



2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT

Gold Coast Community Legal Centre
& Advice Bureau inc.



Dignity, human rights and social justice



“ The staff and reception are outstanding with service and general legal advice. They have helped me with some difficult legal situations which I could not have done without them. They saved me from hardship. ”

Gold Coast Community Legal Centre Client

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ABOUT US

Who we are

Gold Coast Community Legal Centre is a non profit community based legal service serving and assisting the Gold Coast since 1982. We are a nationally accredited community legal centre.

Our vision

- Dignity, human rights and social justice for people on the Gold Coast.
- Build a just and inclusive society that values difference and diversity, and the rights of all people and their communities to the social and economic resources they need to exercise their human rights influence the development of law to recognise the needs of people who are socially or economically disadvantaged
- Assist people who would otherwise be denied access to justice, due to social or economic disadvantage, to exercise their legal rights.

Our goals

- Promote access to justice
- Provide free legal advice and information
- Empower people to address their legal problems
- Increase community awareness of the law
- Produce clear, easy-to-read publications

Hours of Operation

The Centre is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8.30am until 4.30 pm and on Tuesdays from 8.30 am to 8pm. Appointments can be made during between 9am and 4pm each day.

All of the solicitors see clients by appointment booked up around a week in advance except for the evening walk-in advice clinic on Tuesdays from 5pm.



Description of Services

The Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau Inc is a generalist legal Centre, providing assistance, advice and advocacy across a wide variety of areas, including but not limited to family law, child protection, domestic and family violence, consumer issues, tenancy law, employment law, fencing, trees and other neighbourhood disputes, motor vehicle collisions, drink driving and other driving offences and civil contract issues.

We also provide extensive duty lawyer work in child protection and domestic and family violence detailed on pages 19 and 21.

Due to an increased need for assistance in areas of family law, family violence and child protection our work in this area has expanded considerably as detailed on page 16.

Outreach Clinics

The outreach clinics continue to be in high demand with numbers remaining consistently high and appointments being filled very quickly as soon as they become available. Currently the Centre offers services at nine (9) different outreach clinics described in detail at page 12 of this report.

Community Legal Education

We also deliver community legal education and talks to community groups and other agencies in the Gold Coast area. Regular family law mediation information sessions are held weekly at the local Family Relationships Centre. In addition, legal staff deliver CLE talks on request to local organisations on issues including wills, powers of attorney, traffic matters, dealing with police, and consumer law. More information on our community legal education is on page 23.

Volunteer and pro bono contributions

We have community and legal volunteers who are an integral part of our service and critical in extending our vision to help the Coast's most vulnerable member's have access to legal information, referral, community education advice and casework. On pages 24 & 25 we detail the extensive contribution they make to our Centre.

OUR ORGANISATION

OUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Jonathan Flannery
President



April Vincent
Vice President



Joe Ranieri
Treasurer



Bobbi Reilly
Secretary



Dawn Crichlow
OAM Committee
Member



Deb Quinlan
Committee Member



Shellee Smith
Committee Member

OUR STAFF



Victoria Shiel
Director & Principal
Solicitor



Manny Palma
Senior Solicitor



Amelda Schrenk
Solicitor



Anne Pridham
Solicitor



Heather Buckley
Admin Coordinator



Rikki Buckland
Solicitor



Skye Worth
Solicitor



Tanya Diessel
Solicitor



Vicki Hall
Finance Officer



“ I choose to volunteer with the GCCLC because it is one of the best ways to get hands on legal experience and actually understand how the law works for every-day people. It is chaotic, and busy but I love it. It is great because you can see how much people band together to help others, and how altruistic people can be towards others, I have seen the growth of the night clinic as local solicitors choose to step up and give back to the community. I love the ability to actually speak to clients, it helps to hone my skills in interviewing while learning all the interesting facets and odd cases that happen here.”

Gold Coast Community Legal Centre Volunteer



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Here we are again – another year has passed where we find ourselves coming together to acknowledge the achievements and progress of the Centre over the last 12 months.

As more and more media attention focuses these days on the importance of community legal centres and access to justice I feel we should all be extremely proud to be part of an organisation that continues to help the most vulnerable members of our community.

Our Centre continues to grow in numbers of lawyers and volunteers and also increasing collaboration with agencies who link in with us to enable holistic approaches to problems they face. This is what working in the community legal sector is about – providing assistance and access to help and resources where the community may find themselves without any alternative.

I personally would like to thank my fellow management committee members for working together to help lead the Centre into the future in the best possible way and ensuring our vision and goals are upheld. Thank you to the staff for your tireless efforts in providing such a robust service, where each of you are valued for the commitment and work you provide. To the volunteers, our Centre would not operate without you and thank you does not come close to the recognition you deserve for your commitment, patience and support

Without this prevailing generosity it would be simply impossible for an organisation such as ours to function and it is this which is the very embodiment and meaning of the word “community”. George Bernard Shaw once remarked that *“the worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them. That’s the essence of humanity.”*

I believe that the spirit of caring pervades each and every member of this service. To the volunteers, our Centre would not operate without you and thank you does not come close to the recognition you deserve for your commitment, patience and support. Our volunteers range from students embarking on their university education to people who have turned up week after week year after year for over 26 years donating their time and expertise to helping the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our community. It is with much appreciation and thanks that we farewell Brian this year who had been working with us for over 26 years.

We never know what we are capable of achieving when we have the right intentions. I believe that is what all of us are here doing – helping others for the right reasons. Erin Brockovich is currently in Australia and I came across a quote of hers relating to questions about the “Erin Brockovich” movie. She states *“I didn’t aspire for this to happen. All I was doing was what was in my heart to do and that was to extend my hand of friendship, understanding and compassion towards another. Had my intentions been anything other than pure, this case, this movie and my life, as it is today would not exist.”*

If we all work together for the right reasons, helping not only the community but one another, we have no idea what we are capable of achieving, and each year at the Annual General Meeting, we are all amazed at where another 12 months has taken us.

And so yet again I can only express my inadequate thanks and admiration to you all for your commitment, for yet another year. Long may it continue. I expect it will be so, because despite the cynicism and the woes that we must encounter, there will always be optimism, whilst people like you and organisations such as ours continue to move the mountains, just one stone at a time.

Jonathan Flannery
President



DIRECTOR & PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR'S REPORT

This has been another busy and rewarding year of work at our service. Our Centre continues to go from strength to strength, with increasing and diversified services to clients being provided despite the funding constraints that we have experienced and will likely experience in the future. All staff and volunteers are to be commended for their dedication to this service and to the community at large and I would not have been able to do this job without the support of each and every one of them.

Service Delivery Improvements and Highlights

Our statistics show that we are closely aligned with the Queensland Strategy and Investment model and that we comfortably met our targets for information, advice, and casework and community legal education for the 2015-16 year.

Our Tuesday night advice clinic is running well and we delivered 308 advices this reporting period. We have conducted 2 information training sessions for volunteer lawyers and have a roster of volunteer lawyers who work with us at our evening advice sessions.

Our outreaches across the Gold Coast at neighbourhood and community centres are extremely popular and appointments fill quickly. We have commenced two new outreaches this year with our temporary additional commonwealth funding at Studio Village and Coolangatta. Around 40% of our advice appointments for this reporting period were conducted at our outreach clinics.

In addition to the formal and informal placements of students at our Centre from Bond and Griffith University we also conducted a legal student clinic with Griffith University called "Community Lawyering Clinic Gold Coast"

With the temporary additional Commonwealth funding we have been able to employ a specialist family law, family violence and child protection lawyer and open two new outreaches (one Northern, one Southern Gold Coast). This position is allowing us to do more case work, advocacy, advice and networking and has been a very busy role for our new solicitor

Family law remains the area most people seek our assistance and the areas of child contact and family and domestic violence the main areas people sought advice on. We have noticed a significant spike in people seeking assistance with domestic and family violence than over the same period in 2014-15 and 2013-14. The expanded specialist and domestic violence court at Southport has seen a spike in people requiring our help and assistance in this area and we are significantly involved in this trial court through our role as a duty lawyer and our ongoing role in stakeholder meetings and the local community.

The main civil areas of law we have advised on this reporting period have been credit and debt and employment law and demand in both these areas is higher than the corresponding period in 2014-15.

A significant highlight this year has been entering in two formal memorandums of understanding one with the State-wide Tenancy and Advocacy Support Service and the other with Women's Legal Service to facilitate, among other things, a simpler and more effective warm referral process and sharing of resources.

We are very happy to have at least two tenancy advocates placed in our office and have noted how this is excellent for clients greatly improved assistance that can be given to tenants seeking help.

Overview of cooperative/collaborative activities

Our service remains committed and involved in a number of cooperative and collaborative activities across the Gold Coast.

For another year we have a staff member, Skye Worth as the Chairperson of the Family Law Pathways Network. This network hosts a number of workshops and events throughout the year for professionals working in family law and the membership includes mediators, social workers, solicitors, counsellors and community and government workers.

Our outreach service at the Southport Court House was developed in strong collaboration with the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre and we operate out of their rooms at the Court House.

Our service relies heavily on volunteers and the referrals we receive from Volunteering Gold Coast allow us to have a full complement of volunteers. Heather Buckley attends the Volunteering Gold Coast Network meetings and training that they provide..

