and development of staff (paid and unpaid) in community legal centres and other legal assistance services;
  - provide an updated analysis and evidence of unmet legal need, to help inform service design and delivery and support funding decision-making;
- Beginning the second cycle of accreditation for Community Legal Centres Queensland members;
- Creating a new name and brand identity for the organisation; and
- Increasing our research and advocacy output across a range of policy areas, focussed on human rights, family violence, credit and debt, and other areas that affect our members' clients and communities.



**Janet Wight**  
President



**James Farrell**  
Director

Despite our sector's significant achievements this year, we do face an uncertain future. Commonwealth funding to Queensland community legal centres is expected to be cut by almost 30% from July 2017, meaning even more vulnerable Queenslanders will struggle to get the help they need.

***'Our role is to support  
and advocate for  
community legal  
centres'***

Community Legal Centres Queensland will therefore continue to work with its members and partners for sustainable, adequate policy and funding decisions to ensure that Queenslanders are able to get the legal help they need and ensure that access to justice is realised.



# Enhancing organisational capacity of Community Legal Centres

## Community Legal Centres Queensland conference

Community Legal Centres Queensland ran a state conference from 30 to 31 May at the Mon Komo Hotel, Redcliffe.

In conjunction with the conference we ran a number of fringe events, including a conference dinner and a Research Partnership Roundtable. Over the two days 230 people attended the conference, 44 people attended the dinner and 58 people attended the research roundtable event.

The speakers from the conference included community lawyers, government representatives, NACLC staff and specialist in related fields. Highlights from the evaluation included:

- Overall experience - 93% of respondents said their overall experience was excellent or good.
- Venue location - 86% of respondents said it was excellent or good.
- Opportunity to network- 83% of respondents said it was excellent or good.
- Quality of the speakers - 86% of respondents said they were excellent or good.

### Our 2014-17 Strategic Plan says we will:

- Support the professional standards of community legal centres, including accreditation and professional indemnity insurance aspects.
- Encourage and support community legal centres to engage in innovative and collaborative practices to deliver effective, high-quality services.
- Advocate for resources to address identified unmet legal need.
- Facilitate information exchange across community legal centres.



## New National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services

From 1 June 2016, the National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services provided a policy and funding framework that supported community legal services' work. Community Legal Centres Queensland and its partner legal services peaks contributed to the implementation of this policy, which sees a more focussed and evidence based approach to legal assistance services.



The implementation of a funding allocation model corrected historical underfunding of Queensland's community legal centres, and increased the amount of the Federal Government's investment. Given looming funding cuts, these additional funds were distributed on a one-off basis to nine organisations.



The Agreement also restricts important aspects of our work, including a significant funding cut from July 2017, limiting the types of clients that can receive ongoing casework assistance and restricting us from systemic advocacy. An important improvement is the explicit consideration of community legal centres in the new Agreement, a commitment to collaborative service planning, identification of clear priorities and a focus on providing services to victims and survivors of family violence.

## Collaborative service planning

Under the National Partnership Agreement, the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments must undertake collaborative service planning with the legal assistance sector to coordinate and maximise the reach of services and to ensure that services are directed where they are most needed. By developing shared sector strategies and practical actions, collaborative service planning will deliver benefits for the sector and the vulnerable people who access legal assistance services.



Community Legal Centres Queensland, on behalf of its members and their client communities, contributed to the project plan for a coordinated and collaborative framework for undertaking collaborative service planning, which includes:

- working together;
- planning for legal assistance services;
- building an evidence base
- best practice in service design; and
- continuous improvement.



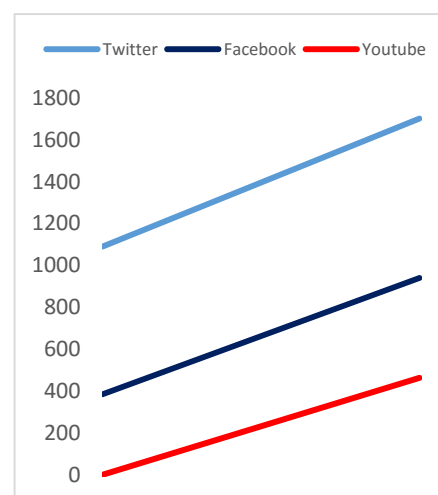


## #fundequaljustice

Given the National Partnership Agreement confirmed decreases in federal funding for community legal centres, a significant focus this year was on campaigning for maintaining and increasing governments' investment in our members' work. Other parts of this annual report talk about our interactions with elected representatives, government officers, media and stakeholders to encourage governments to #fundequaljustice.

