



kimberley community
legal services



2023-24

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



INDEX

Kimberley Community Legal Services acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future and extends our respect to all First Nations Peoples in the Kimberley.



We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the land and rivers.

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DISCLAIMER

All case studies presented in this Report have had identifying information removed to protect the privacy of our clients.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Excellence to support and empower

- We will deliver high quality legal, financial counselling and social support services across the Kimberley.
- We will be strong and effective advocates for systemic changes that benefit our clients.
- We will encourage and enable capability building with our client communities so they can understand and exercise their legal rights and responsibilities.

Sustainability and innovation

- We will explore diversified funding opportunities from government and private sources, with a focus on building philanthropic relationships.
- We will use data about our impact to shape our operations and services.

People and culture

- We will explore the fundamental structure and identity of KCLS and develop a Reconciliation Action Plan as part of that journey.
- We will increase Aboriginal participation and inclusion in all that we do.
- We will shape and nurture positive organisational culture, leadership, and professional development pathways for all KCLS staff.

Communications and community

- We will develop a communications strategy for KCLS that improves internal communication capability and engages external stakeholders through an enhanced online presence and profile.
- We will strengthen our public communications about the issues that matter to our clients.
- We will foster strong local and national collaborations for the benefit of our clients.

OUR VALUES

Empathy and Respect

We will be understanding and non-judgmental, and will treat all people with acceptance and dignity, respecting culture, social and individual values, and differences.



Dedication and Commitment

We will be proactive, organised, committed to excellence, and persistent in our work, driven by client needs and the pursuit of social justice.

Integrity and Honesty

We will be honest, fair, and transparent in our dealings and will be accountable for our actions and commitments.

Teamwork and Collaboration

We will support each other and foster teamwork in the workplace and collaborative partnerships to achieve our mission.

Improvement and Innovation

We will always seek to improve what we do, welcome feedback, and explore innovative approaches.

“KCLS treated me with the utmost respect, compassion, kindness and understanding. [They are] extremely committed to representing clients. Wonderful humans whom I thank profusely for all you do for our community.”



OUR VISION



Dignity and justice
for all people in the
Kimberley.

OUR MISSION



To support and empower
Kimberley people
and communities to
understand their rights
and responsibilities, and
to overcome injustice.



WHO, WHERE & WHAT WE DO

The Role of KCLS in the Kimberley

Kimberley Community Legal Services (KCLS) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that was established in 1997 to provide legal advice, information, support, and representation to the people of the Kimberley. Since its original incorporation KCLS has expanded its service delivery with the introduction of social support services and financial counselling.

The organisation is governed by a community-based Board of Management that is reflective of the region, ensuring that the needs of the community are at the forefront of decision-making processes.

KCLS is accredited by the National Association of Community Legal Centres.

Where we are

KCLS provides services to the Kimberley region in northern Western Australia which is a culturally rich and diverse area with a significant Indigenous population. The Kimberley is home to around 40,000 people¹ and represents more than 30 distinct language groups. English is often a second or third language for Aboriginal people in the Kimberley with the most common languages being Kriol, Bardi, Walmajarri and Jaru. Thirty percent of the

population in the Kimberley speak both English and another language at home (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016).

The Kimberley has the highest levels of socioeconomic disadvantage compared to the rest of WA making access to legal and support services essential for the community. The Kimberley has the largest homeless population in Western Australia, with approximately 1,205 people in the region experiencing homelessness. About 61% of homeless people were living in 'severely crowded' dwellings, requiring at least four extra bedrooms to accommodate the

people usually living there.²

With offices in Broome, Fitzroy Crossing and Kununurra, KCLS delivers free support services to clients in major towns and outreach locations throughout the Kimberley. These services are vital for those who may not have access to other resources, providing a lifeline for individuals facing legal issues, housing instability, or other challenges.

KCLS has the largest civil law footprint in Australia with clients spread out over 400,000km which is almost the size of Sweden.

¹Kimberley Community Profile <https://profile.id.com.au/wapl/about?WebID=380> ² <https://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Country-WA>



A Holistic Approach to Client Support

KCLS takes an integrated practice approach by bringing together professionals from legal, social services, and financial counselling teams to address the holistic needs of each client. By collaborating on individual client matters, the teams at KCLS can provide comprehensive support that goes beyond legal assistance. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by clients and enables the teams to work on wider systemic issues affecting the Kimberley community.

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO SERVICES

KCLS is an organisation dedicated to providing legal, financial, and support services to disadvantaged individuals in the Kimberley region. With a focus on empowering and assisting those in need, KCLS offers a wide range of services to address various issues faced by the community.

Generalist Legal Services

One of the primary services offered by KCLS is generalist legal assistance. This includes providing advice, referrals, legal information, casework assistance, representation, and community legal education. KCLS also actively participates in law reform efforts to advocate for systemic change that benefits the community as a whole.

Social Support for Women at Risk

KCLS recognises the unique challenges faced by women who are at risk of or experiencing domestic violence. The organisation offers social support services that include safety planning, community education, and referrals to other support services.

By providing a safe and supportive environment, KCLS aims to empower women to seek assistance and take control of their lives.

Social Support for Elders at Risk

In addition to supporting women at risk, KCLS also offers social support services for elders who may be vulnerable or facing challenges. This includes safety planning, community education, and referrals. By addressing the specific needs of elders, KCLS works to ensure that this segment of the population receives the care and support they require.

Indigenous Women's Program

The Indigenous Women's Program at KCLS is designed to assist Aboriginal women in accessing legal services, information, advice, and education. With a focus on family law and child protection issues, this program aims to empower Indigenous women to navigate the legal system effectively and advocate for their rights.

Tenancy Advice & Education Service

For public and private residential tenants, KCLS offers a Tenancy Advice and Education Service. This service provides information, advice, and workshops to help tenants understand and exercise their rights effectively. By empowering tenants with knowledge, KCLS aims to promote fair and respectful landlord-tenant relationships.

Public Tenancy Support Service

The Public Tenancy Support Service at KCLS provides early intervention services to Department of Housing tenants in Kununurra. By providing support and assistance to sustain tenancies and prevent eviction and homelessness, KCLS helps tenants maintain stable housing and avoid displacement.

Financial Counselling Service

Individuals and families in the East Kimberley region facing financial difficulties can turn to KCLS for support through the Financial Counselling Service. This service offers financial counselling, education, and advocacy to help those on low incomes navigate financial challenges effectively. Additionally, KCLS provides a traineeship program to support individuals pursuing a career in financial counselling.

Community Legal Education

KCLS is committed to raising awareness and promoting understanding of legal issues within the community. Through community legal education initiatives, the organisation provides information and resources to community service providers and clients throughout the Kimberley region. By empowering individuals with knowledge, KCLS aims to promote access to justice and foster a more informed and engaged community.



“When I needed help with my rent [KCLS acted] on it fast, so that I wouldn't be evicted from my house”

OUR BOARD

The KCLS Board serves on an entirely voluntary basis. We are grateful for the hard work and strong contribution of our Board over the past year.

Amanda Whitehead – Chair – December 2021 to current

Amanda has been an integral part of the legal community in Kununurra for over a decade. Starting her career as a solicitor at KCLS and later transitioning to the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia, Amanda has firsthand experience dealing with legal matters affecting the local population.

Her time as a lawyer working across the Kimberley region has given her a deep understanding of the legal needs and challenges faced by the community. This knowledge has fuelled her commitment to supporting and enhancing the services provided by KCLS, leading her to join the board in 2017.

