



LAW AND JUSTICE
FOUNDATION

OF NEW
SOUTH WALES

Annual Report

2010





November 2010

The Hon. John Hatzistergos
Attorney General of NSW
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Attorney

I present to you a copy of the Annual Report of the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW for the financial year 2009–2010.

This report has been prepared in accordance with *The Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000* (NSW) and approved by the Foundation's Board of Governors.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the tabling of the report in both Houses of Parliament as soon as practicable.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Stein', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul Stein
Chair
Board of Governors

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About the Law and Justice Foundation

Who we are

The Law and Justice Foundation of NSW is an independent, statutory, not-for-profit organisation established in 1967 to improve access to justice for the people of NSW. It is incorporated in NSW by the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000* (NSW).

Our purpose

Our purpose is to advance the fairness and equity of the justice system, and to improve access to justice for socially and economically disadvantaged people.

What we believe

The Foundation's purpose is underpinned by the belief that:

- ◆ a fair and equitable justice system is essential for a democratic, civil society
- ◆ reform should, where possible, be based on sound research
- ◆ people need accurate, understandable information to have equitable access to justice
- ◆ community support agencies and non-government organisations play a critical role in improving access to justice for disadvantaged people.

What we do

- ◆ Identify legal and access to justice needs, particularly of socially and economically disadvantaged people
- ◆ Identify effective legal system reforms and access to justice initiatives through evaluation and research
- ◆ Improve access to justice through:
 - contributing to the availability of understandable legal information
 - supporting projects and organisations that improve access to justice
 - disseminating information about access to justice and effective reforms and initiatives.

Our Goals and Objectives

Identify Needs

Identify legal and access to justice needs through rigorous, evidence-based research and the analysis of information from internal and external sources

Strategies

- 1.1 Develop a sustained assessment of legal and access to justice needs, particularly of socially and economically disadvantaged people (the A2JLN Program)
- 1.2 Respond to emerging access to justice issues in NSW

What Works

Identify effective reforms, initiatives and programs to address legal needs

Strategies

- 2.1 Identify what is known
- 2.2 Learning new lessons

Improve Access to Justice

Improve access to justice through the support and conduct of selected projects, community legal education and referral programs, and the dissemination of data, analysis and information

Strategies

- 3.1 Support projects – the Grants Program
- 3.2 Facilitate legal sector relationships and coordination
- 3.3 Community legal education (CLE) and referral program
- 3.4 Disseminate data, analysis and information to improve access to justice

Cost-Effective Operations Support

Optimise the capacity and capabilities of the Foundation through cost-effective resource and information management

Strategies

- 4.1 Develop the information management capabilities of the Foundation
- 4.2 Manage resources efficiently and cost-effectively

This goal underpins the other goals and ensures the Law and Justice Foundation has the right environment to achieve its goals

The Board of Governors

The Board consists of eight members who are appointed for a term of three years. The Board determines policies for the implementation of the objects of the Foundation. The Director conducts and manages the affairs of the Foundation in accordance with the directions of the Board.

Board members at 30 June 2010 were as follows:

The Hon Paul Stein QC AM became a Judge in 1983 and was appointed to the Land and Environment Court in 1985. In 1997 he was appointed to the Court of Appeal where he remained until his retirement in 2004.



He has undertaken a number of reports and reviews for the Government and is currently the Chair of the Board of the Environmental Protection Authority. He has chaired committees and associations, in particular the Council of the Community Justice Centres and the National Consumer Affairs Advisory Council, and contributed articles and papers on environmental, administrative and consumer law as well as human rights and discrimination.

Jason Behrendt is an Aboriginal solicitor at Chalk and Fitzgerald Lawyers and Consultants specialising in advising Aboriginal corporations and land councils in relation to Native Title and Commonwealth and State environmental legislation. Prior to this he worked with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, reporting on the operation of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cwth).



Geraldine Daley LLM (UTS) is a Director of the Incorporated legal practice (ILP) Colin Daley Quinn. She is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD). Geraldine was a Law Society Councillor from 2001 to 2010 and served on a number of committees during this time. She is a Solicitor Advocate, a Dispute Resolution Practitioner and an Administrative Decision Maker.



Betty Hounslow was the Foundation's 2003 Justice Medalist for her long-term commitment to improving access to justice for socially and economically disadvantaged people, particularly for her seven years as Director of the Australian Council of Social Service and her success in lobbying for changes to legislation regarding gay and lesbian immigration. She worked in community legal centres in NSW for 10 years and is currently the Deputy Chief Executive of The Fred Hollows Foundation.



Geoff Mulherin CSC has been Director of the Foundation since November 2000.



The Hon Kevin Rozzoli AM was the member for the NSW electorate of Hawkesbury from 1973 until his retirement from politics in 2003. From 1988–95 he was the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. He is chairman of the Haymarket Foundation and of the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre. Kevin was admitted to the NSW Bar in 1985.



John Sheahan SC has been in practice at the bar since 1985, and has been a silk for thirteen years. His principal areas of practice are corporate law, competition and banking and finance. In 2004 he was Counsel Assisting the Special Commission of Inquiry into certain transactions involving James Hardie. He is the immediate past President of the Public Interest Law Clearing House.



The Hon Frank Terenzini MP was elected to the NSW Parliament in March 2007 as member for Maitland. A former TAFE teacher, he worked in private legal practice in the Kurri Kurri and Maitland areas before joining the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Newcastle Regional Office in 1996 where he worked before entering Parliament.



Message from the Chair

2009–10 has been another busy year for the Foundation as the following report indicates.

I am pleased to be able to report once again that, in all its work, the Foundation has maintained its commitment to two key principles:

- ♦ maintaining a mature approach to our independent status, seeking to be a credible and trusted organisation and using our expertise to contribute to a fair, equitable and accessible justice system; and
- ♦ maintaining our mandate for quality, evidence based work in all we do, particularly in our research work.

Impact of our work

Over the year the Foundation's work has continued to have an influence, particularly in relation to our research work into identifying the legal and access to justice needs of disadvantaged people. For example, our research was relied upon heavily in the Commonwealth Attorney General's Access to Justice Taskforce Report — *A Strategic Framework for Access to Justice in the Federal Civil Justice System* — released in September 2009, and there has been some pleasing activity arising from it. Most notably the Director was invited to present some of our research findings to the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG) in November 2009 as part of the SCAG's consideration of the Taskforce Report and its recommendations.

Important has been the Foundation's approach to identifying legal need that brings together original survey work, analysis of service provider legal enquiry data, and targeted studies of particular disadvantaged groups. One purpose of the SCAG presentation was to demonstrate the capability of the Data Digest Online — the second of these approaches. At some future point, moves towards greater national consistency in this type of data collection and analysis are likely, and we are confident that the Foundation's work in this area is having an impact in demonstrating what is possible and perhaps giving some indication of what future directions might be taken.

I am also very pleased to be able to report that the work that began last year following the publication of the Foundation's research into the legal needs of prisoners has continued, led by the NSW Legal



Assistance Forum and its Prisoners Working Group. This Group has continued to work through many of the recommendations from the report, looking at practical ways to improve access to justice to those in prison. Of particular note is the way that all interested parties — government and non-government — have come together to collectively develop and implement practical solutions to problems identified. This is at least in part due to the balanced and credible research approach of the Foundation.

New Strategic Plan

2009–10 has been the first year of our current three-year strategic plan, developed to coincide with the three-year core funding cycle provided by the Public Purpose Fund (PPF). We are extremely grateful to the Public Purpose Fund for its ongoing support and funding for the Foundation's core work. In uncertain economic times the PPF was able to continue to fund our operations to almost the same level, in real terms, in year 1 of the present cycle, and then schedule near-CPI increases for years 2 and 3 of the strategic plan/funding period. Nevertheless, when coupled with a lower return on investments as a result of the global conditions, the Foundation's available income has necessarily been reduced this year.

With a growing research-based understanding of the needs of the community from our ongoing Access to Justice and Legal Needs program, the Foundation was hoping in this three-year period to commit more research effort towards our second goal — to identify what reforms, initiatives and strategies work most effectively to address identified legal needs. Unfortunately our slightly

reduced operational expenditure has restricted what we could begin towards this goal at this time.

Nevertheless, we were able to commit some core resources toward our 'what works' strategy and, importantly, successfully applied to the PPF for one-off funding for a project to take this work one step further. We are extremely grateful to the PPF for this, and it has allowed us to commence a program of systematic reviews which we hope will, in the long term, provide service providers and policy makers with access to some of the best available information about what works (and hopefully at what cost) in tackling key access to justice and legal needs.

I should note, however, that both our findings and those from parallel work internationally suggest that there is a general paucity of quality, evaluative research material that has been produced in relation to legal reforms and initiatives, particularly those directed at improving access to justice for disadvantaged people. This may provide sound argument for the commitment of further resources to try and identify what reforms and initiatives are most likely to bring about effective change and improve access to justice.

I would encourage readers of this report to consider the many other important areas of work currently undertaken by the Foundation — the many other research projects, as well as our grants and legal information strategies. I would draw readers' attention also to the Foundation's annual Justice Awards. While only a very small part of the work we do, the Justice Awards nevertheless provide a wonderful opportunity to recognise how much many individuals across NSW are doing, day in and day out, to improve access to justice for those less fortunate than themselves.

Investments

Responding to the realities of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) has been essential for all organisations, including the Foundation. Poor investment performance during the GFC prompted the Board to undertake a fundamental review of our investment and reserves strategies, and direct ongoing attention to cost reductions.

I am pleased to report that the Foundation's financial performance has improved markedly, both in terms of operations and investments, as the audited accounts in the second half of this report clearly demonstrate. The Board is confident that the new investment and reserves policies have set the Foundation on a sustainable path of ongoing quality operations, and will ensure that investment returns are able to support future Foundation work.

Conclusion

It has been a pleasure once again to serve as Chair of the Board of the Foundation, and to work with both the staff and other Board members. It has been another challenging year and the staff can be very satisfied with their work. I would like to sincerely thank the Director, staff, and fellow Board members for their commitment to the goals of the Foundation during the year. I would also like to thank all those individuals and agencies that have worked with us over the year and beyond to bring about change and to make a contribution to improving access to justice.

Finally, I would like to say that 2010–11 is shaping up to be an even busier year, with a number of projects coming to publication. I would encourage all who read this report to take an interest in the valuable work of the Foundation.

Paul Stein
Chair, Board of Governors
November 2010

Director's Overview

Hard work and persistence were again key attributes of the work of the Foundation's staff during yet another busy year. Being the first year of a three-year strategic plan in the immediate aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis, the challenge for the Foundation was to keep to its high operational level, but in a more constrained financial position.

As the Chair has mentioned, and as the detail in the following report demonstrates, we have been successful in meeting those challenges – although the financial environment has had some impact on our operations.

Apart from an ongoing focus on reducing costs, the most noticeable impacts on the short-term work of the Foundation have been the reduction in the funds available to the Grants Program, and a limitation on the progress we had wished to make towards our second goal — 'What Works' to address legal and access to justice needs.

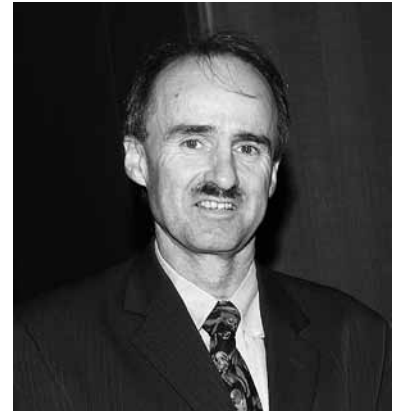
But that said, we have made important progress, in some areas beyond what was originally planned.

For example, during the year we received funding from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department to undertake important research into the availability of lawyers in rural, regional and remote areas. Bringing our empirical research skills to the task, the research obtained and analysed data not previously undertaken in such a way, providing important new insight to the problem. This report was provided to the Department in June and recently published — *Recruitment and retention of lawyers in regional, rural and remote New South Wales* (2010).

