

2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT



My Community Legal
G O L D C O A S T



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this area, including the Yugambeh people and family groups within, and recognise their connection to the land, waters and resources in the area now known as the Gold Coast. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

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ABOUT MY COMMUNITY LEGAL

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.

OUR 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.

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

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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 and 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.

The Honourable Chief Justice Helen Bowskill **Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland**

- 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).



2024 BOARD

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Ross Lee

President, Acting Secretary



David Lobbezoo

Vice President



George Pharmacis

Treasurer



Andrew Bell

Board Member, Compliance



Chris Barron

Board Member, Social



Mitch Brown

Board Member, Community
Engagement



2024 BOARD

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Dr Samuli Haatja

Board Member Griffith University,
Engagement



Mandy Shircore

Board Member, Southern Cross
University Engagement



Miranda Podleska

Board Member, Bond University
Engagement



**Uncle Alfred 'Alfie'
Summers**

Board Member, Indigenous
Engagement

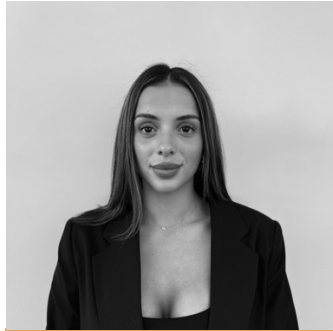


2024 OPERATIONS

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Sarah Galvin
Principal Solicitor



Enna Kantarevic
Gold Coast Coordinator



Dasha Chernova
Southport Coordinator



Chumani Brookehouse
Gold Coast Coordinator
2023 - July 2024



Azara Engelbrecht
Feb 2024 - May 2024



Richard Nio
Feb 2023 - September 2023



PRESIDENT REPORT

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Our Mission is simple: One Just Community. From my friends and I asking QAILS for a start-up package in year 2011, opening the doors with many volunteers in 2014, here we are today, better than ever.

The 2023/24 financial year has been another one of rebuilding capabilities, post COVID. We have been successful and are back to pre-COVID strength. Not all charities, clubs and associations can say that. Many leaders of tremendously needed not for profit organisations have come into our legal practice with broken membership and broken hearts.

An influential economics Nobel Laureate, the late Professor Milton Friedman was famous for saying that governments do not have any money; the only money they have is by taking it out of your pocket. Perhaps it is fairer to say that the private sector, not governments create Gross Domestic Product from which tax revenue is raised.


Ten years is a long time to prove oneself as a community legal centre. We have seen a few CLC start-ups come and go during this time which is a shame because there are countless studies proving that spending on community legal centres saves a lot more government expense than it incurs. Leading into our fourth State of Queensland election (can you believe it), we expect that all candidates and parties will now acknowledge our and the City of Gold Coast's written request that a fair amount of tax revenue raised in this metropolis will be directed toward fully core funding this desperately-needed community legal centre.

I thank our Patron, Her Honour Chief Justice Bowskill for her very kind service. Support by judges, magistrates and tribunal members of this profession's pro bono tradition has never been more important. All lawyers are part of a higher calling. The inventions of courts, tribunals and the administration of justice depend on confidence that pro bono uniquely inspires.

My favourite part of this calling is to serve clients, face to face and make dear friends. Not paid, but rather giving up revenue and family time. In the end, that is what keeps me coming back. From opening in 2014 our volunteers have given well over 10,000 advice sessions. You will read many statistics in our annual report but truthfully, I find the joy is in the moment of liberating a fellow human being. Each client and volunteer are unique and have their own emotional and compelling story.

PRESIDENT REPORT

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Thank you to my hard-working board: David Lobbezoo vice president; George Pharmacis treasurer; Chris Barron; Andrew Bell; Mitch Brown; Dr Samuli Haataja, Griffith University representative; Associate Professor Mandy Shircore, Southern Cross University representative; Miranda Podleska, Bond University representative. All are returning to keep us going. I give special mention to diligent executive assistants: Andrew Perju, Lauren Powell and Mechelle Blue. Thanks also to our operations team powerhouse headed up by principal Sarah Galvin, and coordinators Enna Kantarevic and Daria 'Dasha' Chernova. There are many, many folks who answer and go far beyond the call of duty. The sheer depth and talent of our operations team must be seen to be believed.

Our AGM celebrations are again hosted this year by the fabulous Griffith University. We could not operate without support from our sponsors and other benefactors. To name just a few they include: landlord and funder Gold Coast City Council the St Vincent de Paul Society and university partners Bond, Griffith and Southern Cross. Special thanks to Mayor Tate, Councillor Dan Doran, Professors David Heilpern, Nick James and Therese Wilson. In community engagement, I am pleased to report that our partnerships with the universities and St Vincent de Paul are blossoming. Our volunteers have attended many collaborative meetings with local associations. Thank you sincerely to Attorney-General D'Ath, local Minister Scanlon and all Gold Coast parliamentarians including Ros Bates and Karen Andrews.