## Communications

Community Legal Centres Queensland distributes a fortnightly-bulletin, the Community Legal Centres Queensland Digest, to its members. We also produce a quarterly enewsletter which is sent to interested stakeholders. The number of subscribers to our quarterly enewsletter increased from 1240 to 2020 during the 2015/16 financial year. In addition to this, we maintain a social media presence via Facebook, Twitter and Youtube. During the 2015/16 financial year, our followers increased from 385 Facebook followers to 940; 1090 Twitter followers to 1701 and 0 Youtube subscribers (or views?) to 463.



## Risk management and professional indemnity insurance



All Community Legal Centres Queensland members are comprehensively audited and assessed before they can be certified as being compliant with national standards for legal service delivery. The standards cover all aspects of operations, including governance and management, all aspects of legal practice, financial accountability, risk minimisation, employment practices, physical safety, and accessibility.

Community Legal Centres Queensland members can also access NACLC's bulk professional indemnity insurance (PII) scheme and its associated Risk Management regime. This is a successful and cost-effective way for community legal centres to manage both their risk and their PII.



The Risk Management Guide, annual cross-checks and compulsory state PII meetings help individual centres understand and manage risk in their legal practice, identify possible new risks and act to minimise risks and prevent and/or mitigate claims by clients.





Images from the #fundequaljustice day of action (22 June 2016)

# Developing community legal centre staff and volunteers

## Learning and development project

In 2015 QAILS was appointed to complete a 'Training and Development Project', funded by a LPITAF grant through the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The Project's key deliverable was to provide a training and development model to be implemented within legal assistance services across Queensland.

### Our 2014-17 Strategic Plan says we will:

- Deliver and coordinate training;
- Connect community legal centres staff to support each other's work through mentoring, networking, peer support and conferences.

The Project's key deliverable was to provide a training and development model to be implemented within legal assistance services across Queensland.

The Training and Development project has developed the following outputs:

- a research report, which details the learning and development needs of Queensland's community legal assistance sector;
- proposed priority training needs for the next two years.

The project also developed a number of resources to assist in the development and delivery of training and development modules for legal assistance sector workers, and developed two online learning modules for people working in Queensland's legal assistance services, on inductions and effective referrals.

Thanks to those that supported the project, especially project worker Peter Mott, the project's steering group, our funders and friends at DJAG, UQ student volunteers Amy Clarke, Caleb Theunissen and Jordan Mathas-Carleton, colleagues from Kingston Legal Centre, survey respondents and other contributors.

## Webinars and training

Community Legal Centres Queensland delivered 21 webinars to staff, volunteers and friends in 2015-16, across a variety of topics.

Presenters included Community Legal Centres Queensland employees and representatives from a wide range of organisations, including Legal Aid Queensland, **knowmore** legal service, Griffith University and the University of Maryland, QuINH, the Queensland and Victorian Bars, Fair Work Australia, and a number of Queensland and interstate community legal centres. An average of 30+ people registered for each webinar, and almost 700 people registered for at least one webinar, with many registrants attending multiple sessions.

Presentations included:

- Abuse on Contact
- Accessing information from Government
- Accessing superannuation early: tips and pitfalls
- Best practice CLC casework arising from motor vehicle accidents
- Child protection update
- Ethical dilemmas of lawyers and social workers working together in a multidisciplinary service
- Improving our supervision of students and volunteers
- Introduction to Queensland domestic violence laws
- Lessons from 2015 legal discipline cases
- Mental ill-health in the legal profession, and its ethical implications
- Navigating Government
- Opportunities to improve the legal response to domestic violence
- Recent developments in domestic violence law
- Recent developments in elder abuse law
- Recovering unpaid wages
- Safety planning around technology
- The Fair Work Ombudsman and CLCs working together
- Working with children and young people
- Working with clients experiencing homelessness and specialist homelessness services
- Working with people who use illicit drugs

A grant from the John Villiers Trust will help support our webinar program in 2016-17.

