



WESTSIDE
COMMUNITY LAWYERS

ANNUAL REPORT

2023 / 2024

**WESTSIDE
COMMUNITY
LAWYERS**

1,171 COMMERCIAL ROAD
PORT ADELAIDE, SA

FLINDERS ARCADE
72 ELLEN STREET
PORT PIRIE, SA

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Purpose & History

In August 1974 a shopfront community centre called “Focus One” opened in The Parks area. It provided a legal advice service on Tuesdays from 6pm to 8pm, with 4 volunteer lawyers providing services on a rostered basis.

In July 1978 the Council of the recently opened Parks Community Centre wrote to the Legal Services Commission indicating that they intended to make a funding submission to establish a permanent legal service within the Centre.

The Commission met at The Parks on 2 November 1978 to consider the submission and on 19 April 1979 a grant of \$8,020.00 was made to establish The Parks Legal Service; with the service commencing operation on 1 May 1979. On 19 July 1979 the Commission approved further funding of \$33,457.00 to expand the service.

At the formal opening the then Attorney General said:

“The establishment of this Centre is a milestone in the development of legal services in South Australia because it is not only the first independent, community-based legal service to be funded by the Legal Services Commission, but is the first service of this kind in Australia.”

The legal service has always been managed by a volunteer Board of Management, comprised mostly of legal practitioners, committed to assisting those who are unable to afford private legal representation. Our current chairman is the Honourable Richard White KC (formerly a Judge of the Supreme Court of South Australia). Our capacity to truly assist our clients is largely a consequence of their shared vision that we should employ lawyers with a variety of skills, who in combination provide a complete and holistic service to clients.

In 2002 we expanded beyond Angle Park to encompass the greater western portion of Adelaide and changed our name to WestSide Lawyers. Within 18 months we were invited to run the Port Pirie legal centre during the calling of a new tender and we have been a vital part of providing access to legal justice in the region ever since.

In 2012 it was announced that The Parks would be redeveloped. Knowing that our offices would make way for new facilities, the Board decided to relocate permanently. In the 2012 Annual Report we reflected on the impending relocation and commented that ‘it will be with some regret that we leave the very pleasant surrounds of our current address, with its park-like setting, wonderful bird life and great Vietnamese cafes’. Despite that tinge of regret, we were pleased to find extremely suitable premises, surrounded by park-like areas and very close by to some new Vietnamese cafes. In January 2014 WestSide Lawyers relocated to the ‘Old Post Office’ at Hindmarsh and in May 2014 our new office was officially opened by the Honourable Chief Justice Kourakis QC. The benefits of the new office are plentiful; our location on a major arterial road has significantly increased visibility, is only minutes from the CBD and is markedly closer to the Adelaide Courts, where our lawyers spend much of their time.

In late 2023, WestSide Community Lawyers successfully relocated its office from Hindmarsh to a new, more accessible location in Port Adelaide. This move marks an exciting new chapter, providing a stronger presence in the heart of the community. The relocation has enabled us to better serve our clients and build deeper connections within the local area. In addition to settling into the new office space, we have actively engaged with local organisations, community groups, and stakeholders, fostering new relationships that align with our mission to provide high-quality legal services to those who need them most. This transition has allowed us to enhance our outreach efforts, extend our support to a broader range of individuals and groups, and continue to expand our impact across our Regions.

Since this time we have endured significant changes to the landscape of community legal services in South Australia. WestSide Lawyers continues to thrive and provide exceptional services to our clients in the metropolitan western suburbs and Port Pirie and the mid-north regions.

Objectives

WestSide Lawyers enhances access to legal justice for people experiencing financial, social or other disadvantage by:

- Providing legal services to individuals and to community and not-for-profit organisations;
- Making referrals to appropriate government and non-government agencies for non-legal issues;
- Involving individuals and community and not-for-profit organisations in recognition, understanding and solution of their own legal and related problems;
- Supporting and empowering clients to resolve their own legal problems where possible;
- Assisting in, encouraging and fostering unusual cases; and
- Co-operating and/or affiliating with organisations in Australia and elsewhere having similar objectives and/or common clients.

Operation & Governance

Hours of Operation

WestSide Lawyers provides legal assistance by appointment during the following hours:

9:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday; and

5:30pm to 7:30pm Tuesday (In person and telephone appointments offered from our Port Adelaide and Port Pirie Offices)

After-hours appointments for existing clients are available by arrangement with the solicitor responsible for the client's file.

Staff 2023 - 2024

LAWYERS

Andrew English
Michelle Ford
Vanessa Ho
Tim Sierp
Joel Horskins
Evenia Kouvaris
Amelia Goldring
Pei Ling Ng
Sophia Moustakos
Zoe Lewis
Kristie Molloy
Andrew Jantke

VOLUNTEERS

Erin Mcglade
Simone Cureton
Lawrence Ben
Mark Ferraretto

CLERKS

Stefania Caroscio
Danielle Clemente
Edward Swinden
Sarah Bairstow
Jennifer Michalakas

ADMINISTRATION

Catherine Luo, Finance & HR
Julie Dodd
Thomas O'Connor
Jacqui Nuske

MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS

Caleb James

Management Board 2023 - 2024

Richard White KC (Chairperson)
Thea Birss (Secretary)
Greg Hayes (Treasurer)

John Sulan KC, Bar Chambers
Paul Boylan, Boylan Lawyers
Sebastian Hill, Boylan Lawyers

Amra Sabou, Stanley & Co Lawyers
Virginia Leewenburg, Relationships Australia SA

Welcoming Our New CEO & Managing Lawyer

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Andrew English as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Lawyer of WestSide Community Lawyers, effective from early August 2024.

Andrew brings a wealth of experience to his new role. Admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of South Australia in 1988, he began his legal career with the Legal Services Commission, serving as a duty solicitor. Over the years, Andrew has held several significant positions, including Manager of the Criminal Law Practice Division at the Legal Services Commission, as a Prosecutor with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (State) and as Manager of the Criminal Practice Section with the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc. Prior to his appointment, Andrew worked as a Barrister specialising in Criminal Law and Family Law Litigation.

Outside of his professional life, Andrew is a passionate lifelong member of the South Adelaide Football Club and currently serves as the Legal Director and SANFL Tribunal Advocate for the Panthers.

We are confident that Andrew's extensive experience and dedication will be invaluable assets as he leads WestSide Community Lawyers into the future.

Services Provided

Providing Initial Legal Assessment, Advice and Referral

Every individual and community or not-for-profit organisation is entitled to a free legal advice interview on most areas of law.

At WestSide Lawyers, we offer every individual, community member, and not-for-profit organisation the opportunity to receive a free legal advice interview across a broad spectrum of legal matters. Our primary aim is to assist clients in understanding their legal rights and options, helping them make informed decisions about their situation.

