



WESTSIDE
COMMUNITY LAWYERS

ANNUAL REPORT

2025 / 2026

**WESTSIDE
COMMUNITY
LAWYERS**

1 / 171 COMMERCIAL ROAD
PORT ADELAIDE, SA
FLINDERS ARCADE
72 ELLEN STREET
PORT PIRIE, SA



Acknowledgement of Country

WestSide Community Lawyers acknowledges the Kurna People's and the Nukunu People's as the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

The 2025/2026 year for WestSide has been one of progress, resilience and continued commitment to the communities we serve.

Across South Australia, demand for accessible legal assistance remains significant. In response, WestSide has continued to provide high-quality legal services, community legal education and outreach support to individuals and families who might otherwise struggle to access legal help. This work is only possible because of the dedication, skill and compassion of our staff, volunteers and community partners.

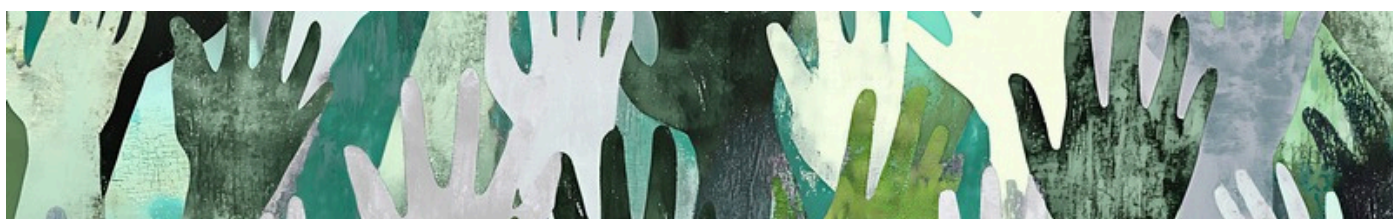
Throughout the year, the organisation successfully navigated a period of change while maintaining strong service delivery and continuing to meet the needs of vulnerable members of our community. The Board has worked closely with management to strengthen governance, support our people and position WestSide for future growth and sustainability.

We have also continued to expand our reach across regional and remote South Australia, strengthen strategic partnerships and develop a clear vision for the future through our new strategic planning initiatives. These efforts will help ensure that WestSide remains responsive to changing community needs while continuing to deliver meaningful outcomes for clients.

On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere thanks to our staff, volunteers, funding bodies, stakeholders and fellow Board members for their ongoing commitment to WestSide's mission. Most importantly, I thank the thousands of clients who have entrusted us to assist them during some of the most challenging times in their lives.

We look forward to building on this year's achievements and continuing to provide accessible, high-quality legal services to the communities that rely on us.

Sebastian Hill
Chairperson



PURPOSE AND HISTORY

In August 1974 a shopfront community centre called "Focus One" opened in The Parks area, offering a legal advice service on Tuesday evenings staffed by four rostered volunteer lawyers.

In July 1978 the Council of the Parks Community Centre wrote to the Legal Services Commission of its intention to seek funding for a permanent legal service within the Centre. The Commission considered the submission at The Parks on 2 November 1978 and, on 19 April 1979, granted \$8,020.00 to establish The Parks Legal Service, which began operating on 1 May 1979. A further \$33,457.00 was approved on 19 July 1979 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 service has always been managed by a volunteer Board of Management, made up mostly of legal practitioners and community sector professionals committed to assisting those who cannot afford private representation. Our current chairperson is Sebastian Hill of Boylan Lawyers. The Board's shared vision, that we employ lawyers with a range of skills who together provide a complete service, is central to our ability to help clients.



In 2002 we expanded beyond The Parks to cover the greater western portion of Adelaide and changed our name to WestSide. Within 18 months we were invited to run the Port Pirie legal centre, and we have supported access to justice in that region ever since.

In 2012 it was announced that The Parks would be redeveloped, and the Board decided to relocate permanently. In January 2014 WestSide moved to the 'Old Post Office' at Hindmarsh, officially opened in May 2014 by the Honourable Chief Justice Kourakis. The new premises sat on a major arterial road, closer to the CBD and the Adelaide Courts where our lawyers spend much of their time.

In late 2023, WestSide relocated from Hindmarsh to a more accessible office in Port Adelaide, strengthening our presence in the community and allowing us to better serve clients and build stronger local relationships.

In January 2026, WestSide appointed Catherine Coleiro as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Lawyer. With more than 15 years of leadership experience across legal and allied-health services, Catherine specialises in domestic, family and sexual violence and brings a trauma-informed, client-centred approach. She leads WestSide strategy and operations across Adelaide's western suburbs and regional South Australia.

OPERATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

BOARD MEMBERS

Sebastian Hill, Boylan Lawyers (Chairperson)
Thea Birss, Birss Workplace Law (Secretary)
Greg Hayes (Treasurer)
Gabrielle Canny

Paul Boylan, Boylan Lawyers
Amra Sabou, Stanley & Co Lawyers
Tonia Keating, Relationships Australia SA

CURRENT STAFF

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Catherine Coleiro
Nikita Meacham

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Catherine Luo
Julie Dodd
Thomas O'Connor

CLERKS

Roseanna Triulcio
Amelia Nikoloff

LAWYERS

Andrew English	Sophia Moustakos
Vanessa Ho	Claire Howie
Zoe Lewis	Daniela Popovic
Christine Leahy	Jack McWhirter

WELLBEING SUPPORT

Melissa Downie

VOLUNTEERS

Simone Cureton	Erin McGlade
Elisa Caruso	Pei Ling Cao
Mark Ferraretto	

OBJECTIVES

WestSide improves access to justice for people experiencing financial, social or other disadvantage by:

- providing legal services to individuals, community organisations and not-for-profit organisations;
- referring people to appropriate government and non-government agencies for non-legal matters;
- involving individuals and community and not-for-profit organisations in recognising, understanding and resolving their own legal and related problems;
- supporting clients to resolve their own legal problems where possible;
- taking on test cases and matters of broader significance where appropriate; and
- co-operating and affiliating with organisations in Australia and elsewhere that share similar objectives or common clients.

