



**Aboriginal
Family** LEGAL
SERVICES

ICN 7333

Annual Report 2022-2023



Introduction



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Aboriginal Family Legal Services (WA) would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we work. We pay respect to elders past, present, and emerging and acknowledge the many people who act as custodians of the cultural heritage of those lands, which were taken and never ceded. We also would like to acknowledge all victims/survivors of family violence.

Indigenous disclaimer: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned that this report may contain images or mention of deceased people.

The names used in this report are not the real names of clients.

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The Artist

Lily Jatarr Long

Language: Ngarnijarra Warnman

Place of Birth: Jatarrngara

Skin: Milangka

Home: Irrungadji (Nullagine WA)



Jatarr is a Warnman woman and custodian of the Karlamilyi (Rudall River) region. She was born (in the late 1930's) at Jatarrngara, a water source located along the Karlamilyi River, and the site from which her name is derived. Jatarr is the sister of fellow Martumili Artists Wurta Amy French and Helen Dale Samson.

Lily's father was a drover who attempted, unsuccessfully, to take Jatarr's mother back to the Kimberley region.

Jatarr grew up with her family in the area surrounding Tiwa (Canning Stock Route Well 26), a water source located east of Parngurr Aboriginal Community just west of a culturally significant group of hills called Partujarrapirri. Her family returned to the Karlamilyi region for a time, moving between camps located along the Karlamilyi River and up to the large salt lake, Nyayartakujarra (Lake Dora).

In the late 1940's her family left Karlamilyi and travelled on foot for more than 200 kilometres to Jigalong Mission, where a supply of rationed food and water was assured. There they were reunited with family members who had already moved there from the desert.

At Jigalong, Jatarr lived in a dormitory with her two sisters and went to school. Later, she worked as a cook on various pastoral stations in the Pilbara and mined for tin and other minerals with a yandy (dish used for winnowing seed). Eventually, Jatarr relocated to Irrungadji Aboriginal community, just outside of Nullagine, where she continues to live with her sister Wurta, her children and grandchildren.

Jatarr paints individually and collaboratively, primarily depicting ngurra (home Country, camp) in Karlamilyi; its animals, plants, waterholes and associated Jukurrpa (Dreaming) stories. Jatarr uses her artwork as a means of transferring cultural knowledge to her children and grandchildren, and as a political platform, protecting her Country from mining and other disruptions.

Jatarr is known for her gorgeous pastel palettes and dreamy landscapes, blending aerial and frontal perspectives. She has exhibited extensively since the inception of Martumili Artists in 2006 in galleries throughout Australia, in Singapore and the USA.

Corporate Profile

About Us

The Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation, trading as the Aboriginal Family Legal Service (WA), "AFLS", provides specialist legal assistance, non-legal support and community education to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Western Australia who have been affected by family and sexual violence.

GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

AFLS is primarily funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and registered under the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations. AFLS services are delivered in seven regions across Western Australia, covering the East and West Kimberley, Gascoyne, Midwest, Goldfields, Pilbara, and Perth metropolitan area. Offices are in Djungan-Yawuru (Broome), Miriwoong Gajerrong (Kununurra), Gwoonwardu (Carnarvon), Yamatji (Geraldton), Karlkurla (Kalgoorlie), Kariyarra (Port Hedland), and Boorloo (Perth), from which outreach services are delivered to over 30 remote townships and Aboriginal communities. The corporate office is in the Perth metropolitan area and is responsible for overall coordination and financial management of the various operations of the corporation. Metropolitan legal and non legal services are also provided from this office.

AFLS operates under governance principles outlined in its Rule Book and policies, as well as a statement of professional ethics and conduct. The organisation's commitment to ethical conduct applies to the Board of Directors, employees and volunteer staff.

We encourage all Aboriginal people concerned about family violence to become a member of AFLS. Our membership base is statewide. To become a member, you need to be at least 18 years of age, be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, reside normally and permanently in the State of Western Australia and have no conviction for any offence in the last five years that involved any act of violence. Application forms are available from any of our offices, or on our website.

POLICY AND COMPLIANCE

National Accreditation Scheme for Community Legal Centres

As a condition of our funding arrangement AFLS is audited under the National Accreditation Scheme administered by Community Legal Centres Australia (CLCA). We have maintained our accreditation status, providing support and recognition of good practice in the delivery of our legal and client services. Accreditation includes governance, financial accountability and human resource management.

PHILOSOPHY OF SERVICE

AFLS strive to address family and sexual violence through:

- » Acting swiftly and with compassion to ensure our services are as effective as possible.
- » Providing a supportive and trusted environment for people to access our services.
- » Creating a service that is accessible to all who are in need.
- » Recognising the importance of kinship to our wellbeing.
- » Celebrating Aboriginal culture, history, and diversity in all services.
- » Providing social and emotional wellbeing support where possible; and
- » Evaluating and acting on feedback to improve our services.

AFLS Strategic Plan 2021-23

Aboriginal Family Legal Services' Strategic Plan 2021-2023 builds on previous plans in the context of ongoing legislative, operational and policy changes to the delivery of family, domestic and sexual violence services in Western Australia. It also reflects our commitment to the consolidation of our organisational structures, policies, and capability. The Strategic Plan serves to provide a clear and shared foundation for the delivery of our services, in a manner consistent with the expectations of our clients, partners and the communities in regional and metropolitan Western Australia.

Our vision

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are safe and free of family and domestic violence and sexual assault and are empowered to self-determine improved life outcomes.

Our purpose

To provide family and sexual violence legal assistance and prevention services which meet the needs of regional communities in Western Australia.

Our Organisational Values

Cultural Security

Aboriginal cultural values are recognised and respected.

Respect

Everyone is treated fairly and equitably.

Agility

Responsive to the needs of our clients and partners.

Courageous Leadership

Resilient and collaborative advocates for justice.

Collaboration

Work together in close partnership with clients, community, and other services.

Integrity

Acting with honesty, transparency, and accountability at all times.



Our Capability

Governance

- » Strong Board with diverse skills
- » Strong organisational performance
- » Secure funding base
- » Reach targets and achieve outcomes
- » Commitment to evaluation and improvement

Workforce

- » Streamlined management and operational structure
- » Supportive workplace
- » Having the right people and retaining them
- » Trauma informed
- » Robust policies and systems

Engagement

- » Good communication
- » Authentic community engagement
- » Strong membership base
- » Strong stakeholder collaboration

Service Delivery

- » Culturally safe and secure
- » Holistic approach
- » Outcomes focused
- » Innovative and responsive
- » Legal assistance, case management and community legal education

Our Strategic Priorities

1. Strengthen our organisational capability and accountability.

- » Review our Organisational Structure
- » Establish client-centered governance systems and service delivery models
- » Consolidate and grow our regional service delivery capability and capacity
- » Develop clear indicators to measure strategic priorities

2. Safety for survivors of family violence and sexual assault

- » Provide safety options, services, and future planning for clients
- » Support client access to services to meet client needs
- » Assist clients to feel safer in their environments

3. Access to justice for survivors of family violence and sexual assault

- » Assist client access and navigation through the legal system
- » Ensure clients have an understanding and participate in their legal process
- » Provide community legal education to increase community understanding of family violence

4. Social and emotional wellbeing and resilience for families

- » Assist clients with accessing support services
- » Work with clients to build on their resilience and self-esteem
- » Work with clients and families so they understand their options to make decisions for their own wellbeing

5. Restitution for survivors and families

- » Support and advocate for clients throughout their legal process
- » Provide assistance with compensation matters
- » Assist families to reunite

Year at a glance

860

clients

3443

total services

583

new clients

435

legal advices

506

non-legal support services

1635

referrals

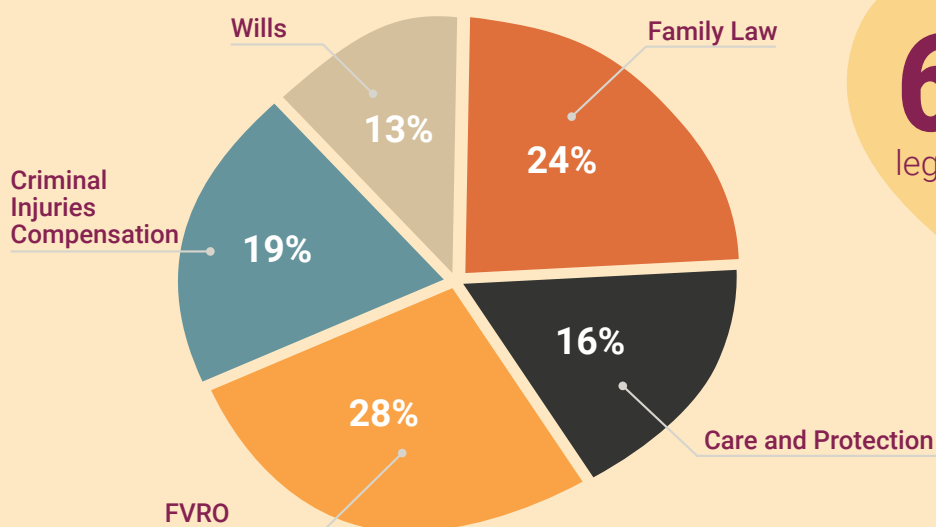
275

information activities

163

community legal and community education sessions

Legal services



621

legal representations

Events throughout the year

Ochre Ribbon Campaign



We commemorated our 9th year of the Ochre Ribbon Campaign this year. Ochre Ribbon is an AFLS initiative that runs from 12 – 19 February; the initiative highlights the need to stop violence against men, women, and children within communities.

The campaign aims to strengthen our resilience to stand up against family and domestic violence particularly among Aboriginal people and communities.

This campaign was commemorated and promoted across all our offices, from morning tea to events out in the community spreading our message.



Mother's Day

On Friday 14th April, AFLS Yamatji Country (Geraldton) staff distributed gift bags to mums in the area, with something sweet added to each bag, thanks to GIVIT Australia.



'Say NO to Family Violence' walk.

On Wednesday, 10th May, the team from AFLS Kariyarra Country (Hedland) were involved in the 'Say NO to Family Violence' walk.

There was a great turnout of many of our local community members, service organisations, businesses, and mining companies.

AFLS has been a part of the Hedland Family Violence Action Group (HFVAG) for many years and is looking forward to continuing working with the excellent organisations in the Pilbara to prevent Family Violence.

Events throughout the year

Reconciliation Week

Across our AFLS offices, we held and attended many events for Reconciliation Week.

Our team in Djungan-Yawuru Country (Broome) attended three Reconciliation Week Fun Days and Service Expo events.

These events were organized by the KRCI Youth Engagement Team and Community Navigators on the Dampier Peninsula; all three events were highly successful.

The Department of Justice and members of the Justice & Community Network in Yamatji Country (Geraldton) ran a National Reconciliation Week event which AFLS attended; the turnout was incredible, and the photos are truly inspiring.



Law Week

Law week ran from Monday 15th to Friday 19th May, highlighting the vital role the profession plays and the importance of access to justice, inclusion, and community service for clients.

Our Managing Solicitor, Naomi Brown, from our Djungan – Yawuru Country (Broome) office delivered a presentation for the Year 11 Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) class at Broome SHS.

Naomi discussed healthy relationships, cyberbullying, young people and the law, the difference between civil and criminal law and the type of work AFLS does.

This is the second year our team has presented for the year 11 HASS students and the team looks forward to hopefully being back next year.



NAIDOC Week

AFLS celebrated this year's NAIDOC week 'For Our Elders' with several events around Perth and the regions. From lunch and entertainment out in the community to painting, smoking ceremonies, delicious food, and fun activities; all whilst spreading amazing stories and messages about Aboriginal culture. AFLS closed all offices on Friday 7th July to attend NAIDOC events near and far and share our experiences and photos with the team the following Monday.




Homelessness Day

AFLS Djugan – Yawuru Country (Broome) and Centacare Kimberley held an event for Homelessness Day.

AFLS came together with local service providers to raise awareness about family violence, show our support for people who are homeless or living rough, and let people in the community know about all the services that can support them.

Different services had information stalls and activity stations such as bead making, a barber, pamper station for women, a photo booth and many more.



Corina Martin
Chief Executive Officer

Our regional offices continue to work hard to provide services to clients in regional, remote, and really remote communities, to ensure they have the assistance they require to navigate challenging areas of law."

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Once again, the year seems to be going so quickly.

In July 2022 we commenced providing legal services to clients in the Perth Metropolitan area, which means AFLS now provides services to Aboriginal people in seven regions across Western Australia. Covering the East and West Kimberley, Gascoyne, Midwest, Pilbara, Goldfields, and Perth Metro, this represents an estimated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of 72,961 across approximately 1,978,622 square kilometres.

At the same time, we commenced providing services in the Perth Metropolitan area, we also became a Redress Support Service. Our Redress team now provides support to Aboriginal people in the Perth Metro and Midwest Gascoyne regions who were victims of historical institutionalised child sexual abuse. This has been an important expansion to our service model which is critical to enabling Aboriginal people's access to justice.

We have had no increase to our core recurrent funding from the Commonwealth, despite inflation rising and significant increases to the cost of living, rent, insurance and superannuation. We have had difficulties employing staff in regional offices, where the lack of accommodation and high cost of living are impacting the willingness of people to move from the city. Government's continued ignorance of the equal importance of access to justice and safety as Native Title and health for Aboriginal people is frustrating, but we

nevertheless continue to make sure our services are available as far and wide as possible.