We have again hosted tax help volunteers at our organisation and find this is a greatly appreciated service for the Gold Coast community, with appointments booked up very quickly.

We are very grateful to the Palm Beach Neighbourhood Centre, Palm Beach Library, Nerang Neighbourhood Centre, Oxenford Rage Community Centre, Upper Coomera Community Centre and Family Relationships Centre at Ashmore who provide us free of charge with a venue and the facilities to conduct our outreach services.

Victoria Shiel

Director & Principal Solicitor



"I started with the centre to help out and over the years I've never regretted giving my time and in fact have thoroughly enjoyed every single moment. I'm merely giving a bit back to others for the good life I've had. In my opinion, the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre provides a badly needed service to fix some of the injustices that occur."

Brian who volunteered with us for 28 years

Volunteering at the GCCLC has been a wonderful experience – it has given me so many opportunities and taught me so many lessons which I haven't been afforded through my studies at Uni. It gives me a sense of purpose and community – opening my mind to many of the situations faced by others in the coast. Volunteering has given me many skills which I have been able to apply to other areas of my life – confidence, a positive outlook and a critical perspective. I am extremely grateful for what the centre has given me, and look forward to continuing volunteering

Cassie, Volunteer



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FUNDING SOURCES

The Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau Inc greatly appreciates the funding provided to the Centre to enable us to provide free legal advice and assistance to the Gold Coast community. Without the funding provided, the Centre would not be able to operate and Gold Coast residents would be limited in their access to free legal services.

Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau Inc. acknowledges its funding sources:

The Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General and Legal Aid Queensland provided funding through the Community Legal Service Program (CLSP) for our legal service. The CLSP program is managed by Legal Aid Queensland.

The Centre receives an annual grant from the City of Gold Coast as a contribution towards our rent.

We received a grant from the City Of Gold Coast to assist with the update and collation of the Community Resource Guide as well as volunteer and back-office expenses.

We received payment from Legal Aid Queensland for our provision of the Domestic Violence Duty Lawyers Services at Southport Courthouse.

We receive funding from Bond University and Griffith University to place students at the Centre as part of a clinical education course run by the University.



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department



CITY OF
GOLD COAST.





OUTREACH SERVICES

We pride ourselves on the fact that our name, the “Gold Coast Community Legal Centre” truly reflects the fact that we provide a service to the whole Gold Coast community, with our solicitors strategically located in areas of the Gold Coast where we have identified the most need for our services. This has been achieved through our collaboration and co-operative relationships with the organisations that welcome us into their premises to provide these services. Without the generosity of our hosting centres, we would not be able to provide the coverage that we have across the entire Gold Coast region.



OUTREACH CLINICS REPORT

Ashmore Family Relationship Centre

The Family Relationship Centre at 207 Currumburra Road Ashmore provides us with a space which enables us to have a solicitor at the centre every Thursday and Friday, with this service being primarily focussed on family law matters, including issues of domestic violence.

In addition to providing a legal service within the centre, our solicitors form an integral part of the information sessions offered to clients of the centre who are undertaking mediation on their parenting matters. Our solicitors focus on providing information on the mediation process, the legal framework on children's matters and what participants can expect to happen in court if their matter is unable to be resolved at mediation. This collaboration has led to a very effective referral process between our two organisations and has proven itself to be very beneficial to parents dealing with separation and parenting issues, essentially meaning a "one stop shop" for clients.

In the last financial year our solicitors have seen 265 clients at this outreach service.

Nerang Neighbourhood Centre

Every Tuesday and Thursday, we are hosted by the Nerang Neighbourhood Centre at 29 Martin Street, Nerang to provide a legal service to residents of Nerang and neighbouring areas. Given its very central location, we have found that clients are able to travel to this centre to obtain assistance from many areas, with the feedback being that it is easy to access, both in terms of location, ease of parking and availability of public transport.

The longstanding relationship with the Nerang Neighbourhood Centre has proven to be mutually beneficial, with many clients of the centre being referred to our service for legal assistance and our solicitors also being able to refer clients back into the centre for counselling, foodbank, emergency crisis funding assistance and a complimentary migration advice service.

In the last financial year our solicitors have seen 429 clients at this outreach service.

Oxenford & Coomera Youth & Community Centre

Every Monday one of our solicitors is available for appointments at the Oxenford and Coomera Youth Centre on Oxenford-Tambourine Road. This service has proven to be very popular with clients living in the ever-expanding upper reaches of the Gold Coast, with some coming from as far afield as Pimpama and Beenleigh, and with the service also being very popular with people living in the Eagle Heights/Mt Tamborine area as it is a relatively short journey into Oxenford. With increased traffic flows on the M1 and other arterial roads in the area, the feedback has been that clients are appreciative of having a service located within such easy reach. Also there are many families living in this area with access to only one vehicle per household and the proximity of the centre to public transport, being well serviced by buses and adjacent to the Oxenford shopping centre, further increases the accessibility of our service.

Our location within the centre facilitates effective referrals from the centre to our service where a need is identified and we are also able to refer our clients to the many courses and support services provided to the community within the centre.

In the last financial year our solicitors have seen 220 clients at this outreach service.

Studio Village Oxenford

We are pleased to report that we have re-connected with the Studio Village Community Centre this year and have been welcomed into the centre to provide a specialist service in family law, covering children, property, child protection and domestic violence matters. This service is provided by one of our solicitors who assists in family law matters, including domestic violence, exclusively.

The service has had a very rapid uptake, clearly demonstrating the dire need for such services in the area and the feedback from the centre staff has been that clients are pleased that we are back and operating from the centre.

Since its recent re-inception, our service has provided assistance to 66 clients at this centre.



Palm Beach Neighbourhood Centre

Every Friday we provide advice and assistance by way of appointments at the Palm Beach Neighbourhood Centre, where, like the Nerang Neighbourhood centre, we have had a collaborative relationship for many years. This service, located in the southern area of the Gold Coast, enables us to provide assistance to people in an area where statistics demonstrate there to be a high level of disadvantage in the community and we assist many clients at this location for whom travel to our main office in Southport would prove difficult in many circumstances. As with the Nerang Neighbourhood Centre, working collaboratively with the Palm Beach Neighbourhood Centre allows us to refer our clients to the many services offered at that centre, including support programs, financial and social work counselling. Being located within the centre also allows its staff to refer clients to our service where the need is identified.

In the last financial year, our solicitors have seen 87 clients, with the relatively low number of clients being a result of the centre being closed for refurbishment for a large part of the financial year.

Upper Coomera Community Centre

Every Wednesday one of our specialist family law solicitors attends at the Upper Coomera Community Centre located on Reserve Road, Upper Coomera to provide assistance to clients with family law matters, including children, property and DV matters. This service was introduced this year and the uptake of appointments has been rapid, with them filling very quickly as soon as our diary opens.

The availability of this service again demonstrates our centre's capacity to take services into those areas of the Gold Coast where a strong need has been identified.

Our thanks must go to Centacare for very kindly allowing our solicitors to operate from one of their rooms within this centre.

In the last financial year our solicitor has provided assistance to 89 clients at Upper Coomera, with the relatively low number being because this service has only recently commenced.

Varsity Lakes Community Centre

Each Monday one of our solicitors is welcomed into the Varsity Lakes Community Centre on Mattocks Road, Varsity Lakes where we are provided with a space to provide our services to the local community. Whilst the area is now known as Varsity Lakes, it was previously known as Stephens, an area with a high density of government housing and having been identified as being of high need of services such as ours.

In the last financial year, our solicitors have assisted 122 clients at this outreach service.

Coolangatta

Each Monday we have a solicitor operating out of The Strand Building at Coolangatta in a space generously provided to us by the Gold Coast City Council. This location enables us to service not only the residents of the Southern Gold Coast but also clients across the border in NSW who either have Queensland-related issues or Commonwealth law matters, such as family law. The take up of this service since its introduction has been very high, thus proving that there is a significant unmet need for our services in the area.

Whilst this outreach service was originally established as an interim one pending the refurbishment of the Palm Beach Neighbourhood Centre and our re-integration back into that centre, the demand for the service has been so high that we plan to maintain it on an ongoing basis, subject of course to the ongoing support of the Gold Coast City Council with provision of a space from which to operate and with our funding permitting.

In the last financial year our solicitors have seen 220 clients at this outreach service.

Manny Palma
Solicitor

2282

**THE NUMBER OF ADVICES GIVEN AT
OUTREACH CLINICS THIS FINANCIAL YEAR**



“ I would like to thank the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre for their professional skills with a difficult matter regarding unpaid wages and superannuation. The solicitor was friendly and easy to converse with, his professionalism and knowledge resolved my matter successfully with all outstanding monies paid to me. This service is beneficial to people like myself. I would not have been able to pursue this matter without this professional service. ”

Gold Coast Community Legal Centre Client



WALK-IN ADVICE CLINIC

Walk-In Advice Clinics give the Gold Coast community access to immediate free legal advice. The Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau Inc provides walk-in advice clinics so that clients can access legal service on a urgent basis without the need to wait for an appointment, as well as providing the opportunity for free legal advice outside normal business hours.

Tuesday Evening Walk-In Clinic

The Centre has continued the evening walk-in advice clinic on a Tuesday evening from 5pm onwards, with no appointment necessary.

The Tuesday evening walk-in clinic has staff solicitors who work on a Tuesday evening according to a roster created.

