



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

SOCIAL JUSTICE & EQUALITY FOR ALL



Photo courtesy of Gavin Butler/VICE



Moonee Valley Legal Service provides free legal advice, information and referrals to anyone who lives, works or studies within the City of Moonee Valley.



Main Office

13A Wingate Ave
Ascot Vale
VIC 3032

Outreach locations



**Avondale Heights
Library**

69-79 Military Rd,
Avondale Heights
VIC 3034



**Broadmeadows
Family Relationship
Centre**

L1 1/1100 Pascoe Vale Rd
Broadmeadows VIC 3047



**Flemington
Community Centre**

25 Mt Alexander Rd,
Flemington VIC 3031



Niddrie Library

483 Keilor Rd,
Niddrie VIC 3042

OUR COMMUNITY

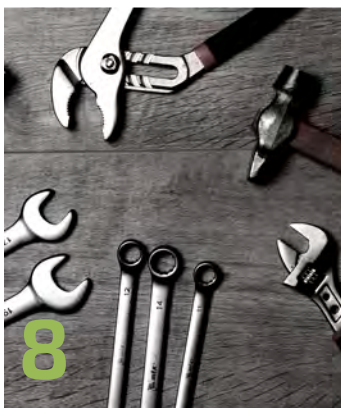
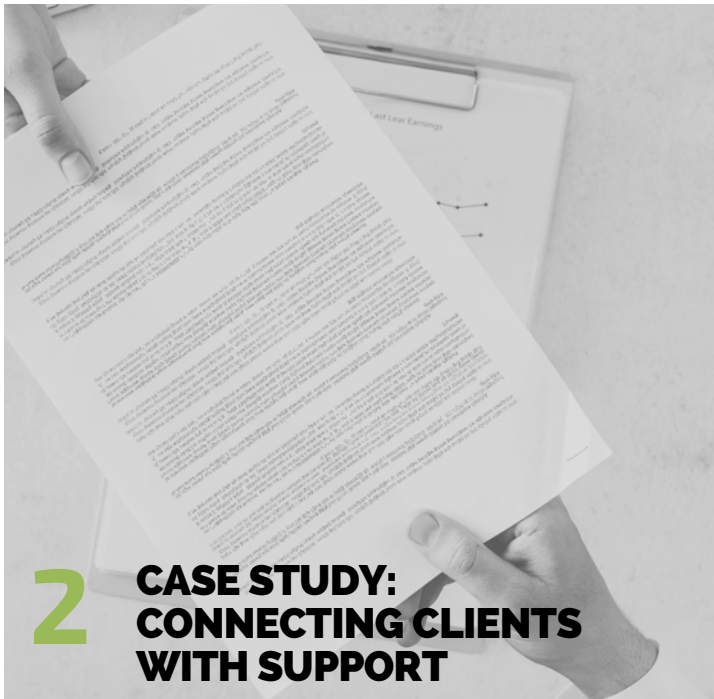
Moonee Valley Legal Service assists people who live work and study in the City of Moonee Valley.



We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land on which our service stands. We recognise their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities.

We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to Elders past, present and emerging.

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WORKING TOGETHER**



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OUR BOARD



Helene McNamara
Chairperson



Ben Wyatt
Vice Chairperson



John Foley
Treasurer



Alexandra Laurence
Secretary



Anna Martin
Board Member



Geoff Nicholl
Board Member



Kirsty McIntyre
Board Member



Tim Jeffrie
Board Member

OUR STAFF



Jacki Holland
Manager



Joanne Carlton
Principal
Lawyer



Jeremie Nguyen
Volunteer & Office
Coordinator



Jan Thorpe
Finance Officer



Anita Khodher
Generalist
Lawyer



Brian Burton
Generalist
Lawyer



Gary Sullivan
Criminal
Lawyer



Olivia Blair
Tenancy
Lawyer



Ozgur Akbas
Family & Family
Violence Lawyer



Suzanne Carey-Thomas
Generalist & Tenancy
Lawyer

OUR PURPOSE

We exist for our local community, providing free, accessible services to enhance wellbeing, fairness, equality and social justice within the legal system. We work to empower our clients and to improve legal outcomes. We work with our community to connect people to and promote understanding of the law. We work to bring about positive change and to address injustice and inequality in systems and laws.