We receive revenue from the city, university partners, corporate, ordinary and associate membership fees and donations from government, other not-for-profits including faith and non-faith based ones and our own beautiful clients themselves.

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 Gold Coast District Law Association president Cliff Kroesen and committee. Community Legal Centres Queensland and Australia have been tremendously helpful in helping us navigate the always demanding national accreditation scheme.

Lawyers volunteer time in community endeavours - everywhere. We are sought-after as useful to such organisations. What makes CLCs special is the way we attract like-minded professionals so that the retired and practising lawyers bring on the future ones in collaboration with the community and government. CLCs have a proud tradition to enable giving back by volunteering. And finally, thank you clients. The legal profession remains at your service, pro bono publico.

Ross Lee, President



OPERATIONS REPORTS

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Our Service

The Operations Team has worked hard this past year not only to ensure My Community Legal has continued to deliver free legal advice to Gold Coasters who cannot afford it, but also on projects and events to expand our reach into the professional and community.

Under the leadership of our Coordinators, our dedicated volunteer lawyers and students continue to deliver a compliant, quality legal service. Our service delivery has continued to improve and evolve with the purchase of 25 laptops for Robina and further move to a paperless system. Our softphone system is now fully implemented and operational. These steps streamline our operations and enhance our capacity, including enabling remote working capability.

We continue to see clients referred to us from a range of community and other organisations, who we continue to engage with to forge lasting relationships. The Operations Team has ensured MCL has been present at law functions and conferences to continue our presence within the profession. Following a morning tea with The Hon Karen Andrews MP, we started a new relationship with the Currumbin Palm Beach RSL started and we will have a stall at the upcoming Veteran Health, Wellbeing and Support Expo.

Operations has also been working on new initiatives with university partners. Following a workshop at Southern Cross University with a range of other Legal Centres, we have commenced development of a clinic subject with SCU. We have recently commenced a potentially groundbreaking initiative by welcoming social work students from Griffith University Health Clinic into our Robina advice nights. This has benefited not only our clients, but has been a positive experience for students. We have laid the groundwork of another student placement relationship with a university in Brisbane.

Sarah Galvin, Principal Solicitor



OPERATIONS REPORTS

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Our Service

I've been personally privileged to be invited back to the Bond University Executive Dean's Awards to present awards, plus judge the finals for the Griffith LSA Client Interviews and Negotiation competitions. It has been a delight to visit our university associates and enjoy an enhanced relationship with them.

We have been part of the advocacy for MCL's future through contribution to grant applications and media opportunities, including engaging with meetings with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. In September 2024 I was interviewed on ABC Radio Gold Coast for a third time, this time about CLC funding. We have in meetings with local Federal, State and local government representatives and candidates.

Our efforts in the past year have continued to deepen and expand our connections in the local community, in the legal profession and with our educational partners. We strive to continue to deliver quality learning experiences to our students. Our contribution to the advocacy for the Centre aims to ensure MCL has a long and bright future, which will enable us to continue our core work of providing legal advice to clients in need.

I would like to finish by personally thank the students who have served as Coordinator over the last year. I rely on them heavily to keep MCL operating as a successful legal practice, however the job is bigger than that. They all bring unique skills and experience to the role and go above and beyond many times over. I hope the experience has given them valuable skills and experience they can take through with them on their journeys ahead. I admire them and I am forever grateful for their contribution.

Sarah Galvin, Principal Solicitor



Our Team

We have seen a few changes in our Operations Team this period. We have farewelled Chumani Brookhouse from Robina and both Richard Nui and Azara Engelbrecht from our Southport Outreach. Two have progressed their legal careers by taking up full time roles in private practice. All of our Coordinators go above and beyond to support the smooth operation of MCL and we are grateful for their dedication.

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

Technology and Telecommunications

The telecommunications services have achieved a high success rate compared to last year, supported by the reliable TPG service and the integration of Webex for seamless communication between clients and practitioners. Both in-office and remote students effectively manage client inquiries, answering phone calls promptly and connecting clients with advice sessions and remote appointments through Webex. Students also follow up on missed calls to ensure no client is left without support. This coordinated approach, along with the use of Webex, has significantly improved communication, enabling MCL to offer even more seamless and accessible services to the community.



With a grant from the Gambling Fund, in January 2024 Robina was able to purchase 25 new laptops, a laptop caddy and other tech and equipment for the office and advice nights.

Sarah Galvin, Principal Solicitor
Enna Kantarevic, Gold Coast Coordinator



OPERATIONS REPORTS

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Robina Update

Our Robina clinic continues to thrive with its Thursday evening advice sessions from 5:00pm - 9:30pm at the Robina Community Centre, consistently achieving high numbers in client matters. These sessions have become a vital part of our clinic's mission of providing accessible legal assistance to our community.

