

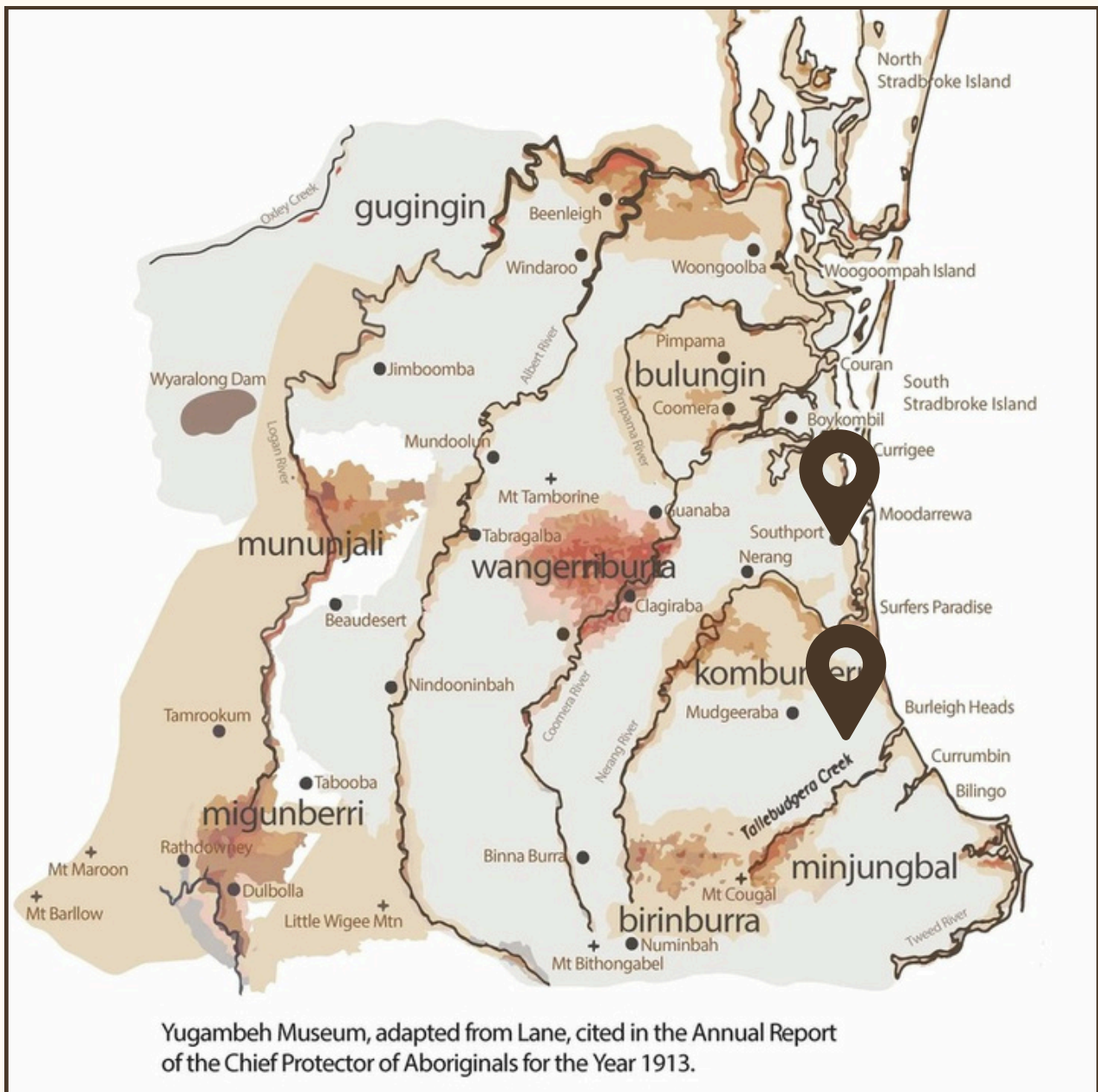
ANNUAL REPORT

2025

MY COMMUNITY LEGAL INC

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge and pay respects to the Kombumerri people of the Yugambah language group of the Gold Coast and all their descendants, both past and present. We also acknowledge the many Aboriginal people from other regions, as well as Torres Strait and South Sea Islander people who now live in the local area and have made an important contribution to the community.





Australian National Anthem

AUSTRALIANS ALL LET US REJOICE,
FOR WE ARE ONE AND FREE;
WE'VE GOLDEN SOIL AND WEALTH FOR TOIL;
OUR HOME IS GIRT BY SEA;
OUR LAND ABOUNDS IN NATURE'S GIFTS
OF BEAUTY RICH AND RARE;
IN HISTORY'S PAGE, LET EVERY STAGE
ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR.
IN JOYFUL STRAINS THEN LET US SING,
ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR.

BENEATH OUR RADIANT SOUTHERN CROSS
WE'LL TOIL WITH HEARTS AND HANDS;
TO MAKE THIS COMMONWEALTH OF OURS
RENOWNED OF ALL THE LANDS;
FOR THOSE WHO'VE COME ACROSS THE SEAS
WE'VE BOUNDLESS PLAINS TO SHARE;
WITH COURAGE LET US ALL COMBINE
TO ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR.
IN JOYFUL STRAINS THEN LET US SING,
ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR.



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About MCL

My Community Legal Inc. (MCL) is an independent initiative of the local legal profession via its Gold Coast District Law Association Inc. (GCDLA) and many collaborative partners. The other founding partners were the Queensland Law Society (QLS), Gold Coast City Council (GCCC) and Bond University (BU). MCL was formally launched by Sir Anthony Mason KBE at QLS/GCDLA Symposium Gold Coast 2013 and commenced operations in February 2014.

MCL's Purpose

The purpose of My Community Legal, is to provide safe, reliable, and accessible legal and related services that empower disadvantaged individuals to use the law, legal system, and other support services to protect and advance their rights. MCL also aims to promote ethical practice, professional standards, and acknowledgement of mental health within legal practitioners and student volunteers.