Common areas of legal advice include:

- Criminal law and police matters
- Family law issues, including child custody and property settlement
- Employment disputes
- Neighbour disputes
- Inheritance issues
- A wide range of civil disputes addressed in the Magistrates, District, and Supreme Courts

During the initial legal advice interview, we focus on providing professional guidance to complement the client's own research or personal experiences. While general online resources can be helpful, they often lack the specificity required to address the unique facts of an individual case. Our advice offers a clear legal interpretation of how the law applies to the client's specific situation, helping them understand their rights, obligations, and available remedies.

If the issue presented is not legal in nature, or if it is compounded by non-legal factors, we provide appropriate referrals. For instance, many clients of our Port Adelaide office who experience financial hardship are often referred to financial counselling services such as AnglicareSA and Uniting Care Wesley Bowden.

In cases where language barriers exist, WestSide Lawyers arranges free interpreter services through the Commonwealth Government's Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), available either on-site or by telephone conference. We also offer services from Auslan Translators through Deaf Connect for those in need of sign language interpretation.

After-Hours Advice Clinic

WestSide Lawyers receives State and Commonwealth government funding to provide services to clients after-hours



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ADDITIONAL AFTER-HOURS APPOINTMENTS



WestSide Community Lawyers was proud to re-establish the after-hours advice clinic in July 2023, after a hiatus due to the pandemic and other factors.

Over the course of the 2023-24 financial year, 168 appointments were conducted by our wonderful volunteer lawyers, all of whom generously donate their time and expertise for the benefit of our clients.

An additional 149 appointments were conducted by WestSide staff members, all of whom are now part of the clinic in one way or another.

Topics of discussion varied enormously – from employment matters such as unfair dismissal, fencing disputes with neighbours, divorce and family violence advice, and help dealing with minor criminal matters such as fighting in public.

Offering appointments after hours is highly beneficial for our clients, some of whom have children in their care all day while their partner works or who have study and work commitments during the day.

WestSide is also able to offer a greater number of appointments to our community because of the involvement of our volunteer lawyers – they conduct half the clinic appointments each week. They provide valuable advice, information and referrals to clients and then, if more assistance is needed, WestSide staff consider how the person might best be helped. In a number of cases, clinic clients have become ongoing clients of WestSide receiving the benefit of free, high quality, compassionate legal services.

“ Client Feedback

“I highly recommend Westside Community Lawyers for anyone seeking reliable legal advice.”

“[Staff’s name] from Westside Community Lawyers was extremely helpful and supportive throughout my case. I truly believe I couldn’t have won without his help. Thank you, [Staff’s name]!”

“A client expressed profound gratitude for the support received from Westside Community Lawyers after being rejected by multiple law firms. Feeling lost and without options, they reached out to Westside and were connected with a professional and knowledgeable lawyer who provided clear guidance on their legal matter. The lawyer represented them in court, helping to resolve the issue. The client highly recommended Westside Community Lawyers for their professionalism and the valuable assistance they offer, particularly to those unfamiliar with legal processes. Special thanks were given to Joel for his outstanding support.”

“I recently sought legal advice from Westside Community Lawyers and I am extremely satisfied with the exceptional service I received. The team was not only professional and attentive, but also genuinely caring throughout the entire process. I highly recommend Westside Community Lawyers to anyone in need of reliable legal support.”

Generalist Practice

WestSide Lawyers receives funding from the South Australian government to provide services to clients across a broad range of legal disputes.



1,923

GENERALIST SERVICES 2023/2024

The Generalist Practice funding grant allows WestSide Lawyers to provide advice and representation to clients across the criminal and civil (incorporating private disputes, employment disputes and administrative appeals) practice areas.

Civil Law Report

WestSide Lawyers receives funding from the South Australian government to provide services to clients across a broad range of legal disputes.

The Civil Law team at WestSide Community Lawyers has had a successful year in providing legal assistance and advocacy to individuals and communities facing civil law issues. The demand for services has remained high, and our efforts continue to focus on ensuring access to justice for those who might otherwise struggle to afford legal representation.

In the civil jurisdiction, WestSide Lawyers typically assists clients in the following areas:

- General civil disputes between individuals and other individuals or corporations, including matters related to contracts and debt recovery;
- Consumer law disputes, such as those involving second hand car dealerships;
- Motor vehicle accident matters on behalf of uninsured motorists in dispute with insurance companies or other uninsured motorists;
- Employment disputes, including unfair dismissal, underpayment of wages and workplace discrimination;
- Advice on tenancy disputes, including eviction notices, bond disputes and repair issues;
- Representation in appeals of administrative decisions, such as those related to public housing or Working with Children Checks.

In addition to direct legal support, our team has worked to empower the community through educational initiatives. For instance, we conducted a legal seminar at the Chinese Welfare Services of SA, focusing on the issue of elder abuse. We also hosted an information session at Community Bridging Services (CBS) Inc., aimed at raising awareness of legal rights and promoting access to our services for individuals with disabilities.

The Civil Law team has made significant progress in ensuring access to justice for vulnerable and low-income individuals. Although challenges remain, we are steadfast in our commitment to expanding our services, advocating for systemic legal reforms, and enhancing the quality of support we offer to the community.



Client Feedback

“My solicitor gave me hope when I was ready to give up on my legal matter. I was struggling both financially and mentally, and considered bankruptcy as an easier option. However, [Staff’s name] methodical approach and genuine kindness helped me navigate through a difficult time. I am incredibly grateful for [Staff’s name] and the Westside team. I will be forever thankful, and I would rate their service 5 stars.”

Criminal Law Report

WestSide Lawyers receives funding from the South Australian government to provide services to clients across a broad range of legal disputes.

In the criminal jurisdiction, WestSide Lawyers routinely appears in the Adelaide, suburban and regional Magistrates Courts to assist clients with:

- Assault matters, and other charges of intending to cause injury;
- Theft, fraud and related offences;
- Road traffic and other motor vehicle offences;
- Bail Applications on all criminal matters;
- Drug and weapon related offences; and
- Property damage charges.

WestSide Lawyers' work for clients in the criminal jurisdiction is broad. The majority of clients assisted by WestSide Lawyers are charged with less serious offences, where it is generally not likely that the client would be imprisoned on a finding of guilt. However, in appropriate cases the WestSide Criminal Law Team will provide advice and representation to clients facing more serious charges in the District and Supreme Court.

Where clients enter a guilty plea, will make submissions on behalf of a client in mitigation of the penalty to be imposed. If it is clear that the evidence does not support the charges against the client, WestSide Lawyers endeavors to negotiate a withdrawal or downgrading of charges with prosecution. Where necessary, WestSide Lawyers will represent clients at trial and on appeals against sentence and conviction.

