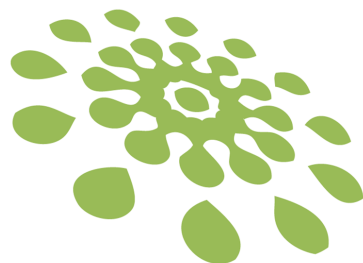




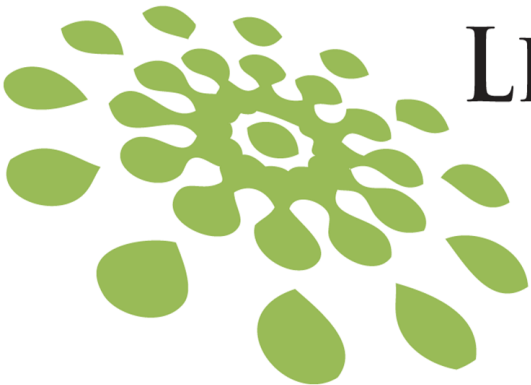
2016-17

ANNUAL REPORT



**MOONEE VALLEY**  
LEGAL SERVICE

**MOONEE VALLEY  
LEGAL SERVICE**





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## OUR VISION

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Social justice and equality for all

## OUR MISSION

---

The provision of high quality, culturally appropriate legal services, community education and advocacy to our diverse community

## WE VALUE

---

Empowerment and respect for all members of our community

High quality responsive legal services

The involvement of community members and volunteers

Ethnic and cultural diversity

Working in partnership with our community to achieve our vision





# OUR PEOPLE UPDATES

## We welcome:

**Brendan Lacota** was appointed to the role of Principal Lawyer, following a lengthy period of acting in this role. Brendan has represented our organisation in several capacities. He has presented papers at multiple conferences and forums, and developed and launched the innovative FineFixer web-tool.

**Joe Ishow** is our new Family Lawyer. Joe worked previously as a solicitor with Street Law, a homeless peoples' legal service, providing advice and assistance to some of Canberra's most vulnerable clients. After relocating to Melbourne earlier this year, Joe worked as a Prosecutor dealing with a wide range of Local Government matters.

**Anita Khodher** has commenced in the role of Community Legal Education and generalist lawyer. Anita is an experienced solicitor who has a passion for assisting the most vulnerable people in the community.

**Jacki Holland** worked as the Service Manager from July 2016 to February 2017 to fill a parental leave vacancy. Jacki recently returned to the role of Manager permanently and we welcome her back into the team.

*Welcome*

## We congratulate new Board appointments:

**Prashanth Seetharaman** (Treasurer) who brings considerable financial and business knowledge to the Board of Management.

**Karen Jordan** who brings a wealth of Human Resource and management skills to her role as Board Member.

**Anna Martin** an experienced lawyer with a keen interest in the role of the legal profession to promote social justice and facilitate access to justice.

*Prashanth, Karen and Anna each have a strong commitment to their local community and to the clients supported by our service. We welcome them all to our Board.*

## We thank and farewell:

**Lauren Hills** has taken up a full time role with the Coroner's Court. We thank her for her contribution to the service both as Safe from Harm Project Lawyer and more recently as Service Manager.

**Liz Bitar** who worked as Safe from Harm Project Lawyer and did much to strengthen supports to vulnerable people affected by family violence.

**Tamara Kay** who covered our family law case load during a transitional period, extended her contract work to support clients and the service.

**Marguerite Bourke** our Principal Solicitor for many years. Marguerite oversaw many changes and growth within the legal service.

*We wish you all well in your new roles and future endeavours*

# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



The Board of Management wishes to congratulate our staff and volunteers on another successful year assisting people in the Moonee Valley community who otherwise would not have access to legal advice and related support services.

The performance of the service is measured through complex data. We are proud that our targets are always met or exceeded, in fulfilment of the requirements of Victorian Legal Aid (VLA), our main funding body. In addition, project funding has augmented our service delivery in the much needed area of family violence.