MCL's Mission

- ★ Build a sustainable and inspiring incorporated community legal centre practice.
- ★ Provide a free, responsive and accessible legal service to those who most need it.
- ★ Facilitate the local legal profession to donate pro bono publico services.
- ★ Promote holistic legal education of intending future legal practitioners through community volunteering.
- ★ Provide collaboration with and referral to appropriate private legal practitioners and charities to support clients with complex issues.



My Community Legal

G O L D C O A S T

We are a ...

Registered CLC

MCL has been a Community Legal Centres Queensland (CLCQ) member since its inception. It is the city's counterpart to the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre (GCCLC). MCL had a two-year start up process before operations commencement.

Accredited CLC

CLCQ is itself a member of Community Legal Centres Australia (CLCA). MCL gained CLCA accreditation in November 2014 and is covered by the national accreditation quality and insurance scheme.

Registered Charity & Deductable Gift Recipient

MCL is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) as; Advancing Social or Public Welfare; and a Public Benevolent Institution. Making it easier to procure private funding and donations, MCL is an Australian Taxation Office (ATO) Deductable Gift Recipient (DGR). All gifts over \$2 are tax deductible.

Law Practice & Incorporated Association

MCL is a law practice under the *Legal Profession Act 2007* and an association incorporated by the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* bearing registration number IA41079 and ABN 75 853 350 833.

Our Patron

Chief Justice Bowskill is a graduate of Queensland University of Technology Bachelor of Laws (Honours) (1995). Her Honour was the recipient of the university medal in 1995.

Chief Justice Bowskill was associate to the Honourable Justice Douglas Drummond, Federal Court of Australia in 1996. In 1998, her Honour was admitted as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland and was later appointed Queen's Counsel in 2013.

As a barrister, her Honour practised widely in the areas of public, administrative and commercial law with a particular focus on native title law. Between 2011 and 2014, Chief Justice Bowskill served as councillor on the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for the State of Queensland.

Her Honour was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland on 19 March 2022, having previously served as a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland (2017-2022), Senior Judge Administrator (2021-22), and a judge of the District Court of Queensland, the Childrens Court of Queensland and the Planning and Environment Court of Queensland (2014-17).



2025 Board



Ross Lee
President



David Lobbezoo
Vice-President



George Pharmacis
Treasurer



Mechelle Blue
Secretary

2025 Board



Chris Barron
Social



Andrew Bell
Information
Technologies



Mitch Brown
Community
Engagement



Miranda Podleska
Bond University
Engagement



Kirsty Paynter
Griffith University
Engagement

2025 Operations



Emily Flude

Coordinator

June 2025 – present



Samara Ballinger

Deputy Coordinator

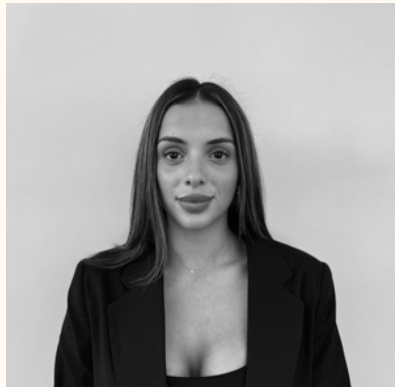
July 2025 – present



Sarah Galvin

Principal Solicitor

2022 – present



Enna Kantarevic

Deputy Social

2024 – June 2025



Dasha Chernova

Deputy Social

2024 – June 2025

President's Report

Much work over many years has resulted in our existence being common knowledge among most of our disadvantaged neighbours needing legal services; quite a feat.



The 2025 financial year has been a momentous one. Perhaps our most successful since inception. A fresh State government has brought with it, fresh opportunities. Since start-up in 2011, finally we are now a government core-funded, community legal centre. Our local State member, Minister Ros Bates, promised us many times in opposition that when taking government, her party would follow community expectations and provide us core funding (from the considerable tax revenue raised in Queensland's second largest city). And so it did.

What matters to our clients and what we deal with every day is what a family discusses around the kitchen table. When it comes to policy and spending our money, can I ask all representatives to focus less on identity politics and ideology; more on practicality and value for money – including when it comes to regulating and funding CLCs.

I thank Justice Bowskill for her kind patronage. I sincerely respect our Patron's commitment to remain an actively practising Judge, as well as discharge Her Honour's duties as Chief Justice; being patron of many charities, including us. It is inspiring to both lead and do justice according to law.

President's Report

When we donate time to families in need at this law practice, the trade-off is time with our own families. Sometimes that could just be watching television but other times it means dinner going cold or children going to bed without saying goodnight. So thank you volunteers. Even though most clients show a lot of gratitude, I want to thank you, too.

We are blessed with a united and disciplined Team. Thank you to our hard-working board, especially George Pharmacis treasurer and David Lobbezoo vice-president. Also Chris Barron, Andrew Bell, Mitch Brown, Samuli Haataja and now Kirsty Paynter, (Griffith University representatives), Mandy Shircore (Southern Cross University representative); and Miranda Podleska, Bond University representative. Samuli and Mandy retired from MCL last year. We give thanks for their service and wish them all the best. Special mentions go to association secretary Mechelle Blue and treasury EA, Andrew Ibrahim.

Our engine room is something to behold. It's headed up by principal solicitor Sarah Galvin, and coordinators Emily Flude and Samara Ballinger. Enna Kantarevic and Dasha Chernova retired last year. All are dedicated hard workers. MCL is overwhelmingly volunteer-powered and most go far beyond the call of duty. I will let our operations team mention some of them, including award winners.



President's Report

AGM celebrations this year are hosted by our founding partner, Bond University. We could not operate without support from our sponsors and other benefactors. To name a few they include: landlord and funder Gold Coast City Council, the St Vincent de Paul Society, university partners Bond and Griffith, Toshiba, de Groot Publishing and charity trustee Julanne Shearer. Thanks indeed Professors Nick James, Therese Wilson and staff. We are also building relationships with UQ, QUT and SCU.

In community engagement, I am pleased to report that our referral pathways are blossoming in areas such as family violence, accommodation, social work, financial counselling and psychological care. Our volunteers have attended many collaborative meetings with local associations.