Duty Solicitor Service

INCLUDING PETERBOROUGH AND KADINA OUTREACH

WestSide Lawyers provides a Duty Solicitor service to the people of the Upper Spencer Gulf region, particularly at the Port Pirie, Kadina and Peterborough Magistrates Courts.

The Duty Solicitor provides advice and/or representation to unrepresented defendants facing Court for criminal charges, including guilty pleas and sentencing submissions. WestSide has established a strong criminal law practice in the mid-north, particularly for criminal clients attending the Port Pirie, Kadina and Maitland courts. Port Pirie sits fortnightly, and Kadina sits 1 week out of every 4/5 weeks. Maitland Court is held on the Tuesday of the Kadina sitting week with the same magistrate. WestSide has slowly been building up its practice in the regional Courts and now provides duty solicitor work in person for both the Port Pirie and Kadina courts. This work now makes up a large portion of WestSide's workload in the region assisting many clients who would otherwise have had no representation. WestSide also appear in the other regional courts by AVL or telephone. As a result of their professionalism, fairness and impartiality to all parties, WestSide has established strong positive associations with the judiciary, Court staff, police and other solicitors. The service extends to advice and representation for defendants in police custody seeking bail.

It is envisioned that our quality Duty Solicitor services will be expanded in the coming year to include Maitland, Whyalla, Coober Pedy and AYP Lands. This expansion of services recognises that people residing in remote and regional areas do not always receive the legal advice and representation they need. WestSide is committed to filling this gap.

Examples of services include:

- Legal advice and representation on all bail applications for individuals in custody in Port Pirie who have had police bail refused;
- Duty solicitor services to defendants at Port Pirie during Court sitting weeks and at Peterborough during Court circuits;
- Duty solicitor services to defendants remanded in custody who appear before the Kadina and Barossa Magistrates Courts;
- Duty solicitor services to defendants at Kadina during Court circuits;
- Duty solicitor services at Maitland;

Family Law & Family Violence

In addition to the Generalist Practice, WestSide Lawyers is funded to provide specific services to clients involved in family law disputes as well as clients where family violence is a core feature in the matter.



1,714

FAMILY LAW AND FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES
2023/2024 (INC. FAMILY LAW PILOT PROGRAM)



We are pleased to report the continued success and positive impact of our Family Law Legal Services for both funding streams, which have provided essential legal advice and representation to clients navigating various aspects of family law. Our services covered key areas, including:

- **Parenting Arrangements:** We supported families in resolving disputes and establishing effective parenting plans, prioritising the welfare of children while ensuring fair and sustainable arrangements for both parents or carers involved.
- **Property Settlement:** Our legal team guided clients through various property division processes, ensuring distribution and finality in their financial disputes following separation, or if not possible a referral pathway for those clients.
- **Child Support:** We provided advice on child support matters, helping clients understand their rights and obligations under the law and facilitating referrals and support as needed.
- **Spousal Maintenance:** Our firm gave advice and advocated for clients regarding spousal maintenance, ensuring that financial support obligations were understood and addressed in accordance with the legal standards.
- **Family Violence:** We continued to promote the safety and well-being of vulnerable individuals, representing those clients affected by family violence in raising the issues of family violence with service providers and where applicable the Courts.

In addition to our core services, we are proud of our ongoing collaboration with **Women's Safety Services SA**. Through this partnership, we continued to operate a **Domestic Violence Legal Advice Clinic**, providing free legal consultations and support for individuals experiencing family violence. This initiative has been critical in offering immediate and accessible legal guidance to those in need.

This year, we also took an active role in delivering community legal education, organising seminars aimed at educating the public about family law and also the range of services we offer. In collaboration with other service providers, these seminars were designed to increase awareness and understanding of family law issues, helping community members make informed decisions about their legal rights and responsibilities. Empowering individuals with knowledge and resources is an important part of our service delivery.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to expanding our services, continuing to educate the community, and supporting individuals and families facing challenges in family law matters. Our team is dedicated to advocating for justice and protecting the rights of those affected by family law issues, particularly in the context of family violence.

We thank our staff, partners, and clients for their continued trust and support.

Mental Health & Wellness Support

We have also received funding to employ a wellness support officer, whose role it is to assist clients who might need some emotional or non-legal practical support.



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MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING SERVICES 2023/2024



At WestSide Community Lawyers, we recognise that the experiences of many of our clients can be deeply traumatic, and that recounting their story may exacerbate their distress. This is particularly true for individuals who have experienced domestic or family violence and continue to manage its long-term effects. We understand the emotional burden of navigating legal matters while dealing with trauma, and are committed to providing a supportive environment for our clients as they move through these challenges.

As part of our approach, we offer clients the opportunity to speak with our trauma-informed Wellbeing Officer, who provides a safe and empathetic space to discuss their experiences. This service is delivered with a strengths-based approach, focusing on empowering clients by enhancing their self-determination and resilience as they continue their legal journey.

Our Wellbeing Officer plays a crucial role in walking alongside clients, offering practical support such as assisting with the completion of forms and applications. In addition, they make appropriate and timely referrals to relevant local organisations within Western Adelaide and the Yorke/Mid-North Regions. Importantly, all referrals are based on the self-identified needs and challenges expressed by the client, as we do not offer ongoing internal case management or counselling services.

Over the past year, our Wellbeing Officer has successfully supported approximately 100 individual clients, with each matter typically requiring 2-3 appointments for thorough assessment, referrals, and follow-up. In addition to these services, we also offer clients access to our partner organisation, Uniting Care Wesley Bowden (UCWB), which provides financial counselling. Peter Gantley, a financial counsellor from UCWB, holds regular appointments at our Port Adelaide office every fortnight, further enhancing our clients' access to crucial financial support as part of our comprehensive service offering.



Client Feedback

"I would highly recommend the service provided by WestSide Community Lawyers. They were very efficient and helpful."

"The whole process was very good. The lawyer listened well and followed the brief. The end result was most appropriate and professional. WestSide were efficient and easy to deal with."

"The client expressed sincere gratitude to [Staff's names], and the Westside Lawyers team for resolving a stressful issue. [Staff's name] provided excellent advice and quickly scheduled an appointment, while [Staff's name] demonstrated a strong understanding of the situation, maintained clear communication, and delivered a prompt and effective resolution."

Port Pirie

Community Engagement and Legal Services Development in Port Pirie

The Port Pirie team has been actively building strong relationships with local solicitors, law firms, and the courts in Port Pirie and Kadina. Our focus has been on fostering mutual referrals, allowing WestSide to assist clients who reach out but may not fit our practice areas. In turn, we can refer clients to local firms for matters they specialise in, ensuring seamless service across the Region. Meetings have also explored the types of cases local firms prefer to handle.