The Centre also invites solicitors from external firms, organisations or departments who hold a practicing certificate to volunteer during the evening walk-in clinic. These solicitors are orientated and given appropriate induction materials to ensure they comply with the Centres policies, procedures and risk management guidelines. The Centre appreciates the time and effort volunteered by these solicitors as their varying knowledge and expertise enable the Centre to be able to provide a greater depth of services, as well as the general assistance provided in helping us to see as many clients as possible seeking out of hours/urgent legal advice.

The reception is operated by law students who are also trained, orientated and inducted into the position. These law students volunteer out of their own time as they seek to gain a greater expose to the practical side of the law. Law students greet clients, conduct conflict checks and progress the client through the intake process to see a solicitor. Without law students operating reception during the evening walk-in clinic, we would not be able to provide the level of services which we currently do.

Wednesday Morning Walk-In Clinic

The Centre also operated a walk-in advice clinic on Wednesday mornings. This walk-in clinic was run by staff solicitors in the Southport office on Wednesdays, specifically, Victoria Shiel, Manny Palma and Tanya Diessel.

The aim of the Wednesday morning walk-in clinic was to enhance the opportunity for people with urgent matters to gain immediate legal advice where an appointment is either unavailable or time is of the essence in their matter.

Additionally, during the year, some law student clinics/ programs were run on a Wednesday, which enabled the Centre to expand the services offered to walk-in clinic clients. Law students placed on a Wednesday had the opportunity to assist clients with forms, documents and research, which would otherwise not be available to a client at a walk-in clinic. The Centre saw this opportunity to place students on a Wednesday as having a positive impact, as clients were able to access a greater level of assistance through the supervised work of a law student and law students were gaining practical expose to the legal profession.

However, due to circumstances beyond the control of the Centre, the Wednesday morning walk-in clinic was ceased in October 2015.

308

THE NUMBER OF CLIENTS THAT WERE
SEEN AT THE TUESDAY EVENING WALK-IN
CLINIC THIS FINANCIAL YEAR

SPECIALIST FAMILY LAW, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & CHILD PROTECTION LAWYER

With a significant increase in the amount of clients requiring advice and assistance with domestic violence, family law and child protection matters, the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre was provided with specialist Commonwealth government funding to employ a specialist family law, domestic violence and child protection solicitor in early 2016.



Commencing in February, our specialist solicitor, Rikki-Jane Buckland, brings a wealth of experience from private legal practice where she regularly acted in matters before the family law courts and the various Magistrates Courts around South East Queensland. She has gone on to develop strong links to other service providers and support networks across the Gold Coast during her time with the Centre.

This expertise and specialisation in the area means that the clients who are often highly traumatized and vulnerable are given priority assistance and continuity with often complex cases involving several different areas relating to family law. Her experience with family law trial matters allows her to explain exactly what a self-represented client may expect at court and the best ways to present their case.

Rikki-Jane provides legal advice to clients in a range of different areas, including parenting disputes, the division of property following separation or divorce, domestic and family violence matters, parental abduction, child support, same sex relationship disputes, grandparents' rights and child protection. She regularly provides casework assistance to clients such as completing divorce applications online, drafting orders, negotiating settlements through correspondence, drafting domestic violence affidavits, and assisting clients to initiate or respond to family law proceedings.

As part of her specialist role, Rikki-Jane also appears at Southport Magistrates Court as a domestic violence and child protection duty lawyer and assists in community legal education to increase awareness of the prevalence of domestic violence and family law issues in the community.

In addition to providing appointments at our Southport office, she attends outreach clinics at community centres including Studio Village, Upper Coomera and Varsity Lakes meaning that her specialist expertise is available across the Gold Coast region.





“ I met the lawyer at the domestic violence court and I felt overwhelmed and at a dead end. It was closing time but she made time for me and gave me help and options and booked me to spend more time with her the next day. I felt scared and alone and even putting my papers together made me want to sleep and stop but she kept helping me. It might seem simple to lawyers but I do not know what I would have done without these lawyers. They gave me hope and did my court papers and the kindness made me feel so much better than before I met them. ”

Gold Coast Community Legal Centre Client

CHILD PROTECTION DUTY LAWYER SERVICE

Commencing in early 2016, the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre has taken an active role in the Child Protection Duty Lawyer service provided at the Southport Magistrates Court. Our specialist family and child protection lawyer, Rikki-Jane Buckland, regularly appears on Thursdays as child protection duty lawyer in the Childrens Court.

The service was started following the release of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry's June 2013 report entitled "Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection". A duty lawyer pilot program was set up in Cairns and Townsville Children in September 2014 and, after its successful integration in those courts, the program was expanded to seven other locations including Southport.

The duty lawyer service provides parents, young people and other interested individuals (such as grandparents, aunts, uncles and elders) with valuable legal advice, assistance, referral and representation on the day the matter is to be heard in Court. By increasing the individuals who can receive legal advice about the child protection matter, it is hoped that family members can take a more active role in what can be an intrusive process to intervene in a child's life.

The information and advice is aimed at protecting the client's rights from any unjust accusations and ensuring that they are aware of the process involved at the different stages of the matter. The advice may be in relation to an investigation which must be carried out, whether it is necessary for a child at risk of harm to be taken into custody and placed with a kinship carer or into the foster care system, whether ongoing intervention is required or whether there are any appeal options once a decision has been made.

In addition to providing advice and referrals to appropriate services, we also assist in completing Legal Aid forms, negotiating on certain parties' behalf and representing the most vulnerable unrepresented parties in the Childrens Court.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DUTY LAWYER REPORT

On 1 September 2015 a specialist domestic violence court trial commenced at Southport Magistrates Court. The trial is part of the Queensland Government's response to the *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland Report* produced by the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence. The trial will run until 30 June 2017.

The aim of the trial, as described in the Department of Justice and Attorney General Fact Sheet - 'Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Court' is *"enhancing the safety of victims by providing timely, coordinated and consistent responses to victims and perpetrators involved in domestic and family violence proceedings and related criminal matters"*. The trial involves specialist Magistrates, court staff, support staff and police prosecutors, as well as a duty lawyer service which can be utilised by men and women, and aggrieved parties and respondents. The specialist court runs from Monday to Friday each week.

Our Centre is very proud to be involved in the specialist domestic violence court trial.

Six of our solicitors are trained as domestic violence duty lawyers and attend the Southport Magistrates Court to provide duty lawyer services.

The role includes providing advice, assisting with preparation of documents, carrying out negotiations with other duty lawyers or private solicitors and providing court representation.

These services are undertaken by our solicitors as 'preferred suppliers' for Legal Aid Queensland.

We work under the Legal Aid Queensland Duty Lawyer Service along with other preferred suppliers and Legal Aid funds the position. Our solicitors work to a duty lawyer roster set by Legal Aid; we are usually rostered to attend court to act as duty lawyers between two and four days each week. We are usually rostered as duty lawyers for the aggrieved person or applicant the matter, as opposed to the respondent.

Solicitors from our Centre also regularly attend the operational working group meetings for the trial.

Being involved in this trial has provided an invaluable experience for our team of solicitors and goes toward our Centre's mission statement of maximising access to professional legal advice and services to those who would otherwise be unable to do so. This year we have given 819 activities at the court as part of the specialist domestic violence court trial duty lawyer service.

We have also further enhanced our working relationship with the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast, Centacare and other professional participants in the trial.

Skye Worth
Solicitor

CASE STUDIES

Case Study 1

Our Centre assisted a client in relation to a family law and domestic violence matter. The client came to our Centre for advice as the father of her child had retained the child in his care after a weekend visit. When the client went to the police they initially said she would need to apply for a recovery order. We believed the father's actions were in contravention of a domestic violence protection order and a parenting plan and she could get immediate assistance on that basis. Our Centre assisted the client by contacting the Domestic Violence Coordinator of the Queensland Police for the Gold Coast on her behalf. We assisted with a letter explaining the circumstances and received an immediate response from the Domestic Violence Coordinator confirming that the police would meet with the client to take and process her complaint.

Case study 2

A client sought our advice regarding a tenancy matter and damages to the property. One evening, client turned the air conditioner on and an electrical fire started in the air conditioning unit outside the house. Client immediately extinguished this fire and called the fire brigade. The landlord was trying to claim money from the client for the replacement of the air conditioning unit. Client didn't believe he was liable as he was not responsible for the fire. The tenancy ended before this was resolved and the landlord withheld the clients bond as payment for the fire damage. The matter ended up in QCAT where client was successful in getting all his bond returned and found not to owe any money for the fire damage as he was not at fault. Our office assisted client with this matter in writing to the landlord and helping prepare client for QCAT.

Case Study 4

We provided legal advice about family law property settlement matters to a husband who was unable to work due to a workplace injury. His former partner was hiding property and assets overseas and refused to provide disclosure of any documentation to reveal her true financial position. The husband's finances meant that he was unable to retain a private solicitor, given that his former partner controlled the majority of the assets. The matter progressed to the Federal Circuit Court where his former partner engaged solicitors and a barrister. We advised him what was likely to happen in Court and the client was able to utilise our advice to negotiate a just and equitable settlement in his favour. The settlement gave him access to much needed monetary funds in a timely manner.