### **Student research projects**

Like many of our member community legal centres, Community Legal Centres Queensland has valuable relationships with universities, and particularly law schools. This year, a team of students from the University of Queensland's Community Engagement Program completed the first phase of a project examining graduate pathways into community legal centres, and ways to support clients to advocate for community legal centres.



### **Mental wellbeing in the legal profession**

The Tristan Jepson Memorial Foundation works to decrease work related psychological ill-health in the legal community and to promote workplace psychological health and safety. The Foundation aims to raise awareness, improve education and build effective models of support which focus on mental health wellbeing within the legal education system and the legal profession. Community Legal Centres Queensland is a signatory to the TJMF Psychological Wellbeing: Best Practice Guidelines for the Legal Profession.

### **Volunteering in community legal centres**

Community legal centres offer opportunities for law and social work students, lawyers, social workers and others with skills that can help the community legal centre perform its functions, such as language and cross-cultural skills, social welfare work experience or training. They may also seek people from their community who have experience, knowledge or skills that will be useful to their board of management.

Visit [www.clcvolunteers.net.au](http://www.clcvolunteers.net.au) to find volunteering opportunities, or contact your local community legal centre.



# Information to the public

## Coordinating community legal education

Funders and policy makers sometimes express concern that there is unnecessary duplication of information and publications by legal assistance services. While we don't believe that this is a big problem, there was a lack of evidence to challenge these assumptions.

With help from the UQ Pro Bono Centre, we examined over 450 separate publications produced by legal assistance services in recent years, with very limited examples of duplication.

Duplication should only be a concern in the instance where two or more resources have been produced that include identical content, using a similar format targeted to the same audience. This reports identifies the extent to which this type of duplication is occurring in Queensland, and does not identify any duplication of CLE materials.

That said, there are some structural improvements that could be made to further improve collaboration and information-sharing about legal information for Queenslanders, and we're working with our partners to improve

## New website / marketing collateral

The management committee agreed to re-brand the organisation under the name Community Legal Centres Queensland. This was done to create a recognisable brand that serves to strengthen the connection between us and the community.

The new name gave us an opportunity to update the organisation website, print new posters and postcards and tell people about the work of our member centres. The new marketing collateral was distributed to libraries, MPs' offices and neighbourhood centres.

## First peoples

Community Legal Centres Queensland recognises that community legal services can benefit from engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at a community level and that this engagement will enhance the services provided to that community.



This year, Community Legal Centres Queensland again participated in Brisbane NAIDOC week, with a stall at the Family Fun Day at Musgrave Park. Community Legal Centres Queensland also presented at the UQ 'InspireU' camp for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students considering a career in the law and talked about 'social justice lawyering' careers and the type of work we do.