WestSide has become an integral part of the local community by joining key interagency groups, including the Port Pirie and Copper Coast groups, as well as attending the 4Rs group, local job networks, and the Country Practitioners Committee of the Law Society. Our Port Pirie lawyers actively participate in all of these groups, contributing to ongoing collaboration and community development.

In addition to our committee involvement, our Port Pirie solicitors have participated in various local activities, particularly in the Copper Coast. Kristie Molloy our Senior Criminal Solicitor regularly attends local events with her daughter, distributing her business card and networking with community members. She has also been offered space at Wallaroo's Book Café for legal consultations, further establishing our presence in the area.

Our team is dedicated to identifying resources available to assist the local community, ensuring that we understand the service gaps and areas of need. This allows WestSide to make informed referrals, while focusing on expanding services where they are most needed, ensuring clients receive the best possible support.

WestSide lawyers have been involved in law reform efforts and participated in roundtable discussions with Adelaide University, focusing on issues impacting regional communities.

A significant development is our partnership with The Haven, a vital resource for women in Port Pirie, particularly those escaping domestic violence. Kristie recently held a public session at The Haven on 25 July 2024, providing free legal advice and education, and followed up with a session for young women as part of their 10-week youth training program on 29 October 2024, focusing on law and social media. WestSide is also in the process of establishing a family law clinic in collaboration with The Haven. Kristie continues to support The Haven by attending general sessions to build rapport, offer informal assistance, and provide education. Our partnership has already led to multiple client referrals, and we continue to refer women to The Haven for support and resources.

WestSide is also arranging legal education talks for high school students in Port Pirie, facilitated through our connections with the local interagency group.

Our strong relationships with members of the interagency groups, such as Regional Development Australia, the TAFE Aboriginal Liaison Officer, CentaCare Catholic Country SA, and Uniting SA, have resulted in numerous referrals to our services.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the Region's legal needs, WestSide is actively involved in the Country Practitioners group, advocating for issues that affect country practitioners. This includes representing country practitioners in discussions with the Attorney General about court access across South Australia. We are also proud to have nominated Lachlan McAuliffe for the inaugural Regional Practitioner of the Year award, which he won.

In August, we welcomed Andrew Jantke to our legal team. Andrew has taken on all civil matters, allowing Kristie to focus on her criminal work and continue her active community engagement.

Port Lincoln & Roxby Downs

WestSide has a strong relationship with the solicitors at Port Lincoln, such that we do court appearances for each other when necessary. Kristie Molloy took on and almost run a fisheries trial in Kadina in November for an indigenous man from Port Lincoln. It resolved by way of a guilty plea and a penalty very much in our client's favour.

Our Port Pirie team have also had assistance with the solicitor who does the Roxby Downs circuit. Roxby court is difficult to attend as they have no AVL facilities and do not accept telephone appearances. So we had an "agent" do a matter for us.

Client Services Snapshot

Client Assistance Services, Legal and Non-Legal

In FY 23/24, WestSide Community Lawyers recorded 3637 client services across funding categories and geographical service areas, including legal and non-legal advice and tasks, representation, referrals, duty solicitor and mental health support services.



3637

Total Client
Services



2841

Legal Advices



747

Total
Representation
Services



239

Court / Tribunal
Services



49

Legal Tasks



142

Referrals and
Information



4

Dispute Resolution
Services



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Mental Health
Support Services

Case Studies



PK is an elderly person who came to Westside Community Lawyers seeking assistance to recover the balance of a \$40,000 loan made to PB, over 10 years ago. PB had stopped making repayments despite acknowledging the debt. PK was unsure of the remaining amount owed and did not know how to recover the debt from PK through legal avenues. In addition to being elderly, PK was also from a culturally and linguistically diverse background with limited English proficiency, was a pensioner, and had minimal wealth and minimal assets. PK's circumstances were such that PK would not be able to afford private legal assistance or representation without facing significant financial detriment. WestSide were able to assist PK in determining the outstanding debt owed by PB. Furthermore, WestSide were able to negotiate an outcome whereby PK was repaid without needing to go through court proceedings. PK expressed their gratitude for the assistance WestSide were able to offer, as the funds recovered would significantly contribute to PK's daily living expenses.

AO attended WestSide's after-hours clinic in 2024 alleging a tuition company LTM wrongfully claimed AO contracted with them for a full term's tuition. AO understood they had signed up for a one-off casual class and paid the fee accordingly. LTM alleged that their classes are only offered term by term and no such casual classes were offered, and sought recovery of the whole of the term fees. LTM engaged debt collectors and threatened Court action. WestSide was able to provide assistance to AO by reviewing the terms and conditions and previous communication between AO and LTM. WestSide were also able to negotiate on behalf of AO, informing LTM of the irregularities WestSide had discovered including potential breaches of Consumer Law. LTM discontinued its pursuit of the AO and the matter was promptly finalised to the benefit of AO.

RF approached WestSide after the passing of her partner of 20+ years. Her partner, GG, had not updated his will during their relationship and so his adult children were set to inherit everything. RF was experiencing financial hardship and the relationship with GG's family completely broken down. RF was not even allowed to be part of planning the funeral or to retrieve her personal possessions from the Housing SA property she lived in with GG.

Ultimately, RF did not want to fight GG's family, she just wanted to be recognised as his partner and therefore receive a pension from his superannuation fund.

This was not a legally complex matter – however, there were many barriers experienced by GG along the way. For example, not understanding the legal language used, not being confident with using technology such as emails, and not having access to some very old documents. WestSide assisted her throughout this process to provide relevant evidence to the super fund.

In the end, she was approved to receive a pension along with significant backpay. This was life-changing for her, being in her 70's and reliant on the Age Pension.

Case Studies



VT approached WestSide Lawyers after the breakdown of a long relationship. VT was of retirement age, had physical disabilities and was not able to work, and spent most of her life raising children. VT was renting, had nominal assets and no savings, and her only income was her Centrelink payment. VT also had ongoing sole care of her adult child who had a life long disability and special needs. VT had no financial security and faced multiple challenges in negotiating property settlement with her former partner. WestSide Lawyers were able to achieve an outcome for VT where she received a life changing amount of money by way of property settlement and VT was finally able to have some financial security in her later years.

BV was one of the parents to a young infant child BB. RT was BB's other parent and BV's former partner. There was a history of family violence and substance misuse. Historically, care of BB was shared prior to separation, and BV had fled the relationship with BB after another incident of family violence between RT and BV. RT brought proceedings in Court seeking the urgent recovery of BB and alleging RT was the victim of family violence. BV sought representation from WestSide who were able to put forth BV's version of the history of the relationship, dispute RT's mischaracterisation of family violence incidents, and also raise BV's own concerns about family violence, safety issues, and RT's substance misuse to the Court. After considerable Court intervention and assessment of risk, an outcome was achieved whereby BB would live with BC primarily and spend time with BV as the parties agreed.