I am grateful for the City's support, including Mayor Tate and our local Councillors Dan Doran and Glenn Tozer. Thank you sincerely to local member, Minister Ros Bates, Attorney-General Frecklington, Treasurer Janetzki and all Gold Coast parliamentarians including Leon Rebello and Shadow Attorney General Meaghan Scanlon MP. This support includes, but goes far beyond, grants and funding.



Revenue keeps the lights on. We receive it from Queensland government, our City of Gold Coast, university partners Bond and Griffith and members: ordinary, associate and corporate. Also, donations from Vinnies, the Mudgeeraba Uniting Church, other faith and non-faith based charities. Our copiers are subsidised by Toshiba. Plus of course, donations from our lovely clients.

President's Report



We are still actively supported by the Gold Coast District Law Association (of which we are an independent initiative), Queensland Law Society and the Law Council of Australia. Thank you again to DLA president Anna Morgan and committee. Anna has volunteered with us from the start. Community Legal Centres Queensland and Australia have been tremendously helpful in helping us navigate the always demanding national accreditation scheme. Thank you Rosslyn Monro, Penny Sullivan and the Team.

Having operated for 12 years, we have thousands of student alumni. Whatever the university, this shared experience gives alumni a professional commonality. And quite a few, like Carmen Baldwin, come back as solicitors.

I am still impressed by the capability of solicitors volunteering with us. You of course are our core asset. This MCL network provides a professional friend in all areas of legal practice. It really helps. And finally, thank you clients. The legal profession remains at your service, pro bono publico.

Ross Lee
President

Operations Report

The Operations Team has worked hard this past year to continue to ensure My Community Legal delivers free legal advice to Gold Coasters who cannot afford it. We have continued to deliver a professional, quality legal service thanks to our volunteers.



The hard work of our Coordinators across the year has led to an increase in the number of volunteer lawyers supporting our service. We have also enjoyed a renewal in student helpers in our support teams, such as Marketing and Accreditation. These volunteers are absolutely crucial to support our operation teams in meeting our compliance obligations and broader operations.

Our service delivery has continued to improve and evolve with the transition to a new case management system. Doing so will bring our systems into the modern era and provide our students with more real-life practice experience. The decommissioning of the previous case management system, CLASS, has been a natural opportunity to upgrade our system. Over the last year, we have been working to identify a new system involving meetings with vendors and negotiations over price and applying for a grant to cover the cost of our data migration.

The new provider has been selected, board-approved, had grants approved for it, and, as a result, our changeover is currently underway. The work on this enterprise has been ongoing since the last AGM, and we should be enjoying the results shortly, with the transition expected to be completed by mid-November 2025.

Operations Report

We are also grateful to Meghan, particularly, at Sharing Minds, who provided access to AllM for us with a huge discount/corporate gift. When they said to us that they "don't want to leave any CLC behind", their actions matched their words.



In 2025, we have undergone our 5-yearly review and inspection as part of our ongoing accreditation as a Community Legal Centre. Our volunteer students assisted us greatly in the preparation for our inspection. Our social media presence continues to be regular and professional as a result of our student volunteers.

We have continued in our effort to sustain connections in the local community, in the legal profession and with our educational partners. We continue to see clients referred to us from a range of community and other organisations.



The Operations Team has ensured MCL has been present at law functions and conferences to continue our presence within the profession, such as the AGM for the Gold Coast District Law Association and being a stallholder at the Gold Coast Symposium. We are grateful to Anna Morgan and her efforts to again have the GCDLA fundraising for our service at their AGM. We are always well received by practitioners at the Gold Coast Symposium, and it offers our students an opportunity to attend a professional event and meet our local practitioners (and future colleagues).

Operations Report

Our Operations Team has been part of the advocacy for MCL's future. We have participated in media opportunities with Ros Bates pre-and post-election as part of a campaign for government funding. Our Coordinator Dasha also attended the meeting with the Hon Deb Frecklington in Brisbane. Throughout the year, we have also hosted visits by Shadow Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, the Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP and have met with the Hon Leon Rebello MP, member for the Federal seat of McPherson.



It has been a delight to visit and enjoy an enhanced relationship with our university associates. The Griffith University Health Clinic student social workers continued to attend our Robina advice night until recently, and from the experience, an academic journal article has been submitted for publication. It was a privilege to be asked to contribute to this paper.



We have been present and advertising to students at Careers Fairs, with Emily and Kyo (Team Leader and Head of Policy and Accreditation) attending at Griffith University, and Samara and Anna attending the SCU Careers Fair. I have also been privileged to be invited to sit as a judge at the finals for the Griffith LSA competitions. We have been receiving students from the University of Queensland already, and we have been liaising with QUT, resulting in arrangements to receive students on placement in the new year.

Operations Report



We have been active at local community events with our Coordinator Emily attending the opening of the time capsule with local councillor Dan Doran. Sarah, David and Enna attended the Veterans Health Expo in October 2024 with a stall for MCL, which provided us with more engagement within our community.

In August, the QLS Excellence in Law Awards provided another opportunity for MCL to showcase our work, with our Principal Solicitor being named a finalist in two categories thanks to two of our volunteers. We put together a contingent to dress up and head to Brisbane for the awards ceremony, and despite not bringing home an award, it was an opportunity for My Community Legal to be visible in the profession and acknowledged at the finalist stage.

I would like to finish by personally thanking the students who have served as Coordinator, and in our senior volunteer roles over the last year (our Deputy Coordinators, Team Leaders and in our committees). I rely on the Coordinators, in particular, quite heavily to keep MCL operating as a successful legal practice; however, the job is much bigger than that. They all bring incredible talent and leadership skills and go above and beyond many times over. I hope the experience has given them valuable skills and lessons they can take on their journeys into legal practice. I am forever grateful for their contribution.

Sarah Galvin
Principal Solicitor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sarah Galvin', written over a white background.