Our practitioners have been providing invaluable support by offering remote assistance to clients on specific legal matters, ensuring that help is available even 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 that we can cater to a wide range of client needs while maintaining accessibility and service quality.

Enna Kantarevic, Gold Coast Coordinator

Southport Outreach

Our Southport Outreach has maintained our weekly Tuesday appointment sessions.

We continue to offer appointments between 8:00am to 11:00am and 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Although our office's operation has been primarily focused on remote service delivery, in-person advice is still being facilitated to offer additional support to Gold Coast based clients.

Our operations remain at Frederic Ozanam House, which is now closed on Thursdays. To maintain efficiency, we have rostered students to complete their administrative shifts remotely, ensuring that we stay on top of client inquiries and manage the booking process seamlessly.

Dasha Chernova, Southport Coordinator

Clinic Development and University Partnerships

Our clinic continues to evolve with recent developments aimed at enhancing client support and expanding educational opportunities. We are in the process of developing our student placement into a clinic subject with SCU.

We have welcomed social work students from Griffith University, who are now aiding clients during advice sessions and offering referrals to the Griffith University Health Clinic. This is a unique model and it has been a learning curve for both MCL and the Griffith University Health Clinic. So far the feedback has been positive and we look forward to developing this as a regular service to our clients and learning opportunity for students.

Additionally, we have recently partnered with the University of Queensland to extend volunteering opportunities, allowing us to broaden our reach of volunteer opportunities for students. These collaborations strengthen our commitment to holistic client care and foster valuable learning experiences.

Sarah Galvin, Principal Solicitor
Enna Kantarevic, Gold Coast Coordinator

Grants and Funding

My Community Legal (MCL) achieved a significant victory with the Gold Coast City Council Community Partnerships Grant, securing \$100,000 for one year. This success, made possible by the tireless efforts of our dedicated team, strengthens our ability to deliver vital legal services to disadvantaged communities. It marks a turning point, empowering us to make a greater impact in our mission for justice and equality. With renewed energy and optimism, MCL looks ahead to a brighter future, confident that this milestone will lead to even greater achievements.

After facing the council in chamber and with the support of our local councillor, Dan Doran, we were granted \$100,000 in funding over 2024-2025 from the Gold Coast City Council's Partnership Program. This funding will be crucial to our ongoing operations given the lack of ongoing funding from the Department of Attorney and the James Frizelle Charitable Foundation.

George C Pharmaxis, Grants
Andrew Ibrahim, EA to Grants



PARTNERSHIPS & 19 ENGAGEMENT

St Vincent de Paul Society

St Vincent De Paul's society continues to offer sponsorship and support. Our Southport Outreach operations remain in the Frederic Ozanam House.

Gold Coast District Law Association AGM

The GCDLA continues to offer support, and generously selected My Community Legal to be the recipient of their AGM Raffle again. Our Southport Coordinator Dasha Chernova, along with dedicated students Andrew Ibrahim, Isabella Beatson and Maab Al-Taie attended the event to market raffle tickets and network with GCDLA member practitioners. Together, our team raised over \$3,000 for our Charity.

QLS Annual Gold Coast Legal Conference at RACV Royal Pines

MCL were able to have a stall free of charge at the QLS Annual Gold Coast Legal Conference on 21 June 2024 at the RACV Royal Pines Reort thanks to the ongoing support from the GCDLA and Qld Law Society.

Panel for Protecting Womens Rights

In April 2024 Chumani Brookhouse attended the Panel for Protecting Women's Rights and made greater connections with DVPC and invited a local MP to vist.

Free Radio Advertising - Juice 107.3

We continue to have free radio advertising of our service aired on Juice radio.

Subscription

We continue to receive a free subsription to De Groot's online service.

Dasha Chernova, Southport Coordinator
Enna Kantarevic, Gold Coast Coordinator





PARTNERSHIPS & 20 ENGAGEMENT



EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENTS



Meeting with Tim Nicholls MP at the Robina office on 25 March 2024



Meeting with Leon Rebello, Candidate for McPherson, June 2024



Morning Tea with The Hon. Karen Andrews MP, August 2024



Donation of law reports from Callinan Chambers via the Qld Supreme Court Library



VOLUNTEER RELATIONS

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Practitioner Relations

At My Community Legal (MCL), our practitioners are the cornerstone of our service, and their dedication is essential to our ongoing success. Currently, our Southport clinic is supported by 6 highly committed practitioners who provide both in-person consultations and remote services to ensure accessibility for all clients. Meanwhile, our Robina office boasts a team of 20 practitioners who generously volunteer their time during our Thursday evening advice sessions, offering face-to-face legal assistance, along with several remote appointments to cater to diverse client needs.

To further strengthen our impact, we are continuously networking and seeking to expand our team of volunteer practitioners, recognising that their expertise and commitment are vital to the growth and sustainability of MCL. Whilst our number of volunteer practitioners is steady and continues to grow, My Community Legal Volunteer Relations Team is dedicated to increase this number by cold-calling law firms and setting up stalls at upcoming QLS events in 2025.

