



SPRINGVALE MONASH  
LEGAL SERVICE Inc.

COMMUNITY-AT THE HEART OF IT

# SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018





“SHAPING A FAIRER  
FUTURE FOR OUR  
COMMUNITY THROUGH  
ACCESSIBILITY AND  
ENGAGEMENT”

“INTEGRITY  
TEAM  
RESPECT  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
PEOPLE FOCUSED  
ETHICAL”

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# Board of Directors

## 2017-2018 Board Members



**Chair** | David Starvaggi\*, Dona Tantirimudalige

**Vice Chair** | John Longo

**Treasurer** | Jared Heath

**Secretary** | Jamie McGhie

**Monash University Appointed Board Members** | Renata Alexander\*,  
Vanessa Johnston\*, Nina Boughey\*, Jane Prior, David Hanna, Brodie  
Woodland

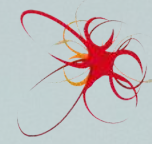
**Directors** | Sonia Parisi, Rhonda Cumberland, Andrew Simmons and  
Deborah Rulach

**SMLS Executive Director** | Kristen Wallwork

**SMLS Staff Representative** | Daniel Bean\*

*\*Vacated*





# SMLS Staff

## 2017-2018 Staff



**Executive Director** | Kristen Wallwork

**Academic Director** | Dr. Kate Seear

**Manager, Strategic and Community Development** | Ashleigh Newnham

**Manager Non-Clinic** | Daniel Bean

**Manager Clinical Practice** | Janine Hill-Buxton

**Executive Assistant** | Phyllis Toparlanis

**Finance Worker** | Cheryline Arcena-O'Brien

**Professional Practice Clinical Supervisors** | Janine Hill-Buxton, Korina Leoncio, Sandy Kaur, Geraldine Carney, Jamie Walvisch and Jamie Han

**Family Law and Child Support Solicitor** | Andrea Videion

**Community Lawyers** | Belinda Shen, Vina Godrei and Azin B Jenkin

**Community Development Workers** | Temur Rezaie

**Youth Worker** | Prue Delalande

**SMLS/SECASA Joint Legal Clinic Supervisor** | Meghan Butterfield\* and Robyn Heath

**Family Violence Lawyer** | Janine Hill-Buxton

**Volunteer Program Coordinator** | Trang Nguyen\*\* and Sabrina Lim

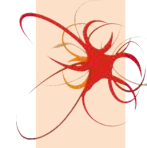
**(Acting) Locum Volunteer Assisting Coordinator** | Trish Le\*, George Abraham, Vathsala Pradeep

**Administration Team** | Cheryline Arcena-O'Brien, Sabrina Lim, Trang Nguyen\*\*, Diane Roberts, Natalie Simpkin and Sheetal Fotedar

**IT Contractors** | Ruben Ramdhony, Ritesh Foolchand

*\*Vacated*

*\*\*Deceased*



# SMLS Evening Volunteers

## 2017-2018 Volunteers

Aakshi Kapoor  
Alexa Sakkal  
Alexandra Bolkas\*  
Alexandra Morrison\*  
Alexandra Targett\*  
Alice Gregory  
Alissa Lee  
Alyssandria Lim  
Amanda McDermott  
Amir Fahmi  
Amy Green  
Amy Sheggerud-Woods (S)  
Andrea Mizzi  
Anisa Zahidee\*  
Annie Nguyen\*  
Aphroditi Bakopanos\* (DS)  
Argelique Botakis  
Ariella Gordon  
Beatrice Lim\*  
Belinda Shen\* (S)  
Belle Delpirou  
Biao Chen\*  
Bradley White\*  
Cameron Inglis Candice  
Fernandes  
Cathy Dang\*  
Charles Khuu (DS)  
Charlie Morshead (S)  
Cherie Fung\*  
Chris Macera\* (S)  
Chris Twidale (S)  
Christina Villano\*  
Claire Cunnington\* (S)  
Constance Iliadis

Cyndi Tomlinson\*  
Daniel Cheng  
Danny Tiomkin  
Daphne Foong\* (S)  
Davy Hu  
Debbie Bletsas\*  
Dineth Swaris  
Dona Sahanika Rajapakse  
Duong Nguyen  
Elaine Yau  
Eleni Angeletos\*  
Elissa XuElizabeth Yu  
Elle Kulesza  
Elle Kulesza (DS)  
Elly Royston  
Emma Atkins  
Emma Wu  
Eric Tu  
Fedja Budimir  
Frankey Chung\* (DS)  
Gabriella Boyd (S)  
Gemma Chris  
Genevieve Trinh\*  
George Abraham  
Gillian Lee  
Hannah Tran  
Harry Smith\*  
Hilary Luk  
Hoda Javidi  
Ina Shao\*  
Jacinta Richards\* (S)  
Jack Keleher  
Jacquelin Simondson\*  
Jacqueline Scodellaro

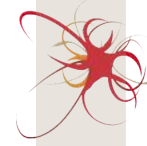
Jade Tam  
Jaidyn Taverna  
James Adams (DS)  
James McKercher  
Jane Ku  
Jasmin Fleming  
Jasminder Kaur\*  
Jayson Broadway  
Jeremy Tran  
Jessica Zhao  
Jodie Hall  
John Longo\* (S)  
Jonathan Xian  
Joshua Bowden\*  
Judith Aldor\*  
Kaajal Chandyokeye  
Kalidu Wijesundara  
Katherine Garnham  
Katherine Parr\*  
Kathryn Henderson\*  
Kelvin Ng (DS)  
Khaled El-Katateny\*  
Kiralee Middleton  
Krisha Reddy\*  
Kubra Yazici  
Kylie Chan  
Lana Yang  
Laura Brookes  
Laura Evans-McKendry\* (S)  
Lee Patouras  
Lilian Yan  
Lisa Graham  
Magnus Ross  
Maria Kostas (S)





Marianna Stylianu\*  
Martin Nguyen (S)  
Mary (Quanhui) Liu  
Maryann Robins  
Mathew De Gouveia\*  
Matilda Winnell  
Mattan Leyzerman  
Matthew Muir  
Max Plitsch  
Maz Chowdhury  
Melissa Chuong\*  
Melissa Morgan\*  
Mervyn Low (DS)  
Merys Williams (S)  
Michael Fewings  
Michelle Yu  
Mike Cooper  
Mondira Mukerjee (S)  
Monica Elliott  
Morsaal Aimaq\*  
Najd Hussein  
Nicholas Kong  
Nick Lionakis (S)  
Nicole Dureau  
Nicolette Tan\*  
Nikkie Geschke  
Olivia Sun\*  
Patrick McDonald\*  
PJ Balaji  
Randy Palihakkara  
Rongxin Huang  
Ronnie Meoung  
Ronnie Meoung (DS)  
Rose Binns  
Ruby Robertson  
Ruth Aaron  
Ruvini Leitan\*  
Saemeh Ghasemi  
Safia Kamal Eddin  
Samantha Amjadali\*  
Samantha Hannah  
Samuel Mason-Smith\* (DS)  
Sandra Kyaw  
Sarah Christie\*  
Shane Khong\*

Shirin Motamedi  
Sian Hope  
Simon Fuller\* (S)  
Sonbul Mohseni  
Sophie Caldwell\*  
Sophie Deane\*  
Stefan Saponja\*  
Stefanie Lorenzin  
Stephanie Garnham (S)  
Stephanie Kemp  
Steven Richards  
Suvetha Srikantha\*  
Syeda Ridda Fatima  
Sylvia Tran  
Tamina Sarwari\*  
Teresa Fae\* (S)  
Tharani Senadheera  
Thilini Liyanapathlrana  
Tiffany Nguyen  
Tim Peyton  
Tim Weller  
Trish Le\* (DS)  
Vedrana Kovacevic  
Verity Norbury\*  
Wilson Au  
Winnie Lu\*  
Winnie Tsang (DS)  
Yanja Srkulj (S)  
Zara Ismail  
Zeina Alhalabi  
**(S) SUPERVISOR**  
**(DS) DEPUTTY SUPERVISOR**  
**\*VACATED**



# Clinical Education Program

2017-2018

## Professional Practice | CP 3 | 2017

Liam Hamilton Dogger  
Ern Wei Loy  
Octavian George Simu  
Robert Earle Vienet  
Patrick John Kelly  
Shervie Lyn Maramot  
Scott Adrian Fotheringham  
Edmund Yuan  
Benjamin Chun-Man Leung  
Jasmin Kate Fleming  
Katie Zhnag  
Bradley David White  
Joshua Guo Yoong Ch'ng  
Amanda Zammit  
Kim Vo  
Rajwant Singh  
Adren Khai Sern Choon  
Justin Tan  
Jacqueline Rita Erna Damrow  
William Robert Athol Lord  
Jack Chatfield Anderson  
Deanna Velakoulis  
Shannon Kenna O'Donnell  
Bradley William White  
Jennifer Anne Espie  
Alexander Rabinovich  
Angela Xu

## Professional Practice | CP 1 | 2017-2018

Tom Spillan  
Iris Rad  
Estella Sara  
Gillian Lee  
Nathan Lu  
Jerome Sivaratnam  
Patrick Guiney  
Lancelot Stewart  
Johnson Do  
Alexa Sakkal  
Cassandra Hurley  
Madeline Jom  
Beibie Zhu  
Olivia Sun  
Gabby Maginness  
Genevieve Trinh  
Amanda Le  
Greta Walters  
Joshua James Mills  
Apyrl Yii  
Sahan Wimalagunaratna  
Phoebe Griffin  
Rebecca Rubenstein  
Cathren Bouya  
Michael Ghobrial  
Gurveen Singh

## Professional Practice CP 2 | 2018

Sophie Vu  
Emily Blight  
Alice Gregory  
Aeeman Ayobi  
Bridget Lorenz  
Isabella Mackenzie  
Natashia Law  
Peter He  
Vinay Lakshman  
Stanley Goh  
Charmian Sim  
John O'Halloran  
Jonathan Xian  
Mitchell Courtney  
Catherine Fitt  
Michael Nguyen  
Evelyn Rose Zeglinas  
Shirin Motamedi  
Claudia Tan  
Georgeana Luong  
Elisa Bolzonello  
Amy Pattle  
Jaimie Chapman  
Megan Roller  
Emma Caleo  
RevaDas  
Matthew Wong





