

An abstract painting with a textured, impasto style. The background is a mix of deep blues, greens, and purples. In the upper left, there's a bright cyan rectangular area containing a faint, sketchy figure of a person. In the lower left, a large, dark red and purple rectangular area contains a more defined, though still sketchy, figure of a person. The overall composition is layered and expressive, with visible brushstrokes and a rich color palette.

Our Stories Our People Our Impact

Annual Report of
Barwon Community Legal Service
2018 - 2019 | Part 1

Vision

A just society in which all people have equal access to, and status under, the law; and a legal system which is humane, fair and equitable.

Purpose

To promote, protect and enhance the rights and interests of individuals, groups and organisations within the BCLS catchment region who are disadvantaged in their access to justice; and contribute to reform of laws and structural inequities to achieve humane, fair and equitable outcomes.

Values

BCLS is committed to:

- Making the interests and needs of clients and community our first priority
- Social justice, in the belief that access to justice is a fundamental human right
- Legal change to effect more than individual solutions to legal problems
- A community development approach which aims to understand our environment and engage with stakeholders and the broader community
- The empowerment of clients and the broader community where possible and appropriate
- The provision of accessible services for clients and community
- Enabling members of the community to make informed decisions
- Treating members of the community with respect, dignity and consideration
- Acting ethically, and with integrity, diligence and competence in all work activities
- A supportive, stimulating and safe work environment for staff and volunteers
- Continuing improvement through on-going learning and development

Contents

A message from our Board and Executive Officer.....	2
A message from our Principal Lawyer.....	3
Demystifying the law through community legal education	4
Working together to provide better outcomes	6
Helping our clients overcome family violence	7
Trying to get the message across to the community	10
Empowering clients to move ahead in their lives.....	11
Assisting clients to obtain benefits.....	13
Working to help our newly arrived communities.....	14
Ongoing work with Seeking Refuge Project	14
Working to prevent family violence in culturally diverse communities.....	15
Working with young people.....	17
Helping out at university.....	18
Providing legal help in school	19
Respect Cup.....	20
Protecting older people's rights.....	22
Saving money for consumers.....	24
Explaining work rights	26
Advocating for change	27
Teaching the next generation of community lawyers.....	28
Educating our community workers	29
Our people.....	30
Where do we help/outreach locations	32
Funding	32

A message from our Board and Executive Officer

We are both pleased to introduce the Barwon Community Legal Service 2018-2019 Annual Report.

This report highlights our achievements from the perspective of the people we impact – clients, staff, students, volunteers and the community.

Highlights from this year include establishing our school lawyer program with Western Heights College, providing students with free legal help. This service has been vital in providing young person centred legal assistance for a range of legal matters, and we hope to continue our focus on the legal needs of young people into the future.

We also received funding from the Department of Health and Human Services to lead the Barwon Elder Abuse Primary Prevention Network. Elder abuse is an important area of our legal practice, and this network has allowed us to extend our work into primary prevention to work alongside community to prevent elder abuse before it occurs.

In June we farewelled our long-standing Executive Officer, Nick Hudson, who, in his 10 years of service, made a significant contribution to who we are. We thank the

three board members we farewelled, Jacqui Heffernan, Emma Wagg and Lauren Watts and welcome new board members Charlie Agar, Dominique Saunders and Sophie Ware.

As Chair, Mark was pleased to welcome Bryanna as our new Executive Officer in July 2019, having joined BCLS in May 2018 as our Operations Manager.

We thank our funders, organisational partners, board members, students and volunteers. Your contribution is vital to us fulfilling our purpose.

Finally, a heartfelt thank-you to our staff. We recognise and appreciate your persistence and effort in achieving fairer legal outcomes for our community members experiencing disadvantage; and working towards a society in which all people have equal access to the legal services they need.

To the year ahead we look forward to forming a better understanding of the unmet legal needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable members of our community; and through strengthened partnerships we will strive to improve their access to justice.



Mark
Chair of Board



Bryanna
Executive Officer

A message from our Principal Lawyer

What is it that we do? We help people.

We help people who find themselves in the midst of a legal problem, and who don't know the way to solve it. We connect them with our people, legally qualified people, who genuinely care about the people with problems, regardless of their race, sex or status. We want to assist those that cannot assist themselves and cannot afford to pay for their own private lawyer.

Problems are as many and varied as the people that come to seek our help. A large part of our work involves people with family violence issues, and this means that we work at Geelong Magistrates Court and Colac Magistrates Court to represent them in Court and to try to resolve their issues and protect them with an Intervention Order. But we also recognise that those people often have a myriad of other issues including debts, Centrelink issues, criminal proceedings, insecure housing and issues with their children.

We look at people, not as a legal issue to be fixed, but in a holistic manner, investigating what other problems they may have and trying to address those issues as well, with the hope that our clients can lead a less stressful life. Our social workers have added greatly to the assistance that we are able to provide to clients, addressing their personal issues as well as their legal ones.

We understand that people in our region are widespread, so we offer outreach appointments at various places including Norlane, Corio, Colac, the Family Relationship Centre, the Sexual Assault and Family Violence Centre, and the Orange Door. For our younger clients we offer services at Deakin University and as school lawyer at Western Heights College. We have begun working on projects for our older clients with our network to combat abuse of our elderly.

Our team here at BCLS are dedicated to social justice. They are happy to go that extra mile for someone in need. We could not get such great results for our clients without their hard work, and the extraordinary work carried out by our volunteers, lawyers and students, that come to assist us in our endeavours to help other people. There are too many to list, but a huge thank you to each and every one of you.

You have made a difference in the lives of other people, often a life changing difference, and there is no better reward.

3145
services provided
to clients

1764
clients assisted



Mandi
Principal Lawyer

Demystifying the law through community legal education

Portraits of Justice Project

Portraits of Justice was an innovative community legal education and art project to help young people in Geelong understand legal issues and the free local services that can help them.

Throughout a series of workshops, young people from a diverse range of backgrounds met with a range of local legal professionals who discussed their role in the justice system and how they can assist young people. Portrait sitters included legal professionals from Victoria Legal Aid, Consumer Affairs Victoria, a Geelong Magistrate, Victoria Police and the local Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee.

Funded with grants by the City of Greater Geelong and the Victoria Law Foundation, and in partnership with local artists' collective, Geelong Illustrators and the Geelong Regional Library Corporation, Portraits of Justice delivered a series of legal education and art workshops culminating in a 21 day exhibition on the ground floor of the Geelong Library & Heritage Centre. The program was launched during 2019 Law Week and was included in the Geelong After Dark Festival. A legal help referral booklet showcasing young people's portraits and legal knowledge was also produced and continues to be distributed widely around Geelong.

This program allows us to foster creative engagement with the law through art, and also helps to create a friendly local face giving a more human side to the law. We've been able to see that young people are gaining a deeper understanding of the legal issues that affect them.

“It humanises a service often a bit unknown to people. Explains their roles”

“It was a really fun experience that taught me a lot about artwork as well as the legal situation in Geelong”

“Great idea, innovative way for community to interact with people in authority, makes them seem less intimidating.”

“Excellent display. Such a clear and creative way to illustrate and define our social justice services”