Our regional offices continue to work hard to provide services to clients in regional, remote, and really remote communities, to ensure they have the assistance they require to navigate challenging areas of law. We would like to expand our service delivery capacity with more regional staff and more programs, but without State Government investment in our service this will have to wait.

We met with the Federal Attorney General, the Hon. Mark Dreyfus KC MP, in early 2023 to discuss our transition to the National Legal Assistance Partnership in 2025. It was great to hear from Minister Dreyfus the importance of our service to Aboriginal communities across Western Australia and his recognition that Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations are best placed to deliver services to Aboriginal people. We will continue to advocate to Minister Dreyfus and his colleagues the demand for increased funding for AFLS to enable our service to support even more clients.

In the aftermath of the flooding in the Kimberley we worked alongside other local service providers to make sure that communities are safe, and their needs are met. Thank you to our Broome office for their huge effort to make sure that families displaced from Fitzroy Crossing and surrounding communities have access to food and accommodation.



I would like to thank our staff and Board of Directors for their dedication and commitment to the important work we do in protecting and improving the quality of life of our clients and communities.”

We were grateful to work hard with the Waalitj Foundation to secure funding from the Indigenous Land and Sea Council (ILSC) to purchase the AFLS Corporate Office in Boorloo (Perth). We now have settlement and would like to thank all involved, particularly Darryl from ILSC, who believed in our service and want us to have the stability we require to succeed in providing professional legal assistance and support to Aboriginal people throughout Western Australia. We would also like to thank our team of pro bono lawyers from Gilbert and Tobin Law Firm, particularly Dalveen and Kane, for assisting us in securing the office. The pro bono team has done wonderful, hard work over the last few years to support AFLS.

We are excited that Lottery West has funded a mobile office that will permit AFLS solicitors and social workers in Boorloo to take AFLS services on the road to meet clients where it suits them. The mobile office will have a regular outreach schedule into suburban centres and hubs, meaning clients who may be restricted from travelling to the AFLS office due to transportation and financial issues will still be able to access AFLS services face to face.

In March I attended the National Community Legal Centres Conference with our Principal Legal Officers, which was an opportunity to network with other organisations to see how they

coped in the aftermath of COVID-19, how they navigated service delivery to isolated clients, and how they supported their communities as they experienced higher rates of mental illness. The learnings from that Conference inform how our service continues to be delivered after COVID.

The Australian Human Rights Commission held the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Summit in Canberra in May, which was the first time that Aboriginal women, young and old, from all over Australia came together to talk about their strengths, challenges, and aspirations for change. There was a youth forum held prior to the Summit and one of our younger staff members Zamaria from our Geraldton office attended. It was inspiring to see so many women come together to discuss matters affecting their communities, and how to address the racism that still exists in Australian society today.

As an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation, AFLS is supporting the Yes Campaign for the Voice to Parliament. Aboriginal people have been calling for self-determination, rather than symbolism, to make a real difference to their lives for decades. Constitutional recognition through a Voice will enable Aboriginal people to give advice to the Federal Government and Parliament about laws and policies that impact them, through a simplified policy making process and structural

change. We have worked closely with Aboriginal Interpreting WA over the last six months to translate key information about the Voice to Parliament into several Aboriginal languages, to ensure that our communities can make an informed decision in the referendum.

We partnered with the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Jacqueline McGowan Jones, to visit Balgo Aboriginal Community in the East Kimberley and hold the Department of Communities to account for their child protection practices. A special thanks to our solicitor Tessa and Community Engagement Worker Nahshon who poured time and effort into visiting and working with the community to identify unmet legal and other needs. We look forward to providing more consistent services in Balgo.

I would like to thank our staff and Board of Directors for their dedication and commitment to the important work that we do in protecting and improving the quality of life of our clients and communities. I would also like to acknowledge our clients for their strength, resilience, and their commitment to not accepting family violence in their lives and to protecting themselves and their children. We thank you for the trust you give our staff and our service.

Please enjoy reading our 2022-23 Annual Report, which will give you a good look at the work we do and why our organisation is so important within the justice system and to protecting the rights and interests of Aboriginal people in Western Australia.



Corina Martin
Chief Executive Officer

Chairperson's Report



I would like to acknowledge and thank the Traditional Owners of the lands the AFLS provides service to throughout Western Australia.

For those who do not know me, my name is Rowena Puertollano and my tribal connection is Bardi people from the Dampier Peninsula and Idarr Buru from Yawuru/Djugan Country.

As the chairperson for the Aboriginal Family Legal Service Units within WA, Port Hedland, Kununurra, Geraldton, Broome, Kalgoorlie, Carnarvon along with the Corporate Service located in Perth, I would like to thank our members and your communities for allowing me to represent you on the AFLS WA Management Board.

2022-2023 has seen some changes, including the purchase of a new Corporate Office in Perth, one of our Professional Directors leaving the Board as well as some staff leaving, and I thank those for their contribution whilst on board with AFLS.

To the current Board of Directors, Ingrid Harvey representing Kununurra, David Puertollano Professional Director and William (Bill) Milroy, Metro Representative thank you for your time, support and guidance of the service and contribution as the AFLS Board and to the management team within AFLS. This includes attention to detail in the future of AFLS and its services.

To the staff in both Corporate Office and in the Regional Offices, from the CEO level to all the dedicated staff in the regions I thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring AFLS provides the highest quality legal and non-legal services to clients, along with a model of integrated, culturally and trauma informed service delivery. It is a unique and essential service, ensuring all the needs of clients are met, and I thank you all for your continued hard work to support the operational and strategic functions of the organisation over the years and your continued support to the many clients, this has not gone unrecognised.

I am grateful to have sat in this role for the past year, and I am proud of everything we as a team have achieved. However the biggest achievement in the future of AFLS is to see representatives from the Regional locations come on Board throughout 2023/2024 to support the growth of the service delivery within a legal context.

If future funding is distributed appropriately, AFLS should receive more funding that will enable the organisation to grow its service

capacity, and address unmet need for legal support in responding to family violence across regional Western Australia, but it is something we must continue to rally for.

You will be provided through the CEO Report, details on any further wonderful outcomes within AFLS including the achievements the CEO has achieved from her hard work and support of staff and the Board.

Finally, the critical hard work of AFLS in supporting Aboriginal communities to address family and domestic violence and ensuring families are safe and working within the sector through driving for complete and critical change, will hopefully be supported further through additional funding and Board representation. In capturing the voices of Aboriginal people and communities they must not only be heard, but supported through action within their communities and by meeting needs in a culturally appropriate manner.

Thank you all and keep safe for the rest of 2023 and onwards from 2024.

Rowena Puertollano
Chairperson

AFLS Board of Directors

Rowena Puertollano
Chairperson

William Milroy
Member Director

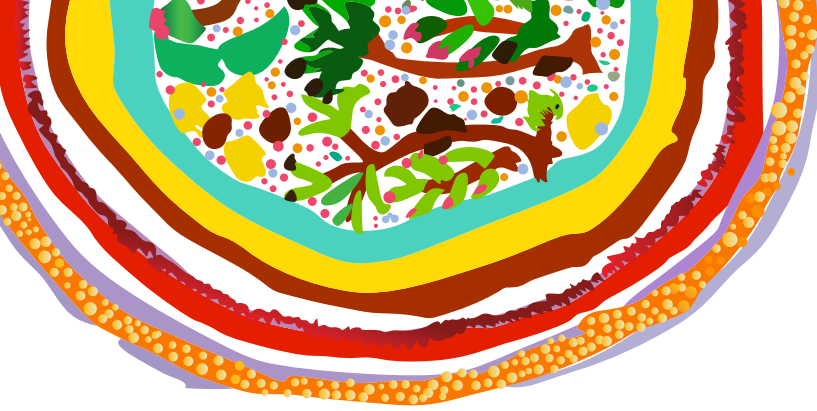
Ingrid Harvey
Deputy Chairperson

Fabian Yarran
Member Director

Victoria Hovane
Member Director

Les O'Neill
Professional Director

David Puertollano
Professional Director



Principal Legal Officer's Report

It was an incredibly busy year again for the AFLS legal team.

We provided 417 court representations, 263 legal advices, over 1143 information and referral services, and 157 community legal education sessions. We continue to be leaders in the provision of legal services for Aboriginal families experiencing family and domestic violence, with Family Violence Restraining Orders being the largest area of legal services in our work for 2022-23.

STAFFING

The recruitment and retention of staff in remote locations has continued to be a challenge, owing to the high cost of living and accommodation. This has left vacant solicitor positions in nearly all of our regional offices. We also have to compete with private enterprise and government agencies who are able to offer better housing and conditions for staff. Nevertheless, the staff we have retained are highly dedicated and work extremely hard to deliver the best possible legal services for our clients.

We will continue to advocate for increases to our core recurrent funding and improved pay parity across the legal assistance sector to ensure we can adequately remunerate and support our staff to deliver high quality legal assistance.

ADVOCACY

We have had some significant successes with Criminal Injuries.

Despite challenges, we have achieved good outcomes in all our areas of service. Notably, we have assisted several clients to apply for Criminal Injuries Compensation as "secondary victims" where they have suffered injury or trauma as a result of witnessing or being significantly impacted by serious offences committed against close relatives.

The number of children in foster care as a result of protection and care applications by the WA Department of Communities remains unacceptably high, and we continue to raise awareness in this regard and to advocate for positive change. We have made some progress through improved relations with the Department of Communities and an agreed Memorandum of Understanding in relation to communications with the Department. In addition, our Family Advocates work closely with lawyers to deal directly with the Department in areas where it may not be appropriate for lawyers to do so.

This is a good example of how our integrated service model can enhance

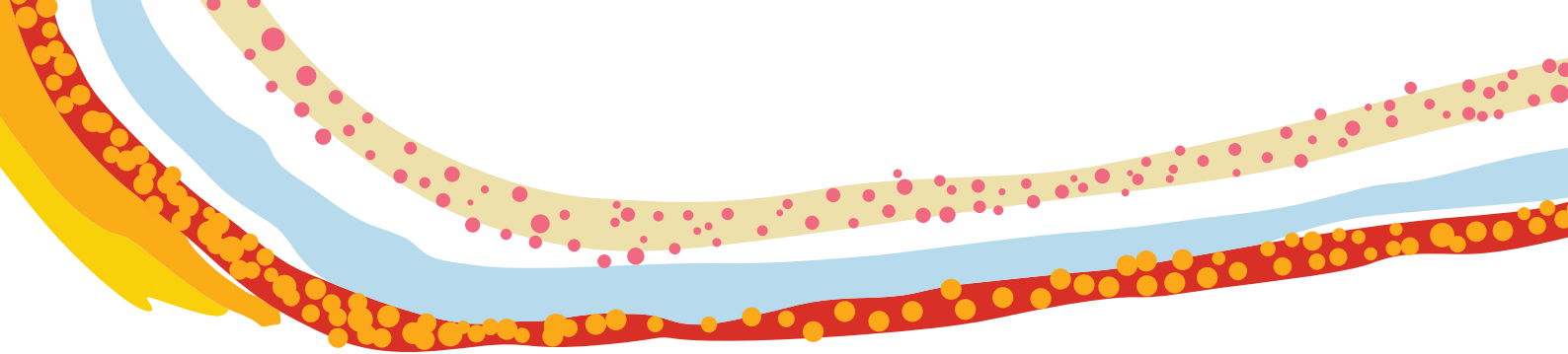
assistance to clients and legal outcomes, through practical supports in such areas as housing, medical needs, counselling and transport.

We continue to work on achieving consistency within the Magistrates Courts, in areas such as the acceptance of electronic affidavits where clients in isolated locations and communities may be unable to attend court in person due to remoteness, lack of transport, hospitalisation or lack of access to the internet. AFLS continues to participate in Court users meetings wherever possible to advocate for our clients' needs in their particular circumstances.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There has been strong community engagement throughout the regions, with delivery of Community Legal Education in a number of relevant topics. The Fitzroy valley was severely affected by floods this year with this and destruction of the Fitzroy River Bridge, resulting in the displacement of Fitzroy people to Derby, Broome and

We have had significant success with Criminal Injuries Compensation this year, in particular with applications for compensation of secondary victims."



other areas of the Kimberley region. The Broome office stepped up to provide as much assistance as they could, Broome staff assembled packs of food, clothes and children's supplies for affected families. AFLS then coordinated a donation drive across the state, with AFLS offices allocated as drop off points for food and other goods to be sent to the West Kimberley. Broome staff also helped to staff the Broome Flood Hub by providing advice and referral to other first responding agencies, to ensure clients' legal and other needs were met.

In Kununurra, AFLS legal and social staff partnered to develop and deliver a weekly Legal Eagle radio program, raising awareness and educating the community about family and domestic violence and its impacts.

Across the state, AFLS offices commemorated Ochre Ribbon week in February and NAIDOC week in June and July. Staff hosted and attended several community and stakeholder events, demonstrating the commitment of our organisation to the safety of Aboriginal families in Western Australia. Kalgoorlie AFLS coordinated a march of community members and agency representatives through the main street, uniting the local community in taking a stand against family and domestic violence.

NAIDOC highlights included a family fun day in Carnarvon, native food and smoking ceremony with WAPOL and other Aboriginal Organisations in Hedland, and an Elders Luncheon in Kalgoorlie.

There has been strong community engagement and community legal education throughout the regions."

PRINCIPAL LEGAL OFFICE ROLE

We were sad to see two of our Principal Legal Officers leave this year. Dan Gibbard left the Perth office for a position at Legal Aid and Neil Hofmeyr left our Geraldton office after 9 years to start his own practice. We wish them both well.