As a former employee of the organisation, she has witnessed the vital role that KCLS plays in providing legal assistance to those in need. From addressing housing and tenancy issues to advocating for victims of domestic violence, KCLS serves as a lifeline for many individuals and families in the Kimberley region. Amanda has served as Chairperson since 2021.

Justine Toohey – Vice- Chair – November 2022 to current

Justine is an experienced environmental and native title lawyer, who has represented traditional owners on some of Australia's largest and most significant natural resource infrastructure projects. She acted on the \$1.5bn native title, cultural heritage, and State agreements for the Browse LNG Precinct; on the expansion of the Ord Stage 2 irrigated agricultural development; on the heritage assessment of 19,000 kilometres of land and sea in the Kimberley, and on establishing sustainable carbon farming in Australia's northern savannahs. She has an exceptional track record of negotiating successful outcomes on northern Australia's major projects.

Caroline Constant – Treasurer – December 2020 to current

MBA, MTeach, Grad Cert Applied Econ, BEc (Honours), MIPA

Caroline is a long-term resident of Kununurra (originally from Rio de Janeiro) and passionate about making a difference in the local community. Her experience covers roles including Administration Manager, Workplace Trainer, and Skills Centre Coordinator at Kimberley Group Training, Manager of Research, Analysis and Economics at the Kimberley Development Commission and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Caroline is also a Member of the Institute of Public Accountants (IPA), Institute of Community Directors Australia (ICDA), and currently works as a Lecturer of Business and Finance at North Regional TAFE. Caroline hopes her participation in the community in the Kimberley region through her board participation can help unlock the Kimberley region's full potential.

Brianna Lonnie – Board Member – December 2021 to current

Brianna Lonnie re-joined the KCLS Board in December 2021. She previously served on the Board for four years from 2009 to 2012 as Chairperson when she was based in Kununurra. Brianna has extensive experience on the Boards of CLCs and community organisations. She has lived and worked in the Kimberley for 16 years and has a wealth of knowledge and many years of experience in the legal profession, with a great passion for social justice. Brianna is committed to working with the other Board members and staff of KCLS to ensure that the organisation is well governed and that it meets the strategic goals.

Rachel Rima – Board Member – November 2022 to current

Rachel is a solicitor based in the Legal Aid Broome office, with experience in criminal and civil law. She completed a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts (Journalism) at Curtin University in 2018 before working as a Research Associate to a Judge of the District Court of Western Australia. Prior to moving to the Kimberley, Rachel worked in a commercial litigation firm and in the Civil Law Division of Legal Aid specialising in elder abuse. Rachel has served on the KCLS Board since November 2022.

Maxine Chi - Board Member – October 2023 to current

Maxine Chi joined the KCLS Board in 2024 and lives in Broome and has worked in both State and Commonwealth departments, Aboriginal Legal Service of WA (Inc.) in Derby and Perth and Aboriginal Family Law Services in Broome. She is currently employed as the Program Coordinator/Lecturer/Tutor for the Graduate Certificate in Aboriginal Studies course being delivered from Notre Dame University, Broome Campus. She is also a member and Director of the Bardi Jawi Niimidiman Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC and Centacare Kimberley Ltd.

Keda Bond – Board Member – February 2024 to current

As a former executive of WA Country Health Services (WACHS) and Operations Manager of the East Kimberley hospitals, Keda has significant history and knowledge of health services in the Kimberley. Now CEO East Kimberley Chamber Commerce and Industry, Keda continues to be passionate about the people of the Kimberley communities and towns. Keda has a Diploma in Project Management, Leadership and Management and a Graduate Certificate in Health Service Management. Keda has board experience as the deputy chair of the board of Boab Health Services and previous board member for East Kimberley Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Keda is proud to be on the Board of KCLS and hopes to bring much needed representation for the East Kimberley.

KCLS would also like to acknowledge the services of the following Board Members whose tenure concluded in the FY2022-23.

- Victoria Baird
- Roz Brabazon



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

On behalf of the KCLS Board, I am pleased to present our Annual Report for the 2023-2024 financial year. This year has been one of both challenge and reward, as we navigated a complex legal landscape to deliver vital services to the people of the Kimberley.

Demand for KCLS services remains high. The Kimberley continues to grapple with social and economic issues, with many residents facing significant disadvantage. This year, we witnessed a particular rise in cases related to housing, family law, and financial hardship. These challenges highlight the critical role KCLS plays in ensuring equitable access to justice.

KCLS experienced another year of high staff turnover and subsequently completed a comprehensive review of its remuneration strategy to attract staff to the service. Despite these obstacles, our dedicated staff have ensured high-quality services reached disadvantaged people throughout the Kimberley. This included 138 days of outreach to remote communities with limited access to civil legal aid. KCLS directly assisted over 830 clients this year, with support provided by our Financial Counselling and Social Support teams.

As we move forward, KCLS remains committed to our core values of access to justice, cultural respect, and service innovation. We are constantly seeking ways to improve our services and expand our reach across the vast Kimberley region. This includes opening an outreach office in Fitzroy Crossing allowing residents of the surrounding valley access to legal services for two weeks a month. This initiative demonstrates KCLS's commitment to innovative and effective service delivery.

On behalf of the Board, I extend sincere gratitude to our funding agencies who empower us to improve client outcomes. We also say a heartfelt farewell to long-serving Board members Victoria Baird and Roz Brabazon. Their years of service are deeply appreciated. I would also like to express our thanks to Lachlan Withnall who stepped up as Principal Legal Officer in the East Kimberley office. Finally, immense thanks go to our current Board members. They generously volunteer their knowledge and expertise to guide KCLS's strategic direction, doing so alongside their own demanding careers.

The coming years hold significant challenges for the community legal sector, with reform and a shift towards outcome-based service delivery. This will require additional effort from both staff and Board, but I have full confidence in KCLS's ability to adapt and thrive. 2025 will be a year for strategic assessment. The Board, staff, and members will revisit our current Strategic Plan, evaluate progress, and define new goals for the next three years. We remain committed to helping people in the Kimberley achieve dignity and justice for all.

This report provides a glimpse into the vital work undertaken by KCLS. We invite you to explore the following pages to learn more about our achievements and the ongoing fight for a fairer legal system for all in the Kimberley.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

This report highlights the achievements made by our small but dedicated team in empowering individuals, families, and communities to navigate legal, financial and social challenges. This year, KCLS has seen a continued demand for our services.

Like many regional service providers FY2023-24 was characterised by high staff turnover. We entered the new financial year almost fully staffed but then faced a series of resignations linked to the remoteness of the region, lack of pay parity, house shortages and the impact of working with acute trauma. Whatever the reason we are immensely grateful for the staff's commitment to the service and wish them well with future endeavours. We are also extremely grateful to Sarah Patterson and the team at Gosnells Community Legal Services who generously provided a legal secondment to assist clients in Kununurra while we went through recruitment processes.

Staff shortages impacted on both service delivery and staff morale. Recognising that we cannot exert control over externalities KCLS chooses to focus on the wins we have for our clients. While often small wins the satisfaction of assisting someone to improve their situation sustains and nurtures our organisational commitment to social justice. Despite reduced staffing KCLS helped 830 clients in FY2023-24. We look forward to increasing our outputs in FY2024-25 as we rebuild and consolidate our teams.

The overarching issues faced by KCLS clients are deeply rooted in intergenerational trauma and persistent poverty. These systemic barriers not only impact on the current generation but also perpetuate cycles of disadvantage for future generations.

In light of these challenges, it is clear that there is a pressing need for increased support and solutions to address the root causes of vulnerability and instability in the community. Access to safe and affordable housing, along with comprehensive legal and social support services, is essential for ensuring the well-being of individuals and families in need.