# Clinical Externship Program

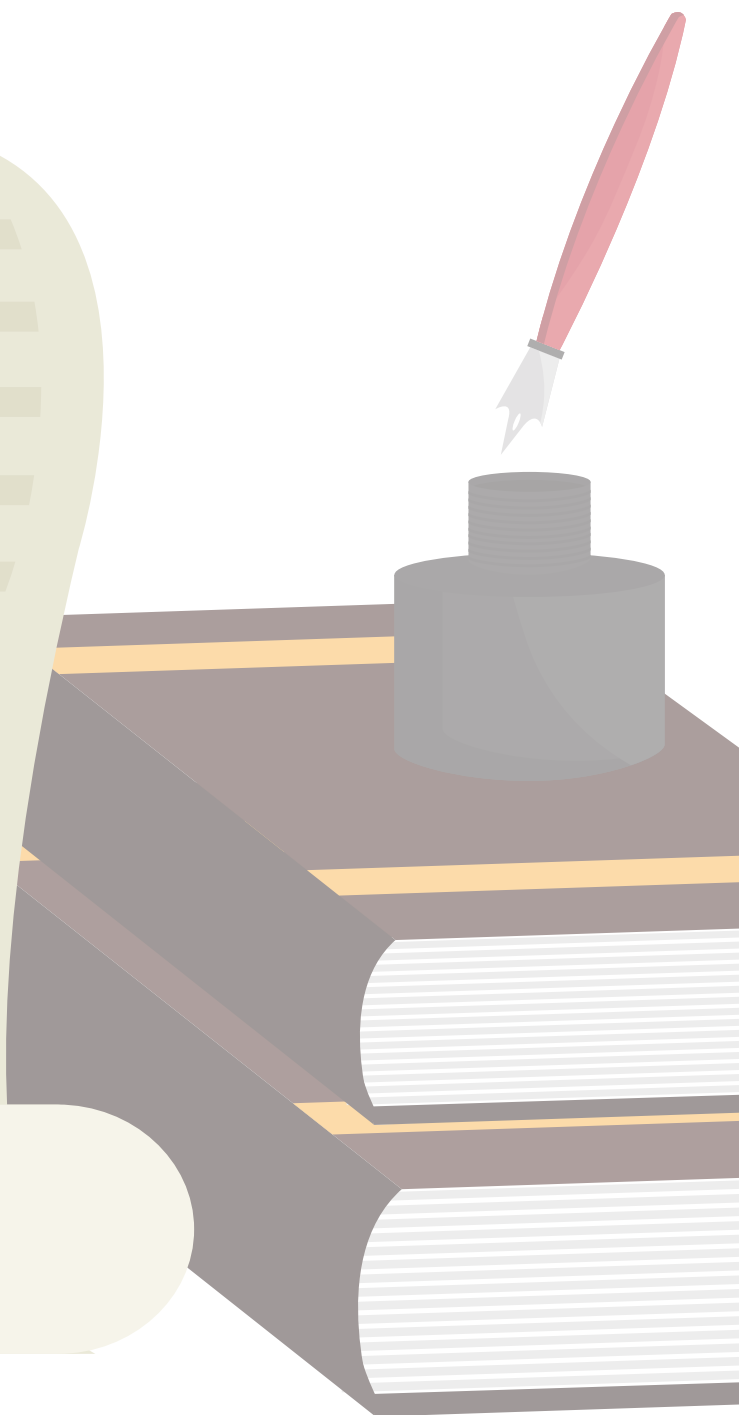
2017-2018

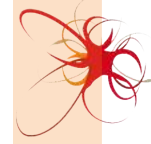
## FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAM

Nicole Tsiamis  
Jessica Steele  
Belinda Mercieca  
Nicholas La Mattina  
Albert Ho  
Stephanie Griffin

## SECASA JOINT CLINIC

Zoe Smith  
Rachel Opie  
Amrutha Sritharan  
Sabrine Daniels  
Jacqueline Simpkin  
Patrick McDonald  
Katherine Parkinson  
Verity Norbury  
Ema Stefanovic  
Jacqueline Damrow  
Mei Quan Chan  
Simonne Cohen





# Acting Chair Report

Organisations attempt to define their purpose or vision based on their community, however the term community can have many different meanings, both broad and narrow. SMLS' community is both large and small. It encompasses both the community which makes up the organisation and the location from which it provides its services, and the broader national and state communities in which it participates and strives to achieve its goals of accessibility and engagement.

But what is at the heart of this community? The answer to this question is simple: it is the people. Community for SMLS are the staff, students, volunteers and contributors to the work undertaken by the organisation. More broadly, it is also the people who seek its services and assistance, participate in its many and varied programs and share in its mission of achieving a fair and just society.

It has been another busy year for the operation of the legal service and its community involvement. Demand for advice services continues to rise, increasing our client intake numbers since last year. In the midst of this increased demand, SMLS has been able to make considerable inroads in the establishment of new and expanded services. SMLS has continued in its achievement of outstanding results in its employment law clinics and duty lawyer and advice services, and has successfully continued in its ever-expanding innovative programs such as Sporting Change. The Inaugural and successful Express Your Rights Art Exhibition has also been continued through the City of Greater Dandenong. In the context of the provision of these services, the organisation has also made comprehensive submissions in the area of family violence.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our community of staff, students and volunteers for all their hard work and dedication in the last 12 months. It is only through their tireless efforts that SMLS was able to achieve all that it has in the past year. It has been a difficult period, with the passing of one of our tireless and devoted members of staff, Trang Ngyuen. Another staff member, Meghan Butterfield, decided to leave after many years as a valued member of our community.

We look forward to the year ahead and know that with the strength, commitment and diversity inherent in the organisation we have the means by which to continue to achieve our mission for all the communities that we service.

JOHN LONGO

**"the heart of  
this community  
is the people"**





# Executive Director Report

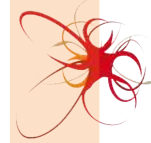
This year was a big challenge for all of us at SMLS. For our courageous Trang who was unable to beat the insidious nature of cancer. For the staff and volunteers who faced this tragedy with compassion and strength, while still ensuring that we remained a centre of excellence for the community we serve. I will speak more of Trang later in the Annual Report.

I thank all the ongoing support and collective effort we receive from our funders and stakeholders. From the Federal Government, State Government, Monash Law School, Victoria Legal Services Board, City of Greater Dandenong to name a few. I make special thanks to our co-located partner South East Community Links and the friendship they have extended (as usual) through this difficult time. I thank the members of SERLAN for their commitment to a collaborative response to regional needs. I also make special thanks to the Dean of Law, Bryan Horrigan of the Monash Law School, for his overwhelming support of clinical education, and his ongoing support of the provision of the professional practice unit at SMLS. Finally to the Dandenong Magistrates Court; the Magistrates, Court staff and ancillary services who all worked together to aim for effectiveness and efficiency in what can be a highly demanding setting.

SMLS has been driving an increase engagement in public discourse. This year we wrote submissions for the following inquiries (and consequently gave evidence at some public hearings).



- **Victorian Law Reform Commission: Review of the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996**
- **Joint submission to the Victorian Law Reform Commission: Review of the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996, Date submitted: 6 November 2017, co-signed by 44 other organisations**
- **Family Law Amendment (Family Violence and Cross-examination of Parties) Bill 2017— Public Consultation on Cross-examination Amendment**
- **Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee, Inquiry into the External Oversight of Police Corruption and Misconduct in Victoria, (in addition to co-signing Flemington Kensington CLC submission)**
- **Australian Law Reform Commission: Review of the family law system**
- **The Joint Standing Committee on Migration: Inquiry into the review processes associated with visa cancellations made on criminal grounds**



We are now into the second calendar year of our flagship program Sporting Change. We are hugely proud of this community development school lawyer program. This program is an interdisciplinary after school module, that student complete over two terms. It is the collaboration of law, sport and education to build knowledge and skills in young people (14-15), to engage in a meaningful way in our justice system. The program has been a great achievement and we look forward to publishing the evaluation report of our initial site at Narre Warren PT-12, later this year.

We said good bye to an outstanding and very long serving staff member, Meg Butterfield. Meg was the backbone of our sexual assault clinic SECASA for many years. Her compassion, drive for justice and radiant smile meant we have benefited for years from a dedicated team of volunteers who tireless give so much to this demanding legal work. We also said goodbye to our Chair and long serving Board member David Starvaggi. David left us for the magisterial bench. David brought care and calm to our organisation and we congratulate him on such a deserving appointment.

We welcomed new staff across a number of areas of the practice as well as expanded our services into practice areas we now consider full specialisations of SMLS. For instance, employment law with our joint outreach with WestJustice and Jobwatch, providing international students employment law services.

Finally, as always we recognise our dynamic student program. We aim to offer a gateway for students to experience and reflect on the challenges and the achievements of the most disadvantage members of our community. It is also an opportunity for students to contribute to the services we offer and we are truly grateful for the spirit in which they bring to their placement.

I feel like I have been in a sombre state of mourning for the last few months. Whenever I stop to think about this year I am overwhelmed by pride and awe of the way in which we travelled as a team throughout a confronting time. I personally want to thank all the Board, the staff and volunteers for the friendship, the laughter, the strength and the belief that we would navigate this path. Community, this is what is at the heart of it.

KRISTEN WALLWORK





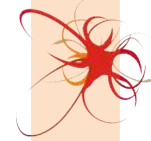
# In Memoriam Trang Nguyen

This service exists because we have vulnerable and disadvantage members of our community who need advocates; to sometimes detangle the quagmire they are in, to sometimes shout from the rafters about the legal construct in our society, and sometimes share our knowledge so those same community members can develop their own strong voices. This service also exists to provide a dynamic and engaging training ground for law students who have chosen to step up to the challenge of delving into the complexities of our society, whilst also beginning their journey of acquiring practical skills to complement the theory they have been digesting. Behind all of this is the nuts and bolts of an organisation. The community behind the community. The community, at the heart of it.

## From my eulogy at Trang's Funeral

"Trang faced the challenge of cancer with incredible humility and grace. I know everyone would agree that Trang was very mindful from the outset of how we would all be impacted by this journey which made her & it, all the more remarkable. She was our champion of our volunteer program having been a volunteer herself in the early days. She joined the organisation in 2010 and became an employee in 2011. From 2012 to now Trang was our Volunteer Coordinator.

She had a Bachelor of Sociology and a Graduate Diploma. She loved online shopping. She also loved crisps. She got to Sydney which was on her list. And she had the most wicked pragmatic sense of humour (well maybe her humour came from her pragmatism! We called it 'Trangisms').



On a personal note – I have lost a staff member and a friend who kept me accountable to a very important part of the organisation. She provided endless "undue hilarity" (in the words of my Uncle) and, had a special and unique relationship with each member of the staffing cohort. Di and I were very privileged to be with Trang and her family the morning that she passed away and be part of the ceremony of her body leaving the home. While this was not the outcome that Trang had hoped – she left this world for her next journey (as she believed) in peace. She taught me hope – not the hope that everything turns out perfectly, but that whatever our trials and tribulations we keep going. We look for opportunity when sometimes there seems there is none, we keep positive about the things we are yet to achieve, and we reconcile the things beyond our control."