The CEO temporarily stepped into the PLO role for Perth, Geraldton, Carnarvon and Kalgoorlie, with Carrie Hannington then taking on the Acting PLO position for these locations outside of her normal role of Regional Services Manager. I remain the PLO for Hedland, Broome and Kununurra.

I would like to acknowledge the skill and dedication of all AFLS lawyers and support staff across our organisation and their continued hard work throughout the year. I look forward to seeing what we achieve in the next year.



Ted Wilkinson
Principal Legal Officer





Family Advocate Program Report

The AFLS Family Advocate Services continue to grow, with client and service numbers considerably elevated from the previous year in every region, doubling in several cases.

Recognising that victims of family violence experience a range of interlocking and complex issues and that the law alone cannot address these, AFLS this year continued development of our integrated service delivery model whereby lawyers, Family Advocates and Community Engagement Workers (CEWs) operate in close collaboration to provide holistic and culturally safe services to our clients.

In June 2022 AFLS received news that funding from both Commonwealth and Western Australian Governments would continue until 2024. In our Kalgoorlie and Geraldton offices, funding thus continuing under the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women 2010-2022. The program has capacity to provide ongoing support to 8-12 clients for up to at least six months, and often longer.

AFLS also continued to receive COVID-19 Legal Assistance funding from the WA Department of Justice for Family Advocates to aid and outreach support in Carnarvon and Broome, with a dedicated lawyer also providing services to Carnarvon until May 2023 when both Carnarvon services concluded.

Family Advocates employed by Southern Aboriginal Corporation (SAC) and funded by the WA Department of Justice commenced operations in our

new Perth Metro office where the same holistic approach is utilised. We thank SAC for your support with the metro program.

Family Advocates are skilled, qualified workers who apply a trauma-informed, client-driven, and strength-based approach. As well as providing home visits, court support, advocacy, and assisting clients to attend meetings with the WA Department of Child Protection, Housing, and other agencies, advocates work in close collaboration with lawyers to help ensure clients approach their legal matters with a positive mindset and manner most conducive to achieving successful outcomes. This in turn empowers clients to respond to the challenges they face.

Through a Multi-Agency Case Management model, Family Advocates also refer clients to other support services, further coordinating work with those agencies to increase the scope of integrated service delivery.

Experienced Senior Social Worker (SSW) Natasha Moore was engaged in July 2022 to supervise Family Advocates in all regions and ensure their compliance with professional standards. Natasha also provides expert guidance and support in client care management and safety planning. A big thanks to Natasha for her dedication and expertise in this role.

The SSW appointment followed the engagement of a Regional Services Manager (Carrie Hannington) who oversees integrated service delivery in all regions, conducting regular meetings and liaison to ensure consistency and collaboration between all AFLS offices. Carrie has been supported in this role by Helen Liedel to assist with reporting and outcomes assessment. We thank both Carrie and Helen in this regard.

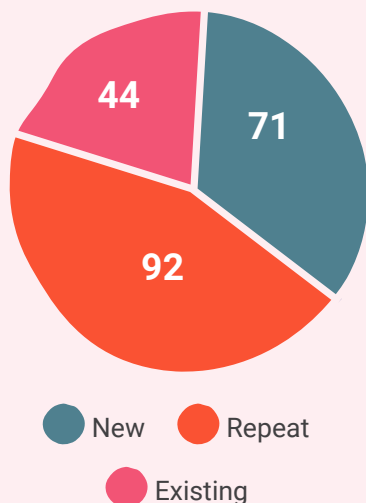
Over the year, 158 clients received support from Aboriginal Family Advocates across the service. Of those clients who gave feedback on their experience with AFLS, all were satisfied with the support provided by Family Advocates and reported a beneficial increase in safety and in understanding of their legal rights.

Despite there being some staff turnover and absences due to illness, a consistent service was maintained over the year in all regions. We would like to thank all our dedicated Family Advocates who have worked tirelessly during the year to improve the safety and wellbeing of clients – Lisa Abdullah, Ann Ellison, Jacqueline Law, Sheliah Radovanic, Kendall Roe, Jessica Wulfse, Mia Simmons, K'Lissa Roe and Lisa Street.

We acknowledge and thank both the National Indigenous Agency and the WA Department of Justice for their support to our clients and services.

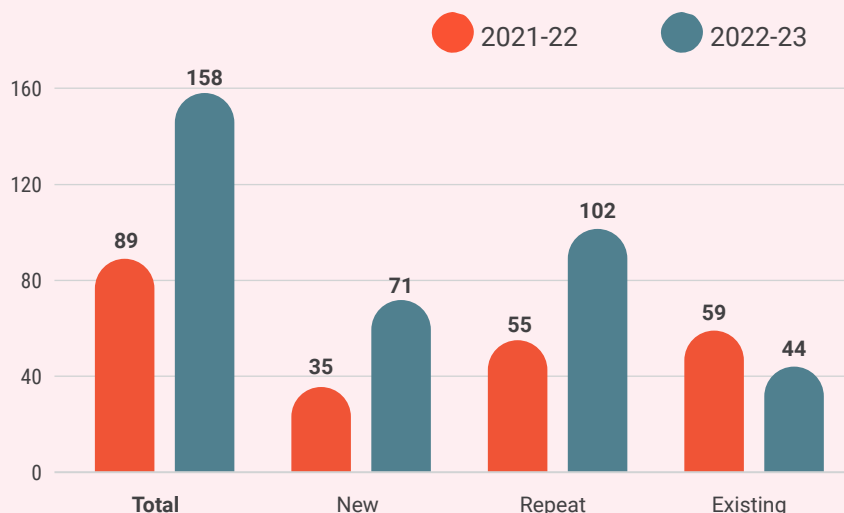
A person given sound social supports can make the right decisions about legal choices and be safer. With their case managed holistically, they can get the practical support that will make those decisions work for themselves and their families.

Total client numbers



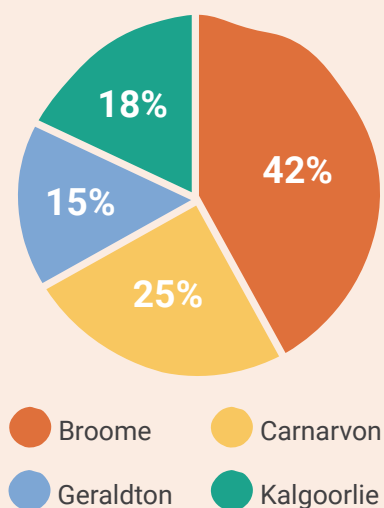
Comparison

COVID + TAP FUNDED PROGRAMS



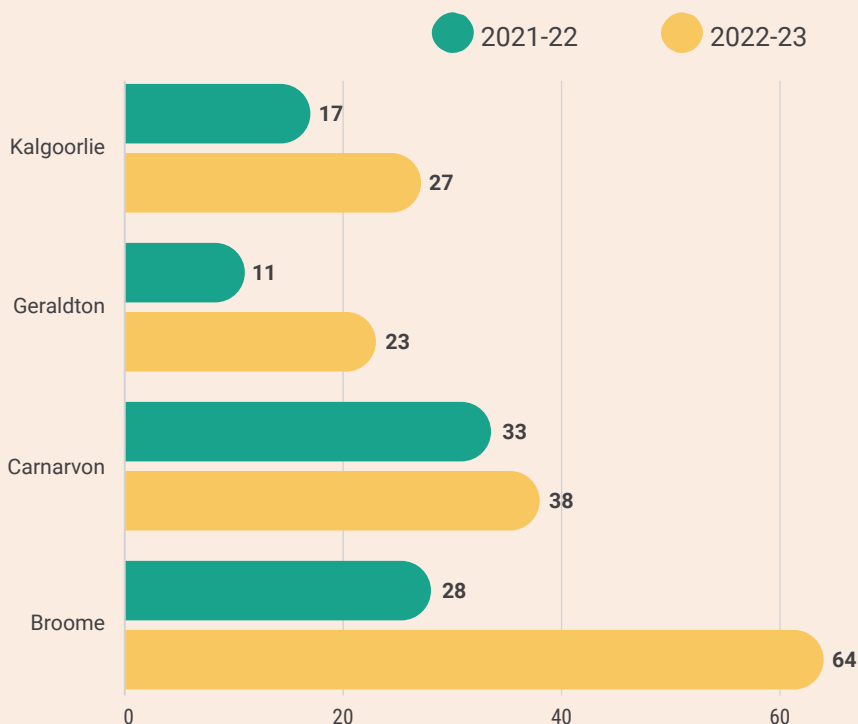
Services by Region

2022-23



Comparison

Regional (TAP & COVID) numbers years



Legal assistance allows a person to know about their legal rights, responsibilities, limitations and the pathway through the justice system. With a voice and guide in that pathway they are thus empowered to make informed decisions and take appropriate actions.



Corporate Office Report

The Corporate Office plays a crucial role in supporting the organisation's strategic and operational efficiency, expansion, and commitment to delivering services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Western Australia.

The Chief Executive Officer is located in the Corporate office together with finance, human resources, IT, policy, governance, media and administration staff who work diligently to ensure the operational efficiency of AFLS and to provide support for staff in the seven regions we serve. Corporate office created three new positions during this financial year, we welcomed a Social Media Officer to enhance AFLS social media presence, Funding and Partnership Officer to assist with sourcing private sector funding and a Deputy CEO to take leadership of the operational functions of the organisation under CEO management.

In the past year, the Corporate Office successfully relocated to its new premises at 113 Orrong Road, Rivervale. This move was a strategic decision aimed at accommodating the growing

needs of the organisation and enhancing collaboration among team members.

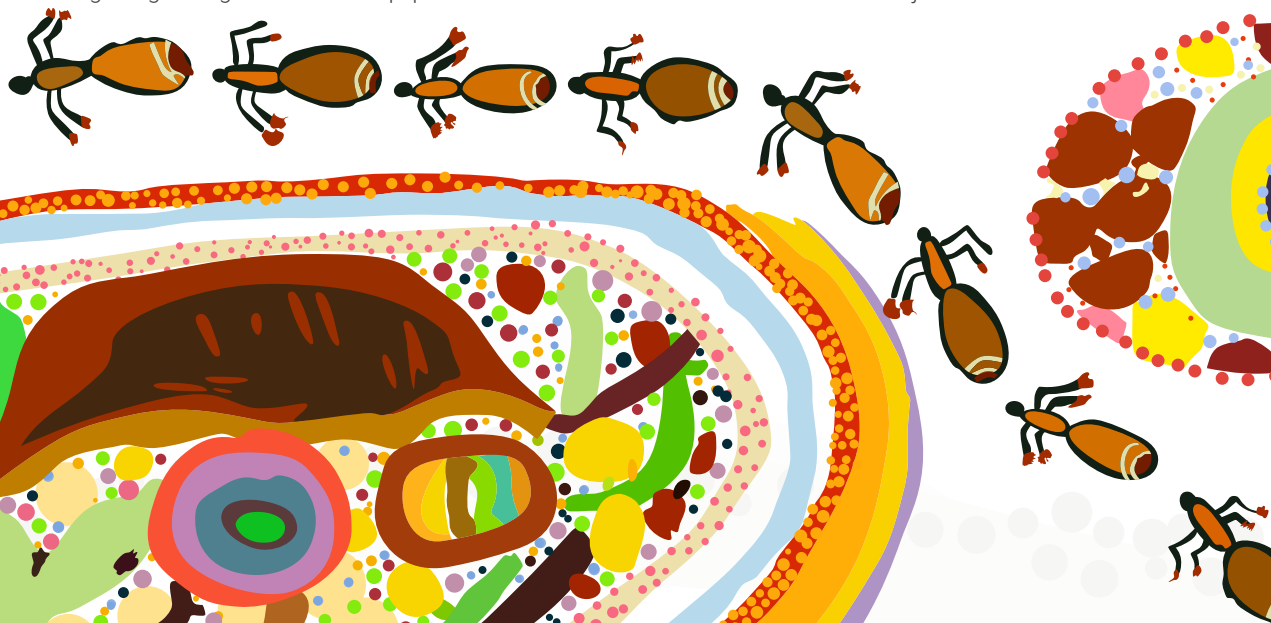
The expansion of the Perth metro Family Violence Prevention Legal Service program in partnership with Southern Aboriginal Corporation (SAC) marked a significant achievement, allowing AFLS to extend its services to more Perth Metropolitan and outlying communities from 1 July 2022.

AFLS demonstrated its dedication to continuous improvement by securing a grant from The National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. This grant enabled staff members, including Community Engagement Workers (CEWs), Family Advocates (FAs), and solicitors, to complete the Love Bites Respectful Relationships training program. This initiative equips staff with the skills

to promote respectful relationships among young people in high schools and fosters positive change within communities.

The past year has been marked by notable achievements, challenges, and continued dedication to serving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Western Australia. The Corporate Office's efforts, including office relocation, service expansion, professional development, and advocacy, demonstrate AFLS's commitment to providing holistic support and improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals.

As AFLS moves forward, we are steadfast in our mission to effect positive change, empower communities, and advance social justice.





