

ANNUAL REPORT

2014

unlocking the law since '74



eastern **community legal** centre

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

ECLC acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations as the traditional owners of the lands on which we live and work. We pay deep respect to Elders past and present.

Congratulations, it must be a wonderful thing to reflect on an amazing 40 years of achievements and to look forward with a vision towards the years to come"

Malcolm Cumming, Maurice Blackburn Lawyers & ECLC Volunteer
23 MAY 2014

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Chair & CEO Report

Unlocking the law! To many people the legal field can seem totally foreign and there is a fence or wall between their own knowledge and the understanding needed to enter that field. Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC) works every day at the intersection where the law and the legal system meets the experiences of people and their communities – indeed it stands at the gate and helps people open it and walk through. Sometimes those gates are challenging and difficult – they truly need to not just be opened but unlocked.

So Unlocking The Law is a powerful phrase that captures the mission and work that ECLC undertakes through a broad range of programs and partnerships, across fourteen direct service locations within Melbourne's East.

Over the last year, there have been significant new gates, doors, locks and keys as the Centre has been engaged with a major expansion.

Most significant has been the establishment of the Yarra Ranges CLC, based in Healesville but serving the communities across the ranges. ECLC had actively advocated the need for this service for five years and was delighted when both the Commonwealth and State governments (through Victoria Legal Aid) committed to its establishment. In February, the Yarra Ranges team unlocked the doors to the new office and have made a significant impact within these communities. The Centre is determined to continue this service.

In September, ECLC extended its services to Deakin University students – unlocking the law through establishing a Migration Clinic focused on international students. This

cohort is vulnerable to exploitation in immigration matters as well as employment and housing matters and the clinic has proven very effective using innovative service models.

Regrettably, the Centre continues to experience very high demand for services responding to family violence. Thirty-one per cent of all clients identified family violence as a key concern, with 57% of clients seeking assistance with family violence or family law issues. Rather than only responding to these clients individually, ECLC has made a strategic impact on the family violence system, particularly through the Family Violence Integration Project with its partners at the Ringwood Magistrates' Court and the production and release of the Clearer Steps2Safety video in five community languages. ECLC also maintains and develops many education and partnership initiatives that seek to prevent and reduce family violence.

Some of ECLC's most innovative work has been with partners addressing the emerging anguish of elder abuse within the community. The provocative short film, Ghost Train has become internationally acclaimed and showcased, and highlights the issue of ageism as a foundation for elder abuse. The Eastern Elder Abuse Network has collaborated to develop new tools and resources, and professional development has been extended to a broad range of staff across the region and beyond.

The Centre's direct legal assistance has had its biggest year ever, with over 2,500 clients assisted by energetic and highly professional teams. The staff legal team expanded and developed with broader skills and are increasingly

unlocking the law since '74

engaged across all areas of the Centre's work. Legal and paralegal volunteers continue to assist large volumes of clients, through the night service as well as day volunteering. Tenancy advocacy provided vital assistance to highly vulnerable tenants and often worked at the interface of family violence, tenancy and homelessness. Policy submissions on VCAT as well as family violence enabled the Centre's casework and client experience to be shared with policy makers.

For young people confronted by the law, YRIPP provides assurance and assistance at a critical point. This project celebrated ten years of operation and is a very effective and appreciated partnership.

Across the Centre, a very broad suite of community development, community legal education and partnership projects are implemented across the key priorities. A number of examples are included in this report, increasingly integrated in the broader work.

Regrettably, ECLC was advised in May that \$400,000 of Commonwealth funding (over two years) would be withdrawn in mid-2015. This would have a major detrimental impact on a range of services and the Centre is working relentlessly to meet this shortfall.

While ECLC has a legal focus and great community lawyers, it does not hold all the keys. It depends on its many partners and supporters to work together and respond. Without these partnerships and collaborations, many gates would not open and remain locked to communities in need. Whether through funding or time working together, ECLC cherishes and thanks all of these agency and funding partners – that work together to unlock the law.

The support of the Centre volunteers, and the flexibility they provide are vital to its services and achievements. Thank you for your diverse skills, contribution and commitment to unlocking the law.

With a quickly expanding organisation, the year has been one of excitement and adjustment for the growing staff team. New teams and roles have been established quickly and recruitment has been almost continual. Through it all, the staff team have continued to respond with empathy and expertise to client demand, identifying improvements and possibilities, and supporting their teams through the challenges that arise. The leadership team has driven new initiatives, advocacy and indeed expansion. We offer heartfelt thanks to all the staff for their passion, cohesion and perseverance through a hectic year.

We thank the Board for their support and guidance of the Centre. The Board's expertise have supported us in our roles and enabled leadership and strategic focus to be clear through the challenges in the external environment.

In June, ECLC enthusiastically celebrated forty years of service to the community – indeed Unlocking the Law since '74! The evening brought together volunteers and staff from across that period and highlighted many achievements and developments from a small volunteer-driven service in Blackburn to today's three busy service centres.

It also identified that the need to unlock the law is as great as ever and there remains much more work to do. Please continue to bring your keys as we work together to unlock the law.



Michael Smith_CEO



Helen Killmier_
Chairperson

Helen Killmier
Chairperson

Michael Smith
CEO

Board & Staff

BOARD

Helen Killmier
Chairperson

Jose Abalo
Deputy Chair

Janet Matton
Secretary

Tony Monley
Treasurer

Christine Cowin

Malcolm Cumming

Maryclare Machen

Jeanette McRae

Jenny Scicluna

PATRON

Judge Ian Gray
Victorian State Coroner

STAFF MEMBERS

Leadership Team

Michael Smith
Chief Executive Officer

Belinda Lo
Principal Lawyer

Leonie Burnham
Deputy EO/Manager – Inner East

Denise Budge
Manager – Outer East

Katiana Velcek
Manager – People & Operations

Cathy Oliver
Manager – Finance

Michael Woollard
Manager – Finance

Community Lawyers

Amanda Vasiliou
Senior Community Lawyer

Christina Burke

Connie Chen

Anita Di Santo

Lauren Hills

Tanzeel Jabbar-Khadir

Anita Koochew

Nicholas Ngai

Lee Stapleton

Sanmati Verma

Christina Andrews
Tenancy Advocate

Community Development

Donna Askew
Co-ordinator – Deakin Legal Service

Belinda Gillam Derry
Co-ordinator – Yarra Ranges

Kaz Mackay
Co-ordinator – Elder Abuse Prevention

Marika Manioudakis
*Co-ordinator – Family Violence
Integration Project*

Marissa Johnpillai
*Co-ordinator – Community
Development*

Susan Hillman-Stolz
Co-ordinator – YRIPP (CMY)

Joanna Green
Communications

Naomi Milnes
Executive Assistant / Communications

Intake & Administration

Holly Phillips-Kliska

Lynne Pearson

Claire Hall

Josie Kirk

Kelsey Smith

Kyle Maestri

Chris Mumby

Jordana Cawood

Helen Gay

Effie Kapnias

Rachel Yong

Strategic Plan 2011– 2014

VISION

Human Rights / Fairness / Justice

MISSION

Eastern Community Legal Centre is committed to reform that achieves equality and social justice within the legal system for communities and people experiencing disadvantage.

AIM

To work with the community to identify and address issues of inequality and injustice in the legal system.

OBJECTIVES

To provide free and accessible legal services that empower clients to meet their legal needs within a community development framework;

To identify the legal needs of communities experiencing disadvantage in the Eastern Community Legal Centre region through conducting research;

To provide an organisational structure, policies and procedures to support the above objectives that specifically include processes for strategic planning and evaluation of the Centre's activities;

To engage in collaborative partnerships and networks of agencies to assist in meeting the objectives of the Centre;

To promote awareness of the Centre and its activities within the community; and

To encourage community involvement in Centre activities with particular emphasis on a proactive membership.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Quality targeted and integrated legal advice and casework, community development, volunteer engagement and partnership development.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT THEMES

Assisting communities and people not currently reached through outreach and service development

Integrating a holistic approach that recognise people's legal and broader needs and prioritises the most vulnerable communities.