HOURS OF OPERATION

WestSide provides legal assistance by appointment during the following hours:

Monday to Friday - 9:00am to 5:00pm

Tuesday (Fortnightly) After Hours
5:30pm to 7:30pm

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO AND MANAGING LAWYER

Catherine Coleiro

It is my pleasure to present WestSide's Annual Report for 2025-2026.

This has been a year of transition and renewal. Following my appointment as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Lawyer, WestSide undertook a period of reflection and future planning while continuing to deliver accessible, high-quality legal services to people experiencing disadvantage across metropolitan and regional South Australia.

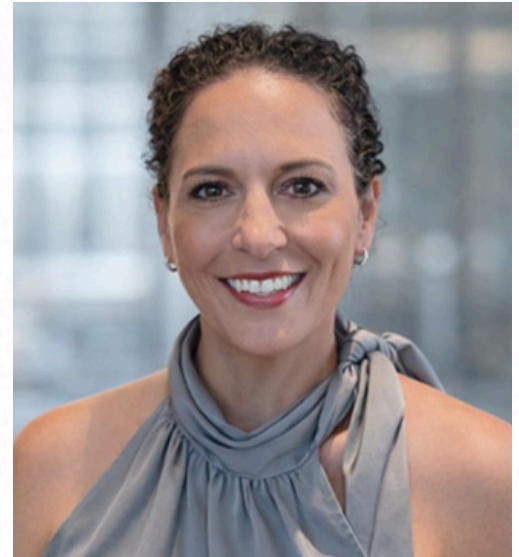
Over the year we delivered legal and wellbeing services to individuals, families and communities facing family violence, housing instability, financial hardship and mental health challenges. Behind every service is a person seeking safety, stability or fairness at a difficult point in their life, and our focus has remained on outcomes that improve both access to justice and long-term wellbeing.

Demand stayed strong throughout the year, and client matters continued to grow in complexity. Many clients presented with a combination of legal and non-legal issues that extended beyond the scope of legal assistance alone. This reinforces the important role Community Legal Centres play not only within the justice system but also across the broader human services sector.

Our integrated legal and wellbeing model remains a defining feature of how we work. By combining legal assistance with wellbeing support, we help clients engage more effectively with legal processes and access the broader support needed to achieve sustainable outcomes.

This was also a demanding year operationally. Sustained recruitment and retention pressures across the sector, felt most acutely in our regional services, meant our teams operated with reduced capacity for much of the financial year. In that context, our priority was continuity: ensuring advice, representation, duty lawyer assistance and outreach services remained available across both metropolitan and regional locations. The continuity of these services is a testament to the dedication and resilience of our staff.

Cont.



1,426

Legal Advice



483

Representation Services

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO AND MANAGING LAWYER CONTINUED.

Despite these challenges, WestSide continued to deliver critical legal and wellbeing services to communities across metropolitan and regional South Australia. Maintaining service continuity in a constrained workforce environment required significant commitment from our staff and careful organisational stewardship. While our focus during much of the year was necessarily on sustaining services, we also strengthened the foundations required for future growth, ensuring the organisation remains well positioned to respond to increasing community need and the evolving challenges facing the community legal sector.

As the year progressed, leadership and workforce capacity were strengthened across our metropolitan and regional offices, providing greater organisational stability and positioning the organisation for the next phase of development. This enables us to move beyond sustaining services and focus on strengthening services through targeted initiatives, service innovation and continuous improvement.

We also strengthened governance arrangements, reviewed our workforce frameworks and deepened stakeholder engagement, laying important foundations for future growth. Community partnerships remained central to our work. Through our partnerships with domestic violence, Aboriginal, health, wellbeing and community service organisations, we strengthened referral pathways and enhanced coordinated responses for clients with complex needs.

I thank our staff, volunteers, students, Board members, funders and community partners for their dedication throughout the year. Their commitment enables WestSide to make a meaningful difference in the lives of thousands of South Australians.

Unmet legal need continues to grow, and our ambition is not simply to deliver more services but to create greater impact for the communities we serve. With a strong foundation now in place, we look to the future with confidence.

We remain committed to strengthening access to justice, expanding early intervention and community education initiatives and developing innovative service responses that improve outcomes for vulnerable South Australians. Together with our staff, volunteers, partners, funders and communities, we will continue building a strong and responsive organisation equipped to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Yours faithfully,
Catherine Coleiro



SERVICES PROVIDED

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

At WestSide, every individual, community member and not-for-profit organisation is entitled to a free legal advice interview across a broad range of legal matters. Our aim is to help clients understand their legal rights and options so they can make well-informed decisions about their circumstances.

Common areas of legal advice include:

- Criminal law, police matters, and intervention orders
- Family law issues, including parenting, property settlement and divorce
- Employment disputes
- Neighbour disputes
- A wide range of civil disputes addressed in the Magistrates, District, and Supreme Courts

During the initial interview we provide clear guidance, tailored to each client's unique situation. While general online resources can be useful, they rarely address the specific facts of an individual case. Our lawyers interpret how the law applies to the client's matter, outlining their rights, obligations and the possible courses of action.

Where issues are partly or wholly non-legal, we connect clients with appropriate support services. For example, many clients at our Port Adelaide office who are experiencing financial hardship are referred to financial counselling services such as AnglicareSA or Uniting Care Wesley Bowden.

To ensure accessibility, WestSide provides free interpreter services through the Commonwealth Government's Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), available on-site or via telephone conference. We also arrange Auslan interpretation through Deaf Connect for clients who require sign-language support.

AFTER HOURS ADVICE CLINIC


155

Additional After Hours
Appointments Provided

WestSide continues to run its after-hours advice clinic, providing legal help outside standard business hours. None of it would be possible without our volunteer lawyers, who provided the majority of the clinic's appointments this year and give their time and expertise for the benefit of our community.