Everyone will carry in their hearts what living through Trang's journey meant for them. Trang suffered more than all of us put together but she also got to see life through a different lens. She got up every time something tried to get her down. She knew there was a future for us and our clients, where there was not one for her. She knew that while we will be pained and carry a great sense of loss that we would live and should live. **Trang's last words to me were, "why are you still here you have work to do."**

She was hope. Pain hurts but passes. Pain is the interlude in the road we travel that should be called Hope. She gave so much to SMLS. She believed in who we were and what we did – so much so, rather than pursue some other career she remained a dedicated and devoted staff member.

Your memory Trang, will be in the walls of SMLS forever. For those of us that were here during this time, we will take your lessons and your touch with us through our lives. You have given us a great sense of community and what is at the heart of it.

KRISTEN WALLWORK

**"we must accept finite  
disappointment but  
never lose infinite  
hope."**

(Martin Luther King, Jr)



# Clients in Focus

## Client Story 1

Acharya\* was a young international student with limited English studying full time at TAFE.

An inexperienced driver, Acharya accidentally reversed into a parked car, causing damage. In a panic, he drove away without leaving his details. Witnesses reported the incident to police and he was later charged with a traffic offence and summoned to attend court.

This was Acharya's first encounter with the criminal justice system. His greatest source of distress was how the matter would affect his visa and his future career. He was a low income earner and was not in a position to pay for a private lawyer. He then approached SMLS for help.

Prior to the court date, SMLS contacted the informant and asked whether he would be prepared to recommend to the court that Acharya be placed on the criminal justice diversion programme. The benefit of diversion was that Acharya would not have a criminal record. Unfortunately, the informant was not prepared to do so.

Full of nerves, Acharya attended the Melbourne Magistrates Court together with a student from SMLS. The student negotiated with the prosecutor on behalf of Acharya. Much to Acharya's delight, the student succeeded in persuading the prosecutor to recommend him for diversion. The court was also satisfied that diversion was appropriate in the client's case.

Acharya successfully completed the conditions of the diversion programme and the charges were eventually withdrawn.

This case demonstrates the importance of free legal assistance, particularly for new arrivals. Given that the Acharya was from overseas and was dealing with a criminal matter for the first time, he had little understanding of the criminal justice system and did not even realise that the diversion program was an option.

*\*Names have been changed for privacy.*

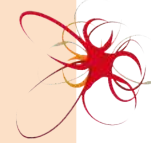
## Client Story 2

Samiya\* is a South Sudanese single mother of 5 children and pregnant with a 6th child. She is reliant on Centrelink payments to support herself and her children. The father of her three older children lives in South Sudan. The father of the three younger children (including the foetus), Bashir\*, lives in Australia.

Samiya and Bashir separated after Bashir physically and verbally assaulted Samiya. There was a history of family violence committed by Bashir against Samiya. The police applied for an Intervention Order against Bashir. SMLS family violence duty lawyer assisted Samiya with the Intervention Order proceedings at the Magistrates' Court.

Our Family Violence Duty Lawyer referred Samiya to SMLS's Family Lawyer for family law advice as Samiya was not sure what impact the Intervention Order would have on Bashir's ability to spend time with his children.

During her meeting with our Family Lawyer, Samiya showed our lawyer some documents she had received from the police. Samiya had not realised that she had been charged with a criminal offence for throwing a TV remote control at Bashir during the incident, causing him injury.



Samiya told our Family Lawyer that she had thrown the remote control at Bashir because she was desperate to get away from him so that she could console her crying children who had witnessed the incident.

Given that Samiya was considering returning to work in the future, a criminal record would have been detrimental to her career. Samiya was given family law and child support advice, and a file was opened for her criminal matter.

On the day of the hearing for the criminal charge, SMLS's Community Lawyer went to court with Samiya and spoke to the police prosecutor on her behalf. The lawyer explained why Samiya had thrown the remote control at Bashir, asked the prosecutor to consider the full circumstances around the incident and submitted that the charge did not make sense given that the police had taken out an Intervention Order against Bashir.

The police accepted our lawyer's submission and withdrew the charge.

SMLS's Family Lawyer advised Samiya that upon the birth of her sixth child, if Bashir refuses to sign the baby's birth registration statement, she can return to SMLS for advice and possible further assistance.

This story shows how difficult it can be for a person such as Samiya to navigate the justice system without free legal assistance, particularly when there are several areas of law operating at the same time. It also shows how a holistic service can assist a client with advice/assistance relating to multiple legal issues.

*\*Some facts and names have been changed for privacy.*

## Client Story 3

Chen\* was a migrant worker. She held tertiary qualifications from her home country but unfortunately was unable to find work in her field in Australia. For the last four years, she was working as a cleaner.

Chen raised a number of complaints to her employer about not being paid properly. Not long after, she was fired from her job.

After consulting one of our lawyers at the Workplace Advice Clinic at the Fair Work Commission, she made an application to the Fair Work Commission. She claimed she had been dismissed for making a complaint about her pay, which is unlawful.

SMLS represented Chen at the conciliation and the matter was settled.

Throughout the matter, Chen demonstrated a keen interest in understanding how the law worked. At the conciliation, she even mentioned the process had inspired her to study a law degree.

Not only does this case demonstrate the importance of free legal assistance in optimising access to justice, but it may also give clients a sense of empowerment and build community confidence in the legal system.

*\*Names have been changed for privacy.*

# Academic Director Report

The American civil rights activist DeRay McKesson recently wrote that:

*Justice that is not rooted in equity, in social welfare, and in community is not justice at all.*

I would argue that the reverse also holds; true communities are characterised by those same principles. SMLS has been striving to promote equity and justice in our local community for more than 40 years. The ongoing partnership with Monash University's clinical legal education program is vital to this project. It also relies on a whole community of people: professional and administrative staff, clinical students and volunteers, our partners and friends in neighbouring organisations and services, and – of course, our clients.

Current clients are at the heart of what we do, to be sure, but so is our hope for a stronger, more just community. Educating upcoming generations of Australian lawyers and professionals is crucial to that vision. No matter what they go on to do, it is important to us that the students of today – who will be the lawyers, judges and leaders of tomorrow – go away from SMLS with a stronger understanding of why social justice matters, and a commitment to those principles in their communities.

Sometimes this work is a struggle, in part because problems such as poverty, inequality, homelessness and family violence remain frustratingly persistent features of contemporary Australian life. Our little community works hard to alleviate them, but cannot solve them alone. Our own community has faced other challenges this year, too, including the loss of our treasured colleague, Trang Nguyen. I want to take this opportunity to pay my respects to Trang and to acknowledge our Executive Director, Kristen Wallwork, in particular, for her friendship and support to Trang in her final weeks and days, and for her extraordinary effort to lead the organisation through its grief.

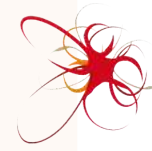
These challenges have strengthened our resolve and the strong bonds between staff, students, other key stakeholders and the local community we serve. I want to close by quoting the late great Aretha Franklin, who once said:

**Being the Queen is not all about singing, and being a diva is not all about singing. It has much to do with your service to people. And your social contributions to your community and your civic contributions as well.**

Thank you to everyone who was part of our choir this year.

DR. KATE SEAR





# Student in Focus

## Rob Vienet Professional Practice Student 2017, Criminal Stream

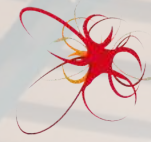
Without the necessities of financial security, health, education and safety, a person could easily feel alienated from society. Such privileges have always benefited me, but clients of Springvale Monash Legal Service rarely receive such advantages. This was evident when clients would relive their harshest life experiences so that I could advocate for their needs at Dandenong Magistrates' Court each week. In my experience, SMLS achieved much more than reducing people's financial or criminal liability. In providing help to its clients, SMLS altered their clients' perceptions about their community.

Over the course of my placement, I represented a number of female individuals who were victim to family violence. I can imagine it must have been very confronting for them to confide in a male (myself). But in trusting SMLS, tears of fear transformed into tears of relief when the verdicts were given. Clearly the end of legal liability also represented a chance to move on from all those years of pain. Finally too, they saw a community that had publicly recognised and sympathised with their suffering. To assist these people even further, I was also able to advocate for people's needs in a broader sense by assisting SMLS in its law reform proposals to the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996.



Ultimately though, it is not just that SMLS provides legal assistance to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. More importantly, SMLS reminds its clients they are valued members of our community and that they are just as important to the community as any other person. Though legal services cannot possibly provide financial security, health, education and the safety of a family home - SMLS provides people with an essential sense of belonging to a community that cares for their well-being. From my experience, this is as much at the heart of SMLS as the provision of legal assistance itself.





# Featured Program

## 2018 Feature Focus: Sporting Change

In 2016, SMLS spent a significant amount of time developing a new program model designed to help young people understand the legal system and access legal help. Last year, 'Sporting Change' was launched, in partnership with Narre Warren South P-12 College. Sporting Change empowers and educates diverse young people to engage constructively in society, by using sport to teach them about the justice system, and increase access to justice through an integrated school lawyer. When it started, we expected to get results like, increased knowledge, a deeper understanding of the law and why it exists, and young people feeling empowered to access legal help. What we did not expect was that the most positive feedback would be around relationships. Participants have said repeatedly that their favourite thing about the program was building relationships with each other and SMLS staff. The school is large, and many of the young people are from different backgrounds, and often not really known to each other despite attending the same school. All participants reported that making new friends and meeting new people has been a highlight of the experience.

Sporting Change takes a multi-disciplinary approach with a commitment to the defined roles of the partners and stakeholders. Effective relationship modelling at a macro level directly impacts the achievements of the program, including the relationship building that young people experience as participants. The innovation is found in the collaboration of disciplines -legal, sport and education- that ordinarily sit within silo sectors.

A focus group interview revealed that what our participants most valued, was the sense of community that we had built within the school. The SMLS staff so clearly cared about the young people and were able to build such strong connections with the participants. They reported that the legal information they learnt would stick with them far into the future because of how strong the relationships have been.

We are really excited to continue developing and refining Sporting Change, and building our community in Narre Warren South.





# Partnerships in Focus

Partnerships are a core part of the work of Community Legal Centres. At SMLS, our partnerships drive the work we do, informing our practice and shaping our vision. They strengthen our service delivery and help us to get the best outcomes for our community. Partnership principals we strive to maintain include committing to a shared vision and shared accountability, monitoring and evaluation, flexibility and the co-creation of programs and services. We are proud to be part of a community of services and organisations in the South East working hard to contribute to our region.

## ISWRLS

SMLS IS THRILLED TO BE A PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WORK RIGHTS LEGAL SERVICE THIS YEAR. WE HAVE PARTNERED WITH STUDY MELBOURNE, WESTJUSTICE AND JOBWATCH TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT LAW ASSISTANCE TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WHO ARE SO OFTEN VULNERABLE TO EXPLOITATION AND UNFAIR PRACTICES AT WORK.