Similarly, thanks to some additional one-off funding by the PPF, we were able to commence some important 'what works' research work, developing and applying a 'systematic review' methodology for the first time to the socio-legal field. In any environment, let alone in constrained economic times, policy makers and service providers are asking for the best available information about what most effectively meets the legal needs of the community. We anticipate this work will lay the important foundation for a broader 'what works' strategy to follow.

The Chair has already mentioned the pleasing attention and results that are coming from our research work. This has come through our continued commitment to a high quality, evidence-based approach to all we do, and we have maintained this focus throughout the year.

The rigorous, empirical nature of our research work means that most projects are long term. Foundation staff worked hard to maintain progress on all of these important longer



term projects over the year. Importantly, many of these have been brought to the final stages during this reporting year, and we anticipate reports will be published from many of these projects during 2011.

Despite a reduction in the amount available for distribution over the year, we were nevertheless able to support many projects through our Grants Program that improved access to justice for a range of disadvantaged groups, including people with HIV/AIDS, children and young people, people with a disability, refugees, gay and lesbian people and people in rural, regional and remote areas.

I would like to thank the staff of the Foundation most sincerely for their dedication, hard work and good humour throughout the year. I would also like to thank the Chair and the Board for their commitment to the work of the Foundation, and for their guidance as we moved into the new strategic environment.

Finally I would also like to thank all those who have supported our work, whether it be through funding, collaborating on projects, or through any other of our activities. Your support and assistance is essential if we are to be effective in what we do.

Geoff Mulherin
Director
November 2010

Performance 2009–10

The Foundation has established four goals against which it develops activities and measures its performance. The following section describes how in 2009–10 we performed against these goals.

GOAL

1

IDENTIFY NEEDS

Identify legal and access to justice needs through rigorous, evidence-based research and the analysis of information from internal and external sources

STRATEGIES

- 1.1 Develop a sustained assessment of legal and access to justice needs, particularly of socially and economically disadvantaged people (the A2JLN Program)
- 1.2 Respond to emerging access to justice issues in NSW

STRATEGY 1.1

Develop a sustained assessment of legal and access to justice needs, particularly of socially and economically disadvantaged people (the A2JLN Program)

Access to Justice and Legal Needs Program (A2JLN)

The Foundation continues to undertake a major research program to identify the particular legal and access to justice needs of disadvantaged people in NSW. It comprises a series of projects involving consultations and submissions, literature analysis, original survey work and qualitative and quantitative analyses to provide significant information regarding the legal and access to justice needs of socially and economically disadvantaged people.

The program aims to provide a rigorous and sustained assessment of legal and access to justice needs in NSW, especially of disadvantaged people, that assists government, community and other organisations to develop policy and plan service delivery.

The program's objectives are to examine the ability of disadvantaged people to:

- ♦ participate effectively in the legal system, including access to courts, tribunals and formal alternative dispute resolution mechanisms
 - ♦ obtain assistance from non-legal early intervention and preventative mechanisms, non-legal forms of redress and community-based justice
 - ♦ participate effectively in law reform processes.
- Importantly, the program adopts three research methodology streams, approaching the issue of legal need from three different intersecting directions.
- ♦ **Expressed legal need** — data collected every day by not-for-profit legal service providers such as Legal Aid NSW, LawAccess NSW, community legal centres (CLCs) and other services provides a valuable source of information about those in the community who seek legal assistance for their legal problems, the types of problems they experience, and the pathways they take to resolve them.
 - ♦ **Unexpressed (Unmet) legal need** — policy-makers and service providers often ask whether those seeking legal assistance represent the majority of people with legal needs. Modelled on leading recent international research, the Foundation's legal needs surveys are providing the first empirical insight into both expressed and unexpressed need in the community.

- ♦ **Reports targeting particular disadvantaged groups and particular issues** — as the first two methodologies are unlikely to adequately cover some particular disadvantaged groups or some particular issues effecting these groups, the third methodological stream of the A2JLN program includes qualitative analyses of the legal needs of selected groups.

A2JLN Reports to date

- ♦ *Access to justice background paper* (2003)
- ♦ *Access to justice roundtable* (2003)
- ♦ *Public consultations report* (2003)

Service provider analysis

- ♦ *Data digest: a compendium of service usage data from NSW legal assistance and dispute resolution services, 1999–2002* (2004)
- ♦ *Data Digest Online: set of interactive, online reports allowing the integration, presentation, comparison and mapping of legal assistance data, available through password-protected access*

Quantitative surveys

- ♦ *Bega Valley pilot* (2003)
- ♦ *Justice made to measure: NSW legal needs survey in disadvantaged areas* (2006)
- ♦ *NSW Legal Needs Survey in disadvantaged areas: Campbelltown* (Justice Issues Paper 4, 2008)
- ♦ *NSW Legal Needs Survey in disadvantaged areas: Fairfield* (Justice Issues Paper 5, 2008)
- ♦ *NSW Legal Needs Survey in disadvantaged areas: Nambucca* (Justice Issues Paper 6, 2008)
- ♦ *NSW Legal Needs Survey in disadvantaged areas: Newcastle* (Justice Issues Paper 7)
- ♦ *NSW Legal Needs Survey in disadvantaged areas: South Sydney* (Justice Issues Paper 8, 2008)
- ♦ *NSW Legal Needs Survey in disadvantaged areas: Walgett* (Justice Issues Paper 9, 2008)
- ♦ *The legal needs of people with different types of chronic illness or disability* (Justice Issues Paper 11, 2009)

Qualitative research

- ♦ *The legal needs of older people* (2004)
- ♦ *No home, no justice? The legal needs of homeless people* (2005)
- ♦ *On the edge of justice: the legal needs of people with a mental illness in NSW* (2006)
- ♦ *Taking justice into custody: the legal needs of prisoners* (July 2008)
- ♦ *Taking justice into custody: the legal needs of prisoners - summary report* (Justice Issues Paper 2, 2008)

Integrated Methods

- ♦ *Pathways to justice: the role of non-legal services* (Justice Issues Paper 1, 2007)
- ♦ *Fine but not fair: fines and disadvantage* (Justice Issues Paper 3, 2008)
- ♦ *Cognitive impairment, legal need and access to justice* (Justice Issues Paper 10, 2009)

Data Digest Online

In 2009-10 the Foundation continued its development of the Data Digest Online (DDO), a web-based tool that integrates data on legal inquiries to the major public legal assistance services in NSW in the form of an interactive, user-friendly data cube and spatial mapping package. It will provide an invaluable resource for identifying legal need, revealing gaps in legal services and assisting in the planning and delivery of legal services in NSW.

In this reporting year, the Beta phase of the rollout was extended by six months to allow users greater opportunity to become familiar with the various functions, reports and data provided in the DDO. This phase allows the agencies to check how the Foundation has incorporated and organised their data, use and review the interactive reports, dashboards and maps and see how the DDO can assist with planning and policy. The Beta phase is also providing an excellent opportunity to resolve issues relating to permissions to use data, to detect anomalies in the data and to refine the user interface.

This year the Foundation worked toward generating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Foundation and user agencies to formalise data sharing

Background of the DDO

Through the Foundation's Data Digest series of hard-copy and now interactive, online reports, important information from the major public legal assistance services in NSW is increasingly available to selected users. In particular, the series helps describe the type of legal matters about which inquiries are made, the demographic characteristics of those seeking legal assistance and the pathways that service users take to resolve their legal problems.

The initial report in the series, *Data digest – a compendium of service usage data from NSW legal assistance and dispute resolution services, 1999–2002*, was published in 2004. This report stimulated interest in making legal inquiry data more accessible through interactive and user-friendly computer technologies, prompting the Foundation to devise and evaluate a prototype and subsequently develop the Data Digest Online (DDO).

protocols. The Foundation is incorporating a range of input and advice into the development of the MOU and acknowledge the pro bono legal advice, on the draft MOU, of Gilbert + Tobin.

The Next Step

Over the upcoming year, in addition to finalising the data sharing and access agreement between the parties, the Foundation will investigate the possibility of adding data from additional agencies and organisations to the data collection to facilitate greater scope and capabilities for analyses and usability. Agency use of the DDO is also expected to increase as users become more adept at inputting and generating data, and realise the power and potential of the DDO.

Legal Needs Survey

The Foundation's *Justice made to measure* report, which reported on a telephone survey of legal needs in six disadvantaged local government areas in NSW was well received by the legal sector, and added a new dimension to the planning and delivery of legal services for disadvantaged people.

Funding and encouragement from all eight state and territory Legal Aid Commissions expanded a planned follow-up state-wide legal needs survey to a national one. The *Survey of legal needs Australia* is a large-scale project measuring both legal need that is 'expressed' through the use of services and 'unmet' legal need. It will provide a wealth of empirical data to inform policy and legal service delivery in each Australian jurisdiction.

The survey is the largest of its kind ever conducted worldwide and involves telephone interviews with more than 20,000 residents across Australia. It will provide information for each Australian state and territory, and for Australia as a whole, on questions such as:

- ◆ Which demographic groups are more vulnerable to experiencing legal problems?
- ◆ To what extent do people take action to try to resolve their legal problems?
- ◆ What barriers do people face in resolving their legal problems?
- ◆ Which demographic groups are less successful in resolving their legal problems?
- ◆ What types of legal problems are least likely to be resolved?
- ◆ What pathways do people follow when grappling with legal problems?

The Foundation designed the survey and contracted Roy Morgan Research to complete the telephone interviews,

employing random digit dialling for interviewee selection. The interviews were completed by the end of 2008, despite difficulties in meeting the quotas for young males and females, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, culturally and linguistically diverse respondents and Northern Territory respondents living in remote areas.

Data cleaning, which is essential to valid reporting, continued through the first half of this reporting period and included categorising and incorporating open-ended responses to the survey questions. Data cleaning was completed by the end of February 2010, and the analysis of the data commenced in March.

Literature review, data analysis and drafting of the main reports (for each state/territory and Australia) are now well underway. Publication of the main reports is scheduled for late 2011. Two leading international experts in legal needs research from the UK's Legal Services Research Centre who are assisting with the project, Professor Pascoe Pleasance and Dr Nigel Balmer, visited the Foundation in May 2010 to work on aspects of the data analysis.

Qualitative reports on particular disadvantaged groups

Taking Justice into Custody: the implementation
During the previous reporting period, the Foundation released *Taking justice into custody: the legal needs of prisoners*, a study on the legal and access to justice issues facing prisoners. The report detailed the range of legal issues faced by prisoners in NSW gaols, as well as their capacity to obtain legal assistance for their criminal, civil and family law matters. It examined the opportunities for and barriers to legal assistance and identified strategies to improve legal assistance to inmates.

It is pleasing to report that in the period since *Taking justice into custody: the legal needs of prisoners* was released a number of strategies to address issues identified in the study have been implemented. The New South Wales Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF) took up the findings from the report, establishing an ongoing Working Group to devise and implement strategies in the report. A number of NLAF member organisations have also used the research to devise and implement their own initiatives.

Outcomes

The NLAF Prisoners Working Group (through its three sub-groups) has worked closely with Corrective Services NSW to implement strategies including:

- ◆ The creation of a legal information portal for an inmate intranet being rolled out (primarily for education purposes) in NSW Correctional Centres

- ◆ The establishment of a pilot system for legal practitioners to book telephone calls with offenders using an automated on-line booking system (led by Corrective Services NSW)

These are in addition to initiatives of member organisation such as:

- ◆ Legal Aid NSW's *Back on Track* legal education package for inmates
- ◆ The employment of family and civil lawyers in addition to the existing criminal law staff within Legal Aid NSW's Prisoners Legal Service
- ◆ Corrective Services NSW's webcam pilot for solicitors to hold conferences with prisoners from their offices
- ◆ The development of a legal practitioner webpage on Corrective Services NSW internet site, to provide current information to lawyers seeking to visit or contact inmate clients.

