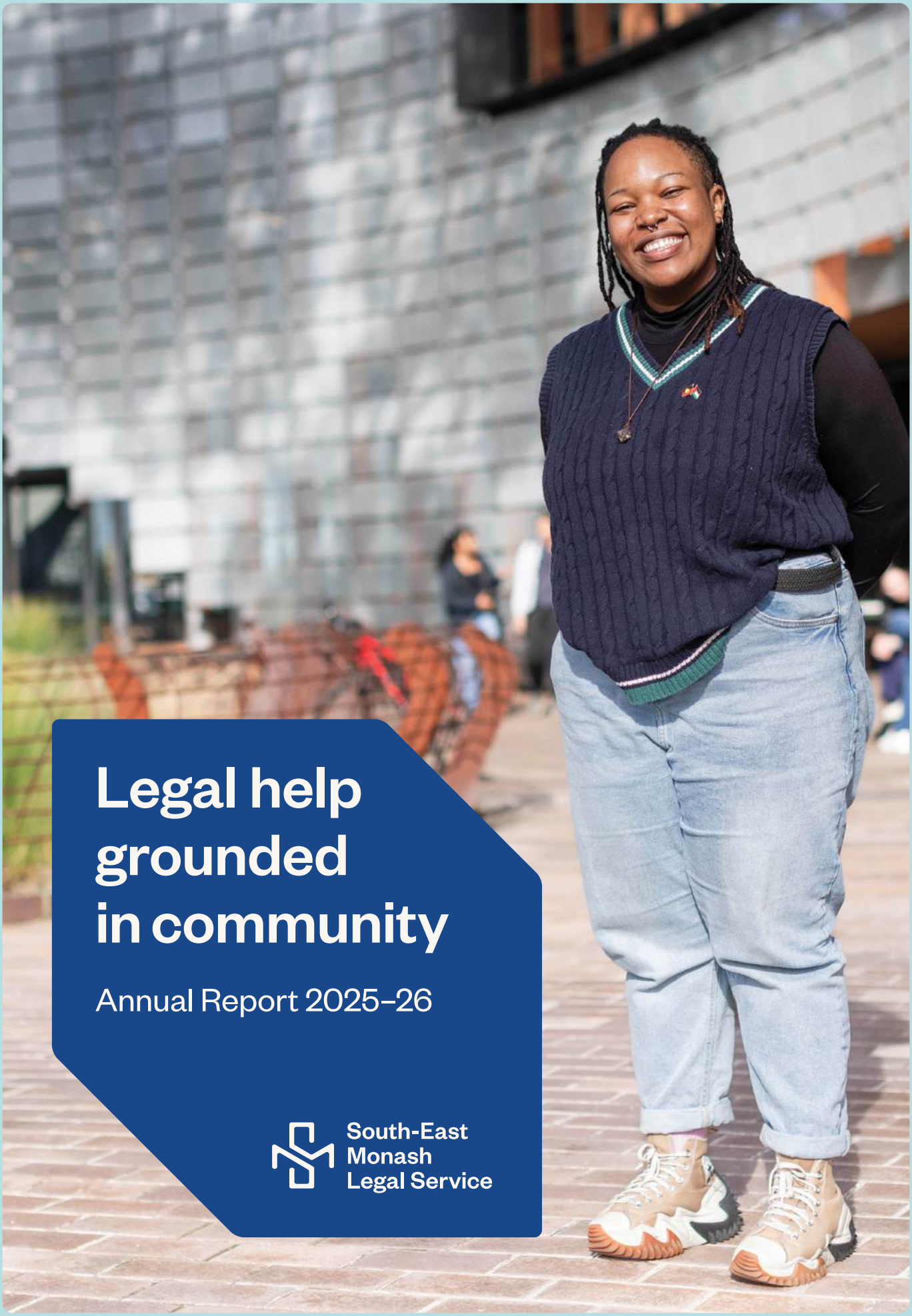


Legal help grounded in community

Annual Report 2025–26

South-East Monash Legal Service

South-East Monash Legal Service acknowledges the Bunurong/Boonwurrung People as the rightful and traditional custodians of the land where we work, and First Peoples language groups and communities across Victoria and Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

We know that diversity makes us stronger. The perspectives, experiences and leadership of women, First Nations peoples, people of colour, LGBTQIA+ communities, people with disability and people from migrant and refugee backgrounds enrich our organisation and our work. We are committed to anti-racism, equity and inclusion, and to providing services where everyone feels safe, respected and supported.



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A word from our Chair



I joined the Board of South-East Monash Legal Service earlier this year and was honoured to be appointed as Chair in August. After 40 years practising law in corporate environments, I had much to learn about how the justice system affects people experiencing disadvantage in Melbourne's southeast.

Throughout this year, I've been struck by the role community legal centres play in helping people navigate legal problems and address challenges such as family violence, housing insecurity, workplace injustice, migration and discrimination. The stories throughout this report demonstrate the difference that timely legal assistance, advocacy and support can make.