Of the 155 appointments delivered in 2025-26, most were handled by our volunteers, with WestSide staff supporting the remainder. Clients sought advice on a broad range of matters, including unfair dismissal and other employment disputes, neighbour issues such as fencing, family law and family violence, and minor criminal matters. The after-hours format is especially valuable for clients who cannot attend during the day because of work, study, or caring responsibilities.

Volunteers offer immediate advice, information, and referrals, and where further help is needed WestSide staff step in with ongoing support. Many appointments have led to continuing representation, ensuring clients receive quality legal services free of charge. To every volunteer who gave their time this year, thank you. The clinic runs on your generosity.

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Our work brings us into daily contact with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients and communities, and reconciliation is central to how we serve them.

In June 2026, WestSide received formal endorsement from Reconciliation Australia for our first Reconciliation Action Plan, a Reflect RAP running from February 2026 to February 2027.

The Reflect phase is a starting point, focused on building genuine relationships and putting internal foundations in place. Our RAP is led by a RAP Working Group drawn from across the organisation, including the CEO and our RAP Champion.

During the year we:

- Connected with Yadu Health Aboriginal Corporation in Ceduna and Watto Purrunga Aboriginal Health Service to assist health workers and their clients access timely legal advice and information.
- Met with Kura Yerlo Council and Tiraapendi Wodli to explore referral pathways and community legal education at their western suburbs hubs.
- Built referral pathways between our Wellbeing Support Service and Wonggangga Turtpandi Aboriginal Primary Health Care Service.
- Continued working closely with the Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation and the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement.
- Completed SBS First Nations Inclusion cultural awareness training across the team and incorporated Acknowledgement of Country into our meetings and events.
- Took part in National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week events, including the NAIDOC SA March Family Festival and the Walk of Awareness in Port Adelaide.

The year ahead focuses on delivering the commitments in the plan. This includes reviewing our HR policies, assessing cultural learning needs, and developing business cases for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and procurement. We have also commissioned an artwork by local Aboriginal artist Raylene Snow of Marra Dreaming, to be unveiled at our 2026 AGM.

We know we are early in this journey and that reconciliation depends on ongoing relationships rather than one-off actions.



GENERALIST PRACTICE

**1,564****GENERALIST SERVICES 2025/2026 (CIVIL AND CRIMINAL)**

The Generalist Practice allows WestSide to provide advice and representation to clients across the criminal and civil practice areas.



CIVIL LAW REPORT

WestSide's Civil Law Team continued to experience high demand for its valuable services. This is partly because there are limited legal service options available for people experiencing civil law issues. It is often expensive to deal with a civil law dispute via a private solicitor and many of our clients simply cannot afford that pathway.

Our team again assisted clients with an extraordinary range of enquiries. On some occasions, we are simply the starting point and are able to give some basic advice and a referral to the most appropriate pathway. In other matters, we are able to provide more intensive legal advice, support for self-represented litigants, and representation where appropriate.

Debt-related matters continue to be a significant area of demand. We provide legal advice and practical assistance to people pursuing or responding to debt claims, including referrals to financial counselling services and support with preparing letters of demand and court documents.

Our regular attendance at the Port Adelaide Magistrates Court Debtor List is one of the newest services we provide to the community. By having lawyers available at court to offer immediate legal advice and assistance, we help individuals better understand their options and navigate court processes. The service also supports efficient court proceedings through timely referrals and access to legal guidance when needed.

Through this service, we provided ongoing assistance to four clients, including legal advice, document preparation and support to access the CourtSA portal. All clients were from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, with one requiring an interpreter. These clients faced additional barriers when navigating unfamiliar court processes. Our assistance improved their understanding of the legal process and potential outcomes, helping to ensure they could participate more effectively in proceedings and access justice on an equitable basis.

CIVIL LAW

Continued

We are regularly approached for assistance with motor vehicle accident claims, particularly where clients are uninsured and are involved in disputes with insurers or other uninsured parties. We provide advice and support to help clients resolve these disputes, reach financial agreements and move forward with confidence.

Enquiries relating to Working with Children Checks continue to increase. The inability to obtain a clearance can have significant consequences for employment and family circumstances, particularly where a child subject to a guardianship order resides with the client or their partner. We provide guidance throughout the process, including advice on the relevant legal framework and supporting evidence, and have assisted clients with applications and submissions before the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Housing remains a significant area of enquiry, with clients seeking assistance to prevent eviction, resolve disputes with landlords, or navigate barriers to securing safe and stable accommodation.

Civil law matters are sometimes perceived as having less impact than criminal proceedings or disputes concerning children's care arrangements. However, our experience tells a different story. Many civil law clients face issues with profound consequences for their wellbeing and stability, including significant debt, threats to their employment or income and housing insecurity.

These challenges are often interconnected and require a holistic response. For this reason, we work closely with our criminal and family law teams, as well as our Wellbeing Support Officer, to ensure clients receive coordinated support. We also maintain a positive relationship with JusticeNet, which can assist in securing pro bono counsel in appropriate matters, providing clients with access to the specialist legal expertise they need.



CIVIL LAW CASE STUDIES



DR came to us after receiving a letter from an insurer claiming that he owed them approximately \$4,000 as he was responsible for a motor vehicle collision involving one of their members. DR did not accept that the collision was his fault – at least, not entirely. However, he was also without the financial means to make any sort of commercial settlement offer. In fact, as both he and his wife were reliant on JobSeeker Payment, and he was unlikely to be able to work again due to age and health issues, any payment arrangement would have been unaffordable. They were not even able to pay for repairs to their own car after the collision and so had become reliant on public transport. We advocated on the client's behalf and the insurer confirmed they accepted his application for financial relief and waived the debt in full. This was a huge relief to the client who had not known that such an outcome was possible.