TK was an elderly pensioner on a Centrelink benefit with English as second language. TK purchased a used motor vehicle from a dealership at an inflated price. Upon delivery, the car revealed serious mechanical faults, rendering it unroadworthy. Despite TK's persistent attempts over several months to return the car and multiple written requests, the dealer refused TK's pleas. WestSide provided a representation service to TK, where TK made a claim under the Australian Consumer Law and the Second-Hand Motor Vehicle Dealers Act, demanding a full refund of the purchase price. WestSide's efforts were successful and TK was given a full refund. Given TK's tight financial circumstances, securing the full refund brought TK immense relief.

TZ was from a culturally and linguistically diverse refugee background with limited English and considerable previous trauma. TZ was in receipt of a disability support pension and living with severe trauma at the time TZ was involved in a car accident with an erratic driver. Faced with an insurance claim, TZ felt overwhelmed and feared not only jail or possible extradition but also the potential for further trauma reminiscent of TZ's past experiences. WestSide provided a representation service to TZ and were able to totally reduce TZ's liability from the insurance claim. More importantly WestSide were able to put TZ's mind at ease that jail was an outcome TZ would face for this incident. TZ was grateful and deeply relieved after WestSide communicated the outcome, sharing that they would forever remember Westside Lawyers forever.



Client Feedback

"A client expressed deep appreciation for [Staff's name] kindness, patience, and respectful tone during a phone call to reschedule her appointment. She mentioned that elderly people often don't experience much patience or kindness, sharing a recent negative encounter with a taxi driver as an example. She wanted to ensure that [Staff's name] managers were aware of her gratitude for his exceptional assistance."

"[Staff's name] provided a good experience, delivering exceptional service throughout my matter."

"I highly recommend [Staff's name] at Westside Community Lawyers. She has been very patient and supportive, and I really appreciate all the help she has provided. A thank you to Westside Lawyers for their help."

Case Studies



AP came in for assistance. He was in his 60s, lived in Port Pirie, had poor finances and was homeless. He had been living in a men's shelter but found it safer to be "couch surfing" for months on end. He had poor literacy skills and no internet. AP's wife had died 3 years ago. She had been gifted a house a few years earlier by a friend. The house had only been in AP's wife's name. When AP's wife died the bank "took" the house and AP became homeless. AP's wife had no Will. AP came to see us as he understood there was about \$50,000 with the Supreme Court which he might have been entitled to but had no idea how to deal with the court, find out what the money related to or go about accessing it.

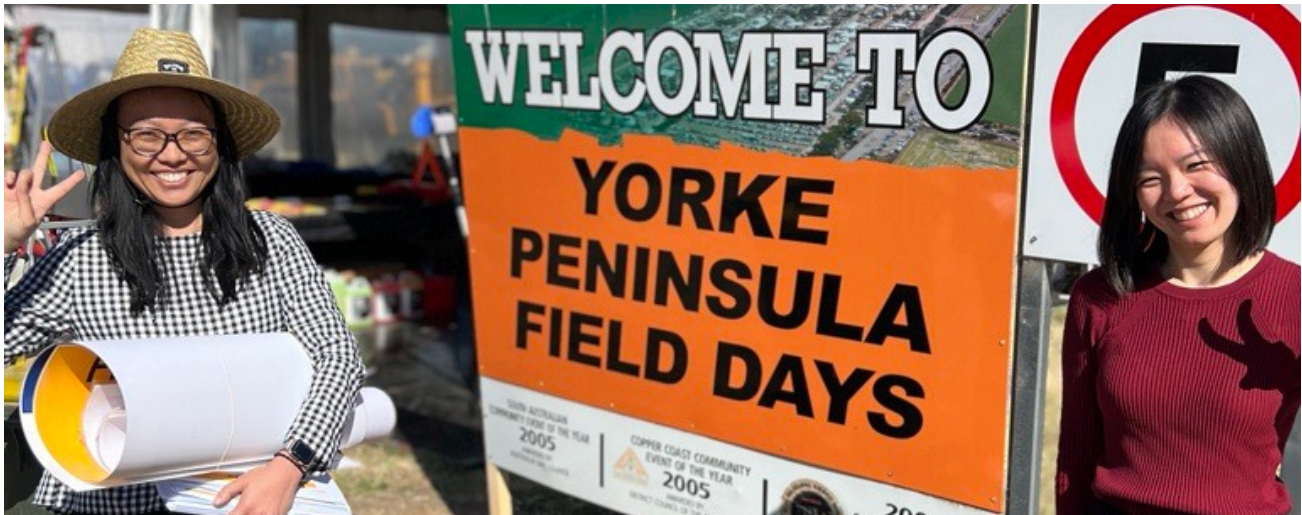
A WestSide solicitor attempted to refer AP to a local firm specialising in estate work, but they were unable to assist. WestSide took the matter on. WestSide initially had difficulties establishing the origin of the \$50,000 and the nature of the proceedings before the Supreme Court as AP was not named as a party to proceedings. None of the legal representatives for the other parties cooperative in providing essential background information concerning the matter. WestSide established that AP and his wife had taken out a small mortgage on the property in order to pay debts and house renovations. When AP's wife died, AP could not keep up the mortgage payments. He had poor literacy skills and could not communicate with the bank mortgagor. The bank eventually repossessed the house and sold it (making our client homeless). Since AP's wife had no Will and there were no letters of administration, the Public Trustee took the matter on with the bank's legal representatives. The parties did not know what to do with the surplus proceeds of the sale and so these were deposited into the Supreme Court suitors fund.

WestSide assisted AP in seeking orders to have these funds released to him. An affidavit was drafted and filed in terms in accordance with intestacy rules that the money should go to him in its entirety. AP's wife also had (estranged) adult children that had to be taken into account under the intestacy rules. WestSide solicitor appeared in the Supreme Court with AP at short notice, appeared by AVL from the Port Pirie office to make submissions on the application. WestSide's application was successful. The Orders were granted, and AP eventually received the full surplus house settlement proceeds of \$56,000.

PZ came in for assistance. He had been arrested by police and charged with Aggravated Assault. The charges related to his teenage step-daughter. PZ did not understand why he was charged as he never hit the stepdaughter. WestSide were able to obtain the police allegations for the client and explained how an "assault" could occur without the victim being physically struck. WestSide obtained the PZ's version of events, which was quite different to the police allegations. Issues with stepdaughter arose out of complicated family matters. WestSide then represented PZ for a guilty plea but explained the circumstances at the time. The Court understood the situation and PZ received "no conviction recorded" if he entered into a 6-month good behaviour bond. The magistrate also declined to order Court fees due to our client's finances.