As an organisation we are limited in what we can do but we pride ourselves in playing a small but critical part in addressing disadvantage. In the following pages, you will find stories of successful KCLS interventions on behalf of our clients.

Christine Robinson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Amanda Whitehead
CHAIRPERSON

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



FY2023/24 our services included

992	core service
106	referrals and information services
116	financial counselling
138	outreach and stakeholder engagement

We provided assistance to

835

clients, comprised of:

531

Total number of
matters opened

311

Number of
clients who
received
advice

90

Number of
clients who
were referred to
other services



KCLS in the media

“ Kimberley Community Legal Services turns away vulnerable clients as funding falls short ”



The top issues we helped clients with included:

Family or domestic violence	204
Injuries	151
Tenancy	135
Wills	97
Child support and protection	94
Other civil matters	86



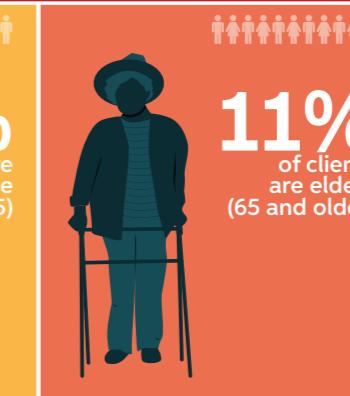
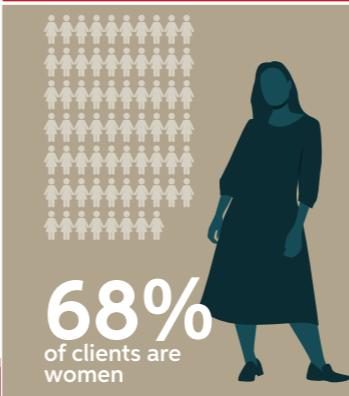
30
negotiated
debt waivers



\$393,823
payouts/refunds and
reimbursements for clients



53 media & social
media engagements



74%
of clients are Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait Islander

LEGAL SERVICES



CASE STUDY

Forgiven Tenancy Charges

KCLS represented a client who was a joint tenant in a residential property with her abusive former partner. Forced to leave early due to domestic violence, she was unable to provide proper notice to the lessors.

After the tenancy ended, the client was served with court documents claiming unpaid rent, cleaning, gardening, property damage, and water usage. KCLS contested all charges except the rent and attempted to negotiate a settlement. When negotiations failed, the case proceeded to court.

KCLS argued that responsibility for the additional charges should be shared with the former partner. The court agreed, significantly reducing the client's financial liability.



KCLS is often the first stop for many community members that need to engage in the legal system. Given the scope and flexibility of practice, KCLS can provide legal advice and representation or alternatively, link the client with an appropriate service by way of facilitated referral. KCLS's core legal practice areas included the following matters:

- **Tenancy, Homelessness and Tenancy Support and Services (tenants only)**
- **National Redress Scheme Assistance, for survivors of institutionalised child sexual abuse**
- **Child Protection**
- **Consumer Law**
- **Family Law – Parenting**
- **Guardianship / Administration**
- **Family and Domestic Violence, including Elder Abuse**
- **Criminal Injury Compensation**
- **Deceased Estates, Wills and Probate**

KCLS provides advice and ongoing representation in most cases and will only refer if we are unable to assist due to conflict of interest or serious capacity constraints.

PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR REPORT

The 2023-2024 year was marked by farewells and welcomes. Sadly, we said goodbye to several long-standing legal staff, including Solicitor/Financial Counsellor Lauren Reed, East Kimberley Principal Solicitor Lachlan Withnall, and Kununurra Solicitors Grace Dudley, Claire Neo and Eliza Parry-Okeden. We are on track to have both vacant Solicitor positions in the Kununurra office filled by September 2024. In the meantime, the East Kimberley legal practice is being ably supported by Senior Solicitor Kerrin Lawn and Gosnell Community Legal Centre secondee, Louise McNamara.

In the Broome office we said farewell to Solicitor Emily Taylor and welcomed LAWA secondee Jenna Hampton to our legal team. In March 2024, the West Kimberley team expanded to include our Fitzroy Crossing based Solicitor, Amelia Barclay. Amelia covers the Fitzroy Valley region on a fortnightly basis as a part of KCLS's response to the 2023 Kimberley Floods. Senior Solicitor Ashleigh McCarthy commenced 12 months parental leave at the end of May 2024, and has since welcomed a delightful baby boy to her family.

Overall demand for legal assistance across the region remained

steady. KCLS delivered advice and representation to clients across the region in our key practice areas – family violence, protection and care, family law and tenancy. Requests for assistance with deceased estates, redress and criminal injuries compensation matters also remained constant, with a notable increase in requests for non-legal support across the Kimberley for help to register with Shine Lawyers Stolen Wages class action.

KCLS Solicitors regularly travel large distances to assist clients in all the major Kimberley towns and several remote Aboriginal communities. In the West Kimberley, the Broome team travels to Derby every fortnight and we have established a regular on ground presence in Fitzroy Crossing for two weeks of every month. From Fitzroy Crossing, our Flood Response Solicitor Amelia Barclay conducts outreach to Wangkatjunka and Bayulu and other outlying communities in the Fitzroy Valley. In the East Kimberley, our legal team attends outreach to Wyndham and Kalumburu on a monthly basis, and have also maintained outreach to Warmun, Halls Creek and Balgo.

Both offices continued to promote strong community engagement and



have participated in a number of community events and education activities over the past year, including 16 Days Family Violence Prevention campaign, 'Financial Freedom Forum' podcast series and Law Week.

Despite the staffing challenges encountered in the past year, particularly in the Kununurra office, our legal teams have pulled together as a cohesive unit to work collaboratively to ensure that clients are being appropriately assisted. Our Client Support Officers, Lai Chan and Clare Oakes, who are the first point of contact for our clients, have played an important role in this. A big thank you to all staff for their work over the past year, and for their on-going commitment to KCLS and our clients.