Stakeholder Acknowledgement

Aboriginal Family Legal Services would like to thank the following agencies and organisations for their support and assistance during the year.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT

- » Australian Human Rights Commission
- » Australian Law Reform Commission
- » Department of the Attorney General
- » Department of Social Services
- » National Indigenous Australians Agency
- » Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

- » The Department of Communities (WA)
- » The Department of Justice (WA)
- » WA Alcohol and Drug Services
- » WA Police and FDV Response Teams

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- » Indigenous Land and Sea Council

WA ORGANISATIONS

- » Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing
- » Family Inclusion Network of WA
- » Lottery West
- » Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre
- » Marnja Jarndu Women's Refuge
- » Ngangk Yira Institute for Change, Murdoch University
- » Noongar Council
- » Oranges & Sardines Foundation
- » Parenting WA
- » RUAH
- » Sexual Assault Referral Centre
- » Victim Support Service
- » WA Stolen Generations

- » Waalitj Business and Employment Hub
- » Women's Legal Service WA
- » Yorgum Healing Services
- » All Aboriginal Organisations and Governing Bodies of Aboriginal Communities that assist and support AFLS on those communities

Our thanks also to the Judiciary and Support Staff of the Family Court of WA, Magistrates and Children's Courts of WA.

A special thank you to our collegiate legal service providers throughout WA:

- » Aboriginal Legal Services WA
- » Law Access
- » Legal Aid WA
- » Gilbert & Tobin Lawyers
- » Regional and Specialist Community Legal Centres



Human Resources Report

as at 30 June 2023

Corporate Services - Perth

Chief Executive Officer	1
Deputy Chief Executive Officer	1
Finance and Assets Manager	1
Finance Assistance	1
Administrative Services Manager	1
Administration Officer	2
Office Manager	1
Human Resources Officers	2
Grants and Partnerships Officer	1
Data & Compliance Manager	1
Policy and Media	1
Social Media Officer	1
Internal Counsellor	1
Regional Services Manager	1
Senior Social Worker	1
Performance Analyst Officer	1
Admin Assistants	2

Legal Support - Perth

Managing Solicitor	2
Solicitors	2
Paralegal	1
Social Worker	2

Broome

Principal Legal Officer – Kimberley and Pilbara	1
Managing Solicitor	1
Family Advocates	2
Administration Support Officer	1
Office Manager	1

Carnarvon

Community Engagement Worker	1
Administration Officer	1
Solicitor	1

Geraldton

Managing Solicitor	1
Solicitors	1
Community Engagement Worker	1
Administration Support Officer	1
Office Manager	1

Kalgoorlie

Managing Solicitor	1
Family Advocate	1
Community Engagement Worker	1
Administration Support Officer	1

Kununurra

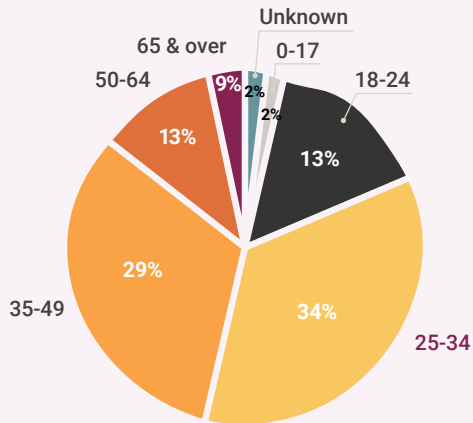
Solicitor	1
Programs Manager	1
Community Engagement Worker	1
Administration Support Officer	1

South Hedland

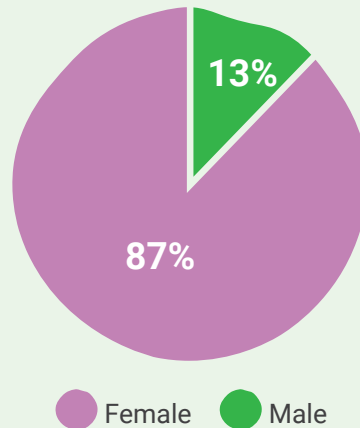
Solicitor	2
Community Engagement Worker	1
Administration Support Officer	1
Office Manager	1

Statistical Overview

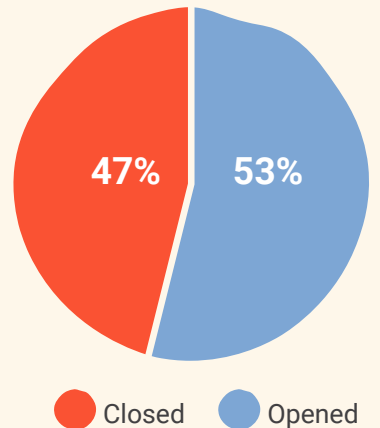
Client ages
2022-23



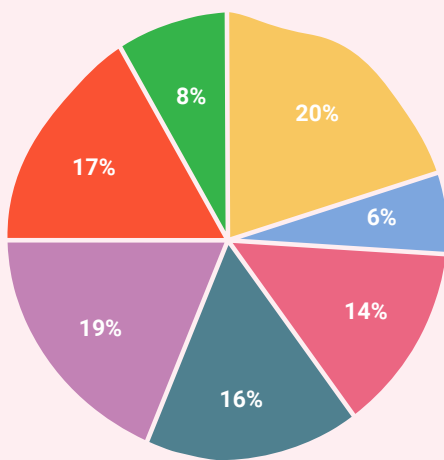
Clients by gender



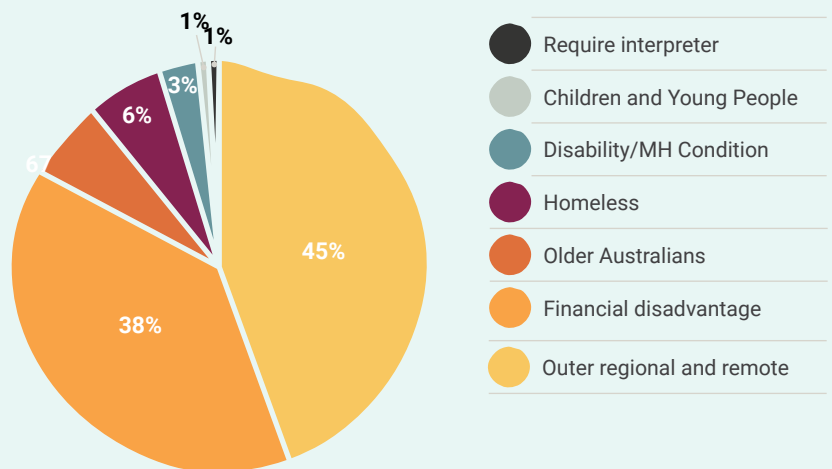
Court representations



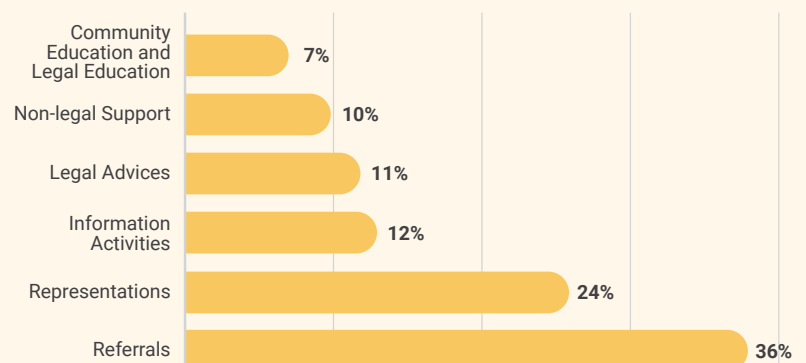
Clients by region



Disadvantage indicators

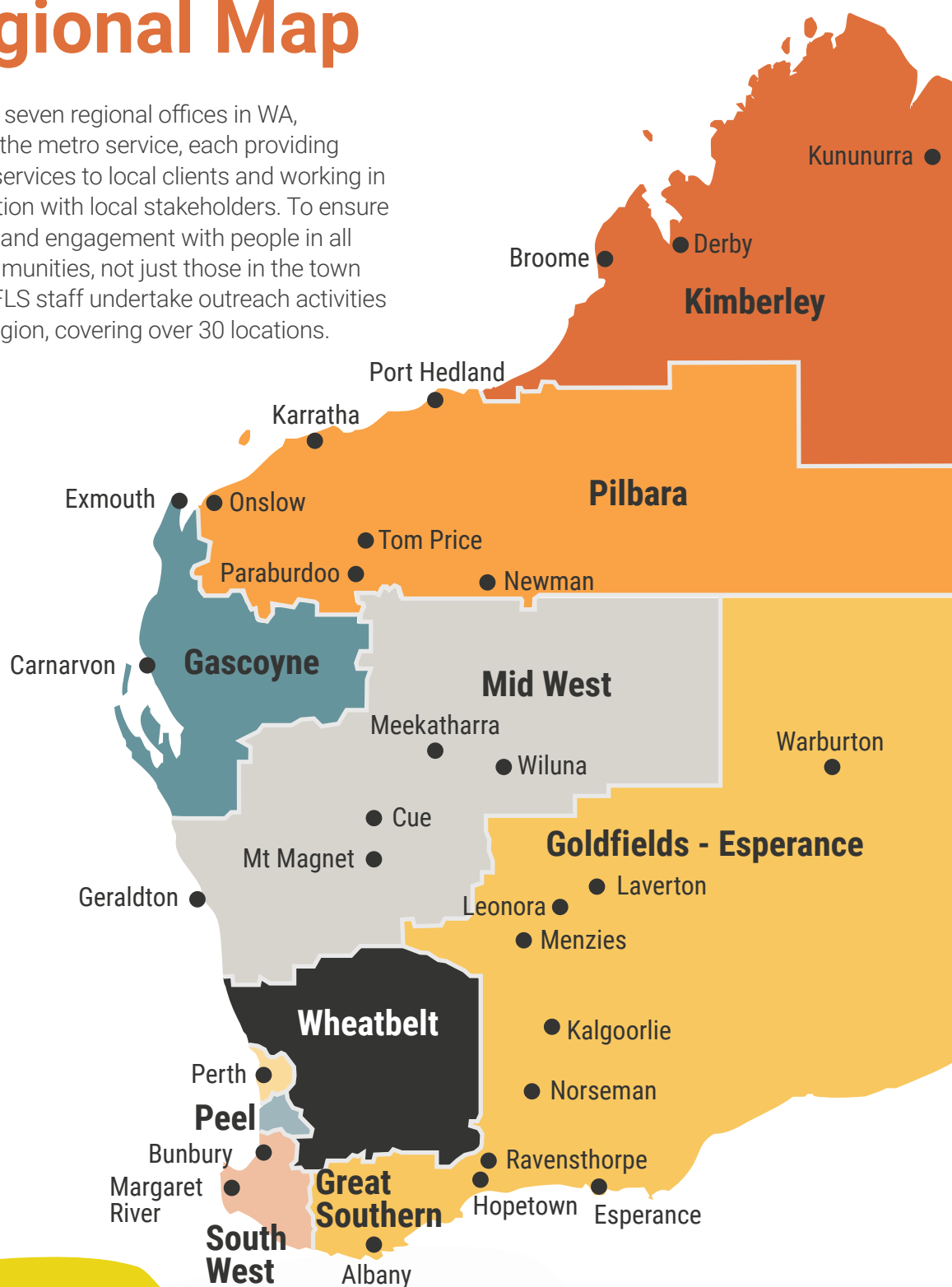


All services



Regional Map

AFLS has seven regional offices in WA, including the metro service, each providing frontline services to local clients and working in collaboration with local stakeholders. To ensure coverage and engagement with people in all local communities, not just those in the town centre, AFLS staff undertake outreach activities in each region, covering over 30 locations.





Staff Counselling Services

As a trauma-informed workplace, AFLS understands the importance of supporting its staff's social and emotional well-being.

In August 2021, AFLS employed an internal workplace counsellor. Since then, Renee has supported AFLS staff in all regions with confidential counselling support services for work-related stress and personal or family issues. She offers a range of therapeutic interventions such as solution-focused brief therapy, enneagram personality profile work, hypnotherapy, mindfulness psychotherapy, Dialectical Behavioural Therapy, and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy. This service aims to provide

staff with a culturally safe environment and a person-centred healing approach.

Furthermore, Renee also delivers in-house training programs for staff, which include e-safety training, CPI Verbal Intervention training and informed trauma training.

The e-safety training provided to staff was developed in relation to funding received by safety commission to raise awareness of Technology Facilitated Abuse within our regions, as an extension of Family Domestic Violence.

CPI Verbal Intervention training teaches staff to respond to crises using preventative verbal de-escalation skills that are non-restrictive, person-centred, and trauma informed.

Informed trauma training aims to enhance staff knowledge about trauma and its impacts. This training assists staff to be trauma-informed and person-centred in their approach to delivering legal and non-legal support and education services to the Aboriginal people in Western Australia.