## SERLAN

SMLS HAS BEEN PART OF THE SOUTH EASTERN REGIONAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE NETWORK (SERLAN) FOR APPROXIMATELY 5 YEARS. THIS IS A NETWORK OF ORGANISATIONS IN THE SOUTH EAST OFFERING LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMUNITY. THIS YEAR, WE UNDERTOOK AN IN-DEPTH LEGAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE SOUTH EAST, AND ARE CURRENTLY FINALISING OUR REPORT. BY WORKING TOGETHER TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY, WE ARE ABLE TO PLAN MORE EFFECTIVELY, IDENTIFY GAPS IN LEGAL SERVICE PROVISION AND RESPOND AS A COLLECTIVE.

## WINDANA

SMLS HAS BEEN BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS PROVIDING LEGAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY. AS PART OF OUR COMMITMENT TO INCREASING OUR ACCESSIBILITY AND PROVIDING TAILORED SERVICES FOR OUR COMMUNITY, SMLS AND WINDANA EXPANDED OUR PARTNERSHIP SOME TIME AGO, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE TO CLIENTS AT WINDANA YOUTH COMMUNITY HOUSE IN DANDENONG. MOST OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE REPORT THAT THEY WOULD NOT ACCESS LEGAL HELP WITHOUT OUR OUTREACH, OR ONLY WOULD ACCESS LEGAL HELP WHEN AT COURT.

## MONASH HEALTH

SMLS HAS A WELL-ESTABLISHED HEALTH JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP WITH MONASH HEALTH. WE OPERATE AT TWO LOCATIONS IN THE SOUTH EAST, AND OUR SHARED VISION IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO A RESILIENT COMMUNITY. WE DO THIS THROUGH INCREASING PEOPLE'S ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND REDUCING PEOPLE'S STRESS AND ANXIETY, THEREFORE CONTRIBUTING TO IMPROVED HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN THE REGION.



# Law in Focus

## Employment Law

The community's ever growing demand for employment law advice has seen the SMLS employment practice grow and become an integral part of the organisation. SMLS has been building its capacity to improve the community's access to assistance and information surrounding employment law and worker's rights.

Problems at work touch the lives of nearly everyone in the community. Employment can have such a huge impact on a person's life including both financially and emotionally. Issues in the workplace can have huge effects on an employee's mental and physical well-being, which in turn can affect their personal lives. These employment issues range from bullying, discrimination, harassment, underpayment or non-payment of entitlements and unfair dismissals.

We have many clients that do not know or understand their rights and obligations in their workplace. With greater education and with legal advice and support these clients are able to feel empowered and better equipped to prevent and /or resolve employment issues. This in turn shifts the power balance and assists in providing employees with greater equity in the workforce.

Through early intervention and negotiation, either directly with the employer or through the Fair Work Commission and Fair Work Mediation conciliation and mediation channels, we have managed to achieve many successful outcomes for clients. This includes the recovery of entitlements, reinstatement and compensation for termination of employment. We have had feedback from clients that they did not feel heard or supported until they came to see us for help in resolving their employment problems.

Further to our Employment law practice, we have assisted many clients this year in all works of the Civil Law jurisdiction. We have helped many international students, 457 Visa works, sub-contractors, and motor vehicle accident disputes.

We are very proud to be a service that does not just give advice and hope for the best for our clients. Rather we are a service that navigates our clients through the entire litigation process bearing the fruits of our hard work.



# Programs in Focus

## Family Violence

Family Violence has always been a private issue almost insular with many families in our community who faced it alone and isolated.

With the Royal Commission into Family Violence being the starting point, it is now obvious that family violence is a community problem and many communities are more aware of the impact it is having on families.

Many of our communities are reaching out for seminars on family violence to assist them in educating people on what family violence is and what can be done for the victims and perpetrators.

It is enlightening to see many different cultures are engaging with our service both with clinical education and through the Duty Lawyer service at the Magistrates Court.

We referred many clients into to our service this year for Family Law advice and other legal advice to assist families who have experienced family violence.

Our Victims of Crime applications have shown that the Tribunal is now more prepared to give recovery items to victims of family violence without submission after submission being requested.

There is obviously a long way to go, but it is evident in our clients, that many families are now looking for ways to assist them with their family violence rather than feeling isolated and alone.

## Family Law and Child Support

Our community requiring family law assistance requires us to ask the clients to focus on the needs of the children – the heart of our community. This is sometimes challenging for clients – not because they do not have their children's best interests at heart but the steps they need to take to minimise conflict on the children.

We have seen an increase in clients with drug and or alcohol issues which has impacted on the care of the children. We know that for many clients recreational or daily use of marijuana is difficult to give up. We also know that in many cases, their background story from within their community is one of distress, abuse and poor models of parenting.

They often think they have broken the cycle because they parent differently from their own parents. However the court takes a strict approach to illicit drug taking parents, usually because that parent can be emotionally unable to parent the child. Drug use has been the complexity of what recreational does and does not mean, and how it is managed in a family law context has been a focal point for a number of our matters this year.

On the positive side, we have two clients in litigation who have successfully stopped using drugs during proceedings and are motivated to stay off drugs so as to prioritise their relationships with their children.

## South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault (SECASA)

At SMLS, we have been operating a sexual assault clinic in partnership with the South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault for approximately 20 years. Through this work we have gained a deep insight into the way the legal system works for victims of crime, in particular victims of sexual assault and victims of family violence. Our shared commitment to working together to achieve the best possible outcomes for our clients has meant that our partnership with SECASA has stood the test of time.

In 2018, SMLS and SECASA said goodbye to Meghan Butterfield, who was one of the founding members of the joint legal clinic. Meg was instrumental in SMLS' relationship with SECASA and has represented the interests of vulnerable clients at the Victims of Crime Tribunal on many occasions to ensure they receive just and equitable outcomes. Meg is now working for the Medical Review Board.

Since then, we are pleased to have welcomed Robyn Heath to our team to coordinate the SMLS SECASA joint legal clinic. Robyn has a background in family law, and has brought her own unique approach to the role and our organisation.

With our focus on increasing accessibility to our community and our clients, we now provide an outreach lawyer to the Multidisciplinary (MDC) Centre in Dandenong to assist victims of sexual assault with a variety of legal issues.





# Advocacy in Focus

A colleague in the Community Legal Sector once said to me he believes that of the three pillars of CLC work (legal assistance, law reform and community development), advocacy and law reform is the most important element of the work that we do. 'All of the case work, all of the community engagement, the legal education, court work and legal advice, serves to inspire and inform the efforts we put into changing and improving our laws and systems to make our society more fair and just.'

Our sector has a rich history of working hard to be connected to our communities and represent their interests to law makers. At SMLS, we have a team of passionate and dedicated lawyers who delve into individual cases and identify where the system is failing our clients. Our community development staff spend many hours getting to know our local community, hearing their voices and witnessing how the law impacts various groups differently. Our admin team ensure we are organised so we have the capacity to contribute to various inquiries and campaigns that are happening around us.

We put forward a submission to the Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs, "Parliamentary Inquiry into a better family law system to support and protect those affected by family violence".

FOR THE REVIEW OF THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ASSISTANCE ACT 1996, WE REACHED OUT TO COLLEAGUES IN THE LEGAL AND COMMUNITY SECTORS TO CREATE A SUBMISSION ENDORSED BY OVER 44 OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND PROFESSIONALS. WE ALSO CREATED AN EXTREMELY DETAILED SUBMISSION OF OUR OWN HIGHLIGHTING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE VOCAT MODEL, THE IMPORTANCE OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR CLIENTS, AND THE NEED FOR SPECIALIST VOCAT MEMBERS. WE STRESSED THAT THE RECOVERY OF THE VICTIM MUST BE PARAMOUNT TO ANY CHANGES MADE TO THE CURRENT SYSTEM.

WE CONTRIBUTED TO THE FAMILY LAW AMENDMENT (FAMILY VIOLENCE AND CROSS-EXAMINATION OF PARTIES) BILL 2017 ON CROSS-EXAMINATION AMENDMENT, AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF MONASH LAW STUDENTS AND WROTE A SUBMISSION FOR THE INQUIRY INTO DRUG LAW REFORM. WE WROTE A SUBMISSION FOR THE INQUIRY INTO THE EXTERNAL OVERSIGHT OF POLICE CORRUPTION AND MISCONDUCT IN VICTORIA, AS WELL AS CO-SIGNING A SUBMISSION AND SEVERAL STATEMENTS FROM FLEMINGTON KENSINGTON COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE AND THEIR POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT.

WE WROTE A VERY DETAILED SUBMISSION FOR THE REVIEW OF THE FAMILY LAW SYSTEM, ADVOCATING FOR VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE FAMILY LAW SYSTEM TO BETTER SUPPORT FAMILIES ON LOW INCOMES, NEWLY ARRIVED FAMILIES AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING FAMILY VIOLENCE. WE ALSO MADE A SUBMISSION AND GAVE EVIDENCE TO THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION REGARDING THE PROCESSES ASSOCIATED WITH VISA CANCELLATIONS MADE ON CRIMINAL GROUNDS.



# Lawyers Practice Manual

The LPM comprises 65 new or updated chapters being written by volunteer contributors and commentators.