Law reform: Update

This study examines the participation of disadvantaged people in law reform processes in NSW. The aim is to describe key law reform processes and the opportunities and challenges for both the public and disadvantaged groups to participate in them. The project methodology included the detailed exploration of the following instances of law reform:

- ◆ *Bail Amendment (Repeat) Offenders Act 2002* (NSW)
- ◆ *Civil Procedure Act 2005* (NSW)
- ◆ reforms sought by the NSW Boarders and Lodgers Action Group
- ◆ *Residential Tenancies Amendment (Public Housing) Act 2004* (NSW)
- ◆ review of the *Mental Health Act 1990* (NSW)

Fieldwork involved the analysis of the published literature, interviews with relevant people regarding the above reforms, and collection of data about the volume of primary legislation. The draft report has been through external peer review and will be published in early 2011.

Communicating results

We communicate the results of our research through a number of media, including:

- ◆ publishing and disseminating full research reports in hard copy and on our website
- ◆ making all of the information readily accessible via our search engine, Just Search, which allows searchers to browse all reports, browse by disadvantaged group or search all information using key word searches

- ◆ conducting targeted presentations to key stakeholders and organisations
- ◆ presenting results at conferences
- ◆ conducting fresh analysis and using this data to answer ad hoc questions from key organisations.

Access to Justice Task Force

In early 2009 the Commonwealth Attorney-General created an Access to Justice Task Force in his Department to investigate and report on the federal civil justice system with a view to developing a more strategic approach to access to justice issues. In early February 2009, members of the Task Force spent several hours over two days at the Foundation discussing the results of our legal need research work.

The Report released by the Attorney-General in September 2009, *A Strategic Framework for Access to Justice in the Federal Civil Justice System*, relied heavily on the Foundation's work in relation to the legal needs (and action taken in response to these) of the community.

The Director was then invited to present key aspects of the Foundation's work to the State, Territory, Commonwealth and New Zealand Attorneys-General at the 5 March 2009 Standing Committee of Attorneys-General meeting, at which the Attorneys agreed to the direction proposed in the *A Strategic Framework for Access to Justice in the Federal Civil Justice System* report

STRATEGY 1.2

Respond to emerging access to justice issues in NSW

Information analysis: external consultation and information sources

In addition to our formal program of identifying access to justice and legal needs, the Foundation continually monitors activity across the sector. We do this by:

- ◆ tracking relevant literature
- ◆ regular stakeholder consultation
- ◆ attending conferences and workshops, and
- ◆ maintaining relationships with frontline practitioners from government and non-government organisations.

Responding to legal needs information requests

The work to date of the A2JLN program has built (and continues to build) a significant but well-represented body of knowledge about the legal and access to justice needs of the community.

The Foundation endeavours where resources allow, to provide data and analysis in response to inquiries from the legal sector. During the year these requests included:

- ♦ Data provided on expressed legal need on the Mid-North Coast for a legal needs analysis undertaken by Disability Advocacy Inc (Newcastle). This resulted in the successful submission from the region that obtained funding to establish a new community legal centre in the Mid-North Coast.
- ♦ Provision of data to consultants contracted by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and Legal Aid NSW to develop background materials and an Expression of Interest for the establishment of a generalist community legal centre on the Mid-North Coast of NSW.
- ♦ Regular provision of data regarding expressed legal need to facilitate planning and enhanced service coordination in each of the eight Cooperative Legal Service Delivery (CLSD) regions in NSW.
- ♦ Provided assistance conducting a survey of legal needs literature and interpreting legal needs survey data from the Foundation's research Justice Made to Measure (2006) for the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) who were examining the extent of consumer credit problems in Australia and the legal needs of those experiencing problems.

Research in the recruitment and retention of lawyers in rural, regional and remote (RRR) NSW

For many years concerns have been expressed regarding an apparent 'drain' of lawyers from rural, regional and remote areas in Australia. While these concerns have paralleled problems and research in other areas (such as health, dental services, etc) little empirical work had been done to examine the situation for lawyers in detail, and policy proposals to date have often been based on anecdotal and 'accepted' wisdoms.

In 2008 particular concern was expressed in relation to perceived problems attracting and retaining lawyers to work in the not-for-profit legal assistance sector in NSW (CLCs, ALS, Legal Aid and private solicitors accepting grants of legal aid).

In February 2009, the NSW Legal Assistance Forum convened a roundtable of key government, community and profession representatives to discuss possible action on the issue. The Foundation conducted some preliminary research to present at the roundtable which revealed that there may not have been an overall 'rural-urban' drift in lawyer numbers, and that therefore a more detailed, nuanced analysis was required.

In response, the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department provided the Foundation with funding to undertake further research into the recruitment and retention of lawyers in not-for-profit positions in rural, regional and remote NSW. This research was undertaken during this reporting period, with the final report provided to the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department on 8 June 2010.

The aim of this study was to better inform strategies to improve access to lawyers for disadvantaged people in rural and regional areas by:

1. identifying which areas of NSW are most affected by difficulties in recruiting and retaining lawyers practising in the public sector
2. exploring differences between areas of high and low lawyer retention in terms of potentially relevant characteristics of these areas
3. identifying likely reasons for success or otherwise in recruitment and retention of lawyers in those areas.

The research methodology included the collection and analysis of:

- ♦ Law Society of NSW data on all practising lawyers in NSW on 30 June 2009
- ♦ a 'snapshot' of all filled and vacant public legal assistance solicitor positions in NSW on this same date
- ♦ all legal aid grants assigned to private solicitors in 2008/09
- ♦ a survey of a small group of solicitors and managers in (or who had left) regional, rural and remote areas of NSW.

The research revealed some unexpected findings, including a lower than expected level of vacancies among public legal assistance solicitor positions in NSW, with some country areas having lower vacancy rates than the state average. However, looking across a broader range of indicators, there were considerable regional differences in recruitment and retention difficulties, with some (particularly remote) regions having substantial problems, while others did not. The study concluded that region-specific strategies to address recruitment and retention difficulties, rather than 'RRR-wide' solutions, were more likely to be effective.

The project could not have occurred without the support of the organisations which provided their data (the Law Society of NSW, Legal Aid NSW, the Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) and the individual community legal centres in NSW); nor without the support from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, which provided the majority of the funding for the project.

The Foundation will publish this report, and a shorter 'Justice Issues' version in September 2010.

GOAL

2

WHAT WORKS

Identify effective reforms, initiatives and programs to address legal needs

STRATEGIES

2.1 Identify what is known

2.2 Learning new lessons

Having built (and continuing to build) a significant and well respected body of knowledge about the legal and access to justice needs of disadvantaged people in NSW, the logical next step is to identify strategies that will meet that need.

In an ideal situation systemic reviews of quality program evaluations would provide a sound evidence base for policy/service delivery decisions. However, of projects already implemented elsewhere our review to date of national and international literature indicates that there are rarely enough quality evaluations of access to justice programs, particularly in the area of civil law, for this strategy to be generally effective.

Therefore, after using our A2JLN analysis to prioritise areas for 'what works' analysis, the Foundation will begin to build an evidence base of what is effective to meet these legal and access to justice needs.

STRATEGY 2.1

Identify what is known

This program aims to use systematic review of existing studies and evaluation reports to identify reforms, initiatives or models of legal service delivery that effectively address key legal and access to justice needs identified through the A2JLN research program and elsewhere.

In 2009–10 the Foundation published its first such systematic review of existing research, examining outreach legal services to disadvantaged people with complex needs.

In undertaking this first systematic review, the Foundation had two purposes:

- ♦ to synthesise the best available evidence on the effectiveness of outreach legal services and the features which contribute to effectiveness
- ♦ to trial and refine a methodology to conduct rigorous systematic reviews of qualitative and mixed method research and evaluation which are common in the field of socio-legal research.

The resulting Justice Issues Paper *Outreach legal services to people with complex needs: what works?* drew together evidence to inform service providers about the features of outreach legal services that increase effectiveness for people with complex needs. It also described for the first time a set of criteria by which qualitative socio-legal research can be assessed for quality and for inclusion in 'what works' style investigations.

The review revealed, among other things, that to effectively reach and assist hard-to-reach clients, outreach legal services need to form and maintain strong links with target communities and the agencies which support them. While outreach services are best located in places that are frequented and trusted by the target groups, the reach of the service is increased by appropriate marketing of the service to the target group and supporting agencies.

The Foundation aims to publish two more systematic reviews in the following reporting period, together with more information on this methodological approach.

STRATEGY 2.2

Learning new lessons

While our plans to broaden the scope of this strategy are limited by available funding, work did progress on two broad programs with this strategy:

- ♦ Evaluating new projects
- ♦ Research partnerships.

Evaluating new projects

Mortgage Hardship

In mid 2009, Legal Aid NSW and the Consumer Credit Legal Centre (CCLC) requested that the Foundation evaluate their Mortgage Hardship Service. The Foundation worked with Legal Aid NSW and CCLC to formulate an evaluation plan for this program. The evaluation will take place during the 2010–11 Financial Year.

Research Partnerships

The Foundation is currently involved in a number of research partnerships with various Australian Universities on a number of projects aimed at evaluating and learning lessons from existing mechanisms for meeting legal and access to justice needs.

Mental Health Review Tribunal project

The Foundation is committed to a major four-year study on the operation of mental health tribunals in NSW, the ACT and Victoria. We are contributing to the study as an industry partner in an ARC linkage grant with Professor Terry Carney of the University of Sydney and Dr David Tait of the University of Canberra. The three tribunals are also industry partners.

The project aims to identify best practice reforms that enhance the procedural fairness of tribunal hearings as well as the therapeutic outcomes for mentally ill people. This aim is being addressed both within a theoretical framework and empirically. At the empirical level, research involves quantitative and qualitative analysis.

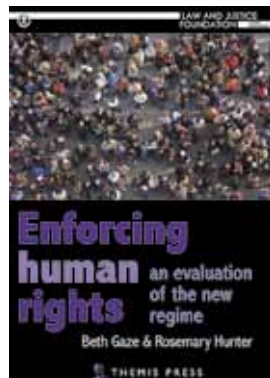
During this reporting period, the Foundation has:

- ◆ completed its draft report on the analysis of a sample of 299 clients who appeared before the NSW Mental Health Review Tribunal (MHRT) in 2003 ready for review
- ◆ provided input to the main report based on sample analysis
- ◆ reviewed and commented at length on a draft chapter of the main report

The Foundation intends to publish both the NSW MHRT sample report and (external author depending) the main project research report in the first half of 2011.

Enforcing Human Rights in Australia

Conducted in partnership with Griffith and Monash Universities, this project examined the effect of the transfer of race, sex and disability discrimination disputes from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) to the Federal Magistrates Service or Federal Court. The research involved interviews with complainants, respondents, lawyers and HREOC staff plus an examination of available case data. The report is now complete, and is awaiting publication by Federation Press.



Community Based Mediation

This project with Monash University examined community-based mediation in the family law system, tracing the impact of the law in the decision to mediate, the mediation process and the outcomes of family and child mediation. Given recent changes to family law processes, this report will have particular currency. The research involved observation of mediation sessions and in-depth interviews with parties to the mediation and mediators. The report is now complete and is awaiting publication by Federation Press.

Australian German Civil Litigation

This study compared civil litigation process in Germany and Australia and identifies factors contributing to differences in cost and delay. It draws on data from the Supreme and District courts of NSW and from the Regional Court of Stuttgart. This is a collaborative project and was conducted with the University of NSW. The report will not be published as a Law and Justice Foundation report, but will be disseminated through academic mediums.

Norm Forms

This study compares the effect of fixed rules and discretionary principles on negotiation in legal disputes. The research entailed a categorisation of rules in terms of the degree of discretion — developed following an extensive literature review — to create simulation experiments for solicitors. At the end of the reporting period, the Foundation and the external academic author were still determining the most appropriate medium to disseminate the results.

GOAL

3

IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Improve access to justice through the support and conduct of selected projects, community legal education and referral programs, and the dissemination of data, analysis and information

STRATEGIES

- 3.1 Support Projects – the Grants Program
- 3.2 Facilitate legal sector relationships and coordination
- 3.3 Community legal education (CLE) and referral program
- 3.4 Disseminate data, analysis and information to improve access to justice

STRATEGY 3.1

Support Projects – the Grants Program

The Foundation's Grants Program supports innovative ideas developed at a grass root level to improve access to justice.