CASE STUDY Child Returned Home

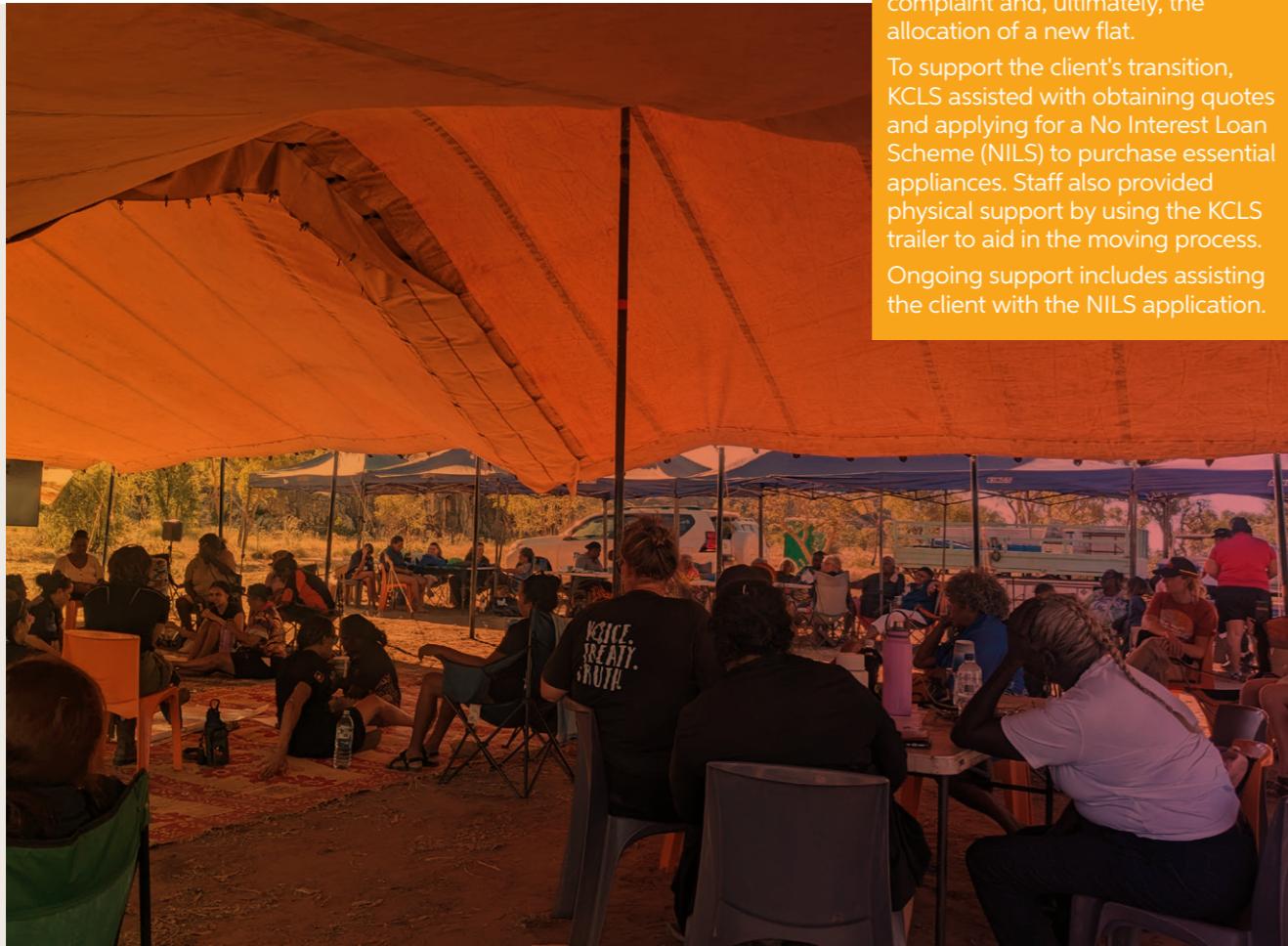
A client approached KCLS after her child was apprehended and placed in protective care by the Department. The KCLS lawyer recognised the client's efforts in addressing the Department's prior concerns and referred her to social support services to further address those concerns.

During proceedings, the Department decided to relocate the child to a foster placement several thousand kms from the region. In response, KCLS filed an interim application seeking the child's return to the Kimberley. The KCLS lawyer represented the client at subsequent interim hearings and successfully negotiated for facilitated travel to maintain contact with the child. Through the course of the proceedings, the Department agreed to the child's repatriation to the Kimberley, and the child was reunited with his mother in their home region.



SOCIAL SUPPORT

The social work support team at KCLS found themselves grappling with the impact of staff shortages and numerous changes in leadership throughout the year. This turbulence significantly challenged their ability to maintain service quality and fulfill the expectations of funders. Operating within a holistic service delivery model, KCLS strives to provide comprehensive support to clients with complex needs, especially those affected by domestic violence. Understanding the multifaceted nature of client struggles, the team addresses



CASE STUDY

Positive Outcome For Veteran Client

A wheelchair-bound veteran was experiencing severe distress due to the deplorable condition of his government-allocated housing. Despite numerous requests, repairs were neglected, and communication with housing authorities proved ineffective.

KCLS became involved to address the urgent situation. Recognising the client's deteriorating mental health, staff prioritised securing suitable accommodation. After unsuccessful attempts to expedite repairs, legal assistance was sought. A joint inspection led to a formal complaint and, ultimately, the allocation of a new flat.

To support the client's transition, KCLS assisted with obtaining quotes and applying for a No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) to purchase essential appliances. Staff also provided physical support by using the KCLS trailer to aid in the moving process.

Ongoing support includes assisting the client with the NILS application.

FINANCIAL COUNSELLING

In the East Kimberley region, financial hardship is a prevalent issue that affects individuals and families on a daily basis. Many people in this community struggle to make ends meet, leading to high levels of stress and anxiety. KCLS has been working tirelessly to address these challenges through its financial counselling service.

One of the key focuses of KCLS's financial counselling service is on casework. This involves working closely with individuals and families to understand their financial situation and develop tailored solutions to help them achieve financial stability. By providing one-on-one support, KCLS is able to address the specific needs of each client and empower them to take control of their finances.

In addition to casework, KCLS also places a strong emphasis on building financial literacy. Through workshops, seminars, and one-on-one sessions, clients are given the tools and knowledge they need to make informed financial decisions. By improving financial literacy, KCLS is not only able to

help individuals in the short term but also empower them to manage their finances effectively in the long term.

Financial exploitation, especially targeting older individuals receiving stable government payments like Aged Pension or Disability Support Pension, has been a significant concern in the past financial year. This form of exploitation, 'humbug,' predominantly preys on vulnerable older people who often find themselves coerced by family members who take advantage of them on pay days, manipulating them into purchasing various items or signing up for unnecessary services particularly through Buy Now Pay Later schemes. Unfortunately, many of our older clients faced with this

situation report feeling physically threatened if they resist complying with these demands. It's a distressing reality that highlights the pressing need for greater protection for our elderly community members. KCLS financial counselling is also seeing a rise in cases due to the reliance on

online services which leaves them at a higher risk of being exploited by other parties.

CASE STUDY

Client Achieves Debt Relief

A client struggling with a loan from a high-interest, non-bank lender sought help from KCLS. The exorbitant 48% interest rate made repayments unsustainable given the client's financial situation and limited financial knowledge.

KCLS Financial Counsellors worked closely with the client, gathering detailed financial information to build a strong case for debt relief. Despite initial resistance from the lender, persistent advocacy led to a significant breakthrough. The lender approved a full loan waiver, eliminating the debt burden for the client.

This successful outcome highlights the importance of financial counselling in supporting vulnerable borrowers and advocating for fair debt resolutions.

SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY

As a priority KCLS continued to highlight the need for changes to the substandard nature of public housing. KCLS has a strong interest in climate justice and advocates for improved standards of housing in the Kimberley designed to provide adequate protection from rising temperatures and climate disasters. KCLS contributed information for the quarterly housing report for the Kimberley. We also sent submissions on behalf of our clients into the Senate Inquiry into Worsening Rental

Crisis and National Housing and Homelessness Plan Consultation.

As part of our advocacy KCLS appeared at the Senate Inquiry into Missing and Murdered First Nations Women and Children. With the resignation of the community advocate KCLS has been unable to continue to provide submissions on matters of interest and will need to look for pro bono support in this area for the future.

OUTREACH

KCLS understands the importance of outreach and dedicates a significant portion of its budget to outreach programs every financial year. Due to staff shortages, we ran a reduced remote area outreach program but still managed 138 days in the field in the financial year, with a total distance travelled over 40,000km. This is equivalent to driving around the whole of Australia 3 times.