Developing tools to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of the work and focus quality improvement

Extend the systemic advocacy with an emphasis on the opportunities within the connections of the service's delivery, development, education and research.

VALUES

Respect – treating ourselves and others with dignity, honesty and appreciating diversity

Compassion – being non-judgmental, supportive, showing empathy

Advocacy – providing a voice for those who cannot advocate for themselves

Safety – assuring confidentiality, showing courage

Justice and Human Rights – access, equity, advocacy and empowerment

Strong Governance and Assurance – open and transparent management and communication

Resourcefulness and Practicality – finding solutions through working collaboratively

Innovation and Entrepreneurship – encouraging implementing new ideas and strategies

PRIORITY AREAS

ECLC is committed to...

- > Family Violence
- > The Yarra Ranges
- > Human Rights Education
- > Seniors Rights
- > Cultural Diversity
- > Children and Young People

OUR CLIENTS

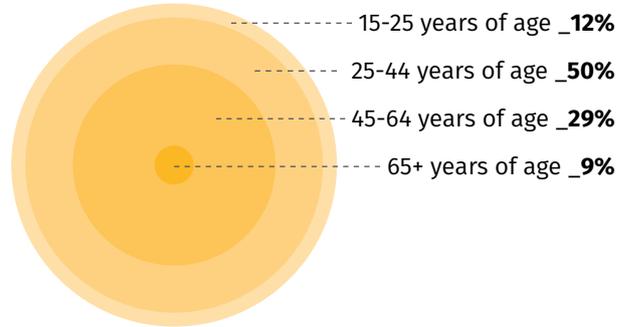
2547 clients

1999 new clients

420 repeat clients

129 existing clients

SEX & AGE OF OUR CLIENTS



REFERRAL FROM (HOW CLIENTS HEARD ABOUT US)

Court/Tribunal	26%
Legal Services	18%
Counselling Services	13%
Government Dept / MP's Office	4%
Self/friend/relative/neighbour	31%
Other	7%

18%

disclosed that they had a disability or mental illness

7%

were at risk of homelessness

37%

were born outside Australia

4%

required the assistance of an interpreter

INCOME



Individual clients assisted rose by 14% on last year.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

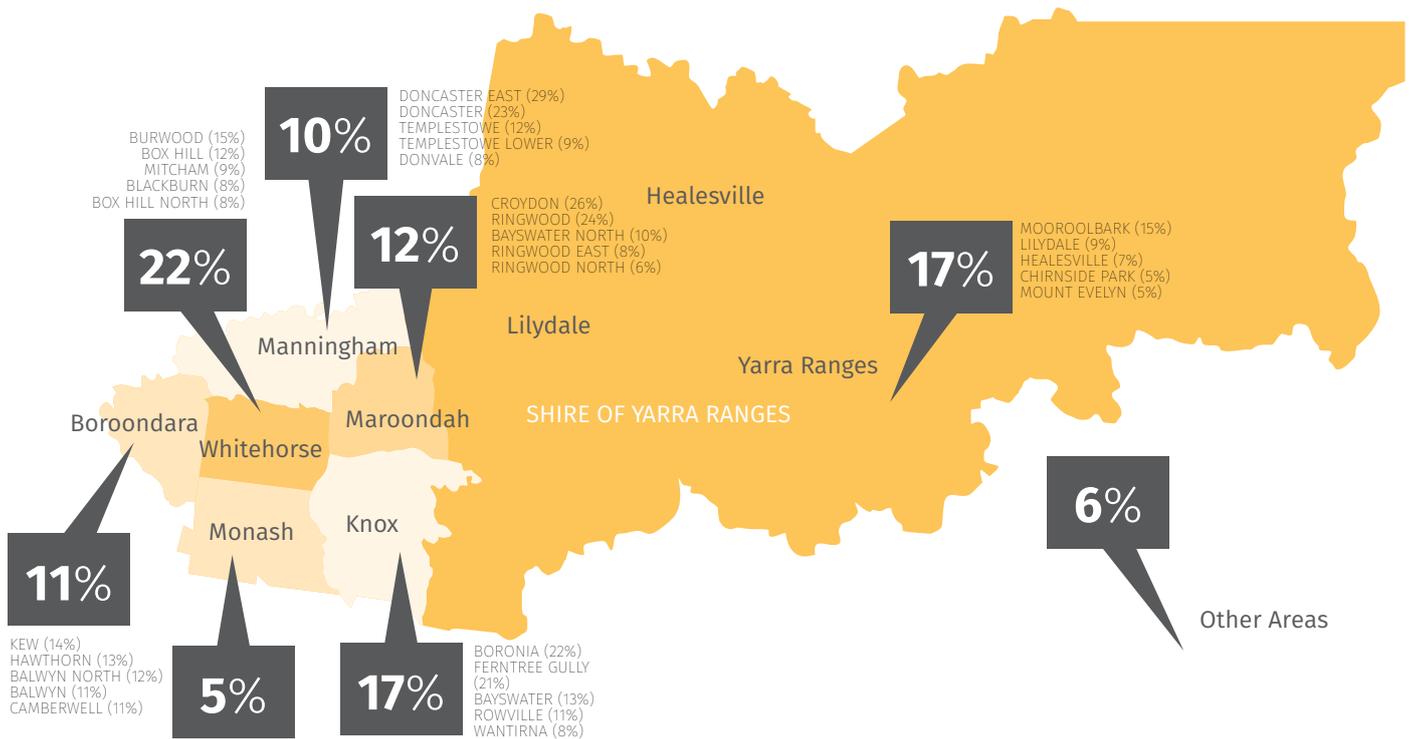
TOP 10 COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA



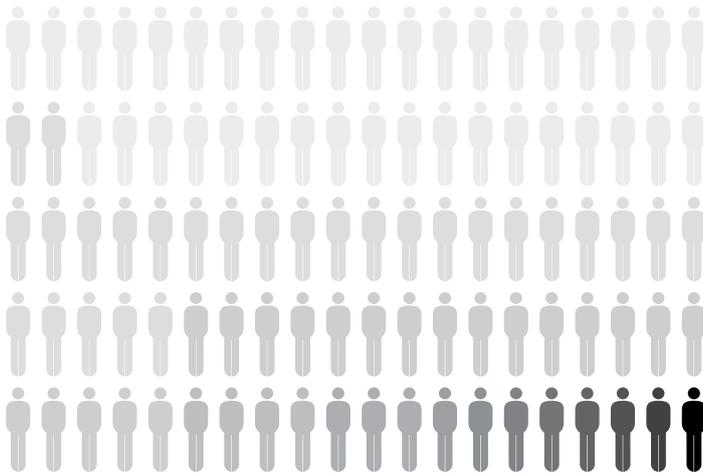
TOP 10 LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME BY OUR CLIENTS, EXCLUDING ENGLISH

1. Mandarin
2. Cantonese
3. Persian
4. Arabic (including Lebanese)
5. Greek
6. Spanish
7. Vietnamese
8. Hindi
9. Thai
10. Sinhalese

WHERE OUR CLIENTS LIVE & TOP 5 SUBURBS WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES



WHERE OUR CLIENTS WERE SEEN

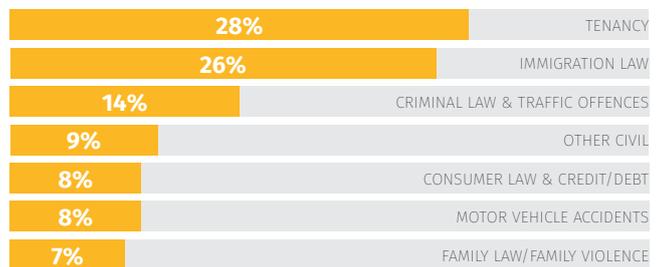


- BOX HILL 38%
- BORONIA 27%
- RINGWOOD COURT 20%
- DEAKIN 4%
- HEALESVILLE 3%
- ASHBURTON 1%
- BULLEEN 1%
- FRC RINGWOOD 1%
- HAWTHORN 1%
- LILYDALE 1%
- ROWVILLE 1%
- YARRA JUNCTION 1%
- YARRA GLEN 1%



DEAKIN LEGAL SERVICE FOR STUDENTS

Breakdown of matters seen at Sort It! Deakin Legal Service for Students:



Breakdown of Immigration Law Matters



Domestic & International Student Breakdown:



FAMILY LAW / FAMILY VIOLENCE

31% indicated that they were in a relationship involving an element of family violence

Family violence represents **28%** of the legal matters clients sought help for.