Case Study 3

We provided casework to a client originally from China who had spent over 3 years attempting to navigate through the Federal Circuit Court for parenting orders that would allow her to take her child to China to visit her family who were too elderly and frail to travel to Australia. When the client came to us she was quite overwhelmed and about to give up but we managed to file amended documents and affidavit and the airport watch order was lifted and she was awarded orders that allowed her to travel to China with her daughter.

Case Study 5

A female client attended at the domestic violence duty lawyer service having lodged a private application for her own personal safety and for the safety of the children against her former partner whom she had recently separated from. She and the children had been subjected to severe emotional and physical domestic violence throughout the relationship but things had become unbearable at the time of final separation. Her former partner had also threatened to stop paying rent which would mean she and the children would be evicted from the property. Our solicitor represented the client in the court and was successful in arguing against a variation sought by the client's former partner to remove the children from the order. She was then seen by our service to provide ongoing advice and assistance with the negotiation of parenting and property settlement matters. That assistance included appropriate referrals to community organisations and agencies that can assist domestic violence survivors on an urgent basis.

Case Study 6

We assisted a vulnerable and disadvantage client in a rental (bond) dispute. The client is a victim of domestic violence, is financially limited and vulnerable, and does not speak English well. With the assistance of an Arabic interpreter we ensured that we understood the client's instructions and that the client understood the process, our advice and the relevant law. The client fled to the Gold Coast with a child of the marriage due to serious threats of violence by her estranged husband thereby breaching a protection order. The real estate agents had knowledge of this history of domestic violence and that the husband also still had a key to the property. The agents notified her that they will retain all of the bond in the amount which was over \$1,000 or that she must pay them a lower amount around \$800 in cash on the spot which she obviously could not afford. We completed the QCAT application form on behalf of the client setting out the reasons why the client's bond should be returned to her. The client was successful in her application and QCAT ordered that all of the bond be returned to her. The client said "you did all the work that no one else would do and you believed in me and made it okay".

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

Community Legal Education provides information, skills and direction for people with a view to early resolution and solution of legal problems and helping people be better aware and informed of their rights and obligations.

Our Centre has a long history of providing community legal education to the Gold Coast Community across a large number of locations and covering a range of topics.

Highlights of our community legal education this year included:

Regular twice weekly community legal education in partnership with our local Family Relationship Centre. This year Amelda Schrenk provided information to parents and grandparents considering mediation in relation to children. We deliver the legal component of the session and mediators provide information and resources on family dispute resolution. This year we provided 43 sessions to 298 people.

In March this year two solicitors delivered an education session at the request of Volunteering Gold Coast covering information in relation to children, property and divorce as well as information about the law in relation to domestic and family violence. It was very well received.

We also deliver several community legal education sessions at Universities targeted at students in relation to the history, role and ongoing need for community legal centres and community lawyers.

We also deliver an annual talk to Probus Clubs and the Queensland Justice Association.

We also are regular participants and have an information table at the Homeless Connect Day and Family Law Pathways Network. This year we also set up an information stall at the Mudgeeraba Agricultural Show that was very popular and a great way to promote our services.

Some feedback from our clients this year

"A difficult complex subject (family and domestic violence) covered very well"

"Very useful, I am the area co-ordinator for a Neighbourhood Watch and will ensure what I have learnt today is shared and available to my community"



"I believe that the most important thing that GCCLC does is helping people. They have great Solicitors and amazing Volunteers that are always trying their best to point people in the right direction."

Valeria, Volunteer

"Every week brings with it something new and more memorable than the week before! I'm impressed with GCCLC's organisation and the way it caters to clients with offices/meeting venues all over the Gold Coast, so as to make it more open/accessible to all residents."

Vanessa, Volunteer

"Having been a person in need of free legal assistance in the past, I have empathy for people needing to use the service and I have a desire to assist. In my opinion, the GCCLC does exceptionally well at helping disadvantaged people take more charge of their situation."

Corey, Volunteer

"I guess my standout moments are those when I am able to assist those who are struggling emotionally in coping with their particular legal issues. I find volunteering very rewarding"

Alyssa, Volunteer



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

The Centre currently has around 20 community volunteers who each give at least 4 hours of their time at the Centre each week. Volunteers are critical to our Centre and their support and contribution is invaluable in helping us reach out and help as many Gold Coast residents in need as we can.

The roster of willing volunteers consists of a variety of people all trained and supervised by our Admin Co ordinator Heather Buckley. Their ages vary, along with their lifestyles, personalities, backgrounds and experiences. Each volunteer brings something new to the Centre.

During their busy shift they deal with the community through constant phone calls and also people who walk into the office seeking advice. The volunteers book appointments for clients, manage the solicitors' diaries and also provide general community advice and referrals to other community legal centres, departments and organisations.

All volunteers participate in professional development sessions on a regular basis to ensure they are kept up-to-date with administrative changes, law reforms and community updates. Since the volunteers are the first contact the public has with the Centre, they must ensure they are up-to-date with the Gold Coast.

Each volunteer is greatly appreciated and constantly praised for their time and efforts into helping the Centre operate to the best of its ability.

This year we sadly farewelled our longest serving volunteer Brian Rosier who has been with us since 1988.

Heather Buckley
Admin Co ordinator

Volunteer of the month 2015-2016

Pat Issacs	July 2015
Linette Blyton	August 2015
Cassie Mallett	September 2015
Sue Douglas	December 2015
Diane Smith	February 2016
Courtney Rickersey	March 2016
Vanessa McBean	May 2016
Alyssa Phillips	June 2016

Volunteers of 2015-2016

Brian Rosier (resigned May 2016)	Joined 1988
Rae Devlin	Joined 1990
April Vincent	Joined 2002
Susan Garrett	Joined 2002
Barbara Price-Ellingham	Joined 2008
Eve Baker	Joined 2008
Chris Segovic (resigned October 2015)	Joined 2012
Helen Nunn	Joined 2012
Chris Maine	Joined 2013
Debbie Quinlan (resigned October 2015)	Joined 2013
Natalie Chalmers	Joined 2013
Tony Land	Joined 2013
Aleks Milic (resigned December 2015)	Joined 2014
Bianca Fernandez (resigned September 2015)	Joined 2014
Diane Smith	Joined 2014
Linette Blyton	Joined 2014
Pat Isaccs (resigned April 2016)	Joined 2014
Sue Douglas	Rejoined 2015
Alexandra Goncalves (resigned January 2016)	Joined 2015
Alyssa Phillips	Joined 2015
Cassie Mallett	Joined 2015
Courtney Rickersey	Joined 2015
Marie Kelly (resigned January 2016)	Joined 2015
Shirley Harris	Joined 2015
Tracy Barker (resigned February 2016)	Joined 2015
Vanessa McBean (resigned May 2016)	Joined 2015
Maija Pekkanen	Joined 2016
Meg Farmer	Joined 2016
Paul Bae	Joined 2016
Ruth Neendo	Joined 2016
Sanpreet Rai	Joined 2016
Valeria Correia	Joined 2016

VOLUNTEER SOLICITORS

To assist in the running of the Tuesday evening walk-in clinic, we have volunteer solicitors come provide advice and assistance to clients attending the Centre. These solicitors all work during the day at their own place of employment, and volunteer their time at the Centre as a way of giving back to the community.

The solicitors who volunteered with the Centre during the evening walk in clinic during 2015/2016 were:

Amanda Gilmour

Solicitor at Shine Lawyers

Commenced volunteering January 2015

Clare Byrne

Solicitor at Dwyer Lawyers

Commenced volunteering February 2015

Rory Quinn

Solicitor at Quinn Group

Commenced volunteering February 2015

Chilemwa Nkowane-Poole

Solicitor at Dwyer Lawyers

Commenced volunteering March 2015

Rory Quinn

Solicitor at Quinn Group

Commenced volunteering February 2015

Lisa Hughes

Solicitor at RH Legal

Commenced volunteering March 2016

Julie-Ann Ross

Commenced volunteering March 2015



“I enjoyed having exposure to clients and the feeling of making a real difference to people’s lives with the advice (however limited) that I could provide. It was nice to hear people’s stories (albeit long at times) and get feedback that we had done a good job.”

Volunteer Solicitor

“Lawyers who volunteer at CLCs do so because they want to give back and feel good about helping, but it also expands your horizons to be exposed to new areas of law. By volunteering at a CLC you can learn about everyday areas of law that you wouldn’t usually deal with like car accidents and neighbourhood disputes, and help yourself or a friend.”

Volunteer Solicitor



LAW STUDENTS

Throughout the year, our Centre facilitates law students who seek to gain further experience in the practical side of the law whilst they are still completing their university degree. One of our solicitors Tanya Diessel co ordinates, recruits and supervises the students across the various programs.

The Centre has various programs and placement opportunities for law students. The Centre works closely with local universities to ensure there are opportunities for students to gain practical experience whilst undertaking their studies.

Students who attend the Centre participate in a range of activities such as:

- Sitting in on legal appointments;
- Conducting client intakes;
- Creating fact sheets and self-help kits to be made available to clients;
- Conducting research for solicitors;
- Assisting in reception;
- Drafting letters and documents for clients;
- Assisting in the completion of forms;
- Any other task a solicitor deems appropriate based on a student's capabilities.

BOND UNIVERSITY

The Centre continues to have a relationship with Bond University where students are placed at the Centre during their academic semesters. The Centre currently has two (2) programs available for Bond University law students to participate in.