## **Commonwealth funding**

We were delighted to learn that the decision by the Commonwealth government to reduce funding was reversed, partly in response to submissions and sector-wide advocacy that provided sound evidence of the impact these cuts would have on disadvantaged clients.

## **Partners**

The Wingate Avenue Community Centre continues to be a key partner. We will continue to work together in the coming years to ensure our services are integrated into the new plans for the redevelopment of the Ascot Vale public housing estate.

Moonee Valley City Council continues to provide valuable support and networks for our service. This relationship is highly valued. We wish to thank Gadens for their pro bono support for our work with tenancy related issues.

Thanks also to our board member Marissa Dosen for arranging high quality and low cost training for staff at the offices of Holding Redlich.

The Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre (FKCLC) continues to be our funded partner on projects including the Safe from Harm project and another which will explore unmet need and review the merits of various models of service.

## **VLA Reform Steering Committee**

Over several months, I have represented our sector on a VLA Reform Steering Committee

which aims to improve the reporting, quality and accountability of service delivery through an “outcomes-based” approach. This initiative seeks to build the relationship between the funding body and services on the ground and strengthen the sector’s capacity to target those most in need. The final report will be available by the end of the year.

### **Ascot Vale Housing Estate Public Redevelopment**

The State Government has commenced consultation and planning for the Ascot Vale Public Housing estate to be demolished and rebuilt over a ten year period. Works will be undertaken in stages. Residents will be re-located for several years with the option to return. We are advised the project will increase social housing capacity by 10% and will include a mix of private and public housing. It will significantly improve the safety and quality of the lives of all residents.

The project will have considerable repercussions for the MVLS service and our service partners including Wingate Avenue Community Centre, Wingate Avenue Children’s Co-Operative, the Maternal and Child Health Service, Settlement Worker, Financial Counsellor and Men’s Shed.

The Board will continue to work with key stakeholders to ensure our services to the community are available in the long term and integrated into planning for ongoing services.

### **Summary**

The continuity and quality of services to clients has been sustained through a year of staff changes and uncertainty of funding. The staff and volunteers have shown a willingness to work flexibly to respond to challenges and have maintained service efficiency, despite limited resources.

The MVLS is committed to extending our profile and service across the broader Moonee Valley catchment with outreach, Community Legal Education and partnering with services to better respond to unmet needs.

Finally we thank our funders and members for their support and commitment to our service.

Helene McNamara

Chairperson

Moonee Valley Legal Service

## KEEPING FAMILIES SAFE FROM HARM

Our Safe from Harm project addresses the unique barriers faced by CALD communities in the identification, reporting and prevention of family violence. The project employs two lawyers—one at MVLS and another at FKCLC—who provide culturally appropriate legal advice and assistance to persons affected by family violence. Since its inception in 2014 the project has worked with over 400 clients, and more than 800 community members and 300 community workers have been provided with information and legal education about family violence.

This year, funding from the Department of Justice & Regulation facilitated the expansion of the project. We commenced family law outreach at Milleara Integrated Learning and Development Centre in Keilor East, complementing services and awareness raising activities at our own offices, local primary schools and community centres. With funding yet to be secured beyond 2017 we continue to seek financial support for the future of this valuable project.

## SECURING HOUSING FOR OUR CLIENTS

Public housing tenants are some of Victoria's most vulnerable people, with eviction commonly leading to homelessness. With the assistance of Gadens, we provided advice and representation in tenancy related matters for public housing residents at both our Ascot Vale office and at an outreach at the Flemington Community Centre.

Common issues included extensive mould which was leading to health problems for the residents, urgent repairs of broken appliances including stoves and toilets, and rental arrears caused by erroneous calculations by the housing office.

With consultations and planning for the Public Housing Renewal underway at Flemington and Ascot Vale, we expect demand for this service to grow and we look forward to continuing our partnership with Gadens to provide tenants with timely and high quality legal advice.