Family law accounts for **29%**

20% were seen at Ringwood Magistrates' Court regarding an intervention order

Legal Services

THE VISION

ECLC's legal and advocacy team continues to develop and implement high quality integrated legal services that respond to community needs. With the addition of the Yarra Ranges Centre and expanded staff, both the advice and casework guidelines and legal approaches are increasingly responsive to local needs and issues.

CENTRE ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

For the period 1 July 2013 - 30 June 2014

Activities

Advice	2232
Cases	843
Files open at period start	141
Files opened	702
Files closed	684

Clients

Total number of clients	2547
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THE ACTION

Direct Legal Assistance

- › Overall the Centre increased its service levels by 14% with 2,547 separate clients being assisted.
- › The number of 843 cases (extended work) was consistent with the previous year (837 in 2012-13).
- › However advice (one-off assistance) increased by a remarkable 21% up to 2,232 (1,851 in 2012-13)
- › Excellent teams of volunteer lawyers and paralegals provided targeted initial advice to clients, predominantly through the night service programs at Box Hill and Boronia.
- › Staff Community Lawyers focused on more vulnerable and complex clients through (one-off) advice and (extended) casework.
- › Ten outreach locations across the catchment provide a diverse response to specific needs, usually closely linked with extended partnership and community legal education.

Tenancy Advocacy

- › Through the Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Program, 188 tenants were assisted with private rental issues.
- › The focus of this program is disadvantaged and vulnerable tenants.
- › 63 of these matters included assisting clients with VCAT hearings.

- › Where possible, advocates negotiate an agreement prior, preventing the need for a VCAT hearing.
- › Outreach sessions at Wesley Eastern Homeless Crisis Service in Ringwood facilitated client access and facilitated knowledge sharing the services.
- › Some community legal education sessions have been conducted on key tenancy issues.
- › Demand for the service consistently exceeds its capacity.

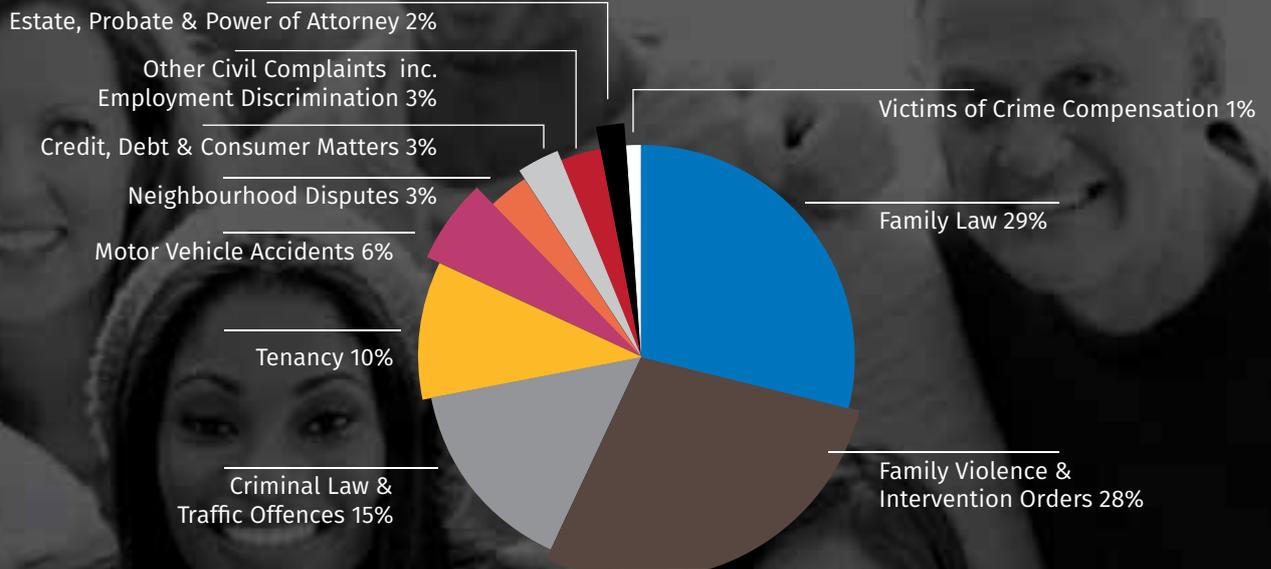
Research and Policy

- › ECLC's submission and recommendations to the Parliamentary Law Reform Committee Inquiry Into Sexting were accepted by the government response. Specifically, proposed amendments to the Crimes Act create two new summary offences of 'distribution of an intimate image' and 'threat to distribute an intimate image' in circumstances contrary to community standards of acceptable conduct.
- › Principal Lawyer Belinda Lo was awarded a Social Justice Fellowship at Australian Catholic University Law School. She led a program for 15 first-year students who researched issues regarding family violence at court and developed alternatives for consideration.
- › ECLC made a submission to the Legislative Council on the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Amendment Bill focused on issues for private tenants with particular vulnerability, specifically people experiencing family violence and international students, as well as tenants who have departed but have VCAT notices served to their former address.

The Future

- › The legal team continues to expand its skills to respond to the changing needs of ECLC's communities.
- › Research, analysis and community engagement is leading to adapting the legal responses for specific catchments and communities.
- › The Centre is exploring potential Advocacy Health Alliances with key partners to enhance its services
- › The legal team has been increasingly active in leading community legal education within their areas of expertise.

MATTER SNAPSHOT 2013_14



CASE STUDIES_ LEGAL SERVICES

THE VALUE OF NEGOTIATION

Diana was hearing-impaired and could only communicate with her real estate agent via email. She needed to break her lease because she was offered a place in low-income, supported accommodation.

The agent told Diana that she would need to pay out the lease, as well as advertising and reletting costs. She would have had to pay double rent for two properties at one stage and could not afford this. ECLC's Tenant Advocate rang the agent who said they were very willing to negotiate towards a much lower sum, but were not willing to make an offer in writing.

The agents provided an approximate figure to the advocate that they believed the landlord would settle on. Through the advocate, Diana agreed to this amount and was pleased with the outcome.

The matter was resolved relatively quickly, taking slightly longer because of the need to use a telephone relay interpreter. This example demonstrates increasing trust between the advocates and agents which shows the value of negotiation and avoided the matter going to VCAT for resolution.

HELPING TO SET SAFE BOUNDARIES

The Ringwood Family Relationship Centre (FRC) referred Sarah to obtain legal advice in relation to negotiating family arrangements for her children. The prospect of family dispute resolution (FDR) prompted Sarah to disclose that her relationship with the father of the children had involved extensive family violence, often linked to his drinking. Sarah wanted to ensure that the children could maintain a relationship with their father, but did not know what arrangements she could propose at FDR to ensure their safety. Sarah feared that if she proposed that the father obtain help for his alcohol dependency, that this might escalate things and place her and the children in further danger.