Redress Report

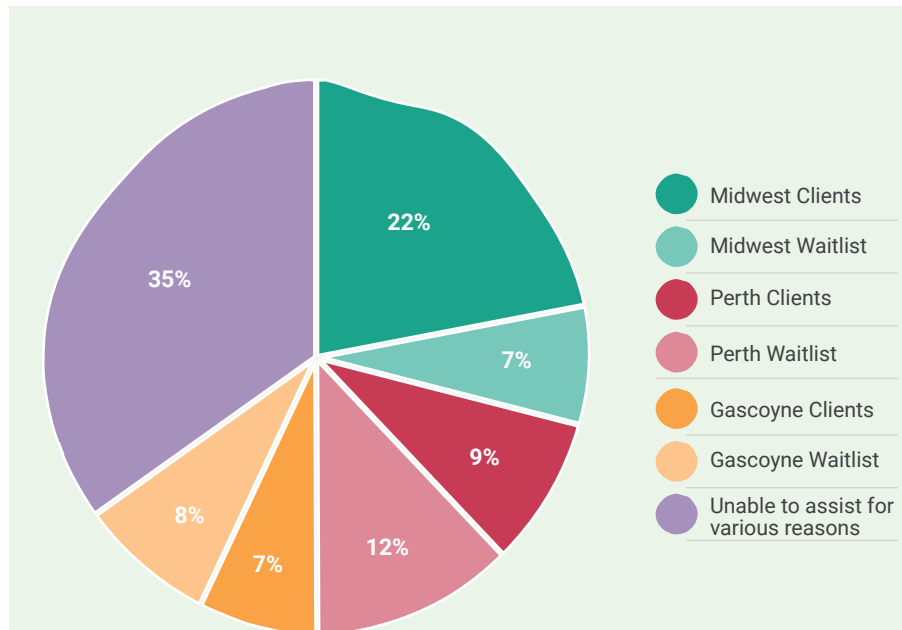
In July 22 AFLS was funded to provide Redress Support under the National Redress Scheme (NRS) to people who suffered institutional abuse within the Gascoyne, Midwest, and Metro regions.

The service is small and consists of 2 lawyers and 1 social worker. One of the lawyers travels to both Gascoyne region & Midwest region for two weeks each month, taking instructions from clients.

Since commencing the service, AFLS has lodged 22 applications with NRS, with approximately 48 open files and approximately 30 people on a waitlist.

Our Social Worker assists as much as possible with connecting clients to ongoing counselling services, however there is a lack of counselling services in all the regions – we have raised this issue with the NRS.

This service is seen to be growing as it is becoming known to communities.

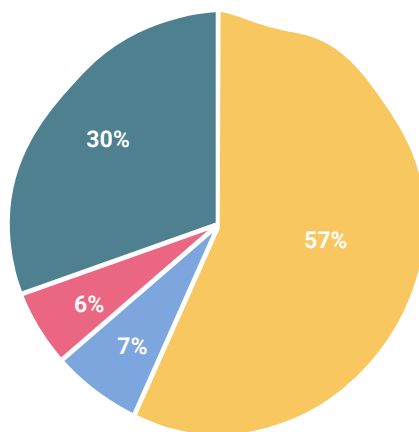




Kununurra Regional Office Report

WHERE WE WORK

The AFLS office is in Kununurra, and we provide services to Balgo, Wyndham, Halls Creek and Kalumburu.



New clients

- Family Violence Restraining Order
- Family Law
- Care and Protection
- Criminal Injuries Compensation

The financial year began with a need to recruit an admin manager, and this vacancy was filled by Beverly Ozanne.

Kununurra continues to experience challenges in attracting long term and senior staff, due to remoteness and cost of living. Nevertheless, we are fortunate to have had the dedication of restricted solicitor Tawanda Mukosi, who has worked in close collaboration with solicitors in the Broome and Hedland Office under the management of PLO Ted Wilkinson. We were also fortunate to have our admin officer vacancy filled at the beginning of the year by Beverly Ozanne.

By the beginning of the year, Covid-19 restrictions had been relaxed but organisations were still required to sanitize and perform a RAT test for staff members visiting communities. Strict conditions were still in place at the Hospital and Aged care facility where visitors were required to wear masks. We continue to be aware of the vulnerability of many of our clients. For the aged care facility, it remains a requirement that visitors need to have had a flu shot to consult with residents.

With only one solicitor, our capacity has been limited and we have not been able to take on new matters, but the sharing of the workload with Broome and Hedland offices and referrals to those offices has greatly assisted, especially with care and protection matters which can be conducted remotely.

Tawanda also took part in a Wills Clinic project that ran from the 12 -16 June in the East Kimberley, this had been postponed last year due to funding constraints and a lack of availability of pro bono lawyers.

Despite the constraints, staff training remained a priority, with a number of workshops and sessions attended. These included "Elephant in the Room: Trauma Based training" and the Legal Aid Summer Series

From January to July, outreach was limited to Wyndham and we did not visit Balgo, Halls Creek or Kalumburu. This was due to the Fitzroy Valley flooding as well as staff shortages. A 6-month outreach calendar has now been adopted from July to December and AFLS is committed to visiting these remote locations every 5 weeks. We plan on delivering CLE's at schools, Women's shelters, and stakeholder venues to raise awareness of our services.

This has the potential to empower victim-survivors of family violence through knowledge of legal and human rights, healthy relationships and safety planning.

Waringarri Radio Station donated their time and services to work with AFLS

in producing "Legal Eagles", a legal program that provides information to listeners about their legal rights and where they can go for legal assistance. AFLS focused primarily on the core services that we provide in Kununurra: Care and Protection matters, family law, CIC matters and FVRO's. All our programs can now be found on the Waringarri Radio Sound Cloud Account, with Listeners able to listen to recordings. Guest speakers from different organisations also discuss various topics centred around the services we provide.

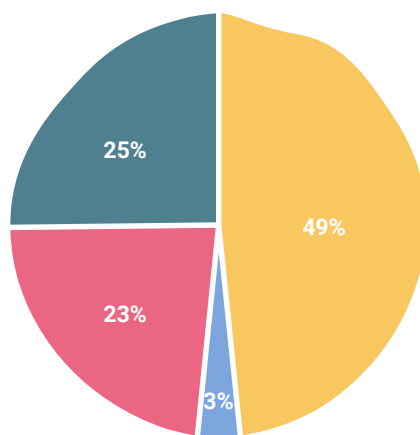
We do not have a Family Advocate in Kununurra, so our Community Engagement Workers provide much court support: attending matters with the clients, assisting with Family Violence Restraining Orders, and Care and Protection safety planning meetings. Given the often scarce resources in the East Kimberley, their knowledge of local people and organisations who can help is invaluable. All the Kununurra team are committed to operating holistically, utilising all available resources to support our clients in their legal matters.



WHERE WE WORK

The AFLS office is in Yawuru country in Broome. We provide services to clients in Broome, Derby, Pandanus Park, Mowanjum, Looma, Bidyadanga, Djarindjin, Beagle Bay, Lombadina and Ardyaloon (One Arm Point).

Broome Regional Office Report



New clients

- Family Violence Restraining Order
- Family Law
- Care and Protection
- Criminal Injuries Compensation

Throughout the staffing and community challenges in the region in the 2022-2023 year, the Broome office has continued to provide a highly responsive service to people affected by family and domestic violence in the West Kimberley, servicing nearly a quarter of all AFLS clients.

The year saw an expansion of agencies with which we have working relationships, and a consolidation of work with other services, to support our clients and the community.

Staffing has been a challenge for the Broome office for much of the year, with some solicitor and admin support officer vacancies for periods. With sound leadership from the Principal Legal Officer and Managing Solicitor, all Broome office staff have shown both commitment and resilience during this year in ensuring continuity of services and support to clients, and in maintaining an ongoing connection to communities.

During the commemoration of Ochre Ribbon in February 2023, a need was identified for services to reacquire themselves with the diversity of organisations, and their roles in working with people and families affected by FDV. In April 2023 the office organised a Broome Family and Domestic Violence Stakeholder Networking Event, attended by sixteen organizations and over 50 people. The event enjoyed presentations from 16 agencies,

including the Honorable Divina D'Anna MLA, member for the Kimberley.

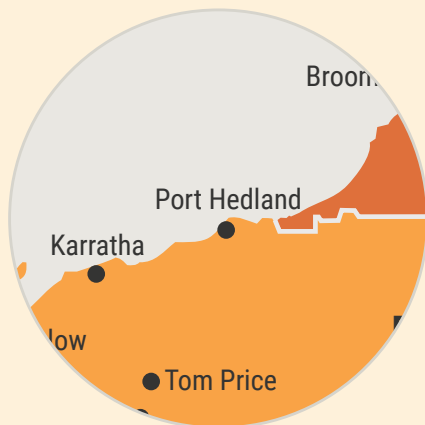
In the second half of the year and beyond, the flooding of the Fitzroy River and the impact on people throughout the West Kimberley region was profound. Many families were displaced from their communities, homes and country, with vast areas cut off by road. The Broome office maintained contact with the communities and towns in its service area, to offer support and provide assistance via phone in the interim. Office staff also prepared and delivered hampers to evacuees who were living in temporary accommodation in Broome, with staff also assisting at the Flood Hub in Broome.

In March, the Broome office worked closely with Anglicare Derby, to organise a Derby Community BBQ, for the Derby community impacted by the floods. This event brought together service providers to reinvigorate their connections with the community and raise awareness about family violence services. There was a great community turn out, with stalls and eagerly awaited food and meat raffles.

Notwithstanding road and community closures in the aftermath of the flooding, Broome staff have undertaken extensive outreach into communities and Derby town, conducting some 13 visits over the year. Visits have coincided with community events, aligned with Aboriginal Justice Open Days, delivered Community Education (CE) and Community Legal Education (CLE) and supported ongoing and new clients. The office's reinvigorated engagement with Pandanus Park and Mowanjum communities has been welcomed.

The integrated work of the Family Advocates and solicitors in the office, continued to provide a holistic service to clients, such as assisting a number of clients within Child Protection Mediation Style Conferences, and then providing ongoing support to meet the practical steps coming out of these conferences.

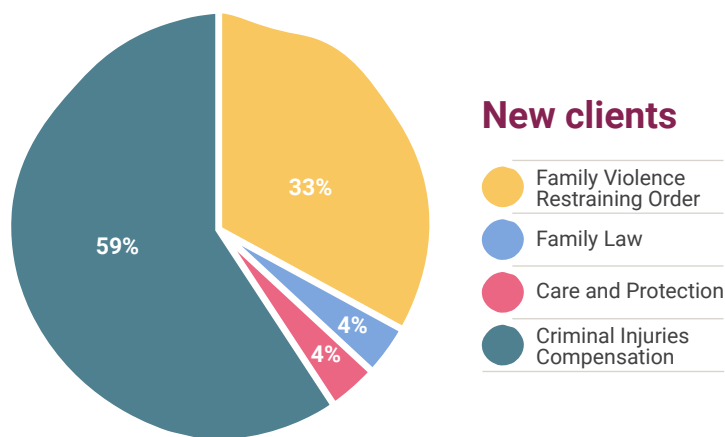
CLE programs with multiple sessions have been delivered at Milliya Rumurra Rehabilitation Centre and as part of the Nirumbuk Pinakarra program. Other CLE and CE has been delivered to school students and women's groups and as part of Aboriginal Justice Open Days and community family fun days.



WHERE WE WORK

The AFLS office is in the South of Port Hedland, and we provide services to Port Hedland LGA, East Pilbara (including Warralong and Yandeyarra), Roeburne, Karratha and Newman.

Port Hedland Regional Office Report



The Port Hedland office had very limited capacity to provide legal services in the first half of the financial year, due to a lack of legal staff.

Due to lack of legal staff, AFLS staff continued to be present in the community by attending the community events and bringing awareness to our services.

Staff were able to refer legal matters to our PLO in the Broome office. In the second half of the financial year we acquired 2 new legal staff, and we were able to double the number of clients assisted. Our overall stats increased from last year, with a notable increase of CIC and FVRO matters. Over 60% of legal assistance was with CIC matters.

Moving into January of 2023 we finally had a full team, having also acquired a CEW. It was a slow but steady task for our team to find a rhythm back out in the community, but having a full team allowed us to strengthen our networks in the Pilbara, especially with stakeholders such as Hedland Well Women's Centre, Bloodwood Tree Association, Women's Groups, and Town of Port Hedland groups such as HFVAG (Hedland Family Violence Action Group).

Strengthening the bond and relationships with our communities has been a major focus point this year.

Our first outreach for 2023 was to Yandeyarra in liaison with Bloodwood Tree Association, who facilitate women's groups. We provided our Healing hands session, with a solicitor present to provide information and advice on AFLS services. We've also travelled to and from Karratha, Roebourne and Marble Bar for client visits.

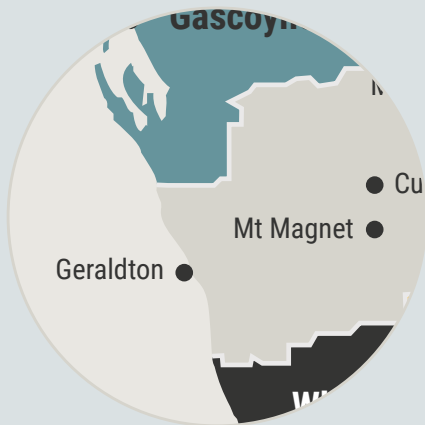
Staff training has included a cultural awareness course, inhouse training for AFLS non-legal staff in Perth and attendance at the "Lovebites" Training which allows facilitation of education sessions to young persons in schools to foster healthy and respectful relationships. Delivery of this program has commenced, working alongside McKillop in the High school, with information well received and a marked positive impact on the children involved.

Our Sparkle and Grow CLE was delivered alongside Bloodwood Tree organisation every Fridays for a period of 6 weeks, with many women who attend being long-term residents of Hedland who can pass information on to their families. We have received a higher number of calls for assistance with CIC cases and obtaining Recovery

Orders in the Family Court of WA following these sessions.

For Ochre Ribbon in February 2023, AFLS hosted a morning tea at the Lotteries Centre with Communicare providing information about the new Breathing Space men's program. Designed for families affected by FDV, this allows males to be placed in temporary accommodation and receive help to rehabilitate and hopefully return to family. The Yorgum Ladies brought some of our elder community members, who attended along with Bloodwood tree, Mission Australia, Town of Port Hedland, Relationships Australia, Child Australia and Pilbara Community Legal Centre.