Dasha Chernova, Southport Coordinator
Enna Kantarevic, Gold Coast Coordinator



VOLUNTEER RELATIONS

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Student Relations

At My Community Legal, we are proud to partner with leading universities, including Griffith University, Bond University, Southern Cross University and the University of Queensland, to provide students with invaluable hands-on experience.

Our advice night roles offer students the opportunity to engage with real-life legal scenarios, helping them develop practical skills in client relations and case management. The students are also able to meet, engage with and learn from practicing solicitors in the local area.

In addition to these roles, students can participate in administrative shifts, gaining insight into the operations of a law practice.

We also offer roles in marketing, accreditations and volunteer relations allowing students to diversify their experience and understanding of legal practice.

Many of our students chose to continue volunteering with MCL, progressing into higher roles and responsibilities such as Team Leader, as they grow in confidence and expertise after their initial work experience.

Dasha Chernova, Southport Coordinator
Enna Kantarevic, Gold Coast Coordinator



VOLUNTEER PRACTITIONER

23

Jordan Palmer

“

Since January 2023, my journey at the My Community Legal clinic in Robina has been incredibly fulfilling. Volunteering my time to provide advice on family law and domestic violence matters has allowed me to support individuals who cannot afford private legal counsel, which is particularly rewarding during such a stressful period in their lives. I have cherished the opportunity to make a tangible difference for these clients, helping them navigate their challenges with compassion and care. Additionally, working alongside fellow student volunteers has enriched my experience; mentoring them and witnessing their growth has been just as rewarding as the legal assistance we provide together.

I have also enjoyed collaborating with a number of other practitioners I had not previously worked with, which has broadened my perspective and enhanced my skills. This experience has deepened my commitment to community service and reinforced the importance of accessible legal support.

”



VOLUNTEER STUDENT

24

Lilliana Swainson

“

I began my journey with My Community Legal (MCL) in May 2024. It has been an incredibly enriching experience that has shaped both my professional and personal growth. From the start, MCL provided me with the opportunity to gain practical, hands-on exposure to the legal profession, allowing me to work on real cases and interact with clients directly.

This experience has taught me that legal practice goes beyond the application of law. I've learned the importance of empathy and emotional intelligence, which are vital in connecting with clients on a deeper level and understanding their unique situations.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my time with MCL has been the opportunity to give back to our local community. By working with individuals who do not have access to legal resources otherwise, I've seen firsthand the positive impact that legal advice can have on people's lives.

”





ACCREDITATION

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My Community Legal has continued to meet the standard required as a Community Legal Centre.

In 2023-2024 we completed our insurance cross-check with Tenants Queensland and were found to be compliant with the risk management standards. It was allowed us valuable insight into the operations of other Community Legal Centres. The Principal attended the compulsory professional indemnity insurance CPD session at the CLC Annual Conference in May 2024 in Brisbane.

My Community Legal recently conducted a successful Cultural Training Awareness Day with Paul Craft Uncle Boomerang at the Robina Community Centre, providing an enriching experience for all attendees. The event was designed to promote cultural awareness and sensitivity, equipping participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage efficiently with diverse communities. The training included in-depth sessions on understanding cultural differences, unconscious bias, and effective communication strategies for building trust and rapport with individuals from various backgrounds.

Coming up, we are shortly to submit our Stage 4 Improvement Plan to Community Legal Centres Qld to maintain our accreditation.

In October the Ops Team will be completing cross-check for 2024 with the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre in Southport.

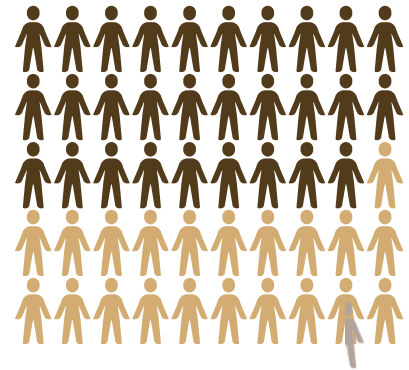


SERVICES 2023-2024

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Brief Overview

My Community Legal serviced a total of **853** clients this financial year and **1,032** advice sessions conducted. The percentage of clients who are suffering from financial hardship comes in at 89%