Sarah's fears were alleviated upon receiving legal advice. ECLC's Community Lawyer also linked Sarah to community services that would empower her to set boundaries during FDR and create a safe environment for her and her children until the father obtained the medical intervention and support he needed.

This example shows the benefit of being able to respond immediately to disclosures of family violence during the 'compulsory' FDR process, to help prevent family violence from escalating and help survivors of violence feel supported by a closely linked network of legal and non-legal support during a most difficult time.

Family Violence

THE VISION

Family violence continues to have devastating effects across the Australian community, including the Eastern Region, particularly for women and children. The Centre has a longstanding commitment to addressing family violence. As well as innovative service responses, ECLC develops and supports community prevention and education initiatives, seeking to prevent family violence before it occurs.

THE ACTION

Family Violence Integration Project

- › The vision guiding the FVIP has been ‘to instil trust and confidence in the most vulnerable of victim/survivors that their safety and support needs will be upheld through their interaction with the legal components of the family violence system’ primarily around the Ringwood Magistrates’ Court (RMC).
- › The third year of the FVIP was completed with an independent evaluation detailing the achievements and the key factors leading to realising its vision, primarily through a strengthened community approach.
- › The FVIP initiated an Aboriginal Focus Working Group, that proved effective in supporting the new Koori Court Support Worker role at RMC, improving referral pathways and consulting and communicating with key Aboriginal representatives and agencies through the Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group and the Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee.
- › A series of RMC IOSS Information Sessions were held and fully subscribed and extended workshops to complement these and extend professionals’ knowledge proved popular and effective.
- › There is still much scope to improve the legal experience for victim/survivors of family violence who access the court system seeking safety interventions. As the FVIP reaches its final stage, consultation with partner agencies and key stakeholders to develop advocacy principles and key recommendations has become an active focus.

Clearer Steps2Safety

- › The first Steps2Safety video and resources explained the Family Violence Intervention Order Process.
- › Clearer Steps 2 Safety was designed to meet the needs of emerging CaLD communities through translation into five new languages; Arabic, Chin Hakha, Dinka, Mandarin and Punjabi.
- › Steps2Safety was produced by ECLC with project partners, Ringwood Magistrates’ Court, Eastern Domestic Violence Service, Victoria Legal Aid, EACH - Eastern Victims Assistance and Counseling Program, Victoria Police, Anglicare Lilydale and Hand in Hand Productions.
- › The new films were produced by ECLC, with the project partners and SBS in Language, funded by a grant from the Victoria Law Foundation and the Eastern Metropolitan Region Regional Family Violence Partnership.
- › Each film is available to be viewed online at www.eclc.org.au/steps2safety, both with English subtitles and without.

Partnership, Prevention and Education

- › Utilising numerous partnerships with community and government agencies, local government, Victoria Police and the EMR Family Violence Partnership, ECLC has undertaken community legal education and prevention projects in a range of settings through the year.



CASE STUDY_ FAMILY VIOLENCE

A MOTHERS LOVE...

I was working on my usual volunteering day when I received a request from the Eastern Domestic Violence Service which was working at my court. The agency advocate advised me that there was a very distressed lady who could do with some support.

I approached the lady, who was visibly upset (sobbing) and quite distressed and sat beside her. I introduced myself and explained the role of Court Network at the court. The lady (Sharon) then told me her 'life story'. Through some targeted questioning I was able to focus on her exact problems. Sharon told me she was at court as an Applicant to take out an Intervention Order against her son, who was sitting nearby.

Sharon was extremely concerned for her son (James) who had mental health issues and problems with drugs. Given that she was initiating an Intervention Order against James, Sharon was very

THE FUTURE

› In partnership with EDVOS and the Yarra Ranges Council and Maroondah City Council Maternal and Child Health services, a new project, Preventing and Responding to Family Violence Within the Maternal and Child Health Context will commence in early 2015, funded by the Legal Services Board.

This project aims to prevent and respond to family violence by improving the responses of maternal and child health, legal and support services in a co-ordinated and integrated manner, with a focus on mothers engaging with maternal child and health services.

concerned that he would have nowhere to stay. Sharon mentioned that James had already seen the Drug and Alcohol worker at the court (Barry) so I went and sought Barry's help. Barry came downstairs to talk with James.

It should be pointed out that it is not usual practice for a Networker to work with both sides in an Intervention Order application. However, this was a somewhat different scenario given that the mother and son were at court together and the lines of communication were still open. Despite the son not wanting the IVO being taken out against him, he understood the situation his mother was in.

About two hours passed before the matter was heard in court. The Intervention Order was granted and I stayed with Sharon all of this time. In this time, James had also mentioned to me that he had been seeing a Drug and Alcohol Counsellor in a suburb nor far from the court. So, I decided to call the agency to see whether we could get some support for James, and some accommodation. Barry went and located James again and arranged for him to have some food and a train ticket to the D&A counselling service.

In the meantime, Sharon had calmed down significantly knowing that action was being taken to support James and find accommodation for him.

Had we not intervened, I don't know what the outcome would have been for James or Sharon.

COURT NETWORK VOLUNTEER

This example demonstrates the positive outcomes for the woman and her son through the work of Court Network.

However, it also demonstrates the highly effective partnership and referral systems developed at the Court between family violence advocates, lawyers, Court Network volunteers and other services working together at the Court. This collaboration has been extensively developed through the Family Violence Integration Project, a partnership project led by ECLC.

Celebrating 40 Years

1970s

1980s

1990s



Erskine Rodan
*Founded Nunawading Legal Service, 1974
Chairperson 1974-1982*



1974 The Nunawading Legal Service had been formed through the hard work of concerned residents and solicitors.

The Nunawading council provided rent free accommodation at 26 Blackburn Road, Blackburn and a small grant to cover administrative costs.



Judge Marilyn Harbison
(nee Head)
Volunteer lawyer, helped establish duty solicitor scheme at Box Hill Magistrates' Court, 1975

The service was run wholly by volunteers up until **1981**.

In **1981**, the service changed its name to Nunawading & Eastern Suburbs Community Legal Service Inc in recognition of the fact that the centre's clients came from well beyond the suburb of Nunawading.

Aim – "To make citizens more aware of the law and more equal before the law by providing them with full access to easily understood legal information and advice and efficiently delivered legal assistance and court representation."

Federal funding was received which saw the employment of paid staff.



Bonnie Bedwell
*Volunteer typist 1983-2000
National Volunteers Week
1993 Certificate*



Clive Weston
Volunteer lawyer 1987-2004



Reg Keating
*Volunteer lawyer 1989-1994,
2000-2002*



ECLC office at Railway Road

In **1993**, the Nunawading Council were selling the property and the centre was housed and moved into a property in R

A further name change occurred in **1995** with the centre becoming the Eastern Community Legal Centre Inc.



FORTY YEARS OF VOLUNTEERS VIDEOS CELEBRATING UNLOCKING THE LAW SINCE '74 ARE VIEWABLE ON ECLC'S WEBSITE.

"Unlocking the law through knowledge and adrenalin to empower the most vulnerable in our society to "move on" with dignity and a sense of empowering identity. That's what ECLC is about. Congratulations on 40 years continued empowerment"

Rhonda Goodall 23 MAY 2014

90s



Blackburn
Council advised that they
at 26 Blackburn Road where
as a result, the service
railway Road, Blackburn.
change occurred
centre becoming
Community Legal

2000s



Mariolina Reale
Volunteer lawyer 2000-2003
Helped establish Intervention
Order Support Service at
Ringwood Magistrates' Court,
2001

In **2001**, the centre returned to Blackburn Road, a couple of doors up from where it was originally located.