Our Team

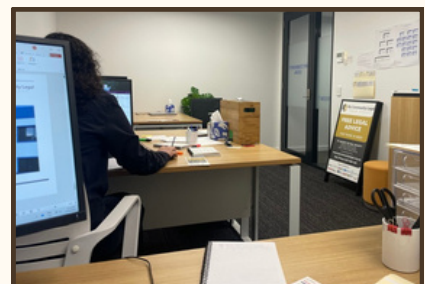
Our Operations Team has seen a lot of changes in 2025. Our previous Robina Coordinator, Enna Kantarevic, and Southport Coordinator, Dasha Chernova, have stepped down to pursue other opportunities. They have gone above and beyond in supporting MCL's smooth, continued operation, and we are very grateful for their dedication to pursuing our mission.

Emily Flude and Samara Ballinger are warmly welcomed as the new Robina and Southport outreach coordinators. Their leadership and expertise are highly valued, and their contributions will undoubtedly strengthen the organisation's mission to support the community. Both Emily and Samara are wished much success as they begin their roles, with anticipation for the positive impact they will bring to the outreach efforts.

Technology

We have been preparing to transition to a new case management system called AIIM (previously 'Consensus for Purpose'), a bespoke CLC practice management software originally designed by a Consortium of CLCs. It is based on Microsoft and will work smoothly with our current systems, office PCs and advice night laptops.

We have also been excited to use some of our new DOJ funding on two new printers – one for Robina, and one for Southport – as our old ones experienced a series of technical issues throughout 2025.



Robina Clinic

Our primary clinic in the Robina Community Centre continues to see clients every Thursday evening from 5–9 pm. Since our 2024 AGM, we have provided more than 1,000 discrete client advice sessions, and hundreds of referrals. These sessions are vital to our mission and prove the value of MCL's contribution to the local Gold Coast community.

Our practitioners have been providing invaluable support by offering remote assistance to clients on specific legal matters, ensuring that help is available beyond the physical clinic.

Additionally, we continue to have practitioners available to attend the clinic in person, offering face-to-face consultations for those who prefer or require in-person assistance. This dual approach of remote and in-person availability ensures we can cater to a wide range of client needs while maintaining accessibility and service quality.



Southport Outreach

Our Southport Outreach continues to advise clients who experience barriers to attending our Robina Clinic, such as demanding work schedules, disabilities, distance, and carer responsibilities. We do so both remotely and in person.

Appointments are held between 7:30 am – 11 am and 5 pm – 8 pm on Tuesdays and fortnightly on Thursdays from 6 pm. Doing so provides our clients flexibility and lets us provide as much advice as possible.

We have had fluctuating client numbers at Southport throughout the year, but are incredibly humbled to be able to help some of the most vulnerable members of our community. We are exceptionally grateful to the lovely St Vincent De Paul staff, and of course to our phenomenal volunteer students and lawyers.



University Partnerships

Our clinic continues to evolve to enhance client support and expand educational opportunities. Earlier in the year, we welcomed social work students from the Griffith University Health Clinic to our Robina Advice Nights, where they were able to offer direct support and quick referrals to support services, complementing our advice. Although they ran into issues and have not attended advice nights in the latter half of the year, we expect to collaborate again in 2026. This is a unique model, and it has been a learning curve for both MCL and the Griffith University Health Clinic.



We have continued our relationships with Griffith University and Bond University. We continue to offer students volunteering opportunities through the Bond Legal Clinics Program each semester. These students also often continue with us after their semester requirement. We continue to offer both volunteering as an extracurricular and for credit through Griffith, and we maintain a steady intake of students throughout the year.

Over the course of the year, we have also developed a new relationship with QUT. This will allow their students to complete volunteering with us for credit towards their degrees; we expect our first intake of QUT students early in 2026.

We hope to further develop our relationships with current partners and look forward to engaging with new universities in the new year.



Grants and Funding

The Operations Team has been working with the board's executive to seek government funding for MCL, including participating in visits to the Attorney-General and media events. This regular annual funding for five years provides security for our services and ensures we can not only keep operating, but also grow.



The Robina Lions Club has generously donated \$2000 to our organisation and sends thanks for what we do for our community. We were also privileged to be invited to attend the AGM and receive the funds raised through raffles at the Gold Coast District Law Association, totalling just over \$2000.

In July, Operations achieved a one-off grant of \$14,900 (plus GST) from the Department of Justice to meet the cost of our data migration from CLASS to our new case management system, AIIM (formerly Consensus for Purpose). The grant open to other CLCs was not open to us, as we are not funded under the NLAP program. This has been an incredible support in this change and has enabled us to preserve our primary grant funds for operational matters. We are very grateful for the Department's support.

We are also grateful to Sharing Minds, who provided access to AIIM for us with a considerable discount / corporate gift equating to a discount of roughly 50% on their already reasonable fees for access to their services, and free licenses for volunteers – many thanks to Andrew Bell for assisting the Operations Team with the transition and technical arrangements.

Community Engagement



The 2024–2025 year has been one of connection, collaboration, and growth for the Community Engagement team. While we welcomed a new team and continued to strengthen our relationships with the community, our focus has remained on compassion and access to support.

We are proudly supported by the Gold Coast District Law Association (of which we are an independent initiative), the Queensland Law Society, and the Law Council of Australia. We remain deeply grateful for the ongoing support of the City of Gold Coast, as well as the St Vincent de Paul Society and our university partners: Bond University and Griffith University. These partnerships have continued to flourish and are essential to our work.

This year, we were particularly excited to embrace social work students from Griffith University, who joined our Robina advice nights to assist clients and provide referrals through the Griffith University Health Clinic.

We were honoured to be nominated for a Safer Communities Award this year which is a testament to the dedication and compassion of our entire team and volunteer network. Our Treasurer, George Pharmacis, was highly commended at this event.



Community Engagement

to name just a few of our engagements this year: we were proud to attend the Veterans Health & Support Expo at Currumbin RSL, which brought together 35 organisations and community groups. It was a valuable opportunity to raise awareness and connect with veterans. We attended the GCDLA's AGM, where we sold raffle tickets to raise over \$2,500, which we have reinvested into MCL. We were stallholders at the QLS Gold Coast Legal Expo.