Outreach area	Number of days	Number of trips	Number of KMS	Total KMs	Average Number of staff
Derby	36	36	447	16092	2
Hall's Creek	8	4	718	2872	2
Fitzroy Crossing * note office opened 2 weeks p/f Mar 2024	54	10	782	7820	1
Kalumburu	6	6	1112	6672	3
Warmun	8	8	395	3160	1
Wyndham	20	20	202	4040	1
Balgo, Mulan and Billiluna	6	2	1234	2468	3
Totals	138	86	4890	43124	



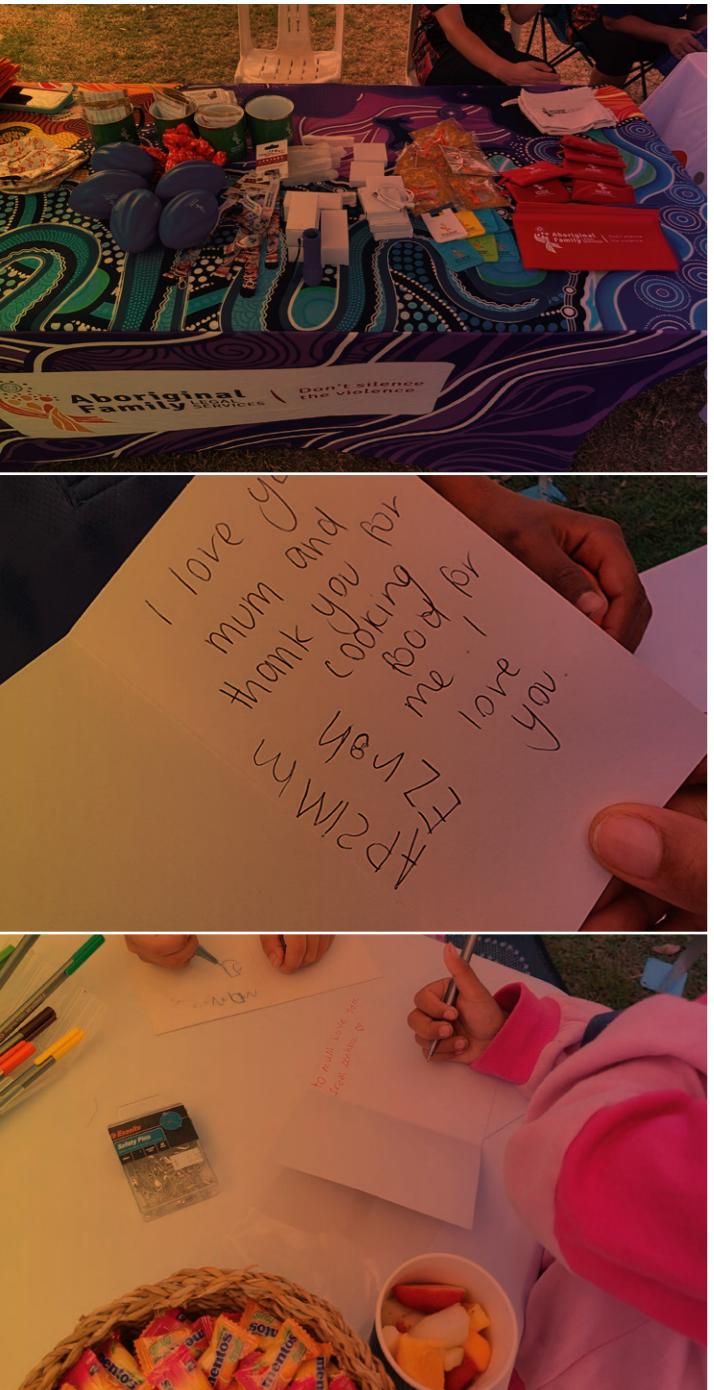
Delivering outreach can be challenging over such a vast region. The Balgo outreach circuit not only includes the Balgo community but also extends to Mulan and Billiluna. These communities are located approximately 650km away from the nearest city. The journey to these remote areas is not an easy one, as it takes up to 8 hours to drive in each direction. The last four hours of the journey involve navigating a corrugated dirt road known as the Tanami Highway. Outreach takes staff out for a week at a time in remote areas.

Service delivery is difficult, given a lack of resources on the ground and the complexities of navigating various social and cultural barriers. However, demand for legal services is high in the region, with the team seeing between 20 and 40 clients each trip.

KCLS outreach programs play a vital role in connecting with remote communities and providing essential services and support. By overcoming geographical barriers and collaborating with local stakeholders, organisations like KCLS can make a significant impact on the lives of residents in even the most isolated areas.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION



KCLS provides community legal education and community education throughout the Kimberley, in line with the programs we deliver. Key focus areas include:

- **Tenancy Rights and Responsibilities**
- **Child Protection Laws**
- **Safe Relationships and Domestic Violence**
- **General Legal Rights**
- **Credit and Debt Management**
- **Elder Abuse**

In 2023, KCLS took the lead in organising the 16 Days in WA Kimberley event. This event was specifically designed to educate, motivate, and advocate the community to encourage change and put an end to violence against women. KCLS spearheaded different activities in various locations including Kununurra, Looma, Derby, and Beagle Bay. The aim was to raise awareness and promote discussions on this important issue that affects countless lives.

One of the key objectives of the 16 Days in WA Kimberley event was to provide education and raise awareness about the prevalence of violence against women. Through workshops, film screenings and panel discussions KCLS aimed to empower individuals with knowledge and resources to recognise and address such issues. By engaging the community in open dialogue and providing information on support services available, the events sought to motivate people to act and stand up against violence.

KCLS also coordinated a week of activities with Northern Suburbs Legal Services as part of the Purple Road Project to raise awareness of elder abuse and the rights of older people. KCLS regularly provides educational sessions at the Kununurra Women's shelter that provides a safe house and services to women experiencing family violence and their families on topics including budgeting, the Work and Development Permit Scheme, healthy and unhealthy relationships, education on restraining orders.

STAKEHOLDER NETWORKS

KCLS takes the view that to achieve better outcomes for our clients we must maintain strong networks throughout the region and nationally. We have a strong network of referrals and resource sharing with the other Kimberley based legal service providers (Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Services, Legal Aid of WA, Aboriginal Legal Services and Marninwarntikura Womens Legal Services). We also work closely with government agencies such as WAPOL, Department of Communities (Housing), Kimberley Aged Care, Department of Child Protection and WA Sheriff's Department and WA Country Health Services to provide support and assistance to clients. KCLS works with

NGO service providers across the region and where possible seeks to collaborate with them to reduce duplication and maximise the use of resources. This may include joint outreach, collaboration, or direct delivery of service delivery and community education, stakeholder planning and review meetings and referrals for specialised support.

The importance of developing strong stakeholder networks and working with the broader community to effect change is core to providing effective services in the Kimberley context. Change may be slow, and clients may return multiple times, but each engagement can be a step forward for incremental positive change.



OUR TEAM

KCLS has a hard-working professional team, blending a diverse range of disciplines, skills, backgrounds, and experiences.