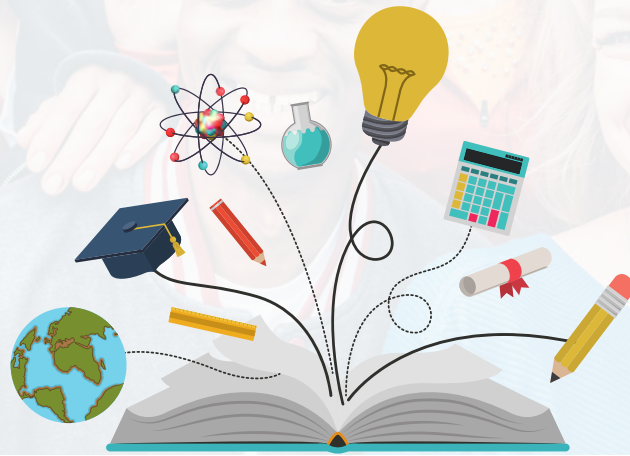


OUR VISION

To contribute meaningfully to a vibrant community legal sector. To ensure legal help is accessible to all who require it, with a focus on those who would not otherwise be able to get legal assistance. To be recognised by our local community as a reliable and resourceful service that meets the community's needs. To make the most of technological opportunities, build upon our unique service offerings and be adaptive and responsive to social change.

OUR MISSION

To work with and empower our diverse community to improve **outcomes** by providing high quality, culturally appropriate legal services, community legal education and advocacy.



OUR VALUES



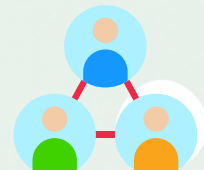
Community

We value and are part of our vibrant & diverse local community & we promote empowerment & respect for all.
Our clients are at the core of what do.



Quality

We are passionate, strive for continuous improvement & are committed to the provision of high quality, responsive legal services.



Collaboration

We work in partnership with others to achieve our vision.
We are committed to the involvement of community members and volunteers.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



On behalf of the Board of Management of the Moonee Valley Legal Service (MVLS), I wish to extend our best wishes to all in our Moonee Valley community impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This report covers both the eight month period July to February 2020 and the restrictions from March to June 2020.

The public health crisis and lockdowns has been an extremely challenging period and had a huge impact on our clients, staff and community.

These challenges are ongoing and we aim to maintain and strengthen supports to individuals and families who are particularly vulnerable, both in terms of health and income security. The experience of MVLS staff and our service working with people from diverse cultural backgrounds has proven to be valued and highly relevant in this crisis period. Fortunately the service has received additional funds and supports from the Federal and Victorian Government to ensure continuity of service to clients with legal needs by supporting staff to work remotely. These funds will directly support those most disadvantaged by the pandemic over the coming months.

One of the most significant service impacts has been our inability to maintain our Monday Night Service, affecting those people who prefer to "drop in" to access legal assistance after hours, despite adjusted modes of service provision.

Tensions that some of our clients experience in their homes may have been exacerbated

by restrictions, and those affected by family violence have faced new barriers to accessing services.

The lockdown of the Flemington public housing estate towers was a flash point, from several angles, with our service offering information and access to legal supports to those affected.

Our Manager, Jacki Holland and Principal Lawyer, Joanne Carlton have consistently shown leadership and support to clients and staff isolated at home and have worked proactively with Moonee Valley City Council staff and other community organisations. The team has continued to provide excellent service and has worked effectively to meet the challenges of the past year, showing commitment and professionalism to find solutions.

At Board level, there has also been consistent support and a resolve to maintain the full range of service offerings to our clients through video and telephone conferencing. Board members also kept an eye to the future in terms of innovation and new projects.

We thank retired Board member Emmanuel Kefalas for his commitment to service on the Board and wish him well.

We welcome new Board member Geoff Nicholl, who has a strong community profile in the northern part of the municipality.

At the AGM last year we were delighted to show Yvonne Kernan our gratitude for many years of service on the Board by making her a Life Member.

The Board has recently undertaken a Strategic Planning process to cover the three years 2020-2023 which affirms our future goals to preserve and strengthen our service to those most in need. This plan will incorporate existing legal casework, community legal education, specific projects funded for family violence and securing funds for new projects aimed at meeting unmet need in our community.

To support this planning the service is grateful for the ongoing leadership of the Federation of Community Legal Centres and the funding support and guidance of Victoria Legal Aid.

We value the relationship with Wingate Avenue Community Centre and continue to work collaboratively to integrate our service delivery.

Together we work with all stakeholders to ensure the new housing redevelopment project on the estate will offer residents a better quality of life and access to community supports.

We also extend our thanks to Gaden's Lawyers for their ongoing pro bono assistance and advice with projects, and to Moonee Valley City Council for their continuing support and collaboration. Thanks to local Members of Parliament, the Hon. Danny Pearson, the Hon. Ben Carroll and the Hon. Bill Shorten for their continuous support and interest. The Moonee Valley Legal Service continues to deliver quality legal services, and performs well within our service agreement and regulatory framework. Extending legal education to other parts of our catchment, responding to emerging needs resulting from the pandemic, and diversifying our services and funding sources are the challenges for the next year.