## CHAPTERS UPDATED/INSERTED

### July 2017

Ch 1.11 "Applications under the Victims of Crime Assistance Act" updated

### September 2017

Ch A "Interviewing and letter writing" updated

Ch 7.2 "Applications for review to the Social Services and Child Support Division of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal" updated

Ch 15.3 "Proceedings under federal discrimination legislation" updated

### October 2017

Ch C "Professional ethics and the duty to communicate" updated

Ch 3.4 "Bankruptcy and other proceedings under the Bankruptcy Act-acting for the non-business debtor" updated

Ch 10.1 "Legal Assistance Services in Victoria" updated

### November 2017

Ch 1.2 "Bail applications" updated

Ch 1.9 "Challenging Magistrates' Court convictions" updated

Ch 6.2 "Protection proceedings in the Children's Court" updated

Ch 7.5 "Debt recovery by Centrelink and the Family Assistance Office" updated

Ch 11.2 "Using the Freedom of Information Act (VIC)" updated

Ch 11.4 "Using the Privacy and Data Protection Act (VIC)" updated

Ch 17.1 "Employment Law" updated

### March 2018

Ch 2.8 "Family violence" updated

Ch 7.3 "Applications to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of social security or family assistance decisions" updated

### April 2018

Ch 4.1 "Residential tenancies and other housing arrangements" updated

Ch 8.1 "Mental Health" updated

### May 2018

Ch 1.3 "Preparation and conduct of criminal matters in the Magistrates' Court" updated

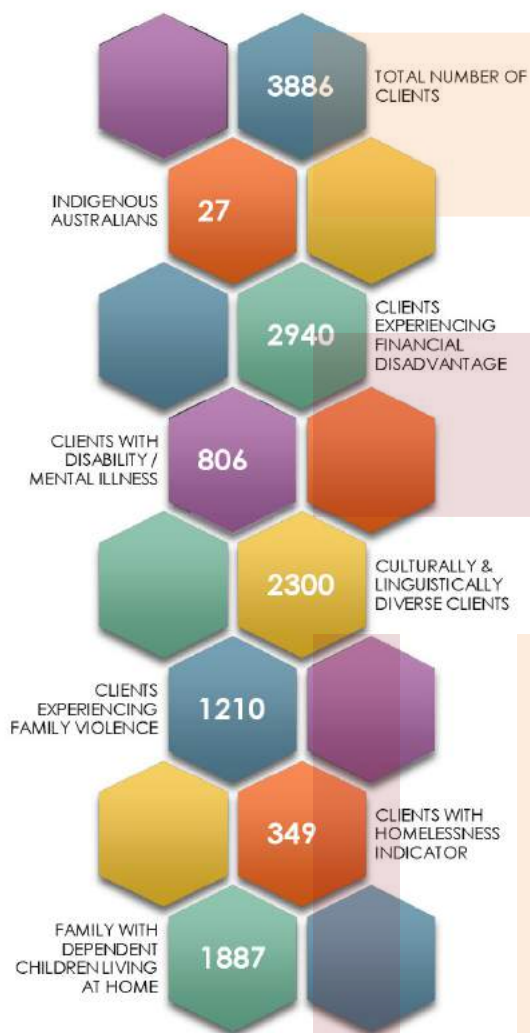
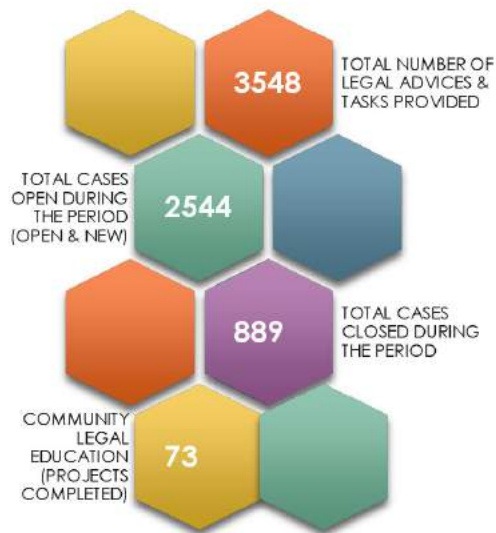
Ch 1.4 "Appearance at short notice" updated

Ch 11.3 "Using the Privacy Act (Cth)" updated

In addition, new chapter 1.10, "The Fines and Infringements System" was developed during this year and published in July 2018.

# SMLS Statistics

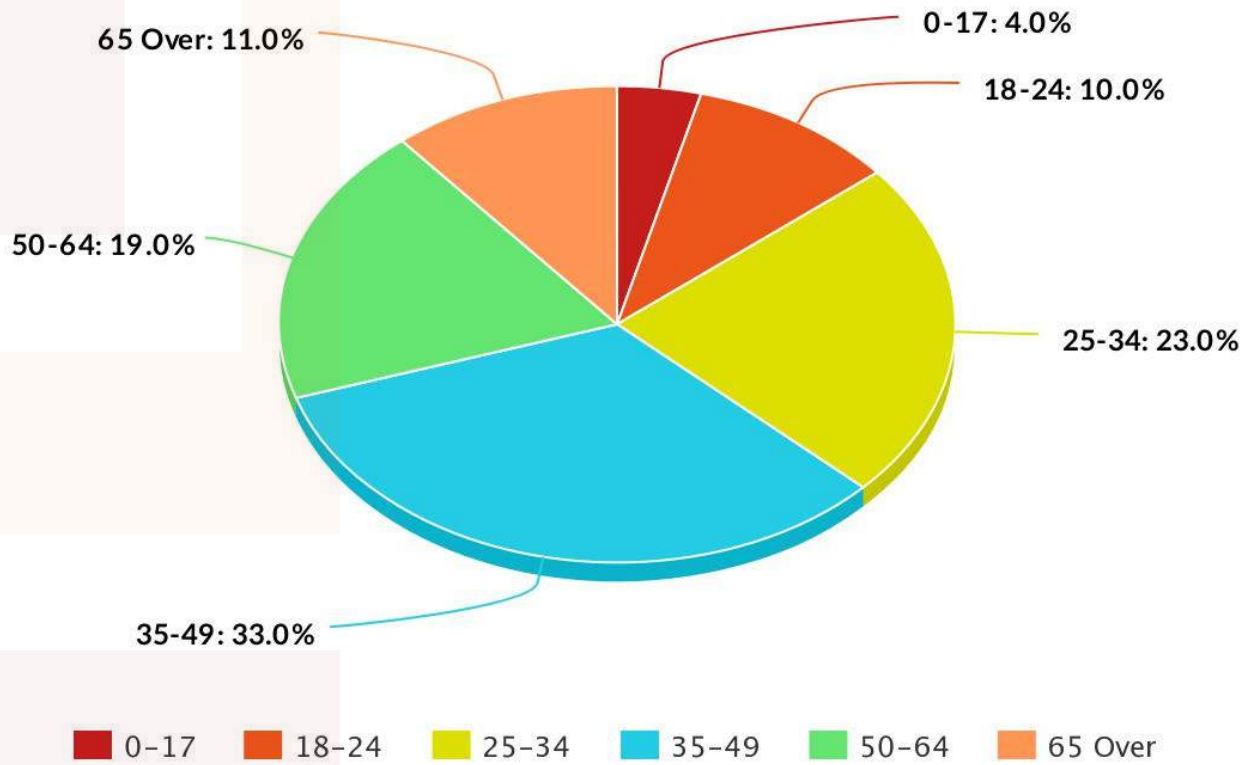
## 1 July 2017-30 June 2018



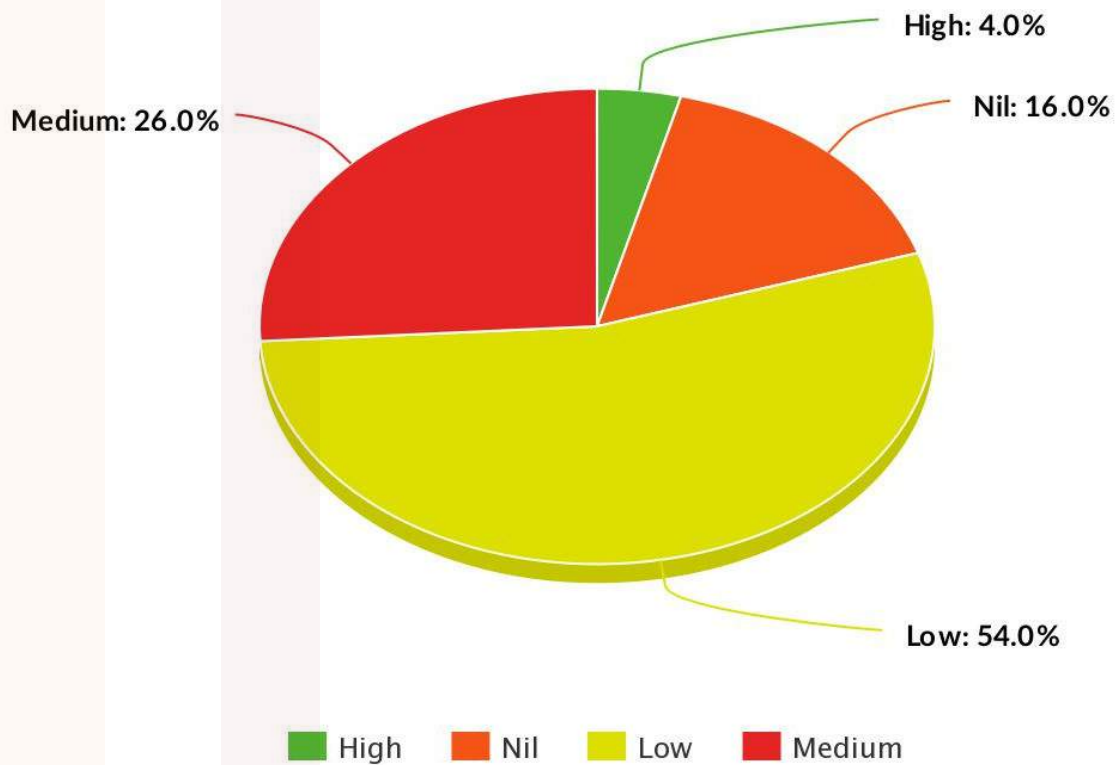
SMLS STATISTICS  
1 JULY 2017 TO 30 JUNE 2018