Impressively, this impact goes well beyond casework. Through community legal education, South-East Monash Legal Service seeks to address the underlying causes of injustice and create lasting change. We do this through initiatives like our Sporting Change program, as well as through law reform advocacy informed by our casework. Recent changes to Victorian laws relating to the use of non-disclosure agreements in sexual harassment cases resulted from advocacy by the Working Women's Centre Victoria, of which SMLS is one of four consortium members.

I've been impressed by our university clinical programs under which SMLS provides supervised placements each year for over 100 legal and social work students, equipping them with critical analytical skills, mindsets and practical experience. These placements are an investment not only in the students who gain confidence to apply their knowledge in real-world contexts but also in building a more caring and empathetic community for the future.

On behalf of our Board, I congratulate Ashleigh Newnham on her appointment as our CEO in August this year. Ashleigh has been with SMLS since 2016, starting as a Senior Community Development Worker and progressing through various roles until her appointment as Interim CEO in November 2025. She was the standout candidate in a rigorous external recruitment process conducted by the Board.

It has been a busy year behind the scenes. The Board adopted a new five-year strategic plan to guide us through to 2031. The plan aims to enhance service delivery for our clients, amplify our influence in advocating for systemic change and invest in our people and systems.

Finally, thank you to our staff, volunteers, students, partners, funders and my fellow Board members, both for your commitment to our vision of a fair and inclusive community where everyone has access to justice and for your contributions and achievements during the year.

I trust you will enjoy reading our annual report.



Tony Hudson
Chair



Introduction from our CEO

It is an honour and a privilege to write this statement as CEO of South-East Monash Legal Service. This is my first annual report as substantive CEO, after serving for a year as Interim CEO. The recruitment process gave me time to reflect on what makes this organisation so special. What stood out to me was not only the breadth of the services we deliver, nor the strength of our expertise, but the level of care, patience and determination our staff bring to their work.

There's a quote from the poet Mary Oliver, which I found myself returning to this year: 'Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable.'

I think of this quote when I'm reminded of the courage of our clients. Recently, one of our clients spoke publicly about the impact legal assistance had on her life. She told the room, 'I was scared to speak, but now I feel strong'. We stand beside people through some of the most challenging moments in their lives. What had once seemed impossible for her had, with legal help, become possible. For her lawyer, it was one of the proudest moments in his career.

Every day, we see first-hand what can happen when people make room for possibilities that once seemed out of reach: helping people access justice when they don't know where else to turn, supporting communities to have their voices heard, and working towards laws and systems that better reflect the lives of the people they represent. This work isn't always easy, but it matters.

Speaking of the work: it's been a big year. We launched a new strategic plan. We expanded our programs, including new services in migration and criminal law. We renovated our Springvale office, and refreshed our brand and website. All this is designed to make our services more friendly and accessible to the people we're here to help.

All of this is only possible because of the people and partnerships around us. We continue to value our strong relationships with Monash University, community legal centres, schools, community organisations, local governments and many others who share our commitment to access to justice.

We've also welcomed new Board members and leaders. I am incredibly grateful to Andy Lin, who was Acting Chair during the past year, and eager to work closely with Tony Hudson, newly appointed Chair of the Board of Directors. I also want to acknowledge our staff, volunteers, board members, partners and supporters, whose commitment makes this work possible every day.

As we look ahead, we do so with conviction, optimism and room in our hearts for the unimaginable.



Ashleigh Newnham
CEO

Highlights from our data

This year, we continued to stand alongside people navigating complex legal problems while working to create fairer systems and stronger communities. The highlights in this report reflect the expertise, compassion and commitment of our staff, volunteers, students, partners and supporters, and the collective impact we achieved together.

We provided a huge number of services to thousands of clients. Over the past twelve months we also deepened the level of services provided. We provided more duty lawyer services, more representation, and more discrete assistance.

The refinement of our recording practices has significantly improved the accuracy and reliability of service data. This year, South-East Monash Legal Service delivered modest increases in levels of higher-impact assistance, including discrete legal assistance, representation services, and social work support.

This trend reflects the organisation's commitment to providing more meaningful and intensive support to clients, with a focus on quality, complexity, and outcomes rather than overall service volume. As a result, the data presents a more accurate picture of the work undertaken and the value delivered to the community.

4,741 unique clients

85%
of clients were experiencing financial hardship

50%
were experiencing or at risk of family violence

33%
spoke a language other than English at home

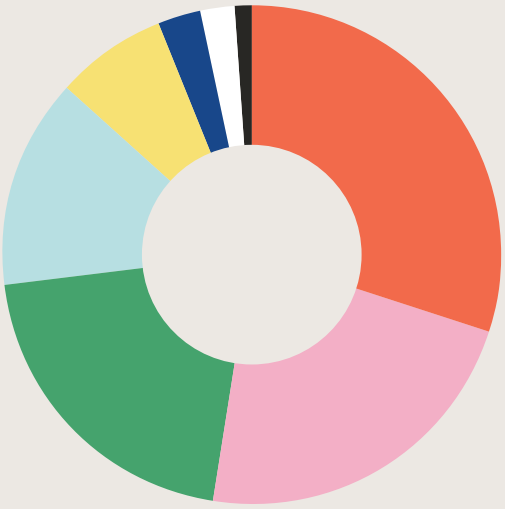
14%
were experiencing homelessness

2,023
clients were living with a physical or mental disability

144
clients identified as LGBTQIA+

Legal issues we helped with

Problem types 2025-26



- Family law **30.2%**
- Other civil law **22.6%**
- Family violence **20.6%**
- Employment law **13.7%**
- Criminal law **7.3%**
- Migration **2.7%**
- Tenancy **2.2%**
- Victims of crime **1.0%**