Leadership Team

Christine Robinson	Chief Executive Officer	Regional
Carol Wei	Principal Solicitor	West Kimberley Acting East Kimberley
Lachlan Withnall	Principal Solicitor (until January 2024)	East Kimberley
Carl Phillipson	Principal Social Worker (until January 2024)	West Kimberley
Vicki Slater	Principal Social Worker (March 2024 to June 2024)	East Kimberley
Melissa Donges	Executive Assistant	Regional

Legal Team

Kerrin Lawn	Senior Solicitor (Locum)	East Kimberley
Ashleigh Williams	Senior Solicitor (commenced maternity leave June 2024)	West Kimberley
Claire Neo	Solicitor (until March 2024)	East Kimberley
Louise McNamara	Senior Solicitor (6-month secondment from Gosnells CLC commenced May 2024)	East Kimberley
Grace Dudley	Solicitor / Systemic Change Advocate (until February 2024)	East Kimberley
Jenna Hampton	Solicitor commenced (commenced October 2023)	West Kimberley
Amelia Barclay	Solicitor – Fitzroy Valley Flood Assistance (commenced March 2024)	West Kimberley
Eliza Parry-Okeden	Junior Solicitor (until May 2024)	East Kimberley
Emily Taylor	Junior Solicitor (until August 2023)	West Kimberley
Peter Angliss	Paralegal (contract finalised August 2023)	East Kimberley
Lai Chan	Client Services Officer	West Kimberley
Clare Oakes	Client Services Officer/Reception	East Kimberley

Financial Counselling Team

Lauren Reed	Financial Counsellor (until August 2023)	East Kimberley
Nicholas Muirhead	Financial Counsellor (commenced September 2023)	East Kimberley
Simone Trust	Financial Counselling Trainee/Administration Officer (commenced October 2023)	East Kimberley

Social Work Team

Lina Bleazby	Caseworker	East Kimberley
Richard Willmot	Caseworker (commenced May 2024)	West Kimberley
Irene Sengstock	Caseworker (commenced May 2024)	West Kimberley
Chez Pilkington	Caseworker (until October 2023)	East Kimberley
Celeste Hunter	Caseworker (until May 2024)	East Kimberley
Taryn Cox	Caseworker (until May 2024)	East Kimberley
Tegan Kissane	Community Educator (until April 2024)	West Kimberley

Administration Team

Saarah Saleh	Office Manager	East Kimberley
Neville Symonds	Reception (commenced April 2024)	East Kimberley

FUNDING

We would like to thank and acknowledge all those who have supported our service in the past year, including:

Commonwealth of Australia

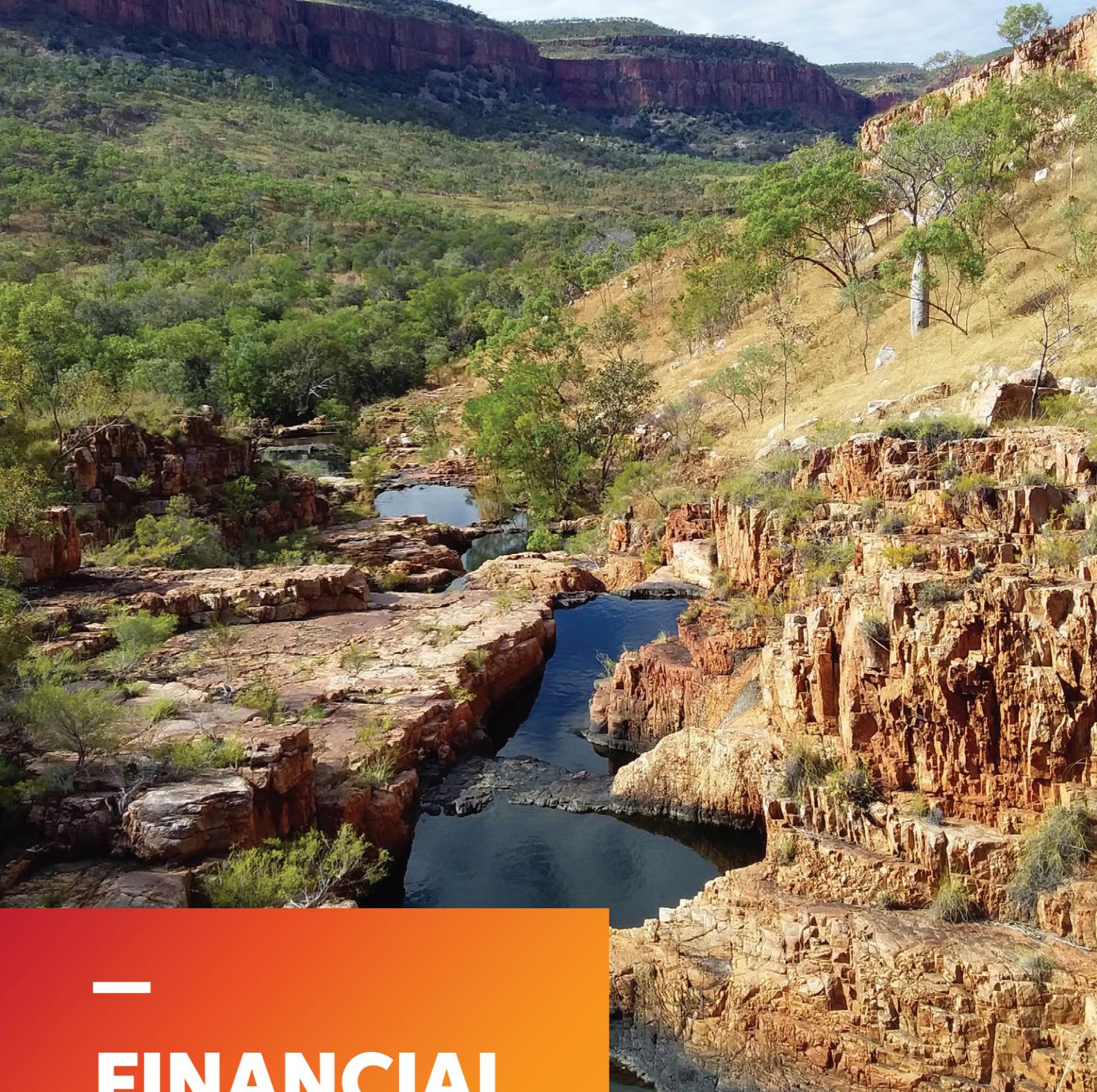
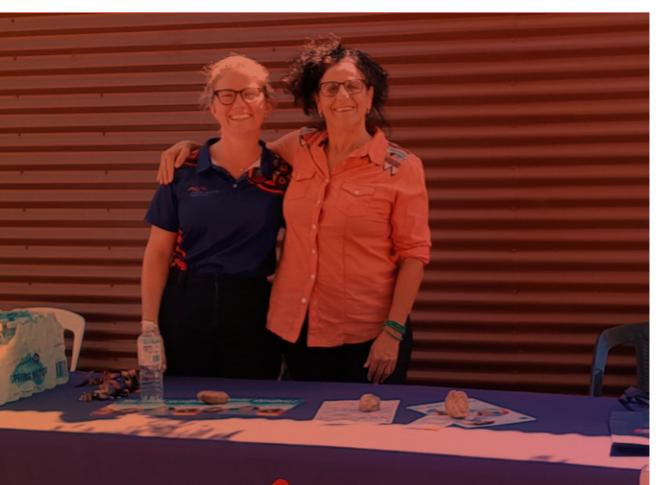
- Attorney-General's Department – funding our general legal work, as well as our specialist Family Violence support service and Elder Abuse support and prevention pilot project
- National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) – funding our outreach and education work through our Indigenous Women's Program

State of Western Australia

- Department of Communities – funding our Public Tenancy Support Service and our Financial Counselling Service and traineeship
- Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety – funding our Tenancy Advice and Education Service
- Department of Justice – funding our general legal work and specialist Family Violence Support Services through a National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP) agreement with the Commonwealth Government.
- Department of Justice – funding for the Fitzroy Crossing Disaster Relief

Key partners

- knowmore – supporting the delivery of specialist services to applicants under the National Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse
- Our key donors – contributing to our on-going work to address the impact of FDV and elder abuse in the community.