TENANCY PROJECT



The tenancy project continues to be a valued service at MVLS. It has of course also been affected by COVID-19 with our services, outreaches and client legal needs all impacted. In recent months the public housing lockdown of a number of the high-rise towers saw our service working with several other community legal centres and other services to provide legal information and responsive assistance, including via a 24-hour emergency telephone service for residents.

Over the twelve month period we provided advice in fifty-four public housing tenancy matters and ongoing assistance in a further sixteen.

Project activities focussed on increasing awareness of tenancy rights and obligations, and assisting clients to resolve matters such as rental arrears maintenance and possession orders.

In response to COVID-19 restrictions, our service worked to provide information and assistance through online and digital technologies, including in community languages on various social media platforms to increase accessibility.

We posted short videos to inform residents of the availability of legal assistance services and checked in with existing clients resident in locked down housing. Feedback from clients was that they were grateful to the service for reaching out to them.

We have continued to receive referrals and to collaborate with other services and community organisations such as Wombat Housing and Council community programs.

We have utilised the opportunity to expand our IT skills and knowledge, and improve the range and target of our audiences. Our community legal education sessions have been offered via online communications where we have been unable to meet with individuals or groups on a face to face basis.

Although we saw a decline in the number of public housing clients accessing the service, and necessarily suspended the Gadens Lawyers pro bono assisted clinic, the Tenancy Advocacy Project continued to provide advice to clients in legal need. Notwithstanding these challenges, the practice maintains a strong partnership with Gadens, albeit in a changed environment.

COVID-19 restrictions have also impacted our ability to facilitate resolution of our clients' non-urgent maintenance and repair issues.

Consumer Affairs Victoria is prevented from performing on-site repair reports, and Stage 4 Directives have limited maintenance and repair works to those defined as urgent. We expect an influx of requests for legal assistance regarding repair and maintenance issues once the restrictions are eased.

Unfortunately the pandemic has also necessarily impacted on the frequency of meetings of the Ascot Vale Estate Renewal Consultative Committee that had been established to consult with community on the renewal program. As always we will maintain our efforts to support tenants and ensure their voices are well represented as the planning and implementation phases continue.

We anticipate an escalation of tenancy legal need as restrictions ease in the coming months.

We are grateful to the State Government for continued funding for this valuable project.

CASE STUDY: WORKING TOGETHER

Freya's* story shows how we were able to work with her disability support worker to advocate her needs to the Housing Office.

Freya had been referred by her disability support worker directly to us. She lived in public housing with her husband and their infant child. Freya's child required ongoing medical care for a chronic health condition.

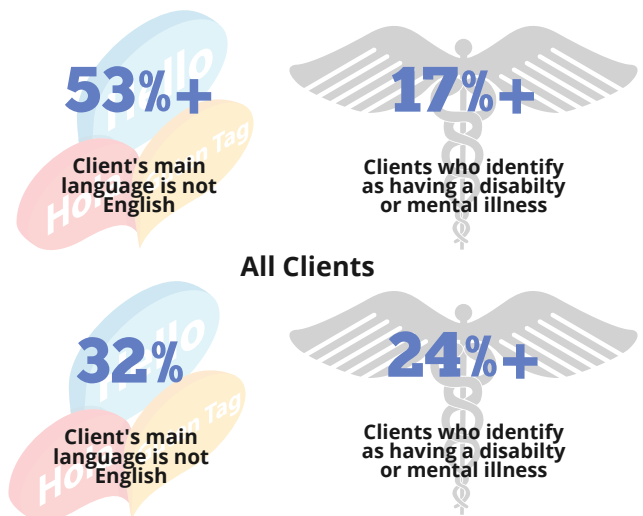
Freya had been able to successfully arrange repairs to her property, addressing a lack of heating, broken floorboards and severe mould.

The mould treatment would take two days. After the treatment the areas affected would be repainted. The contractor told Freya that her family should not be in the property during the treatment.

Due to Stage 4 COVID-19 restrictions and limited means, Freya's family had no other available accommodation. The Housing Office had informed the family that they could not be provided with emergency accommodation as they could remain in the property during the treatment and painting.

We were connected with Freya the afternoon before the work was scheduled to commence. We spoke to the local Housing Victoria Office and brought Freya's circumstances to their attention. We told them that it was inappropriate to expect the family to remain in the house or delay the repairs. That afternoon, the Housing Officer responded to our advocacy by arranging and approving temporary emergency accommodation for Freya's family for the duration and completion of the treatment.

Tenancy Project Clients



**name changed to protect our client's confidentiality*

OUR CLIENTS

Moonee Valley Legal Service assists those who work, live or study in the City of Moonee Valley. A snapshot of the clients we have assisted in the past financial year shows that we have been able to reach those in the community most in need.