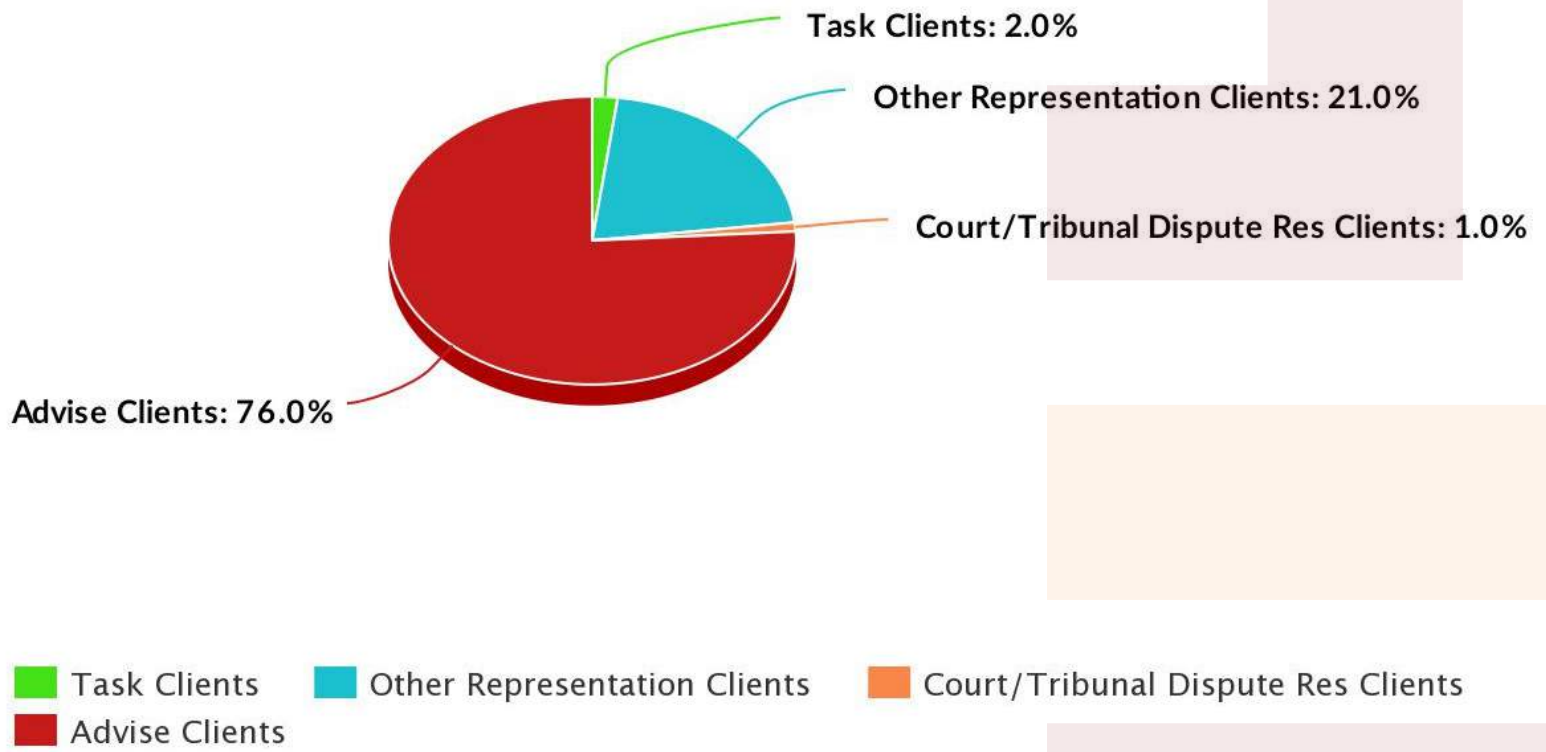
### Client Age Brackets



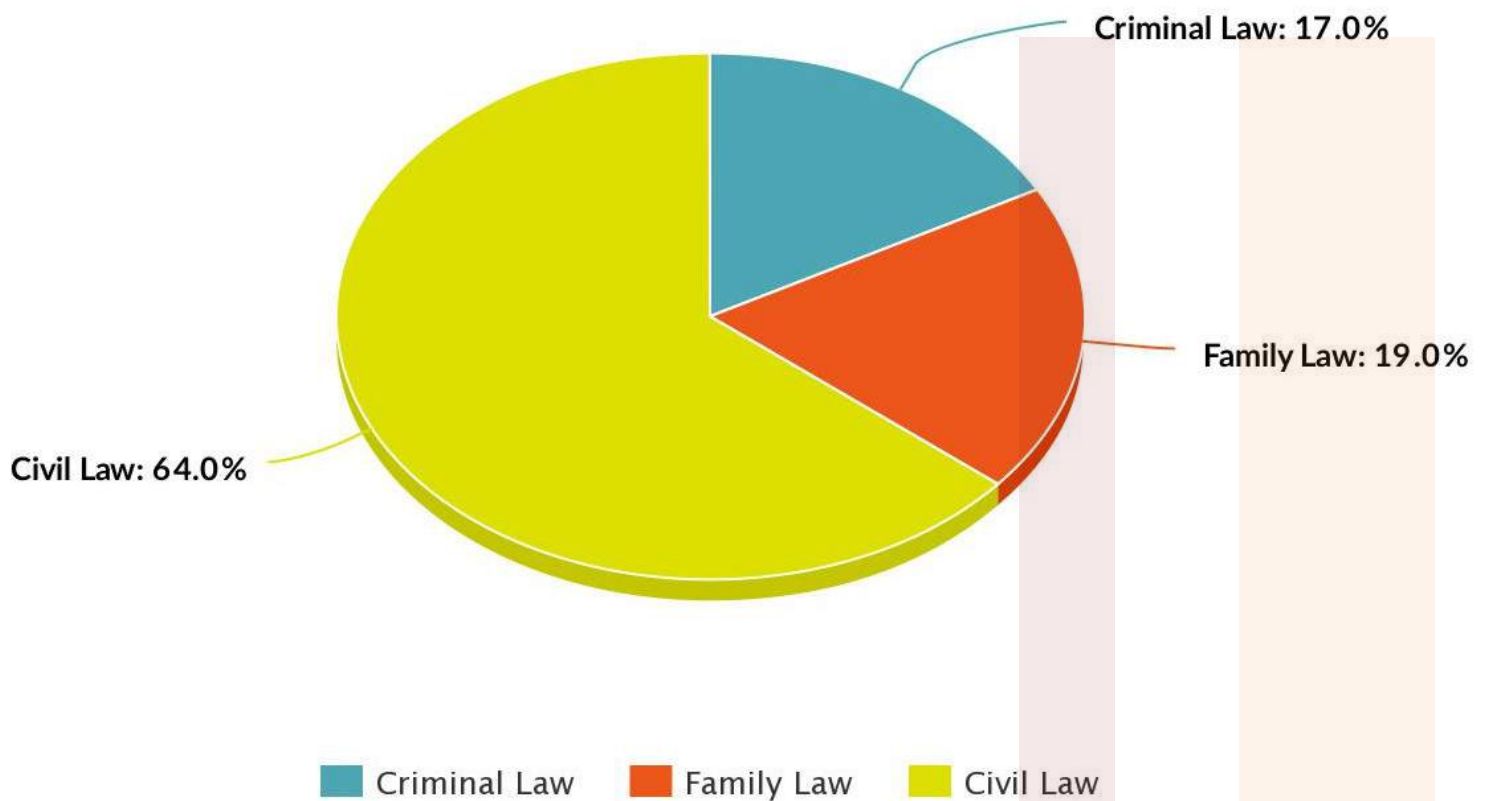
### Client Income Level



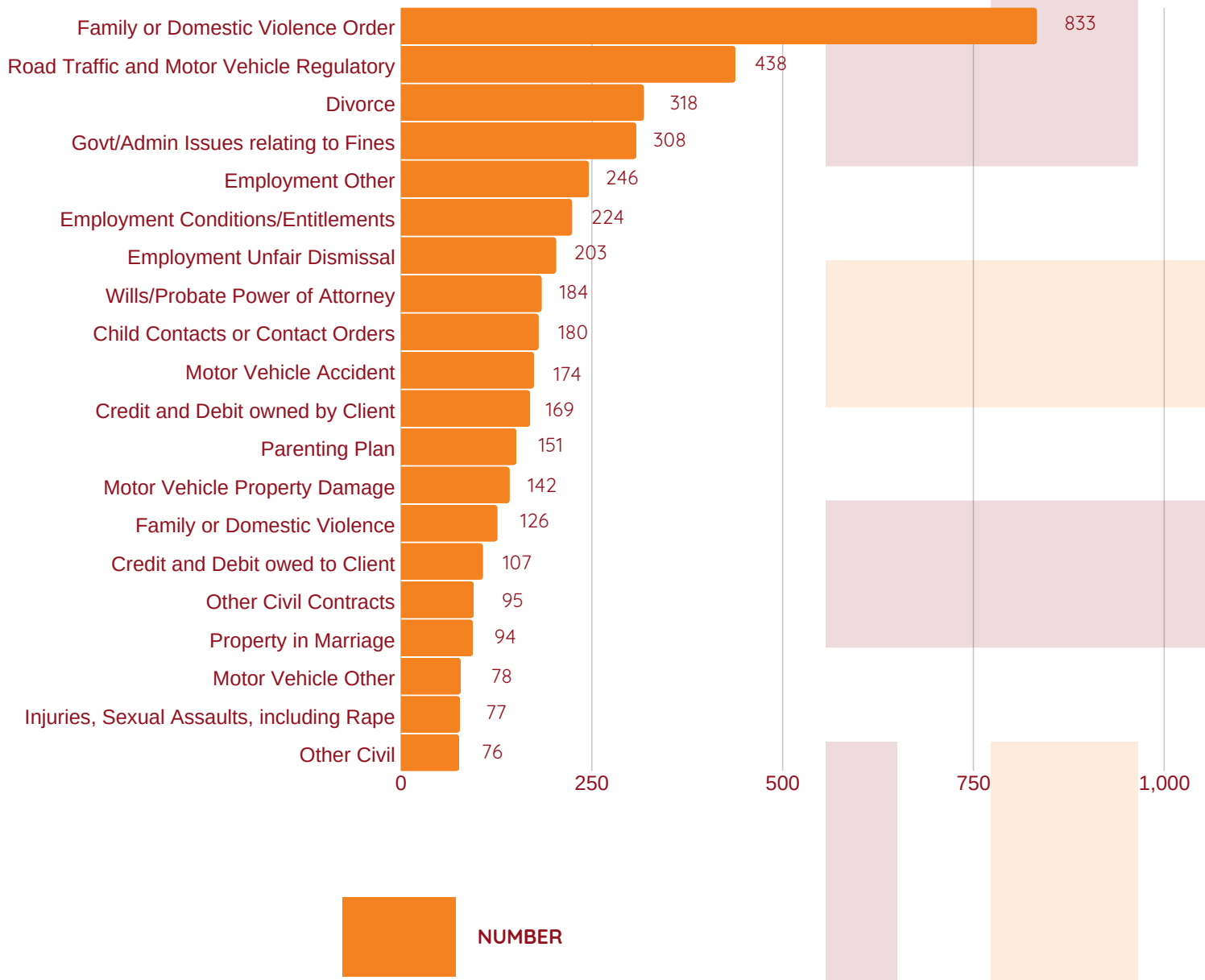
### Client Count by Service Type



### Client Count by Law Type



# Number of Services by Top 20 Problem Type





# Acknowledgements

The Hon Christian Porter MP, Attorney-General for Australia, Australian Government Attorney-General's Department.

The Hon Martin Pakula MP, Attorney-General of Victoria - Department of Justice and Regulation, State Government of Victoria.

Professor Bryan Horrigan – Dean, Jane Prior – Faculty General Manager, our colleagues at Monash Law Clinic Clayton and Monash Law Clinic Melbourne and the staff of the Faculty of Law Monash University for their ongoing commitment to Clinical Programs which assist marginalised members of the community.

Victoria Legal Aid for funding assistance, advice and referrals.

Our partner organisations at 5 Osborne Avenue, Springvale; South East Community Links (SECL); Springvale Neighbourhood House (SNH); and Springvale Learning and Activities Centre (SLAC).

Our South Eastern Regional Legal Assistance Network (SERLAN) partners; Peninsula Community Legal Centre; Casey Cardinia Community Legal Service; St Kilda Legal Service; Victoria Legal Aid Peninsula Regional Office; and Victoria Legal Aid Westernport Regional Office.

Management and staff of the City of Greater Dandenong for their support and service in attending SMLS's requests.

The Study Melbourne Student Centre for providing outreach service for SMLS's International Student Work Rights Legal Service.