9,093 services delivered

In the 2025-26 financial year, we provided a total of 9,093 services*, including:

8,150
legal assistance services

712
social work support services

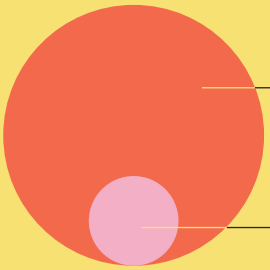
193
community legal education and engagement services

38
policy and law reform activities

Breakdown of legal assistance services	24-25	25-26
Legal advice and legal task services	3310	3370
Duty lawyer services	2980	3010
Representation and ongoing legal assistance services	1580	1770

**For the purposes of this annual report we have counted only substantive services, which means this number excludes the 3,230 minor information and referral services we provided over the phone in 2025-26.*

We helped more people navigate criminal matters

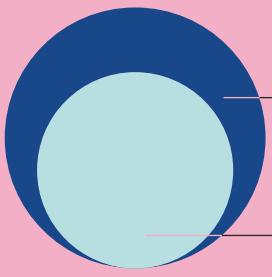


2026
663 services

2025
228 services

We intentionally expanded our criminal law program in response to community need. This included re-introducing our student criminal duty lawyer program and increasing access to legal help for people facing criminal matters.

We continued to meet high levels of demand for family law support



2026
2,745 services

2025
2,064 services

Demand for family law support remains high. Despite providing more services than we are funded for, each year we turn away hundreds of people who really need support, due to funding and capacity constraints. This is an area where more funding is needed.

Recovering wages for workers

$928,405.89

Recovered in underpayments and compensation for workers through our employment law service.

Supporting victims of crime

$353,989

Recovered for victims of crime to support costs associated with recovery, including counselling, therapy, security measures and other related expenses.

Waiving unfair fines and infringements

$376,284

Waived or resolved for clients experiencing hardship.

We launched our new strategic plan



This year marked an important milestone for South-East Monash Legal Service with the development and launch of our new Strategic Plan 2026–2031.

Guided by our vision of a fair and inclusive community where everyone has access to justice, the plan provides a clear roadmap for how we will strengthen our services, deepen our impact and respond to emerging community needs over the next five years.

At the heart of the plan is a commitment to providing holistic legal and advocacy support for people who need it most. We recognise that legal problems rarely exist in isolation, and our integrated model combines legal assistance, social work support, community legal education and partnerships to help people address challenges early and achieve lasting outcomes.

This year, we delivered 193 community legal education sessions on topics including family violence, consent, employment rights, police powers, driving laws, fines and infringements, and wills and powers of attorney.

Strategic Plan Pillars

Maximising our impact

Ensuring our services are accessible, effective and aligned with the needs of our community.

Strengthening our influence, capacity building and advocacy

Using our knowledge, relationships and evidence to drive systemic change.

Investing in our people and the way we work

Strengthening the foundations that enable our staff to do their best work.



At the heart of our new strategic plan is a simple belief: everyone deserves access to the support, opportunities and justice they need to thrive.

This plan has been shaped by what we've learned from our clients, communities, partners and staff, and reflects our commitment to providing access to justice for those who need it most.

We're taking the next step in our reconciliation journey



This year, we took the next step in our reconciliation journey by moving from a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan to an Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

While our Reflect plan focused on learning, building relationships and laying strong foundations, our Innovate plan focuses on putting that learning into action and creating lasting change.

Throughout the year, we worked with staff, leaders and community stakeholders to build on our previous commitments and identify practical ways to strengthen reconciliation across our organisation and the communities we serve. We partnered with Casey Gathering Place to deliver a range of community legal education sessions on topics spanning Wills, Powers of Attorney and Employment Law. This is just one example of how we're enacting our commitment to reconciliation.

Our Innovate RAP sets out practical actions to deepen relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, strengthen cultural understanding across our organisation, and create more opportunities for meaningful participation and partnership. It reflects our commitment to embedding reconciliation into the way we work, make decisions and deliver services.

As a community legal service, we recognise that First Nations peoples continue to experience systemic barriers to justice and disproportionately negative outcomes across many parts of the legal system. Our RAP provides a framework for listening, learning and taking action to ensure our services are more culturally safe, accessible and responsive.