FINANCIAL REPORT

for the Year Ended
30 June 2024

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COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial report of the Kimberley Community Legal Services Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Amanda Whitehead	Victoria Baird (resigned)
Brianna Lonnie	Caroline Constant
Rachel Rima	Keda Bond
Justine Toohey	Roz Brabazon (resigned)
Maxine Chi	

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were to provide legal services, counselling service, tenancy advocates services, financial counselling services and community legal education outreach program.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

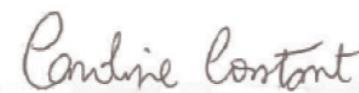
Operating Result

The surplus from ordinary activities amounted to \$144,478. The surplus for the previous financial year amounted to \$206,811.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the committee.



Amanda Whitehead



Caroline Constant

Dated this 15th day of October 2024

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION TO THE RESPONSIBLE PERSONS OF KIMBERLEY COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES INC

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 for the audit of Kimberley Community Legal Services Inc for the year ended 30 June 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

1. No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
2. No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit

LBW Business & Wealth Advisors



Sripathy Sarma, Principal

Dated this 15th day of October 2024

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue from Grant Funding & Operations		3,211,583	3,141,015
Employee / Payroll expenses		(2,084,643)	(2,035,952)
Depreciation and Amortisation expenses		(130,464)	(126,309)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(851,998)	(771,943)
Surplus / (Deficit) from Ordinary activities for the financial year		144,478	206,811
Income tax expense	1a	-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) after income tax from ordinary activities		144,478	206,811
Other Comprehensive Income			
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:		-	-
Items that will be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss when specific conditions are met:		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income for the financial year		144,478	206,811

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	2	1,401,273	1,072,290
Receivables	3	43,268	2,485
Prepayments		17,174	19,393
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,461,715	1,094,168
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant & Equipment	4	841,008	778,884
Right of Use Assets	5	-	37,111
Investments	6	10,360	10,360
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		851,368	826,355
TOTAL ASSETS		2,313,083	1,920,523
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	7	142,831	234,403
Provisions	8	82,407	104,832
Lease Liability	9	-	41,740
Unexpended Grants	10	1,193,185	795,811
Borrowings	11	47,821	41,376
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,466,244	1,218,162
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,466,244	1,218,162
NET ASSETS			
Retained surplus	11	846,839	702,361
TOTAL EQUITY		846,839	702,361

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Retained Surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2022	495,550	495,550
Comprehensive income		
Net surplus for the year	206,811	206,811
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2023	702,361	702,361
Balance at 1 July 2023	702,361	702,361
Comprehensive income		
Net surplus for the year	144,478	144,478
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2024	846,839	846,839

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from funding and operations		3,568,174	2,893,985
Payments to suppliers and employees		(3,048,419)	(2,720,458)
Net cash provided by operating activities		519,755	173,527
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchases of property, plant & equipment		(155,477)	(52,537)
Net cash used by investing activities		(155,477)	(52,537)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for lease liabilities		(41,740)	(39,709)
Movement in borrowings		6,445	6,756
Net cash used by financing activities		(35,295)	(32,953)
Net Increase in Cash Held		328,983	88,037
Cash at the Beginning of the Financial Year		1,072,290	984,253
Cash at the End of the Financial Year	2	1,401,273	1,072,290

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial Reporting Framework

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity. The entity is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

Statement of Compliance

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act), the basis of accounting specified by all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of Accounting Standards AASB 101: *Presentation of Financial Statements*, AASB 107: *Cash Flow Statements*, AASB 108: *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* and AASB 1054: *Australian Additional Disclosures*.

The association has concluded that the requirements set out in AASB 10 and AASB 128 are not applicable as the initial assessment on its interests in other entities indicated that it does not have any subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. Hence, the financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs. They do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

a. Income Tax

The association is exempt from Income Tax under the Income Tax Assessment Act as recorded on the Australian Business Register.

b. Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)**Cost or Valuation**

Property, Plant & Equipment are carried at cost.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on the straight line basis. The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

c. Revenue**Revenue Recognition**

The corporation has applied AASB 15: *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (AASB 15) and AASB 1058: *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (AASB 1058).

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

*In the current year***Operating Grants, Donations and Bequests**

When the entity receives operating grant revenue, donations or bequests, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15.

When both these conditions are satisfied, the Entity:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Entity:

- recognises the asset received in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards (eg AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138)
- recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer)
- recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the Entity recognises income in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

Interest Income

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

d. Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

e. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

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

f. Employee Entitlements

Provision is made for entitlements payable to employees on the basis of statutory and contractual requirements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

g. Comparative Figures

Where required by Accounting Standards, or a change in accounting policies, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

h. Going Concern

The future operations of Kimberley Community Legal Services Incorporated are dependent upon adequate future funding from relevant funding bodies and the association being able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

i. Leases

The Entity as lessee

At inception of a contract, the Entity assesses if the contract contains or is a lease. If there is a lease present, a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability is recognised by the Entity where the Entity is a lessee. However all contracts that are classified as short-term leases (lease with remaining lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low value assets are recognised as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Initially the lease liability is measured at the present value of the lease payments still to be paid at commencement date. The lease payments are discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease. If this rate cannot be readily determined, the Entity uses the incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability are as follows:

fixed lease payments less any lease incentives;

variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date;

the amount expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees;

the exercise price of purchase options, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options;

lease payments under extension options if lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options; and

payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the exercise of an option to terminate the lease

The right-of-use assets comprise the initial measurement of the corresponding lease liability as mentioned above, any lease payments made at or before the commencement date as well as any initial direct costs. The subsequent measurement of the right-of-use assets is at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the lease term or useful life of the underlying asset whichever is the shortest.

Where a lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset or the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the Entity anticipates to exercise a purchase option, the specific asset is depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
NOTE 2: CASH		
Operating Account	70,087	1,026,841
Savings Accounts	1,304,890	-
Prepaid Cards	26,296	45,449
	1,401,273	1,072,290
	(283,353)	
NOTE 3: RECEIVABLES		
Accounts Receivable	12,793	2,035
Sundry Debtors	24,025	-
Rental Bonds	6,450	450
	43,268	2,485
NOTE 4: PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
Plant & Equipment at cost	301,629	297,958
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(283,353)	(268,512)
	18,276	29,446
Motor Vehicles at cost	411,408	294,252
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(272,720)	(250,578)
	138,688	43,674
Land & Buildings at cost	600,000	600,000
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(87,521)	(57,521)
	512,479	542,479
Leasehold Improvements at cost	289,451	254,800
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(119,688)	(94,949)
	169,763	159,851
Furniture & Fittings at cost	41,413	41,413
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(39,611)	(37,979)
	1,802	3,434
Total Property, Plant & Equipment	841,008	778,884

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
NOTE 5: RIGHT OF USE ASSETS		
Premises	185,556	185,556
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(185,556)	(148,445)
	-	37,111

NOTE 6: INVESTMENTS

Artwork – at cost	10,360	10,360
	10,360	10,360

NOTE 7: PAYABLES

Accounts Payable	89,029	187,937
Salary Accrual	53,802	46,466
	142,831	234,403

NOTE 8: PROVISIONS

Annual Leave	69,814	77,957
Long Service Leave	12,593	26,875
	82,407	104,832

NOTE 9: LEASE LIABILITY

CURRENT		
Lease Liability	-	41,740
Total Lease Liability	-	41,740

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
NOTE 10: UNEXPENDED GRANTS		
Specialist Elder Abuse Services	46,179	-
National Legal Assistance Partnership	256,792	321,220
Domestic Violence Units and Health Justice Partnerships	307,265	341,549
ANZ Remediation Funds	270,000	-
Indigenous Women's Program	29,517	-
Department of Justice – Disaster Recovery	151,744	-
Financial Counselling Services	54,014	133,042
Public Tenancy Support Service	27,546	-
Tenancy Advice & Education Services	50,128	-
	1,193,185	795,811

The unexpended grants detailed above arise on the basis of allocating expenses to the listed funding bodies at management's discretion. The excess of income received from a particular funding body plus the carried forward balance (from 2023), less the related expenses gives the figure for each in Note 10 above.