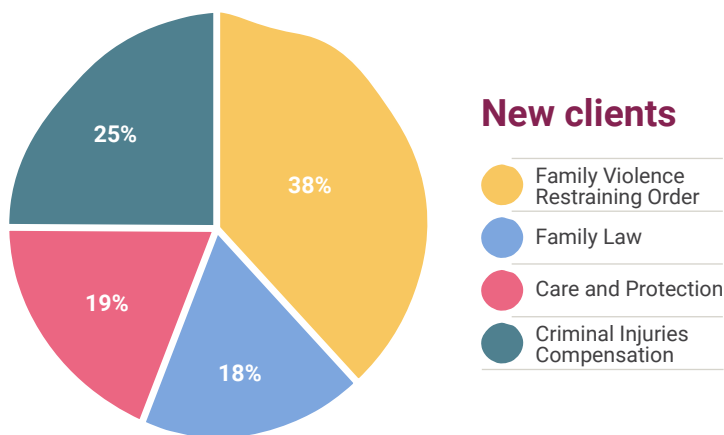
Also for Ochre Ribbon a Trivia Night was held at the Collin Matheson Oval, attended by several service providers that our local office works closely with in supporting victim/survivors of family and domestic violence and local families. Our thanks to local businesses for donating amazing prizes, from which 8 gift baskets were made to match the 8 rounds of our Trivia night. Ochre Ribbon cupcakes were enjoyed by all.



WHERE WE WORK

The AFLS office is located in central Geraldton, and the office provides services to the Geraldton area and CBD. A regular Outreach service is also provided to Cue, Mullewa, Meekatharra, Mount Magnet, Wiluna and Yalgoo.

Geraldton Regional Office Report



AFLS Geraldton has enjoyed a productive and successful year for legal representation in all case type matters, accounting for around 15% of all AFLS clients.

Consistent with other AFLS offices, a high proportion of our new clients presented requiring assistance with FVRO's. Client matters continue to be complex, with services in several of our legal areas frequently required by the same client.

Waiting times for claims in Criminal Injuries Compensation have reduced in the past 12 -18 months and we have been able to achieve good award outcomes for our clients. Other successes include submissions to have an Interim FVRO dismissed and cancelled (vexatious application), successful negotiations for communication between children and clients, including whilst on remand, and successful negotiation to increase contact and expedite reunification plans.

We regularly attend stakeholder meetings and local events to advocate for our clients and promote our services. For clients at high risk, we work with police and other service providers at multi-agency coordination meetings to ensure cooperative and combined safety planning for clients.

In May our long time Managing Solicitor and PLO for Geraldton, Carnarvon and

Kalgoorlie, Neil Hofmeyr resigned to pursue other endeavours. Amy Bowlay took up the position of Managing Solicitor earlier this year, with Elma Alton-Pratt our RP solicitor. A few months with no Family Advocate were addressed through support and relief from Perth, and we later welcomed Ester Tilinger into the Geraldton office. All staff work collaboratively in an integrated legal and non-legal approach to client service delivery.

Amy, Elma and Zamaria have participated in Outreach Services to bring our assistance to communities in Meekatharra, Mount Magnet, Yalgoo and Wiluna. Our outreach services also continue to cover the areas including Mount Magnet, Cue, Meekatharra and Wiluna. There were approximately 24 ongoing clients from these areas, with needs across all service areas. We work closely with the Carnarvon office which offers outreach to Onslow and surrounding communities, and facilitate Redress services delivered via outreach service from a solicitor in the Perth office.

Providing talks to groups of stakeholders and community members is an important part of our work and helps facilitate client assistance on various legal matters as needed.

Our clients in these areas may not easily access services if we are not making regular visits to the communities. Other events included a Reconciliation Walk held in May, NAIDOC events in July and CLE talks at other Stakeholder locations to provide education on our services so we can better help our clients in referrals from these stakeholders. CLE talks also took place at schools and organisations throughout the region, with a monthly segment on Radio Mama to bringing our services out to the community in a different way.

We were delighted to support attendance by our CEW at the WiyiYani U Thangani National Summit in Canberra in May. Zamaria also attended Love Bites Training in Perth, with our lawyers attending the LAWA Summer Series Training in February and online courses in Care and Protection, FVRO's and Family Law provided by Legal Aid WA. One solicitor attended the Family Law Advocacy Workshop in Perth as well as the online Protection and Care Advocacy Network Symposium.

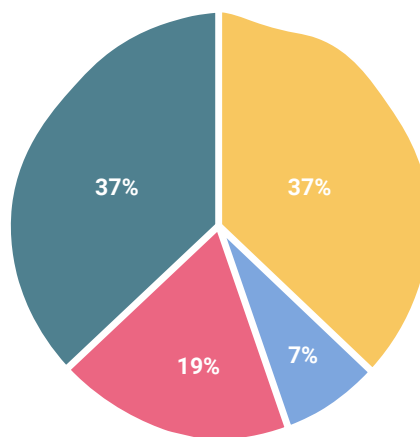
We thank all those who have supported us and look forward to continuing our work with you in the coming year.



WHERE WE WORK

The AFLS office is in Carnarvon, and we provide services to the area of Carnarvon including local suburbs in the Shire, also we do an Outreach service to Burringurrah and Onslow.

Carnarvon Regional Office Report



New clients

- Family Violence Restraining Order
- Family Law
- Care and Protection
- Criminal Injuries Compensation

A busy year for Carnarvon saw an outreach solicitor from Geraldton and Family Advocate working closely together on finding creative solutions for our clients.

In addition to a large number of applications for Criminal Injuries Compensation, valuable assistance was provided to clients seeking contact with children in other regions through the Family Court as well as with children in foster care through the Childrens Court. Legal services were expanded through outreach from Redress solicitor Sara Dostanic, with a significant demand for this service emerging throughout the region.

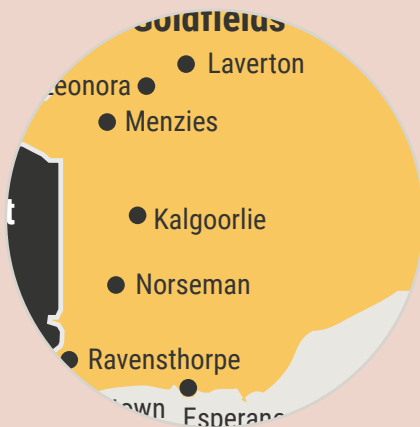
We were fortunate enough to have local community member Kendall Roe move from the CEW to FA role, which enabled valuable support to be provided with the help of local

knowledge. Unfortunately the FA program ceased in Carnarvon earlier this year, but the valuable integrated service has continued through the expertise of solicitor Beau Manton, now stationed permanently in Carnarvon, and Community Engagement Worker, Sharna Oakley.

Other successful outcomes included the securing of Escaping Violence Payments for vulnerable clients escaping FDV. A Family Advocacy Workshop was also a success, providing a non-judgmental, safe space for development of advocacy skills with help from experienced family law practitioners and Family Court

judicial staff. The Carnarvon Aboriginal Justice Open Day in April 2023 was also attended by staff, as well as the Reconciliation Walk through Carnarvon and other NAIDOC events.

Outreach continued to Burringurrah and Onslow, with trips to both at the start of 2023 and later in the year. Our CEW was also active in running community family meetings with local mothers and grandmothers, attending the "Mum's Coffee Club" and Healing Circles. These events are an important foundation to our legal and support services, and we look forward to the continuation of this aspect of our work in 2023.

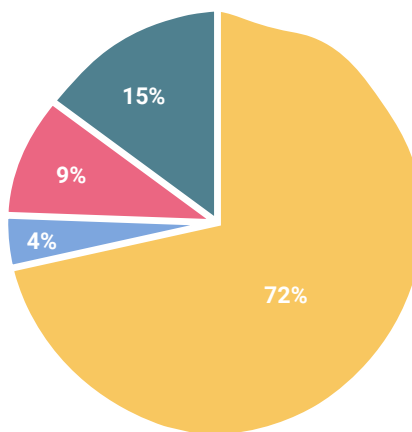


WHERE WE WORK

The AFLS office is in Kalgoorlie, and we provide services to Kambalda, Coolgardie, Norseman, Esperance, Menzies, Laverton and Leonora.

Kalgoorlie

Regional Office Report



New clients



This year the Kalgoorlie AFLS team continued to provide a holistic and high-quality legal service to victim- survivors of family violence.

We are proud to work together towards positive outcomes for clients and reduction of family violence in the communities we serve.

Altogether we helped 136 clients. The levels of family and domestic violence in the region continue to be of concern, reflected by the fact that over 70% of our legal matters involved assistance with FVRO's. The integrated service provided by our solicitors, Family Advocates and CEWs was invaluable in this respect, with assistance also able to be provide by way of access to emergency family violence crisis payments, assistance understanding bank records and referrals to local support agencies for counselling.

Our annual legal cross check Cross Check for PI I purposes was conducted by Goldfields Community Legal Centre

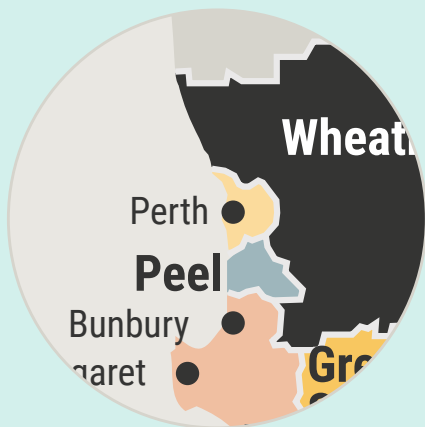
with no issues recorded.

Staff continued to increase their knowledge and skills through the year, attending accreditation training, the Legal Aid Summer Series and education about "coercive control". In May 2023 Shannon Meyer attended internal training for CEWs and undertook training along with other AFLS staff in how to deliver the "Love Bites" program to local schools. This important program educates young people about respectful relationships and teaches protective behaviours and is an important tool in reducing the likelihood of many types of abuse as children develop.

Community events included the delivery of a community education program to the Clontarf Football Academy in September 2022,

attendance at the opening of Palya WalkalyWalkalypa Prison Art Gallery at Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison and participation in a "Making A Difference Expo" at the prison, an important opportunity to talk about the support services that are available to victims of family violence on release.

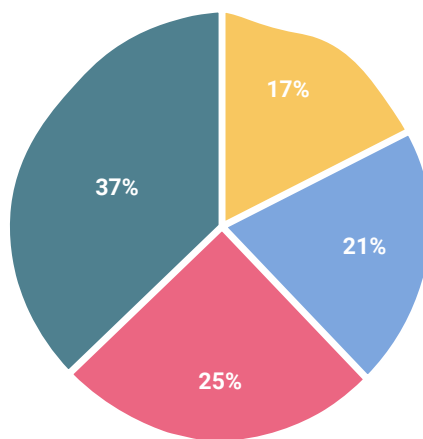
AFLS Kalgoorlie also participated in the White Ribbon Day march and event, NAIDOC week, and organised many events to commemorate Ochre Ribbon Day, such as community education and healing workshops, T Shirt designs, a community march and lawn bowls night. These were followed by an Ochre Ribbon Luncheon with stakeholders and victim-survivors, with a large ochre ribbon for people to sign and pledge to help fight family violence in Aboriginal communities.



WHERE WE WORK

The AFLS office is in Rivervale, and we service the entire metropolitan region.

Perth Office Report



New clients

- Family Violence Restraining Order
- Family Law
- Care and Protection
- Criminal Injuries Compensation

Our legal services in the Perth Metro area commenced in July 2022.

Extending the integrated service delivery approach to this now seventh region of AFLS, non-legal support services were provided by Southern Aboriginal Corporation (SAC). With the complexity of matters experienced by our client victim-survivors of FDV, a holistic approach has always proved highly beneficial.

The legal service has had a good start. With a target 100 clients, AFLS saw 145, whilst the number of court and tribunal matters exceeding expectations with 37 matters successfully resolved. As part of our holistic approach, almost 300 referrals were also made to legal assistance and non-legal support services, which also satisfied the requirements of our funders.

AFLS has not offered a specific Duty Lawyer service this year, with services on an "ad hoc" only basis if a client required assistance whilst an AFLS lawyer happened to be at a courthouse. In the coming year AFLS aims to

improve our Duty Lawyer services. Discussions are in progress as to at which courts and on which specific days AFLS can deliver this service to provide the most benefit to our clients and how we can best provide an alternative to, or complement, other existing services. We look forward to this challenge. We will also be looking at ways to increase the number of initial advice services to clients both within the office and through outreach and clinics.

Several claims for Criminal Injuries Compensation (CIC) were finalised this year, and AFLS has spent time in making sure that all our CIC client files are up to date. Otherwise, the metro service saw a high number of family law and child protection matters in comparison to other regions. We continue to have concerns about the number of Aboriginal children in foster care, including those removed following pre-birth planning. We have assisted several metro clients in this respect.

The Perth Office has also endeavoured to promote and maintain engagement with Perth courts and other legal services, with AFLS lawyers attending court users meetings and participating in various stakeholder groups such as the Family Pathways and Protection and Care Advocacy Networks. We have also been instrumental in providing input to the Danjoo Bidj-ak pilot therapeutic court in relation to child protection matters and the FVRO shuttle conferencing program now operating at various magistrates' courts in the metro region.