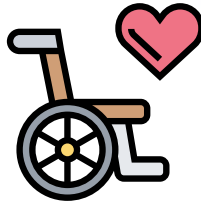
849
Clients

518 New
Clients



Experienced
Family Violence

230



Identified as having
a disability or
mental illness

148



Experienced, or were
at risk of
homelessness

30

84%+

Clients Experiencing Financial Disadvantage



32%+

Client's main language is not English

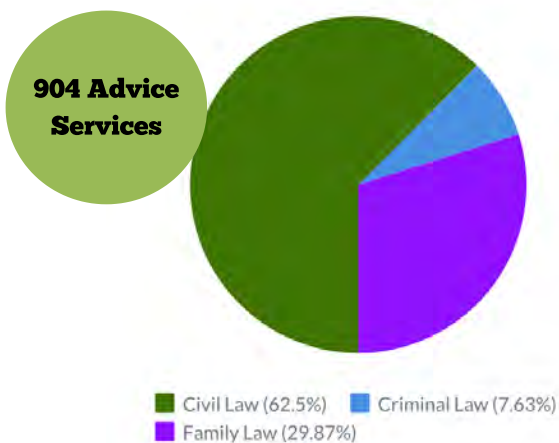


OUR SERVICES

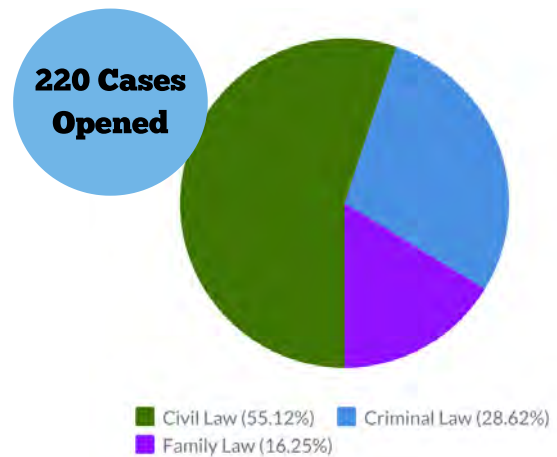
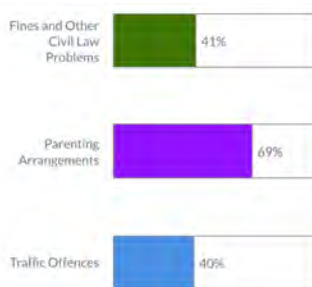
Moonee Valley Legal Service provides free and confidential legal advice, information, referrals and ongoing casework assistance. This assistance is generally available by appointment to persons who live, work or study within the City of Moonee Valley.

In the past financial year, we were able to provide clients with advice and casework to assist with their civil, family and criminal law matters. The pie chart shows the breakdown of the law types, with the progress bars showing which specific problems were the most prevalent in each law type.

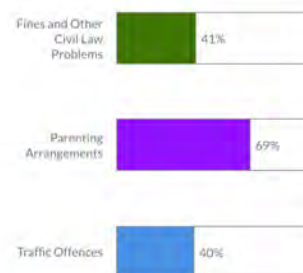
Notably, family violence and family violence intervention order breaches made up 20% and 24% of civil and criminal matters, respectively.



Legal Advice



Casework



Client Satisfaction



100%

of surveyed clients felt we treated them "very well"



100%

of surveyed clients "understood" or "understood very well" our advice



100%

of surveyed clients found our assistance to be "very useful" or "useful"

VERY FRIENDLY & HELPFUL STAFF & SERVICE

VERY EXCELLENT AND ALL EXPLAINED IN ALL DETAIL NEEDED

CASE STUDY: NAVIGATING THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Lydia* came to MVLS seeking advice about an interim intervention order that police had taken out to protect her and her daughter. Lydia attended her appointment supported by her social worker.

Lydia disclosed several health issues, that together with English being her second language, made it difficult for her to understand what the conditions of the Interim Intervention Order meant and what she was required to do.

She also disclosed years of psychological, emotional, financial, and most recently, physical abuse by her partner.

We assisted by explaining the conditions associated with the order, what family violence is and how the law can assist in keeping her safe.

" WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN REACHING AN INTERIM PARENTING ARRANGEMENT AS WELL AS AN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE PROPERTY ITEMS."

**name changed to protect our client's confidentiality*

We explained the conditions of the order, helped Lydia to gain a broader understanding of the various forms of family violence, and talked her through the court process for her upcoming mention hearing. We re-assured her that the police would be assisting her in this matter — a fact that she had not been aware of and which helped to ease some of her concerns.

Lydia subsequently received correspondence from her partner's lawyer regarding items of property he was demanding and about parenting arrangements with their child. We assisted by corresponding with the lawyer and were successful in reaching an interim parenting arrangement as well as an agreement on property items.