Opening of Boronia Office_2005

In **2005**, a concerted community campaign led to funding for a new CLC in the Outer East and in October, the Centre opened a second office in Boronia to service the communities in Knox, Yarra Ranges and Maroondah.



The services used both employed staff and many volunteers, and offered outreach in various locations.

In November **2006**, ECLC entered a new and exciting era with its move from Blackburn to the Box Hill Town Hall Hub. This new location enabled more clients to be seen, a broader range of services to be offered and provided a highly visible and accessible site, in both transport and mobility



Box Hill Town
Hall Hub &
Town Hall



Nigel Ross
Volunteer lawyer (Sapphire
Team - Boronia office)

2010s



Healesville Office launch_2014



Healesville Office Team
Holly Kliska, Senior
Administration Officer,
Belinda Gillam Derry,
Co-ordinator, **Anita Koochew**,
Community Lawyer



Jeanette McRae
Volunteer Board Member.
As a Yarra Ranges Councillor,
advocated for ECLC's
Healesville office (opened 2014)



Bill Hearn
Volunteer Independent
Person (YRIPP - Youth
Referral and Independent
Person Program)



Donna Askew
Volunteer Committee member
(2004-2006) Community
Lawyer (2008-2011) Co-
ordinator, Deakin Legal
Service for Students (April
2012-current)

Over the last eight years,
ECLC has more than doubled
in size (in client contact and
staffing levels).

Yarra Ranges

THE CONCERN

ECLC had been advocating for improved access to legal assistance for a number of years, particularly since 2009. Legal needs studies and a community campaign had highlighted family violence, housing stress and the diversity of needs across the different communities in the Yarra Ranges.

THE ACTION

Establishment

- › In June 2013, then Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus QC announced Commonwealth funding of \$350,000 over four years to open the Yarra Ranges CLC. VLA also provided pilot funding of \$70,000 in the first year.
- › The Yarra Ranges CLC office opened three days per week in the Healesville Community Link in February 2014.
- › Initial staffing of a Co-ordinator, Community Lawyer and Intake/Administration (total 1.8ft) has made a major impact with the local community.

Improved access to legal help

- › Family violence has been a dominant theme in both client and community development work.
- › Outreach services operate in Lilydale, Yarra Glen and Yarra Junction.
- › Clients from the Yarra Valley have presented with the highest demand for services, although clients from across the Shire and beyond have been assisted.
- › Key statistics (first six months)
 - 166 clients assisted
 - 126 One-on-one legal advices
 - 9 new cases opened
 - 46 cases conducted through IOSS program

Community development and education

- › Building relationships with the local Aboriginal community has been important and effective.
- › Improving access to community services for people who homeless or at risk of homelessness has had strong practical outcomes.
- › Community Legal Education has been conducted with community agencies, young people, carers and other groups.
- › Very strong links have been rapidly developed with local agencies

THE FUTURE

- › Regrettably, the Commonwealth government has withdrawn this funding from July 2015.
- › ECLC is determined to continue a service and exploring a range of resourcing options.
- › Yarra Ranges Council have expanded the office space available enabling additional services to be provided by ECLC and partner agencies.
- › A family violence clinic will be piloted at the Healesville office in late 2014, with EDVOS and other partners.
- › Based on community need, the Yarra Junction outreach has been doubled and Yarra Glen concluded.
- › In collaboration with HICCI and Melba Services, the Centre will present 'Finding Your Voice', interactive education and entertainment sessions for local seniors in October.

CASE STUDIES_YARRA RANGES

MARY'S STORY

Mary was in a car accident that she believed was caused by the other driver. Mary was uninsured, but her car wasn't seriously damaged so she didn't pursue the matter. However, the other driver told his insurance company that it was Mary's fault and they sent her several letters of demand and then used a collections agency to demand payment.

Mary had tried to respond to let them know she wasn't responsible but they kept writing to her. Mary had no valuable assets and her only income was a Department of Veteran's Affairs pension. The stress that this was causing her had led to her doctor prescribing her with new medication.

Mary saw ECLC's Community Lawyer who helped her draft a letter to the insurance company confirming she wasn't liable, was in financial hardship and reminding the insurance company of their obligations. The insurance company waived the claim against Mary entirely and confirmed this in writing.

ASHLEA'S STORY

Ashlea had some infringements that she had been having trouble dealing with for some time. Ashlea suffered from mental health issues and had recently started getting help. Her counsellor referred her to ECLC for legal help. The Yarra Ranges CLC was able to help Ashlea navigate the infringements system and show her how to resubmit her application to have the fines revoked because of her special circumstances. Ashlea came back to see the Community Lawyer in Healesville for advice and assistance on several occasions, but felt happy to take control and submit the paperwork herself. Ashlea contacted the Centre to report that her application had been successful and that the infringements had been revoked.

LOUISA'S STORY

Louisa had been living with Charlie on a rural rental property in the Yarra Valley for several years. Throughout their relationship she experienced emotional, verbal and more recently physical abuse.

After having a baby, Louisa became concerned for the baby's welfare, so she went to see a Yarra Ranges Community Lawyer about her options.

Louisa didn't want to return to the property because it was remote and so she went to stay with her sister. ECLC assisted Louisa to prepare an application for an intervention order to stop Charlie from being abusive to her and the baby.

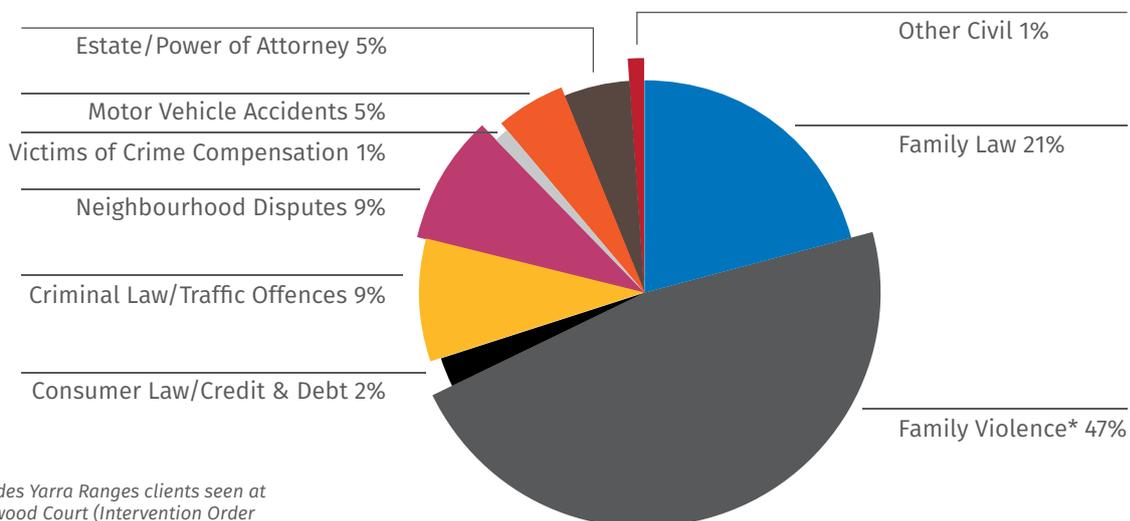
The community lawyer also gave some initial advice about separation and parenting options. Louisa successfully obtained an intervention order with support from ECLC at Court and then was assisted by the ECLC Tenancy Advocate who gave advice about her options with the rental property.

ECLC also referred Louisa to Eastern Domestic Violence Service who provided her with support throughout the intervention order process at Court and helped her to access counselling support.