It is expected that legal advice and assistance numbers will continue to increase as referrers and the community become further aware of the service. As we move forward with a full complement of lawyers in the metro office, we look forward to this and to working with stakeholders to achieve positive client outcomes in the forthcoming year.



Hedland says NO to family violence walk



Fitzroy River floods - hampers for people evacuated to Broome



Aboriginal Interpreting WA (AIWA) Senior Interpreter and Director Martina Badal and JARRINY-JI



Reconciliation Walk Held on 31st May 2023



Stakeholders

In addition to thanking all operators of the state-wide organisations acknowledged in this report, who provide such valuable ongoing support, the AFLS gives special thanks to our local stakeholders in Broome, Kununurra, Carnarvon, Hedland, Kalgoorlie and Geraldton.



Broome Family and Domestic Violence Stakeholder Networking Event



Derby Community BBQ event to showcase service providers in the community recovery time after the Fitzroy River floods



NAIDOC Week opening ceremony



Financial Report

2022-2023

Western Australian
Family Violence
Prevention Legal Service
Aboriginal Corporation

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2023

Independent Auditor's Report



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A 18 Sangiorgio Court Osborne Park WA 6017
P Locked Bag 4 Osborne Park DC WA 6916
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strength in numbers

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION TO THE DIRECTOR'S OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit during the year ended 30 June 2023 there has been:

- i) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* in relation to the audit; and
- ii) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

*Armada Audit
& Assurance*

ARMADA AUDIT & ASSURANCE PTY LTD

.....
NIGEL DIAS
DIRECTOR
Perth, Dated 20 September 2023

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Independent Auditor's Report



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INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION.

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation ('Aboriginal Family Legal Services' or the Corporation) which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the declaration by those charged with governance.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation is in accordance with the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, including:

- a) Giving a true and fair view of the Corporation's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- b) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Requirements and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Regulations 2017*

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 Corporation in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* 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 *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, which has been given to directors, would be in the same terms if given to the directors 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.

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Independent Auditor's Report



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Board Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The board of directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Requirements and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*. The board is also responsible for such internal control as the board determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the board are responsible for assessing the Corporation'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 board either intend to liquidate the Corporation or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report. A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of our audit report.

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& Assurance*

ARMADA AUDIT & ASSURANCE PTY LTD

.....
NIGEL DIAS

DIRECTOR

Perth, Dated 20 September 2023

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Statement by Chairperson / Chief Executive Officer

Our directors present this report on the Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation, trading as Aboriginal Family Legal Services (hereafter referred to as the Company) for the financial year ended 30 June 2023. In order to comply with the provisions of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, the directors report as follows:

Directors

The following persons held office as Directors of the Company during the financial year and up to the date of this report are:

- Ingrid Harvey (Appointed 17/11/2023)
- Leslie O'Neill (Appointed 02/03/2023, Resigned 08/08/2023)
- William Milroy (Term 26/11/2020 to 23/11/2022, Interim 02/03/2022)
- David Puertollano
- Rowena Puertollano (Term 26/11/2020 to 23/11/2022, Re-elected 23/11/2022)
- Fabian Yarran (Resigned 23/11/2022)
- Dr Victoria Hovane (Resigned 17/02/2023)

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the Company during the financial year was to provide legal assistance, non legal support and community education to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Western Australia who have been affected by family and sexual violence. There has been no change in the principal activity during the year.

Review of Operations


During the financial year ended 30 June 2023, the Company continued its principal activity, the results of which are disclosed in the attached financial statements.

The net profit of the Company for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 amounted to \$405,606 (2022: profit of \$110,150).

Auditor's Independence Declaration

The lead Auditor's Independence Declaration for the year ended 30 June 2023 has been received and can be found on page 4 of the financial report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



Rowena Puertollano
DIRECTOR

Dated: 19/9/23

Certificate of Compliance

At a meeting of the directors on 18 September 2023,

In the Directors' opinion:

- the attached financial statements and notes comply with the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, the Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures, the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Regulations 2017* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements;
- the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

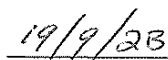
Signed in accordance with a resolution of Directors made pursuant to Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 .

On behalf of the Directors:

Signed:



Rowena Puertollano
DIRECTOR



DATE

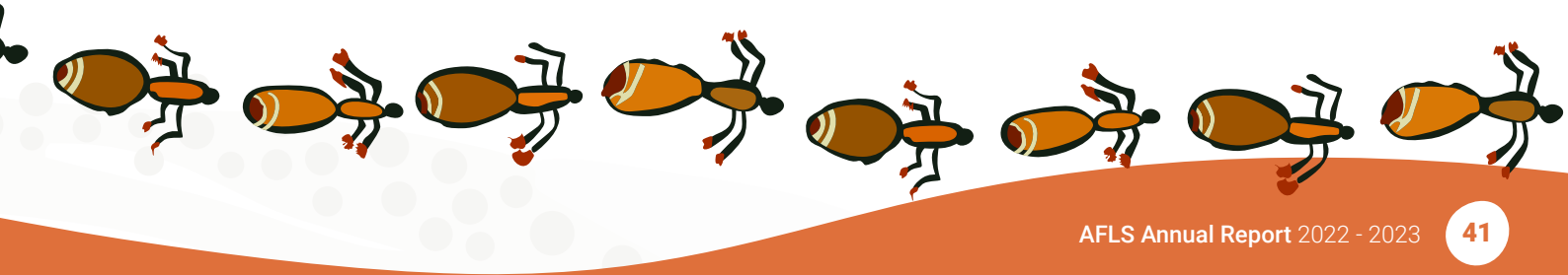


Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	2,300,772	1,681,069
Trade and other receivables	6	96,566	124,092
Prepayments		96,127	119,792
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		2,493,465	1,924,953
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	9	1,491,393	1,463,126
Right of Use Assets (ROU)	11	559,967	553,540
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS		2,051,360	2,016,666
TOTAL ASSETS		4,544,825	3,941,619
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	464,353	415,034
Lease Liability	11	403,261	365,458
Provisions	8	295,102	299,319
Contract Liabilities	10	1,002,973	853,828
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,165,689	1,933,639
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	8	52,844	51,034
Lease Liability	11	172,576	208,836
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		225,420	259,870
TOTAL LIABILITIES		2,391,109	2,193,509
NET ASSETS		2,153,716	1,748,110
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		1,234,470	1,124,320
Asset Replacement Reserve		55,890	55,890
Asset Revaluation Reserve		457,750	457,750
Net Surplus for the Year		405,606	110,150
TOTAL EQUITY		2,153,716	1,748,110

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

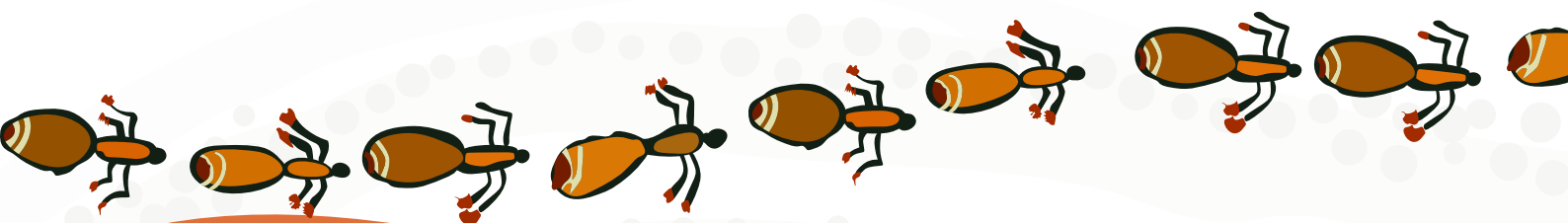


Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue			
Grants	4	7,739,090	5,799,804
Interest		-	39
Other income	4	147,312	143,818
Total Revenue		7,886,402	5,943,661
Expenditure			
Accounting & audit fees		40,992	61,513
Bad debts written off		8,779	-
Bank fees		198	104
Board		62,211	10,277
Consultancy and referral fees		-	38,356
Depreciation		53,406	53,226
Insurance		108,698	56,273
IT support		14,000	80,541
Legal expenses		56,740	45,008
Marketing		53,418	35,657
Memberships & subscriptions		51,936	12,160
Motor vehicle expenses		46,755	53,850
Motor vehicle lease amortisation	11	89,958	47,670
Office equipment		90,790	55,809
Office expenses		71,174	72,602
Postage and couriers		19,441	12,674
Program		130,022	29,358
Property		639,637	281,661
Property lease amortisation	11	265,924	357,485
Telephone & internet		35,258	31,849
Travel		310,168	326,060
Wages and salaries		5,331,291	4,171,378
Total expenditure		7,480,796	5,833,511
NET SURPLUS		405,606	110,150

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash receipts from customers		8,063,073	6,373,444
Cash payments to suppliers and employees		(6,977,709)	(5,085,200)
Interest received		-	39
Net cash provided by operating activities	12	1,085,364	1,288,283
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment of property lease liabilities		(383,988)	(445,482)
Net cash used in financing activities		(383,988)	(445,482)
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(81,673)	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(81,673)	-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		619,703	842,801
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,681,069	838,268
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	5	2,300,772	1,681,069

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Retained Earnings	Asset Replacement Reserve	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2021	1,124,320	55,890	-	1,180,210
Revaluation of assets			457,750	457,750
Surplus for the year	110,150	-	-	110,150
Balance at 30 June 2022	1,234,470	55,890	457,750	1,748,110
Balance at 1 July 2022	1,234,470	55,890	457,750	1,748,110
Surplus for the year	405,606	-	-	405,606
Balance at 30 June 2023	1,640,076	55,890	457,750	2,153,716

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

For the year ended 30 June 2023

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosures and notes represent those of Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation, an unlisted Australian company limited by shares, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The financial statements were authorised to be issued on the date the director's declaration was signed.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

The Company does not have 'public accountability' as defined in *AASB 1053 Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards* and is therefore eligible to apply the 'Tier 2' reporting framework under Australian Accounting Standards. AASB 1060.10. The financial statements comply with the recognition and measurement requirements of Australian Accounting Standards, the presentation requirements in those Standards as modified by *AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosures* for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities (AASB 1060) and the disclosure requirements in AASB 1060. Accordingly, the financial statements comply with *Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures*

Functional and Presentation Currency

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Company's functional currency.

Use of Estimates and Judgement

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and in any future periods affected.

2. FINANCIAL POSITION

The financial report has been prepared on the going concern basis, which contemplates the continuation of normal business activity and the realisation of assets and the settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business. The Company's key sources of revenue comes from government grants from state and federal government funding bodies.

For the year ended 30 June 2023, the Company incurred a net surplus of \$405,606 (2022: surplus of \$110,150), and the Company has a working capital surplus of \$327,776 (2022: deficit of \$8,686). The Directors have prepared a cash flow forecast with 12 months of contracted funding and are confident of securing funding for a period of 12 months from the date of this report. Accordingly, based on these facts the directors consider the going concern basis of preparation to be appropriate.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS

The Directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Company.

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

For the year ended 30 June 2023

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(a) Financial Instruments

(i) Initial Recognition and Measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is the date that the Company commits itself to either the purchase or sale of the asset (i.e. trade date accounting is adopted). Financial instruments (except for trade receivables) are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs, except where the instrument is classified “at fair value through profit or loss”, in which case transaction costs are expensed to the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income immediately. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted. Trade receivables are initially measured at the transaction price if the trade receivables do not contain significant financing component or if the practical expedient was applied as specified in AASB 15 paragraph 63.

(ii) Classification and Subsequent Measurement

Financial Liabilities:

Financial liabilities are subsequently measured at:

- amortised cost; or
- fair value through profit or loss.

A financial liability is measured at fair value through profit or loss if the financial liability is:

- a contingent consideration of an acquirer in a business combination to which AASB 3 applies;
- held for trading; or
- initially designated as at fair value through profit or loss.

The Company does not measure any financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss. All other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating interest expense in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the internal rate of return of the financial asset or liability. That is, it is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash flows through the expected life of the instrument to the net carrying amount of initial recognition. A financial liability cannot be reclassified.

Financial Assets:

Under AASB 9 Financial assets are subsequently measured at:

- amortised cost;
- fair value through other comprehensive income (debt instruments);
- fair value through other comprehensive income (equity – no recycling); or
- fair value through profit or loss,

based on the two primary criteria, being:

- the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial asset; and
- the business model for managing the financial assets.

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

For the year ended 30 June 2023

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(a) Financial Instruments (continued)

A financial asset is subsequently measured at amortised cost when it meets the following conditions:

- the financial asset is managed solely to collect contractual cash flows; and
- it gives rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding on specified dates.

The Company only has financial assets that are measured at amortised cost including trade and other receivables and cash at bank (including term deposits).

(iii) De-recognition

Financial Liabilities:

A liability is derecognised when it is extinguished (i.e. when the obligation in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires). An exchange of an existing financial liability for a new one with substantially modified terms, or a substantial modification to the terms of a financial liability, is treated as an extinguishment of the existing liability and recognition of a new financial liability. The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability derecognised and the consideration paid and payable, including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed, is recognised in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

Financial Assets:

A financial asset is derecognised when the holder's contractual rights to its cash flows expires, or the asset is transferred in such a way that all the risks and rewards of ownership are substantially transferred.

All the following criteria need to be satisfied for de-recognition of a financial asset:

- the right to receive cash flows from the asset has expired or been transferred;
- all risk and rewards of ownership of the asset have been substantially transferred; and
- the Company no longer controls the asset (i.e. it has no practical ability to make unilateral decisions to sell the asset to a third party).