Funded by
a grant from
**Victoria Law
Foundation**

Snapshot of the project

20

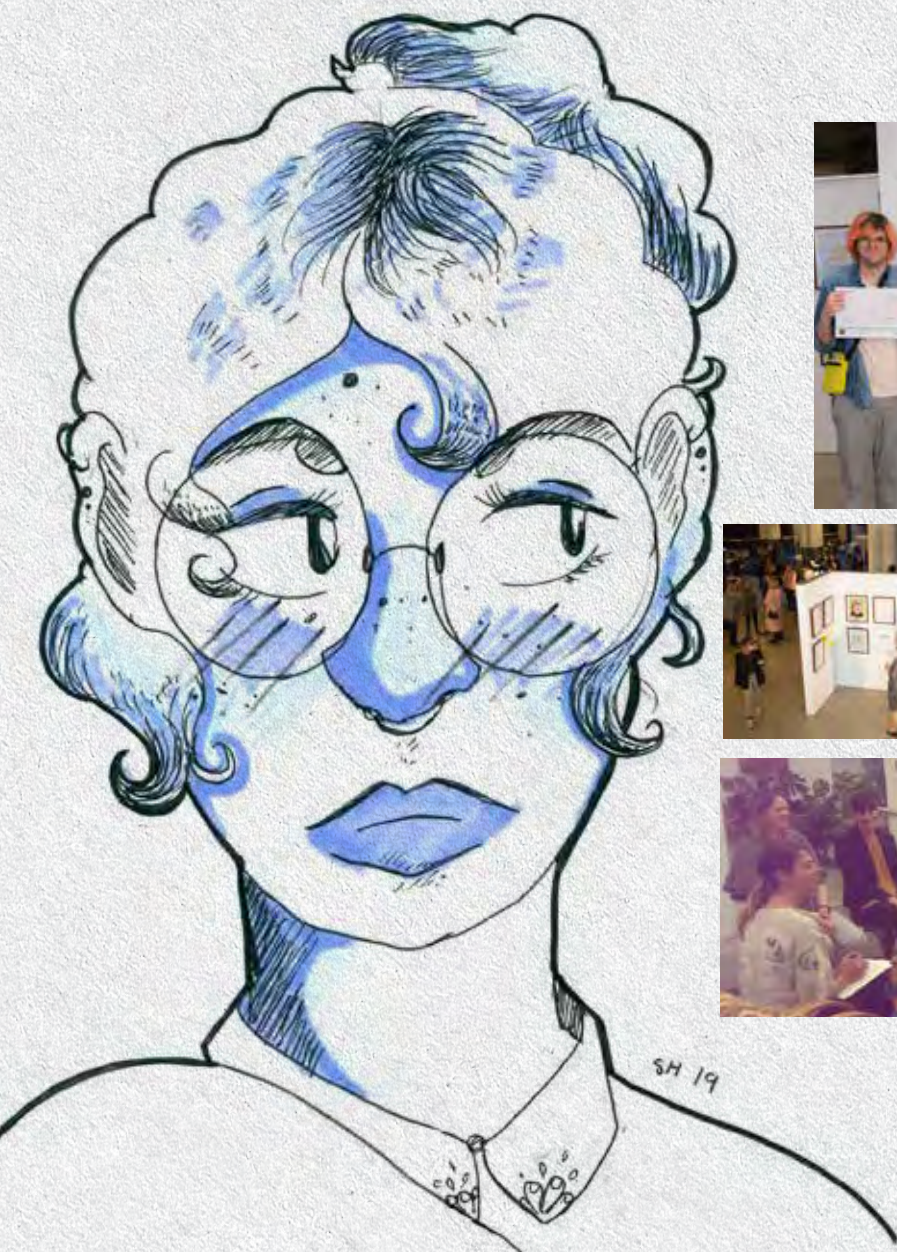
Portrait of Justice
artworks exhibited
at the Geelong
Library & Heritage
Centre for 21 days
during May 2019.

33%

average measured
increase in young
people's knowledge
of the area of law
and roles of the legal
professional for each
attended workshop.

9

legal professionals presented to young people including BCLS, Consumer Affairs Victoria, local Geelong Magistrate, 3 lawyers from Victoria Legal Aid, Victoria Police Youth Engagement Officer and Local Aboriginal Justice Action Committee Project Officer.



5,658

estimated visitors to Geelong Library & Heritage Centre in one night for Geelong After Dark Festival which featured the exhibition.

8000+

Portraits of Justice Legal Help Booklets distributed to young people, youth workers, school wellbeing teams and community workers.

50

Estimated guests to the official Law Week exhibition launch at Geelong Library launched by local Geelong Magistrate Peter Mellas with prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and People's Choice Awards.

154

in depth survey responses with over 55% of those surveyed responding that visiting the exhibition helped them learn about legal services in Geelong.

30,992

Estimated visitors to Geelong Library & Heritage Centre during the Portraits of Justice exhibition

6

legal information and portraiture workshops with young people, legal professionals and artist mentors.

2

media stories in the Geelong Advertiser and the Herald Sun Online

3

electronic distribution via community newsletters

Working together to provide better outcomes

At BCLS we strive to provide our most vulnerable clients, women and families experiencing family violence, with a holistic wrap around service.

One way we achieve this is through partnerships with local specialist family violence services, the Sexual Assault and Family Violence (SAFV) Centre and the Barwon Orange Door, to deliver legal advice and casework to clients already engaged with these services. There have been many benefits to co-locating a community lawyer at these services, one family violence worker observed "I think it is daunting enough for clients having to access many different services. Being able to ease their anxiety by letting them know that the legal service is available where they already attend, is a great thing."

As part of our co-located lawyer model our community lawyers provide secondary consults with workers to clarify whether a particular issue is something we can assist with or help to steer a worker in the right direction.

Training has also been provided to community workers to strengthen their skills in identifying legal issues for their clients.



Charmaine
Administration and Intake Worker

“The co-location of the lawyer at the SAFV Centre makes it easier for women to access this legal advice. In addition, the presence of the lawyer in the office, facilitates easier secondary consultations, facilitates the referral process and ensures appropriate referrals.”

SAFV Centre, Family violence worker

“Not having a legal background, the legal system can be very complicated so it has been great to get some basic training on some of the legal issues that affect our clients.”

Family Violence worker



Alex
Community Legal Education and
Development Worker

BCLS assists clients who due to their vulnerability, do not wish to be identified in anyway. The case studies throughout this document are representative of clients we have assisted but do not relate to any particular case they are only illustrations of the work that we do.

Helping our clients overcome family violence

Carmel is suffering violence and financial issues:

Carmel was referred to the SAFV Centre for counselling and support after she was granted a Family Violence Intervention Order against her partner Brent. Brent was very controlling of Carmel, checking the mileage on her car when she returned home and calculating exactly how much time a particular trip should have taken her. If she took too much time Brent would verbally and sometimes physically abuse her. As a result Carmel often broke the speed limit in order to get home faster, incurring a number of speeding fines. There were also toll and parking fines that Brent had incurred when driving her car. As Brent controlled the money in their relationship Carmel's fines steadily increased.

Eventually it got too much for Carmel to bear and she attempted to leave. Brent was in a rage. He chased after Carmel in his car. He was going faster and faster, forcing Carmel to go faster too. As she came around a bend, she swiped a couple of parked cars, writing her own car off in the process. Carmel did not have car insurance.

Her caseworker at the SAFV Centre introduced Carmel to our co-located lawyer. The lawyer negotiated with the insurance companies about the car accidents and because of Carmel's circumstances, they agreed not to pursue her for damages. The lawyer also applied to Fines Victoria on Carmel's behalf to have all her fines considered under the new Family Violence Scheme.

Having this legal assistance left Carmel free from these financial pressures which could have otherwise been in the way of her making a new life.

Providing more than just legal help

We didn't represent Carmel in her application for the Family Violence Intervention Order at the Magistrates' Court. If we had, and she felt she would benefit from further social and practical support, our duty lawyer would refer Carmel to our Social Work service. Integrated into the legal service, our social workers can work with clients to support and advocate for them in areas that would not necessarily constitute a 'legal problem'.

425

advices given on
family violence
matters

834

Duty lawyer
representations
at Geelong

878

clients identified
they were
experiencing
family violence

74

Duty lawyer
representations
at Colac

Cassie needs something more:

Cassie first attended BCLS after she was provided with information from her doctor about our service. She had disclosed to her GP that her husband was being abusive to her and her son and she wanted to leave the family home.

Cassie met with our lawyer for advice and to discuss her legal options. It was evident to Cassie's lawyer during their meetings that Cassie presented with many non-legal issues and could benefit from some emotional support, as well as some practical supports and she was introduced to our social work program.

Cassie informed the social worker that she had met her husband Nigel whilst living in Taiwan. Nigel asked Cassie to marry him and for Cassie and her son to move to Australia with him. Cassie accepted, excited for what the future might hold.

However a short time after arriving in Australia, something changed with Nigel. He became controlling, possessive and subjected her and her son to psychological and verbal abuse. Cassie recalls that Nigel would threaten that without him, she and her son would never be allowed to remain in Australia. This contributed to Cassie's feelings of hopelessness and feeling that there was nothing she could do other than to remain in the relationship. Further complicating Cassie's situation was her immigration status. Cassie was on a partnered bridging visa this resulted

in Cassie and her son being assessed as ineligible for most services and supports accessed by permanent residents, including Centrelink benefits, education and employment programs.

Whilst being supported by the social work program Cassie was provided with advocacy and emotional and practical assistance, including safety planning, brief intervention counselling, information and referrals for material and food aid, accommodation, employment, health needs and immigration supports. Our social work program also collaborated with other specialist family violence services, including InTouch, the specialist family violence service for culturally and linguistically diverse women in Melbourne, and the SAFV Centre to provide comprehensive and responsive support services. Cassie continued to receive free holistic and integrated legal advice and support.

Currently, Cassie continues to be supported by BCLS. She remains separated from her husband with no safety concerns. She has stable accommodation with other women from Taiwan and she and her son are both studying. Together with BCLS, Cassie is working through a further immigration application and actively looking for work, and she hopes to learn to drive.

Cassie now has a positive outlook on the future.