Throughout the year, we continued to build staff knowledge and capability, strengthen connections with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and other First Nations stakeholders, and identify opportunities to elevate First Nations voices across our work. These actions support our broader goal of contributing to a more equitable and just community.



Moving to an Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan is about turning learning into action and embedding reconciliation more deeply into the way we work, partner and advocate.

Duty lawyer support for people experiencing family violence



Seeking legal protection from family violence takes immense courage. For many people, applying for an intervention order is not simply a legal process. It is a decision to prioritise safety, protect children, set boundaries and begin building a future free from violence and abuse.

Our Family Violence Duty Lawyer Service supports people at this critical point in their lives. Based at the Dandenong Magistrates' Court and Dandenong Children's Court, we provide legal advice, representation, referrals and advocacy for affected family members and protected persons navigating family violence and personal safety intervention order proceedings.

Clients come to us having already demonstrated significant strength and resilience. Our role is to ensure they have the information, support and legal assistance they need to make informed decisions and advocate for their safety. We help people understand their rights, navigate complex court processes, have their voices heard, and identify other supports that may assist them and their families.

Court can be an intimidating and highly stressful environment, particularly for people who have experienced trauma. By providing a trauma-informed, compassionate and culturally responsive service, we help clients participate in proceedings with confidence and exercise as much agency as possible over decisions that affect their lives.

Every day, we see the determination of people taking steps towards safety, stability and healing. It is a privilege to stand alongside them as they navigate the legal system and work towards a safer future for themselves and their children.

Our Dandenong Magistrates' Court Duty Lawyer program is supported by the Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety, and the Australian and Victorian Governments under the National Access to Justice Partnership (NAJP) via the Community Legal Services Program (CLSP).

50%
of our clients were experiencing or at risk of family violence

1,323
family violence duty lawyer services delivered

30%
of our family violence clients spoke a language other than English at home



New hope for a new mother

When her baby was born, Linh* found herself facing an uncertain future.

Linh was a newly single mother on a temporary visa. She left hospital alone and returned home to care for her newborn without family support. At the same time, she was grappling with the impacts of family violence, navigating concerns about her immigration status, and worrying about what the future would hold for her child.

“At that time, I was incomparably despairing,” she said. “My physical and emotional state was very poor.”

For years, cultural expectations, shame and fear had made it difficult for Linh to speak about her experiences of the violence perpetrated by her child’s father. She had believed she had no choice but to endure what had happened to her.

Everything changed when a maternal and child health nurse referred her to South-East Monash Legal Service. Through our Safe Landing program, we connected Linh with a migration lawyer, a family lawyer and a social worker. With help, she was able to better understand her rights and explore her options. For the first time, she felt safe enough to talk about her experiences and the challenges she was facing.

“I gained a sense of security and care, and I dared to express it.”

As she shared her story, she came to recognise that many of the experiences she had endured were family violence. This understanding became an important part of addressing her immigration matter. Working closely with her, we identified an opportunity to appeal an immigration decision and helped her prepare the evidence needed within a tight timeframe. The appeal was successful.