Lyndale Secondary College (Dandenong North), Alkira Secondary College (Cranbourne North) and Minaret College (Springvale) for providing SMLS with Year 10 work experience.

Connections Art Space and all the artists.

All SMLS volunteers for their endless enthusiasm and energy assisting with the Volunteer Program and casework.

SMLS Volunteers Charlie Morshead, Merys Williams and Alexa Sakkal for participating in the Theory of Change session for the night service.

YSAS for providing opportunities for students for our professional practice program to engage with allied community services and their clients.

Victoria Legal Services board for funding Sporting Change program.

Narre Warren South P-12 College for their participation in the School Lawyer and Sporting Change program.

All of the Victorian sporting clubs and individuals who participated and volunteered on the Sporting Change program:

- Heming Hu, Commonwealth Games Competitor, Olympian, Table Tennis Australia
- Brad Morris, Sports Scientist and Former UFC Athlete
- Melbourne City Football Club
- Whitehorse Chevaliers Fencing Club
- Cricket Victoria
- AFL Victoria
- Kelly Sports

WestJustice for school lawyer support.

Lisa Ochietti and all the staff at St Anthony's School Noble Park.

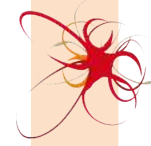
All the staff at Federation of Community Legal Centres for their support and assistance.

Danny Ryan and all the staff at Monash Health

Victorian Local Governance Association

Windana Drug and Alcohol Recovery Inc.

Daughters of Jerusalem, Youth and Family Support



Magistrates of Dandenong Magistrates' Court, Magistrate Jack Vandersteen, Coordinating Senior Registrar Mark McCutchan and staff for their assistance in running advocacy workshops for students each clinical period and facilitating the student appearance program.

Magistrate Peter Power, Professional Practice Seminar program.

The Victorian legal fraternity who provide ongoing support through supervision of law students in their student appearances. This valuable part of our clinical program could not operate without this support.

Victorian Bar for their endless enthusiasm and energy assisting with the Volunteer Program and casework.

Victoria Campbell and Cilla Brookes from Patterson's list for representation of financially disadvantaged clients in family law proceedings.

The following Barristers:

- Mary Baczynski
- Cam Truong
- Matthew Minucci
- Val Stoilkovska
- Douglas McLeod

SMLS Patron Justice Shane Marshall.

Job Watch for employment law support.

Asha Prasad, Mandy Kearns, Susan Gencay from Dandenong Victoria Legal Aid.

Cassandra Forbes from Victoria Police.

Alan Wilkinson from Dandenong Magistrates' Court.

Kate Purcell – Fair Work Commission

Legal Practice Manual Committee

Maurice Blackburn

Social Security Rights Victoria

Nywaraga Sham

Consultant Elaine Hendrick

Redwood Press

Berwick Family Relationship Centre

Catholic Care Dandenong

## SMLS ACKNOWLEDGES ITS DONORS

### \$500-\$4999

Apple Pty Ltd  
Sonia Parisi

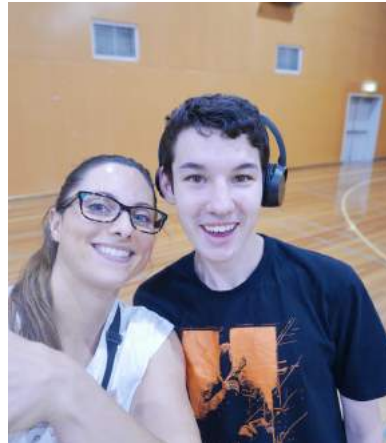
### \$5000-\$9999

Anonymous













## AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.  
REGISTERED NO: A0013997D  
ABN: 96 206 448 228

### BOARD'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

Your Board members submit the financial report of Springvale Monash Legal Services Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2018.

#### Board Members

The names of Board members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Dona Tantirimudalige	John Longo
Jared Heath	James McGhie
Rhonda Cumberland	Sonia Parisi
Andrew Simmons	Deborah Rulach
Kristen Wallwork (ED)	Jane Prior (Appointed 21.03.18)
Phyllis Toparlanis (SR. Appointed 20.06.18)	David Hanna (Appointed 20.06.18)
Brodie Woodland (Appointed 20.06.18)	Renata Alexander (Resigned 25.10.17)
Nina Boughey (Resigned 25.10.17)	Vanessa Johnston (Resigned 25.10.17)
David Starvaggi (Resigned 26.7.17)	Daniel Bean (SR. Resigned 27.04.18)

#### Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were to provide free legal advice and casework to the general public, whilst maintaining a strong community development focus.

#### Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

#### Operating Result

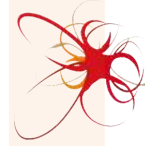
The operating profit after providing for income tax amounted to \$117,321 (2017: \$149,229).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the Board

D Tantirimudalige (Chair)

J Heath (Treasurer)

Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018



Shepard Webster & O'Neill Audit Pty Ltd  
Certified Practising Accountant, Authorised Audit Company  
ABN: 89 154 680 190

## Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001

To Springvale Monash Legal Services Inc,

As lead auditor for the audit of Springvale Monash Legal Services Inc for the year ended 30 June 2018, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (a) No contraventions of the independence requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (b) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Dated at Frankston this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018

SHEPARD WEBSTER & O'NEILL AUDIT PTY LTD  
Certified Practising Accountant  
Authorised Audit Company No 415478  
434 Nepean Highway Frankston 3199, PO Box 309 Frankston Victoria 3199  
Telephone (03) 9781 2633 – Fax (03) 9781 3073  
Email – [szefalusy@shepard.com.au](mailto:szefalusy@shepard.com.au)

DAVID A SZERFALUSY  
DIRECTOR



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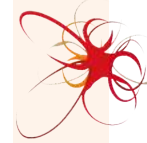


**SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.**  
**REGISTERED NO: A0013997D**  
**ABN: 96 206 448 228**

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	NOTE	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>CONTINUING OPERATIONS</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grant Funding	2	1,608,142	1,446,395
Other Income	3	129,067	146,555
		<u>1,737,209</u>	<u>1,592,950</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Depreciation Expense		10,937	7,587
Employment Expenses		1,413,577	1,237,020
Occupancy Expenses		65,617	59,235
Office & Administrative Expenses		91,527	104,612
Resources Expenses		30,601	27,463
Travel		7,629	7,804
		<u>1,619,888</u>	<u>1,443,721</u>
<b>NET PROFIT / (LOSS)</b>		<u>117,321</u>	<u>149,229</u>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>			
- Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss when specific conditions are met		-	-
- Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss		-	-
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<u>117,321</u>	<u>149,229</u>

The Accompanying Notes Form Part of These Financial Statements



**SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.**  
**REGISTERED NO: A0013997D**  
**ABN: 96 206 448 228**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2018**

	NOTE	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash at Bank and on Hand	4	65,653	429,446
Term Deposits		1,524,855	1,011,421
Receivables		16,315	1,287
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,606,823</b>	<b>1,442,154</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Fixed Assets	5	36,418	27,749
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>36,418</b>	<b>27,749</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,643,241</b>	<b>1,469,903</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and Other Payables	6	43,898	40,797
Payroll Liabilities	7	33,764	30,867
Grants in Advance	8	190,287	142,163
VLA Unused Funds	9	75,908	70,652
Employee Provisions	10	307,167	310,528
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>651,024</b>	<b>595,007</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Employee Provisions	10	97,780	97,780
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>97,780</b>	<b>97,780</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>748,804</b>	<b>692,787</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>894,437</b>	<b>777,116</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Earnings		894,437	777,116
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>894,437</b>	<b>777,116</b>

The Accompanying Notes Form Part of These Financial Statements



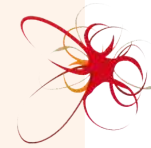


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**REGISTERED NO: A0013997D**  
**ABN: 96 206 448 228**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	NOTE	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>RETAINED EARNINGS</b>			
Opening Balance		777,116	627,887
Profit / (Loss) in the current year		117,321	149,229
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
<b>CLOSING BALANCE OF RETAINED EARNINGS</b>		<u>894,437</u>	<u>777,116</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>894,437</u>	<u>777,116</u>

The Accompanying Notes Form Part of These Financial Statements



**SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.**  
**REGISTERED NO: A0013997D**  
**ABN: 96 206 448 228**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	NOTE	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from Grants & Other Income		1,810,094	1,684,495
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(1,669,120)	(1,348,402)
Interest Received		28,765	25,646
<b>Net cash provided by Operating Activities</b>	<b>12b</b>	<u>169,739</u>	<u>361,739</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payment for fixed assets		(20,098)	(19,064)
Investment in Term Deposits		(513,434)	(11,421)
<b>Net cash (used in) Investing Activities</b>		<u>(533,532)</u>	<u>(30,485)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from Borrowing		-	-
Repayment of borrowings		-	-
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) Financing Activities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Increase in Cash Held		(363,793)	331,254
Cash at the beginning of the year		429,446	98,192
<b>Cash at the end of the year</b>	<b>12a</b>	<u>65,653</u>	<u>429,446</u>

The Accompanying Notes Form Part of These Financial Statements



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.**  
**REGISTERED NO: A0013997D**  
**ABN: 96 206 448 228**

### **NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

#### **NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria), the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Victorian Legal Aid Commission. The Board has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

The following accounting standards have been applied in the preparation of the financial report:

AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 107	Statement of Cash Flows
AASB 108	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
AASB 1048	Interpretation and Application of Standards
AASB 1054	Australian Additional Disclosures.

The financial report has been prepared on the basis of historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for 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 report.

#### **a) Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)**

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

Rates of depreciation and amortisation vary between 10% and 40%.

#### **b) Impairment of Assets**

At the end of each reporting period, the Board reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.



**SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.  
REGISTERED NO: A0013997D  
ABN: 96 206 448 228**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**e) Employee Entitlements**

Provision is made for the liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. These are in the form of Annual Leave for all employees, Long Service Leave accrued for all employees but not entitled until ten years of services (pro-rata after seven years of service), Personal Leave in line with management's estimate of the likelihood of individuals taking the leave, and Maternity leave in line with management's estimates that individuals will take the leave allowed in line with the awards.

Contributions are made to employee superannuation funds and are charged as expenses when incurred.

**d) Cash**

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

**e) Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors**

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

**f) Revenue and Other Income**

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt, unless otherwise stated. Where the entity has a specific obligation to expend the funding on a project, that money is held as 'income in advance' until the program obligations have been achieved.

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

**g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

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

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

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





**SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.**  
**REGISTERED NO: A0013997D**  
**ABN: 96 206 448 228**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**h) Income Tax**

The association is a not for profit organisation and as such is exempt from income tax under section 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. Consequently, no provision is made in the accounts for income tax.