Louisa came back to ECLC for further advice about child arrangements once she had settled into her new home. ECLC helped her to access mediation where she was able to safely negotiate supervised contact for Charlie with the baby.

MATTER TYPE_YARRA RANGES CLC

(1 February 2014 - 31 July 2014)



* includes Yarra Ranges clients seen at Ringwood Court (Intervention Order Support Service)

Cultural Diversity

THE VISION

Community members with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds often find understanding the law and accessing legal assistance more difficult. ECLC recognises additional steps are needed to ensure these communities are fully included in the work of the Centre and to ensure just outcomes.

THE ACTION

Sort It! Deakin Legal Service For Students

- › Following a further approach from DUSA (Deakin University Student Association), the service was extended to provide migration law advice, with a focus on international students.
- › The Student Visa Legal Advice Clinic was launched in September 2013, with two migration agents and integrated community legal education.
- › Meld Magazine reported in their international student Magazine that the specialised support for International students provided by Sort It! is a unique service in Victoria.
- › Sort It assisted 147 clients during the 2013-14 period.
- › Suite of publications targeted to international students were produced in plain English including Tenancy, Employment Law, Volunteering Motor Vehicle Accidents & Insurance and Family Violence.
- › Focus in developing Sort It! has been on supporting vulnerable international students and working together in partnership with DUSA and Deakin Student Life services to raise awareness of both legal issues for students and how they can seek assistance.

- › Sort It! was active in key DUSA and Deakin events including extended O (orientation) weeks, 'Just Ask' campaign and Essence Week (Mental Health).
- › Sort It! volunteers actively assisted with legal clinic, promotion and education programs.
- › Sort It! active on social media to engage with its target group.

Community Legal Education Partnerships

- › Key projects with other community agencies focused on the needs of CaLD communities and clients.
- › Mind Your Language Forum (with the Migrant Settlement Committee) challenged community agencies to consider their approaches and responsiveness in working with CaLD communities.
- › ECLC piloted a Community Internship program with volunteer 'interns' from CaLD backgrounds undertaking extended placements and projects within ECLC.
- › By invitation of Victoria Police, ECLC led a professional development workshop for 30 senior Police across the East exploring the intersection of cultural awareness and family violence issues.
- › Diversity Consultancy Panel continued to provide advice on legal and community issues to ECLC.

THE FUTURE

- › Translations of key legal fact sheets are being undertaken.
- › ECLC is supporting a Migrant Settlement Committee partnership project to improve community safety within migrant communities.



CASE STUDY_ CULTURAL DIVERSITY



Connie Chen (L) and Kelsey Smith (R) at Deakin University O-Week, March 2014

A FAIR DAYS PAY FOR A FAIR DAYS WORK..

Tess is an international student at Deakin and worked as a cleaner for \$15 per hour. She applied for the job online, never signed a written contract, and had only communicated with her employer through emails and text message. Tess only knew him as 'Mr Lane'.

Unfortunately, a month after she started working, Tess suddenly had to quit the job because of her health. By then she had worked a total of 40 hours for her employer, but he had only paid her \$100 in total and had never provided a payslip.

By the time Tess came to see ECLC's Deakin Legal Service For Students, Mr Lane had stopped responding to her emails and text messages. Because Tess always worked off-site, she didn't know the address or any other details about the cleaning company except the name of the account that had paid money into her bank account.

The Community Lawyer was able to help Tess calculate her minimum entitlements under the right award, as well as find the details of the company that she was working for. They also helped Tess make a written complaint to the Fair Work Ombudsman and advocated for Tess in negotiations with the FWO representative and the employer, which resulted in Tess being paid her outstanding wages.



Seniors Rights

THE VISION

While most older people within the community have vibrant lives and continue to make a strong contribution to the community, some seniors are particularly vulnerable. Over the last five years, ECLC has focused on the emerging issue and impact of elder abuse.

Elder abuse is 'any act occurring within a relationship where there is an implication of trust, which results in harm to an older person.' Abuse may occur as a result of ignorance or negligence, or it may be deliberate. Some forms of abuse are criminal acts. Abuse is typically carried out by family members, in particular adult children, upon whom the older person is dependent for care or accommodation.

THE ACTION

Eastern Elder Abuse Network

- › Leading network in Victoria collaborating to respond to elder abuse.
- › Ninety members including health, aged care, community service, local government and Victoria Police, led by ECLC.
- › Elder Abuse Case Conferencing Site is a confidential online case conferencing facility that enables de-identified elder abuse cases to be circulated amongst members for advice, referral or support.
- › Develops and promotes best practice elder abuse policies and policies.
- › Elder Abuse Toolkit for local government and agencies completed and distributed.
- › Develops and disseminates professional development opportunities.

Assisting seniors experiencing Elder Abuse

- › Over 50 older people referred to ECLC and assisted by staff with elder abuse issues in the year.

- › Focus on assisting agency partners to support their clients where possible.
- › Extended work in some specific elder abuse cases.
- › ECLC's Elder Abuse Advocate and Community Lawyers work closely to assist clients.

Prevention and education

- › 'Ghost Train' short film enjoys extraordinary national and international success in challenging ageism.
- › Conversation About Ageism forum attracts staff from 36 agencies and explores connections between ageism, abuse and human rights.
- › Twenty professional development sessions conducted across the region.
- › World Elder Abuse Awareness Day widely promoted in partnership with Councils and agencies.
- › Series of Community Awareness education sessions held with seniors groups.
- › Elder Abuse Prevention Co-ordinator facilitated a series 'Responding to Elder Abuse' Regional forums across Victoria with Domestic Violence Victoria.

THE FUTURE

- › Raising awareness about elder abuse with the general public is vital as elder abuse remains an often hidden problem.
- › Raising awareness about elder abuse and educating GPs and allied health professionals.
- › Encouraging elder abuse training and professional development opportunities for agency staff.
- › Continuing to demonstrate the links between the impact of ageism and the health and wellbeing of vulnerable older people.

Children & Young People

THE VISION

While ECLC's direct services focus on adults, the particular needs and issues for children and young people are acknowledged and often addressed through specific initiatives, both as part of families and individually.

THE ACTION

YRIPP – Youth Referral and Independent Person Program

- › YRIPP delivers a high quality system of adult volunteers called Independent Persons who attend police interviews with young people in police custody when a parent or guardian is not available.
- › YRIPP seeks to divert young people from future offending through early intervention at the point of police contact.
- › 35 active IP volunteers supported YRIPP in the East Metro region.
- › In the Inner City and East (catchment of the Eastern YRIPP Co-ordinator based at ECLC), there were 636 callouts, 20.5% of the Victorian total.
- › Busiest stations included three in the Inner City - Melbourne West (100 callouts), Melbourne East (95) and Fitzroy (35) as well as three in ECLC's own catchment area - Box Hill (68), Ringwood (48) and Croydon (42).
- › 12.2% of young people overall were directly referred to health and welfare support services.
- › An additional 15% of young people were given information for later self-referral.
- › In partnership with CMY, YACVic, ECLC and other agencies, YRIPP celebrated its 10th anniversary of operation.

Community Legal Education

- › 'Understanding Sexting' forum held through the Strategic Conversations partnership (with Gateway LLEN, City of Whitehorse Youth Services, YMCA and Commonwealth Department of Human Services) educated a range of educators and youth service professionals, through a dramatic performance and panel discussion.
- › Young women and Family Violence Partnership (with Family Access Network, EDVOS and Victoria Police) held a major workers' forum to share information across services and continued to develop further relationships and education opportunities.
- › Regular Community Legal Education provided to targeted groups of young people, particularly through VCAL and alternative education sites, such as through neighbourhood houses.

Service Partnerships

- › The No Wrong Door partnership has extended from the Yarra Ranges to all the Outer East municipalities facilitating effective referral for vulnerable young people.