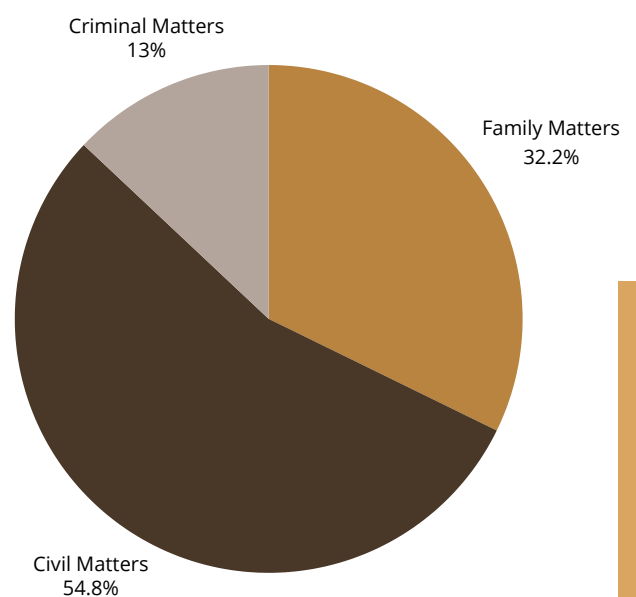
In addition to, or as part of those 1032 legal advice sessions, our practitioners & volunteers facilitated 173 legal tasks and 212 referrals.

The majority of our services concern civil legal issues at 54.81% which can range from neighbourhood disputes to employment issues. The remaining 32.7% of advice given were seen for family law issues and criminal matters 12.93%.

Our data shows that 51% of our clients are female and 44.77% are male and 4.23% identify as other or unknown.

Clients of middle ages from 35 and above remain the majority of our clientele. With 437 client being between the ages of 25-49 and followed by 208, 50-64 year olds seeking legal assistance and 45 clients between ages 0-18.