Lydia was very satisfied with the outcomes and provided warm feedback regarding our ongoing assistance in both her matters.



The Safe from Harm Project provides culturally appropriate legal assistance to those affected by family violence. Stories like Lydia's are unfortunately quite common. In addition to legal assistance, the MVLS Safe from Harm project engages the community through legal education to community groups and other service providers to ensure that people in Lydia's situation are able to safely access the help they need.

FAMILY VIOLENCE – SAFE FROM HARM



Entering its seventh year thanks to a welcome grant of further funding from the State Government the MVLS Safe from Harm project continues to serve the community and represents a central feature of our services. The project, in partnership with Flemington and Kensington Community Legal Centre, was able to offer services to community members affected by family violence.

The Safe from Harm project aims to provide holistic legal support to our clients assisting to address their legal needs in various areas associated with the effects of family violence including intervention orders, breach matters, parenting arrangements, separation, divorce, fines, migration, etc. The project maintains a focus on service delivery and advocacy for culturally and linguistically diverse communities across our catchment.

Across the FY1920 period, MVLS, through this project, assisted in excess of 66 clients who were at risk of, or experiencing family violence, We provided advice across 83 matters and assistance in 11 matters. This is in addition to Safe from Harm clients who received legal advice and support from Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre.

Although our services were impacted by restrictions imposed due to COVID-19, we were quick to convert this challenge into an opportunity. We moved to work remotely, adapted practices to incorporate different technologies and continuously strived to think of ways of providing better service to our clients during these unprecedented times.

We were able to ensure continuity of service to those needing family law and family violence assistance, providing legal advice by phone and via online platforms. This has been a major accomplishment for us and we pay tribute to our clients who engaged with us as we made these adaptations, while they were also dealing with the challenges of the pandemic amidst their own legal difficulties.

"GIVING LEGAL ADVICE OVER THE PHONE AND ONLINE PLATFORMS HAS ENSURED MUCH NEEDED SERVICE CONTINUITY FOR OUR CLIENTS."

Our partnership with the Broadmeadows Family Relationship Centre continued throughout the year, including during the lockdown period, ensuring that our services were still available to assist clients in negotiating positive outcomes in relation to parenting arrangements.

After a highly successful period, other family law outreach clinics, located in local libraries and community centres, were necessarily suspended as those services themselves closed. Referral channels have however remained in effect. We look forward to State Health Directives enabling these clinics to recommence, and to being able to connect in person with our clients and community when it is safe for us to do so.

**Written by Oznur Akbas
Family and Family Violence Lawyer**

Safe From Harm - Client Survey



100%

of clients asked had a **"Much Better Understanding"** of their rights



100%

of clients asked felt **"Much More Confident"** to ask for legal advice



100%

of clients felt **"Much Safer and Supported"**

MANAGER'S REPORT



Moonee Valley Legal Service is pleased to celebrate the successes of our 2019-2020 year. And in doing so we must acknowledge the year's tumultuous later months and the impact of these upon our clients, community, staff and friends of MVLS.

The MVLS team has given greatly to their work and our clients, competently managing significant changes and challenges as these have arisen.

We have been grateful for the support of colleagues and the wider sector as we've worked together to adapt our places of work, modes of work, and services models to continue to provide equality and timely responses to those with legal and other complex service needs.

We congratulate the team - Joanne, Jan, Jeremy, Brian, Oznur, Suzanne, Olivia, Gary and Anita - on their great flexibility, resilience, care for one another, willingness to learn and adapt, and for continuing to put clients at the centre of our service. We are extremely grateful for the enthusiastic contributions of our volunteers and look forward to being able to work closely with these wonderful people again.

We acknowledge the great pro bono partnership we enjoy with Gadens Lawyers and thank them for their excellent support across a range of activities, including with Finefixer and our continuing tenancy clinic.

We greatly appreciate our association with Deakin University and thank the many students who have chosen to undertake placements with us this year.

"WE VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO THE COMING YEAR AND STAND READY TO TAKE ON NEW CHALLENGES AS WE CONTINUE TO GROW AS A TEAM AND SERVICE."

Women's Health West continues to be a valued partner to our Safe from Harm family violence project, offering outreach services when possible and working with us to build the referral relationship between our organisations and others in the family service sector.

Together with Women's Health West we join Moonee Valley City Council (Council) as core members of the Moonee Valley Family Violence Network, a body which is growing in energy and dynamism, with thanks owed to its many and diverse members, and to the dedicated staff at Council who help to drive and chair the network.

Across the year we enjoyed being out and amongst our local community whenever possible, holding several pop up information stalls at the Airport West shopping centre and delivering community legal education to a wide range of groups both in person (pre-pandemic) and online.