THE FUTURE

- › Issues for young people (including 'sexting') feature ongoing education and partnership projects.
- › Supporting children within the context of family violence is a key feature of the Centre's partnership work, at Court and beyond. The Maternal and Child Health project (see Family Violence) will offer opportunities to build further partnerships with children, youth and family services.





Supporting children within the context of family violence is a key feature of the Centre's partnership work, at Court and beyond_



A night of celebration - 40 years, Eastern Community Legal Centre

Volunteers

THE VISION

Volunteering within ECLC has a strong and proud history. From humble beginnings in 1974 and despite the ever-changing landscape and demand for legal services, one constant remains – the unwavering support of nearly 100 volunteers. The true value of a volunteer’s work can be seen in each client who leaves the Centre empowered, is supported through the court process, or realises there is someone who can help. By generously gifting their expertise, passion, empathy and time, ECLC volunteers make a tangible difference everyday and are valued members of the ECLC team.

THE ACTION

Direct Legal Assistance

- › Dedicated teams of volunteer lawyers and paralegals provided targeted initial advice to clients, predominantly through the night service programs at Box Hill and Boronia.
- › A small, highly skilled team of Intervention Order Support Service paralegals provided dedicated support within the duty lawyer service at Ringwood Magistrate’s Court.
- › Casework paralegals increased the capacity of staff community lawyers to deliver direct legal services.

Projects and Partnerships

- › A dedicated team of volunteers within the Sort It! Deakin Legal Service for Students helped to build the profile of that program through partnership and community development activities, and publication development.
- › Volunteers engaged directly with community groups at festivals and assisted with the development of cultural publications within the community development program.

Celebrating Volunteers

- › ECLC joined with volunteers past and present, partners, agencies and friends for the Centre’s 40th birthday celebration in May, with over 200 participants.
- › 40 years of Volunteers – Four video presentations highlighted the development of the work across the decades and are available to view on the Centre’s website www.eclc.org.au/about-us-2/40-2.
- › The outstanding contribution of ECLC volunteers over the last four decades and the significant impact their service has made to the community was gratefully acknowledged.

THE FUTURE

- › Volunteer support will continue to be heavily relied upon to meet the increasing demand for direct legal services within the community.
- › Volunteers with diverse skills and interests will be welcomed to the service to complete discrete projects and build the capacity of the Centre in specific areas.

The ongoing support of these financial and other partners is gratefully acknowledged:

Victoria Legal Aid
Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Legal Services Board
Victoria Law Foundation
Department of Justice (Vic)
City of Boroondara
City of Whitehorse
Knox City Council
Manningham City Council
Maroondah City Council
Yarra Ranges Council
Helen Macpherson Smith Trust
Telematics Trust
Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission
Anglicare Victoria
Balwyn Welfare Association
Barwon Community Legal Service
Blackburn English Language School
Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service
Box Hill Citizens' Advice Bureau
Bulleen & Templestowe Community House
Camera Electrica
Carp Productions
Castan Centre for Human Rights Law (Monash University)
Centre for Multicultural Youth
Council On The Ageing (Victoria)
Court Network
Darwin Community Legal Service
Deakin University
Deakin University Student Association
Department of Human Services (Centrelink)
Devenish Lawyers
DLA Piper
Domestic Violence Victoria
Eastern Melbourne
Medicare Local
EACH
Eastern Health
Eastern Men's Behaviour Change Consortium
EDVOS (Eastern Domestic Violence Service)
EMR Family Violence Partnership
Family Access Network
Federation of Community Legal Centres
Gateway LLEN
Healesville Indigenous Community Services Association
Healesville Living and Learning Centre
Holding Redlich
Inner East Community Health
Inner East PCP
Inspiro Community Health Service
JH Legal
Justice Connect (formerly PILCH)
Knox Infolink
Loddon Campaspe CLC
Louise Multicultural Community Centre
Maurice Blackburn Lawyers
Migrant Information Centre (Eastern)
Moores Legal
NACLC
Northern Suburbs CLS (WA)
Outer East Health & Community Support Alliance
Redfern Legal Centre
Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (EMR)
Ringwood Family Relationship Centre
Ringwood Magistrates' Court
Robinson Gill Lawyers
Seniors Rights Victoria
Victoria Police
Wesley Mission Victoria
Whitehorse Community Health Centre
Women's Legal Service Victoria
Yarra Valley Community Health

VOLUNTEERS 2013_14

Jose Abalo
Anthony Angelopoulos
Elise Anselma
Leonie Bailey
Jessica Black
Bill Boucher
Nicola Carr
Jordana Cawood
Anna Chen
Rebecca Cohen
Karin Costenoble
Christine Cowin
Kristy Craig-Smith
Leigh Crosbie
Malcolm Cumming
Beth Dal Cin
Tony Daquino
Matthew Davies
Kim-Anh Do
Chantal Drysdale
Leah Dunning
Alex Dyason
Matthew Fong
Helen Gay
David Goddard
Rhonda Goodall
Sarah Grant
Tarnya Grey
Geraldine Griffiths
Richard Grossi
Craig Halfpenny
Chelsea Ives
Karen Jones
Alexis Keating
Helen Killmier
Anuja Krishnamurthy
Catherine Lam
Phoebe Langridge
Belinda Li
Rachael Lim
Natalie Ling
Maryclare Machen
Jacinta Magazzu
Thomas Mah
Rebecca March
Alex Marinis
Janet Matton
Luke McLean
Jeanette McRae
Andrew Meiliunas
Andrew Minahan
Chris Mitchell
Tony Monley
Bridie Murphy
Deshani Narangala
Peter Nicholas
Robert Nitti
Rebecca Nyok
Denise O'Shannassy
Stephanie Opeskin
Emily Ormerod
Shanii Palmer
Nick Pearce
Robert Phillips
Rachana Rajan
Sarah Reid
Jemma Ritchie
Victoria Roberts
Nigel Ross
Max Rowe
Sophie Rowe
Elise Rutherford
Courtney Salter
Kirrily Schwarz
Jenny Scicluna
Melissa Shenouda
Melissa Siah
Andrew Sinclair
Natesha Somasundaram
Beth Stewart
Rebecca Succar
Lynne Thomas
Paul Thompson
Liana Tommasini
Erin Varker
Amanda Vasiliou
Melinda Verlin
Jin Wang
Margaret Willis
Gavin Wiltshire
Xue-er Xiao
Rachel Yong
Shinkay Zohab

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Eastern Community Legal Centre Inc (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes for the financial year ended 30 June 2014.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of Eastern Community Legal Centre Inc are responsible for the preparation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act of Victoria 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibilities also includes such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, 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. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Eastern Community Legal Centre Inc as at 30 June 2014 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the Associations Incorporation Act of Victoria 2012.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Eastern Community Legal Centre Inc to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act of Victoria 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Signed on: 30TH OCTOBER, 2014

TST AUDIT & ASSURANCE PTY-LTD

TST Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd

Authorised Audit Company Number: 453122

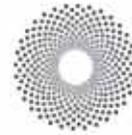
Chartered Accountants



Anthony Robert Ager

Director - Audit & Assurance

Chartered Accountants



**TST AUDIT
& ASSURANCE**

Director:

A. R. Ager CA, BEC, FTIA
Registered Company Auditor
Registered SMSF Auditor

TST Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd
Level 3, 448 St Kilda Road
Melbourne VIC 3004
Tel: +61 (0) 9620 0191
Fax: +61 (0) 9678 0026
prof@tstpartners.com.au
www.tstpartners.com.au

Registered company auditors



**Chartered
Accountants**

Financial Report

ECLC's operations again experienced significant growth with revenue increasing by 24% to \$1.77m. While the growth came from a range of programs, most significant were Commonwealth Attorney-Generals' Department and Victoria Legal Aid increases for the Yarra Ranges CLC and the Centre's family violence work, as well as the expansion of the Deakin University Students' Association partnership. The Centre concluded the year with a modest surplus of \$44,000, which is important, particularly given the withdrawal of \$200,000 of promised Commonwealth funds from July 2015.