## USING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY TO FIX FINES

In 2015 students from the RMIT Fastrack—Access to Justice Through Technology Challenge devised FineFixer, a web tool to help young people understand and pay their fines using a simple, quick and easy process. Enabling people to act earlier, preventing the accumulation of costs and penalties for people and freeing up valuable time for community legal centres and Victoria Legal Aid.

In 2016 the Moonee Valley Legal Service received a grant from the Victoria Law Foundation to build upon and expand the initial work of the students, turning the idea into the reality of FineFixer. FineFixer will be available to help anyone in Victoria to understand their fines and empower them to take action to resolve their fines problems.

## HELPING FAMILIES

Our partnership with the Family Relationship Centre (FRC) Broadmeadows and Northern Community Legal Centre entered its seventh year. This initiative provides advice and support to families going through separation, assisting them to resolve their disputes, reduce hostility, and reach parenting agreements in relation to children.

Legally assisted mediation is vital in that it can narrow the issues for clients, while providing on the spot advice in complex family law matters. Further, it empowers clients where power imbalance exists and can resolve issues quickly.

This is an important partnership and one which we look forward to continuing.



A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a white long-sleeved button-down shirt and a brown leather belt, is smiling and standing next to a large, moss-covered tree trunk. The background shows green foliage and a brick building.

“To close the  
access to justice  
gap we must build  
a culture of  
innovation and risk  
taking in the legal  
assistance sector.”

Brendan Lacota at the launch of  
FineFixer, 4 August 2017

Brendan Lacota (Principal Lawyer, MVLS)





# ACCESSIBLE, HIGH QUALITY SERVICES

## HEAD OFFICE



13a Wingate Avenue, Ascot Vale VIC 3032

Day Service (by appointment)

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Night Service (drop-in clinic)

Mondays 6.30pm - 8.30pm

## OUTREACHES



Milleara Integrated Learning and Development Centre 

Avondale Heights Library and Learning Centre 

Ascot Vale West Primary School 

Flemington Community Centre 



Brendan Lacota (Principal Lawyer, MVLS) and Alexandra Laurence (RMIT Fastrack) promoting Finefixer.org.au on ABC Radio

# CENTRE REPORT

The past financial year provided many opportunities and challenges for the Moonee Valley Legal Service. Throughout the year we delivered services at five locations across Moonee Valley. In partnership with Northern Community Legal Centre we also provided legally assisted dispute resolution at the Family Relationship Centre in Broadmeadows.

Strong relationships with stakeholders and partners are essential to our service. This year we commenced new partnerships with Gadens to deliver intensive tenancy casework and advocacy for public housing residents, and with local schools and community centres to ensure more people experiencing family law issues and family violence have safe access to legal advice and assistance.

Thanks to a grant from the Victoria Law Foundation we were able to commence work on FineFixer, a solution devised during the 2015 Access to Justice Through Technology Challenge at RMIT. We expect FineFixer to help thousands of people each year to understand their fines and take action to resolve their fines problems.

We hope that FineFixer will be the first in a long line of technological innovations to improve access to justice

by MVLS, and we look forward to working with the wider legal assistance sector to develop a culture of innovation and risk-taking.

We have improved our outcomes measurement throughout 2016/2017 and will make further improvements in the coming years to ensure that we continue to provide an accountable, meaningful, and impactful service to our local community.

Co-location within the Wingate Avenue Community Centre remains a great strength of our service and we are proud to be part of this community.

This year we farewell our previous Principal Lawyer, Marguerite Bourke, our Manager Lauren Hills, and lawyers Liz Bitar and Tamara Kay. We thank these individuals for their dedication to the legal service over many years. Finally we would like to welcome our new lawyers Anita Khodher and Joe Ishow, and our new Manager Jacki Holland who recently returned to MVLS.

We are looking forward to the year ahead.