Clinical Placement Subject

As with previous years, the Centre continues to accept law students enrolled in a clinic legal placement subject run by the Bond Faculty of Law staff member, Lindsey Stevenson-Graf.

Bond University provides 5-6 students from this subject who attend the Centre for a 5 day placement. Bond students are placed at the Centre twice a year – during February to March and also October to November.

These students are assessed on their performance at the Centre and this significantly contributes to their overall grade for the subject.

Bond Community Law Clinic

This clinic operated for the first time last year, commencing June 2015 and is organised through Maria Nicolae from Bond University in liaison with Tanya Diessel. This clinic allows for 4 students to volunteer one day a week at the Centre and isn't part of their studies but on a voluntary basis. This clinic was established to be able to provide further opportunities for Bond University law students to volunteer and gain practical experiences, as well as to be able to create a greater service available to our clients which can be provided during the clinic.

We have had great success with the Bond University law students, from both the clinical placement and volunteer clinic, where a number of them ask to return to continue volunteering out of their own time to ensure they can gain as much experience as they possible and continue to learn whilst completing their studies.

Reception Fill in volunteers

Tanya communicates with Bond University Law School staff at the beginning of the year and mid-year, seeking expressions of interest from law students who are interested in joining the 'fill-in' roster for reception duties.

These students are selected and a determination is made whether they would be suited to volunteer at our Centre. Those successful students are then offered the opportunity to be on the reception fill-in roster where they are called on for reception duties when needed. The roster is changed every 6 months, where new expressions of interest are sought.

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

At the beginning of last year, Griffith University approached the Centre seeking to build a relationship where Griffith University law students can be part of the Centre to gain experience whilst completing their studies.

Community Lawyering Clinic

Tanya has worked with Griffith Law School staff to set up a subject through Griffith University where 6 students are placed at the Centre one day a week, for the duration of a semester (13 weeks). The first clinic commenced in July 2015 and has successfully been running each semester thereafter. Professor Jeff Giddings and Zoe Rathus work with Tanya to enable this clinic to operate each semester.

Volunteer Student Placement

We also have an arrangement with Griffith Law School for law students to volunteer their own time one day a week during a semester. Currently, the Centre has 6 Griffith law students who volunteer on a Tuesday, each allocated a shift of either 8.30-12.30pm; 12.30pm-4pm and 5pm until close. Students are in groups of two (2) for these shifts and provide assistance to the Centre where needed.

This opportunity is to enhance students awareness of the practical side of the law and especially bringing to their attention the need for access to justice and importance of community legal centres. Tanya works closely with Karen Collier from Griffith University to advertise and recruit these students.

NIGHT CLINIC VOLUNTEERS

To assist in the running of the Tuesday evening walk-in clinic, law students are placed in reception to be the first point of contact for clients attending the clinic.

Students are placed on a 6 month basis, where they assist in setting up the office for the night clinic and then deal with the clients once the clinic commences.

The students greet clients, briefly discuss their matter and if appropriate for the clinic, conduct a conflict check and progress the client through the intake process to be seen by a solicitor.

Tanya Diessel

Solicitor & Student Co ordinator



“Fortunate to be given such an amazing opportunity alongside such incredible solicitors!”

Aleksandra Milic, Night Clinic Student

“Participating in both a semester-long clinic during my degree, then as a PLT student gave me fantastic practical experience. The opportunity was also very rewarding because I was able to give back to the community.”

Corey Harrison, Community Lawyering Clinic





“ I have been helped about my family issue. Firstly all the people are very friendly and professional, they always smile and nicely talk to me and book me to see a lawyer really quickly. My lawyer is excellent and she always patiently makes sure I understand because English is my second language. She helped me get a passport for my daughter so now I have the chance to take my daughter to China for the first time to meet my family. ”

Gold Coast Community Legal Centre Client

LAW STUDENT PLACEMENTS DURING 2015–2016

Bond University: Clinical Placement Subject

Isabella Sinclair	Oct-November 2015
Tom Anderson	Oct-November 2015
Rhygan Werrett	Oct-November 2015
Rachel Grosvenor	Oct-November 2015
Wen Wen Qiu	Oct-November 2015
Damian Beattie	February-March 2015
Louise Naris	February-March 2015
Robert Gregory	February-March 2015
Shiwen Yuan	February-March 2015
Wangzhang Chew	February-March 2015

Bond University: Community Lawyering Clinic

Laura Klein	November 2015
Briannon Stokes	November 2015
Daniel Cherney	November 2015
Mathieu Blake	November 2015
Amir Hage	February-March 2016
Jonathon McColl	February-March 2016
Rachel Lamb	February-March 2016
Tayla Bray	February-March 2016
Lily Prusad	June-July 2016
Ngaire King	June-July 2016
Stephanie Contorame	June-July 2016

Reception fill-in volunteers

Maggie Skow	June-December 2015
Jamie-Lee Jessop	June-December 2015
Nadja Khelifi	June-December 2015
Rabia Awan	June-December 2015
Shimon Braude	June-December 2015
Omar Abdulhak	June-December 2015
Cassie Mallett	June 2015-June 2016

Griffith University: Community Lawyering Clinic

Corey Harrison	July-November 2015
Courtney Weeks	July-November 2015
Kayla Davison	July-November 2015
Robin Mahly	July-November 2015
Suzy Patras	July-November 2015
Dean Sarra	February-June 2016
Elizabeth Englezos	February-June 2016
Jeewha Rhee	February-June 2016
Jennifer Willmott	February-June 2016
Katarina Hall	February-June 2016
Ryan Peters	February-June 2016

Griffith University: Volunteer Student Placement (day time volunteers)

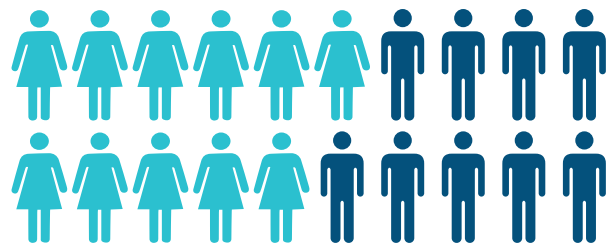
Amy Parry	July-November 2015
Christian le Cordier	July-November 2015
Lachlan Robb	July-November 2015
Linda Miller	July-November 2015
Aiah Allieu	February-June 2016
Brendan Reidy	February-June 2016
Lauren Burton-Jones	February-June 2016

Griffith University: Night Clinic volunteers

Adam Rogers	June-December 2015
Bianca Fernandez	June-December 2015
Mitchell Pearce	June-December 2015
Mitchell Anderson	January-June 2016
Lachlan Robb	January-June 2016
Aleksandra Milic	January-June 2016

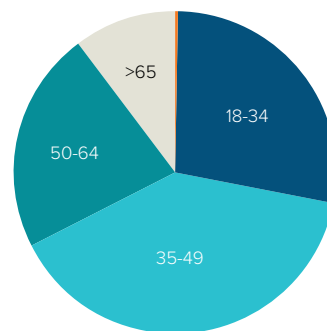
DELIVERABLES FOR 2015-16

Deliverables for 2015-16. Some changes to the numbers. "The total number of legal advices given during the 2015-16 financial year amounted to 4841, which was slightly up from last year's figure of 4561 and both years significantly exceeded our targets. In addition to advice we provided 3042 legal information and worked on 626 cases, 589 of which were opened during the year.



Of the 3,781 clients attending the Centre 2,174 were female and 1,533 were male

The most popular area of law was family law claiming more than half of all advices and mostly the help sought in children's matters and family violence, followed by civil law particularly in the areas of debt, employment, tenancy and consumer complaints and advice in criminal law was considerably less sought after this year.



Age distribution of 3,781 clients

- Under 18 years (14)
- 18-34 years (1,039)
- 35-49 years (1,469)
- 50-64 years (831)
- Over 65 years (382)

4,841

The total number of legal advices given during the 2015-2016 financial year

626

The number of new cases (including duty lawyer cases) during the financial year (37 were open at the period start) 573 cases were closed.

22

The number of community legal education activities we delivered this financial year

918

(25%) of our clients with a dependent were living at home were single

2,316

Of our clients have a low income < \$35,000 p.a.
829 clients have a medium income of \$30-\$35,000 p.a.
224 clients have a high income > \$65,000 p.a.

75

(2%) of our clients identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people

524

(14%) of our clients have disability of some kind

691

(19%) of our clients with a dependent living at home were a two parent family

The table below shows a detailed breakdown of the area of law our clients require advice in. Please note that the total number of advice given is smaller than the sum of the specific advices given as clients sometimes presented with more than one problem type. The same applies to cases opened and closed.