“I chose to come back to the social work program at BCLS, as it was so helpful to have a social worker who understands legal processes and a lawyer who understands my other non- legal issues”



Elsie
Community Lawyer

Deng had an unhappy home life:

Deng, who is 17 years of age, first sought our assistance in relation to obtaining a family violence intervention order against his father at the Geelong Magistrates' Court. He needed help from our duty lawyer service. In Victoria, a person under the age of 18 is required to seek leave from the court to apply for an intervention order on their own behalf. As Deng's mother was critically ill and not able to do so on his behalf, he was left with the only option of appearing in court and making that application himself. Deng attended court alone and had no friends or family to support him through this very difficult day.

Deng was referred to court services for support so he was not alone on the day. Our duty lawyer was not only able to

offer emotional support to him but was able to guide Deng in the legal process for his application. We explained his legal options in a simple way, ensuring that he understood what was going to happen when the matter was heard in court. We represented him in court for the leave application, enabling him to apply for an intervention order which was granted and ultimately resulted in a twelve month intervention order being made.

Deng is now able to live without fearing going home after school. His engagement with school has improved and he is looking forward to finding an apprenticeship in the future.

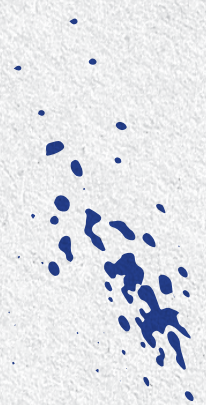


Emma
Community Lawyer



Damien
Community Lawyer

“ Thank you for your dedication to women like me. To genuine cases of genuine need. You really were a calming force and both me and my partner felt secure in the knowledge that you had things in hand. Keep doing what you are doing, you are truly a gift. ”



Trying to get the message across to the community

We not only work with victim survivors of family violence when their legal issues arise, we are also active in local primary prevention efforts, working with like-minded services to organise events which seek to shine a light on the importance of this issue and empower the community to better protect our most vulnerable members. Pictured below is the 2018 Geelong Reclaim the Night march and launch of the Barwon Month of Action to Stop Men's Violence Against Women and Children. Other events we have facilitated as part of this campaign include a community forum at the Geelong Library focused on Sexually Transmitted Debt and a Law for Community Workers training on how to identify financial abuse.



Empowering clients to move ahead in their lives

Family Law matters can be confusing, complicated and time consuming. Getting some advice at the time of separation can be invaluable in making plans for the future. Obtaining a divorce may enable someone to end the past and work towards a happier future. By working with other community lawyers, clients can be empowered. Our ability to collaborate makes access to legal services much easier for those who do not understand the legal system.

Juliette needs to build a new life:

Juliette came to Australia from Africa with her husband Claude. Claude was an Australian citizen and Juliette was looking forward to a life here. However the marriage was violent and Juliette fled from Melbourne to a refuge in Geelong just a few weeks before her baby boy was born.

Her husband Claude refused to acknowledge the child and refused to support Juliette in any way.

It was not safe for her to have anything more to do with Claude.

Juliette needed to establish paternity for her son and wanted to divorce her husband. She was frightened to attempt this because of the violence she had experienced. English was her third language and she was not confident that she understood well enough to engage in legal processes by herself.

Establishing paternity was essential for Juliette's son to be acknowledged as an Australian citizen. We referred her to InTouch, the specialist family violence service for culturally and linguistically diverse women in Melbourne so they could assist with paternity matters. They agreed to assist with that matter but could not assist with the divorce.

We collaborated with InTouch to arrange for Juliette to attend our divorce clinic in Belmont and assisted her to prepare and file her divorce application. We continued to co-operate with InTouch and were able to assist Juliette in Geelong so that she did not have to travel continually to Melbourne to see her lawyer. We were also able to secure the services of the same interpreter for each appointment, which was very reassuring for Juliette.

InTouch arranged service of documents for both matters on the husband in Melbourne.

The Court decided the paternity matter in Juliette's favour. She could then confirm her son's citizenship and make arrangements for child support.

A few weeks later, our lawyer represented Juliette at the divorce hearing. The divorce was granted and became final a month later.

Juliette is now free from the abusive marriage and has financial support for herself and her son so they can build a new life.



Elizabeth wants help with her divorce:

Elizabeth came to our service as she had experienced difficulty in applying for a divorce from her husband who was in prison. She did not have details of where he was imprisoned and therefore was at a loss as to what to write on the paperwork. Elizabeth was referred to us for legal help from another local agency where she was receiving counselling.

Elizabeth was incredibly overwhelmed due to the impact of her husband's offences on her and her children's lives. She did not know where to go for help and found the online divorce process confusing. She suffered from PTSD and anxiety and therefore it was important that a compassionate approach was taken. Our lawyer was able to explain the divorce process to her so that she was less anxious.

We made enquiries with the prison to ensure the relevant paperwork would be received, and that the proper documents would be completed to allow the divorce hearing to take place.

It was really important to do this properly to minimise further trauma to Elizabeth and to make sure that the hearing went ahead without the need for adjournments.

Elizabeth was kept informed at all stages of the process to limit her anxiety.

Some weeks later Elizabeth was granted her divorce and a thank you card sent to us said that she was "unbelievably thankful" for our service. She can start to put the past behind her.

Holly finds the strength to leave:

Holly was referred to our service through the SAFV Centre. She was making a safety plan to leave an abusive relationship. There were two daughters from the relationship who wanted to stay with her so Holly needed family law advice about parenting as well as advice about family violence.

Holly had spent weeks arranging finances and housing so that she had somewhere safe to go and resources to support herself and her daughters. She was frightened that her partner would explode violently when she left the relationship. She had tried to leave before but ended up staying because he had been so threatening.

The initial consultation at the SAFV Centre, with our co-located lawyer included family law advice.

We discussed possible parenting arrangements that could be put in place when Holly and the girls left the family home.

Holly was able to co-ordinate her departure with an application for a family violence intervention order. With our assistance, she was able to negotiate an interim parenting plan for the girls with her ex partner's lawyer so that everyone remained safe, but the children had on-going relationship with their father.

The parties then went to the Family Relationship Centre to mediate a longer-term agreement.

Holly was empowered in this process by the advice she had received from BCLS.

Assisting clients to obtain benefits

In July 2015 the Commonwealth Government made changes to the way in which the Disability Support Pension (DSP) was assessed, making it increasingly difficult for clients with long-term disabilities to receive this important support. Many people who may be eligible remain on Newstart Allowance with no or very limited ability to work or to meet the 'mutual obligation' requirements leaving them at risk of having their payments being stopped. Their very disability prevents them from taking the steps they need to apply for a DSP. Recent cases where our service has successfully represented clients to obtain the DSP highlight just how difficult the process can be.

Delays and lost files:

Igor, a 61 year old man with severe osteoarthritis, shortening of the left leg and debilitating joint pain, originally applied for the DSP in April 2018. One month later he was informed over the phone that he was unsuccessful. He then asked to appeal the decision based on new medical evidence, but did not hear anything from Centrelink for over six months. Igor then came to our service for advice and support about what he should do.

We advocated for Igor with Centrelink and discovered that his appeal, and

his original application, had been sent to the wrong department for a decision, and no one was working on his file at all. Through a helpful Centrelink social worker, Igor's case was then re-assessed and, in May 2019 more than 12 months after he first applied, Centrelink reversed its original decision and granted Igor the DSP, and back paid him an entire year of DSP payments. Igor is able to get on with his life, and has some money to buy labour saving appliances that will make his life easier.

Vernon can't seem to qualify for a Disability Pension:

Vernon first contacted our service as he had been unsuccessful in applying for the DSP even after he had made numerous attempts. Vernon was involved in a motor vehicle accident which resulted in him having multiple serious injuries and being unable to work. Numerous medical professionals as well as the Transport Accident Commission deemed that he would not be able to work ever again due to his resulting disabilities, yet Centrelink was still not satisfied that he met their eligibility criteria for DSP.

We assisted Vernon to lodge an application for review with the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and we were able to represent him at the hearing. Unfortunately, the Tribunal upheld Centrelink's decision due to a technicality with the time limits relating to Vernon's original medical

evidence. This process caused Vernon severe stress and led to not only major deterioration of his mental health condition but meant he was also given a notice to vacate his property as he could not afford his rent or living expenses.

We persisted with the application for DSP and were able to speak to Vernon's treating medical professionals to obtain up to date medical evidence in the correct format which eventually led to his DSP application being approved. Vernon received over twenty weeks of back pay.

The entire process took over a year and copious hours of work by our lawyer but has ultimately made a huge difference in Vernon's life. He was able to remain in his property, has paid the rent and the increased DSP rate has allowed him to live free of debt.