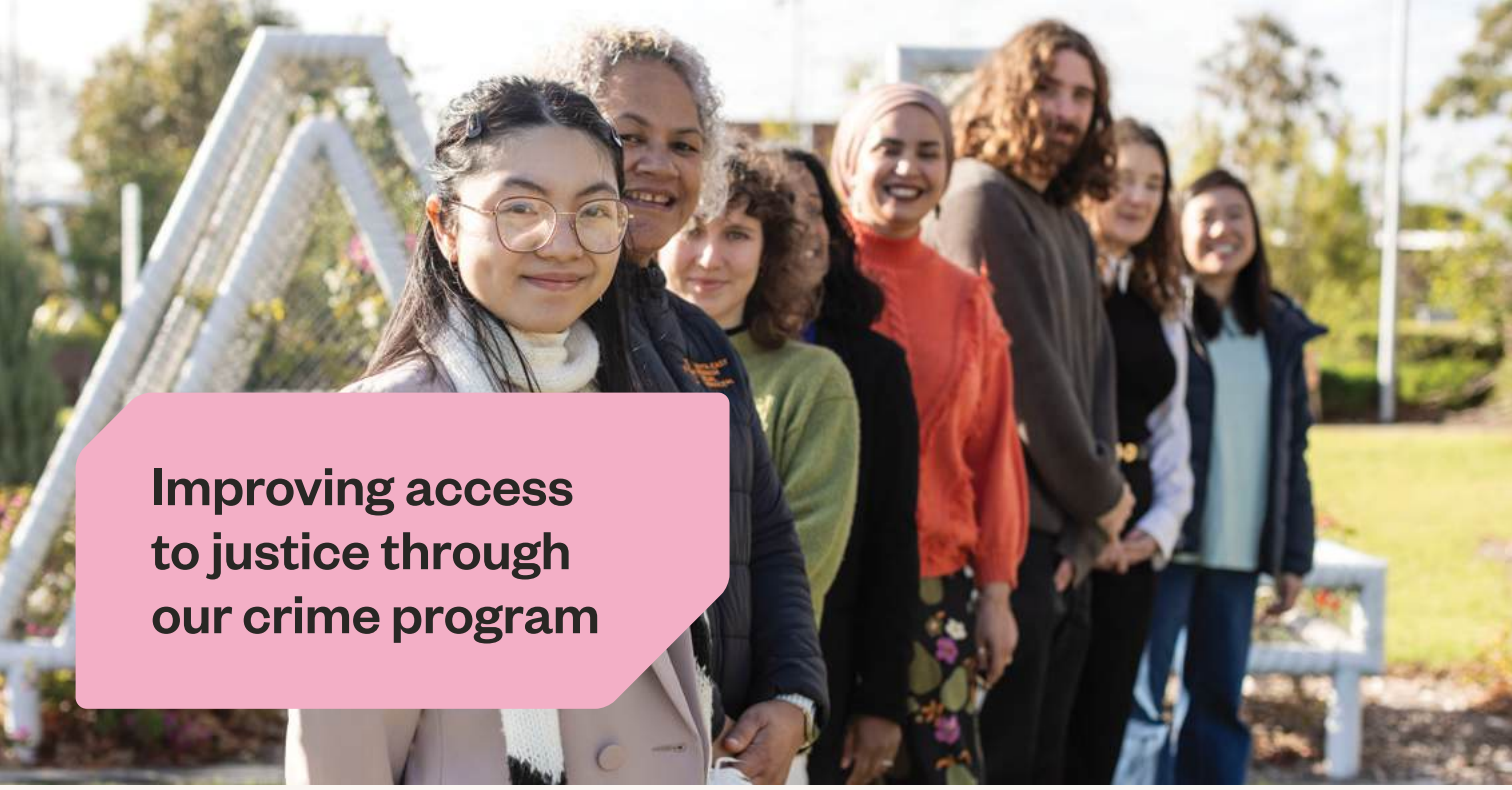
“This help made me, this despairing and painful single mother, feel like I had been given a new life.”

Our support did not stop there. We also helped her to obtain Australian citizenship documentation for her child, providing greater certainty for their future.

“If there were no South-East Monash Legal Service, I might still be in despair and pain right now.”

Linh’s journey is a powerful reminder of what is possible when people are connected to the right support at the right time. Through her courage and determination, as well as the support of a coordinated team around her, she was able to move beyond fear and uncertainty and build a safer, more secure future for herself and her child.

**Name and identifying details have been changed to protect client privacy.*



Improving access to justice through our crime program

Criminal law is an area of increasing legal need in our region. For the people who come to us, timely legal help can mean the difference between a criminal record and a second chance, between overwhelming debt and financial stability, or between losing and keeping their livelihood.

Our dedicated team of criminal lawyers provides help to people facing minor criminal matters, local and state government enforcement prosecutions and infringement warrants.

We help clients to understand their rights and options, ensure prosecution power is being exercised fairly and appropriately and advocate for the best available outcome for our clients and for broader systemic change. We help clients to identify underlying circumstances that may be contributing to their situation and support them to get the help they need.

We also operate the Criminal Law Advocacy Group, the first supervised student duty lawyer service of its kind in Victoria, where Monash University placement students are trained to undertake casework, social support referrals, negotiations with prosecuting agencies and court appearances for some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

This program is supported by the Australian and Victorian Governments under the National Access to Justice Partnership (NAJP) via the Community Legal Services Program (CLSP), as well as Monash University Faculty of Law.

$376,284
in infringement debt reduced or resolved for clients

663
criminal law services provided

118
services provided by law students under supervision



A fair outcome and a second chance

When Oliver* came to South-East Monash Legal Service, he was worried about the impact a criminal charge could have on his future.

A frontline healthcare worker, Oliver had been prescribed medicinal cannabis to manage anxiety that developed while working through the COVID-19 pandemic. He followed his doctor's instructions carefully and believed he was using the medication safely and responsibly.

Despite this, Oliver tested positive for cannabis during a routine roadside drug test and was charged with drug driving.

Under the current law, people can still face criminal charges for drug driving even when they are taking prescribed medicinal cannabis exactly as directed. For Oliver, the consequences were significant. A criminal finding or licence loss could have affected his ability to work, support himself and continue contributing to his community.

Our team worked closely with Oliver to understand his circumstances and prepare his case. We highlighted that he had acted on medical advice, complied with his prescription requirements and was not seeking to avoid responsibility. Instead, we argued that the law should be applied in a way that recognised the unique circumstances of his situation.

The court ultimately found the offence proven and dismissed, meaning no further penalty was imposed and the outcome was immediately spent.

As a result, Oliver was able to keep his licence, maintain his employment and move forward without a criminal record affecting his future.

His story highlights the importance of access to legal representation, particularly where the law has not kept pace with changing medical practice. It also reflects our broader commitment to advocating for reforms that create fairer outcomes for people who are doing their best to follow the rules, care for their health and participate fully in community life.