BM had ambitions to earn an income by working as a personal trainer. BM had signed an agreement with their local gym but was not given the chance to obtain legal advice first. The terms of the agreement were largely a mystery to BM and, even worse, BM was given some misleading information during conversations with the gym. When things didn't work out, BM tried to terminate their agreement with the gym. BM approached WestSide for help as BM was unable to pay the money which the gym was demanding and was anxious about what was going to happen. After obtaining legal advice about BM's consumer law rights, WestSide successfully negotiated for BM to be released from the contract with no further payments due.



Client Feedback

"Thank you so much for your email and for your incredible support on my case. I am genuinely grateful for your help in dealing with [the other party] and ensuring my interests were fully protected... [It has] given me immense peace of mind. Your intervention has... protected my safety. Thank you again for your dedication, empathy, and professional guidance through this incredibly difficult transition."

"I want to thank you for all your help and advice through this matter. I am very appreciative of that."

CRIMINAL LAW AND DUTY SOLICITOR REPORT



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DUTY LAWYER SERVICES

Skilled advocacy, practical support and access to justice

WestSide provides free criminal-law advice and representation to people experiencing financial disadvantage, vulnerability and other barriers to justice. The team's principal work comprises guilty pleas and trials in the Magistrates Court, together with bail applications, Magistrates Court appeals and selected serious matters in the District Court in Adelaide and Port Augusta. The team also assists in domestic violence intervention order matters where appropriate, providing advice and representation to applicants and respondents. Across its practice, WestSide carefully assesses the evidence, negotiates with prosecutors, conducts defended hearings and makes focused sentencing submissions designed to achieve fair and proportionate outcomes.

For many clients, criminal proceedings are only one part of a much larger challenge. Clients may also be experiencing housing insecurity, family breakdown, debt, mental-health concerns, substance dependence, gambling-related harm or social security problems. WestSide's integrated service model enables criminal-law clients to be connected with its civil and family law teams, its Wellbeing Support Officer and appropriate external services. This coordinated approach helps clients address the circumstances affecting their legal matter and their broader wellbeing, rather than leaving them to navigate complex systems alone.



CRIMINAL LAW

Continued

Supporting metropolitan and regional communities

WestSide continues to provide criminal representation across regional centres including Port Pirie, Kadina, Peterborough, Whyalla, and Port Augusta. This representation includes trials, guilty pleas, bail applications and Magistrates Court appeals, with lawyers appearing either in person or by audiovisual link.

The regional duty solicitor model has changed. Regular duty solicitor services in most of these locations are now managed by private practitioners under arrangements with the Legal Services Commission of South Australia. WestSide continues to provide a duty solicitor service at Peterborough and works alongside the Legal Services Commission and local practitioners to support roster coverage at other regional courts when required. This collaborative approach helps preserve access to timely legal assistance in communities where alternative services may be limited.

Duty solicitor work benefits both unrepresented court users and the administration of justice. Early advice and representation can help appropriate matters resolve on the day, reduce avoidable adjournments and allow court lists to proceed more efficiently.



Client Feedback

"I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to you and your team at WestSide Community Lawyers. I am truly grateful for the time, effort, and dedication you've invested, not only in my matter, but in the community you support every day. Your advocacy was exceptional... Your composure, skill, and commitment were remarkable to witness ...Thank you again for giving me another chance at the life I'm working toward. You've restored my hope and lifted a significant weight off my shoulders. I am genuinely grateful."

This feedback reflects the qualities the criminal-law team brings to every matter: careful preparation, strong advocacy, professional judgment and genuine care. Whether assisting at a first court appearance, conducting a trial, negotiating an appropriate charge or presenting complex sentencing submissions, WestSide remains committed to ensuring that financial hardship and personal vulnerability do not prevent a person from receiving high-quality legal representation.

CRIMINAL LAW CASE STUDIES



Protecting a client's future: A client charged with drink driving was concerned that a conviction could affect their studies and prospective professional registration. After detailed submissions addressing the client's circumstances, academic progress and future career, the Court was satisfied that the matter could be finalised without recording a conviction.

Negotiating a practical and proportionate outcome: A client experiencing serious financial and housing insecurity faced a street-racing charge carrying a substantial mandatory licence disqualification. The loss of their licence would also have placed their employment at risk. Through negotiations with the prosecution, the charge was reduced to driving without due care, avoiding licence disqualification and helping the client maintain their livelihood.

Testing the prosecution case: In a contested assault matter, the team obtained and closely analysed the prosecution disclosure. Detailed written negotiations identified the absence of evidence against the client. The charge was withdrawn and the client was awarded costs. In another strongly disputed matter, charges were dismissed following substantial delay in the prosecution complying with its disclosure obligations.

Advocacy informed by vulnerability: In a serious firearms sentencing matter, a client faced imprisonment and was living with significant mental and physical health challenges. WestSide assisted the client to present evidence about their exceptional personal circumstances. The Court accepted the team's submissions and suspended the prison sentence, allowing the client to remain in the community under the terms imposed by the Court.

FAMILY LAW & FAMILY VIOLENCE

In addition to the Generalist Practice, WestSide 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.



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**FAMILY LAW AND FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES
2025/2026**

This financial year our family law services were funded under the one Family Law and Family Violence stream. The continuation of funding has allowed our staff to continue providing vital legal advice and representation for those experiencing a breakdown in a marriage or de facto relationship, family violence, and disputes involving access to children. The continuation of funding further allows the community to be provided with legal advice when cost is otherwise a barrier for them. With the cost of living increasing, financial disadvantage has become more widespread, and the demand for initial free legal advice has followed suit.

A large portion of the family law legal services delivered related to child contact arrangements and/or property settlements, with additional services provided in the areas of child support, divorce, spousal maintenance and family violence. The clients were mostly parties to a relationship that had broken down, but also included other carers of children such as grandparents.

A trend of ongoing concern was clients alleging family violence, whether during or after separation. WestSide is equipped to provide those clients with access to legal advice on intervention orders and access to our Wellbeing Support Officer for referrals to non-legal service providers. We have been successful in facilitating a wraparound service to assist clients to navigate their family law legal issues in a way that suits them and can be driven by them.