Working to help our newly arrived communities

A significant part of our work includes engaging with newly arrived communities who are often not familiar with the Australian legal system. We play an important role in providing vital community legal education, in partnership with Diversitat, to newly arrived refugees to help them understand how our legal system operates and where to find free legal help if needed.



Newly arrived residents visit the Magistrates Court Geelong

Ongoing work with Seeking Refuge Project

Between 2016 and 2017, the Seeking Refuge Project (SRP) assisted 76 Asylum Seekers in the Geelong and Bellarine region to apply for their Temporary Protection Visas. Since this time, the SRP has received a steady flow of enquiries from clients requesting assistance to provide further information to the Department regarding their initial applications, seeking advice on how to prepare for an interview, and requesting updates on the progress of their application. These enquiries were attended to in consultation with Refugee Legal.

Unfortunately, two thirds of clients are still waiting for an outcome and most have not received an interview request. In 2019, the SRP held an information session in conjunction with Refugee Legal and Diversitat to refresh and update Asylum Seekers on a range of common enquiries and to gauge the need in our region for a further stage of the SRP.

The sessions were attended by 55 asylum seekers and were translated to Burmese, Hazaragi and Rohingya. Attendees went away with further knowledge of the visa requirements and information on the assistance offered as well as the employment information and assistance available from Diversitat.

Working to prevent family violence in culturally diverse communities

This year we have become a project partner with Diversitat's Safer Stronger Communities Project which is a primary prevention co-design project working together with the Hazara, Karen and Karenni communities in Geelong. We look forward to working alongside these community groups to co-design prevention activities specific to their communities during the coming year.



Safer Stronger Communities Project Partners and Community Advisory groups

“New arrivals from a refugee background come to Geelong with no knowledge of the Australian law so it is vital that they receive education as soon as possible on arrival, together with follow up sessions as their understanding grows and they have questions around specific laws. If new arrivals do not receive this information both they and their children are at greater risk of involvement in the justice system.

BCLS offers our organisation and clients a great deal of support and education. This support is very important to ensuring our clients understand and know how to access their human rights so plays a vital role in positive settlement outcomes for communities from a refugee background in the Geelong region.”

Community Development Project Worker, Diversitat

239

People with
disabilities
assisted

146

clients main
language was
not English

44

clients
needed an
interpreter

Mari fears being deported:

Alejandro moved to Australia from the Philippines in 2015 to find temporary work – earning many times more than he could at home. His wife, Mari, was in Kazakhstan looking after their children. After two years Mari and their children joined Alejandro in Australia and moved to a small town where Alejandro was working – knowing no one, not speaking English very well and only on a Partner Visa connected to Alejandro. Unfortunately life in Australia had been difficult for Alejandro on his own and he had developed a serious drinking problem. Mari and Alejandro fought a lot, the Police were called after Mari was injured. The police then applied for an Intervention Order against Alejandro to protect Mari.

BCLS met Mari at Court after Victoria Police referred her to us for advice. Mari was then introduced to specialist family violence and migration services, local family violence counsellors and an interpreter was arranged for the next court hearing.

Mari opened up about what had been happening and said that she only felt safe when Alejandro was out of the house but was worried she would be deported if her and Alejandro separated.

With the advice of the specialist services Mari learned that due to the family violence she could request that her Visa was changed and apply to stay in Australia under the same temporary conditions, even if she needed to separate from Alejandro. This relieved Mari who felt she could create a safe home for her children and then try to patch up the relationship with Alejandro without fear of being deported.

We assisted Mari and negotiated with Alejandro and Victoria Police so that an appropriate Intervention Order was in place that promoted safety and also allowed for mediation if Mari and Alejandro wanted to recommence their relationship in the future. Alejandro is now attending a Mens' Behaviour Change program with the hope that the family can stay together.



Grace
Administration and Intake Worker



Geordie
Community Lawyer and Clinical
Legal Education Supervisor

Working with young people



This year we partnered with the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission as part of our School Lawyer Program at Western Heights College to celebrate 'Diversity Day' and to tell students about the importance of human rights and how they inform their daily lives.

“ BCLS have an immediate and profound impact on the welfare of vulnerable people, making a difference to the quality of people's lives. ”



Lauren H
Community Lawyer



Emma K
Principal Social Worker

Helping out at university

We continue to be funded to provide legal services to students studying at Deakin University. We visit both Waurin Ponds and Geelong Waterfront campuses on a weekly basis, to assist students with their legal problems.

Shane has a problem with his lease

Shane signed up for a twelve month lease for a flat with his best friend. Two months into his tenancy, he noticed mould appearing in his bedroom and laundry, the oven stopped working and the toilet wouldn't flush. The mould was so bad that Shane could not use one bedroom. After notifying his real estate agent, a plumber immediately came and repaired the oven and toilet. However, a few weeks later the mould was wiped down by a handy man, rather than being professionally cleaned.

Approximately one month later the mould reappeared and Shane again notified the agent, however they sent the same handyman to wipe the mould down again.

Shane contacted the Deakin Student Legal Service who informed him of the legal options available to him, including applying to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal for a non-urgent repair to be carried out, or negotiating to end the tenancy early by agreement. Shane decided he wanted to leave early so the lawyer negotiated with the agent to allow Shane to leave early without incurring any lease break or advertising costs or rent after the vacate date. Shane was thrilled that he was out of the property and is in the process of applying for compensation at the Tribunal for the reduced use of the rooms whilst he was living in the property.

124

Total clients assisted

12

Events attended at Deakin promoting the student legal service

Sarah has a car accident

Sarah was involved in a car accident involving two other vehicles, causing damage to all three of the vehicles involved. Sarah had received two demands for damages from insurance companies, totaling \$16,000 and thought that her own "insurance" would pay for this. Unfortunately, Sarah was actually uninsured and the insurance she was referring to was only the "Transport Accident Charge" that is a compulsory payment as part of her VicRoads registration payment. This covers any liability incurred by a driver if they are at fault and cause the death or injury of another person.

It was only after Sarah sought legal advice from the Deakin Student Legal Service that she understood this. Sarah's only source of income was from her casual employment, which she used to pay for her rent, food, utilities and university fees and she could not afford to pay \$16,000. Her main concern was what effect this debt would have on her credit rating and impact on future employment. Our lawyer negotiated at length with the insurance companies, whereby they finally accepted a full and final settlement offer of \$1,600 for the two debts.

Sarah was advised that this would not affect her employment or credit rating as the debt was negotiated, rather than waived.

Providing legal help in school

In July 2018, we partnered with Western Heights College to create the School Lawyer Project. Since this time, we have been embedded two days a week within the Western Heights College wellbeing team, working alongside the school nurse, school chaplain, and school psychologist.

We have provided legal advice to students and their families, given out information and referred several students to other legal services or allied services where we could not assist ourselves.

We have also provided many legal education sessions to Years 7 – 11, on topics including intervention orders, criminal law and sentencing, police powers and individual rights, sexting, cyberbullying, and employment law.

As more and more students understand their rights, and the availability of legal services on campus, it seems likely the School Lawyer Project will only continue to expand.

Creative community legal education

As part of this project we were involved in bringing the 'You the Man' performance to Western Heights, an engaging one man play, hosted by Women's Health and Wellbeing which focuses on intimate partner violence and linking young people to available services in our region. We also worked alongside a group of Year 10s from Western Heights to create and perform a play for Law Week about the legal consequences of sexting which was performed to several year levels on two separate occasions.

“ The 'Sexting' play as part of the school lawyer program was very appropriate to highlight the use of mobile phones and portable devices by young people in our community. The engagement of the students involved in the production of the play was high and they presented a very powerful

Re-enactment of the fallout from an age appropriate sexting scandal between students.

The legal perspective to the production enabled students to fully understand the ramifications and solution to this problem. The production prompts not just learning, but a prompt for students to continue discussions within their own communities and families.”

School Principal, Western Heights College



Respect Cup

This year we continued our work as part of the Respect Cup with 130 young people from 10 secondary schools in the Barwon region.

The Respect Cup is an innovative collaboration with a range of local Barwon agencies including Barwon Health, Department of Education, Netball Victoria and Women's Health and Wellbeing Barwon South West. Students participate in interactive workshops exploring the issues of consent, family violence, gender equity, bystander intervention and prevention of family violence, with the day culminating in a mixed netball round robin.

Awards are presented for workshop responses, netball, respectful behavior and the overall Respect Cup is presented to the winning school. The event aims to engage young people in discussions about healthy relationships, respect and where to get help if they, or a friend, are either at risk of, or experiencing, threatening or violent behaviour.