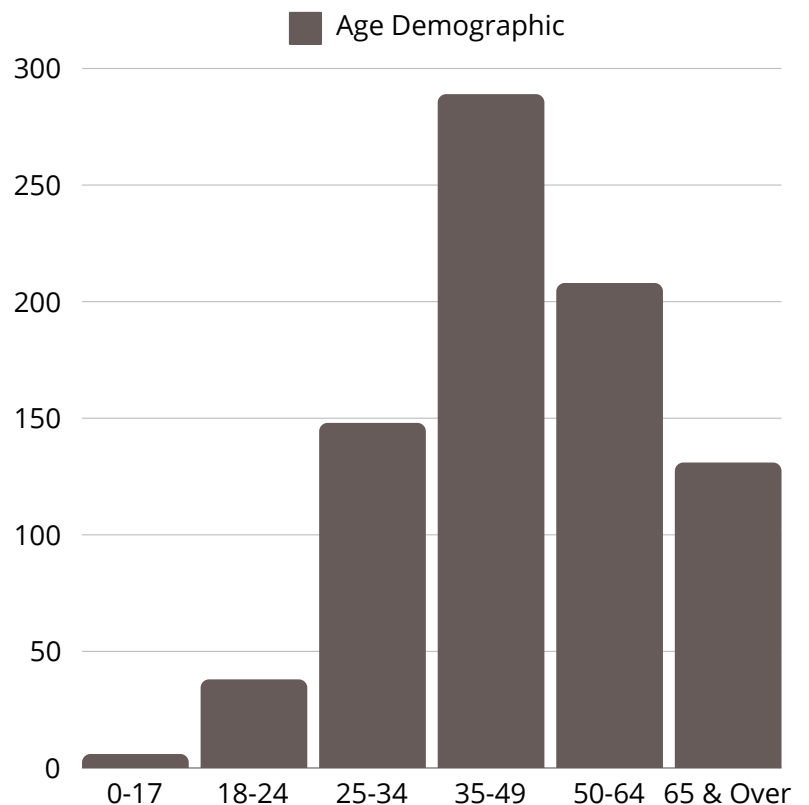
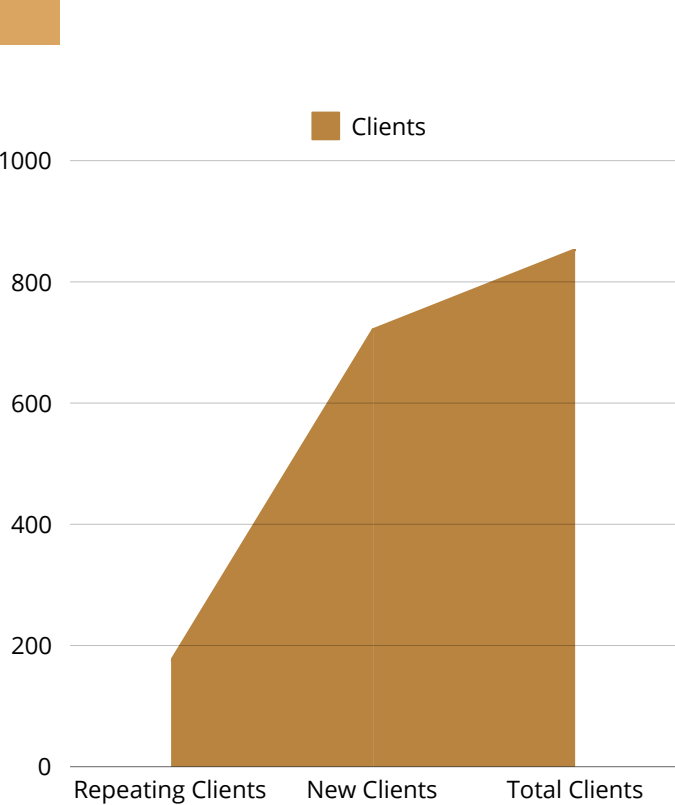
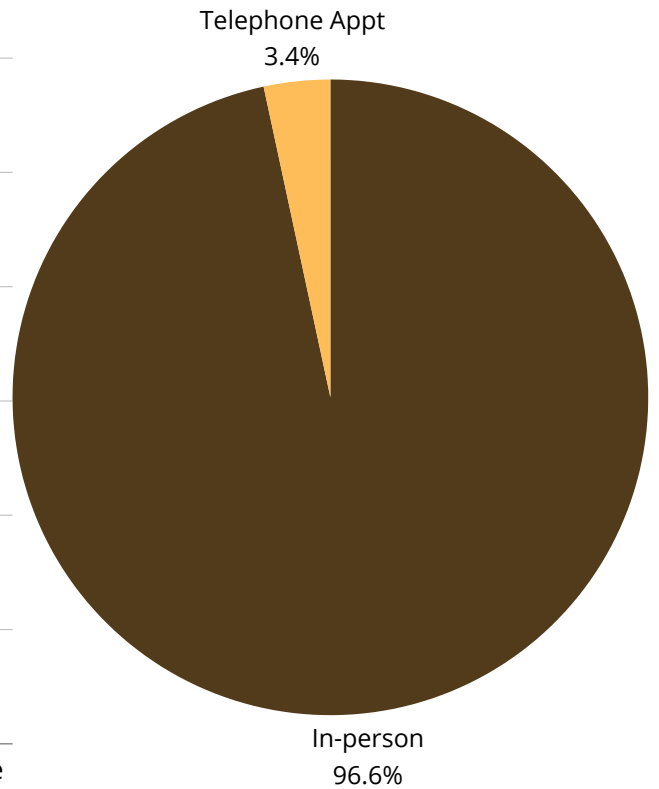
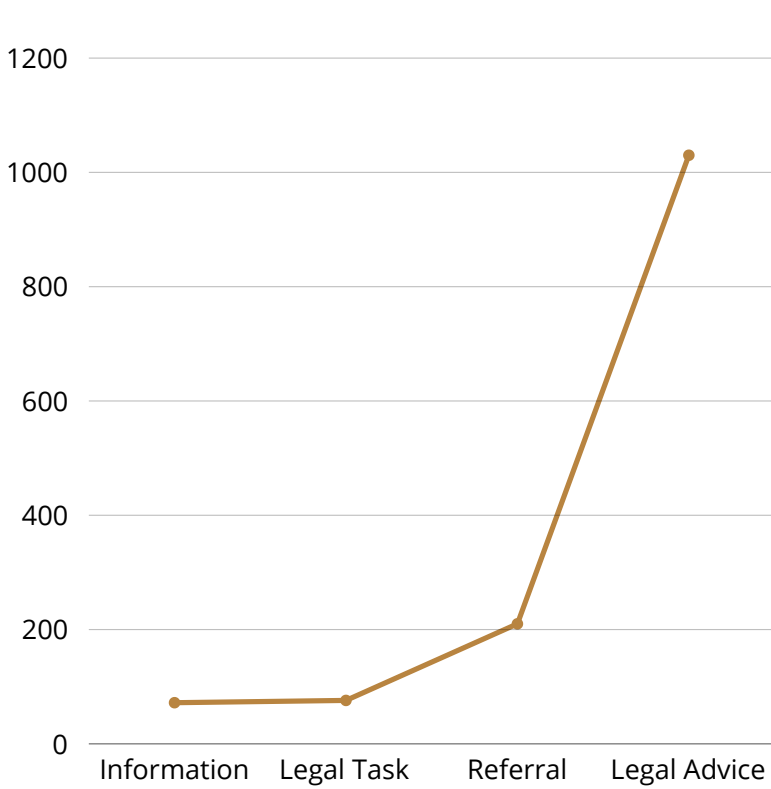
At least 14% of our clients presented with signs of family & domestic violence. Following with 8.9% of clients at risk of homelessness.



SERVICES 2023-2024

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Services provided to Clients



TREASURER REPORT

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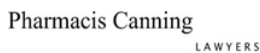


Gold Coast City Council

MCL is receiving \$100,000 in funding over 2024-2025 from the Gold Coast City Council's Partnership Program to assist with the discontinuance of the Attorney General Withdrawal of ongoing funding and discontinuance of funding by the James Frizelle Charitable Foundation.

Partnerships & University Engagement

MCL continues their partnerships with Bond University, Griffith University, Southern Cross and St Vincent de Paul Society. Assisting MCL since inception MCL could not have made the journey thus far without their support.