Our clinic's continued growth reflects the strength of our community connections and the ongoing collaboration between our dedicated partners, volunteers, and supporters. We are also proud to celebrate the inclusion of various Victim Assist materials in our waiting area, offering valuable information and support resources to clients.

Looking ahead, we are developing new initiatives and partnerships, and updating our referral and service lists to ensure we continue to deliver holistic and client-centred support to every client.



Volunteer Relations



At MCL, our volunteer practitioners remain the driving force behind our ability to serve the community. Throughout the year, their generosity and expertise have empowered the delivery of quality legal advice to those who need it most.

Our Southport clinic has benefited from the consistent support of six dedicated practitioners, who have balanced in-person and remote consultations to meet our clients' varied needs. At Robina, >20 practitioners contribute on Thursday evenings, building a strong network that provides face-to-face and remote assistance to our community.

In 2025, we strengthened practitioner engagement and growing our volunteer network. The Volunteer Relations Team has been proactive in connecting with practitioners at various legal events, growing involvement in MCL. These efforts are vital to sustaining our services and expanding our capacity to support more clients in the year ahead.

We also take this opportunity to recognise the outstanding commitment of our Vice-President, David Lobbezoo, who recorded the highest number of client consultations this year. His dedication exemplifies the spirit of MCL and highlights the collective impact that all of our practitioners make possible.

Volunteer Practitioner Highlight

Volunteering at MCL has reaffirmed for me that community legal centres are an indispensable part of our justice system. The work we do at MCL often extends beyond the immediate legal issue. It's about helping clients find pathways to safety, stability, and empowerment. I've witnessed clients leave the clinic lighter, not because all their problems have been solved, but because they've been given the tools and confidence to take the next step. Those moments stay with you.



Family law and domestic violence work are, by their nature, emotionally complex areas of practice. They require not only a deep understanding of the law but also patience, empathy, and a capacity to hold space for people in distress.

For me, volunteering at MCL is more than a professional contribution; it's a continual reminder of what it means to practise law with purpose. It reinforces that the heart of this profession lies not just in advocacy, but in service. Being part of a team that upholds those values, week after week, is something I deeply value. It's a privilege to stand beside people in moments of uncertainty and help them move toward clarity and hope. My time at MCL continues to shape the kind of lawyer I strive to be, one who leads with empathy, integrity, and an unwavering belief in the importance of accessible justice for all.

Chamudi Himara

Volunteer Practitioner (Robina)

Volunteer Relations

Our student volunteers bring energy, curiosity, and a willingness to learn that enhances our services. Students play a crucial role in our advice nights, assisting with client intake and supporting casework. These experiences allow them to develop practical skills in client relations and case management while also working alongside practising solicitors from the local community.

Beyond advice nights, students run our administration, gaining valuable insights into the day-to-day operations of a law practice, and many also take on roles in marketing, accreditation, community engagement, and volunteer relations, broadening their exposure to the diverse facets of community legal work. Many of our student volunteers have gone on to progress into leadership positions, such as Team Leader, reflecting both their growth in confidence and the nurturing environment we strive to provide.



This year, we also reintroduced monthly socials, creating a space for both student and practitioner volunteers to connect outside of their formal roles, strengthen camaraderie, and build a supportive community at MCL

Student Volunteer Highlight

I began volunteering with My Community Legal Inc., in March as an Advice Night Student Volunteer at Robina and an Administrative Assistant at Southport. This was my first real legal experience, and it has been an integral step in my journey as an aspiring lawyer.

Through MCL, I've had the opportunity to gain hands-on experience across a wide range of practice areas while giving back to the community, which has always been a goal of mine throughout my legal career.

Working alongside dedicated volunteer lawyers has deepened my understanding of community law and strengthened my practical skills. I've also enjoyed connecting with like-minded students and practitioners who share a genuine passion for helping others.



More recently, I was fortunate to step into a Team Leader role, mentoring new volunteers and supporting advice nights. I'm incredibly grateful for this experience and recommend MCL to any law student seeking their first legal opportunity.

Finn Woodcock

Team Leader (Robina and Southport)

Marketing



This year, the Marketing Team has played a vital role in ensuring that information about our services is readily accessible to community members in need of legal advice. Through platforms such as Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook, the team has had another fruitful year of amplifying our mission, garnering community support and informing those in need of our services and initiatives.

Marketing is an important link between the Gold Coast community and us – a link that we must continuously work to strengthen. Practical guidance on our services, projects and events, as well as a chance to see the contributions of our volunteer workforce, are important ways we build a sense of trust and transparency between clients and us.

More than 750 posts across our platforms have given clients and prospective volunteers alike a sense of the clinic's character and values. The posts to our Instagram alone reach an average of 10,000 views a month, showing the tremendous reach that can be achieved by our dedicated team through consistently engaging with the community via social media.

Our Marketing Team has this year effectively advertised successful community social events and our AGM, recognised exceptional practitioners and students monthly, and continues to inform the community of our services.

The year opened with our Marketing Team led by Lilliana Swainson, who has since moved on after graduating. In September, Phoebe Appleton took over with a new team, and has brought back many initiatives – Feedback Friday, monthly socials, and recognition of our community awards.

We would like to congratulate our Principal Solicitor, Sarah Galvin, for being shortlisted for the Access to Justice Award and, in her private practice, for Queensland Practitioner of the Year (Sole Practitioner).

In addition to promoting our mission, our team have recognised the ongoing contributions of our stakeholders and partner organisations by sharing our involvement in their operations. For example, our platform has been used to show our collaboration with the Gold Coast District Law Association, as well as Bond University, Griffith University and the University of Queensland – institutions through which many of our volunteers are sourced.

Overall, the efforts of the MCL Marketing Team this year are a great reflection of MCL's aim to make justice accessible, and to empower the community through connection and support.



Accreditation

In September, Community Legal Centres Queensland conducted a site visit to evaluate MCL's compliance with the National Accreditation Scheme – a set of standards and requirements to ensure operational quality and promote continuous improvement. They inspected our Robina office, reviewed policies, and interviewed our volunteers. We also completed our PII Cross-Check with Pine Rivers CLC. We received great feedback from both!