Approved grants

Over the past year, the Grants Program attracted applications seeking funding to address issues concerning a wide range of disadvantaged groups. These grants will result in the delivery of new services, the production of legal information and community legal education (CLE) resources and the provision of other support to a range of target groups.

GENERAL

*Publishing fact sheets***Arts Law Centre of Australia**

Amount: \$2,500.00

Project need: The Arts Law Centre of Australia provides advice and information to artists and arts organisations on legal issues relevant to the publication of their work. Together with other organisations providing legal information services to the community, a need was identified for more readily available and accessible information on copyright and related issues for community publishing projects.

Intended Outcome: A fact sheet on copyright and related issues relevant to community publishing projects, explaining copyright, moral rights, licensing agreements and other issues organisations need to be aware of, such as Creative Commons licenses. The fact sheet will complement other materials currently available through the Law and Justice Foundation's Publishing Toolkit.

*Immigration and HIV fact sheet***HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (NSW) (HALC)**

Amount: \$4,528.25

Project need: Immigration enquiries from clients who are HIV positive are one of the most common received by HALC. As immigration is an extremely complex area, it is complicated further for HIV positive clients. In addition, many migration agents do not regularly deal with health waivers.

Intended Outcome: A plain language fact sheet for clients and service providers detailing the visa classes that are available for HIV positive migrants, outlining the application process and providing information about eligibility requirements, the health waiver and supporting documentation required for the application process.

*Website development***Toongabbie Legal Centre Inc.**

Amount: \$5,000.00

Project need: The Toongabbie Legal Centre is a recently established community based legal centre that receives no funding from the existing legal service programs. It has been set up and is staffed entirely by volunteers and lawyers offering pro bono services. It offers free legal consultations on a voluntary basis for four hours per week. The Centre wants to make information about their services more readily available to its community and improve avenues of access to their service.

Intended Outcome: To develop a website for the Centre as a tool for community outreach, providing information about the programs and publications available at the Centre.

*Applying for probate fact sheet 2009***HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (NSW) (HALC)**

Amount: \$3,528.25

Project need: HALC assists many clients with estate planning, including drafting and executing wills. The Centre has

frequently observed that family members, already enduring grief and stress, are reluctant to become executors of wills because they are intimidated by the perceived complexity of the process to be undertaken in applying for probate.

Intended Outcome: A plain language fact sheet containing information on how to apply for probate and letters of administration. The fact sheet will be produced as a generic guide, appropriate for the entire community and useful to family, friends and carers of individuals who may or may not have a will. It will be distributed widely.

Hunter outreach legal clinics – Raymond Terrace and Dungog

Hunter Community Legal Centre

Amount: \$9,576.00

Project need: At present there are no face-to-face not-for-profit legal services operating in the Raymond Terrace and Dungog areas. Disadvantaged people who need advice and assistance in person must travel to Newcastle to access these services. This is problematic, especially for those who do not have access to transport or who face barriers to lengthy travel.

Intended Outcome: To pilot legal outreach clinics for people in the Raymond Terrace and Dungog areas, including free face-to-face legal advice and assistance in areas of family law, domestic violence, homelessness and financial stress.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

‘The Real Deal’ youth justice playing cards

Macquarie Legal Centre

Amount: \$20,000.00

Project need: Research conducted by Macquarie Legal Centre (MLC) in conjunction with the University of Western Sydney and the National Community Crime Prevention Programme indicates that many young people do not have an accurate understanding of the seriousness of different crimes. There is also a real need for plain language legal information for young people.

Intended Outcome: To update, produce and distribute 5,000 decks of ‘The Real Deal – Youth Justice Cards’ with a different legal tip printed on the front of each card, and phone numbers for legal services. The cards will be distributed to young people through secondary schools and youth centres to educate young people about their basic legal rights. It will be a fun educational resource with a strong focus on the rights and responsibilities of young people.

An important future outcome will be a better understanding of the effectiveness of this means of reaching this target group as a part of the project evaluation.

Promotional brochure for HCLC and HCCAS

Hunter Community Legal Centre (HCLC)

Amount: \$2,870.00

Project need: Consultations with clients that access the Hunter Children’s Court Assistance Scheme (HCCAS) and HCLC have demonstrated that the majority of these clients are missing out on access to important advice and information about their legal rights as they are not utilising the full range of services provided by these two organisations. In particular, outcomes for young people aged 12 to 24 in the Hunter region could be enhanced by a greater understanding of the services available and how to use them.

Intended Outcome: The project will produce two promotional brochures that will facilitate the access to justice of people in the local community. One brochure will promote the services of the HCCAS and will contain information appropriate for young people who are involved in the juvenile criminal justice system and their families. The second brochure will promote the services of the HCLC to the broader community and will contain information about obtaining free legal information, advice and advocacy.

DISABILITY

Updating of Using Disability Discrimination Law and Finding a Way: Case Studies in Disability Discrimination Law

Disability Discrimination Legal Centre NSW (DDLCC)

Amount: \$26,000.00

Project need: DDLCC receives approximately 1,000 disability discrimination law claims from clients each year and has distributed approximately 3,500 copies of an original set of case studies designed to educate individuals with a disability about relevant legislation. A lack of accessible and accurate information regarding disability discrimination law and changes to the relevant legislation means that people with disabilities, legal practitioners and service providers need practical, current and easy to use information.

Intended Outcome: Updated plain language guides on disability discrimination law and its practical application. These guides are primarily aimed at providing individuals with a disability a resource to make it easier to understand and use disability discrimination law. The guides will also be useful to legal practitioners, service providers and in educational programs. They will be available in hard copy and online, in Braille and as audio CDs.

GAY AND LESBIAN

Knowledge of and attitudes towards the legal rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people for appropriate end of life care

Aged Services Learning and Research Centre

Amount: \$39,150.00

Project need: Reports to legal and community services for members of the GLBT community identify that members of this group are frequently denied legal rights in the end of life care of their partners and other important people in their lives. There is a need for GLBT people to arrange wills, enduring power of attorney, advance health care directives and enduring guardianship, and to be aware of their rights relating to 'person responsible'.

Intended Outcome: A free booklet (both hard copy and electronic) for GLBT people explaining their legal rights around end of life care, the legal mechanisms available to protect them and how to access these rights. The booklet will include extracts from a research report to encourage GLBT people to make use of these legal mechanisms.

REFUGEES

Information update for asylum seekers

Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS)

Amount: \$32,197.00

Project need: RACS is the only organisation in NSW specialising in legal advice and assistance to asylum seekers. Although they receive a high volume of calls to their phone advice service, the organisation recognises that there may be many others who require advice and support but do not call due to a language barrier. Asylum seekers wishing to apply for protection visas, and for humanitarian or compassionate Ministerial intervention need easy access to current information.

Intended Outcome: Seven existing plain language fact sheets focusing on refugee law and legal processes will be updated and a number of these will be translated into the languages of the six largest refugee groups in NSW.

RURAL REGIONAL AND REMOTE

NACLC Conference 2010

National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC)

Amount: \$5,000.00

Project need: The NACLC Conference attracts approximately 350 delegates from over 200 community legal centres (CLCs) throughout Australia and New Zealand. The conference provides an important opportunity for training,

networking and capacity building. Without assistance, many regional and rural CLCs would be unable to send staff to Melbourne for the 2010 conference.

Intended Outcome: Attendance by a number of CLC staff from regional, rural and remote NSW at the NACLC conference. Delegates will be able to participate in workshops, build peer networks and strengthen the capacity of CLCs in regional and rural NSW.

CLCNSW 2010 state conference – RRR centres

Community Legal Centres NSW Inc (CLCNSW)

Amount: \$4,000.00

Project need: The annual CLCNSW State Conference supports and develops a positive environment for Community Legal Centres (CLC) staff and volunteers to advance the work of NSW CLCs. The conference is a key capacity building opportunity for rural, regional and remote CLC staff as substantial training and professional development is offered.

Intended Outcome: Attendance at the 2010 conference by a number of staff from regional, rural and remote NSW will provide training, opportunities to participate in discussion, strengthening of peer networks and enhanced capacity for CLCs in regional NSW to serve their clients.

GRANT PRODUCTS LAUNCHED IN 2009–10

Grant products include publications, fact sheets, DVDs, handbooks and other tangible items that are the outcomes of projects funded by the Foundation. In addition to these products many services, programs and projects have also been undertaken with Foundation grants.

GENERAL

Planning for legal needs: legal needs assessment framework

Community Legal Centres NSW Inc (CLCNSW)

Project need: A report of the Joint Commonwealth / NSW Review of Community Legal Centres (published February 2007) identified the need for CLCs to plan their services in a way that best serves the legal needs of economically and socially disadvantaged people in their geographic region or area of specialty.



Outcome: The development and trial of a model of evidence-based legal needs research and strategic planning, which will lead to better targeted legal services provided to economically and socially disadvantaged people by CLCs in NSW. Two background reports on the development of strategic plans for Women's Legal Service NSW and Western NSW Community Legal Centre have now been prepared using this model.

A series of Fact Sheets on tenancy issues

Inner Sydney Tenants Advice & Advocacy Service (TAAS)

Project need: The Inner Sydney Tenants Advice & Advocacy Service (TAAS) work consistently found that many disadvantaged groups do not know their tenancy rights and what tenancy services were available to help them.



Outcome: A series of fact sheets for private and public tenants in NSW was produced. The fact sheets provide plain language legal information relating to rights and options for various issues affecting tenants, including:

- ◆ Tenants' guide to compensation and rent reduction claims
- ◆ Appealing decisions of the NSW Land and Housing Corporation (HNSW) or community housing service providers
- ◆ Early termination of a fixed term tenancy agreement by tenants
- ◆ Applying for a rehearing at the Consumer, Trader & Tenancy Tribunal

Legal needs analysis of the Mid-North Coast region New South Wales

Disability Advocacy NSW Inc - Newcastle Office

Project need: Anecdotal evidence suggested there is a need for improved access to legal services for disadvantaged groups on the Mid-North Coast region of NSW. The need for legal services traditionally supplied by CLCs is anecdotal but is generally supported by current statistical information available through LawAccess NSW, the Law and Justice Foundation, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and local service databases. The aim of the report was to test the anecdotal evidence and to make a detailed assessment of the best way to provide continued access to legal and related information through the establishment of best practice legal programs on the Mid-North Coast.

Outcome: A report which undertook a systematic assessment of the legal needs of disadvantaged groups in this region through the collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data from across the region.

Rights denied: towards a national policy agenda about abuse, neglect and exploitation of persons with cognitive impairment

Phillip French Consulting

Project need: The experience of abuse and neglect is common for adults with disability, particularly those who receive funded disability services. There

was a demonstrated need for applied research which determines the recognition of and response to abuse and neglect, develops a picture of the incidence of this mistreatment, and identifies critical issues for policy makers, regulators, and service providers. Research of this nature had not been conducted at a national level in Australia.

Outcome: Development of a legal and human rights based framework for understanding barriers to the reporting of abuse, neglect and exploitation which influences the views and responses of service providers, managers and policy makers to the abuse. This report identified critical barriers to the exercising of rights by people with disability in the event of abuse or neglect. It provides useful resources for agencies who receive complaints by people with disability, agencies who support people with disability, and people with disability themselves.



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Exploration of the Children and Young Persons (Care And Protection) Act 1998

Australian Catholic University, School of Social Work

Project need: Section 90 of the Children and Young Persons (Care And Protection) Act 1998 (NSW) is concerned with applications to vary or rescind care orders that have been made. While the legislative intent of this section is to make it hard for parents to reclaim their children unless they have substantially changed their lives, a need was determined for a review of the implementation of the act to ensure that this did not, as an unintentional side-effect, impair the ability of vulnerable individuals such as those with mental illness, cognitive or mental disability or financial disadvantage to regain custody of their children.