(iv) Impairment

The Company recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses on financial assets that are measured at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income. Expected credit losses are the probability-weighted estimate of credit losses over the expected life of a financial instrument. A credit loss is the difference between all contractual cash flows that are due, and all cash flows expected to be received, all discounted at the original effective interest rate of the financial instrument. The Company uses the simplified approach to impairment, as applicable under AASB 9.

(b) Property, Plant and Equipment

Land and buildings is reported at fair value, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Independent valuations are obtained every 2 to 3 years. Increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation of land and building are credited, to other reserves in members' equity. To the extent that the increase reverses a decrease previously recognised in profit or loss, the increase is first recognised in profit or loss. Decreases that reverse previous increases of the same class of asset are first charged against revaluation reserves directly in equity to the extent of the remaining reserve attributable to the same class of asset; all other decreases are charged to the statement of profit and loss.

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

For the year ended 30 June 2023

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(b) Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

All other items of property, plant and equipment are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. Property, plant and equipment that has been contributed at no cost or for nominal cost is valued at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired. Where parts of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items (major components) of property, plant and equipment. Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included net in other revenue in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

Gains and losses on disposal of an item of property, plant and equipment are determined by comparing the proceeds from disposal with the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment and are recognised net within "other income" in profit or loss.

(i) Subsequent Costs

The cost of replacing part of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised in the carrying amount of the item if it is probable that the future economic benefits embodied within the part will flow to the Company and its cost can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised. The costs of the day to day servicing of property, plant and equipment are recognised in profit or loss as incurred.

(ii) Depreciation

Depreciation is recognised in profit and loss on a straight line basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of property, plant and equipment. Leased assets are depreciated over the short of the lease term and their useful lives unless it is reasonably certain that the Company will obtain ownership by the end of the lease term. Land is not depreciated.

The estimated useful lives for the current and comparative period are as follows:

Buildings	40 years
Computers	4 years
Fixtures and Fittings	10 years
Furniture	10 years
Motor Vehicles	8 years
Office Equipment	5 years

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed and adjusted if appropriate at each reporting date.

(c) Leases

The Company, as a lessee, will assess whether a contract is, or contains, a lease under AASB 16. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. If the contract is assessed to be, or contains, a lease, the Company will recognise a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost, and subsequently at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses and adjusted for certain re-measurements of the lease liability.

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

For the year ended 30 June 2023

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(c) Leases (continued)

Initial Measurement and Subsequent Measurement:

(i) Measurement of Lease Liability:

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, and the Company's incremental borrowing rate. Generally, the Company uses its incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate. The lease liability is subsequently increased by the interest cost on the lease liability, offset by lease payments made. It is remeasured when there is a change in future lease payments arising from a change in an index or rate, a change in the estimate of the amount expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee, or as appropriate, changes in the assessment of whether a purchase or extension option is reasonably certain to be exercised or a termination option is reasonably certain not to be exercised.

(ii) Measurement of Right-of-Use Asset:

The Right of Use Asset is initially measured at cost comprising the initial measurement of the lease liability. Subsequent to initial recognition the right of use asset is amortised over the shorter of the assets useful life and the lease term on a straight line basis.

Recognition exemption - Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Company has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases with a lease term of 12 months or less and leases for low-value assets. The Company will recognise the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(d) Impairment

(i) Non-financial Assets

The carrying amounts of the Company's non-financial assets, other than inventories, are reviewed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists then the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. The recoverable amount of an asset is the greater of its value in use and its fair value less costs to sell. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. Where the future economic benefits of an asset are not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and where the Company would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use shall be determined as the depreciated replacement cost of the asset.

Depreciated replacement cost is defined as the current replacement cost of an asset less, where applicable, accumulated depreciation calculated on the basis of such cost to reflect the already consumed or expired future economic benefits of the asset. The current replacement cost of an asset is its cost measured by reference to the lowest cost at which the gross future economic benefits of that asset could currently be obtained in the normal course of business. An impairment loss is recognised if the carrying amount of an asset or its cash generating unit exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss.

Impairment losses recognised in prior periods are assessed at each reporting date for any indications that the loss has decreased or no longer exists. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

For the year ended 30 June 2023

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(e) Employee Benefits

(i) Long-term Employee Benefits

The Company's net obligation in respect of long-term employee benefits is the amount of future benefit that employees have earned in return for their service in the current and prior periods plus related on costs; that benefit is discounted to determine its present value, and the fair value of any related assets is deducted. The discount rate is the yield at the reporting date on government bonds that have maturity dates approximating the terms of the Company's obligations. The calculation is performed using the projected unit credit method. Any actuarial gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they arise.

(ii) Short-term Benefits

Liabilities for employee benefits for wages, salaries, annual leave expected to be taken within 12 months of the reporting date represent present obligations resulting from employees' services provided to reporting date and are calculated at undiscounted amounts based on remuneration wage and salary rates that the Company expects to pay as at reporting date including related on-costs, such as workers compensation insurance and payroll tax. Non-accumulating non-monetary benefits, such as medical care, housing, cars and free or subsidised goods and services, are expensed based on the net marginal cost to the Company as the benefits are taken by the employees.

A liability is recognised for the amount expected to be paid under short-term cash bonus or profit-sharing plans if the Company has a present legal or constructive obligation to pay this amount as a result of past service provided by the employee and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

(f) Provisions

A provision is recognised if, as a result of a past event, the Company has a present legal or constructive obligation that can be estimated reliably, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. Provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability.

(g) Revenue

Revenue recognition

To determine whether and when to recognise revenue, the Company follows a 5-step process:

- (1) Identifying the contract with a customer;
- (2) Identifying the performance obligations;
- (3) Determining the transaction price;
- (4) Allocating the transaction price to the performance obligations; and
- (5) Recognising revenue when/as the performance obligation(s) are satisfied.

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

For the year ended 30 June 2023

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(g) Revenue (continued)

The Company's main revenue sources and accounting policies are listed below:

Revenue Grants – are disclosed in acquittal statements and matched against operating costs

The Company receives grant monies to fund projects either for a contracted period of time, or to fund specific projects.

Grant revenue is recognised in the income and expenditure statement when the Company obtains control of the grant, it is probable that the economic benefits obtained from the grant will flow to the Company and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

When grant revenue is received whereby the Company incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, the grant revenue is recognised in the balance sheet as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

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

(h) New or Amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations Adopted

The Company has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

(i) Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(j) New, revised or amending Accounting Standards and Interpretations not yet adopted

There are no other new Australian Accounting Standards that have been issued but are not yet effective with an expected material impact on the Company's financial report in the period of initial application.

(k) Income Tax

The company is not subject to income tax

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
4. REVENUE		
National Indigenous Australians Agency	6,278,701	5,020,685
Department of Justice	720,484	669,901
Southern Aboriginal Corporation	346,639	-
Department of Social Services	274,236	-
Other grants	119,030	109,218
Interest	-	39
Other income	147,312	143,818
Total revenue	7,886,402	5,943,661
5. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at bank	2,241,823	1,679,011
Petty cash	2,226	2,058
Term deposits	56,723	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,300,772	1,681,069
6. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Accounts receivable	6,130	16,156
Bonds	90,436	107,936
Total trade and other receivables	96,566	124,092
7. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Accounts payables	197,765	5,444
PAYG payable	189,833	60,098
GST payable	1,012	255,138
Superannuation payable	23,708	3,257
Other payables	52,035	91,097
Total trade and other payables	464,353	415,034
8. PROVISIONS		
Current	295,102	299,319
Non-current	52,844	51,034
Total provisions	347,946	350,353
Movement in provisions		
Annual leave		
Opening balance	299,319	263,179
Amounts accrued during the year	550,680	315,616
Amount used during the year	(554,897)	(279,476)
Closing balance of provision	295,102	299,319
Long service leave		
Opening balance	51,034	45,781
Amounts accrued during the year	32,605	32,372
Amount used during the year	(30,795)	(27,119)
Closing balance of provision	52,844	51,034

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

For the year ended 30 June 2023

9. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Land and buildings at fair value	1,993,576	1,993,576
Less: accumulated depreciation	(587,471)	(535,270)
Total land and buildings	1,406,105	1,458,306
Motor vehicles – at cost	118,795	37,123
Less: accumulated depreciation	(33,507)	(32,303)
Total motor vehicles	85,288	4,820
Total property, plant and equipment	1,491,393	1,463,126

	Motor Vehicles \$	Land and Buildings \$	Total \$
Carrying Amount 01 July 2021	6,428	1,048,783	1,055,211
Additions	-	415,000	415,000
Disposals	-	-	-
Depreciation Expense	(1,608)	(5,477)	(7,085)
Carrying Amount 30 June 2022	4,820	1,458,306	1,463,126
Carrying Amount 01 July 2022	4,820	1,458,306	1,463,126
Additions	81,673	-	81,673
Disposals	-	-	-
Depreciation Expense	(1,205)	(52,201)	(53,406)
Carrying Amount 30 June 2023	85,288	1,406,105	1,491,393

10. CONTRACT LIABILITIES

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Department of Communities	25,000	-
National Indigenous Australians Agency	712,973	817,873
Australian Communities Foundation	250,000	-
Other	15,000	35,955
Total contract liabilities	1,002,973	853,828

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

For the year ended 30 June 2023

11. RIGHT OF USE ASSETS AND LEASE LIABILITIES

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Right of Use Assets		
Property Leases	594,440	1,246,926
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(260,713)	(963,485)
	333,727	283,441
Motor Vehicle Leases	366,436	320,880
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(140,196)	(50,781)
	226,240	270,099
Total right of use assets	559,967	553,540

	Property Leases \$	Motor Vehicle Leases \$	Total \$
Carrying Amount 01 July 2021	640,926	317,769	958,695
Lease Modifications	-	-	-
Amortisation Expense	(357,485)	(47,670)	(405,155)
Carrying Amount 30 June 2022	283,441	270,099	553,540
Carrying Amount 01 July 2022	283,441	270,099	553,540
Lease Modifications	316,210	46,099	362,309
Amortisation Expense	(265,924)	(89,958)	(355,882)
Carrying Amount 30 June 2023	333,727	226,240	559,967

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Lease liability on 1 July:		
Opening Balance	574,294	990,552
Less: lease payments to 30 June	(383,988)	(445,482)
Add: interest to 30 June	23,224	29,224
Lease modification to 30 June	362,307	-
Lease liability at 30 June	575,837	574,294

Lease liabilities are presented in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

Current	403,261	365,458
Non- Current	172,576	208,836
	575,837	574,294

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	\$	\$
12. CASHFLOWS		
Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities		
Profit for the period	405,606	110,150
Non-cash flows		
Depreciation and amortisation	409,288	456,355
Interest expense on leases	11 23,224	29,224
Operating profit before changes in working capital	838,118	595,729
Change in trade & other receivables	27,522	(109,640)
Change in other current assets	23,666	-
Change in contract liabilities	149,145	539,462
Change in employee provisions	(2,406)	41,393
Change in trade and other payables	49,319	221,339
Total movement in working capital	247,246	692,554
Net cash from operating activities	1,085,364	1,288,283

13. RELATED PARTIES AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Key management personnel disclosures & related party transactions

The persons holding position as Directors of the Company during the financial year were:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
(i) Details of remuneration of key management personnel		
Short term benefits	603,130	372,061
	603,130	372,061

The annual and long service leave balances owing to key management personnel at 30 June 2023 is \$70,977 (2022: \$103,102).

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

For the year ended 30 June 2023

14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The totals for each category of financial instrument, measured in accordance with AASB 9, as detailed in the accounting policies to these financial statements, are as follows. The Company only has financial instruments at amortised cost. The carrying value of the financial instruments equates the fair value at the reporting period.

		2023 \$	2022 \$
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	2,300,772	1,681,069
Trade and other receivables	6	96,566	124,092
Total financial assets		2,397,338	1,805,161
Financial Liabilities			
Financial liabilities at amortised cost:			
Contract Liabilities	10	1,002,973	853,828
Lease liabilities	11	575,837	574,294
Trade and other payables	7	464,353	415,034
Total financial liabilities		2,043,163	1,843,156

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Company is a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations, and arises principally from the Company's receivables from customers.

(i) Cash and cash equivalents

The Company limits its exposure to credit risk by only investing in liquid securities and only with major Australian financial institutions.

(ii) Trade and other receivables

The Company's trade and other receivables relate to financial grants and other income.

The Company has determined that its credit risk exposure on all other trade receivables is low, as customers are considered to be reliable and have short contractual payment terms. Management does not expect any of these counterparties to fail to meet their obligations.

The carrying amount of the Company's financial assets represents the maximum credit exposure. The Company's maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date was:

	Carrying Amount	
	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash and cash equivalents	2,300,772	1,681,069
Trade and other receivables	96,566	124,092
Total	2,397,338	1,805,161

Liquidity risk

Prudent liquidity risk management implies maintaining sufficient cash and marketable securities. Due to the nature of the underlying operations, the Board aims at maintaining flexibility in funding through management of its cash resources.

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

For the year ended 30 June 2023

15. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Subsequent to 30 June 2023 the Corporation has received a grant of \$3,466,066 (including GST) from the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) for the acquisition of the property at 113 Orrong Road.

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the directors of the Company, to affect significantly the operations of the Company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Corporation, in future years.









Aboriginal Family LEGAL SERVICES

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