**Name and identifying details have been changed to protect client privacy.*



Building legal capability through trusted community connections

Community Legal Education helps people understand their rights before legal problems become crises. Through partnerships with schools, community organisations and local services, we deliver practical, accessible education that reflects the needs and experiences of our diverse communities.

Our multidisciplinary team of lawyers, youth workers, social workers and bicultural workers combines professional expertise with cultural knowledge and lived experience to create engaging and relevant learning opportunities.

This year, we delivered 193 community legal education sessions on topics including family violence, consent, employment rights, police powers, driving laws, fines and infringements, and wills and powers of attorney.

We continued innovative programs such as Sporting Change, which uses sport to engage young people with legal information and support, and Justice Q, which explores identity, self-expression and legal rights with LGBTQIA+ young people in safe and affirming spaces.

Whether delivering sessions in community languages, partnering with local schools, or connecting with newly arrived communities, our goal is simple: to ensure people have the knowledge, confidence and support they need to understand their rights and access help when they need it.

193
community legal education sessions delivered

Community-led
and culturally responsive programs delivered through schools, libraries and community organisations

Topics included
family violence, consent, employment rights, police powers, youth driving laws, fines and infringements, and wills and powers of attorney





Estha Gondowijoyo

Social work student from The University of Melbourne

It took a village to grow a social worker. Despite my initial apprehension, I soon found my rhythm in client work. I could not have done so without the support from the South-East Monash Legal Service community. I appreciate the thought that went into structuring the orientation folders: knowledge is power, and I recognised how each reading equipped me with information I needed to support my clients. I am grateful for the generosity of my supervisor and other staff members in sharing their knowledge and role modelling client-centred care. I cherish the kindness and the learning community I created with other students.

The placement has shaped my professional identity as a social worker. I recognise the scope of my practice and the value of sociolegal collaboration. My clients are the experts in their lives; they define their goals, while I support them in building their capacity, communicating with lawyers and connecting them to relevant services. I learn to honour my clients' autonomy and dignity. Moments of ordinary support, including listening non-judgmentally and enquiring without assuming, matter as much as writing letters of support and securing funding. Above all, I will always remember my clients' humanity: behind any legal case is a complex narrative of trauma and grief worth attuning to.

While my time at South-East Monash Legal Service has built my skills and confidence to step into my first social work role, it has also challenged and humbled me. I will continue learning from others and, most importantly, from my clients.

> "My clients are the experts in their lives; they define their goals, while I support them in building their capacity, communicating with lawyers and connecting them to relevant services. I learn to honour my clients' autonomy and dignity."



Shehana Vyravipillai

Law student from Monash University

Completing my placement at South-East Monash Legal Service in my final semester of law school was one of the most valuable experiences of my degree. As I prepared to transition into legal practice, the placement provided an invaluable opportunity to apply my academic knowledge in a real-world setting.

At South-East Monash Legal Service, I had the opportunity to work with clients experiencing a range of vulnerabilities, including financial hardship, language and cultural barriers, limited understanding of complex legal processes, and the ongoing effects of trauma and displacement. Many clients faced multiple challenges at once, making it difficult for them to navigate legal systems without support. These experiences gave me a deeper appreciation of the barriers that can prevent people from accessing justice and highlighted the critical role community legal centres play in providing accessible, client-centred legal assistance.

Throughout my time at South-East Monash Legal Service, I learnt the importance of the human side of legal practice. Effective legal assistance requires more than legal knowledge or what we learn at university. Rather, it involves listening carefully, communicating with empathy, and understanding a client's broader circumstances. Seeing the impact that practical legal support can have on someone's life was both humbling and rewarding.

South-East Monash Legal Service confirmed my desire to pursue a career in the community legal sector. The experience reinforced my belief that legal services should be accessible, compassionate, and client-centred. Finishing my degree with this placement felt like the ideal preparation for the realities of legal practice and has inspired me to continue supporting vulnerable members of the community throughout my legal career.

"These experiences gave me a deeper appreciation of the barriers that can prevent people from accessing justice and highlighted the critical role community legal centres play in providing accessible, client-centred legal assistance."

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the Board, staff, volunteers, students, community partners, funders and supporters who make our work possible.

Together, you help us provide accessible legal services, advocate for change, and support people across Melbourne's southeast to access justice.