BREAK-DOWN OF MAJOR PROBLEM TYPES AND RESPECTIVE CLIENT NUMBERS FOR EACH SERVICE TYPE

	Information	Advice	Cases open at start	Cases opened during period	Cases closed during period	CLE activities completed	LRLP activities completed
Family Law	683	4067	34	654	621	11	0
Child support	30	51	1	1	1	0	0
Child/spousal maintenance	11	25	0	1	0	0	0
Contact & residency	68	1523	19	119	103	3	0
Divorce & separation	148	372	2	20	18	1	0
Family/domestic violence	127	1192	7	482	469	4	0
Property	117	813	4	24	24	2	0
Child protection	20	47	0	6	5	0	0
Other family law	162	44	1	1	1	1	0
Civil Law	2257	2387	12	88	55	16	0
Tenancy	215	232	3	6	6	0	0
Credit & Debit	584	441	2	15	7	0	0
Immigration Law	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Government / Administrative law	92	95	0	6	4	0	0
Government pensions & benefit allowances	27	8	0	0	0	0	0
Consumer & complaints	177	252	0	12	8	0	0
Motor vehicle	87	173	4	8	7	0	0
Wills / probate	329	84	0	1	1	0	0
Environment	5	2	0	1	0	0	0
Injuries	123	16	0	1	0	0	0
Discrimination	34	6	0	0	0	0	0
Employment	211	496	0	15	7	0	0
Neighbourhood disputes	70	213	3	9	6	0	0
Other civil law	187	369	0	14	9	16	0
Criminal Law	102	305	0	8	7	1	0
Offences against persons	52	35	0	1	1	0	0
Offences against property & Other offences	50	270	0	7	6	1	0
Total activities	3042	4825	42	594	558	22	0

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau Inc

ABN: 29 559 147 600


Financial Report For The Year Ended 30 June 2016

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GOLD COAST COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE & ADVICE BUREAU INC
ABN: 29 559 147 600
AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER S 307C OF
THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001 TO THE COMMITTEE OF GOLD COAST COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE &
ADVICE BUREAU INC

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2016 there have been no contraventions of:

- (i) the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Name of Firm	Gold Group Consulting
	
Name of Partner	Anthony John Coote
Date	<u>2/09/2016</u>
Address	<u>56 Davenport Street, Southport, QLD, 4215</u>

GOLD COAST COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE & ADVICE BUREAU INC
ABN: 29 559 147 600
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	2016	2015
		\$	\$
Revenue	2	734,698	658,858
Other income	2	93,640	36,819
Employee provisions expense		(15,897)	(14,946)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	3	(4,959)	(3,020)
Rental expense	3	(71,622)	(70,548)
Audit, legal and consultancy fees		(4,110)	(14,153)
Sundry expenses		(678,008)	(555,683)
Current year surplus before income tax		53,742	37,328
Tax expense			
Net current year surplus		53,742	37,328
Other comprehensive income			
Total other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		53,742	37,328
Profit attributable to members of the entity		53,742	37,328
Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity		53,742	37,328

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
This report is to be read in conjunction with the attached auditors report.

GOLD COAST COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE & ADVICE BUREAU INC
ABN: 29 559 147 600
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash on hand	4	288,300	232,540
Accounts receivable and other debtors	5	26,005	16,126
Other current assets	6	17,884	5,961
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>332,189</u>	<u>254,627</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	7	15,259	20,219
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>15,259</u>	<u>20,219</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>347,448</u>	<u>274,846</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable and other payables	8	37,516	32,815
Employee provisions	9	49,393	43,589
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>86,909</u>	<u>76,404</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee provisions	9	51,749	43,395
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>51,749</u>	<u>43,395</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>138,658</u>	<u>119,799</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>208,790</u>	<u>155,048</u>
EQUITY			
Retained surplus		208,790	155,048
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>208,790</u>	<u>155,048</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
This report is to be read in conjunction with the attached auditors report.

GOLD COAST COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE & ADVICE BUREAU INC
ABN: 29 559 147 600
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Commonwealth, state and local government grants		728,059	650,870
Receipts from donations, bequests and raffles		83,771	41,819
Payments to suppliers and employees		(762,709)	(649,599)
Interest received		6,639	7,988
Net cash generated from operating activities	10	55,760	51,078
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payment for property, plant and equipment		-	(6,844)
Net cash used in investing activities		-	(6,844)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash used in financing activities		-	-
Net increase in cash held		55,760	44,234
Cash on hand at beginning of the financial year		232,540	188,306
Cash on hand at end of the financial year	4	288,300	232,540

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
This report is to be read in conjunction with the attached auditors report.

GOLD COAST COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE & ADVICE BUREAU INC
ABN: 29 559 147 600
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

The financial statements cover Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau Inc as an individual entity, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau Inc is an incorporated association.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 2nd September 2016 by the committee.

Note 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. The association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

Accounting Policies

(a) Revenue

Non-reciprocal grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the entity obtains control of the grant and it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before the entity is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau Inc receives non-reciprocal contributions of assets from the government and other parties for no or nominal value. These assets are recognised at fair value on the date of acquisition in the statement of financial position, with a corresponding amount of income recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customer.

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

(b) Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

The association measures some of its assets and liabilities at fair value on either a recurring or non-recurring basis, depending on the requirements of the applicable Accounting Standard.

Fair value is the price the association would receive to sell an asset or would have to pay to transfer a liability in an orderly (i.e. unforced) transaction between independent, knowledgeable and willing market participants at the measurement date.

As fair value is a market-based measure, the closest equivalent observable market pricing information is used to determine fair value. Adjustments to market values may be made having regard to the characteristics of the specific asset or liability. The fair values of assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market are determined using one or more valuation techniques. These valuation techniques maximise, to the extent possible, the use of observable market data.

To the extent possible, market information is extracted from either the principal market for the asset or liability (ie the market with the greatest volume and level of activity for the asset or liability) or, in the absence of such a market, the most advantageous market available to the entity at the end of the reporting period (ie the market that maximises the receipts from the sale of the asset or minimises the payments made to transfer the liability, after taking into account transaction costs and transport costs).

For non-financial assets, the fair value measurement also takes into account a market participant's ability to use the asset in its highest and best use or to sell it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

The fair value of liabilities and the entity's own equity instruments (excluding those related to share-based payment arrangements) may be valued, where there is no observable market price in relation to the transfer of such financial instrument, by reference to observable market information where such instruments are held as assets. Where this information is not available, other valuation techniques are adopted and, where significant, are detailed in the respective note to the financial statements.

These notes are to be read in conjunction with the attached auditors report.

GOLD COAST COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE & ADVICE BUREAU INC
ABN: 29 559 147 600
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

(c) Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value as indicated, less, where applicable, accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis and are therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. In the event the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than its estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to its estimated recoverable amount and impairment losses are recognised either in profit or loss or as a revaluation decrease if the impairment losses relate to a revalued asset. A formal assessment of recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present (refer to Note 1(f) for details of impairment).

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the association and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are recognised as expenses in profit or loss in the financial period in which they are incurred.

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

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including buildings and capitalised lease assets, but excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the entity commencing from the time the asset is available for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

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

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate
Leasehold Expenses	2.5%
Plant and equipment	10% - 66.67%

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

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are recognised as income in profit or loss in the period in which they arise. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to that asset are transferred to retained surplus.

(d) Leases

Leases of property, plant and equipment, where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset (but not the legal ownership) are transferred to the entity, are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised, recognising an asset and a liability equal to the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values.

Leased assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives where it is likely that the entity will obtain ownership of the asset. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period.

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are recognised as expenses on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Lease incentives under operating leases are recognised as a liability and amortised on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

(e) Financial Instruments

Initial Recognition and Measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the association commits itself to either purchase or sell the asset (i.e. trade date accounting is adopted).

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transactions costs except where the instrument is classified 'at fair value through profit or loss', in which case transaction costs are recognised as expenses in profit or loss immediately.

Classification and Subsequent Measurement

Financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, or cost. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

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Amortised cost is calculated as the amount at which the financial asset or financial liability is measured at initial recognition less principal repayments and any reduction for impairment, and adjusted for any cumulative amortisation of the difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount calculated using the effective interest method.

The effective interest method is used to allocate interest income or interest expense over the relevant period and is equivalent to the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts (including fees, transaction costs and other premiums or discounts) through the expected life (or when this cannot be reliably predicted, the contractual term) of the financial instrument to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability. Revisions to expected future net cash flows will necessitate an adjustment to the carrying value with a consequential recognition of an income or expense item in profit or loss.

(i) Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets are classified at "fair value through profit or loss" when they are held for trading for the purpose of short-term profit taking, derivatives not held for hedging purposes, or when they are designated as such to avoid an accounting mismatch or to enable performance evaluation where a group of financial assets is managed by key management personnel on a fair value basis in accordance with a documented risk management or investment strategy. Such assets are subsequently measured at fair value with changes in carrying amount being included in profit or loss.

(ii) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss through the amortisation process and when the financial asset is derecognised.

(iii) Held-to-maturity investments

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets that have fixed maturities and fixed or determinable payments, and it is the association's intention to hold these investments to maturity. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss through the amortisation process and when the financial asset is derecognised.

(iv) Available-for-sale investments

Available-for-sale investments are non-derivative financial assets that are either not capable of being classified into other categories of financial assets due to their nature or they are designated as such by management. They comprise investments in the equity of other entities where there is neither a fixed maturity nor fixed or determinable payments.

They are subsequently measured at fair value with any remeasurements other than impairment losses and foreign exchange gains and losses recognised in other comprehensive income. When the financial asset is derecognised, the cumulative gain or loss pertaining to that asset previously recognised in other comprehensive income is reclassified into profit or loss.

Available-for-sale financial assets are classified as non-current assets when they are not expected to be sold within 12 months after the end of the reporting period. All other available-for-sale financial assets are classified as current assets.