Brendan Lacota  
Principal Lawyer



# OUR SERVICES

## SERVICE SNAPSHOT



1054

ADVICES PROVIDED



506

INFORMATION SERVICES



247

CASES OPENED



1043

CLIENTS

## MOST COMMON PROBLEM TYPES



This Year

Last Year\*



Family Law

36.76%

37.50%



Criminal

5.04%

6.80%



Civil

31.05%

33.20%



Fines

20.36%

16.60%



Tenancy

6.79%

5.70%

\*due to changes in reporting, data may not be directly comparable with previous years

## COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION



46

Community Legal  
Education Sessions



# OUR CLIENTS



597

NEW CLIENTS



FAMILY VIOLENCE

245

CLIENTS EXPERIENCING FAMILY VIOLENCE



75.75%

LOW INCOME

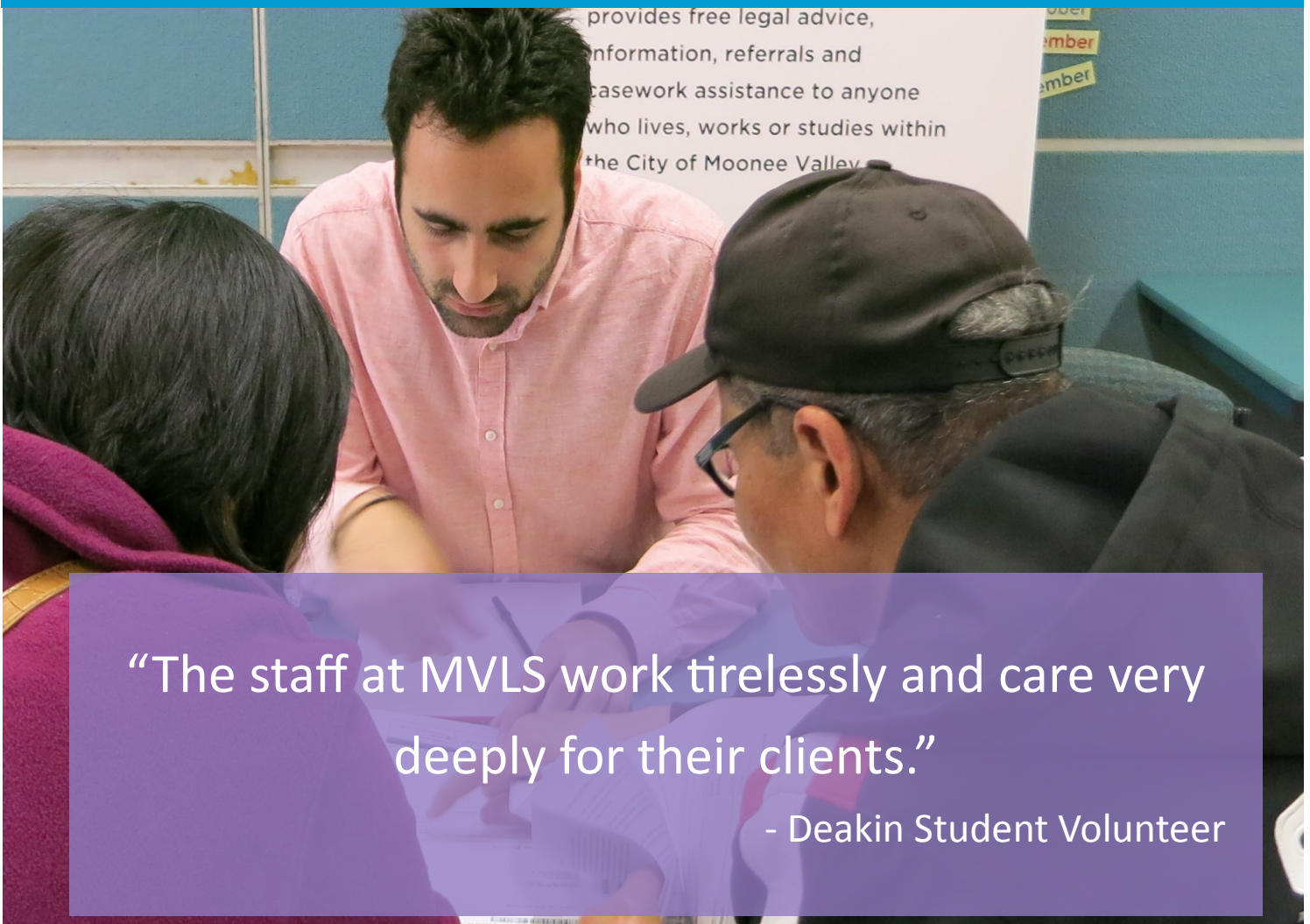
5.56%

NO INCOME

## CASE STUDY 1 — Rahul\*

*Rahul first came to see our family lawyer in 2016 after not having seen his two children for over a year. At the time Rahul's housing was precarious, he was at risk of homelessness, and he had accumulated a significant number of fines. Our lawyers worked closely with our social work student to address both Rahul's legal problems and housing issues. Thanks to the integrated intervention Rahul now has stable housing, regular access to his children, and is debt free. Rahul says he is much happier now and occasionally drops in to the legal service just to say hello.*

\*Names changed to maintain confidentiality



“The staff at MVLS work tirelessly and care very deeply for their clients.”

- Deakin Student Volunteer





Office and Volunteer Administrator Lauren McAlpine at the Ascot Vale Needs Assessment Event at the Wingate Ave Community Centre

## CASE STUDY 2 — Julia\*

*Julia had recently moved from interstate with her two children to escape her controlling and abusive husband. Julia needed to negotiate a division of superannuation with her ex-husband who had been the family ‘breadwinner.’ At the time, Julia was not receiving any child support or spousal maintenance contributions, and her only income was a disability support pension. Although we could not assist with court representation, we were able to support Julia to achieve a positive outcome for herself and her children. We assisted her to lodge court documents and provided advice to help her successfully obtain a settlement. As a result Julia can continue to support her children and protect them from family violence.*

\*Names changed to maintain confidentiality





(L to R) Jan Thorpe, Tamara Kay, Gary Sullivan, Brendan Lacota, Lauren McAlpine, Jacki Holland

A talented and dedicated team of staff and  
volunteers passionate about making a  
difference



## OUR BOARD

### Chairperson

Helene McNamara

### Vice Chairperson

Tony Isaacs

### Secretary

Emmanuel Kefalas

### Treasurer

Prashanth Seetharaman

### Members

Yvonne Kernan

Ben Wyatt

Marissa Dosen

Karen Jordan

Anna Martin

## OUR STAFF

### Manager

Lauren Hills

Jacki Holland (parental leave replacement)

### Principal Lawyer

Brendan Lacota

Marguerite Bourke (resigned)

### Administration and Volunteers

#### Coordinator

Lauren McAlpine

### Finance Officer

Jan Thorpe

### Generalist Lawyer

Gary Sullivan

### Family Lawyer

Tamara Kay

### Family Violence Lawyer

Elizabeth Bitar

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

Greg Doran

Alan Zabrdac

Anita Raj

Martin Stirling

Leticia Rodrigo

Ilsa Kuiper

Ray Earl

Emmanuel Kefalas

Turgut Ozcitti

Jon Horrigan

Tugba Gocmen

Daniel Bellissimo

Ben Willis

Rachel Yard

Tess Micucci

Cameron Dickson

Ashleigh Ellen

Euan Flett

Sonia Costabile

Mark Hird

Angela Panuccio-Gary

Jake Keogh

Lucy Sheehan

Janus Santos

Dominique Harriss

Olivia Blair

Lauraine Nguyen

Sharman Gronow

Victoria Nadalin

Alexandra Consiglio

Claudia Bistrup

Freya Reith

Matt Ilgoutz

Victoria Mack

Josh Shub

Jodie Connell

Daniella Gilroy

Jess Samuel

Pam Coutrounanis

Will Gordon- Manley

Megan Butler

Stephanie McKenzie

Nikki Morgan

Matthew Minus

Amelia Egan

Nikki Morgan

Jeremie Nguyen

Belinda Wilson (LIV President)