Outcome: Through analysis of the process and outcomes of all applications for reinstatement of parental rights and responsibilities from July 2005 to June 2006, a report was produced outlining how this provision is being used in relation to the legislative intent.

CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE

IARC Information Sheets

Immigration Advice & Rights Centre (IARC)

Project need: The majority of clients who consult IARC are from non-English speaking backgrounds. A gap was identified in plain language information on the Australian visa application process, available in languages other than English.

Outcome: Information sheets in English, Arabic, Chinese and Farsi on immigration law and policy and the visa application process, that are available to people who are socially and economically disadvantaged and otherwise unable to access legal advice and assistance.

GOVERNMENT BENEFITS

Effectiveness of Australia's social security fraud prevention policy regime

Welfare Rights Centre (WRC)

Project need: WRC deals with many cases relating to criminal prosecutions for Social Security fraud. Achievement of earlier and better representation of those people who are prosecuted for alleged Social Security fraud in NSW could lead to better processes and outcomes for this disadvantaged group.

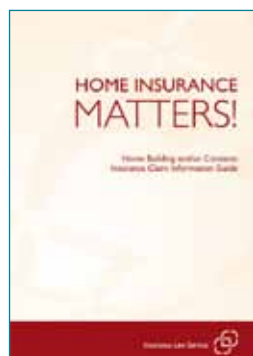
Outcome: A report prepared outlines the whole process of criminal prosecutions for alleged Social Security fraud in NSW. It identifies problems which exist at every stage of the process and outlines recommendations to address and remedy those problems, in order to ensure effective and fair outcomes both for recipients of Social Security and the wider community.

LOW INCOME

Insurance guides

Consumer Credit Legal Centre NSW (CCLC)

Project need: CCLC had obtained evidence to suggest that many low income consumers are unfairly denied access to insurance and are sometimes sold inappropriate insurance products, or products with



unduly harsh terms and conditions. In some cases there was a failure to obtain the benefit of insurance products for which people have duly paid because of financial hardship. There is also a need for advice and representation assistance in the event of a dispute with an insurance company.

Outcome: Three plain language fact sheets providing a guide to making a claim in the event of a bush fire, home building and/or contents claim or a car insurance claim. The fact sheets include an explanation of what an insurance policy is, how to make a claim and details of the more typical issues involved with claim processing. They also provide contact details for additional sources of information.

OLDER PEOPLE

Legal resource kit

Combined Pensioners & Superannuants Association of NSW (CPSA)

Project need: Many older tenants do not seek help and advice with tenancy matters until a matter becomes critical. CPSA had also identified that the cost of private rentals, particularly in the Greater Sydney Metropolitan area is beyond the means of older people.

Outcome: A kit containing a range of brochures and fact sheets on tenancy topics for older people living in private rental homes (including protected tenants and older tenants in social housing), their carers and relatives. The dissemination of the kit was supported with a number of community education sessions. Short presentations were conducted on topics such as older tenants in the private rental market and in social housing, powers of attorney, guardianship, and retirement villages.

PRISONERS & THEIR FAMILIES

The Justice Maze

Community Restorative Centre NSW (CRC)

Project need: CRC's work with prisoners and families of prisoners has identified that approximately 100,000 people in lower socio-economic areas of NSW are directly or indirectly affected by incarceration each year, but have little or no knowledge of how the system works and how to access the information and services available to prisoners and their families. They have also identified that many government and community service providers are unaware of how the criminal justice system works.



Outcome: A DVD targeting prisoners and their families containing information on the criminal justice system in NSW and associated issues relating to arrest, trial, imprisonment and release into the community. Five separate video topics cover arrest, going to court, prison, family finances and coming home.

REFUGEES

Tales of the unexpected & refugee status decision-making: managing and understanding psychological issues among refugee applicants

University of New South Wales Faculty of Law

Project need: Asylum seekers are among the most marginalised groups accessing the Australian legal system. In Australia there are no guidelines to assist legal representatives in determining when psychological evidence should be sought and how such evidence can assist in documenting applicants' trauma histories. Similarly, there is nothing to assist mental health professionals who provide psychological reports regarding the preparation of evidence for consideration by decision makers.

Outcome: A report outlining recommendations for the production of accessible publications that will assist applicants and their representatives in the gathering and presentation of evidence. The report also provides guidance to mental health professionals preparing psychological reports and assists decision makers in their evaluation of the expert reports and evidence presented by applicants.

WOMEN

Violence against women

Tamworth Regional Council

Project need: Statistics from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research showed that in 2007 domestic violence related assault in Tamworth had risen 26% since 2003. Breached Apprehended Violence Orders also increased significantly from 141 reported incidents in 2003 to 174 reported incidents in 2007.

Outcome: A sticker which promotes the 24 hour domestic violence hotline available in the Tamworth City area. Five-thousand stickers and over 100 awareness raising posters were distributed and displayed throughout the community.



STRATEGY 3.2

Facilitate legal sector relationships and coordination

NSW Legal Assistance Forum

The Foundation continues to participate in and support the work of the NSW Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF), which promotes collaboration and coordination in the provision of legal services in NSW to socially and economically disadvantaged people.

The work of NLAF in 2009–10 included particular projects focused on improving access to legal services for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities; rural, regional and remote (RRR) communities; and prisoners:

- ♦ The NLAF RRR Working Group examining the availability of lawyers in rural, regional and remote NSW obtained funding from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department for the Foundation to conduct research on the availability, recruitment and retention of lawyers to assist disadvantaged people in RRR areas of NSW. The research was completed and a report submitted in June 2010.
- ♦ The NLAF Prisoners Working Group:
 - focused on issues of information, education and training for prisoners; lawyer/inmate communication; and civil and family law needs of prisoners
 - developed a legal information portal for use by prisoners on the new network of computers being rolled out in NSW correctional centres. The initiative is funded jointly by Corrective Services NSW and Legal Aid NSW
 - mapped the provision of civil and family law services (from CLCs, Legal Aid NSW and ALS) to prisoners across NSW.
- ♦ The NLAF CALD Communities Working Group developed a resource guide outlining legal information resources available in Dinka, Arabic and Juba. The group worked with Blacktown Local Court and the University of Western Sydney to investigate models of court support. The group also developed a model for interagency cooperation aimed at improving access to legal assistance services for the Fijian and Iraqi communities in Liverpool. As a result, a Liverpool Legal Services Interagency was established. The working group also developed a 'tip sheet' for working with CALD communities that is available on the NLAF website.

- ♦ NLAJ established a Domestic Violence Working Group. The group:
 - examined improving coordination of legal services for people experiencing domestic violence in NSW.
 - convened a forum in October 2009 attended by representatives from State and Commonwealth government, service providers, courts and police. As a result of the forum, a number of mapping documents were produced that related to training, domestic violence committees in NSW, domestic violence services in NSW Local Courts, domestic violence legal services in NSW and Women’s Domestic Violence Advocacy Services. These documents are available on the NLAJ website.
 - convened a second forum in May 2010 in conjunction with the Australian and NSW Law Reform Commissions. The Forum was an opportunity for people working in the domestic violence sector to provide input into the ALRC / NSW LRC Family Violence Inquiry.
- ♦ NLAJ was invited to give evidence to the House of Representatives Inquiry into the Impact of the GFC on regional Australia, in support of its written submission put before the Inquiry.
- ♦ NLAJ members met with staff from the Commonwealth Attorney-General’s Department to discuss the report *A Strategic Framework for Access to Justice in the Federal Civil Justice System*. NLAJ made a written submission in response to the report. A copy of the NLAJ submission arising out of the consultations is available on the NLAJ website.

STRATEGY 3.3

Community legal education (CLE) and referral program

Emerging research indicates that a lack of knowledge of the law, legal processes and existing legal assistance services in the community may lead to poor outcomes in resolving legal problems, particularly for those who are socially and economically disadvantaged. Community legal education and referral initiatives have the potential to play a critical role in addressing this need.

Providing Advice

The Foundation provides best practice advice about producing quality plain language legal resources and developing community legal education programs, particularly to grant applicants and recipients, and as appropriate to relevant organisations within the sector.

This reporting period the Foundation participated in user testing of new websites for Legal Aid NSW and LawAccess. User testing advice was also provided to the NLAJ Prisoners Working Group for an intranet portal that allows prisoners access to legal information.

Seminars and Workshops

As part of the capacity building program to support the production of plain language legal information, the Foundation runs a seminar series covering different aspects of publishing. The seminar in 2009–10 was ‘CLE: Lessons Learnt’ and addressed the delivery of community legal education to particular disadvantaged groups and in particular environments, including rural, regional and remote areas.

Plain Language Law database and newsletter

Past editions of the Foundation’s Plain Language Law newsletter are now searchable through ‘Plain Language Law Search’ database which contains over 850 resources. It is searchable by format (e.g. DVD, booklet etc), language, law type and target group. The database is available through the Foundation’s website: www.lawfoundation.net.au/pllsearch.

NSW Legal Information and Referral Forum

The Foundation convenes the Legal Information and Referral Forum, which continues to provide a valuable avenue for agencies to work together to improve the provision of information and referral to people with legal problems in NSW.

The Forum’s meetings in 2009–10 focused on:

- ♦ Credit and debt issues including the role of the Consumer Credit Legal Centre, the role of the Financial Ombudsman Service, current issues in credit and debt, the Commonwealth’s new legislation, and Australian Securities and Investments Commission’s latest consumer education initiatives.
- ♦ The University of NSW’s report *The family and civil law needs of Aboriginal people in NSW* (2008) which explores how Legal Aid NSW might improve the services that they provide to Aboriginal clients in the areas of civil and family law.
- ♦ Training for non-legal service providers. Four programs were showcased including Law for Community Workers (Legal Aid NSW), Finding Legal Answers (Legal Information Access Centre), Community Worker Legal Education Series (Kingsford Legal Centre) and Law for Non-Lawyers course (Public Interest Advocacy Centre)

STRATEGY 3.4

Disseminate data, analysis and information to improve access to justice

Collecting, assessing and disseminating information about the justice system is a key component of Foundation activities which is achieved through such means as reports, newsletters, submissions, conference papers, the website and the annual Justice Awards.

Justice Access Research Alert — JARA

The Foundation's bi-monthly JARA e-newsletter continued to keep more than 600 subscribers up to date with the latest research on access to justice. All resources listed in JARA since its inception in 2004 can be searched using the online tool, *Just Search*.

2009 Justice Awards

The eleventh annual Justice Awards were celebrated on 1 October 2009 at a dinner at Parliament House with 365 attendees coming together to celebrate the achievements of all the nominees.

Thirty-one nominations were received overall for the Justice Medal, the Aboriginal Justice Award, the Pro Bono Partnership Award, the Law and Justice Volunteer

Award, with awards also presented in the categories of the Community Legal Centres NSW Award, the Law Society President's Award and the LIAC Centre of Excellence Award.

Recently retired Chief Justice of Australia, The Hon. Murray Gleeson AC, took the opportunity of presenting the Law and Justice Address to reflect on his experiences and knowledge of the law as a practical social science. He highlighted the importance of evidence-based information in order to understand the strengths and limitations of the law, the intricacies of individual cases, and to recognise the complexities of identifying and meeting the need for access to justice. He summarised that the kind of justice that courts and litigators offer is necessary, but often irrelevant to the needs of many people. This address is available on the Foundation's website www.lawfoundation.net.au/justice_awards/address.

The 2009 Justice Award winners were:

Justice Medal: Dr Eileen Baldry

Sponsored by the Foundation, the Justice Medal is the pre-eminent Award for outstanding individual achievement in improving access to justice, especially for socially and economically disadvantaged people.

The Patron of the Foundation and former Chief Justice of Australia, Sir Anthony Mason AC KBE, presented the Justice Medal to Dr Eileen Baldry. Dr Baldry is an



The 2009 Justice Awards winners

academic and activist who has made a major contribution to improving access to justice for prisoners and people in the criminal justice system with mental disorders and cognitive disabilities. Her work informs government policy development. She is generous in sharing her knowledge and indefatigable in her support of many justice-related committees and causes. As a colleague said: “It doesn’t matter where you go or what you do in the field of criminal justice, she is either there or has been there.”