WestSide continues to make its services accessible to all those in the community. In addition to the appointments offered during business hours, WestSide has been offering family law advice during our after hours legal advice clinic to target working people who cannot ordinarily see a lawyer during traditional office hours. Clinics have also been held offsite throughout the year, including in various Mid North locations, to enable access to family law legal advice.

We have also strengthened our relationship with the Port Pirie Domestic Violence Action Group (DVAG), one of the oldest continuous domestic violence committees in South Australia. Made up of professionals and community members, Port Pirie DVAG works to raise awareness of domestic violence and to advocate for the protection of and support for victim-survivors.

FAMILY LAW & FAMILY VIOLENCE

Continued

WestSide's collaboration with Women's Safety Services SA in operating an offsite legal advice clinic has entered its fourth year. This clinic was initially set up in the 2022/2023 financial year and remains a success in targeting those most disadvantaged and in need of immediate legal advice. Through this arrangement, WestSide is able to reach women experiencing family violence – at times actively fleeing family violence. The timely provision of legal advice is critical in ensuring these women have sufficient time to understand their options and take any necessary action. Our family law team continues to undertake ongoing training to strengthen their ability to deliver trauma-informed, client-centred legal services in a compassionate and non-judgemental manner. Their assistance includes legal advice, casework support, and representation both in and out of court.

For all our clients, our lawyers are able to identify the legal issues they are experiencing, and provide them with tailored legal advice and provide referrals where appropriate. This at times has been the first time these clients have spoken to a lawyer and/or are informed of their legal rights. This can be an empowering conversation with clients and greatly alleviate some of the stressors they are experiencing in an incredibly dark period of their lives both for them and their children. Many clients face some form of disadvantage. Some are experiencing homelessness or financial strain. Some come from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and some have no knowledge of Australian laws as relating to family law rights or family violence, and some do not speak English. Our funding allows us to pay for an interpreter at no cost to the clients.

Through the delivery of our services, WestSide supports and empowers people to understand their legal rights, navigate complex legal issues and make informed decisions about their options. This is central to our organisation's values and mission.

Looking ahead, WestSide will continue to strengthen partnerships with stakeholders and explore innovative ways to reach and support those experiencing the greatest disadvantage in accessing family law services and exercising their legal rights.



FAMILY LAW & FAMILY VIOLENCE

CASE STUDIES



SD lives in the rural Mid North, where distance often limits access to legal services. In SD's case, however, location made no difference to the outcome, demonstrating the importance of ensuring regional communities can access timely legal assistance. SD came to WestSide to finalise a property settlement by consent orders. There was a history of family and domestic violence in the relationship, and SD held an intervention order against the other party. We worked with SD entirely by phone and email. Agreement was reached without protracted negotiation and formalised through consent orders, giving SD a final and certain outcome on their property matter.

MC came to WestSide for help with their property settlement. MC did not speak English, so we engaged an interpreter throughout the matter to ensure MC understood our advice, the negotiations and their options at each stage. The other party did not engage at first but later obtained their own legal representation. Once both sides were communicating through lawyers, with interpreters continuing to support MC, the matter moved forward and the parties reached an agreement that was formalised through consent orders.

WestSide regularly acts in parenting matters involving children with additional needs. In one case the children were placed in the primary care of our client CV, and the arrangements for the other parent, TN, to spend time with them became the central issue. CV sought initial advice and secured ongoing representation from WestSide. The matter had involved the Department for Child Protection (DCP) at an early stage. Once proceedings commenced in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, the Court ordered further evidence, expert psychiatric reports, and the appointment of an Independent Children's Lawyer. A key question was whether one or both parents should undergo psychiatric assessment, and whether by a treating or an independent practitioner.

Disbursements such as psychiatric reports are a common obstacle in family law matters as clients are often unable to afford them. In this case, WestSide secured special funding for CV's psychiatric report, and the matter also benefited from lawyer-assisted Family Dispute Resolution. Final parenting orders were agreed, subject to conditions to protect the children's safety.

Matters of this kind require specialist family law expertise and sustained work over a long period, including applications, affidavits, proposed orders, correspondence, review of expert reports and updating advice to the client. Our family law team is experienced and capable of managing complex cases such as this.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS SUPPORT

Recognising that legal issues often arise alongside broader personal challenges, our Wellbeing Support Officer provides non-legal support, practical assistance and referrals to help clients navigate difficult circumstances.



Over the past 12 months, the Wellbeing Support Service has worked to strengthen and formalise its role within WestSide's legal assistance model. A review of the service was completed, producing clearer procedures, stronger internal referral pathways and closer collaboration between the Wellbeing Support Officer and legal practitioners.

The service provides trauma-informed, client-centred support to clients whose legal matters intersect with mental health concerns, trauma, grief and loss, family violence, relationship breakdown, alcohol and other drug concerns, financial hardship and other psychosocial challenges. Support includes emotional support, practical advocacy, service navigation, supported referrals and liaison with external services. This allows lawyers to stay focused on clients' legal needs while wellbeing concerns are addressed alongside the matter.

Strengthening Referral Pathways

A key focus this year has been building referral pathways and relationships with community services across metropolitan Adelaide and the Mid North, including organisations providing counselling, mental health, family support, financial counselling, alcohol and other drug services and family dispute resolution.

Direct pathways have also been developed with services supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and CALD clients, including Wonggangga Turtpandi Aboriginal Primary Health Care Service and the Legal Services Commission. These connections help the Wellbeing Support Officer make more timely, appropriate and culturally responsive referrals.

Expanding Support for Vulnerable Clients

For the first time this year, the scope of the Wellbeing Support role expanded to include formal Litigation Guardian work. Following relevant training, the Wellbeing Support Officer acted as Litigation Guardian for a vulnerable client through complex family law proceedings in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia. This included attending Family Dispute Resolution alongside the client, where agreement was reached on arrangements for the client to spend time with their child. This is a meaningful extension of the role beyond emotional support and referral, allowing the service to act for clients who would otherwise be unable to participate in proceedings on their own.