(v) Financial liabilities

Non-derivative financial liabilities other than financial guarantees are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss through the amortisation process and when the financial liability is derecognised.

Impairment

At the end of each reporting period, the association assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset has been impaired. A financial asset or a group of financial assets is deemed to be impaired if, and only if, there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of the occurrence of one or more events (a "loss event"), which has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset(s).

In the case of available-for-sale financial assets, a significant or prolonged decline in the market value of the instrument is considered to constitute a loss event. Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss immediately. Also, any cumulative decline in fair value previously recognised in other comprehensive income is reclassified to profit or loss at this point.

In the case of financial assets carried at amortised cost, loss events may include: indications that the debtors, or a group of debtors, are experiencing significant financial difficulty, default or delinquency in interest or principal payments; indications that they will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganisation; and changes in arrears or economic conditions that correlate with defaults.

For financial assets carried at amortised cost (including loans and receivables), a separate allowance account is used to reduce the carrying amount of financial assets impaired by credit losses. After having taken all possible measures of recovery, if management establishes that the carrying amount cannot be recovered by any means, at that point the written-off amounts are charged to the allowance account or the carrying amount of impaired financial assets is reduced directly if no impairment amount was previously recognised in the allowance account.

When the terms of financial assets that would otherwise have been past due or impaired have been renegotiated, the association recognises the impairment for such financial assets by taking into account the original terms as if the terms have not been renegotiated so that the loss events that have occurred are duly considered.

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Derecognition

Financial assets are derecognised where the contractual rights to receipt of cash flows expire or the asset is transferred to another party whereby the entity no longer has any significant continuing involvement in the risks and benefits associated with the asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised when the related obligations are discharged, cancelled or have expired. The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability, which is extinguished or transferred to another party, and the fair value of consideration paid, including the transfer of non-cash assets or liabilities assumed, is recognised in profit or loss.

(f) Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the entity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in profit or loss.

Where the future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and when the entity would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use is determined as the depreciated replacement cost of an asset.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the entity estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Where an impairment loss on a revalued asset is identified, this is recognised against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that class of asset.

(g) Employee Provisions

Short-term employee provisions

Provision is made for the association's obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

Other long-term employee provisions

Provision is made for employees' long service leave and annual leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Other long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on government bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Upon the remeasurement of obligations for other long-term employee benefits, the net change in the obligation is recognised in profit or loss as part of employee benefits expense.

The association's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current employee provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the association does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

(h) Cash on Hand

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

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(i) Accounts receivable and other debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from customers for goods sold in the ordinary course of business. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Accounts receivable are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any provision for impairment. Refer to Note 1(f) for further discussion on the determination of impairment losses.

(j) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

(k) Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the entity is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(l) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the entity has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of reporting period.

(m) Comparative Figures

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

When the association retrospectively applies an accounting policy, makes a retrospective restatement or reclassifies items in its financial statements, a third statement of financial position as at the beginning of the preceding period, in addition to the minimum comparative financial statements, must be disclosed.

(n) Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

(o) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

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

Key Estimates

Impairment

Key Judgements

(i) Employee benefits

For the purpose of measurement, AASB 119: Employee Benefits defines obligations for short-term employee benefits as obligations expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related services. The association expects most employees will take their annual leave entitlements within 24 months of the reporting period in which they were earned, but this will not have a material impact on the amounts recognised in respect of obligations for employees' leave entitlements.

(p) Economic Dependence

Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau Inc is dependent on the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. At the date of this report the Committee has no reason to believe the Department will not continue to support Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau Inc.

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Note 2 Revenue and Other Income

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Revenue from (non-reciprocal) government grants and other grants		
— State/federal government grants – operating	710,059	635,870
— Other government grants	18,000	15,000
— Other organisations	-	-
	<u>728,059</u>	<u>650,870</u>
Other revenue		
— Interest received on investments in government and fixed interest securities	6,639	7,988
	<u>6,639</u>	<u>7,988</u>
Total revenue	<u>734,698</u>	<u>658,858</u>
Other income		
— Other	93,640	36,819
Total other income	<u>93,640</u>	<u>36,819</u>
Total revenue and other income	<u>828,338</u>	<u>695,678</u>

Note 3 Surplus for the year

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
(a) Expenses		
Employee benefits expense:		
— Leave Entitlements	15,897	14,946
Total employee benefits expense	<u>15,897</u>	<u>14,946</u>
Depreciation and amortisation:		
— furniture and equipment	4,959	3,020
Total depreciation and amortisation	<u>4,959</u>	<u>3,020</u>
Rental expense on operating leases:		
— minimum lease payments	71,622	70,548
Total Rental Expense	<u>71,622</u>	<u>70,548</u>

Note 4 Cash on Hand

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Cash at bank	3,729	2,371
Cash on hand	104	104
Term Deposit	117,598	117,597
Legal Account	4,441	7,388
Legal Subaccount	162,428	105,080
Total cash on hand as stated in the statement of financial position and statement of cash flows	<u>288,300</u>	<u>232,540</u>
	<u>288,300</u>	<u>232,540</u>

Note 5 Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Accounts receivable	9,879	-
Provision for doubtful debts	-	-
	<u>9,879</u>	<u>-</u>
Other debtors	16,126	16,126
Total current accounts receivable and other debtors	<u>26,005</u>	<u>16,126</u>

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(a) Provision for doubtful debts

Movement in the provision for doubtful debts is as follows:

	\$
Provision for doubtful debts as at 1 July 2014	
— Charge for the year	-
— Written off	-
Provision for doubtful debts as at 30 June 2015	-
— Charge for the year	-
— Written off	-
Provision for doubtful debts as at 30 June 2016	-

(b) Credit risk

The association has no significant concentration of credit risk with respect to any single counterparty or group of counterparties other than those receivables specifically provided for and mentioned within Note 5. The main source of credit risk to the association is considered to relate to the class of assets described as "accounts receivable and other debtors".

The following table details the association's accounts receivable and other debtors exposed to credit risk (prior to collateral and other credit enhancements) with ageing analysis and impairment provided for thereon. Amounts are considered as 'past due' when the debt has not been settled within the terms and conditions agreed between the association and the customer or counter party to the transaction. Receivables that are past due are assessed for impairment by ascertaining solvency of the debtors and are provided for where there are specific circumstances indicating that the debt may not be fully repaid to the association.

The balances of receivables that remain within initial trade terms (as detailed in the table below) are considered to be of high credit quality.

	Gross amount	Past due and impaired	< 30	31 – 60	61 – 90	>90	Within initial trade terms
2016	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Accounts receivable	9,879						9,879
Other debtors	16,126						16,126
Total	26,005	-	-	-	-	-	26,005
	Gross amount	Past due and impaired	< 30	31 – 60	61 – 90	>90	Within initial trade terms
2015	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Accounts receivable	-						-
Other debtors	16,126						16,126
Total	16,126	-	-	-	-	-	16,126

Note 6 Other Current Assets

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Prepayments	17,884	5,961
	17,884	5,961

Note 7 Property, Plant and Equipment

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and equipment:		
At cost	48,434	48,434
Less accumulated depreciation	(43,131)	(38,427)
Less accumulated impairment losses	-	-
	5,303	10,007
Leasehold Expenses		
At Cost	11,716	11,716
(Accumulated depreciation)	(1,760)	(1,504)
	9,956	10,212
Total plant and equipment	15,259	20,219
Total property, plant and equipment	15,259	20,219

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Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Plant and Equipment \$	Leasehold Expenses \$	Total \$
2015			
Balance at the beginning of the year	5,379	10,474	15,854
Additions at cost	6,844		6,844
Depreciation expense	(2,216)	(262)	(2,478)
Carrying amount at the end of the year	10,007	10,212	20,219
2016			
Balance at the beginning of the year	10,007	10,212	20,219
Depreciation expense	(4,704)	(257)	(4,960)
Carrying amount at the end of the year	5,303	9,956	15,259

Note 8 Accounts Payable and Other Payables

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
CURRENT			
Accounts payable		39	-
GST		18,153	12,043
Superannuation		-	1,260
PAYG Withholding		19,324	6,018
Wages Payable		-	13,494
	8(a)	37,516	32,815
		2016 \$	2015 \$
(a) Financial liabilities at amortised cost classified as accounts payable and other payables			
Accounts payable and other payables:			
— Total current		37,516	32,815
— Total non-current		-	-
		37,516	32,815
Less deferred income			
Less other payables (net amount of GST payable)		-	-
Financial liabilities as accounts payable and other payables	11	37,516	32,815

The average credit period on accounts payable and other payables (excluding GST payable) is 1 month. No interest is payable on outstanding payables during this period. For payables outstanding longer than 1 months, 13% per annum is payable on the outstanding balance.

Note 9 Employee Provisions

	2016 \$	2015 \$
CURRENT		
Provision for employee benefits: annual leave	49,393	43,589
	49,393	43,589
NON-CURRENT		
Provision for employee benefits: long service leave	51,749	43,395
	51,749	43,395
	101,142	86,984
Analysis of total provisions:	Employee Benefits	Total
Opening balance at 1 July 2015	86,984	86,984
Additional provisions raised during the year	14,158	14,158
Balance at 30 June 2016	101,142	101,142

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Employee Provisions

Employee provisions represents amounts accrued for annual leave and long service leave.