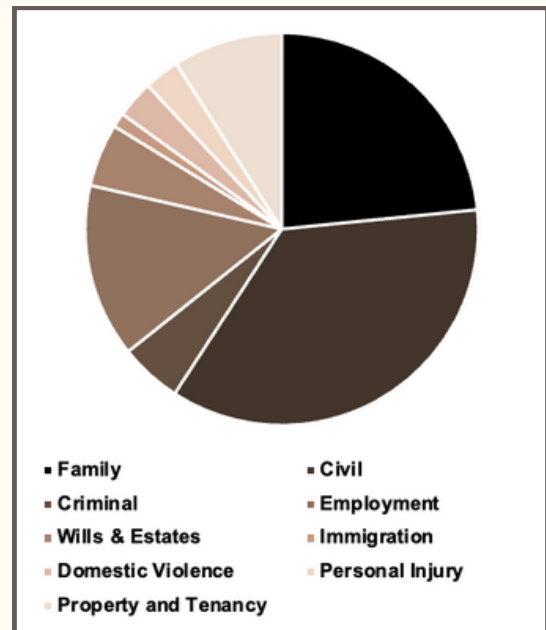
The team would like to thank Emily, Samara, and Sarah for their monumental efforts in preparing for the visit, as well as members of the Accreditation Team for assisting them in that process. We also thank the volunteers who participated in the site visit, countless other volunteers who otherwise engaged in the process, and Community Legal Centres Queensland for their time.

Our Accreditation Team is excited to continue to maintain our compliance with NAS, ensure our procedures and policies are up to date, and facilitate continuous improvement in My Community Legal's operations.

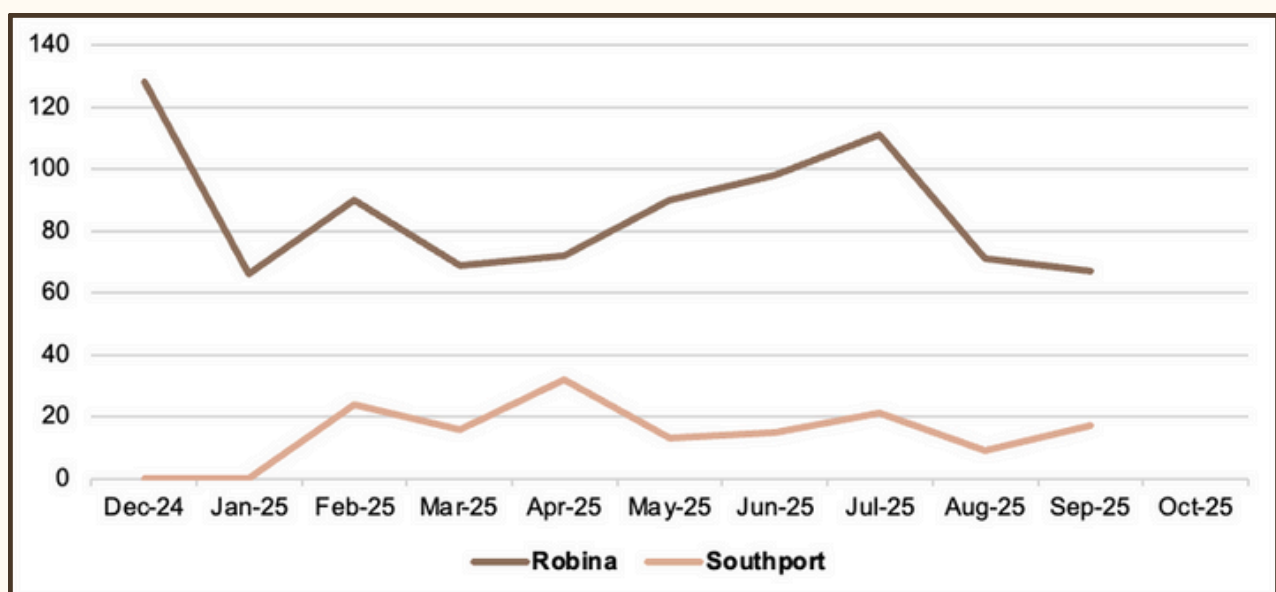


Services Summary

In 2025, we provided 1,097 advice sessions to 728 unique clients. Of these, 14% were delivered through our Southport outreach. The most common area of law was family law, followed closely by civil and wills and estates matters. Thank you to all of our practitioners, especially those who were consistently reliable – the Gold Coast community are exceptionally grateful.