Looking Forward

The past year has established stronger foundations for the service. Priorities for the year ahead include embedding the revised procedures, continuing to strengthen internal and external referral pathways, building staff capability in trauma-informed practice and expanding community partnerships and culturally responsive support.

The service continues to demonstrate the value of looking beyond the immediate legal issue to the whole person and the factors affecting their ability to navigate the legal system.

WELLBEING AND SUPPORT CASE STUDIES



CL is a client from a culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background who sought legal assistance after receiving an expiation notice and, on legal advice, decided to contest the matter.

CL made several attempts to contact the Prosecution by email and telephone about the matter and the next steps. The emails went unanswered and the telephone enquiries did not resolve anything. During discussions with the lawyer, CL disclosed that the ongoing uncertainty and lack of communication were causing significant stress and anxiety. The lawyer referred CL to the Wellbeing Support Service.

The Wellbeing Support Officer (WSO) met with CL to provide emotional support. CL identified the uncertainty around the case and the inability to get a response from the Prosecution as the main sources of distress. With CL's agreement, the WSO assisted by making enquiries regarding the status of the matter, helping CL navigate a period of uncertainty while awaiting a response from the Prosecution. Approximately four weeks later, confirmation was received that the matter had been withdrawn and would not proceed to court. The WSO shared this information with CL and took time to ensure CL understood the outcome and felt supported. CL expressed considerable relief and gratitude and attended the office the following day to thank staff for their support.

Outcome: This case shows the value of integrating wellbeing support with legal services. By addressing both CL's emotional distress and the practical issue driving it, the service reduced CL's uncertainty and anxiety and helped CL navigate a stressful legal situation.

PM was referred to the Wellbeing Support Service by the criminal lawyer. PM disclosed significant recent challenges, including the death of a family member and the breakdown of a relationship. PM described feeling overwhelmed and unsure where to turn but expressed a clear desire to improve wellbeing and get life back on track.

During a scheduled telephone appointment, the Wellbeing Support Officer gave PM the opportunity to discuss how PM was coping. PM spoke about feeling anxious about the upcoming court hearing and reflected on slowly working towards positive change. The worker provided active listening, reassurance and emotional support.

The worker explored Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) counselling options with PM, providing information about suitable support services and the assistance they could offer. PM identified a support service that they felt comfortable approaching and agreed to make contact to arrange an appointment. The Wellbeing Support Officer provided the relevant contact details and encouraged PM to keep both the worker and lawyer informed once support had been established. The lawyer was also updated to support continuity of care.

Outcome: The intervention gave PM both emotional support and a practical pathway towards addressing AOD and broader wellbeing needs. Rather than navigating services alone during a period of grief, relationship breakdown and legal stress, PM was able to identify an appropriate service and take an active role in seeking further support. The case shows how integrated wellbeing support can help clients move beyond the immediate legal issue and begin addressing underlying challenges, while building on their own motivation for change.

COMMUNITY, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION

WestSide works across a network of legal, government, health and community organisations. These relationships shape how clients reach us and how we reach them, particularly across the Mid North and outback where referral is often the only practical way people find legal help. Engagement in FY25/26 focused on building referral pathways, collaborating with the legal assistance sector and maintaining a visible presence in the communities we serve.

Access to justice in the regions

WestSide ran collaborative Law Week clinics with the Legal Services Commission, Women's Legal Service SA and the Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation, including free drop-in legal help at the Alex Ramsay Community Hub in Whyalla and a legal pop-up at Centacare Port Augusta. Much of the year's work went into warm referral pathways with services that see clients before they reach a lawyer, including Workskil, Diamond House, Watto Purrinna, Uniting SA and Relationships Australia. In Port Pirie, WestSide began scoping a Health Justice Partnership with the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network and GP Plus.



First Nations engagement and reconciliation

WestSide took part in the NAIDOC SA March and Family Festival and attended Reconciliation in the West, hosted by AnglicareSA, Tavondi Aboriginal College, Life Without Barriers and Uniting SA. Staff also attended the Walk of Awareness in Port Adelaide, honouring the resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the ongoing impact of the Stolen Generations. These relationships are anchored by ongoing work with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, including Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation, Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, Kura Yerlo, Watto Purrinna and Yadu Health Aboriginal Corporation.



COMMUNITY, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION

Domestic and family violence

WestSide worked with the Port Pirie Domestic Violence Action Group, supporting the Red Bench Project and the 2026 Port Pirie White Ribbon Cup and attended Embolden's Domestic and Family Violence Remembrance Vigil at Government House. This sits alongside partnerships with Western Adelaide Domestic Violence Service, Women's Safety Services SA, Working Women's Centre and Women's Legal Service SA.



Community presence

WestSide attended the Yorke Peninsula Field Days at Paskeville, the Multicultural Festival alongside fellow South Australian community legal centres, and the Support in the Port Community Expo in Port Adelaide. These events give the community a direct way to ask questions and learn what legal help is available.



Sector and profile

WestSide remained active in the legal assistance sector through CLC Australia, Community Legal Centres SA, the National 4Rs Community Legal Network, JusticeNet and the Country Practitioners Conference, and engaged with the Attorney-General's Department on contract and sector matters. The CEO met the Federal Court Chief Justice Debra Mortimer and community legal sector to discuss areas of unmet legal needs. WestSide also contributed to the Law Society Bulletin, with Melissa Downie's article "Beyond Instructions: Practice Reflections on Acting as a Litigation Guardian in Family Law".

STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

WestSide continued to strengthen its relationships with service allies and collaborative partners throughout the year. Through an established and comprehensive network of support services, we remain well placed to assist clients across both their legal and non-legal needs, whether that means connecting them with specialist legal providers or linking them to the broader support services that sit outside the law. These partnerships allow us to respond to clients as whole people rather than isolated legal problems, and include:

AnglicareSA

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.