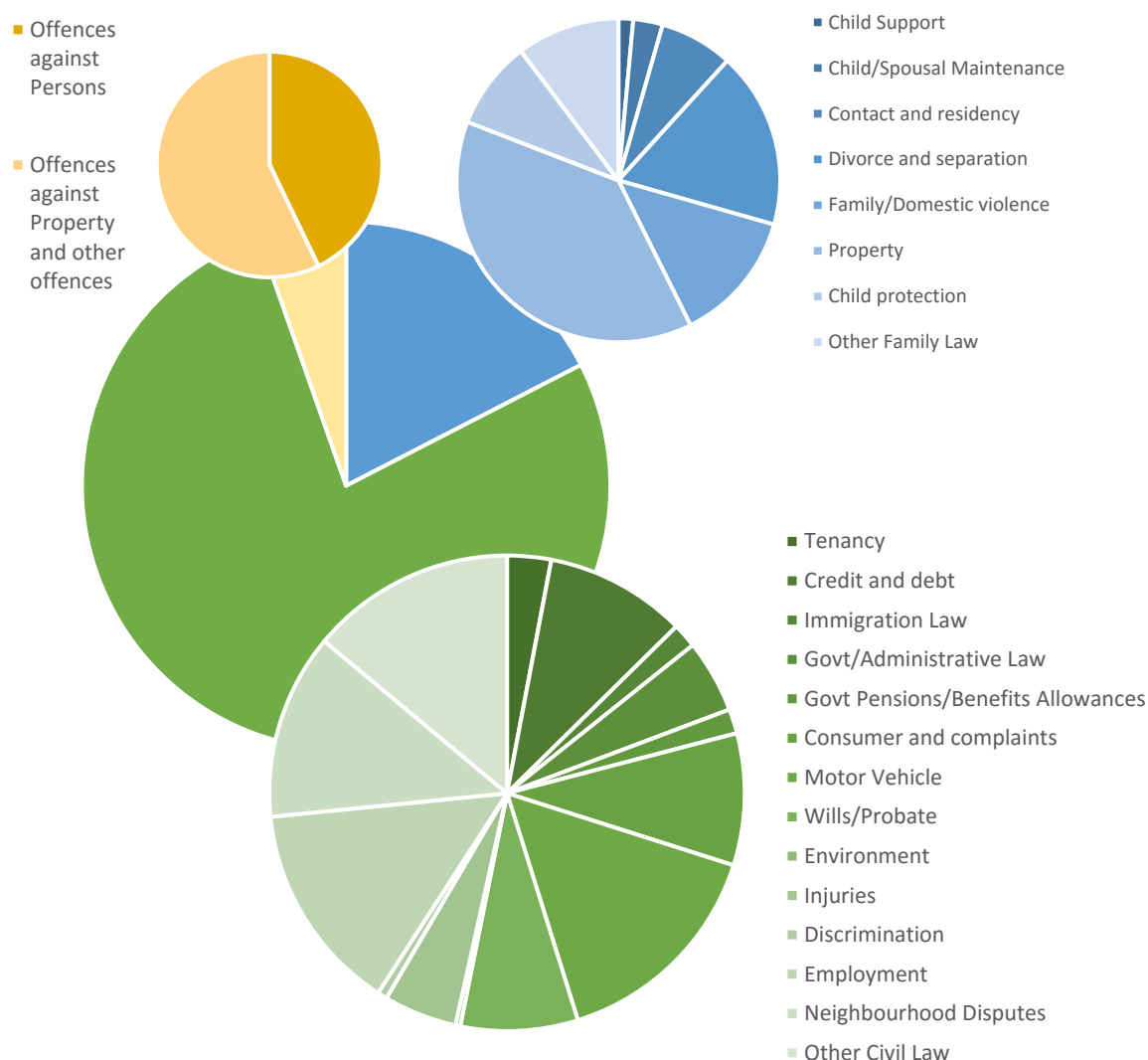
Our 2014-17 Strategic Plan says we will respond to enquiries about legal issues and provide appropriate referral and information



In 2015-16, Community Legal Centres Queensland gave

# 390 people

information about getting legal help,  
in family law, criminal law, and civil/other.



# A peak organisation

## Meetings with members of parliament

In 2015-16, Community Legal Centres Queensland consciously increased its engagement with elected representatives, particularly Queensland members of parliament. Over the 2015/16 financial year we held meetings with 70 of the 83 State MPs. In addition we met with 9 Federal MPs and Senators plus five federal research teams.

### Our 2014-17 Strategic Plan says we will:

- Increase knowledge within the wider community about Community Legal Centres Queensland, roles of community legal centres and issues faced by people they work with;
- Establish and maintain effective and relevant relationships;
- Identify and implement member inclusion initiatives.

Our messages focus on several key aspects of community legal centres work, including:

- The impact our members' work has on our clients and communities;
- The chronic under-resourcing of services leading to significant numbers of people being unable to access services;
- Law and policy changes can ensure people don't encounter as many legal problems; and
- MPs and their staff can refer residents to our services if they have legal problems.



Our engagement included holding a parliamentary reception in October, which heard from community legal centre staff, pro bono supporters and MPs about the vital role of Queensland's community legal centres.

## Inaugural research roundtable

There are great opportunities to build on relationships between community legal centres and researchers, to ensure meaningful access to justice across Australia.