Board Directors

Tony Hudson, Chair
Jared Heath, Treasurer
Andy Lin, Secretary
Caroline Edward
Becky Batagol
Sarah Stratton
Roshana Nanayakkara
Deborah Itzkowic

Outgoing Board Directors

Fiona Bygraves



Afghan Women Organisation Victoria
Afri-Aus Care
Alison Laird
Allied Justice
Anglicare
Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights
Bakhtar
Barwon Community Legal Service
Berwick Family Relationship Centre
Cambodian Association of Victoria
Cardinia Shire
Casey Council
Centre for Multicultural Youth
City of Casey
City of Greater Dandenong
Connected Libraries
Corrs
Damien Dao
Dandenong High
Dandenong North Neighbourhood House
Daughters of Jerusalem
Department of Justice and Community Safety
Department of Employment & Workplace Relations (DEWR)
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)
Design by Nature
Djirra
Doveton College
Dr Laura Hilly
Eastern Community Legal Centre
EmpowerHer Committee, Bairnsdale
Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria
Federation of Community Legal Centres
Federation University
Fitzroy Legal Service
Foundation House
Gippsland Community Legal Service
Gippsland Multicultural Services
Gippsland Multidisciplinary Centre
Good Shepherd
Hall & Willcox
Holstep Health
Hume Riverina Community Legal Service
Inner Melbourne Community Legal
InTouch Women's Legal Centre
Jax Wechsler
Jenni Lindstrom
JobWatch
Justicia
KC Chris Young
Knowmore Legal Service
Kobi Sainty
LACW Law and Advocacy Centre for Women
Ladle Links program, Morwell
Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre
Mandy Kearns
Mary Karamitsios
Maurice Blackburn
Melbourne University
Micare
MIND Dandenong Local
Mission Australia
Monash Faculty of Law
Monash Health
Monash Law Clinics
Monash University
Moonee Valley Legal Service
Nillanka Goonetillake
Northern Community Legal Centre
Office for Women
Orange Door
Our Place
Peninsula Community Legal Centre
Red Cross
Refugee Legal
Sahrah Hogan
SE Māori/Pasifika Workers Collective
Skye Forster
Sophie Molyneux
South East Community Links
South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault (SECASA)
Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre
Southside Justice
Springvale Learning and Activities Centre
Springvale Neighbourhood House
Sunil Kemppi
Thorne Harbour Health
Uniting Vic.Tas
VACCHO
Victorian Law Foundation
Victoria Legal Aid
Victoria University
Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service
Victorian Afghan Associations' Network
Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner
WAYSS
Wellsprings for Women
WestJustice
WHISE
Windermere
Women's Legal Service Victoria
Working Women's Centre Australia
YouthLaw
Zeina Alhalabi
Zoran Petric

Financials

In 2025/26, South-East Monash Legal Service reported total revenue of $8,637,622 enabling the organisation to continue delivering essential access to justice services across Melbourne's southeast. Through careful financial management, we recorded an operating surplus of $502,474 for the year.

While the funding environment remains constrained, we were pleased to secure the renewal of several key funding programs, with some modest increases resulting from indexation. These outcomes provide greater certainty for service delivery and support our ability to respond to growing community need.

This brings our total retained earnings to $3,410,061. These funds have been accumulated over time through prudent financial management, careful control of expenditure and the generation of modest unrestricted income and investment of cash reserves. The Board recognises the importance of maintaining adequate reserves to manage funding uncertainty, meet future obligations and respond to emerging community needs. The Board is also considering how these reserves can be strategically invested in organisational capability, technology, service improvement initiatives and other opportunities that strengthen our organisation's ability to deliver high-quality legal assistance and community services into the future.

Jared Heath
Treasurer

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

	2026($)	2025($)
Continuing operations		
Income		
Grant Funding	7,634,142	6,132,468
Other Income	1,003,480	787,410
Total Income	**8,637,622**	**6,919,878**
Expenses		
Depreciation Expense	63,504	47,132
Employment Expenses	6,745,792	5,528,313
Occupancy Expenses	224,276	182,742
Office & Administrative Expenses	889,568	613,893
Resources Expenses	204,215	184,892
Travel Expenses	7,793	13,200
Total expenses	**8,135,148**	**6,570,172**
Net Surplus/(Deficit) From Continuing Operations	**502,474**	**349,706**
Other Comprehensive Income		
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	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	**502,474**	**349,706**

The full Audited Financial Statements are available on our website, and the ACNC website.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2026

	2026($)	2025($)
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	394,873	1,343,391
Term Deposits	6,476,094	6,818,014
Trade and Other Receivables	363,010	145,854
Total Current Assets	**7,233,977**	**8,307,259**
Non-Current Assets		
Trade and Other Receivables	162,408	115,365
Plant and Equipment	213,654	163,044
Total Non-Current Assets	**376,062**	**278,409**
Total Assets	**7,610,039**	**8,585,668**
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables	310,400	492,073
Grants in Advance	2,295,027	3,977,080
VLA Unused Funds	403,920	245,125
Employee Entitlements	899,818	772,180
Total Current Liabilities	**3,909,165**	**5,486,458**
Non-Current Liabilities		
Employee Entitlements	290,813	191,623
Total Non-Current Liabilities	**290,813**	**191,623**
Total Liabilities	**4,199,978**	**5,678,081**
Net Assets	**3,410,061**	**2,907,587**
Equity		
Retained Earnings	3,410,061	2,907,587
Total Equity	**3,410,061**	**2,907,587**

The full Audited Financial Statements are available on our website, and the ACNC website.