279

Number of
clients under
the age of 25

“When facilitating at the Barwon Respect Cup, BCLS use story-telling techniques to show clear links between family violence, financial abuse and the law. This was extremely well received from the target demographic, who were struggling to understand ‘why someone doesn’t just leave a violent relationship.’ The perspective and experience that BCLS staff bring to this initiative is so valuable to the learnings of young people, teachers and adults.”

Health Promotion Officer,
Women's Health and Wellbeing Barwon South West

Stopping the School Bullying

Alice was being harassed and cyberbullied by a group of students from another school and ex-students who had been expelled from her own school.

These other students were making very serious online threats which culminated in the other students planning out an attack against Alice at her school. They organised together to come onto school grounds at the same time and then chased, verbally abused, and ultimately physically assaulted Alice and some of her friends. Fortunately, Alice was not badly hurt but obviously she was very shaken up—she sought out legal

advice about how she could feel safer. We represented Alice at Geelong Children's Court and successfully obtained personal safety intervention orders against all four other young people who had been abusing her.

Our lawyer also pointed out to Victoria Police that the deadline for criminally prosecuting Alice's attackers was approaching, which led to police charging these young people with criminal offences – a further disincentive to repeat this behaviour.

Alice can now continue to attend school and feel safe.



Protecting older people's rights

We continue our work in primary prevention and preventing legal issues before they occur, and this year we are leading the Barwon Elder Abuse Primary Prevention (BEAPP) Network, joining nine other Elder Abuse Prevention Networks operating across Victoria and funded by the Victorian Government. The BEAPP network focuses on collaboration and builds upon strong local connections to strengthen the work that is happening in the area of elder abuse and the prevention of violence against older people in the Barwon region.

The BEAPP Network is working in partnership with older people and their families to explore the drivers of elder abuse, raise awareness of elder abuse and family violence against older people, along with building the capacity of local service providers to identify and respond to suspected cases of elder abuse.

Janet has problems with her son

Janet's husband passed away young and she raised their children on her own on a rural property fifty minutes from the nearest town. She is now elderly.

Her middle son, Roger, never left home and developed a mental illness that included paranoia and uncontrolled mood swings. Janet loved her son and she didn't want to tell others how unsafe she felt, until another family member visited and saw that Roger was controlling all her finances, demanding Janet buy large amounts of alcohol every week and threatening her with harm if she didn't comply with his wishes.

They told Janet that she really should think about having Roger move out, but Janet was not ready to take that step. One day Janet had to visit the Emergency Department at the local hospital and the nurses asked her to have an informal talk with Victoria Police. They were concerned for Janet's safety and decided to take out an Intervention

Order against Roger.

Our lawyer helped Janet at court on the day of the first hearing, where we advised her on her rights. Janet was adamant she didn't want Roger to leave the house and was very angry at Victoria Police.

After referring her to specialist family violence services and doing some planning for Janet's ongoing safety, we proposed a family violence intervention order with the conditions that Janet wanted. It would keep her safe and would also satisfy Victoria Police - allowing Janet to stay in contact with Roger once he left the house and got some help, and allowing him to return only if it became safe and the intervention order was varied by the Court.

Janet was pleased that she could be safe and still have contact with her son, and that she was now able to speak to local services about having a better future life with her son.

353

Clients aged
50 to 64

168

Clients over
age 65

George becomes ill but wants to make his own decisions

George is an 81 year old man who sought our advice in relation to potential elder abuse being committed by his three adult children.

George felt his children were not acting in his best interests and were not taking notice of his wishes. After getting instructions from George he was subsequently hospitalised and then transferred to an aged care facility due to a suspected cognitive illness.

This triggered more legal issues regarding his mental capacity and ability to make decisions about his treatment and lifestyle.

Our lawyers were able to still engage with George via telephone whilst he was staying at the aged care facility

and were able to arrange to visit him for an in-person appointment.

Our involvement included communicating and working with aged care staff, hospital staff, treating medical professionals and the client's children. We were able to help George navigate the legal system in relation to his guardianship and administration decisions and were able to represent him at the VCAT hearing so that his wishes would be adhered to in the future.

Ultimately, George was pleased that we were able to help him assert his rights as an individual and to make sure his views about his future were heard.

Older Wiser Know Your Rights forum for Law Week

This year we received funding from the Victoria Law Foundation to host the Commissioner for Senior Victorians Gerard Mansour along with Seniors Rights Victoria and a range of local services for our Older Wiser Know Your Rights forum. This forum was an initiative of our BEAPP Elder Abuse Prevention Network and was a community forum aimed at providing important information to older people in the Geelong region about their legal rights. Due to the success of our event we are hoping to run a series of forums for older people in the Barwon region in the next twelve months.



“It was a fantastic event talking about the very relevant issue of elder abuse as our senior population continues to grow. We look forward to attending more of these insightful forums in future!”

Australian Multicultural Community Services Inc.

Saving money for consumers

We have worked with Consumer Action Law Centre to provide clients with advice and support in relation to debts, contracts and faulty products. Many clients do not understand their rights to claim against a manufacturer or service provider, or to complain about a financial institution.

My warranty expired just before the problem arose

Our client, Neil, purchased a brand new motor home for \$75,000, with an express 5 year warranty. A few years later, after being diagnosed with a serious illness, Neil could no longer work and had to live in his motor home full time while also using it to get to medical appointments. Then, only months after the 5 year warranty ended, the motor home's engine exploded - literally catching fire on the highway and putting Neil's life in danger. The manufacturer refused to repair the engine, saying that it was outside the 5 year warranty and that Neil had missed a few scheduled services - and then quoted him \$25,000 to install a new engine. Neil could not afford this and argued with them for months with no result. Neil was now on a Disability Support Pension, with no money to

repair the engine, and no way to get to medical appointments. Neil asked us for advice and we consulted a specialist service, Consumer Action Law Centre, with his consent. We then wrote to the manufacturer stating that there is a consumer guarantee under the Australian Consumer Law that products will be of acceptable quality, and this applies even after the 5 year warranty has expired. We also pointed out that the manufacturer had been officially warned by a consumer regulator for misleading consumers about this exact issue. The manufacturer then provided all repairs and installed a brand new engine for Neil free of charge.

With our help, Neil was able to exercise his rights, even after his warranty expired.

Neil was very thankful and told us:

“Barwon Community Legal Service have left a life changing impact on my life... Without free legal advice I mentally couldn't have kept myself standing through all this... I would have been left with no rights, no voice and lost what was important [to me]. The balance of justice and strength, kindness, care, knowledge, advice, options and professional time that has been put into helping me legally is what everyone should have in life... My case is not only important to me, it is important that no one else has their life put in danger and ever has to go through what I did... without you we would be going to a motor home funeral!”

1575

clients in receipt
of Government
assistance

55

clients were
homeless

Borrowing for others is fraught with danger

Fatima came to our service after receiving several calls from debt collectors saying she owed them \$8,000. Fatima had an intellectual disability, and many years earlier a family member, the boyfriend of her mother, had demanded she take out a loan for them and threatened to 'beat her' if she didn't sign the paperwork. Fatima did as she was asked and was approved for a personal loan even though she had very little income or employment. She immediately withdrew the money and gave it to her mother's boyfriend, who left the family a few years later, never repaying the loan. Fatima had never told anyone about this because the bank had never really chased the money, until the debt was sold to a third party debt

collector. Now, the debt collectors had threatened her on the phone and she had signed up to a repayment plan she could not afford.

We advised Fatima on her rights and also received specialist advice from Consumer Action Law Centre. We then wrote to the bank and the debt collector describing the circumstances leading to the loan, that the Bank had breached responsible lending laws by not verifying Fatima's purpose for the loan or means to repay it, and demanding a full waiver of the debt. After several months of negotiations the debt collector waived the debt in full and no negative listings were placed on Fatima's credit report.

Cancelling fines and infringements

We assist many clients to have fines and infringements withdrawn – especially when they were due to a mistake of identity. A common example is where someone has sold a car but the buyer does not transfer the registration properly – which technically leaves the seller of the car still responsible for the fines. In the digital age, mistake of identity can also occur with online bookings for hire or share cars and digital identity theft.

But it's no longer my car!

Dijana had recently separated from her husband and been left with just one asset – a car which was registered in her name and which she had never driven because she only had a learner's permit. She decided to sell the car and after placing an advert online two buyers came to her house, paid her cash for the car and drove off.

Dijana organised with the buyers to complete the Vic Roads transfer papers, which she signed, and thought the transaction was finished. Then, a few months later, she started receiving traffic infringements in the mail naming her as the driver of the car – and there were a lot of them.

By the time Dijana came to us for advice, there were 46 traffic infringements in her name relating to the car she had sold, none of which she was responsible for, amounting to over

\$13,000 as well as enough demerit points to suspend her learners permit for several years. For Dijana, who was unemployed and now pregnant, this was an overwhelming situation.