Community, Stakeholder Engagement & Collaboration

In 2023/2024, WestSide continued to engage with allied services and the community, participating in several key stakeholder events throughout the year, including:



Yorke Peninsula Field Days

With Community Legal Centres South Australia & Disaster Legal Support Program

WestSide partnered with our colleagues from Community Legal Centres South Australia and Disaster Legal at the Yorke Peninsula Field Days to promote the vital work of Community Legal Centres across the state. Our collective efforts focused on raising awareness about the range of free legal services available to vulnerable and disadvantaged South Australians, while also highlighting the disaster legal services available to those affected by crises.

In addition to this outreach, the WestSide team hosted legal advice clinics in Kadina, providing direct support to local community members.



Grand Carers SA

WestSide presented information regarding Family Law along side Natalia Kasprzyk (SCJC), Rebecca Lewis (WLSSA), Tina Bruno (NCLS)

At WestSide Lawyers, we enjoy collaborating with like-minded organisations that share our commitment to supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable clients, helping them access justice.

Vanessa Ho represented WestSide at the Grand Carers SA Day, alongside Natalia Kasprzyk from Community Justice Services, Tina Bruno from Northern Community Legal Centre, and Rebecca Lewis from Women's Legal Service SA. Together, they provided valuable family law information tailored to Grand Carers, followed by a Q&A session to address their specific concerns.



Community, Stakeholder Engagement & Collaboration



Judiciary and Legal Community Iftar

hosted by Law Society of SA, University of Adelaide, McYESS Ltd and Pinnacle College

On 27 March 2024, our solicitors Pei Ling Ngu and Amelia Goldring, pictured here with the Honourable Chief Justice Kourakis, attended the 'Judiciary and Legal Community Iftar dinner', where we enjoyed a wonderful meal while sharing conversation around common values that unite Australians from all cultural backgrounds.



Collaboration

WestSide continued to strengthen our relationships with service allies and collaborative partners. We remain well placed to assist clients with their non-legal needs as a result of an established and comprehensive network of support services, including:

Anglicare SA

for relationship, parenting and financial counselling, emergency assistance, housing and community programs, mental illness and disability support.

Housing SA

For assistance with public housing.

Uniting Care Wesley Bowden / Brompton

For financial counselling services.

Centacare & Centacare Country

for services where clients need additional support, including counselling for a range of reasons.

Relationships Australia SA

For family support services and counselling, including families going through separation.

Disability Rights Advocacy Service Inc.

Support for people with a disability, including protecting their rights, and their carers.

Womens Safety Services SA

Provide support and safety for women and children affected by domestic and family violence.

Legal Services Commission

For legal aid applications and many referrals received for family law property disputes, intervention order matters and civil law disputes.

Uniting Country

For family support services and counselling, including families going through separation.

Life Without Barriers

For support with alcohol and other drug dependencies.

Yarredi Services Inc.

Provide specialist domestic and family violence counselling services, homelessness services and therapeutic children's wellbeing programs.

JusticeNet SA

To assist us with the provision of experienced barristers who offer their time pro bono.

Aged Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS)

Provide free, confidential support to older people facing issues related to aged care, home support, or abuse

Private lawyers in Adelaide and western suburbs

Referrals from these organisations where clients are experiencing financial difficulties.



WESTSIDE
COMMUNITY LAWYERS

PART 2: ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

2023 / 2024

**WESTSIDE
COMMUNITY
LAWYERS**

Westside Community Lawyers Inc.

ABN 58 010 430 612

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Westside Community Lawyers Inc.

ABN 58 010 430 612

Contents

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012**

To the Board of Westside Community Lawyers Inc:

As lead auditor for the audit of Westside Community Lawyers Inc for the year ended 30 June 2024, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- ☐ no contraventions of the independence requirements of s.60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- ☐ no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

AHO Audit Pty Ltd

AHO AUDIT PTY LTD

Luke Bollmeyer

**LUKE BOLLMEYER
DIRECTOR**

Dulwich, 26 September 2024

Westside Community Lawyers Inc.

ABN 58 010 430 612

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

		2024	2023
	Note	\$	\$
Client contributions & retainer fee		-	8,247
Grants	4	1,965,045	1,401,297
Other income	4	38,997	24,333
Employee benefits expense		(1,437,170)	(1,033,515)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(192,977)	(126,580)
Other expenses		(405,657)	(253,567)
Finance expenses		(37,750)	(11,854)
Profit/(loss) for the year		(69,512)	8,361
Total comprehensive income for the year		(69,512)	8,361

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Westside Community Lawyers Inc.

ABN 58 010 430 612

Statement of Financial Position**As At 30 June 2024**

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	792,140	805,683
Trade and other receivables	7	269	170,483
Other assets	8	16,708	14,353
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		809,117	990,519
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	9	377,143	168,997
Right-of-use assets	11	479,751	168,409
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		856,894	337,406
TOTAL ASSETS		1,666,011	1,327,925
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	10	175,720	123,276
Lease liabilities	11	125,848	52,625
Employee benefits	12	60,877	46,103
Deferred revenue	13	506,739	562,547
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		869,184	784,551
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease liabilities	11	446,674	135,878
Employee benefits	12	15,662	3,493
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		462,336	139,371
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,331,520	923,922
NET ASSETS		334,491	404,003
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		334,491	404,003
TOTAL EQUITY		334,491	404,003

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Westside Community Lawyers Inc.

ABN 58 010 430 612

Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2024

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2023	404,003	404,003
Loss for the year	(69,512)	(69,512)
Balance at 30 June 2024	334,491	334,491

2023

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2022	395,642	395,642
Profit for the year	8,361	8,361
Balance at 30 June 2023	404,003	404,003

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Westside Community Lawyers Inc.

ABN 58 010 430 612

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Note	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Grants received	2,075,500	1,817,127
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,680,987)	(1,269,223)
Client receipts	-	6,733
Sundry receipts	42,692	10,262
Net cash provided by operating activities	16 437,205	564,899
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	360	25,727
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(377,224)	(61,371)
Net cash (used in) investing activities	(376,864)	(35,644)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Payment of finance lease liabilities	(73,885)	(96,902)
Net cash (used in) financing activities	(73,885)	(96,902)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(13,544)	432,353
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	805,684	373,330
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6 792,140	805,683

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Westside Community Lawyers Inc.

ABN 58 010 430 612

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

The financial report covers Westside Community Lawyers Inc. as an individual entity. Westside Community Lawyers Inc. is a not-for-profit Association, registered and domiciled in Australia.

The principal activities of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2024 were to assist eligible disadvantaged members of the community with priority legal needs in the areas of family law / family violence, civil law matters and certain criminal law matters.