Aboriginal Justice Award

Sponsored by the NSW Attorney General’s Department and presented to an Aboriginal person, or a group of Aboriginal people, demonstrating outstanding commitment to improving access to justice for Aboriginal people in NSW.

The Attorney General of NSW, the Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC, presented the 2009 Aboriginal Justice Award to the 12 Aboriginal elders and community representatives of Circle Sentencing at Nowra Local Court, who have committed so much to bring their cultural knowledge and wisdom to the successful pilot of circle sentencing, through which better understanding and respect between the court and community is building.

Pro Bono Partnership Award

Sponsored by the National Pro Bono Resource Centre and presented to a partnership of private law firms, community organisations and/or community legal centres in NSW which has developed an outstanding pro bono legal assistance relationship, resulting in improved access to justice for disadvantaged people in the community.

The award went to Mills Oakley Lawyers and the Salvation Army, Auburn for their partnership aimed at providing free legal advice and representation for marginalised people in Western Sydney.

Law and Justice Volunteer Award

Sponsored by The New South Wales Bar Association and presented to an individual, or a group of individuals, who, in a voluntary capacity, demonstrate outstanding commitment to improving access to justice in NSW.

The winner was the Southern Women’s Group, who have made a real difference over 20 years to the lives of women and children on the South Coast, especially those who are victims of domestic violence.

Law Society President’s Award

Sponsored by The Law Society of New South Wales and presented to an individual solicitor for participation in The Law Society’s Pro Bono Scheme.

This award recognised the outstanding commitment to pro bono work by Mr Oleh Suchowersky of Northern Suburbs Lawyers who acted in 10 matters over 18 months and has achieved many successful outcomes in a range of complex matters.

Community Legal Centres NSW Award

Sponsored by Community Legal Centres NSW and presented for a project run by a community legal centre that demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving access to justice in NSW, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged people.

The award went to a group of organisations that, in partnership, provides regular free legal advice and workshops at three women’s correctional facilities in Sydney. The partners in this Legal Education and Advice in Prison for Women Project are the Women’s Legal Services NSW, Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women’s Legal Centre and Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre.

LIAC Centre of Excellence Award

Sponsored by the Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC) and presented for innovative achievement by Legal Information Access Centres in NSW public libraries in providing plain language legal information to the community.

Two awards were presented, with one going to Auburn City Library and the other to Coffs Harbour City Library, for their engaging and well-attended Law Week programs.

Memorandum of understanding with the State Library of NSW

Under the memorandum, the Foundation and LIAC work together across a range of areas, including consulting on legal information needs and jointly promoting legal information resources.

Cooperation resulted in:

- ♦ provision by LIAC of items for the Foundation’s *Plain Language Law* newsletter
- ♦ maintenance by both parties of up-to-date, web-based legal research links for case law and legislation
- ♦ provision by LIAC of expert referee reports for Foundation legal information grants
- ♦ participation by LIAC in the NSW Legal Information and Referral Forum convened by the Foundation
- ♦ participation by LIAC in the 2008 Justice Awards through the LIAC Centre of Excellence Awards.

The Foundation’s Chair, The Hon Paul Stein QC AM, and Director, Geoff Mulherin, are members of the LIAC Board.

Communicating Foundation work

Conferences and presentations

During the year, the Director and staff spoke about the work of the Foundation at:

- ◆ The Director attended the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG) Access to Justice Workforce which includes all state, territory and Commonwealth Attorneys-General.
- ◆ The Director and Senior Researcher, Suzie Forell, attended the 8th Legal Services Research Centre's (UK) International Research Conference 2010, Research into Practice: Legal Service Delivery in a New Decade where Suzie Forell presented a paper on the Foundation report Taking justice into custody: prisoners, legal need and access to justice.
- ◆ The Director and Senior Researcher Suzie Forell presented at the Prime Minister's Council on the Homeless.

All Foundation staff actively brought the work of the Foundation, when relevant, to the various steering groups, working groups, and the like, throughout the year.

Participation on boards/trusts/committees

Staff from the Foundation provided input to a range of projects through their participation in the following boards and committees:

- ◆ Law Society of New South Wales, Pro Bono Disbursements Trust Fund, Trustee, Geoff Mulherin
- ◆ Legal Information Access Centre Board, Geoff Mulherin and The Hon. Paul Stein
- ◆ NSW Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF), Geoff Mulherin
- ◆ NLAF RRR Working Group, Geoff Mulherin, Suzie Forell, Michael Cain
- ◆ NLAF Prisoners Working Group, Suzie Forell
- ◆ NLAF Prisoners Working Group, Information, Education and Training Sub-Group, Suzie Forell
- ◆ NLAF CLSD Steering Committee, staff representatives
- ◆ NLAF Training Reference Group, staff representatives
- ◆ Community Legal Education Workers Forum, Abigail Gray
- ◆ University of Sydney, Socio-legal Studies Reference Group, Geoff Mulherin
- ◆ Department of Justice and Attorney General Victims of Crime Research Agenda Advisory Committee, Geoff Mulherin

GOAL

4

COST-EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS SUPPORT

Optimise the capacity and capabilities of the Foundation through cost-effective resource and information management

STRATEGIES

4.1 Develop the information management capabilities of the Foundation

4.2 Manage resources efficiently and cost-effectively

This goal underpins the other goals and ensures the Law and Justice Foundation has the right environment to achieve its goals.

STRATEGY 4.1

Develop the information management capabilities of the Foundation

The Foundation continues to implement cost-effective knowledge and information management systems to ensure that we make optimum use of organisational intelligence. Our approach involves:

- ♦ prompt reporting by staff of relevant information gathered from attendance at conferences and seminars
- ♦ use of consistent filing systems and taxonomies to ensure that knowledge is easily accessed
- ♦ use of integrated databases which allow the Foundation to keep track of expertise in the justice sector and inform relevant people and organisations of our activities
- ♦ maintaining a professional library function to support our research, plain language and grant activities.

STRATEGY 4.2

Manage resources efficiently and cost-effectively

Responsible and prudent strategic and business planning is central to the Foundation's performance management system.

All operations during the 2009–10 year conformed to the 2009–10 Business Plan, which put into operation the first year of the 2009–12 Strategic Plan.

The Business Plan for 2010–2011 was devised with the aim of achieving organisational objectives and is aligned with the strategic plan. Planning entailed a review of the achievements and outstanding activities at the end of the previous period and the allocation of realistic time lines and resources for undertaking projects and other work.

The Foundation's planning at both the strategic and business level is accompanied by realistic budgets and an approach to organisational development based on ongoing research, review, flexibility and continuous improvement to encourage a high performance culture.

Business management

The Board of Governors met regularly over the year, monitoring the Foundation's performance through quarterly reports against the Business Plan. Following a review of the Foundation's investment strategy, revised Investment and Reserve policies were developed, resulting in a more conservative asset allocation strategy and placement of the majority of funds with T-Corp NSW for investment management.

A continued emphasis on keeping costs down, improved budgeting and improved investment performance have significantly improved the Foundation's overall financial position.

Human resource management

Our human resource management is governed by two principles: recruitment, development and retention of high quality staff, and continuous improvement in systems and procedures. We take a flexible approach to the organisational structure to manage changing business imperatives.

Information technology

The Foundation maintains an effective information system with the aim of making IT services reliable and secure to support the Foundation's activities with a minimum of disruption.

Staff training

The Foundation has an active staff learning and development program. The structured training undertaken by Foundation staff in 2009–10 consisted of courses, visits to other organisations in the sector and attendance at seminars.

Governors' Report

The Governors of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales ("the Foundation") submit herewith the annual financial report for the financial year ended 30 June 2010. In order to comply with the provisions of the Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000, the Governors report as follows:

The names of the Governors of the Foundation during or since the financial year are:

- ♦ P. Stein
- ♦ J. Behrendt
- ♦ G. Daley
- ♦ B. Hounslow
- ♦ G. Mulherin
- ♦ K. Rozzoli
- ♦ J. Sheahan
- ♦ F. Terenzini (resigned 6 August 2010)
- ♦ S. Moselmane (appointed 7 August 2010)

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales was established under the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000* ("Act") as a reconstitution of the Law Foundation of New South Wales.

Pursuant to Section 5 (1) of the Act, the objects of the Foundation are to contribute to the development of a fair and equitable justice system which addresses the legal needs of the community and to improve access to justice by the community (in particular, by economically and socially disadvantaged people).

Pursuant to Section 5 (2) of the Act, the Foundation may do any one or more of the following:

- (a) conduct and sponsor research (including inter-disciplinary research) into the law, the justice system, alternative dispute resolution and the legal profession,
- (b) collect, assess and disseminate information about the justice system,
- (c) conduct and sponsor projects aimed at facilitating access to justice and access to information about the justice system,
- (d) promote education about the justice system.

The Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales operates predominantly in the geographical area of New South Wales.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

The net surplus for the year ended June 2010 was \$588,831. For the year ended June 2009 there was a net deficit of \$56,335. The improved result can be attributed to two main factors. Firstly, a continued emphasis on reducing costs resulted in savings across most expense categories. Secondly, improved financial markets resulted in investment income of \$405,769, significantly better than the loss from investments of \$395,429 in 2009.

CHANGE IN STATE OF AFFAIRS

During the financial year there was no other significant change in the state of affairs of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales other than any referred to in the financial statements or notes thereto.

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

There has not been any matter or circumstance, other than that referred to in the financial report or notes thereto, that has arisen since the end of the financial year, that has significantly affected or may significantly affect, the operations of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales in future financial years.

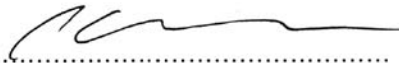
INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS AND AUDITORS

During the financial year, the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales paid a premium in respect of a contract insuring the Governors of the Foundation (as named above) and all officers of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales and of any related body corporate against a liability incurred as such by a governor or an officer to the extent permitted by the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000*. The contract of insurance prohibits the disclosure of the nature of the liability and the amount of the premium.

The Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales has not otherwise, during or since the financial year, indemnified or agreed to indemnify a governor, officer or auditor of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales or any related body corporate against any liability incurred as such by a governor, officer or auditor.

On behalf of the Board of Governors


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GOVERNOR


.....
GOVERNOR

Sydney 3 Nov 2010

Sydney 3 Nov 2010

Auditor's Report

Deloitte.

**Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Law and
Justice Foundation of New South Wales**

Governors' Declaration


As detailed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales is not a reporting entity because in the opinion of the Board of Governors there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are unable to command the preparation of the reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. Accordingly, this 'Special Purpose Financial Report' has been prepared to satisfy the Board of Governors' reporting requirements under the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000*.