We assisted Dijana to gather evidence of what had happened and to apply to Fines Victoria for all of the infringements to be cancelled. Fines Victoria put the fines 'on hold' for several months while assessing the application. We then escalated the case further after our client told us her circumstances had changed and she needed a full licence to drive to medical appointments. After 10 months of pursuing the matter, all of the infringements were withdrawn and the demerit points cancelled, allowing Dijana to apply for her full licence and get on with her life.

Explaining work rights

BCLS is delivering a Victorian Government employment law project led by Jobwatch Employment Rights Legal Centre in partnership with Goulburn Valley Legal Centre. The project's objective is to assist Working Holiday visa holders working in regional Victoria to understand their working rights.

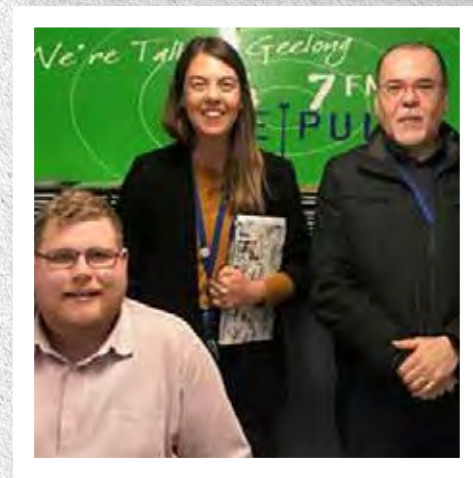
Working Holiday visa holders can extend their initial 12 month visa for another 12 months if they work 88 days in regional Australia. They'll work in horticulture, hospitality or meat processing industries so they can stay longer and travel the country. But they often don't know their rights and they are taken advantage of. They may experience underpayments, harassment, bullying, poor conditions and discrimination. There are other temporary visa holders such as international students who experience the same workplace issues.

We support these individuals to know their rights and overcome these workplace issues through the provision of advice, awareness campaigns and education.

Visit us at facebook.com/informed.backpacker



Marijanna
Community Lawyer



Advocating for change

A large part of the work in any Community Legal Centre is working towards changing unfair laws or processes.

Some of the areas in which we have advocated include:

- Extending our services throughout the Otway Ranges, resulting in us visiting Apollo Bay for legal advice visits
- Seeking more funding for legal services in Geelong and our most in-need areas of Corio, Newcomb and Colac
- Informing the National Social Security Rights Network in relation to regional family violence issues for inclusion in their submissions
- The need to change the requirements for obtaining a Disability Support Pension in relation to hearing disabilities
- Enabling newly arrived migrants to be eligible for Centrelink payments, rather than waiting for a long waiting period
- Submitting that Centrelink payments should be set at minimum standards as set down by an independent Social Security Commission.
- Advocating for those people who are unable to meet their obligations under Newstart due to an illness, but who are unable to obtain a Disability support pension.
- In our own office we have become more environmentally aware, with our Green Team making suggestions for reducing our environmental impact.

This has led to the commencement of Community Legal Centre Australia's National Sustainability Group, to make all Centres more aware of environmental footprint.

Checkout our website for current campaigns: www.barwoncls.org.au

- In July 2018, a Mayoral Roundtable regarding the proposed cuts to the Status Resolution Support Service Program payments available to refugees and asylum seekers who arrive by boat was held. An outcome of this meeting was a Mayoral Joint Statement that councils could sign to lobby against the increased eligibility restrictions.

The Statement contained nine requests to the Australian Government in relation to needs of asylum seekers, such as adequate resources and timely processing and aims to provide more effective collaboration and coordination between Local, State and Commonwealth Governments in addressing this issue. At its core, the Mayoral Joint Statement is a commitment to endeavouring to ensure new arrivals to Australia integrate as healthy and productive members of our community through social inclusion and engagement, education, and housing. It is more than symbolic.

We came together to prepare a letter urging City of Greater Geelong (COGG) to sign the Joint Statement, as a commitment to helping those that have come to Australia and settled in the municipality rebuild and better their lives, and become integrated, contributing members of our community. COGG unanimously voted on 12 February 2019 to sign the joint statement.



Teaching the next generation of community lawyers

We pride ourselves on being a teaching practice, taking on students each year as part of our Deakin Intern program, and hosting many law graduates completing their Practical Legal Training before being able to practice law.

These students provide valuable capacity building to BCLS, enabling us to undertake significantly more legal work than we could otherwise. They also develop presentations for future community legal education.

Feedback from recent program participants:

I feel I now have an understanding of the law in practice; from watching interactions with lawyers in the Court and in the office. I believe that the practical component was a fantastic learning experience that outweighed nearly everything done in the law degree. It gave me an understanding of how the law works for people in everyday life.

My knowledge of the law in practice has increased significantly since participating in the Intern program. I have also gained confidence in dealing with different people and different situations. I believe that the program has given me the opportunity to see a wide variety of legal issues. Attending Court was also a really interesting experience, where I was able to see the law in practice.

Talking to clients

I loved hearing people's stories and issues whilst trying to manage their expectations and provide reasonable solutions. I quickly learned that most clients just want to be heard and have their issues recognized. I was in a privileged position to give them this opportunity.

Building confidence

Talking to actual clients, building trust and delivering advice is invaluable experience. This component of the internship was beneficial for my ability to manage clients, interpret the law and build resilience in difficult situations.



Clinical Legal Education Supervisor Geordie with our Trimester 3, 2018 intern group

Educating our community workers

We deliver community legal education workshops for our regional community workers on understanding the law, and how to identify a legal issue, often by using a Legal Health Check questionnaire. It is important that when a client visits a health worker or a community support worker, that they are able to recognise what might be a legal issue for a client, and for them to refer the client to us for some free legal assistance.

Stress caused by legal problems can lead to negative health issues both mentally and physically, so early intervention is always a positive step.

Research that demonstrates people are more likely to raise their legal needs with a health worker rather than a lawyer, so by educating health and community support workers, we're helping vulnerable community members identify and resolve their legal issues.

335

sessions of
Community
Legal
Education
delivered



Liz
Administration Worker



Louise
Community Lawyer



Shane
Community Lawyer

Our people

Our staff:

Why did you choose to work in the CLC sector?

"It greatly develops ones problem solving and interpersonal skills and allows us to assist the most socially and economically disadvantaged members of our society."

"I enjoy helping others tell their story – it means their voice can be heard and they can get the fair outcome they deserve"

"I get to work with a wide variety of clients, from a wide variety of backgrounds on a wide variety of legal issues. Every day is different!"

"Because I get to see results first hand. The vast variety of work and knowledge we gain is unique and unlike working anywhere else."

"The Legal Service offered a much more exciting opportunity: assisting people who really needed help; educating them to cope with future problems, and having the opportunity of law reform to create a more just society. Way better than the usual desk job! I have really loved it."

Our volunteers:

We offer a range of volunteering roles for law students including court duty, night service, community legal education activities, lawyer assistance and various other office based positions. We aim to provide these volunteers with meaningful and practical experiences in a legal setting that add to their professional growth and learning.

Our lawyer volunteers attend our clinics to provide family, general law and criminal law advice. We would not be able to offer these services without the generous contribution of our wonderful volunteers. They enhance our service delivery by increasing our capacity to help those most in need within our community. We thank them all.

20

Staff during
the year

79

Volunteers
Total

27

Volunteer
Lawyers

52

Volunteer Law
Students



Sharon
Project Worker



Victor
Community Lawyer

Our Newest Members:

BCLS recognises that the frontline work that we do is very stressful. As part of our staff wellbeing program, we now welcome our employee's dogs to the office. Our canine team provide a sense of calm for our staff, particularly after a tough day at court.

Freya

Freya is very excited about joining the team, she can barely contain herself. She's grown quite a lot and at nine months old she is now an athletic leggy blonde. Her favourite pastimes include swimming, long walks on the beach and meeting new people.

Her ambition is for world peace - she believes this can be achieved by wagging your tail extra hard and showing everyone she meets how interesting they are and how much they are adored.



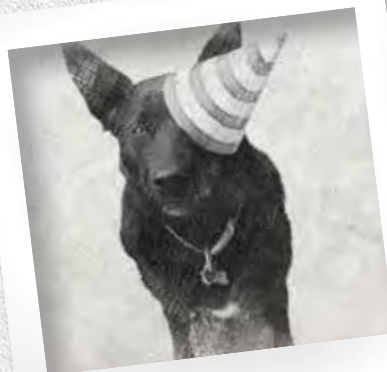
Freya
Guidance Officer

Sabi

Sabi was interested to find out what her human abandons her for every day.