With Wingate Avenue Community Centre we share a firm commitment dating back over three decades, to delivering high quality programs and services and creating a safe, engaged and vibrant community. During the coming year we aim to renew our focus upon collaboration and innovative ways of engaging community members and leaders.

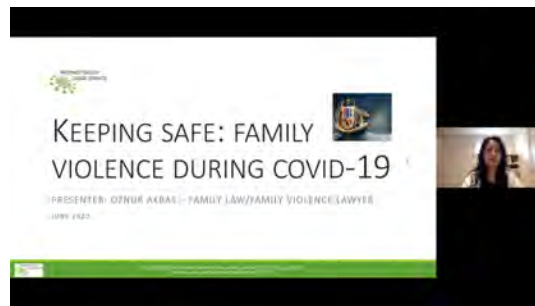
We were pleased to have been able to extend our relationship with the Travancore Prevention and Recovery Centre to improve access to justice for those in specific health settings thanks to a grant of funding from Council.

We successfully completed a partnership project with Anika Legal and we were supported to work closely with McKillop's Family Relationships Centre in Broadmeadows in legally assisted mediations, providing community education and delivering legal advice services.

We also recognise our partners from Council at the Flemington Community Centre and Niddrie and Avondale Heights libraries where our outreach activities had been operating effectively to facilitate greater access to our services across the catchment area prior to restrictions coming into effect.

We very much look forward to the coming year and stand ready to take on new challenges as we continue to grow as a team and service.

"ACROSS THE YEAR WE ENJOYED BEING OUT AND AMONGST OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY..., HOLDING SEVERAL POP UP INFORMATION STALLS ...AND DELIVERING COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION TO A WIDE RANGE OF GROUPS BOTH IN PERSON (PRE-PANDEMIC) AND ONLINE."



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



What a year it has been with bushfires, floods and COVID-19, the last of these providing MVLS, like so many other individuals and organisations, with the biggest challenge. Whilst the first half of the year saw MVLS achieving against its goals, the second half had us re-thinking our plans, and telephone appointments, web-based meetings and online chats became the new normal.

MVLS remains a generalist non-gender specific service that does not income test clients for general advice and provides ongoing assistance for those that are disadvantaged.

Our lawyers have a mixture of general and specific skills that enable MVLS to assist a broad range of people. While it is not possible to assist everyone, we are able to give initial information and advice in relation to our case guidelines and refer out to appropriate agencies or private lawyers.

We provide generalist services to the community during our day services, our night service, outreaches to libraries and our various, clinics. And we continue to offer a wide range of tailored and responsive community legal education to groups and organisations.

Clients have presented requiring assistance in family law and family violence, tenancy, parenting issues, fines (often multiple), disputes with neighbours, motor vehicle accident claims and debts.

Our clients often have difficulties that go beyond their legal issues, such as social and financial pressures, addiction, isolation

"We very much look forward to coming back into (COVID-safe) face to face contact with the Moonee Valley community and sharing our passion for the law"

and mental ill-health. These issues often lead to, or exacerbate their legal problems, and can be even more overwhelming for clients who may speak little or no English.

Technology has made information easily available through the internet, yet many of our clients do not have the skills to access self-help. Given the circumstances of COVID-19 it has made it difficult to connect with these clients. However we have managed to do so by adapting our processes to ensure our services align with the technology capabilities of our individual clients.

Written by Joanne Carlton
Principal Lawyer

During the past financial year we have had our Tenancy and Safe from Harm projects running successfully, (both of which received additional funding).

This financial year MVLS completed a successful partnership project with Anika Legal, focussed upon online legal information and assistance in connection with tenancy repairs. Our interactive web-tool Finefixer continues to help Victorians navigate the infringements system and we worked with Legal Aid New South Wales enabling them to introduce FineFixer NSW for New South Wales community members. Our collaboration with the Family Relationship Centre continued throughout the year with MVLS providing lawyers for legally assisted mediations, legal outreach appointments and education sessions.

MVLS was unable to enjoy our annual participation Law Week activities, needing to postpone a series of events we had planned in partnership with Moonee Valley Libraries. When appropriate and in line with health directives, we will reinvigorate these plans and offer fun and interactive information sessions and free legal health checks to members of the public at a range of library locations.

We very much look forward to coming back into (COVID-safe) face to face contact with the Moonee Valley community and sharing our passion for the law and information about how our services can make a difference.



"Many of our clients do not have the skills to access self-help...and COVID-19 has made it difficult to connect with them...By changing our processes we've been able to assist and achieve positive legal outcomes despite these challenges"

VOLUNTEER REPORT



Moonee Valley Legal Service enjoys the support of a wonderful team of volunteers who help us in assisting community members with their legal problems. In March 2020 we needed to make the decision to suspend volunteer activity whilst we navigated restrictions, new ways of working and the work from home model. Our Office & Volunteer Coordinator, Jeremie Nguyen, and legal team are striving hard to find the best means of generating opportunities and avenues through which our volunteers can again work closely with us. Jeremie's report is below.