ECLC's balance sheet shows net assets of some \$189,000. Current assets exceed current liabilities by a ratio of 1.4:1 indicating adequate liquidity to meet debts as and when they fall due. It should be noted however, that these net assets of \$189,000 represents only 10% of annual expenditure, which is a very limited buffer in the event of a material and unexpected interruption to funding. The Board acknowledge the effective management of ECLC's finances for the year and are very appreciative to funding bodies of their commitment to the Centre's work and community.

Audited Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2014

Board's Report

Your Board members submit the financial accounts of the Eastern Community Legal Centre Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2014.

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Helen Killmier	Tony Monley	Jose Abalo
Janet Matton	Marylclare Machen	Jenny Scicluna
Christine Cowin	Malcolm Cumming	Jeanette McRae

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were: Community legal services.

Significant Changes

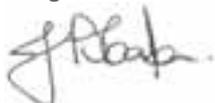
No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The profit from ordinary activities after providing for income tax amounted to

Year ended	Year ended
30 June 2014	30 June 2013
\$	\$
44,168	16,032

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board dated October 24 2014.



Janet Matton
Secretary



Jose Abalo
Deputy Chairperson

Income & Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2014

	2014 \$	2013 \$
INCOME		
CLC Recurrent - Commonwealth	359,012	197,500
CLC Recurrent - State	730,260	590,635
Local Government	75,165	65,956
Fundraising & Donations	21,755	12,535
Services & Other Income	72,386	44,115
Memberships	150	100
Community Partnerships	494,192	494,853
Interest received	14,375	16,394
Total income	1,767,295	1,422,088
EXPENSES		
STAFFING EXPENSES		
- Wages	1,177,873	981,248
- Superannuation Contributions	107,087	87,182
- Training & On Costs	80,022	84,024
- Workcover	4,924	2,387
	1,369,906	1,154,841
PROGRAM EXPENSES		
- Legal Practice	17,419	12,769
- Community Partnerships	56,224	37,553
- Program Expenses	41,916	47,048
- Volunteer Expenses	19,751	3,671
	135,310	101,041
PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT EXPENSES		
- Building Costs: R & M	15,160	13,834
- Building costs: Rent	56,363	52,192
- Depreciation	14,540	13,569
- Equipment Costs: R & M	19,060	15,889
- Insurance	4,899	5,737
- Motor Vehicle Costs	2,641	2,832
- Loss on Disposal of Asset	4,884	-
- Establishment - SYR	9,434	-
	126,982	104,053
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES		
- Board Costs	220	376
- Finance Costs	548	393
- Postage & Couriers	3,425	2,639
- Printing & Stationery	39,783	28,045
- Telephone	15,201	12,428
- Audit	6,873	2,240
- Accountancy	24,879	-
	90,929	46,121
Total expenses	1,723,127	1,406,056
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax	44,168	16,032
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities	-	-
Profit from ordinary activities after income tax	44,168	16,032
Profit (loss) from other comprehensive income after related income tax	-	20,000
Net profit attributable to the association	44,168	36,032
Total changes in equity of the association	44,168	36,032
Opening retained profits	145,257	109,225
Net profit attributable to the association	44,168	36,032
Closing retained profits	189,425	145,257

Detailed Balance Sheet

as at 30 June 2014

	2014 \$	2013 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
CASH ASSETS		
Cash At Bank - MECU Cheque A/C	3,618	7,436
Cash at Bank - MECU	8	9
Cash at Bank - Bendigo Bank Operating	166,283	168,057
Petty Cash - Box Hill	693	209
Petty Cash - Boronia	146	116
Petty Cash - Healesville	188	-
	170,935	175,827
RECEIVABLES		
Trade debtors	3,425	19,913
	3,425	19,913
OTHER		
Short term deposits - Bendigo Bank	381,758	300,830
Prepayments	3,892	7,046
Funding Income	9,478	5,000
Security Deposit	2,400	2,400
	397,529	315,276
Total Current Assets	571,889	511,016
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Shares in other companies	5	5
	5	5
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Motor vehicles - at cost	28,207	30,785
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(4,407)	(11,128)
Office Furniture & Equipment	109,634	97,051
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(69,976)	(78,576)
	63,457	38,132
Total Non-Current Assets	63,462	38,137
Total Assets	635,351	549,153
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
PAYABLES		
Unsecured:		
- Trade creditors	14,593	36,183
- Other creditors - PAYG Payable	23,026	23,178
- Accrued Expenses	13,618	-
- Superannuation	15,253	19,588
- Union Fees	23	110
- Wages Owing	5,154	-
	71,667	79,059
CURRENT TAX LIABILITIES		
GST payable control account	26,725	22,155
	26,725	22,155
PROVISIONS		
Provision for Holiday Pay	95,300	91,631
Provision for Long Service Leave	45,007	61,226
Provision for Sick Leave	9,000	9,000
Salary Sacrifice	-	1,730
	149,307	163,587

Detailed Balance Sheet cont.

	2014 \$	2013 \$
OTHER		
Income In Advance	149,417	139,095
	149,417	139,095
Total Current Liabilities	397,115	403,896
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
PROVISIONS		
Provision for Long Service Leave	48,811	-
	48,811	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities	48,811	-
Total Liabilities	445,926	403,896
Net Assets	189,425	145,257
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Accumulated surplus (deficit)	189,425	145,257
Total Members' Funds	189,425	145,257

Notes to the Financials

For the year ended 30 June 2014

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act of Victoria. The Board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

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

b_ Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the entity reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

c_ Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

d_ Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association 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 reasonably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

e_ Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

f_ Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

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

Notes to the Financials cont.

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 Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the assets and liabilities statement are shown inclusive of GST.

h_ Investments

Investments held are originally recognised at cost, which includes transaction costs. They 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.

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.

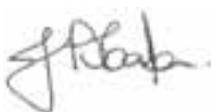
Statement by Members of the Board as at 30 June 2014

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

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

- 1_ Presents fairly the financial position of Eastern Community Legal Centre Inc as at 30 June 2014 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2_ At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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



Janet Matton
Secretary



Jose Abalo
Deputy Chairperson





unlocking the law since '74

BOX HILL OFFICE

Suite 3, Town Hall Hub
27 Bank Street, Box Hill 3128

Ph: 03 9285 4822
F: 03 9285 4833
E: eclc@eclc.org.au

Hours of operation

Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm
Tuesday to Thursday evenings

Inner East: serving the communities of Boroondara, Manningham and Whitehorse

Outreach to: Ashburton, Hawthorn, Bulleen, Ringwood Magistrates' Court, and Deakin University.

BORONIA OFFICE

Suite B, 6 Floriston Road
(PO Box 747) Boronia, 3155

P: 03 9762 6235
F: 03 9762 9751
E: outereast@eclc.org.au

Hours of operation

Monday to Thursday 9:00am to 5:00pm
Tuesday evenings

Outer East: serving the communities of Knox & Maroondah

Outreach to: Rowville, Ringwood FRC and Ringwood Magistrates' Court

HEALESVILLE OFFICE

Healesville Community Link
110 River Street
(PO Box 79) Healesville, 3777

Toll Free: 1300 79 70 88
E: yarraranges@eclc.org.au

Hours of operation

Tuesday to Thursday
9:00am to 5:00pm

Yarra Ranges: serving the communities of the Yarra Ranges

Outreach to: Lilydale, Yarra Glen, Yarra Junction and Ringwood Magistrates' Court.



eastern **community legal** centre

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