The Board of Governors declares that:

- (a) the attached financial statements and notes thereto comply with Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements;
- (b) the attached financial statements and notes thereto give a true and correct view of the financial position and performance of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales;
- (c) in the Governors' opinion, the attached financial statement and notes thereto are in accordance with the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000*; and
- (d) in the Governors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the Board of Governors


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GOVERNOR


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GOVERNOR

Sydney 3 Nov 2010

Sydney 3 Nov 2010

Financial Statements

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2010

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
Operating revenue	2(a)	2,390,870	2,296,407
Investment income	2(b)	405,769	(395,429)
Profit on sale of land and buildings	2(c)	-	677,135
Employment related expense		(1,497,222)	(1,598,127)
Consultants and contractor expenses		(27,774)	(21,829)
Premises costs		(198,557)	(231,487)
Depreciation expense	5	(47,771)	(68,143)
Grants and projects costs		(102,427)	(206,748)
Audit fees	16	(24,901)	(23,631)
Justice Awards expenses		(66,292)	(52,680)
Insurance costs		(25,543)	(24,184)
Information technology & related costs		(120,784)	(193,286)
Legal needs survey costs		(27,202)	(88,214)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		<u>(69,335)</u>	<u>(126,119)</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) before income tax expense		<u>588,831</u>	<u>(56,335)</u>
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities	1(e)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Comprehensive Income / (Loss) for the Year		<u><u>588,831</u></u>	<u><u>(56,335)</u></u>

Notes to the Financial Statements are included on pages 31 to 38

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2010

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
Current Assets			
Cash assets	11(a)	441,210	1,597,089
Receivables	3	25,577	74,462
Investments	4	4,108,665	2,829,864
Other current assets		<u>35,617</u>	<u>13,927</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>4,611,069</u>	<u>4,515,342</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	21,907	57,238
Other assets		<u>1,053</u>	<u>1,053</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>22,960</u>	<u>58,291</u>
Total Assets		<u>4,634,029</u>	<u>4,573,633</u>
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	6	144,534	428,874
Provisions	7	110,282	160,485
Grants and external projects allocated – not drawn	8	<u>693,071</u>	<u>885,028</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>947,887</u>	<u>1,474,387</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	9	<u>44,456</u>	<u>46,391</u>
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>44,456</u>	<u>46,391</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>992,343</u>	<u>1,520,778</u>
Net Assets		<u>3,641,686</u>	<u>3,052,855</u>
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		<u>3,641,686</u>	<u>3,052,855</u>
Total Equity		<u>3,641,686</u>	<u>3,052,855</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements are included on pages 31 to 38

Statement of Cash Flows for the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2010

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
<i>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</i>			
Receipts from customers and grants		2,207,509	2,015,626
Interest received		41,691	32,999
Payments to suppliers, employees, and grants and projects		<u>(2,524,926)</u>	<u>(2,855,138)</u>
<i>Net Cash used in Operating Activities</i>	11(b)	<u>(275,726)</u>	<u>(806,513)</u>
<i>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</i>			
Proceeds on sale of investment securities		3,799,535	1,966,310
Payment for investment securities		(4,904,369)	(1,778,079)
Dividends and interest received		237,122	242,360
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets		-	1,119,144
Payment for fixed and other assets		<u>(12,441)</u>	<u>(7,765)</u>
<i>Net Cash used in Investing Activities</i>		<u>(880,153)</u>	<u>1,541,970</u>
Net (Decrease) / Increase in Cash Held		(1,155,879)	735,457
Cash at Beginning of Financial Year		<u>1,597,089</u>	<u>861,632</u>
Cash at End of Financial Year	11(a)	<u><u>441,210</u></u>	<u><u>1,597,089</u></u>

Statement of Changes in Equity for the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2010

Opening Balance	3,052,855	3,109,190
Net surplus / (deficit) for year	<u>588,831</u>	<u>(56,335)</u>
Closing Balance	<u><u>3,641,686</u></u>	<u><u>3,052,855</u></u>

Notes to the Financial Statements are included on pages 31 to 38

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2010

1. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial Reporting Framework

The Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales is not a reporting entity because in the opinion of the Board of Governors, there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. Accordingly, this “Special Purpose Financial Report” has been prepared to satisfy the Governors’ reporting requirements under the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000*.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000* (“*The Act*”), the basis of accounting and disclosure requirements specified by Australian Accounting Standards AASB101 Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB107 Cash Flow Statements, AASB1031 Materiality and AASB108 Accounting Policies Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors.

Basis of Presentation

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

Critical accounting judgements

In the application of the entity’s accounting policies, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects that period only, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Adoption of new and revised Accounting Standards

In the current year, the entity has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (the AASB) that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current annual reporting period.

Significant Accounting Policies

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

The following significant accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation and presentation of the financial report:

(a) Grant and Project Expenditure

Grant expenditure in excess of \$5,000 requires the approval of, and is at the discretion of, the Board of Governors. Grants of \$5,000 or less can be approved by the Director. Those approved in the current financial year are reported as expenses in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, to the extent approved.

Grant and project allocations not drawn at the expiry of the project are, after systematic review by recipients and management, written back to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

In a minor number of instances, grants are advanced by way of loan. Repayment of the loans is usually considered remote. Notwithstanding the advance of the funds as loans they are nevertheless treated as grants, as described above. If the loans or a portion thereof are repaid, the amounts are brought to account as income in the period in which they are repaid.

(b) Income Allocation

Grants received from the Public Purpose Fund for general operations have been brought to account as income at a monthly accrual of \$166,667. This represents 1/12th of the annual allocation for Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales core activities which, in the financial year ended 30 June 2010 totalled \$2,000,000.

Grants received from the Public Purpose Fund for specific projects are brought to account as income to match expenses as and when they are incurred for the project.

1. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(c) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on leasehold improvements, furniture and fittings and office equipment. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis so as to write off the net cost or other revalued amount of each asset over its expected useful life. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the period of the lease or estimated useful life, whichever is shorter, using the straight-line method.

The following estimated useful lives are used in the calculation of depreciation:

Leasehold improvements	Term of the lease
Furniture and fittings	10 years
Office equipment	3 years

(d) Recoverable Amount of Non-Current Assets

Non-current assets are written down to recoverable amount where the carrying value of any non-current assets exceeds recoverable amount. In determining the recoverable amount of non-current assets, the expected net cash flows have not been discounted to their present value.

(e) Income Tax

The Law and Justice Foundation has been granted exemption from Income Tax under Section 50–55 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(f) Employee Entitlements

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave when it is probable that settlement will be required and the amounts are capable of being measured reliably.

Provisions made in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months, are measured at their nominal values.

Provisions made in respect of long service leave which are not expected to be settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales in respect of services provided by the employees up to the reporting date.

(g) Payables

Trade payables and other accounts payable are recognised when the Foundation becomes obliged to make future payments resulting from the purchase of goods and services.

(h) Acquisition of Assets

Assets acquired are recorded at the cost of acquisition, being the purchase consideration determined as at the date of acquisition plus costs incidental to the acquisition.

(i) Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST) except:

- i. where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (“ATO”), it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense; or
- ii. for receivable and payables which are recognised inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is classified as operating cash flows.

(j) Receivables

Trade receivables and other receivables are recorded at amounts due less any provision for doubtful debts.

(k) Investments

Section 16 of the Act provides that ‘...the Foundation may invest money held by it in any investment in which a trustee may invest funds in accordance with the *Trustee Act 1925*.’. The Foundation’s investment policy complies with the Act and, to at least the extent required, the *Trustees Act 1925*.

1. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Given the long-term nature of much of the Foundation's work (2–4 years), and the need from time to time to use more than the annual allocation from the Public Purpose Fund for major projects, the Foundation maintains some reserves. These reserves are invested in accordance with the Foundation's investment policy in a mixture of index funds and managed investment facilities with the aims of maintaining the real value of invested capital and to generate income to supplement the grants received from the Public Purpose Fund to cover any shortfall to expected annual expenditure.

Investments in financial assets are included in the financial statements at fair value at balance sheet date period. Gains and losses on revaluation of investments to fair value are recognised as revenue or expenses respectively in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Realised gains and losses on sale are recognised as revenue or expenses respectively in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Dividend income is recognised on a receivable basis on the date that shares are quoted ex-dividend. Interest from fixed securities and discount securities is recognised as income on the basis of the accumulated entitlement that would be received on the disposal of the security according to the trading practices accepted by the market for the relevant security. Interest on cash on deposit is recognised in accordance with the terms and conditions which apply to the deposit.

(l) Revenue Recognition**Sale of Goods and Disposal of Assets**

Revenue from the sale of goods and disposal of other assets is recognised when the Foundation has passed control of the goods or other assets to the buyer.

Rendering of Services

Revenue from a contract to provide services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract.

(m) Non-Current Assets Held for Sale

Non-current assets classified as held for sale are measured, with certain exceptions, at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less cost to sell. Non-current assets are classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. This conduct is regarded as met only when the asset is available for immediate sale in its present condition subject only to terms that are usual and customary for such a sale and the sale is highly probable. The sale of the asset must be expected to be completed within one year from the date of classification, except in the circumstances where sale is delayed by events or circumstances outside the Foundation's control and the Foundation remains committed to a sale.

(n) Leased Assets

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a basis which reflects the pattern in which economic benefits from the leased asset are consumed.

(o) Going Concern

The financial report for the year ended 30 June 2010 has been prepared on the basis that the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales is a going concern, which assumes continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and the settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business. The appropriateness of adopting a going concern basis of accounting is largely dependent upon the continuation of allocations from the Public Purpose Fund. It is expected that these allocations will continue in the short term, but may cease at the end of the current three-year agreement in June 2012.

(p) Comparative Information

Where necessary comparative amounts have been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with the current year accounting policy and disclosures. Further details on the nature and reason for the amounts that have been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with the current year accounting policy and disclosures, where considered material, are referred to separately in the financial statements or notes thereto.

2. REVENUE		
	2010 \$	2009 \$
(a) Operating Revenue		
Public Purpose Fund – recurrent funding	2,000,000	1,980,240
Public Purpose Fund – Other Projects	163,553	165,150
Legal aid commissions contributions	27,127	37,645
Sales revenue: Sale of goods	93	1,803
Rendering of services:		
Justice Awards	42,153	44,630
Other	109,234	33,111
Interest revenue: Other financial assets	41,691	32,999
Royalties	<u>7,019</u>	<u>829</u>
Total Operating Revenue	<u>2,390,870</u>	<u>2,296,407</u>
(b) Investment Income		
Dividends and interest on investments	231,803	220,288
Profit / (Loss) on sale of investments	392,748	(969,943)
Unrealised (loss) / gain arising from the revaluation of current assets - investments	<u>(218,782)</u>	<u>354,226</u>
Total Investment Income	<u>405,769</u>	<u>(395,429)</u>
(c) Profit on sale		
Profit on sale of land and buildings	<u>-</u>	<u>677,135</u>
3. RECEIVABLES		
Trade debtors	2,895	46,033
Refund of imputation credits	20,110	25,429
Other receivables	<u>2,572</u>	<u>3,000</u>
	<u>25,577</u>	<u>74,462</u>
4. INVESTMENTS		
Shares – at market value	-	1,914,305
Fixed Interest Securities – at market value	-	915,559
Managed investment portfolios	2,734,844	-
Managed index funds	<u>1,373,821</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>4,108,665</u>	<u>2,829,864</u>

5. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Leasehold Improvements	Furniture & Fittings	Office Equipment	Total
Gross Carrying Value	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 01 July 2009	326,616	82,620	179,901	589,137
Additions	-	-	12,441	12,441
Transfers	-	-	-	-
Write offs	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 30 June 2010	326,616	82,620	192,342	601,578
Accumulated Depreciation				
Balance as at 01 July 2009	(308,003)	(76,452)	(147,445)	(531,900)
Depreciation Expense	(18,512)	(2,063)	(27,196)	(47,771)
Transfers	-	-	-	-
Write offs	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 30 June 2010	(326,515)	(78,515)	(174,641)	(579,671)
As at 30 June 2009	18,613	6,168	32,456	57,238
As at 30 June 2010	101	4,105	17,701	21,907

Aggregate depreciation allocated, whether recognised as an expense or capitalised as part of the carrying amount of other assets during the year:

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Leasehold improvements	18,512	28,936
Office furniture & fittings	2,063	2,553
Office equipment	27,196	36,654
	<u>47,771</u>	<u>68,143</u>

6. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

Trade payables	93,604	212,414
Other payables	21,327	42,727
Payables to third parties (legal needs survey)	2,074	153,763
Accrued wages & salaries (note 10)	27,529	19,970
	<u>144,534</u>	<u>428,874</u>

7. CURRENT PROVISIONS

Provision for annual leave (note 10)	88,186	133,325
Provision for long service leave (note 10)	22,096	27,160
	<u>110,282</u>	<u>160,485</u>

8. GRANTS AND EXTERNAL PROJECTS NOT DRAWN

Grants	292,475	388,048
External projects	354,727	451,111
Tied grants payable	45,869	45,869
	<u>693,071</u>	<u>885,028</u>

9. NON-CURRENT PROVISIONS

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Provision for long service leave (note 10)	<u>44,456</u>	<u>46,391</u>

10. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The aggregate employee benefit liability recognised and included in the financial statements is as follows:

Provision for employee benefits:

Current (note 7)	110,282	160,485
Non-current (note 9)	44,456	46,391
Accrued wages and salaries (note 6)	<u>27,529</u>	<u>19,970</u>
	<u>182,267</u>	<u>226,846</u>

11. NOTES TO STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand and in banks. Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

	<u>441,210</u>	<u>1,597,089</u>
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(b) Reconciliation of Net Surplus / (Deficit) to Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities

<i>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	588,831	(56,335)
Depreciation of non-current assets	47,771	68,143
Net unrealised loss / (gain) arising from the revaluation of investments	218,782	(354,226)
Profit on sale of non current assets held for sale	-	(677,135)
(Profit) / Loss on sale of investments	(392,748)	969,943
Dividends and interest received	(231,803)	(220,288)
<i>(Increase)/Decrease in assets</i>		
Receivables	43,566	(40,317)
Other current assets	(21,690)	24,350
<i>(Decrease)/Increase in liabilities</i>		
Payables	(284,340)	(534,583)
Provision current	(50,203)	(42,870)
Provision non current	1,935	11,505
Grant and projects allocated - not drawn	<u>(191,957)</u>	<u>45,300</u>
<i>Net Cash used in Operating Activities</i>	<u>(275,726)</u>	<u>(806,513)</u>

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Significant Accounting Policies

Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which revenues and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument are disclosed in Note 1 to the financial statements.