Statement of Cash Flows

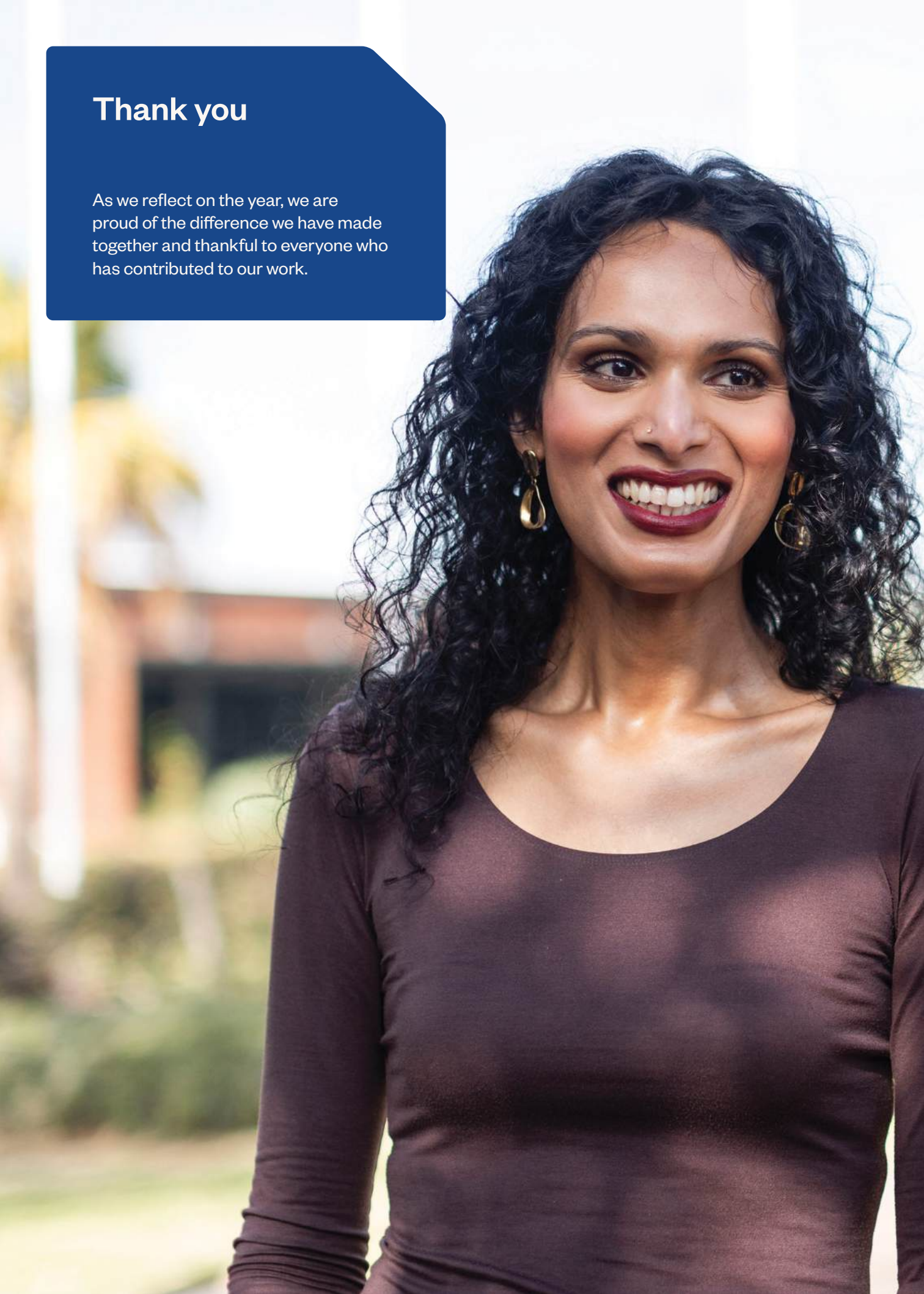
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

	2026($)	2025($)
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Receipts from Grants & Other Income	7,054,211	7,385,782
Payments to Suppliers and Employees	(8,575,443)	(6,313,196)
Interest Received	344,908	260,600
Net Cash Provided by / (Used in) Operating Activities	**(1,176,324)**	**1,333,186**
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Payment for Plant and Equipment	(114,114)	(92,820)
Investment in Term Deposits	341,920	(2,015,145)
Net Cash Provided by / (Used In) Investing Activities	**227,806**	**(2,107,965)**
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash Held	(948,518)	(774,779)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Year	1,343,391	2,118,170
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Year	**394,873**	**1,343,391**

The full Audited Financial Statements are available on our website, and the ACNC website.

Thank you

As we reflect on the year, we are proud of the difference we have made together and thankful to everyone who has contributed to our work.





We extend our sincere thanks to our staff, volunteers, students, Board Directors, partners, funders and supporters for their dedication, expertise and commitment to justice. Most importantly, we thank the clients and communities who place their trust in us and share their experiences with us.

Your resilience, courage and insight continue to inspire our work. We look forward to building on this year's achievements as we work towards our vision of a fair and inclusive community where everyone has access to justice.

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