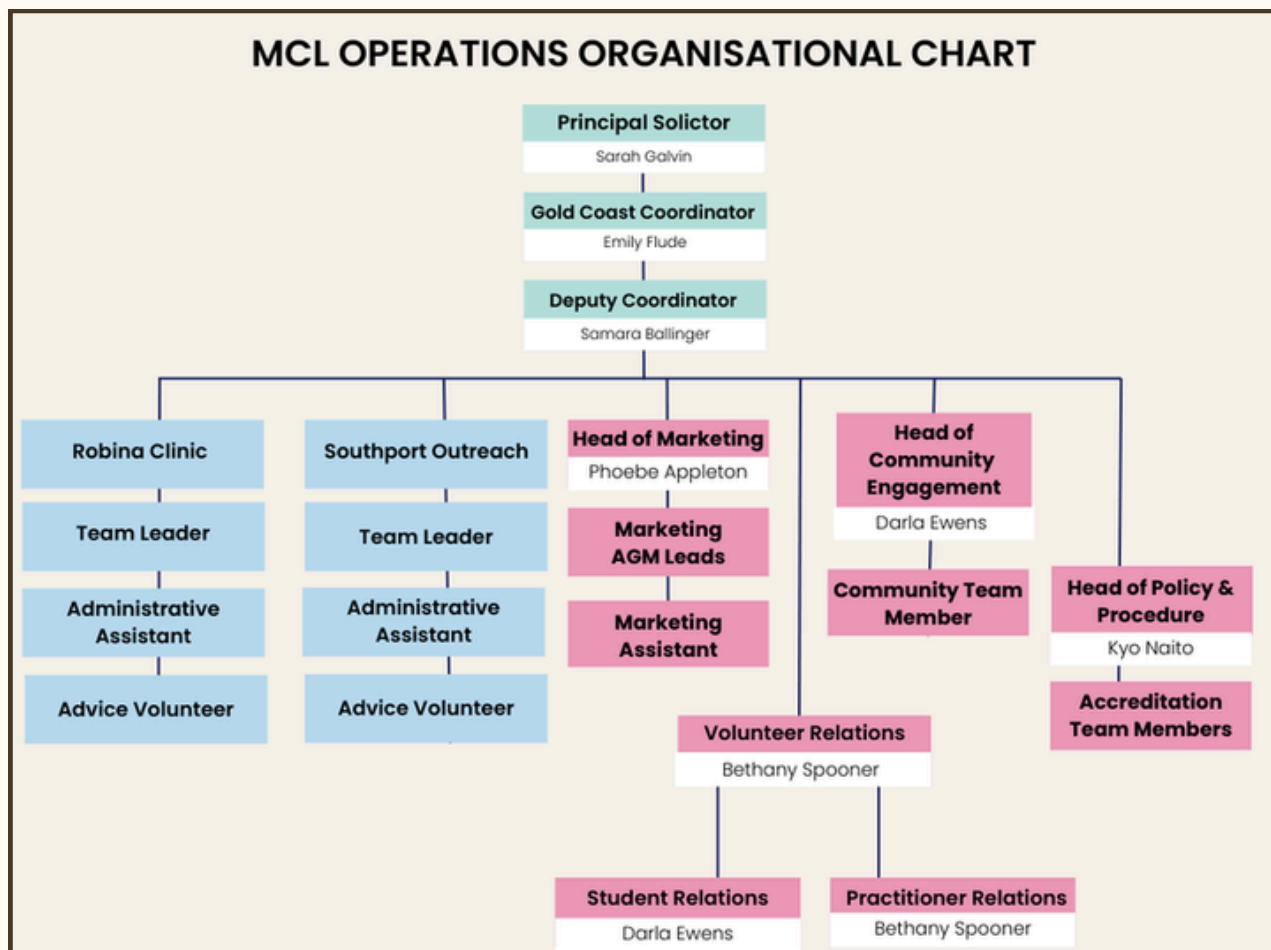
We have seen fluctuating client numbers throughout the year. As usual, we get fewer clients and practitioners during bad weather, school and public holidays, etc. Similarly, as we have improved our administration process throughout 2025, we have seen an increase in client turnaways due to conflicts of interest, lack of financial disadvantage; additionally, low practitioner numbers have limited our capacity towards the end of the year.



No of Clients Per Month

Our median client is 35-49, financially disadvantaged, and identifies as a woman. Approximately 6% experience a disability or mental illness, 9% are culturally and linguistically diverse, 4% were experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and 1% required a translator to facilitate their appointment.

This year, we have seen very high student volunteer numbers, especially at our Robina clinic. Other than during university holidays, we frequently saw 15-20 students excited to donate their time to our organisation. As such, throughout the latter half of 2025, we have rebuilt our operations team and have started work on several exciting initiatives behind the scenes! Thank you to all our student volunteers – past, present and future – operations team members, team leaders, coordinators and deputy coordinators, board members, and volunteer practitioners for bringing MCL’s vision to life.



Award Recipients

Zach Southey

Volunteer of the Year

Kyonosuke Naito

Runner Up

Volunteer of the Year

Bond University

Best University

Griffith University

Runner Up

Best University

Ben O'Brien

Practitioner of the Year

Chamudi Himara

Runner Up

Practitioner of the Year

Jade Arbuthnot

Griffith University

Student of the Year

Finn Woodcock

Griffith University

Runner Up

Student of the Year

Andrew Ibrahim

Treasury and Grants

Executive Assistant

Darla Ewens

Bond University

Student of the Year

Julanne Shearer

Best Mentor

Jessica Munnery

Bond University

Runner Up

Student of the Year

David Lobbezoo

Most Clients Seen

Treasurer's Report

The table below summarises our selected historical financial information for each of the last two years. The summary of operations data for the years ended 30 June 2024 and 2025, and the balance sheet data as of 30 June 2024 and 2025, have been derived from the audited Financial Statements of which only the 30 June 2025 statement is enclosed. The historical selected financial information may not be indicative of future performance.

A \$1,025,000 (excluding GST) funding agreement was signed with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG), payable in amounts of \$205,000 (excluding GST) per year for the next five years.

MCL received the sum of \$50,000 from the Trustee's Julanne Shearer and Barry Cronin for the Eileen Wallace Trust. We also received proceeds from \$2,500 from GCDLA raffle.

MCL continues its partnerships with Bond University, Griffith University, Southern Cross, and the St Vincent de Paul Society. Assisting MCL since its inception, MCL could not have survived without their assistance.

MCL thanks the Queensland Law Society and the Gold Coast City Council for their ongoing support since the launch of their free legal service to the community.

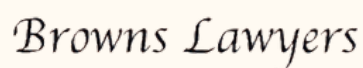
MCL also thanks its Corporate Partners Browns Lawyers, BGM Lawyers, Collas Moro Ross Solicitors, Lee Lawyers and Pharmacia Canning Lawyers.