(b) Credit Risk Exposures

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counter party will default on its contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Foundation. The Foundation has adopted the policy of only dealing with creditworthy counter parties and obtaining sufficient collateral or other security where appropriate, as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss from defaults. The Foundation measures credit risk on a fair value basis.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any provisions for losses, represents the Foundation's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking into account the value of any collateral or other security obtained.

(c) Interest Rate Risk Exposures

The Foundation's exposure to interest rate risk and the effective weighted average interest rate by maturity periods is set out in the following table. For interest rates applicable to each class of asset or liability, refer to individual notes to the financial statements.

Exposures arise predominantly from assets and liabilities bearing variable interest rates as the consolidated entity intends to hold fixed rate assets and liabilities to maturity.

<i>2010</i>	Average Interest Rate	Fixed Interest Rate Maturity	Variable Interest Rate	Non-interest Bearing	Consolidated Total
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	3.00%	-	441,210	-	441,210
Receivables	-	-	-	25,577	25,577
Other current assets	-	-	-	35,617	35,617
Investments	-	-	-	4,108,665	4,108,665
Total		-	441,210	4,169,859	4,611,069
Financial Liabilities					
Trade creditors & other payables	-	-	-	144,534	144,534
Total		-	-	144,534	144,534
Net financial assets		-	441,210	4,025,325	4,466,535
<i>2009</i>	Average Interest Rate	Fixed Interest Rate Maturity	Variable Interest Rate	Non-interest Bearing	Consolidated Total
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	4.50%	-	1,597,089	-	1,597,089
Receivables	-	-	-	74,462	74,462
Other current assets	-	-	-	13,927	13,927
Investments	10.00%	915,559	-	1,914,305	2,829,864
Total		915,559	1,597,089	2,002,694	4,515,342
Financial Liabilities					
Trade creditors & other payables	-	-	-	428,874	428,874
Total		-	-	428,874	428,874
Net financial assets		915,559	1,597,089	1,573,820	4,086,468

13. DATA DIGEST PROJECT

During the financial year ended 30 June 2008 the Foundation received an amount of \$595,996 from the Public Purpose Fund for three years funding for the production version of the Online Data Digest project. For the year ended 30 June 2010 the remaining funds of \$60,791 were spent. This amount is included in the Income Statement as:

Employment related expense	\$20,700
Information technology & related costs	\$40,091

14. GENERAL

The Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales was established under the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000*, to contribute to the development of a fair and equitable justice system which addresses the legal needs of the community and to improve access to justice by the community; and to conduct and sponsor research with the law, the legal system, law reform and other similar activities pursuant to Section 5 of the said Act. The Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales operates predominantly in the geographical area of New South Wales.

15. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

The Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales is dependent on allocations from the Public Purpose Fund. It is expected that these allocations will continue in the short term, but there is no guarantee that this will continue after the end of the current three-year agreement in June 2012.

16. REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Auditing the financial report	<u>24,901</u>	<u>23,631</u>

17. EMPLOYEES

Number of employees at end of financial year	23	22
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18. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

Non cancellable operating lease payments:

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Not longer than one year	183,915	10,738
Longer than one year and not longer than five years	613,984	8,160
Longer than five years	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>797,899</u>	<u>18,898</u>

The Foundation currently leases office space in Pitt St Sydney. The current lease commenced on 15 July 2009 and expires in July 2014 with an option to extend for a further five years.

19. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

There has not been any matter or circumstance, other than that referred to in the financial report or notes thereto, that has arisen since the end of the financial year, that has significantly affected or may significantly affect, the operations of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales in future financial years.

20. ADDITIONAL ORGANISATION INFORMATION

Principal Place of Business
 Level 14, 130 Pitt St
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The Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations who have commented on grant applications, served on committees, reviewed draft publications, provided advice or contributed to specific Foundation programs.

ORGANISATIONS

Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited
 Ageing, Disability & Home Care (ADHC) NSW
 Aids Council of NSW (ACON)
 Attorney-General's Department (Commonwealth)
 Chief Magistrate's Office
 Community Legal Centres NSW Inc
 Community Restorative Centre
 Consumer Credit Legal Centre NSW (CCLC)
 Corrective Services NSW
 Department of Justice and Attorney General NSW
 Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre
 Essential Viewing Group
 Family Court of Australia
 Financial Ombudsman's Service
 Freehills
 Gilbert + Tobin
 LawAccess NSW
 Law Council of Australia
 Legal Aid Commission of ACT
 Legal Aid Commission of QLD
 Legal Aid Commission of TAS
 Legal Aid Commission of WA
 Legal Aid NSW
 Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC)
 Legal Services Commission of SA
 Legal Services Research Centre, UK
 Mental Health Review Tribunal NSW
 National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC)
 National Pro Bono Resource Centre
 Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission
 NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
 NSW Department of Health
 NSW Local Courts
 NSW Police Service
 Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC)
 The Law Society of New South Wales
 The Law Centres Federation
 The New South Wales Bar Association
 The New South Wales Law Reform Commission

INDIVIDUALS

Ms Robyn Ayres, Executive Director, Arts Law Centre of Australia
 Ms Keith Ball, Aboriginal Access Worker, Kingsford Legal Centre
 Dr Nigel Balmer, Professor, Legal Services Research Centre, UK
 Ms Robin Banks, Director, Public Interest Advocacy Centre
 Ms Bae Bastian, Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS)
 The Hon. Justice Reginald Blanch, Chief Judge, District Court of New South Wales
 Ms Sara Blazey, Solicitor, Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre
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 Ms Helen Campbell, Chair, Combined Community Legal Centres NSW Inc
 Professor Janet Chan, School of Social Sciences and International Studies, University of New South Wales
 Professor Terry Carney, Director of Research, University of Sydney
 Mr Joe Catanzariti (Clayton Utz), President (2009), The Law Society of New South Wales
 Mr Terry Chenery, (then) Executive Officer, Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council
 Ms Krista Christensen, Aboriginal Support and Planning Unit, Corrective Services NSW
 Ms Stevie Clayton, CEO, Aids Council of NSW (ACON)
 Mr Ian Collie, Producer, Essential Viewing Group
 Mr John Corker, Director, National Pro Bono Resource Centre
 Mr Nicholas Cowdery QC, Director of Public Prosecutions
 Ms Karen Cox, Coordinator, Consumer Credit Legal Centre NSW
 Professor Chris Cunneen, Professor of Criminology, University of NSW
 Ms Lynne Dalton, CEO, Volunteering NSW

- Ms Ruth Simon De Costa, Coordinator, Aboriginal Resource Unit 'Dtarawarra'
- Dr Jean Edwards, Forensic Medical Officer - Sexual Assault Unit, Royal North Shore Hospital
- Mr David Fairlie, General Counsel, Competitive Foods Australia
- Mr John Feneley, Deputy President, Mental Health Review Tribunal NSW
- Ms Julie Foreman, Learning and Development Coordinator, Tenants' Union of NSW
- Mr Laurie Glanfeld, Director General, Department of Justice and Attorney General
- Ms Elsie Gordon
- Ms Lynne Gordon, Marketing Manager, Enough is Enough Anti Violence Movement
- Ms Carolyn Grenville, Training Coordinator, Public Interest Advocacy Centre
- Ms Prabha Gulati, Director, Asylum Seekers Centre
- Ms Anna Hartree, Coordinator, Kingsford Legal Centre
- Mr Peter Hennessy
- Councillor Marcelle Hoff, Deputy Lord Mayor, City of Sydney
- Ms Rowena Irish, Caseworker/Solicitor, Immigration Advice and Rights Centre
- The Hon. Greg James QC, President, Mental Health Review Tribunal NSW
- Ms Mary Jerram, NSW State Coroner, Coroner's Court of NSW
- Ms Michelle Jones, Manager, Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program, Legal Aid NSW
- Ms Anna Katzmann SC, President (2007–2009), The New South Wales Bar Association
- Ms Jane Kenny, (then) Executive Officer, Sydney Community Foundation
- Ms Sandra Keppo, Coordinator, Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre
- Ms Amy Kilpatrick, Executive Director, PILCH
- Ms Johann Kirby, Executive Director, Victoria Law Foundation
- Mr Alan Kirkland, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid NSW
- Professor Ainslie Lamb, Honorary Professorial Fellow, University of Wollongong
- Ms Janet Loughman, Principal Solicitor, Women's Legal Services NSW
- Ms Jenny Lovric, Program Manager, Cooperative Legal Service Delivery Program-Strategic Planning and Policy, Legal Aid NSW
- Ms Erin Lynch, Solicitor, Macarthur Legal Centre
- Ms Kate Maclurcan, Coordinator, Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation
- Ms Sue McClelland, Centre Manager, Bankstown Women's Health Centre
- Mr James McDougall, Director and Principal Solicitor, National Children's and Youth Law Centre
- Mr Alastair McEwin, Director, Community Legal Centres NSW Inc
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- Professor Pascoe Pleasence, Legal Services Research Centre United Kingdom
- Ms Jane Pritchard, Director, LawAccess NSW
- Ms Gabrielle Powell, Coordinator, Bega Women's Resource Centre
- Ms Diana Qian, Executive Director, Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association
- Ms Jackie Randles, Australian Securities and Investments Commission
- Ms Christine Robinson, Director, Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
- Ms Louise Robinson, Chief Executive Officer, Nambucca Heads Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Ms Catherine Rothery, The House of Welcome
- Ms Cathy Saunders, StAMP Mentoring Program Coordinator, Community Restorative Centre
- Mr Ernest Schmatt PSM, Chief Executive, Judicial Commission of NSW
- Commissioner Andrew Scipione, Commissioner, NSW Police Service
- Ms Sue Scott, Senior Project Officer, Legal Aid NSW
- Dr David Tait, University of Canberra School of Law
- Mr Michael Tidball, Chief Executive Officer, The Law Society of New South Wales
- Ms Susan Vogels, Centre Manager, Sydwest Multicultural Services
- Ms Sue Walden, Manager, LIAC
- Ms Gail Wallace, Project Officer - Circle Sentencing, Nowra Local Court
- Mr Mike Wallace, Chief Executive, Sydney South West Area Health Service
- Ms Susan Winfield, Senior Solicitor, Consumer Credit Legal Centre (CCLC)
- Mr Ron Woodham, Commissioner, Corrective Services NSW
- Dr Don Weatherburn PSM, Director, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
- Ms Marianne Webb, Community Manager, Inspire Foundation
- Ms Elizabeth West, Manager Aboriginal Issues Unit, Department of Justice and Attorney General

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