"I'm a pretty relaxed dog. I am lots of fun and very tolerant. I don't think I have any faults although my human says I snore and that you shouldn't feed me. I'm not going to bite you I promise but I will put your entire hand in my mouth. I don't see that as a problem."

"One of my favourite things to do is to lick peoples' faces. Faces are the best because they smile at me when I'm being a good girl and I like to show my appreciation for them. I also have a deceiving long tongue which is super funny when people think they are far enough away but I can still reach them."



Sabi
Social Club President

Wombat

Wombat is smelly, snorty, wrinkly and round. He likes food, and that's it really.



Wombat
Head of Security



Where do we help/outreach locations

 Belmont	 Orange Door
 Colac Health	 Deakin University
 Corio Health	 Colac Magistrates Court
 Family Relationship Centre	 Geelong Magistrates Court
 Norlane Family Centre	 Western Heights College
 SAFVC	 Great Ocean Road Health - Apollo Bay

Funding

BCLS receives funding from a range of different government and non-government sources.

BCLS acknowledges the funding gratefully received from the following sources:

Commonwealth Attorney General's Department

Victoria Legal Aid

Department of Justice and Community Safety

Department of Health and Human Services

Deakin University Student Association

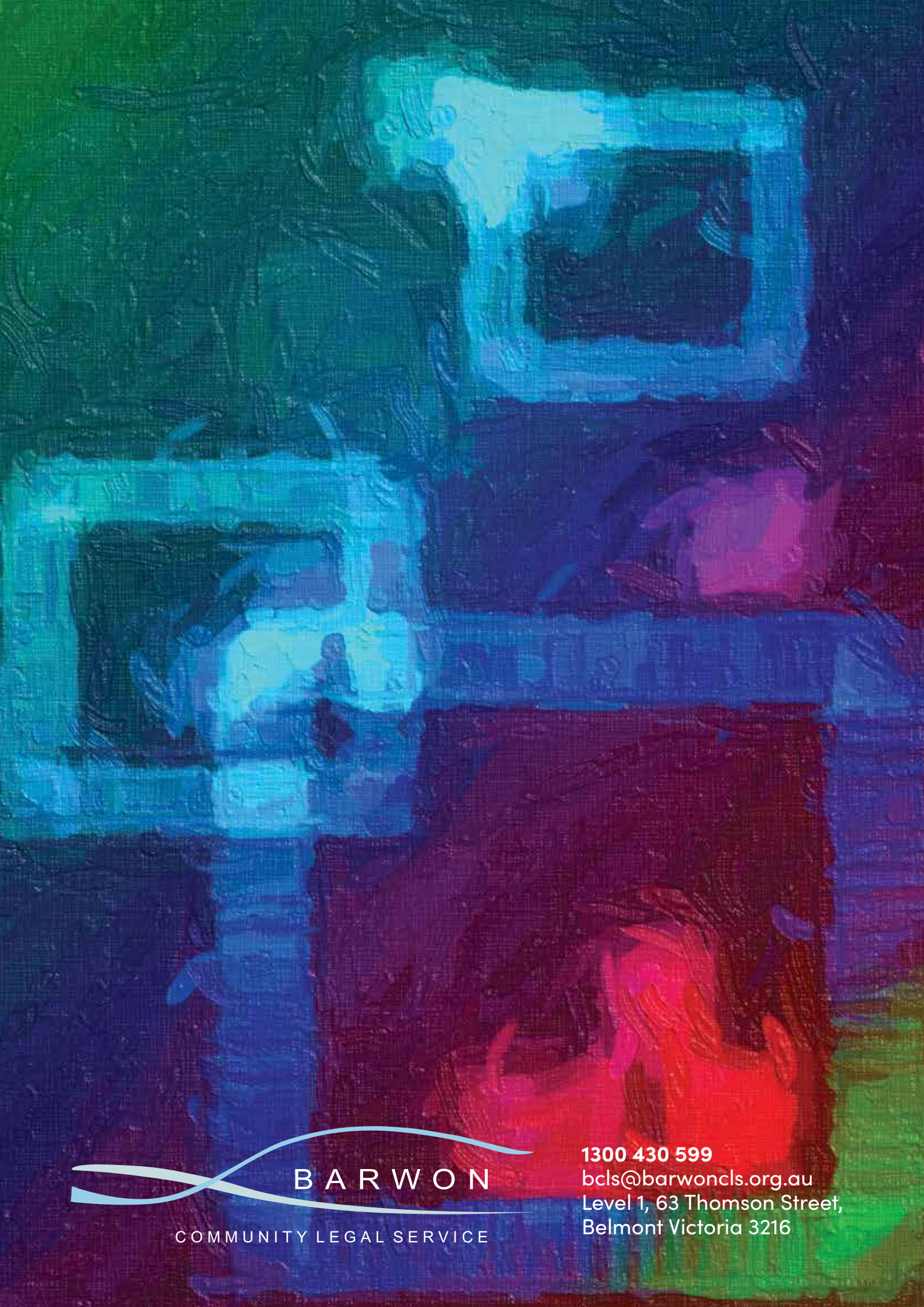
Victoria Law Foundation

Western Heights College

City of Greater Geelong

Deakin University





BARWON

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE

1300 430 599

bcls@barwoncls.org.au

**Level 1, 63 Thomson Street,
Belmont Victoria 3216**

An abstract painting with a textured, impasto style. The background is a mix of dark green, brown, and red. There are several rectangular shapes in lighter green and yellow, some of which appear to be windows or door frames. In the lower left, there is a figure in a blue and purple robe, possibly a religious figure, with hands raised in a gesture of prayer or blessing. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

Our Financials

Financial Statements
Barwon Community Legal Service
Year ended 30 June 2019



**BARWON COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE INC.
A.B.N. 75 659 039 490**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

BARWON COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE INC.
A.B.N. 75 659 039 490

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	NOTES	2019 \$	2018 \$
REVENUE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	2	1,673,940	1,320,775
EXPENSES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			
Employee Benefits Expense		1,359,100	1,104,953
Depreciation		25,817	23,614
Administration Expenses		289,388	271,877
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		<u>1,674,305</u>	<u>1,400,444</u>
NET RESULT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		<u>(365)</u>	<u>(79,669)</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		<u><u>(365)</u></u>	<u><u>(79,669)</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

BARWON COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE INC.
A.B.N. 75 659 039 490

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

	NOTES	2019 \$	2018 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	3	606,991	603,756
Receivables	4	21,936	23,687
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		628,927	627,443
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Fixed Assets	5	113,176	133,556
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		113,176	133,556
TOTAL ASSETS		742,103	760,999
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	6	236,658	256,764
Provisions	7	195,567	202,838
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		432,225	459,602
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	7	16,143	7,297
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		16,143	7,297
TOTAL LIABILITIES		448,368	466,899
NET ASSETS		293,735	294,100
EQUITY			
Reserves	8	9,040	9,040
Retained Profits	9	284,695	285,060
TOTAL EQUITY		293,735	294,100

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

BARWON COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE INC.
A.B.N. 75 659 039 490

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

	NOTES	RETAINED PROFITS \$	RESERVES \$	TOTAL \$
BALANCE AT 1 JULY 2017		364,729	9,040	373,769
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		(79,669)	-	(79,669)
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2018	8 & 9	<u>285,060</u>	<u>9,040</u>	<u>294,100</u>
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		(365)	-	(365)
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2019	8 & 9	<u>284,695</u>	<u>9,040</u>	<u>293,735</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

BARWON COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE INC.
A.B.N. 75 659 039 490

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	NOTES	2019 \$	2018 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
PAYMENTS			
Payments to Employees		(1,357,525)	(1,152,942)
Other Operating Expenses		(299,454)	(267,168)
RECEIPTS			
Government Grants		1,458,762	1,290,507
Interest Received		7,511	7,236
Other Operating Income		199,378	79,668
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	10	<u>8,672</u>	<u>(42,699)</u>
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for purchase of Fixed Assets		(5,437)	(13,164)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES		<u>(5,437)</u>	<u>(13,164)</u>
NET INCREASE IN CASH HELD		3,235	(55,863)
CASH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE REPORTING PERIOD		603,756	659,619
CASH AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD	3	<u><u>606,991</u></u>	<u><u>603,756</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

BARWON COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE INC.
A.B.N. 75 659 039 490

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) Act 2012. The board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

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

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

(a) Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are brought to account at cost. The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time that the asset is held ready for use.

(b) Employee Entitlements

Employee entitlements have been measured at their nominal amount.

(c) Depreciation

All assets are depreciated over their estimated useful lives. The depreciation rates used for fixed assets are the applicable Australian Taxation Office rates.