Jake Herd

Beth Martin

# TREASURER'S REPORT



The financial position of Moonee Valley Legal Service is sound with our results for the 2016/2017 financial year showing a surplus of \$32,658 (\$17,422 in 2015/16) and an accumulated surplus of \$145,023 (\$112,365 in 2016/17), MVLS is in a stable financial position and is well placed to remain so into the future.

The service faces the constant challenge of maintaining financial strength moving forward in an environment of limited funding resources. Traditional funding from State and Commonwealth Government grants are becoming more limited and restrictive with funding targeted at areas of particular legal need in the community. The core of funding remains from the Commonwealth Government and Victorian State Government totalling \$379,194 (62% of total income) for the year ending June 2017.

The remainder of funding accounted for grants, donations and other income totalling \$231,944 (\$171,206 in 2015/16). Victorian Legal Aid has confirmed the funding for 2017/18 and the revenue is forecasted to be in line with 2016/17 funding along with a 2% indexation.

Personnel costs for 2016/17 were \$401,854 (\$355,193 in 2015/16) and this accounts for 70% of total expenses. The personnel costs are being carefully monitored to enable and maintain our high level of client service.

During 2016/17 the service pursued various projects to strengthen its funding resources and scope of legal services. To be more sustainable the service needs to continue to seek out new funding sources additional to Commonwealth Government and Victorian State Government funding. I look forward to another successful year ahead which promises challenges and options for growth, and potential new project funding and partnership opportunities to assist us in extending our core business.

Prashanth Seetharaman  
Treasurer  
Moonee Valley Legal Service

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

## Moonee Valley Legal Service Inc

ABN 99 238 552 414

### Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Interest received	5,793	6,506
Sundry Income	2,000	2,501
Donations Received	6,650	10,259
Deakin Students	14,000	16,200
VLA Recurrent Grants - Commonwealth	110,278	99,996
VLA Recurrent Grants - State	268,916	254,108
CLSP - Carried Forward	10,000	-
Grants - LSB	-	72,500
Department of justice	156,000	62,500
Moonee Valley Council Grants	-	740
Victorian Law Foundation Grant	37,500	-
<b>Total income</b>	<b>611,138</b>	<b>525,310</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Accountancy	309	-
Audit fees	1,281	1,250
Bank Fees And Charges	30	40
Committee of Management/AGM	2,868	5,868
Comm Legal Education	781	1,818
Contract Worker	126,626	91,160
Depreciation - other	3,660	3,909
Filing Fees	270	109
Holiday pay	(1,724)	(3,245)
Insurance	944	1,535
Internet	708	579
Legal Services Board Grant	-	6,155
Library Resources	3,515	2,559
Long service leave	6,206	960
Membership	-	3,300
Minor Equipment	65	1,775
Postage	1,182	901
Printing & stationery	4,246	4,367
Practising Certificates	1,765	1,680
Programming & Planning	175	106