Continued & Historical Support

MCL thanks Gold Coast District Law Association, Queensland Law Society and the Gold Coast City Council for all their support since opening their free legal service to the community.

MCL also thanks all its Corporate Partners.

The table below summarizes our selected historical financial information for each of the last three years. The summary of operations data for the years ended 30 June 2022, 2023, and 2024 and the balance sheet data as at 30 June 2022, 2023 and 2024, have been derived from audited Financial Statements of which only the 30 June 2024 is enclosed. The historical selected financial information may not be indicative of future performance. For full financial statements see Annexure 1 at page 32.

**My Community Legal Centre Inc
Detailed Profit and Loss Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2024**

Twelve Months Ended 30 June			
	2024	2023	2022
Summary of Operations	\$	\$	\$
Income			
Insurance recoveries			
Profit on sale of property, plant, equip			
Community Grants	61400	80150	134085
Donations - public	3078.7	8516.17	12475.78
Donations - corporate			11923
Donations - university	25000	37500	
Government - Donations			
Raffle tickets			
Ordinary membership	6814.22	6170.18	1800
Associate membership			4520
Corporate Membership	660	660	
Functions income	2158.42		3430
Furniture Sales			
Partnership Proposal Income	10000	12500	10000
JobKeeper Payments			
Cash Flow Boost			
Total income	109111.34	145496.35	178233.78
Expenses			
Advertising & promotion		532	
Audit fees	715		627
Bank fees & charges		56.21	59.02
Bank Fees Vulnerable Women		24.09	
Bookkeeping Fees	1200	1349.5	612.72
Bookkeeping Fees Vulnerable Women		535.5	
Computer expenses & software			
Depreciation - plant	6034	54	1107
Donations			
Fees & registrations	1608.11	1386.89	1472.81
Fundraising Costs		1563.1	2736.59
Fundraising Cost Vulnerable Women		669.9	
Furniture Removals	31		
Insurance	2106.57	170.16	750.74
Insurance Vulnerable Women		34.05	
Merchant fees	162.1	319.96	604.76
Merchant Fees Vulnerable Women		115.35	
Office Expenses	1553.45	7582.33	
Office Expenses Vulnerable Women		395.15	
Membership Fees			
Printing & Stationery			2939.13
Refreshments			
Rent on land & buildings	11057.76	11672.47	3436.25
Rent expense Vulnerable Women		2586.47	
Staff Training		1050	
Staff Training Vulnerable Training		450	
Subscriptions	859.2	572.82	1131.6
Subscriptions Vulnerable Women		133.64	
Sundry Expenses			
Superannuation	11920.35	3437.82	8601.73
Superannuation Vulnerable Women		7100.8	
Telephone & Internet	3204.44	2097.17	2569.51
Telephone & Internet Vulnerable Women		481.5	
Training			
Travel, functions & conference			
Website and IT Expenses			
Wages	89413.39	32741.68	86017.45
Wages - Vulnerable Women		67627.02	
Total expenses	129865.37	144739.58	112666.31
Profit from Ordinary Activities		756.77	65567.47
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash Assets	18107.93	94099.26	116470.23
Receivables	35000	22500	
Total Current Assets	53107.93	116599.26	116470.23
Non Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	38009	54.62	108.62
Less Accumulated depreciation			
Total Non Current Assets	38009	54.62	108.62
Total Assets	91116.93	116653.88	116578.85
Equity			
Retained profits	87052.25	107807.08	107049.51
Total Equity	87,052.25	107,807.08	107,049.51



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AWARD RECIPIENTS

My Community Legal's highest award is its Volunteer of the Year. Each award recipient has displayed an outstanding commitment to MCL and has gone above and beyond in ensuring the smooth operation of MCL. My Community offers our deepest gratitude to our awardees.

Volunteer of the Year

Winner -
Runner Up -

University of the Year

Winner -
Runner Up -

Volunteer Practitioner of the Year

Robina Clinic -
Southport Clinic -

Volunteer Student of the Year

Griffith University
Winner -
Runner Up -

Best Mentor

Winner -

Bond University

Winner -
Runner Up -

Volunteer Executive Assistants

Andrew Perju **to the President**
Lauren Powell, **to the Treasurer**
Mechelle Blue, **to the Secretary**
Andrew Ibrahim, **to the Grant Team**

Southern Cross University

Winner -
Runner Up -

OUR SPONSORS

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Lee Lawyers

LITIGATION | MEDIATION | INSURANCE LAW

Pharmacis Canning

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GOLD COAST DISTRICT LAW ASSOCIATION



JAMES FRIZELLE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



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Community Legal Centres
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TOSHIBA



Annexure 1



**MY COMMUNITY
LEGAL INC**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30 JUNE 2024



**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 2024, 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



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 2024 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 2024 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.