**i) Trade and Other Payables**

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

**j) Provisions**

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

**k) Comparative Figures Changes**

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

**l) Financial Assets**

Investments in financial assets are initially recognised at cost, which includes transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value, which is equivalent to their market bid price at the end of the reporting period. Movements in fair value are recognised through an equity reserve.



SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.  
REGISTERED NO: A0013997D  
ABN: 96 206 448 228

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
<b>NOTE 2 - STATE, COMMONWEALTH AND OTHER FUNDING</b>	\$	\$
Commonwealth Grants	486,355	457,329
State Grants	244,793	235,072
MBA/ERO Grant	102,960	82,592
Other Grants	271,445	199,416
Monash University Grant	502,589	471,986
<b>Total Grant Funding</b>	<b>1,608,142</b>	<b>1,446,395</b>
<b>NOTE 3 - OTHER INCOME</b>		
Disbursements Reimbursed	43,020	60,406
Fundraising/Donations	6,429	11,960
Interest	28,765	25,646
LPM Royalties	51,308	47,620
Other Costs Recovered	(455)	923
	<b>129,067</b>	<b>146,555</b>
<b>NOTE 4 - CASH</b>		
Cash at Bank	65,157	429,394
Petty Cash	496	52
	<b>65,653</b>	<b>429,446</b>
<b>NOTE 5 - FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Office Furniture & Fixtures at Cost	124,435	114,147
Provision for Depreciation (Office F&F)	(88,017)	(86,398)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>36,418</b>	<b>27,749</b>
<b>MOVEMENT IN THE CARRYING AMOUNTS OF FIXED ASSETS</b>		
<i>Reconciliation of the Movement in Carrying Amounts</i>		
	<b>Office Furniture &amp; Fixtures</b>	<b>Total</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Balance at the 1 July 2016</b>	16,347	<b>16,347</b>
Additions at cost	19,063	<b>19,063</b>
Disposals (net)	(74)	<b>(74)</b>
Depreciation expense	(7,587)	<b>(7,587)</b>
<b>Carrying amount at 30 June 2017</b>	<b>27,749</b>	<b>27,749</b>
Additions at cost	20,098	<b>20,098</b>
Disposals (net)	(492)	<b>(492)</b>
Depreciation expense	(10,937)	<b>(10,937)</b>
<b>Carrying amount at 30 June 2018</b>	<b>36,418</b>	<b>36,418</b>



SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.  
REGISTERED NO: A0013997D  
ABN: 96 206 448 228

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 6 - TRADE &amp; OTHER PAYABLES</b>		
Trade Payables	6,930	6,284
GST Payable	18,436	17,407
Other Payables	18,532	17,106
	<u>43,898</u>	<u>40,797</u>
<b>NOTE 7 - PAYROLL LIABILITIES</b>		
Superannuation Payable	10,075	8,140
PAYG Payable	23,689	22,759
Other Payroll Liabilities	-	(32)
	<u>33,764</u>	<u>30,867</u>
<b>NOTE 8 - GRANTS IN ADVANCE</b>		
Department of Justice	i) 103,577	61,061
Department of Social Services - Volunteer Grant	ii) -	443
City of Greater Dandenong - Art Project	iii) -	4,242
Victorian Legal Services Board	iv) 69,359	76,417
VLA - International Students Work Rights Legal Service	v) 17,351	-
	<u>190,287</u>	<u>142,163</u>

***i) Department of Justice***

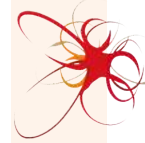
The prior year funds related to Family Violence funding. In the 2017/18 year, additional funding of \$135,000 was received from the Department of Justice, to be expended on the specific programs (Family Violence, Health and Justice Partnership, Fines Clinic). These programs are for the provision of paying for a lawyer.

The program funding is to be used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the funding agreement. As at 30 June 2018, approximately \$92,484 had been utilised on the projects, and accordingly, \$103,577 has been carried forward to be utilised in the subsequent financial year. As a result, \$92,484 has been recognised in income in the 2017/18 year, and \$103,577 has been recorded as a liability in the Statement of Financial Position for unused project funds.

***ii) Department of Social Services - Volunteer Grant***

In the prior year, \$443 remained to be spent on of the Department of Social Services funding, for the specific purpose of contributing to the reimbursement of volunteers' training costs.

The program funding is to be used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the funding agreement. Prior year carry forward funding of \$443 was utilised in the 2017/18 year. As at 30 June 2018, the remaining funding had been utilised under the project terms, and there are no further funds to carry forward.



**SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.  
REGISTERED NO: A0013997D  
ABN: 96 206 448 228**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

**NOTE 8 - GRANTS IN ADVANCE (CONTINUED)**

***iii) City of Greater Dandenong - Community Support***

In the prior year, \$4,242 remained to be spent on of the City of Greater Dandenong for the specific purpose of the project "Express your Rights: An Art Project for At Risk Youth Living in the City of Greater Dandenong".

The program funding is to be used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the funding agreement. Prior year carry forward funding of \$4,242 was utilised in the 2017/18 year. As at 30 June 2018, the remaining funding had been utilised under the project terms, and there are no further funds to carry forward.

***iv) Victorian Legal Services Board***

In the 2017/18, the second of a two year funding stream of \$138,464 was received from the Victorian Legal Services Board.

The program funding is to be used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the funding agreement. As at 30 June 2018, approximately \$145,520 had been utilised on the project, and accordingly, \$69,359 has been carried forward to be utilised in the subsequent financial year. As a result, \$145,520 has been recognised in income in the 2017/18 year, and \$69,359 has been recorded as a liability in the Statement of Financial Position for unused project funds.

***v) VLA - International Students Work Rights Legal Service***

In the 2017/18, funding of \$37,500 (of a total \$112,500) was received from Victorian Legal Aid, to be expended on the specific program. This program is for the provision of paying for a lawyer.

The program funding is to be used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the funding agreement. As at 30 June 2018, approximately \$20,149 had been utilised on the project, and accordingly, \$17,351 has been carried forward to be utilised in the subsequent financial year. As a result, \$20,149 has been recognised in income in the 2017/18 year, and \$17,351 has been recorded as a liability in the Statement of Financial Position for unused project funds.





**SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.**  
**REGISTERED NO: A0013997D**  
**ABN: 96 206 448 228**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 9 - VLA Unused Funds</b>		
Allowable Surplus - VLA unused funds carried forward	38,273	31,251
Allowable Surplus - SACS ERO unused funds	37,635	39,401
Excess Surplus	-	-
	<u>75,908</u>	<u>70,652</u>

In line with the VLA service agreement, any unused funds are required to be carried forward as a liability in the organisation's Statement of Financial Position. Any amounts of unused surplus funding that are in excess of 15% of the total VLA funding for the current year are to be classified as *Excess Surplus*, with the remaining to be classified as *Allowable Surplus*.

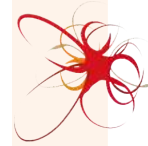
In the 2017/18 year, there was no additional funding provided by the VLA for SACS future funding (prior year balance carried forward of \$39,401). As specified in the funding agreement, this funding was a SACS ERO grant to be reserved for use in future years to assist with additional costs arising from the Award salary rate increases. During the 2017/18 year, this grant was approved to be spent on specified costs. At 30 June 2018, only \$1,766 had been utilised, and accordingly the remaining \$37,635 was recorded as a liability in the Statement of Financial Position for unused funds.

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 10 - PROVISIONS</b>		
<i>Current</i>		
Annual Leave	66,447	79,396
Personal Leave	119,125	105,691
Maternity Leave	90,815	90,815
Long Service Leave	30,780	34,626
	<u>307,167</u>	<u>310,528</u>
<i>Non-Current</i>		
Long Service Leave	<u>97,780</u>	<u>97,780</u>

**NOTE 11 - TRUST ACCOUNT**

Money Held in Trust	30,190	36,780
Amounts owed to clients	<u>(30,190)</u>	<u>(36,780)</u>
	-	-

The Association maintains a Trust account regulated by the Legal Services Board of Victoria. This trust account is reconciled at the end of each month and the total amounts within the trust account agree to the liability of various account holders.



**SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.**  
**REGISTERED NO: A0013997D**  
**ABN: 96 206 448 228**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

<b>NOTE 12 - CASH FLOW</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>(a) RECONCILIATION OF CASH</b>		
Cash on Hand	65,653	429,446
	<u>65,653</u>	<u>429,446</u>
<b>(b) RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS WITH NET SURPLUS(DEFICIT)</b>		
Operating Surplus / (Loss)	117,321	149,229
<i>Add/deduct non-cash items:</i>		
Depreciation	10,937	7,587
Net loss on the disposal of plant and equipment	492	75
<i>Changes in assets and liabilities</i>		
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(15,028)	513
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade Creditors & Accruals	54,122	107,410
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	(3,361)	65,674
Increase/(Decrease) in VLA Unused Funds	5,256	31,251
Cash Flow From Operations	<u>169,739</u>	<u>361,739</u>

**NOTE 13 - EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE**

There have been no significant events occurring after balance date which may affect the operations of the Association, not otherwise disclosed in this report.

**NOTE 14 - ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE**

The Association's ability to continue to carry out its current activities remains dependent upon future funding by the State and Commonwealth governments.



**SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.  
REGISTERED NO: A0013997D  
ABN: 96 206 448 228**

**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

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 accounts.

In the opinion of the Board the financial statements

1. Present a true and fair view of the financial position of Springvale Monash Legal Service Inc as at 30 June 2018 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria), the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Victorian Legal Aid Commission; and
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Springvale Monash Legal Service Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

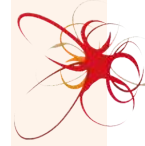
This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:

D Tanimudalige (Chair)

J Heath (Treasurer)

Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018





Shepard Webster & O'Neill Audit Pty Ltd  
Certified Practising Accountant, Authorised Audit Company  
ABN: 89 154 680 190

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.  
REGISTERED NO: A0013997D  
ABN: 96 206 448 228**

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial report of Springvale Monash Legal Service Inc, which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2018, the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification by members of the Board 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 gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Springvale Monash Legal Service Inc as at 30 June 2018 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 (Vic)* and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

**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 other 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 (Vic)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission 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.



Shepard Webster &  
O'Neill Audit Pty Ltd  
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**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.  
REGISTERED NO: A0013997D  
ABN: 96 206 448 228**

**Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon**

The Board of the Association is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Association's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2018, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Responsibilities of the Board for the Financial Report**

The Board of the Association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Board 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 Board either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board of the Association is responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

**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.

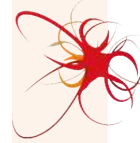


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**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.  
REGISTERED NO: A0013997D  
ABN: 96 206 448 228**

As part of an audit in accordance with the 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 Board.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board'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 Board 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.



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**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE INC.  
REGISTERED NO: A0013997D  
ABN: 96 206 448 228**

Dated at Frankston on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2018

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