In June, Community Legal Centres Queensland and the National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) co-hosted a research partnerships roundtable, to showcase successful research collaborations between community legal centres and research

organisations, discuss possible funding sources and opportunities, discuss current community legal centre research projects, and ignite conversations about possible research partnerships.

A keynote presentation was delivered by Professor Rosalind Croucher AM, President, Australian Law Reform Commission, with other speakers from community legal centres, universities, government and funders.



Agreed outcomes of the research roundtable included that NACLC will partner with state/territory peak associations to hold more research roundtables across Australia, and lead the development of a national research strategy or agenda, guided by community legal centres and researchers. Community Legal Centres Queensland: will develop a mailing list for participants to share ideas and opportunities, and convene a working group to develop an online forum to share ideas and opportunities

### **New tenant services**

The Queensland Government committed to the reintroduction of tenancy advice services. We contributed to the Department of Housing and Public Works' development of the new program, which resulted in Tenants Queensland (one of our members) being appointed to deliver a new Statewide Tenancy Advice and Referral Services (**QSTARS**), delivered in partnership with other community legal centres in Queensland.

### **Media and communications**

Over the 2015-16 financial year Community Legal Centres Queensland issued 40 media releases which highlighting current projects undertaken by the Association, recent law reform and parliamentary debate, and news relating to the governance and activities of community legal centres throughout the state.

Almost half of the media releases were about the funding available to the community legal sector. This included our discussions with politicians, the expected implications of the State Budgets for community legal centres, and political parties' announcements in the run up to the Federal election.

The releases also showcased the work of Community Legal Centres Queensland' member centres. As a result of these efforts we generated 194 news items. The subject matter which was covered the most was funding cuts (138 items) closely followed by domestic violence (47 times) These article mentioned the name of Community Legal Centres Queensland or one of our centres in a positive or neutral way on 111 occasions.

## **Working in partnership**

Queensland Legal Assistance Forum ('QLAF'): Community Legal Centres Queensland, Director James Farrell chaired QLAF this year. QLAF fosters cooperation between service providers and clients to ensure that the legal needs of those clients are met with the best and most effective service available.



Community Legal Centres Queensland's staff also regularly attends Community Legal Education Legal Assistance Forum meetings, to promote cooperation and collaboration between legal service providers who are delivering and initiating community legal education activities. Community Legal Centres Queensland is also represented on other specialist forums, including the Information and Referrals Forum and the Best Practice Forum.

Queensland Law Society: Community Legal Centres Queensland sits on the Society's Access to Justice and Pro Bono Committee, contributing to the Society's work in this area. Key achievements this year included the release of another Access to Justice Scorecard, showing the profession's continuing support for our members' work.

Our national peak, NACLC, continues to advocate nationally and support our work. A new governance structure at NACLC provides a platform to continue to improve this work. Key projects with NACLC this year included reviewing the national accreditation scheme, replacing our data collection system with the new CLASS platform, campaigning for increased Commonwealth funding, and engaging in law reform on fundamental human rights and social justice issues.

The NACLC conference was held in Melbourne in August 2015, and Queensland community legal centres were strongly represented.

Community Legal Centres Queensland also works closely with a number of other community organisations, statutory agencies and government departments.





## A respected and leading voice

Queensland's community legal centres helped almost 60,000 individuals in 2015-16, providing over 120,000 pieces of information and advice, and opening over 12,000 new cases. Where we see the law operating unfairly or with unintended consequences, community legal centres can contribute to addressing these difficulties. Historically, community legal centres have been instrumental in a number of important reforms to unfair systems and structures, and this work continues today.

### Our 2014-17 Strategic Plan says we will:

- Develop a framework to guide Community Legal Centres Queensland decision making and priorities in human rights and social justice advocacy;
- Use the experience, knowledge and ideas of community legal centres and their clients to contribute to policy development and public discussions.

### Law reform as a frontline legal service

Advancing law reform is a cost effective way of delivering access to justice. This year we worked with our members and partners across a range of policy issues relevant to our members' work and their clients' lived experiences.