When we returned from our Christmas break, we organised an induction of new volunteers and arranged to host internship students from Deakin.

We ran the induction, provided some new student volunteers with training for our day service and had set about coordinating rosters for those wishing to join our night service volunteer team.

Unfortunately, come March, the pandemic had become serious enough that we would stop attending the office and begin working from home. It was with great sadness that we immediately informed the volunteers of our decision to suspend our volunteer program.

We were amazed (but not surprised) at the understanding and warm responses we received. We are continuing to explore ways in which we can continue to support law students with real and practical experience.

Our motivation was further amplified by the fantastic way in which our volunteers offered their time and support to us.



"Please let me know if there is any volunteer work I can potentially do remotely?"

"Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help the service remotely."

"[Am I] able to assist with anything from home?"



Written by Jeremie Nguyen
Volunteer & Office Coordinator

VOLUNTEERS

DAY SERVICE

Legal Support

Alessio Silvestro

Alex Cox

Antonietta Di Gregorio

Ben Hall

Cez Ozturk

Christine Bulos

Dalena Dang

Daniel Cashmore

Daniel Conti

Furkan Onal

Gabriella Lauricella

Hugo Rogers

Isabelle Fletcher

Kathryn Slater

Kelly Bray

Luke Wood

Olivia Brown

Pat Hossack

Rayan Hajj

Reid Hadaway

Sarah Mahmood

Sarah Milne

Shenika Fernando

Tracey Ha

Viola Bellini

NIGHT SERVICE

Legal Support

Will Peyton

Alex La Rocca

Kelly Bray

Matthew Ilgoutz

Lawyers

Allan Zabrdac

Alexandra Vrdoljak

Anita Raj

Benjamin Haber

Catherine Farres

Gregory Doran

Ilsa Kuiper

Jacqui Paterson

Leticia Rodriguez

Martin Stirling

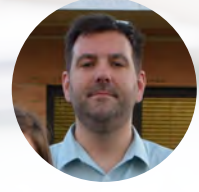
Rachel Yard

Turgut Ozcitti

Tugba Gocmen



TREASURER'S REPORT



Jan Thorpe
Finance Officer

Moonee Valley Legal Service's financial position continues to be sound. Our results for the 2019/2020 financial year show a surplus of \$39,574 and closing retained profits of \$202,449. MVLS is well positioned to continue to grow sustainably, and is in a strong position to adapt strategically to the social and economic disruption arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As in previous years, the core of our funding is from recurrent Commonwealth Government and Victorian State Government grants totalling \$441,404 for the year ending June 2020. However, our reliance on these streams of income continued to decline (53% of total income this year, compared against 61% and 68% for each of the preceding two financial years).

\$55,707 of CLSP Grants Income was carried forward, as part of a planned strategy to offset the expenses for two parental leave payments in the 2020/2021 financial year. MVLS has ensured that Government Portable Long Service Leave is in place, and continues to hold funds for staff prior to the PLSL start date of July 2019.

MVLS is in a stable financial position, and is well placed to continue to thrive. The service is responding strategically and creatively to the challenge of maintaining financial strength moving forward, in an environment of uncertainty and structural changes to the legal marketplace.

Written by John Foley
Treasurer

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Moonee Valley Legal Service Inc
ABN 99 238 552 414
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Income		
Interest received	5,336	8,151
Sundry Income	23,348	5,188
Recurrent Grants VLA - Other	5,777	15,049
Donations Received	10,155	8,540
Deakin Students	9,000	17,000
VLA Recurrent Grants - Commonwealth	121,124	117,448
VLA Recurrent Grants - State	320,280	302,148
Department of justice	129,937	127,562
Moonee Valley Council Grants	11,188	2,000
Victorian Law Foundation Grant		5,200
DPC Grant	127,142	54,490
LAFDR	19,234	20,837
VLA - CLSP SACs ERO Extra	33,740	
VLA Family Violence	51,872	
Tenancy Project	25,936	
Grants - CLSP Carried forward	(55,707)	
Total income	<u>838,363</u>	<u>683,613</u>
Expenses		
Accountancy	623	309
Audit fees	1,420	1,385
Bank Fees And Charges	3	5
Committee of Management/AGM	5,331	4,054
Comm Legal Education	172	1,819
Conference/seminar costs	21,792	
Contract Worker	165,333	114,646
Depreciation - other	6,579	5,735
Filing Fees		164
Holiday pay	5,481	3,839
Insurance	2,274	748
Internet	1,805	1,936
Library Resources	10,286	1,183
Long service leave	17,441	(6,881)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Moonee Valley Legal Service Inc
ABN 99 238 552 414
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Membership	3,859	3,507
Minor Equipment	1,866	967
Portable Long Service Leave	7,790	
Postage	1,569	233
Printing & stationery	4,166	4,875
Practising Certificates	1,462	1,374
Programming & Planning	2,468	6,898
Rent	15,723	16,855
Repairs & maintenance		436
Salaries	345,327	337,371
Salary Packaging	112,027	108,703
Staff amenities	3,654	547
Staff Recruitment	155	360
Staff training	3,953	3,693
Storage Fees	1,011	1,746
Sundry expenses	1,380	1,342
Superannuation	44,939	41,504
Telephone	7,396	5,990
Travelling Expenses	163	3,549
Volunteers	409	936
Workcover	931	820
Total expenses	798,789	670,649
Surplus from ordinary activities before income tax	39,574	12,963
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
Net surplus attributable to the association	39,574	12,963
Total changes in equity of the association	39,574	12,963
Opening retained earnings	162,875	149,912
Net surplus attributable to the association	39,574	12,963
Closing retained earnings	202,449	162,875