The current portion for this provision includes the total amount accrued for annual leave entitlements and the amounts accrued for long service leave entitlements that have vested due to employees having completed the required period of service. Based on past experience, the association does not expect the full amount of annual leave or long service leave balances classified as current liabilities to be settled within the next 12 months. However, these amounts must be classified as current liabilities since the association does not have an unconditional right to defer the settlement of these amounts in the event employees wish to use their leave entitlement.

The non-current portion for this provision includes amounts accrued for long service leave entitlements that have not yet vested in relation to those employees who have not yet completed the required period of service.

In calculating the present value of future cash flows in respect of long service leave, the probability of long service leave being taken is based upon historical data. The measurement and recognition criteria for employee benefits have been discussed in Note 1(g).

Note 10 Cash Flow Information

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Reconciliation of Cash Flows from Operating Activities with Net Current Year Surplus		
Net current year surplus	53,742	37,328
Non-cash flows:		
Depreciation and amortisation expense	4,959	3,020
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in accounts receivable and other debtors	(9,879)	5,000
Increase/(decrease) in accounts payable and other payables	6,937	5,731
	55,760	51,078

Note 11 Financial Risk Management

The association's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, local money market instruments, short-term and long-term investments, receivables and payables, and lease liabilities.

The carrying amounts for each category of financial instruments, measured in accordance with AASB 139 as detailed in the accounting policies to these financial statements, are as follows:

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	288,300	232,540
Loans and receivables	5	26,005	16,126
Total financial assets		314,305	248,666
Financial liabilities			
Financial liabilities at amortised cost:			
— accounts payable and other payables	8(a)	37,516	32,815
Total financial liabilities		37,516	32,815

Refer to Note 12 for detailed disclosures regarding the fair value measurement of the association's financial assets and financial liabilities.

Financial Risk Management Policies

The finance committee is responsible for monitoring and managing the association's compliance with its risk management strategy and consists of senior Committee members. The finance committee's overall risk management strategy is to assist the association in meeting its financial targets while minimising potential adverse effects on financial performance. Risk management policies are approved and reviewed by the finance committee on a regular basis. These include credit risk policies and future cash flow requirements.

Specific Financial Risk Exposures and Management

The main risks the association is exposed to through its financial instruments are credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk relating to interest rate risk and other price risk. There have been no substantive changes in the types of risks the association is exposed to, how these risks arise, or the Board's objectives, policies and processes for managing or measuring the risks from the previous period.

(a) Credit risk

Exposure to credit risk relating to financial assets arises from the potential non-performance by counterparties of contract obligations that could lead to a financial loss to the association.

These notes are to be read in conjunction with the attached auditors report.

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The association does not have any material credit risk exposures as its major source of revenue is the receipt of grants. Credit risk is further mitigated as the grants being received from Commonwealth, State and Local governments are in accordance with funding agreements which ensure regular funding for the next 12 months.

Credit Risk Exposures

The maximum exposure to credit risk by class of recognised financial assets at the end of the reporting period is equivalent to the carrying value and classification of those financial assets (net of any provisions) as presented in the statement of financial position.

Accounts receivable and other debtors that are neither past due nor impaired are considered to be of high credit quality. Aggregates of such amounts are detailed at Note 5.

The association has no significant concentrations of credit risk exposure to any single counterparty or group of counterparties. Details with respect to credit risk of accounts receivable and other debtors are provided in Note 5.

Credit risk related to balances with banks and other financial institutions is managed by the finance committee in accordance with approved Board policy. Such policy requires that surplus funds are only invested with counterparties with a Standard and Poor's rating of at least AA-. The following table provides information regarding the credit risk relating to cash and money market securities based on Standard and Poor's counterparty credit ratings.

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
Cash on hand			
— AA Rated		288,300	232,540
	4	288,300	232,540

(b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises from the possibility that the association might encounter difficulty in settling its debts or otherwise meeting its obligations related to financial liabilities. The association manages this risk through the following mechanisms:

- preparing forward-looking cash flow analyses in relation to its operating, investing and financing activities;
- maintaining a reputable credit profile;
- managing credit risk related to financial assets;
- only investing surplus cash with major financial institutions; and
- comparing the maturity profile of financial liabilities with the realisation profile of financial assets.

(c) Market Risk

i. Interest rate risk

Exposure to interest rate risk arises on financial assets and financial liabilities recognised at the end of the reporting period whereby a future change in interest rates will affect future cash flows or the fair value of fixed rate financial instruments. The association is also exposed to earnings volatility on floating rate instruments.

The financial instruments that expose the association to interest rate risk are limited to fixed interest securities, and cash on hand.

Interest rate risk is managed using a mix of fixed and floating rate debt.

The association also manages interest rate risk by ensuring that, whenever possible, payables are paid within any pre-agreed credit terms.

Fair Values

Fair value estimation

The fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities are presented in the following table and can be compared to their carrying amounts as presented in the statement of financial position.

Refer to Note 12 for detailed disclosures regarding the fair value measurement of the association's financial assets and financial liabilities.

Differences between fair values and carrying amounts of financial instruments with fixed interest rates are due to the change in discount rates being applied by the market since their initial recognition by the association. Most of these instruments, which are carried at amortised cost (i.e. accounts receivables, loan liabilities), are to be held until maturity and therefore the fair value figures calculated bear little relevance to the association.

	Note	2016		2015	
		Carrying Amount \$	Fair Value \$	Carrying Amount \$	Fair Value \$
Financial assets					
Cash on hand (i)	4	288,300	288,300	232,540	232,540
Accounts receivable and other debtors (i)	5	26,005	26,005	16,126	16,126
Total financial assets		314,305	314,305	248,666	248,666

These notes are to be read in conjunction with the attached auditors report.

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Financial liabilities

Accounts payable and other payables (i)	8	37,516	37,516	32,815	32,815
Total financial liabilities		<u>37,516</u>	<u>37,516</u>	<u>32,815</u>	<u>32,815</u>

- (i) Cash on hand, accounts receivable and other debtors, and accounts payable and other payables are short-term instruments in nature whose carrying amount is equivalent to fair value. Accounts payable and other payables exclude amounts provided for annual leave, which is outside the scope of AASB 139.

Note 12 Fair Value Measurements

The association measures and recognises the following assets at fair value on a recurring basis after initial recognition.

- financial assets at fair value through profit or loss;
- available-for-sale financial assets; and
- freehold land and buildings.

The association does not subsequently measure any liabilities at fair value on a recurring basis, or any assets or liabilities at fair value on a non-recurring basis.

Note 13 Capital Management

Management controls the capital of the entity to ensure that adequate cash flows are generated to fund its mentoring programs and that returns from investments are maximised within tolerable risk parameters. The finance committee ensures that the overall risk management strategy is in line with this objective.

The finance committee operates under policies approved by the board of directors. Risk management policies are approved and reviewed by the board on a regular basis. These include credit risk policies and future cash flow requirements.

Note 14 Entity Details

The registered office of the entity is:

Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau Inc
 2/18 Bay Street, Southport, QLD, 4215

The principal place of business is:

Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau Inc
 2/18 Bay Street, Southport, QLD, 4215

GOLD COAST COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE & ADVICE BUREAU INC

ABN: 29 559 147 600

COMMITTEE'S DECLARATION

The committee of the registered entity declare that, in their opinion:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 2 to 15, are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:
 - (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards; and
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position of the registered entity as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is signed in accordance with subs 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

President


Jonathan Flannery

Dated this 2nd day of September 2016

GOLD COAST COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE & ADVICE BUREAU INC
ABN: 29 559 147 600
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
GOLD COAST COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE & ADVICE BUREAU INC

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the directors' declaration.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and for such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In Note 1, the committee also state, in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 101: *Presentation of Financial Statements*, that the financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the registered entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for profits Commission Act 2012 and any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau Inc has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Auditor's signature:



Anthony John Coote

Address:

56 Davenport Street, Southport, QLD, 4215

Dated this

2nd

day of

September

2016

GOLD COAST COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE & ADVICE BUREAU INC
ABN: 29 559 147 600
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE FUNDING
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Grant Federal	488,780	361,525
Grant State	221,279	215,097
Interest	6,639	7,987
Service Generated Income	12,763	16,840
Sundry Income	19,045	-
	<u>748,507</u>	<u>601,449</u>
Accountancy & Finance Fees	4,065	13,503
Depreciation	4,959	3,020
Insurance	2,876	1,456
Membership Fees	3,478	-
Minor Equipment (387)	525	-
Office Supplies	14,687	-
Premises Costs	5,976	4,103
Printing & Stationery	-	13,519
Programming & Planning	525	1,458
Rent	59,236	69,548
Repairs & Maintenance	-	22
Staff Amenities	-	260
Staff Recruitment	110	-
Staff Training & Welfare	6,692	1,762
Subscriptions	4,425	9,683
Superannuation Contributions - Employees	56,105	39,370
Telephone	6,715	2,298
Travelling Expenses	1,735	2,233
Wages & Bonus	534,818	414,702
Wages & Salaries On Costs	15,897	14,946
Workcover	1,304	1,033
	<u>724,127</u>	<u>592,916</u>
Net current year surplus	<u><u>24,380</u></u>	<u><u>8,533</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
This report is to be read in conjunction with the attached auditors



Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau Inc.

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