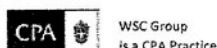
We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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.

Emphasis of Matter – Going Concern

We draw attention to the loss for the year of \$20,754.03. This is after capitalising fixed asset purchases during the year, which were funded by a capital grant which is recorded in revenue. We draw attention to the Association's main sources of income, which are donations and grants. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.



Liability Limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standard legislation

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 25th day of September 2024

My Community Legal Inc
Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash assets	8	18,107.93	94,099.26
Receivables	9	<u>35,000.00</u>	<u>22,500.00</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>53,107.93</u>	<u>116,599.26</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	14	<u>38,009.00</u>	<u>53.82</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>38,009.00</u>	<u>53.82</u>
Total Assets		<u>91,116.93</u>	<u>116,653.08</u>
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	16		3,047.45
Current tax liabilities	18	2,420.00	3,066.00
Provisions	19	<u>1,644.68</u>	<u>2,733.35</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>4,064.68</u>	<u>8,846.80</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>4,064.68</u>	<u>8,846.80</u>
Net Assets		<u>87,052.25</u>	<u>107,806.28</u>
Equity			
Retained profits		<u>87,052.25</u>	<u>107,806.28</u>
Total Equity		<u>87,052.25</u>	<u>107,806.28</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

My Community Legal Inc
Profit and Loss Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Operating profit (deficit) before income tax	(20,754.03)	756.77
Income tax (credit) attributable to operating profit (loss)	—	—
Operating profit (deficit) after income tax	(20,754.03)	756.77
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year	107,806.28	107,049.51
Total available for appropriation	87,052.25	107,806.28
Retained profits at the end of the financial year	87,052.25	107,806.28

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

My Community Legal Inc
Detailed Profit and Loss Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Income		
Grants received	61,400.00	80,150.00
Donations - public	3,078.70	8,516.17
Donations - university	25,000.00	37,500.00
Partnership proposal income	10,000.00	12,500.00
Ordinary membership	6,814.22	6,170.18
Corporate membership	660.00	660.00
Functions income	2,158.42	
Total income	<u>109,111.34</u>	<u>145,496.35</u>
Expenses		
Advertising and promotion		532.00
Audit fees	715.00	
Bank Fees And Charges		80.30
Bookkeeping fees	1,200.00	1,885.00
Depreciation - plant	6,034.00	54.00
Fees & registrations	1,608.11	1,386.89
Fundraising costs		2,233.00
Insurance	2,106.57	204.21
Loss on disposal of office equipment	31.00	
Merchant fees	162.10	435.31
Office expenses	1,553.45	7,977.48
Rent expense	11,057.76	14,258.94
Staff training		1,500.00
Subscriptions	859.20	706.46
Superannuation	11,920.35	10,538.62
Telephone & internet	3,204.44	2,578.67
Wages	89,413.39	100,368.70
Total expenses	<u>129,865.37</u>	<u>144,739.58</u>
Profit (Loss) from Ordinary Activities before income tax	<u>(20,754.03)</u>	<u>756.77</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

My Community Legal Inc
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

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 2024

2024

2023

Note 8: Cash assets

Bank accounts:

Cash at bank - Suncorp account 509157123	18,107.93	94,099.26
	<u>18,107.93</u>	<u>94,099.26</u>

Note 9: Receivables

Current

Trade debtors	35,000.00	22,500.00
	<u>35,000.00</u>	<u>22,500.00</u>

Note 14: Property, Plant and Equipment

Office equipment:

- At cost	44,019.00	18,615.82
- Less: Accumulated depreciation	(6,010.00)	(18,562.00)
	<u>38,009.00</u>	<u>53.82</u>
	<u>38,009.00</u>	<u>53.82</u>

Note 16: Payables

Unsecured:

- Trade creditors		3,047.45
		<u>3,047.45</u>
		<u>3,047.45</u>

My Community Legal Inc
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

2024

2023

Note 18: Tax Liabilities

Current

Amounts withheld from salary and wages	<u>2,420.00</u>	<u>3,066.00</u>
	<u>2,420.00</u>	<u>3,066.00</u>

Note 19: Provisions

Current

Superannuation payable	<u>1,644.68</u>	<u>2,733.35</u>
	<u>1,644.68</u>	<u>2,733.35</u>

My Community Legal Inc
Statement by Members of Committee
For the year ended 30 June 2024

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.

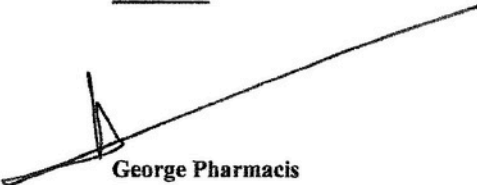
In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of My Community Legal Inc as at 30 June 2024 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

THANK YOU

Contributors;

Ross Lee
George Pharmacis
Sarah Galvin
Enna Kantarevic
Dasha Chernova



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www.mycommunitylegal.org.au