(d) Revenue

Income from grants and the contribution of assets (including cash) is recognised as revenue in the year to which the associated expenditure and funding agreement (if any) relates. Accordingly, income received in the current year for expenditure in future years is treated as revenue in advance and in such cases the amount brought to account as income is equivalent to that amount expensed by the Association during the financial year. Where surplus funds are required to be repaid, they will remain as a liability in the financial statements until repayment.

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

Revenue from the sale of assets is recognised upon delivery of the assets to customers.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rate applicable to the financial assets.

All revenue is measured net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(e) Cash

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand, at banks, and on deposit.

(f) Income Tax

Barwon Community Legal Service Inc. is exempt from income tax.

BARWON COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE INC.
A.B.N. 75 659 039 490

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
NOTE 2: REVENUE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		
CLSP Grant Income	1,467,051	1,146,404
Non CLSP Grant Income	-	87,467
Interest	7,511	7,236
Other	199,378	79,668
TOTAL REVENUE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	1,673,940	1,320,775
NOTE 3: CASH ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	606,497	603,261
Cash on Hand	494	495
TOTAL CASH ASSETS	606,991	603,756
NOTE 4: RECEIVABLES		
Accounts Receivable	3,300	5,533
Accrued Income	806	(26)
Other Receivable	7,335	7,335
Prepayments	10,495	10,845
TOTAL RECEIVABLES	21,936	23,687
NOTE 5: FIXED ASSETS		
Plant & Equipment	112,001	106,564
Accumulated Depreciation	(63,320)	(48,845)
	48,681	57,719
Motor Vehicles	39,422	39,422
Accumulated Depreciation	(39,422)	(39,422)
	-	-
Leasehold Improvements	96,807	96,807
Accumulated Depreciation	(32,312)	(20,970)
	64,495	75,837
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	113,176	133,556

BARWON COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE INC.
A.B.N. 75 659 039 490

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

NOTE 5: FIXED ASSETS CONT.

Movement In Assets Note:	Leasehold Improvements \$	Plant & Equipment \$	Motor Vehicles \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2017	87,665	56,507	-	144,172
- Additions	-	13,164	-	13,164
- Disposals WDV	-	(166)	-	(166)
- Depreciation	(11,828)	(11,786)	-	(23,614)
Balance at 30 June 2018	75,837	57,719	-	133,556
- Additions	-	5,437	-	5,437
- Disposals WDV	-	-	-	-
- Depreciation	(11,342)	(14,475)	-	(25,817)
Balance at 30 June 2019	64,495	48,681	-	113,176
			2019 \$	2018 \$

NOTE 6: PAYABLES

Trade Creditors	11,966	17,113
Revenue in Advance	172,055	182,095
Staff Benefits	9,712	13,120
GST Payable	25,004	23,020
PAYG Payable	15,306	20,174
Credit Cards	1,515	1,242
Accruals	1,100	-
TOTAL PAYABLES	236,658	256,764

NOTE 7: PROVISIONS

Current Provision		
Provision for Annual Leave	66,484	52,978
Provision for Long Service Leave	129,083	149,860
Total Current Provisions	195,567	202,838
Non current Provisions		
Provision for Long Service Leave	16,143	7,297
Total Non Current Provisions	16,143	7,297
TOTAL PROVISIONS	211,710	210,135

NOTE 8: RESERVES

Asset Revaluation Reserve	9,040	9,040
TOTAL RESERVES	9,040	9,040

BARWON COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE INC.
A.B.N. 75 659 039 490

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
NOTE 9: RETAINED PROFITS		
Retained Profits at 1st July	285,060	364,729
Net Profit	(365)	(79,669)
Retained Profits at 30th June	<u>284,695</u>	<u>285,060</u>

**NOTE 10: RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING
ACTIVITIES TO OPERATING RESULT**

Operating result	(365)	(79,669)
Depreciation	25,817	23,614
Loss on disposal	-	166
(Increase)/decrease in other receivables	1,751	(3,039)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	1,575	(47,989)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<u>(20,106)</u>	<u>64,218</u>
	8,672	(42,699)

NOTE 11: LEASING COMMITMENTS

Operating lease commitments
Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for by not capitalises in the financial statements.

Payable - minimum lease payments:

Property:		
Not later than 12 months	83,722	80,000
Later than 12 months but not later than 5 years	<u>104,652</u>	<u>180,000</u>
	188,374	260,000
Other		
Not later than 12 months	16,080	16,080
Later than 12 months but not later than 5 years	<u>-</u>	<u>16,080</u>
	16,080	32,160
Total	<u>204,454</u>	<u>292,160</u>

BARWON COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE INC.
A.B.N. 75 659 039 490

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019


The board have determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The board have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

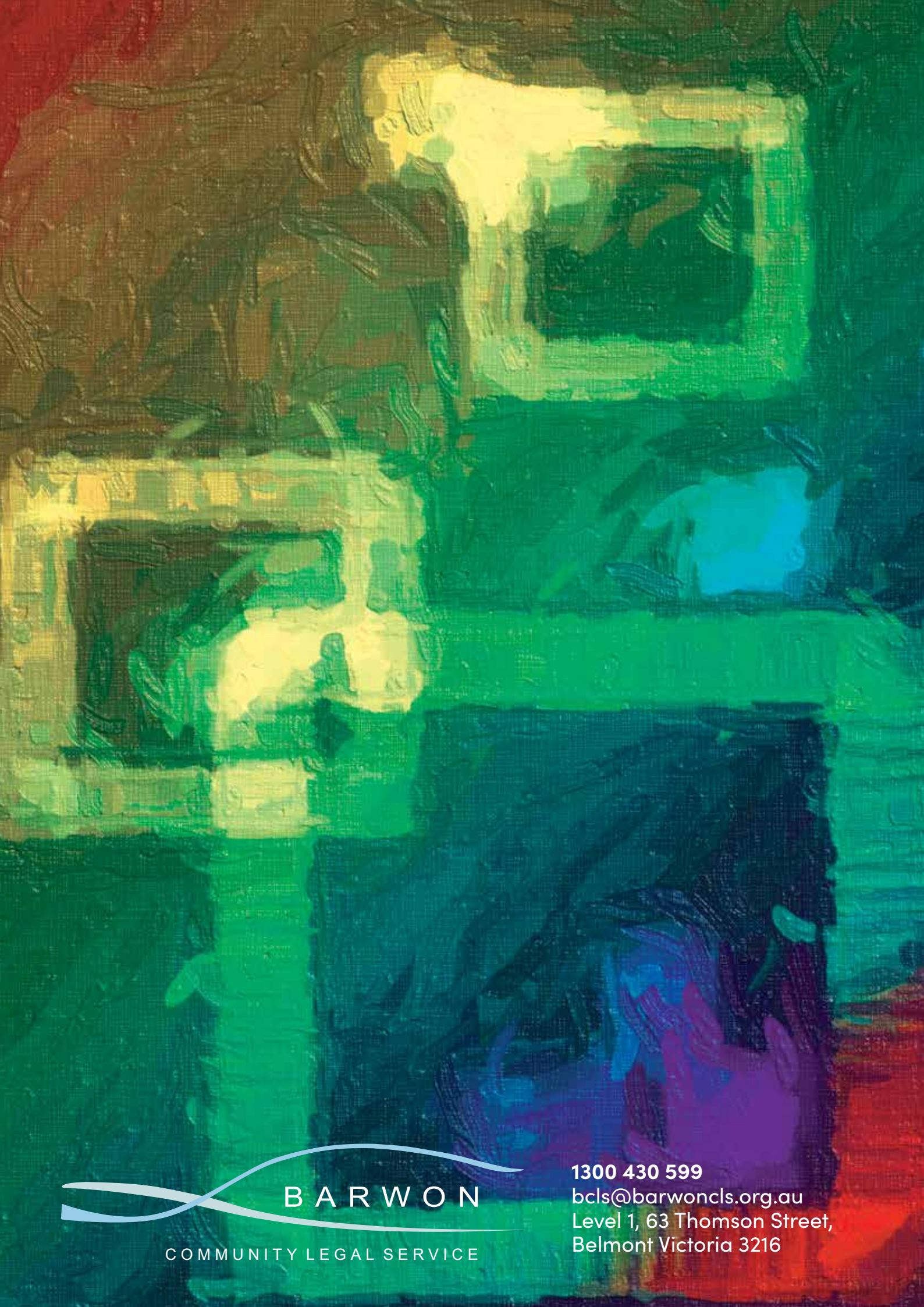
In the opinion of the board the financial report:

1. Presents truly and fairly the financial position of Barwon Community Legal Services Inc. as at 30 June 2019 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Barwon Community Legal Services Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:



Dated this 30th day of October 2019



BARWON

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE

1300 430 599

bcls@barwoncls.org.au

Level 1, 63 Thomson Street,
Belmont Victoria 3216