Governments need community organisations to be involved in law reform activity

Governments rely on community organisations with direct experience working with vulnerable clients to improve laws and policies. Preventing this work will result in less effective public policy development, with unforeseen impacts for the Queenslanders with whom our members work.

In the lead-up to the 2016 federal election, Community Legal Centres Queensland wrote to candidates seeking their support on issues around funding community legal centres, and policy issues relevant to our work.

Community Legal Centres Queensland received thoughtful responses from the Liberal National Party, the Australian Labor Party and the Australian Greens.



## A Human Rights Act for Queensland

Based on its members' experiences assisting over 50,000 vulnerable Queenslanders, Community Legal Centres Queensland supports the strengthening of laws and practices that will protect and promote human rights in Queensland.

We support the introduction of a Human Rights Act in Queensland, which will increase fairness and justice for vulnerable and disadvantaged Queenslanders – community legal centres' clients.

In our submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into a Human Rights Act for Queensland, we identified a number of rights should be better protected in Queensland law, by reference to international human rights law (which sets out an agreed, international, universal framework of rights). Our submission provided examples (based on community legal centres' work) of situations where our clients' rights were not adequately protected, or where human rights laws in other jurisdictions have protected people's human rights. These examples show that Queenslanders' rights are not adequately protected, and that human rights laws do offer stronger protections.



Government members contributing to the inquiry found a Human Rights Act was 'appropriate and desirable', with Opposition members finding no need for a Human Rights Act, based on spurious and disproved myths and assumptions. We will continue to advocate for a meaningful and effective Human Rights Act for Queensland.

## Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland

Community Legal Centres Queensland's 2014 submission to the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland, led by Dame Quentin Bryce, focused on the need for specialist duty lawyers to assist parties in domestic violence protection order applications. The lack of legal assistance available to people attending Queensland's domestic violence courts to apply for a domestic violence order, or respond to an application for an order, results in trauma, unjust outcomes, and increased system-wide costs both financial and social.



Our recommendation was accepted, with Legal Aid Queensland funded to provide specialist domestic violence duty lawyer services in 14 courts to provide an effective response for the thousands of people who come into contact with the Courts in this jurisdiction.

Most of these duty lawyer rosters rely on community legal centres to provide these services, improving the Courts' effective responses to domestic and family violence

## Employment law services

Our members continue to be stretched by the community's demand for specialist employment law services. With our members, we encouraged the Queensland government to adopt a mixed-model service to build capacity in the sector helping individuals with employment law issues. While the submission was unsuccessful, there's a clear and continuing need for further assistance for people treated unfairly at work.

## Balanced Justice

Community Legal Centres Queensland is part of the Balanced Justice project, which seeks to enhance the safety of all Queenslanders by promoting understanding of criminal justice policies that are effective, evidence-based and human rights compliant. In short, Balanced Justice is about smart action for a safer community. The Balanced Justice project is built on a joint commitment to:

- Healthy, diverse and inclusive communities;
- Respect for human rights and enforceable human rights protections;
- Enhanced support for victims of crime;
- Stopping violence;
- Greater focus on crime prevention and cost-effective crime prevention strategies;
- Greater resources to address the causes of crime and repeat offending;
- Sentencing options that address the causes of offending;
- A health-focused response to reduce alcohol abuse and related violence;
- Reducing the use of knives and other weapons;
- Policing that avoids unnecessary use of force and that builds community confidence.

You can access Balanced Justice factsheets at [www.balancedjustice.org](http://www.balancedjustice.org). Factsheets include:

Crime statistics – the real picture;	Is justice reinvestment a good idea for Australia?
Preventing crime;	Mandatory sentencing;
Detention and bail for children;	Tougher sentences – what the community
'Naming and shaming' young	wants?
offenders;	Busting the myths – the facts about youth
Indigenous overrepresentation in	offending;
prisons;	Admissibility of findings of guilt.

## Youth Justice

In our submission to Parliament, we welcomed the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015*, which restores some balance to Queensland's youth justice system. Rather than focussing on ineffective punitive measures, the Bill appropriately prioritises rehabilitation and other interventions that will reduce youth offending and keep our community safe.