The functional and presentation currency of Westside Community Lawyers Inc. is Australian dollars.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

1 Basis of Preparation

In the opinion of those charged with Governance, the Association is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial statements who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, AASB 107 *Statement of Cash Flows*, AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* and AASB 1054 *Australian Additional Disclosures*.

The financial report complies with the recognition and measurement requirements specified by the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, except for the following;

AASB 119 *employee benefits* because the provision for long service leave is measured at nominal value rather than at present value, refer to note 2 (e)

2 Material Accounting Policy Information

(a) Revenue and other income

Revenue from contracts with customers

The core principle of AASB 15 is that revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the Association expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services. Revenue is recognised by applying a five-step model as follows:

1. Identify the contract with the customer
2. Identify the performance obligations
3. Determine the transaction price
4. Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations
5. Recognise revenue as and when control of the performance obligations is transferred

Generally the timing of the payment for sale of goods and rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2 Material Accounting Policy Information (continued)

(a) Revenue and other income (continued)

Revenue from contracts with customers (continued)

None of the revenue streams of the Association have any significant financing terms as there is less than 12 months between receipt of funds and satisfaction of performance obligations.

Specific revenue streams

The revenue recognition policies for the principal revenue streams of the Association are:

Donations and Legacies

Monies received from donations and legacies are recognised as income when received. It is not practical to establish accounting control over receipts as they pertain to donations and bequests. All other income, including client contribution fees, are recognised on an accrual basis.

Commonwealth and State Grant Revenue

External government funding is recognised as income when received. Unexpended portions of external funding is accounted for as a deferred provision due to the association's liability to refund any such unexpended portion. Where external funding is over expended that portion is accounted for as a prepayment against future year's funding to be received from the Commonwealth funding body, subject to the funding continuing.

Other income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the Association is entitled to it.

(b) Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

The Association is also endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under subdivision 30-B of the same act.

(c) Property, plant and equipment

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

Items of property, plant and equipment acquired for significantly less than fair value have been recorded at the acquisition date fair value.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured using the cost model.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2 Material Accounting Policy Information (continued)

(c) Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a reducing balance basis over the assets useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

Leased assets and leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or their estimated useful life.

The estimated useful lives used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

Fixed asset class	Useful life
Furniture and Equipment	3-20 years
Motor Vehicles	4 years
Computer Equipment	2-5 years
Website	2.5 years
Office Fitout	5 years

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

(d) Impairment of non-financial assets

At the end of each reporting period the Association determines whether there is an evidence of an impairment indicator for non-financial assets.

Where an indicator exists and regardless for indefinite life intangible assets and intangible assets not yet available for use, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated.

Where assets do not operate independently of other assets, the recoverable amount of the relevant cash-generating unit (CGU) is estimated.

The recoverable amount of an asset or CGU is the higher of the fair value less costs of disposal and the value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from an asset or cash-generating unit.

Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Reversal indicators are considered in subsequent periods for all assets which have suffered an impairment loss.

(e) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits arising from wages and salaries, annual leave, superannuation and long service leave, are measured at the nominal value.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2 Material Accounting Policy Information (continued)

(f) Economic dependence

Westside Community Lawyers Inc. is dependent on the Commonwealth Government for the majority of its revenue used to continue its operations. At the date of this report the Board has no reason to believe the Commonwealth Government will not continue to support Westside Community Lawyers Inc.

The financial report has been prepared on the going concern basis.

3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The Board makes estimates and judgements during the preparation of these financial statements regarding assumptions about current and future events affecting transactions and balances.

These estimates and judgements are based on the best information available at the time of preparing the financial statements, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

The significant estimates and judgements made have been described below.

Key judgement - revenue

The Company derives revenue from a range of activities and sources, including revenue from operating grants. In accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Company is required to determine whether it is appropriate to recognise revenue in the financial year in which cash or non cash-assets are received or to defer the recognition of revenue until associated obligations and/or conditions (if any) are satisfied. In making this judgement, the company considers the guidance outlined in AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and AASB 1058 *Income for Not-for-Profit Entities* and, in particular, whether the arrangement contains enforceable and sufficiently specific performance obligations.

Key estimates - provisions

As described in the accounting policies, provisions are measured at management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period. These estimates are made taking into account a range of possible outcomes and will vary as further information is obtained.

Key estimates - receivables

The receivables at reporting date have been reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that any of the receivables are impaired. An impairment provision is included for any receivable where the entire balance is not considered collectible. The impairment provision is based on the best information at the reporting date.

Westside Community Lawyers Inc.

ABN 58 010 430 612

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

4 Revenue and Other Income

Grant Income

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Grant Income		
- Commonwealth grant	878,519	903,140
- State grant	197,635	117,725
- Family law / family violence grant	371,951	284,494
- Mental health program	516,940	95,938
Total grant income	1,965,045	1,401,297

Other Income

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Other Income		
- Bank interest	16,107	8,278
- Disbursements recovered	559	3
- Sundry	21,866	-
- Profit on sale of fixed assets	255	14,071
- Rent received	210	1,981
Total other income	38,997	24,333

5 Result for the Year

The result for the year includes the following specific expenses:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Salaries and wages	1,058,378	743,904
Superannuation contributions	136,358	94,964
Employee salary sacrifice	26,000	23,600
Fringe benefits tax	9,424	5,733
Workers compensation	5,736	3,071
Annual leave expense	14,775	18,622
Long service leave expense	12,168	2,214
Depreciation & amortisation expense	192,977	126,580

6 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand	792,140	793,683
Short-term deposits	-	12,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	792,140	805,683

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

7 Trade and other receivables

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade receivables	269	171,715
Provision for doubtful debts	-	(2,232)
Total trade receivables	269	169,483
Deposits	-	1,000
Total current trade and other receivables	269	170,483

The carrying value of trade receivables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the fair value of each class of receivable in the financial statements.

8 Other Assets

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Prepayments	16,708	14,352
Accrued interest	-	1
Total other assets	16,708	14,353

9 Property, plant and equipment

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Furniture and equipment		
At cost	37,530	17,305
Accumulated depreciation	(6,077)	(16,522)
Total furniture and equipment	31,453	783
Motor vehicles		
At cost	76,735	36,551
Accumulated depreciation	(15,628)	(200)
Total motor vehicles	61,107	36,351
Computer equipment		
At cost	101,635	91,573
Accumulated depreciation	(75,778)	(62,703)
Total computer equipment	25,857	28,870

Westside Community Lawyers Inc.