Women's 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)

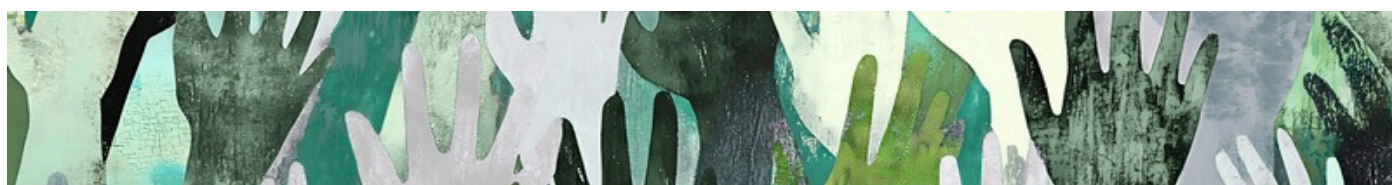
Provide free, confidential support to older people facing issues related to aged care, home support, or abuse.

Private lawyers in Adelaide and western suburbs

Referrals from these organisations where clients are experiencing financial difficulties.


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External Referrals



A YEAR IN PHOTOS



A YEAR IN PHOTOS



A YEAR IN PHOTOS





WESTSIDE
COMMUNITY LAWYERS

PART 2: ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

2025 / 2026

**WESTSIDE
COMMUNITY
LAWYERS**

Westside Community Lawyers Inc.

ABN 58 010 430 612

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Westside Community Lawyers Inc.

ABN 58 010 430 612

Contents

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

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**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
UNDER SECTION 60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS
COMMISSION ACT 2012**

To the Members of Westside Community Lawyers Inc.

As lead auditor for the audit of Westside Community Lawyers Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2026, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- + no contraventions of the independence requirements 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



**LUKE BOLLMEYER
DIRECTOR**

Adelaide, 12 October 2026

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

		2026	2025
	Note	\$	\$
Cost recovered		1,491	933
Grants	4	1,964,225	2,381,141
Other income	4	10,387	22,448
Employee benefits expense	5	(1,404,433)	(1,719,983)
Depreciation	5	(211,640)	(218,520)
Other expenses		(312,024)	(424,575)
Finance expenses		(31,254)	(41,283)
Profit for the year		16,752	161
Total comprehensive income for the year		16,752	161

Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 \$	2025 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	661,582	543,979
Trade and other receivables	7	-	473
Other assets	8	14,976	15,984
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		676,558	560,436
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	9	228,719	302,570
Right-of-use assets	11	226,514	353,133
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		455,233	655,703
TOTAL ASSETS		1,131,791	1,216,139
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	10	137,603	353,774
Deferred revenue	13	260,337	-
Lease liabilities	11	125,546	141,880
Employee benefits	12	53,829	59,280
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		577,315	554,934
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease liabilities	11	179,248	304,794
Employee benefits	12	35,526	33,461
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		214,774	338,255
TOTAL LIABILITIES		792,089	893,189
NET ASSETS		339,702	322,950
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		339,702	322,950
TOTAL EQUITY		339,702	322,950

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

2026

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2025	322,950	322,950
Profit for the year	16,752	16,752
Balance at 30 June 2026	339,702	339,702

2025

	Retained Earnings	Total
Note	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2024	334,491	334,491
Adjustment to opening balance for deferred income	(11,702)	(11,702)
Profit for the year	161	161
Balance at 30 June 2025	322,950	322,950

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 \$	2025 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Grants received		2,224,562	1,862,700
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,935,006)	(1,949,400)
Sundry receipts		12,351	23,177
Net cash provided by operating activities	16	<u>301,907</u>	<u>(63,523)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		<u>(11,170)</u>	<u>(17,508)</u>
Net cash (used in) investing activities		<u>(11,170)</u>	<u>(17,508)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Payment of finance lease liabilities		<u>(173,134)</u>	<u>(167,131)</u>
Net cash (used in) financing activities		<u>(173,134)</u>	<u>(167,131)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		117,603	(248,162)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		<u>543,979</u>	<u>792,141</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6	<u><u>661,582</u></u>	<u><u>543,979</u></u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

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 2026 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 2026

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 revenue 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 2026

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 2026

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 Association derives revenue from a range of activities and sources, including revenue from operating grants. In accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Association 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 Association 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.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

4 Revenue and Other Income

Grant Income

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
- Commonwealth grant	2,045,020	1,020,730
- State grant	179,542	187,826
- Family law / family violence grant	-	482,302
- Mental health program	-	171,840
- Grant income transferred to/from deferred revenue	(260,337)	518,443
Total grant income	1,964,225	2,381,141

Other Income

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
- Bank interest	9,300	13,478
- Disbursements recovered	907	343
- Sundry	-	8,360
- Rent received	180	267
Total other income	10,387	22,448

5 Result for the Year

The result for the year includes the following specific expenses:

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Employee benefit expenses		
Salaries and wages	1,048,111	1,295,495
Superannuation contributions	147,085	162,634
Employee salary sacrifice	39,369	35,000
Staff Fringe benefits	165,114	203,785
Workers compensation	8,139	6,867
Annual leave expense	(5,450)	(1,597)
Long service leave expense	2,065	17,799
	1,404,433	1,719,983
Depreciation expense		
Depreciation - RoU assets	126,619	126,619
Depreciation	85,021	91,901
	211,640	218,520
6 Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at bank and in hand	661,582	543,979
Total cash and cash equivalents	661,582	543,979

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

7 Trade and other receivables

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade receivables	-	473
Total trade receivables	-	473

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

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Prepayments	13,976	14,984
Deposit	1,000	1,000
Total other assets	14,976	15,984

9 Property, plant and equipment

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Furniture and equipment		
At cost	36,923	36,923
Accumulated depreciation	(10,312)	(7,621)
Total furniture and equipment	26,611	29,302
Motor vehicles		
At cost	76,735	76,735
Accumulated depreciation	(42,363)	(30,905)
Total motor vehicles	34,372	45,830
Computer equipment		
At cost	87,919	89,423
Accumulated depreciation	(65,310)	(65,996)
Total computer equipment	22,609	23,427
Website		
At cost	7,750	7,750
Accumulated depreciation	(7,750)	(7,750)
Total website	-	-

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

9 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Office fitout		
At cost	326,418	326,418
Accumulated amortisation	(181,291)	(122,407)
Total office fitout	145,127	204,011
Total property, plant and equipment	228,719	302,570

10 Trade and Other Payables

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade payables	18,819	18,601
Deposits	-	1,000
GST payable	40,086	33,668
Employee benefits	20,042	39,010
Sundry payables and accrued expenses	58,656	61,877
Payable to Attorney-General's Department ("AGD")	-	199,618
Total trade and other payables	137,603	353,774

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 1/171 Commercial Road, Port Adelaide and Shops 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

1/171 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.