## Supporting the voices of advocates

The community sector can speak out with, and on behalf of people, who are all too often not heard in our society. Community sector organisations also have specialist knowledge about the needs of the communities and people they serve, and are often the first to identify the consequences of policy changes, poorly designed programs and legislative change.

Community Legal Centres Queensland led a coalition of Queensland not-for-profit organisations, encouraging the Queensland government to change laws and contracting arrangements to protect Queensland community organisations' freedom to advocate

We also advocated to retain Environmental Defenders Offices on the register of environmental organisations, to secure deductible donations to support their work.

## Lemon laws

To improve outcomes for consumers who purchase lemon vehicles, we recommended introducing 'lemon laws'. These laws would provide consumers with the right to a refund if their vehicle meets the definition of a 'lemon'. A vehicle will be a 'lemon' if it has been repaired at least three times by the manufacturer or importer and the vehicle still has a defect; or if the vehicle is out of service for 20 or more days in total due to a defect.

Parliament's Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee accepted this recommendation, and suggested the Australian Consumer Law be amended to specifically deal with lemons.

## Historical criminal treatment of consensual sexual activity between men in Queensland



Consensual sexual activity between adult men was decriminalised in Queensland on 29 November 1990. Research conducted in the early 1990s at the Queensland State Archives in Brisbane evidenced 548 court cases involving male-to-male sex and 464 convictions in Queensland over ninety-five years. Although decriminalisation removed the threat of further prosecution, it did not address the impacts of criminal records relating to historical homosexual offences. This means that a number of Queenslanders continue to live with ongoing stigma, shame, and practical difficulties presented by a criminal record for conduct that is now legal.

We joined with LGBTI Legal Service, Caxton Legal Centre, the Human Rights Law Centre and Brisbane Pride to call for amendments to the *Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986* (Qld) to include a mechanism whereby 'eligible persons' can make an application to an independent panel for 'Convictions' and records of 'eligible offences' to be 'expunged'. The Queensland Law Reform Commission is investigating the issue, and will recommend reforms to the Queensland Government later in 2016.





# Finance report snapshot

## Snapshot of income and expenses

### INCOME

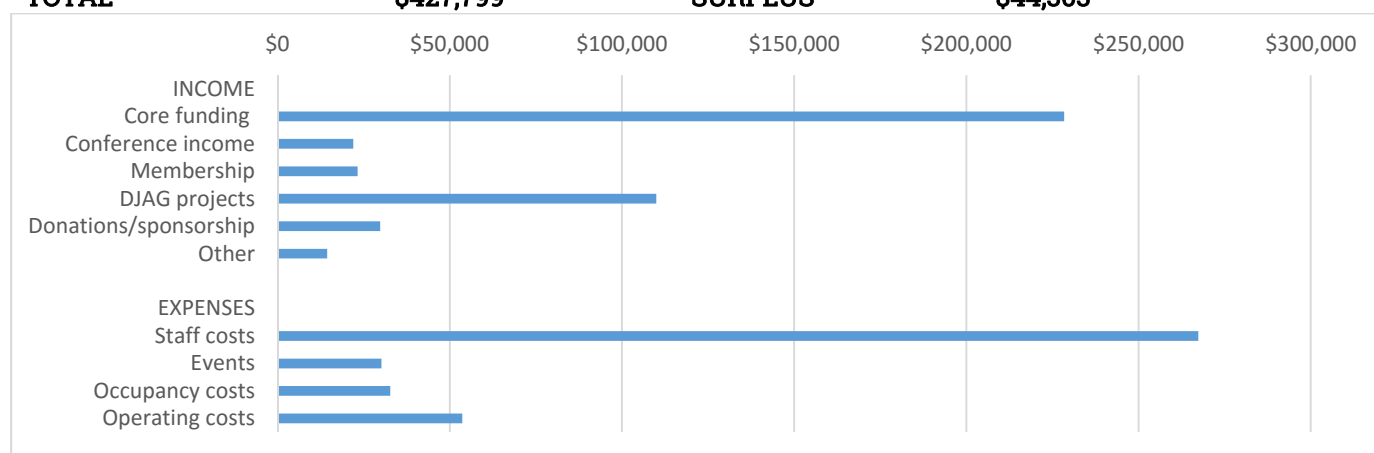
Core funding	\$228,392
Conference income	\$21,969
Membership	\$23,265
DJAG projects	\$109,979
Donations/sponsorship	\$29,800
Other	\$14,394
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$427,799</b>