ABN 58 010 430 612

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

9 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Website		
At cost	7,750	7,750
Accumulated depreciation	(7,750)	(7,117)
Total website	-	633
Office fitout		
At cost	322,587	302,785
Accumulated amortisation	(63,861)	(200,425)
Total office fitout	258,726	102,360
Total property, plant and equipment	377,143	168,997

10 Trade and Other Payables

	2024 \$	2023 \$
CURRENT		
Trade payables	35,639	8,602
GST payable	54,498	47,723
Employee benefits	49,281	34,218
Sundry payables and accrued expenses	36,302	32,733
Total trade and other payables	175,720	123,276

Trade and other payables are unsecured, non-interest bearing and are normally settled within 30 days. The carrying value of trade and other payables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.

11 Leases

Association as a lessee

The Association has a lease over premises at 171 Commercial Road, Port Adelaide and Shop 18/72 Ellen Street, Flinders Arcade, Port Pirie.

Information relating to the leases in place and associated balances and transactions are provided below.

Terms and conditions of leases

i. 171 Commercial Road, Port Adelaide

Westside Lawyers has entered into a lease agreement with Muralo Markets Pty Ltd for the use of the office 1,171 Commercial Road, Port Adelaide SA 5015 ("Port Adelaide"). The lease agreement commenced on 1 October 2023 and expires on 30 September 2028, with an option to renew the lease for additional terms of three years each.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

11 Leases (continued)

The Port Adelaide Office lease fee comprise of;

An Annual base rent of \$132,900 plus GST (subject to a CPI rent increase capped at 3.5% at the end of each year) is payable in equal instalments monthly, in advance.

ii. Flinders Arcade, Port Pirie

Westside Lawyers has a lease with Patricia Anne Dabrowski for the use of the Shops 2/3 and part shop 18/72 Ellen Street, Flinders Arcade, Port Pirie ("Flinders Arcade"). A new lease extension was signed in July 2021, the new term now being 24 August 2021 to 23 August 2026.

The Flinders Arcade lease fee is comprised of:

An Annual base rent of \$27,059 plus GST (subject to CPI Rent Review at the end of each year) payable in equal instalments quarterly in advance.

Right-of-use assets

	Flinders Arcade \$	Commercial Road \$	Total \$
Year ended 30 June 2024			
Balance at beginning of year	129,729	503,364	633,093
Depreciation charge	(77,837)	(75,505)	(153,342)
Balance at end of year	51,892	427,859	479,751

Lease liabilities

The maturity analysis of lease liabilities based on contractual undiscounted cash flows is shown in the table below:

	< 1 year \$	1 - 5 years \$	> 5 years \$	Total undiscounted lease liabilities \$	Lease liabilities included in this Statement Of Financial Position \$
2024					
Lease liabilities	167,131	508,580	-	675,711	572,522
2023					
Lease liabilities	60,731	140,007	8,347	209,085	188,504

Westside Community Lawyers Inc.

ABN 58 010 430 612

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

11 Leases (continued)

Lease liabilities included in this Statement of Financial Position

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current	125,848	52,625
Non-current	446,674	135,878
Total	572,522	188,503

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

The amounts recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income relating to leases where the Association is a lessee are shown below:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Amortisation - 212 Port Road	11,026	44,105
Amortisation - 212a Port Road	6,119	14,685
Amortisation - Flinders Arcade	25,946	25,945
Amortisation - Port Adelaide	75,505	-
Total amortisation expenses	118,596	84,735
Interest expense - 212 Port Road	105	1,953
Interest expense - 212a Port Road	1,845	4,906
Interest expense - Flinders Arcade	3,781	4,995
Interest expense - Port Adelaide	32,019	-
Total interest expense	37,750	11,854
Total amortisation and interest expense	156,346	96,589

12 Employee Benefits

CURRENT		
Annual leave	60,877	46,103
Total current employee benefits	60,877	46,103
NON-CURRENT		
Long service leave	15,662	3,493
Total non-current employee benefits	15,662	3,493

Westside Community Lawyers Inc.

ABN 58 010 430 612

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

13 Deferred Revenue

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Region 3 – Generalist	4,274	39,473
Region 3 – Family Law / Family Violence	3,974	5,248
Region 6 – Generalist	3,065	38,387
Region 6 – Family Law / Family Violence	4,763	4,797
Region 3 Mental Health Program	5,842	28,578
Region 6 Mental Health Program	1,713	12,662
Region 3 - Family Law Pilot	81,720	171,570
Region 6 - Family Law Pilot	11,623	49,491
Quarantined Briefing Out Fee	389,765	212,341
Total deferred revenue	506,739	562,547

14 Deferred Revenue Movement

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Opening Balance at 1 July	562,547	145,112
Grant income received from Attorney General's Department ("AGD")	1,909,237	1,818,732
Income recognised during the year	(1,965,045)	(1,401,297)
Closing Balance at 30 June	506,739	562,547

15 Contingencies

Contingent Liabilities

Westside Lawyers is involved in two legal actions initiated by a former employee, following their termination in June 2024. The claims involve unpaid overtime and annual leave entitlements under the SCHADS Award, as well as an unfair dismissal claim. WestSide Lawyers are defending both actions, with insurance covering part of the costs, subject to a \$25,000 deductible. As the actions are in progress the potential liability is uncertain, but legal costs may exceed \$25,000 if a settlement is not reached.

Westside Community Lawyers Inc.

ABN 58 010 430 612

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

16 Cash Flow Information

(a) Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities

Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Profit/(loss) for the year	(69,513)	8,361
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in profit:		
- amortisation	118,596	84,736
- depreciation	74,381	41,844
- interest on lease liabilities	37,750	11,854
- (gain) on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(255)	(13,708)
- write-off of property, plant and equipment	94,592	-
- (gain) on termination of RoU assets	(9,784)	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	170,214	(17,471)
- (increase)/decrease in prepayments	(2,355)	(7,017)
- (increase)/decrease in unexpended grants	(55,808)	417,435
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	52,444	18,028
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	26,943	20,837
Cashflows from operations	437,205	564,899

17 Statutory Information

The registered office and principal place of business of the association is:

Westside Community Lawyers Inc.
1/171 Commercial Road
Port Adelaide
South Australia 5015

Westside Community Lawyers Inc.

ABN 58 010 430 612

Statement by Members of the Management Board

The members of the management board declare that in their opinion:

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013*.

Chairman



Richard White

Treasurer



Greg Hayes

Dated

26.9.24

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WESTSIDE COMMUNITY LAWYERS INC

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Westside Community Lawyers Inc (the Entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies and statement by members of the management board.

In our opinion the financial report of the Entity has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code and the independence requirements of Division 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

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

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

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

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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

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

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



AHO AUDIT PTY LTD



LUKE BOLLMEYER
DIRECTOR

Dulwich, 30 September 2024



WESTSIDE
COMMUNITY LAWYERS



www.westsidelawyers.com.au

1/171 Commercial Road, PORT ADELAIDE SA 5015

Flinders Arcade, 72 Ellen Street, PORT PIRIE SA 5540