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

Moonee Valley Legal Service Inc
ABN 99 238 552 414
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash assets	<u>2</u>	262,089	312,697
Other	<u>3</u>	137,031	134,443
Total Current Assets		399,119	447,140
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	<u>4</u>	12,729	9,893
Total Non-Current Assets		12,729	9,893
Total Assets		411,849	457,033
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	<u>5</u>	22,771	15,700
Current tax liabilities	<u>6</u>	12,786	18,532
Provisions	<u>7</u>	26,518	21,037
Other	<u>8</u>	91,838	200,865
Total Current Liabilities		153,912	256,133
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	<u>7</u>	55,487	38,024
Total Non-Current Liabilities		55,487	38,024
Total Liabilities		209,400	294,157
Net Assets		202,449	162,875
Members' Funds			
Retained earnings		202,449	162,875
Total Members' Funds		202,449	162,875

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Moonee Valley Legal Service Inc
ABN 99 238 552 414
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
Note 1. Reconciliation Of Cash		
For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in banks and investments in money market instruments, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.		
Cash at the end of the year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:		
Cash At Bank	256,409	312,397
Petty Cash	5,679	300
Short term deposits	137,031	134,443
	399,119	447,140

Note 2. Reconciliation Of Net Cash Provided By/Used In Operating Activities To Net Surplus

Operating surplus (loss) after tax	39,574	12,963
Depreciation	6,579	5,735
Changes in assets and liabilities net of effects of purchases and disposals of controlled entities:		
Increase (decrease) in trade creditors and accruals	170	
Increase (decrease) in other creditors	(102,127)	66,633
Increase (decrease) in employee entitlements	22,945	25,716
Increase (decrease) in sundry provisions	(5,746)	10,640
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(38,605)	121,687

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Moonee Valley Legal Service Inc
ABN 99 238 552 414
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Cash Flow From Operating Activities		
Receipts from grants and others	833,027	675,462
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(876,968)	(561,926)
Interest received	5,336	8,151
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (note 2)	(38,605)	121,687
Cash Flow From Investing Activities		
Payment for:		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(9,416)	(2,025)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(9,416)	(2,025)
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	(48,021)	119,662
Cash at the beginning of the year	447,140	327,478
Cash at the end of the year (note 1)	399,119	447,140

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

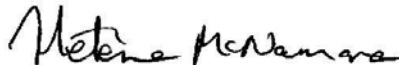
Moonee Valley Legal Service Inc
ABN 99 238 552 414
Statement by Members of the Committee
For the year ended 30 June 2020

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

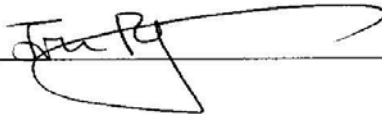
In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Moonee Valley Legal Service Inc as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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



Helene McNamara
President



John Foley
Treasurer

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

ASSUR
Audit & Assurance
Chartered Accountants
Registered Company Auditors

Moonee Valley Legal Service Inc
ABN 99 238 552 414
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Moonee Valley Legal Service Inc (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, the Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2020, a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2020 and [of] its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Director:
A.R Ager CA, BEc
Registered Company Auditor

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E: tony.ager@optusnet.com.au

Authorised Audit Company
No. 453122

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

ASSUR
Audit & Assurance
Chartered Accountants
Registered Company Auditors

Director:
A.R Ager CA, BEc
Registered Company Auditor

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Authorised Audit Company
No. 453122

Moonee Valley Legal Service Inc
ABN 99 238 552 414

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

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OUR PARTNERS & FUNDERS

Moonee Valley Legal Service acknowledges and thanks our partners and funders for their ongoing support





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