Due to the above the only items which will make up the final surplus / (deficit) shown in the Income Statement for the association are expenses left un-classified by management.

NOTE 11: BORROWINGS

Business Loan	47,821	41,376
	47,821	41,376

Westpac bank loan facility has the following securities pledged by Kimberley Community Legal Services Inc:

- Mortgage over the property at Lot 6 41 Carnavon Street Broome WA 3725

NOTE 12: MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL DISCLOSURES

Compensation

The aggregate compensation made to officers and other members of key management personnel of the incorporated association for 2024 is \$172,624 (2023: \$193,975).

NOTE 13: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Key management personnel

Disclosures relating to key management personnel are set out in note 12.

Transactions with related parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the current and previous financial year.

Receivable from and payable to related parties

There were no trade receivables from or trade payables to related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

Loans to/from related parties

There were no loans to or from related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

RESPONSIBLE PERSONS' DECLARATION

The Responsible Persons have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that these special purpose financial statements should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 of the financial statements.

The Responsible Persons of the Association declare that:

- A. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 4 to 12, are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*, including:
 - i. Giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - ii. Complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulation 2013*.
- B. In the Responsible Persons' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay 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 Regulation 2013*.



Committee Member

Amanda Whitehead



Committee Member

Caroline Constant

Dated this 15th day of October 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF KIMBERLEY COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES INCORPORATED

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

OPINION

We have audited the financial report of Kimberley Community Legal Services Incorporated (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification by the responsible persons' on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Kimberley Community Legal Services Incorporated has been prepared in accordance with Div. 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act), including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) that the financial records kept by the association are such as to enable financial statements to be prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Regulation 2013*.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act), which has been given to the members of Kimberley Community Legal Services Incorporated, would be in the same terms if given to the members as at the time of this auditor's report.

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

EMPHASIS OF MATTER

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter

Expense Classification

Kimberley Community Legal Services Incorporated receives funding from a number of funding bodies. As such, shared expenses on a number of occasions have been split and classified to different funding bodies' sub accounts. The split and classification of these expenses for the financial year has been based on allocations approved by board.

These shared expenses include a set fee charged by Kimberley Community Legal Services Incorporated for use of their assets being premises and motor vehicles. This set fee has been approved by the board.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

The committee is responsible for overseeing the association's financial reporting process.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

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

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

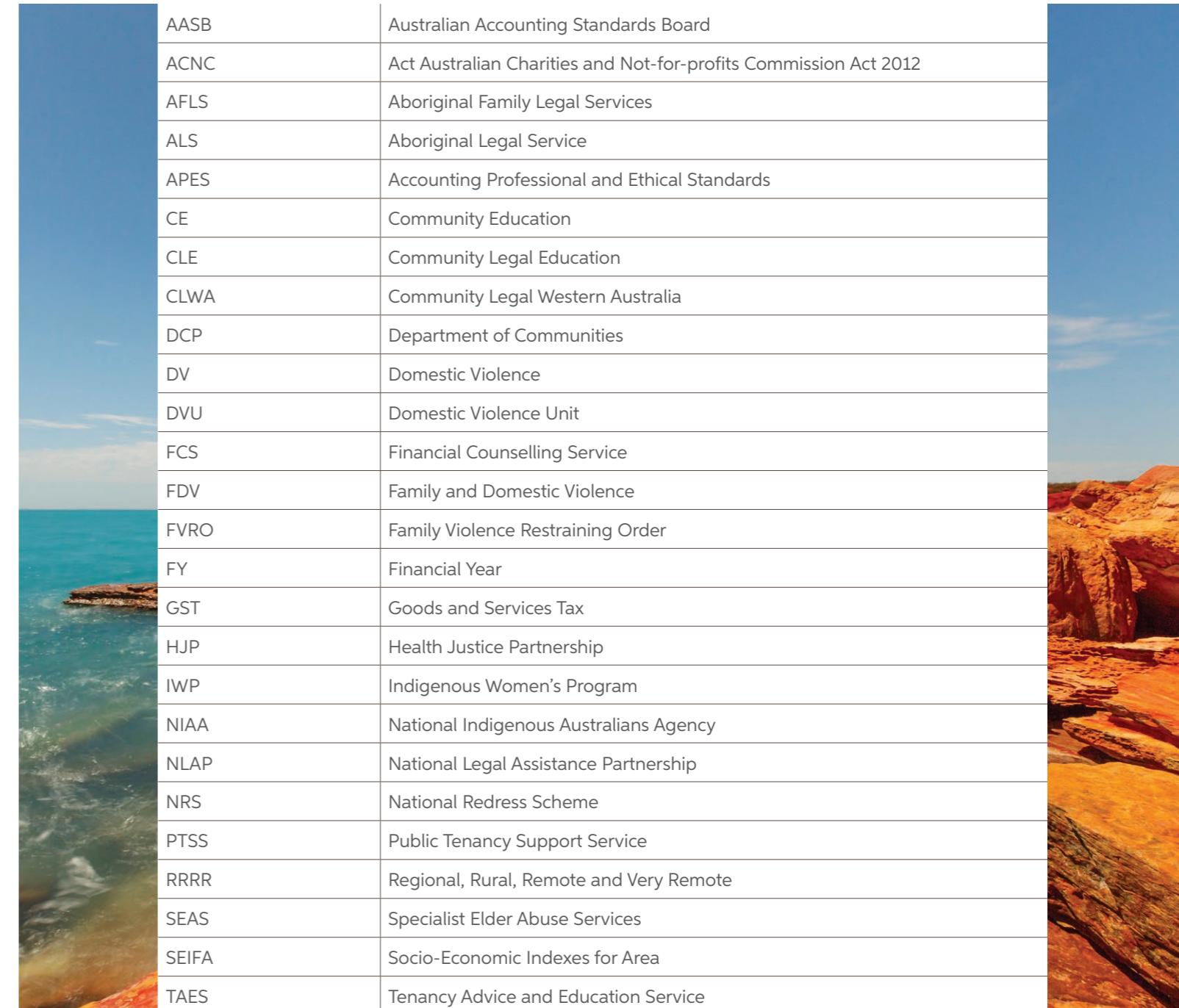
LBW Business & Wealth Advisors


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Sripathy Sarma
Principal

Dated this 15th day of October 2024

GLOSSARY



AASB	Australian Accounting Standards Board
ACNC	Act Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012
AFLS	Aboriginal Family Legal Services
ALS	Aboriginal Legal Service
APES	Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards
CE	Community Education
CLE	Community Legal Education
CLWA	Community Legal Western Australia
DCP	Department of Communities
DV	Domestic Violence
DVU	Domestic Violence Unit
FCS	Financial Counselling Service
FDV	Family and Domestic Violence
FVRO	Family Violence Restraining Order
FY	Financial Year
GST	Goods and Services Tax
HJP	Health Justice Partnership
IWP	Indigenous Women's Program
NIAA	National Indigenous Australians Agency
NLAP	National Legal Assistance Partnership
NRS	National Redress Scheme
PTSS	Public Tenancy Support Service
RRRR	Regional, Rural, Remote and Very Remote
SEAS	Specialist Elder Abuse Services
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Area
TAES	Tenancy Advice and Education Service



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