### EXPENSES

Staff costs	\$267,349
Events	\$29,774
Occupancy costs	\$32,744
Operating costs	\$53,629
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$383,496</b>

### SURPLUS

**\$44,303**



## Snapshot of assets and liabilities

### ASSETS

Cash	\$334,257
Debtors and prepayments	\$15,838
Deposits	\$8,000
Fixed assets	\$5,339
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$363,434</b>

### LIABILITIES

Employee entitlements	\$54,468
Creditors and accruals	\$38,587
Grants received	\$54,394
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$147,449</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$215,985</b>

Balance 1 July 2016	\$171,682
Current surplus	\$44,303
<b>MEMBERS FUNDS</b>	<b>\$215,985</b>

## Statement by Management Committee

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Community Legal Centres Queensland Inc. as at 30 June 2016 and its performance for the year ended of that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Community Legal Centres Queensland Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Our full audited financial reports are available at <http://communitylegalqld.org.au/about-us/annual-reports>

# Community Legal Centres Queensland people

## Management committee

Thank you to our wonderful Community Legal Centres Queensland Management Committee. This committee is made up of highly committed individuals who are representative of the Community Legal Centres Queensland membership. The committee includes representatives from regional and metropolitan centres, generalist and specialist centres, and well-funded and poorly-funded centres. The committee comprises the President, Secretary, Treasurer, State Representative, and up to 8 general members.

Members of the Management Committee in 2015-16 included:

Janet Wight (Chair)  
Giselle Negri  
Aaron Finn  
Miriam Barber  
Yatarla Clarke  
Sue Garlick  
Susan Hamilton  
David Manwaring  
Victoria Shiel  
Philippa Whitman

## Staff

### Bill Kyle

Finance Officer  
(to November 2015)

### Cathy Baker

Communications Manager

### Cristy Dieckmann

Policy Worker

### James Farrell

Director

### Jude Clarkin

Regional Accreditation Coordinator  
(to November 2015)  
Finance Officer  
(from January 2016)

### Monica Roberts

Regional Accreditation Coordinator  
(from January 2016)

### Peter Mott

Learning and Development Project  
(to December 2015)

## Volunteers

Georgina Papworth

Jordan Mathas-Carleton

Therese Yu

Caleb Theunissen

Emily Beaty

Manasa Pappu

Rebecca Bennett

Tammy Tang

Hannah Krieger

William Zhang

Gabrielle Coutanche

University of Queensland Community Engagement Program Team

# Community Legal Centres Queensland

## members

[Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander](#)

[Women's Legal Service NQ;](#)

[Aboriginal Family Legal Service Southern Queensland;](#)

[Basic Rights Queensland Inc.](#)

[Bayside Community Legal Service Inc.](#)

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[Caxton Legal Centre Inc.](#)

[Central Queensland Community Legal Centre;](#)

[Environmental Defenders Office \(Qld\) Inc.](#)

[Environmental Defenders Office of Northern Queensland;](#)

[Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau Inc.](#)

[Goondiwindi Community Legal Service;](#)

[Junkuri Laka Community Legal Centre Aboriginal Corporation;](#)

[Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans Intersex Legal Service Inc.](#)

[Mackay Regional Community Legal Centre;](#)

[Moreton Bay Regional Community Legal Service Inc.](#)

[North Queensland Women's Legal Service;](#)

[Nundah Community Support Group Inc.](#)

[Pine Rivers Community Legal Service;](#)

[Prisoners' Legal Service Inc.](#)

[Queensland Advocacy Incorporated;](#)

[Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service;](#)

[Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House Inc.](#)

[Refugee and Immigration Legal Service;](#)

[Robina Community Legal Centre Inc.](#)

[Roma Community Legal Service;](#)

[South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre;](#)

[Suncoast Community Legal Service;](#)

[Taylor Street Community Legal Service;](#)

[Tenants Queensland Inc.](#)

[TASC](#)

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