Treasurer's Report

My Community Legal Inc Detailed Profit and Loss Statement For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Income		
Grants received	100,000.00	61,400.00
Donations - public	56,359.71	3,078.70
Donations - university	15,000.00	25,000.00
Raffle tickets	2,947.79	
Partnership proposal income	10,000.00	10,000.00
Ordinary membership	4,410.00	6,814.22
Corporate membership	1,320.00	660.00
Functions income	390.00	2,158.42
Total income	<u>190,427.50</u>	<u>109,111.34</u>
Expenses		
Audit fees	786.50	715.00
Bank Fees And Charges	49.82	
Bookkeeping fees	880.00	1,200.00
Depreciation - plant	9,502.00	6,034.00
Fees & registrations	1,681.44	1,608.11
Insurance	726.01	2,106.57
Loss on disposal of office equipment		31.00
Merchant fees	129.20	162.10
Office expenses	2,096.81	1,553.45
Rent expense	12,894.15	11,057.76
Subscriptions	1,048.74	859.20
Superannuation	8,141.03	11,920.35
Telephone & internet	3,239.13	3,204.44
Wages	70,791.35	89,413.39
Total expenses	<u>111,966.18</u>	<u>129,865.37</u>
Profit from Ordinary Activities before income tax	<u>78,461.32</u>	<u>(20,754.03)</u>

Thank You to Our Sponsors



And to Our Raffle Prize Donors



And to Our Raffle Prize Donors



**MY COMMUNITY
LEGAL INC**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30 JUNE 2025



**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION TO THE COMMITTEE OF
MY COMMUNITY LEGAL INCORPORATED**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2025, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

WSC GROUP – AUDIT PTY LTD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A F Gilbert'.

A F Gilbert, CA

Director

Authorised Audit Company No. 527749

04 November 2025

My Community Legal Inc
Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash assets	8	133,635.61	18,107.93
Receivables	9	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>35,000.00</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>143,635.61</u>	<u>53,107.93</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	14	<u>28,507.00</u>	<u>38,009.00</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>28,507.00</u>	<u>38,009.00</u>
Total Assets		<u>172,142.61</u>	<u>91,116.93</u>
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Current tax liabilities	18	4,644.00	2,420.00
Provisions	19	<u>1,985.04</u>	<u>1,644.68</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>6,629.04</u>	<u>4,064.68</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>6,629.04</u>	<u>4,064.68</u>
Net Assets		<u>165,513.57</u>	<u>87,052.25</u>
Equity			
Retained profits		<u>165,513.57</u>	<u>87,052.25</u>
Total Equity		<u>165,513.57</u>	<u>87,052.25</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

My Community Legal Inc
Profit and Loss Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Operating profit before income tax	78,461.32	(20,754.03)
Income tax (credit) attributable to operating profit (loss)		
Operating profit after income tax	78,461.32	(20,754.03)
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year	87,052.25	107,806.28
Total available for appropriation	165,513.57	87,052.25
Retained profits at the end of the financial year	165,513.57	87,052.25

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

My Community Legal Inc
Detailed Profit and Loss Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Income		
Grants received	100,000.00	61,400.00
Donations - public	56,359.71	3,078.70
Donations - university	15,000.00	25,000.00
Raffle tickets	2,947.79	
Partnership proposal income	10,000.00	10,000.00
Ordinary membership	4,410.00	6,814.22
Corporate membership	1,320.00	660.00
Functions income	390.00	2,158.42
Total income	<u>190,427.50</u>	<u>109,111.34</u>
Expenses		
Audit fees	786.50	715.00
Bank Fees And Charges	49.82	
Bookkeeping fees	880.00	1,200.00
Depreciation - plant	9,502.00	6,034.00
Fees & registrations	1,681.44	1,608.11
Insurance	726.01	2,106.57
Loss on disposal of office equipment		31.00
Merchant fees	129.20	162.10
Office expenses	2,096.81	1,553.45
Rent expense	12,894.15	11,057.76
Subscriptions	1,048.74	859.20
Superannuation	8,141.03	11,920.35
Telephone & internet	3,239.13	3,204.44
Wages	70,791.35	89,413.39
Total expenses	<u>111,966.18</u>	<u>129,865.37</u>
Profit from Ordinary Activities before income tax	<u><u>78,461.32</u></u>	<u><u>(20,754.03)</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity as defined in Statement of Accounting Concepts 1 "Definition of the Reporting Entity".

Basis of Preparation

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012. These statements have been prepared on an accruals basis, from the records of the association. They are based on historical costs and do not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non current assets.

The entity is a non-for-profit for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Corporations Act 2001 and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the committee has determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The material accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of the statements are as follows:

Accounting Policies

(a) Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment are carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the committee to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the asset's employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are recognised immediately in profit or loss. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

My Community Legal Inc
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2025

2025

2024

Note 8: Cash assets

Bank accounts:

Cash at bank - Suncorp account 509157123	133,635.61	18,107.93
	<u>133,635.61</u>	<u>18,107.93</u>

Note 9: Receivables

Current

Amounts receivable	10,000.00	35,000.00
	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>35,000.00</u>

Note 14: Property, Plant and Equipment

Office equipment:

- At cost	44,019.00	44,019.00
- Less: Accumulated depreciation	(15,512.00)	(6,010.00)
	<u>28,507.00</u>	<u>38,009.00</u>
	<u>28,507.00</u>	<u>38,009.00</u>

Note 18: Tax Liabilities

Current

Amounts withheld from salary and wages	4,644.00	2,420.00
	<u>4,644.00</u>	<u>2,420.00</u>

Note 19: Provisions

Current

Superannuation payable	1,985.04	1,644.68
	<u>1,985.04</u>	<u>1,644.68</u>

My Community Legal Inc
Statement by Members of Committee
For the year ended 30 June 2025

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

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

1. Presents fairly the financial position of My Community Legal Inc as at 30 June 2025 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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

Ross Andrew Lee
President



George Pharmacis
Treasurer



04 November 2025



**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
MY COMMUNITY LEGAL INCORPORATED**

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of **My Community Legal Incorporated**, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025 and the statement of profit or loss, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and committee's declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- (ii) complying with the *Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Association to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

BRANCHES AT:

SYDNEY SOUTH SYDNEY CBD BRISBANE
NEWCASTLE MELBOURNE GOLD COAST

info@wscgroup.com.au
ABN 88 660 087 418



**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
MY COMMUNITY LEGAL INCORPORATED. (CONT'D)**

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance

The responsible entities of the Association are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

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

WSC Group - Audit Pty Ltd

A F Gilbert CA
Director

Dated this 4th day of November 2025

THANK YOU FOR 2025