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

**Moonee Valley Legal Service Inc**  
**ABN 99 238 552 414**  
**Income and Expenditure Statement**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2017**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Rent	16,447	16,441
Repairs & maintenance	368	2,233
Salaries	272,288	318,467
Salary Packaging	86,080	-
Staff amenities	741	1,539
Staff Recruitment	-	260
Staff training	2,712	3,503
Storage Fees	709	709
Sundry expenses	504	52
Superannuation	33,057	29,666
Telephone	5,665	6,871
Travelling Expenses	2,910	1,586
Volunteers	863	936
Workcover	770	798
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>576,019</b>	<b>507,887</b>
Surplus from ordinary activities before income tax	<b>35,119</b>	<b>17,422</b>
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities	-	-
<b>Surplus from ordinary activities after income tax</b>	<b>35,119</b>	<b>17,422</b>
Surplus (loss) from extraordinary items after related income tax	(2,461)	(10,000)
<b>Net surplus attributable to the association</b>	<b>32,658</b>	<b>7,422</b>
<b>Total changes in equity of the association</b>	<b>32,658</b>	<b>7,422</b>
Opening retained surplus	112,365	104,943
Net surplus attributable to the association	32,658	7,422
<b>Closing retained surplus</b>	<b>145,023</b>	<b>112,365</b>



# FINANCIAL REPORTS

Moonee Valley Legal Service Inc

ABN 99 238 552 414

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash assets	<u>2</u>	148,144	153,892
Other	<u>3</u>	130,295	68,498
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>278,439</u>	<u>222,389</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	<u>4</u>	14,122	11,733
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<u>14,122</u>	<u>11,733</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>292,561</u>	<u>234,122</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	<u>5</u>	8,508	11,835
Current tax liabilities	<u>6</u>	8,277	7,362
Provisions	<u>7</u>	12,697	14,421
Other	<u>8</u>	100,243	76,532
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>129,725</u>	<u>110,150</u>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	<u>7</u>	17,813	11,607
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<u>17,813</u>	<u>11,607</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>147,538</u>	<u>121,757</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>145,023</u>	<u>112,365</u>
<b>Members' Funds</b>			
Retained surplus		145,023	112,365
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>		<u>145,023</u>	<u>112,365</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

**Moonee Valley Legal Service Inc**  
**ABN 99 238 552 414**  
**Statement by Members of the Committee**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2017**

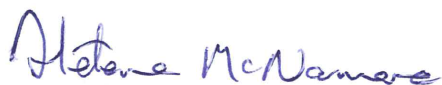
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The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

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 2017 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:



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Helene McNamara  
Chairperson



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Prasanth Seetharaman  
Treasurer

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

**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, Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2017, 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 2017 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 Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and 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 the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits commission Act 2012 and the 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 Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and 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.

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

**Moonee Valley Legal Service Inc**

**ABN 99 238 552 414**

**Independent Auditor's Report to the Members**

## **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

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

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

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

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

Signed on: *11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2017*

*ASSUR PTY LTD.*

ASSUR PTY LTD

Authorised Auditor Company Number: 453122

Chartered Accountants

*Anthony Ager*

Anthony Ager

Director - Audit & Assurance

Chartered Accountant





Top: Jon Horrigan & Rachel Yard (MVLS Monday Night Service Volunteers)  
Centre Left: (L to R) Lisa O'Farrell, Les Twentyman (Les Twentyman Foundation), Jacki Holland, Bill Shorten MP, Jan Thorpe, Tony Isaacs  
Centre Right: (L to R) Lauraine Nguyen, Alexandra Consiglio (Student volunteers) & Beth Martin (Social Work Student)  
Bottom: (L to R) Helen McNamara, Rob Hulls (Centre for Innovative Justice) & Jacki Holland, Moonee Valley Festival

# OUR FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

MVLS is funded and supported by







(L to R) Jacki Holland, (Manager MVLS) , Cr Richard Lawrence (MVCC), Cr Andrea Surace (Mayor MVCC) Cr. Samantha Byrne (MVCC, Cr Jim Cusack (MVCC), Prashanth Seetharaman (Treasurer MVLS)



(L to R) Nikolina Tucman (Analyst RMIT), David Gilbert (Ass. Professor RMIT), Emma King (CEO VCOSS), Brendan Lacota (Principal Lawyer MVLS), Ryan Sheales (Communications Manager VCOSS) at the Finefixer Launch

# FREE LEGAL ADVICE

Moonee Valley Legal Service  
provides free legal advice,  
information, referrals and

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