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

11 Leases (continued)

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. Refer to Note 17 for the lease extension executed after year end.

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 2026			
Balance at beginning of year	25,946	327,187	353,133
Depreciation charge	(25,946)	(100,673)	(126,619)
Balance at end of year	-	226,514	226,514

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 \$
2026					
Lease liabilities	146,103	189,343	-	335,446	304,794
2025					
Lease liabilities	173,134	335,446	-	508,580	446,674

Lease liabilities included in this Statement of Financial Position

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Current	125,546	141,880
Non-current	179,248	304,794
Total	304,794	446,674

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

11 Leases (continued)

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:

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Depreciation - Flinders Arcade	25,946	25,946
Depreciation - Port Adelaide	100,673	100,673
Total amortisation expenses	126,619	126,619
Interest expense - Flinders Arcade	980	2,445
Interest expense - Port Adelaide	30,274	38,838
Total interest expense	31,254	41,283
Total amortisation and interest expense	157,873	167,902

12 Employee Benefits

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Annual leave	53,829	59,280
Total current employee benefits	53,829	59,280
NON-CURRENT		
Long service leave	35,526	33,461
Total non-current employee benefits	35,526	33,461

13 Deferred Revenue

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Commonwealth	239,510	-
State	20,827	-
Total deferred revenue	260,337	-

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

13.a Deferred Revenue Movement

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Opening Balance at 1 July	-	506,739
Adjustment to opening balance for deferred income	-	11,702
Grant income received	2,224,562	2,062,318
Grant income recognised during the year	(1,964,225)	(2,381,141)
Amount payable to AGD	-	(199,618)
Closing Balance at 30 June	260,337	-

14 Contingencies

Contingent Liabilities

During the financial year, Westside Community Lawyers initiated an external compliance review of the historical classification of legal staff under the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010 (SCHADS Award). Preliminary assessments indicate that the SCHADS Award may apply to certain roles. Westside has engaged independent legal counsel to advise on the interpretation of the relevant award provisions.

At the date of this report, it has not been determined whether a present obligation exists. Due to the legal uncertainty involved and the extensive, individualised data reconciliation required across multiple years, it is not practicable to reliably estimate the financial effect, if any. No amount has been recognised in the financial statements.

15 Related Parties

Related parties include close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or significantly influenced by those key management personnel or their close family members. No related party transactions occurred during the year (2025: Nil).

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:

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Profit/(loss) for the year	16,752	161
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in profit:		
- depreciation - AASB 16	126,619	126,619
- depreciation	85,021	91,901
- interest on lease liabilities	31,254	41,283
- loss/(gain) on disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	178
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	473	(204)
- (increase)/decrease in prepayments	1,008	723
- (increase)/decrease in unexpended grants	260,337	(518,441)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(216,171)	178,055
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	(3,386)	16,202
Cashflows from operations	301,907	(63,523)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

17 Events After the End of the Reporting Period

The financial report was authorised for issue on 12 October 2026 by the Board of Directors.

In July 2026, the Association executed an extension of its lease of Shops 2/3 and part of Shop 18, 72 Ellen Street, Flinders Arcade, Port Pirie. The existing lease was due to expire on 23 August 2026. The extended term is three years, from 24 August 2026 to 23 August 2029. Annual base rent is \$33,768.81 plus GST, payable quarterly in advance and subject to annual CPI review. The extension will be accounted under AASB 16 Leases in the financial year ending 30 June 2027.

Except for the above, no other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or could significantly affect the operations of the Company, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Company in future financial years.

18 Auditors' Remuneration

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Remuneration of the auditor AHO Audit Pty Ltd, for:		
- auditing or reviewing the financial statements	11,700	11,200
Total	11,700	11,200

19 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 *Sebastian Hill*
Sebastian Hill 12 Oct 2026 15:45:05 GMT+10:00
Sebastian Hill

Treasurer ... *Greg Hayes* Greg Hayes 12 Oct 2026 11:44:51 GMT+10:00
Greg Hayes

Dated this 12 October 2026

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

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Westside Community Lawyers Inc. which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and the statement by members of the management board.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Westside Community Lawyers Inc, is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- + giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2026, and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- + complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*.

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 registered entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibility of the Responsible Entities for the Financial Report

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the members. The responsible entities' responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the responsible entities are responsible for assessing the registered 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 the responsible entities either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so. The responsible entities are responsible for overseeing the registered entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with 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 the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement 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 registered entity's internal control.
- + Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by responsible entities.
- + Conclude on the appropriateness of responsible entities' 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 registered 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 [my] 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 registered 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 responsible entities 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.

Independence

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the ACNC Act, which has been given to the responsible entities of Westside Community Lawyers Inc., would be in the same terms if given to the responsible entities as at the time of this auditor's report.



AHO AUDIT PTY LTD



**LUKE BOLLMEYER
DIRECTOR**

Adelaide, 12 October 2026



WESTSIDE
COMMUNITY LAWYERS



www.westsidelawyers.com.au

1/171 Commercial Road, PORT ADELAIDE SA 5015

Flinders Arcade, 72 Ellen Street, PORT PIRIE SA 5540